
GOD

Good News

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*As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news
from a far country.*

Proverbs 25:25



reetings in the wonderful name of
Jesus Christ.

Part of growth in this life is the process of letting go. When we grow we move from one stage to another. All too often that growth process is slowed down—and sometimes even stopped—because people will not let go.

Hebrews 12:1:

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

You can't really run the race of life to win if you are all burdened down and carrying a heavy load.

When Christ approached those who ultimately followed him, they had to let go of their past (being fishermen) to and follow him. Now, just a side note about this, it's not as weird as it seems or as the movies make it out to be.

When Christ came up to these men it wasn't the first time they had heard of him. They knew who he was and what he was doing, so when he asked them to follow him, they made a deliberate decision to let go of their past and move into a new life.

Sometimes this letting go means letting go of what we think is reality.

For example, in Mark a man named Jairus asked Christ to come heal his daughter and Christ said he would. But as they were going to the girl a servant came and told Jairus that his

daughter was dead—that's about as real as it gets.

But the first thing Christ did was to tell Jairus to let go of that thought and just asked him to believe that things would be alright. Had Jairus held on to what he was told was reality, he would never have received the deliverance of God.

There is another record in the Gospel of Mark about a blind man named Bartimaeus. Well, actually the scriptures say that his name was "Blind Bartimaeus". How would you like to have to deal with that one?

If someone calls you "Big John" or "Little Tommy" it is usually because that is how you view yourself or at least how everyone else views you.

Here was "Blind Bartimaeus". Now how do you let go of an identity like that? But Mark 10 tells us that he didn't want to stay that way, because when Christ passed by, he cried out that he might heal him. When people told him to hold his peace and be quiet, he cried even louder.

When Christ heard what was going on, he called for "Blind Bartimaeus". Now here is where it gets really interesting.

Mark 10:50:

And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.

Do you see what just happened? If I toss my coat on a chair and walk away, I can always go back and find it because I can look for it. A blind person can't just cast off a garment and walk away. How will they find it again—they can't see. But "Blind Bartimaeus" cast off his garment

and went to Christ to get healed. He didn't need to worry about his garment; he could come back and "look for it" later.

Not only did Bartimaeus have to cast off his garment, he had to let go of his identity. I wonder if they called him "seeing Bartimaeus" after he was healed.

As we grow in this life and in our walk with our heavenly Father, there are things that we will need to let go. As we moved from childhood to adolescence and from adolescence to adulthood, we let go of certain things—and so it is with life.

The fear is often not knowing what is on the other side if we let go of what we have now. But when it comes to our walk with God, it doesn't matter what is on the other side. As long as we have Him, we can let go and move on.

God bless you in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ.

In His love,

Duke Clarke

Coming Events:

- The joyous return of our lord and savior Jesus Christ

God Wants You to Prosper Foundational Class

I have put my original class "Understanding Prosperity" on CD and it is available at www.Godwantsyoutoprosper.com

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We now have Volumes 1-5 available to order with more coming this fall. Each CD is \$18 plus \$3.95 each if ordered separately.

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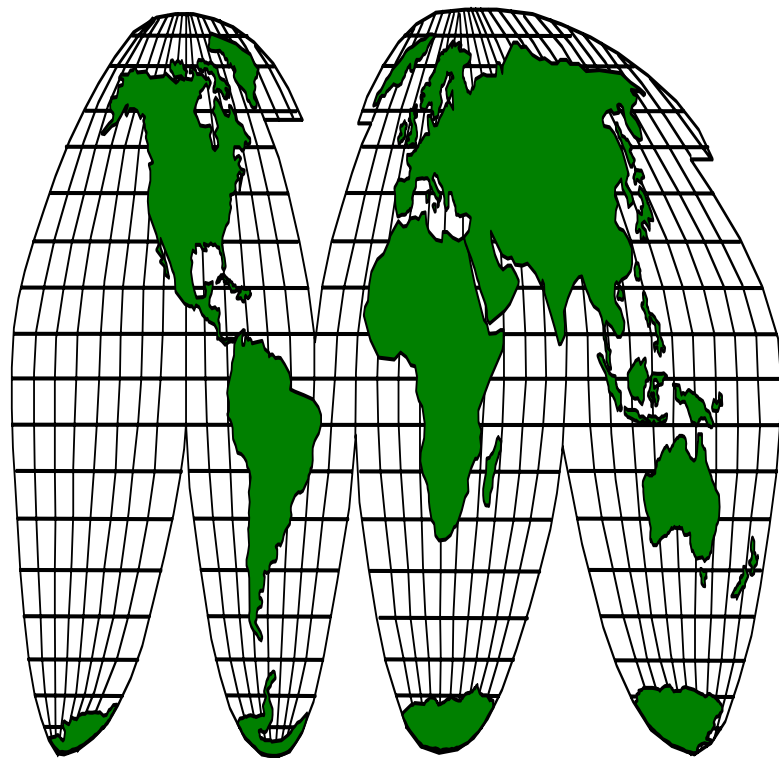
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God

A Word from the Oasis



ΛΘΖ

The Right to Be Healthy, Wealthy & Wise

In the 1700's Ben Franklin wrote a book called, "Poor Richard's Almanac". In that book there was a quote, "Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise".

There is a lot of truth in that statement and yet here is what some will say today. "I went to bed at 9 PM and got up at 5 AM all week and now I have a cold, my bills are due and I failed my drivers test—I'm going to sue somebody!"

First of all we must know that actions alone will not produce results if you don't believe the right things. We must not only take action, but believe on a promise that is backed up by a power that can fulfill the promise.

Now I do believe that Ben Franklin's statement is a good one, but I believe God's promises are even greater. AND we do have God's promise that we have the "right" to be healthy, wealthy and wise.

We all know the promise of health because Christ died for our sins and our physical wholeness, so we believe that promise and take the appropriate action.

God also promises prosperity in our lives, not only financially—but in every category a more abundant life is ours. So we claim this right also and move ahead.

Finally God has given us wisdom in His Word that we can draw from to make decisions in life and if we have any questions, we can always go to Him.

So while Ben Franklin's advice has helped many people over the years, God's promises are much better and will bring more permanent results.

We have the God-given right to be healthy, wealthy and wise.

Take a Break, But Get Back Into the Game

Life is all about balance. There is a time to push and there is a time to take a break. But it seems when people finally get delivered from the power of darkness and are put into the kingdom of God's dear son all they want to do is withdraw.

There is a time to take a break, to rest and rebuild, but then there comes a time when we get back into living life to the fullest.

But some fear that they will not be able to make it—perhaps they are thinking about II Peter.

II Peter 2:20:

For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, they latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

But this doesn't have to happen.

Philippians 2:15:

That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

We should never fear what might happen. With God on our side we can take a break and take the time to rest and rebuild, but then we need to get back in the game and live life to the fullest.

The Living Gospel

The nature of life is that it is growing and changing but always maintaining its integrity. My DNA code is the integrity of my physical body, but within that code I will grow and change—I look a lot different now than I did at 16.

The DNA code of the Gospel is the truth and integrity of the words of God in that Gospel, but as people live it there will be very different manifestations of those words.

I Timothy chapter four talks about godliness, which is a true and vital spiritual relationship with God. Now just think about it for a minute. I have three children and my relationship with each of them is a little different, not because I love them differently but because they are all different beings.

Each of us is different and so our relationship with God will be a little different. It all has the same integrity based on what God has said that He will do as our heavenly Father, but it will be manifested differently as we grow and live our lives—that's why it is the Living Gospel.

God's Word exhorts us to teach and make His Word known, but that is going to be a little different in each fellowship because each fellowship has different people in it with different needs. And each teacher has different ways of communicating him or herself. That is what is so wonderful about God's Word; it truly is a Living Gospel, able to meet the needs of all people.

Because of this it is very important that we not try to copy any one or imitate someone else; we need to be true to ourselves. Each person uses their personality, their communication skills, their abilities to do their best and that is the way it should be.

Timothy exhorts us to "take heed unto thyself" to build the Word of God in our lives so we will have something to give to whomever needs us. As we grow and mature spiritually we will also grow and mature in our ability to minister and give to others.

We should celebrate the differences in the body of Christ just as Corinthians tells us that we are all not an eye or an ear. We all have our part and our contribution as a part of this Living Gospel.

It's Always More Than You Think

Life is rarely one dimensional—it's always more than you think, especially when it comes to God.

There is an interesting record in II Kings about a man named Naaman who was a leper. He had one of the most dreaded diseases of his day. One day a young girl who was a servant of Naaman's and was one of the Children of Israel, said that if he went to see the Man of God, Elisha, he would get healed.

The King, who really cared about Naaman, set it up for Naaman to go to the Children of Israel to receive his healing. But instead of sending him to Elisha, he thought that Naaman should go to the King—surely that is the way it ought to be.

Of course he was wrong, but Elisha stepped in and said he would take care of everything.

So Naaman was sent to Elisha to receive his healing. Well, Elisha sent a message that Naaman should go dip in the Jordan seven times and he would be whole.

This really upset Naaman because this was not what he thought should have happened. He wanted something big.

II Kings 5:11:

But Naaman was wrath, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.

He saw it only one way and thought that was the way it had to be. It could have happened that way, but it didn't. But that doesn't mean God can't make it happen another way.

When Naaman finally did what Elisha had told him to do, God healed Him.

We should never put God in a box and think that He should or could only do something one way. God is always able to do more than we think if we would just trust Him to take care of us.