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The Chapel Magazine



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We have a name



David Falk

When we read the Bible, we find that each individual has a 'name' which is very important to our heavenly Father. In the Psalms, we read that He formed our inward

parts and weaved us in our mother's womb. His works toward us are wonderful, His thoughts toward us are infinite and all the days that have been ordained for us were written in His book. Psa 139. The Lord God rejoiced over the person He created us to be and the works which He prepared for us to do. Eph 2:10. There was rejoicing over our 'name' which forms part of the Everlasting Covenant that was made with every individual. Like David, we can declare, 'He has made an everlasting covenant with me, ordered in all things, and sure; for all my salvation, and all my desire, will He not make it grow?' 2Sam 23:5.

Our individual identities are often likened in the Scripture, to the stars which shine brightly. And in the book of Isaiah, we read that He created the multitude of stars, but leads and directs each one by name and by number. Isa 40:26. In fact, Isaiah makes the amazing claim, 'Because

of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, not one of them is missing'. Yet we know that many 'stars' do go missing and, in fact, we read that our names can be blotted out of His book. Ex32:33. So how can Isaiah make this claim that 'not one of

He formed our inward parts and weaved us in our mother's womb. His works toward us are wonderful, His thoughts toward us are infinite

them is missing'? Do we all start off in His book but have our name erased when we move away from His plan for our lives, just like a person's name is removed from a telephone directory when they move to another place? How do we ensure that our name remains in the Lamb's book of life? And perhaps more importantly, how can we recover our name after going astray when we have deviated from His chosen path?

Dedicated!



Helen Smith

The wise man in the book of Proverbs encouraged us to train up our children in the way they should go, but this is not necessarily the way that our children would choose for themselves. Prov 22:6. In the original Hebrew language, to 'bring up' or 'train up' a child is more accurately translated as 'dedicate'. The dedication of our children is, therefore, not just some sort of religious sacrament. Instead, it is our response and commitment as parents to train our children in 'the way of the Lord', which of course, is a way of offering. We know this because it is the way that the three members of the Godhead relate to each other and to us. The Lord has already demonstrated and established this way of offering and it is recorded in both the Old and New Testaments. In fact, the Christian church was founded on offering when new believers sold their possessions and laid the proceeds at the apostle's feet. Acts 4:34-35. God has commanded all fathers to teach His way to their children. In the book of Psalms, we are told to instruct our sons and daughters about His wondrous works, so they will put their confidence in Him and keep His commandments. Psa 78:2-6.

Moses wrote that the wisdom and commands of the Lord are hidden in

Dedication is our response and commitment as parents to train our children in 'the way of the Lord'

our heart and yet, we're told that these things are not to remain concealed. Instead, we are to diligently teach them to our children and grandchildren, that they in turn would make them known to the next generation. Deut 4:9.

Moses instructed us to talk about the ways of the Lord when we sit down in our house, when we walk, when we lie down, when we rise up. He wrote, 'You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and you shall write them on your doorposts and on your gates'. Deut 6:6-9.

This simply means that we should constantly refer to the Scriptures through all the joys, crises and contradictions of life. His words should infiltrate and permeate every vestige of our family culture, our behaviour and our aspirations. Our children are being dedicated to 'a way' which is a lifestyle of offering that is hopefully already firmly established in their parents.



David Baker

Finding that destination

If you're travelling somewhere that you've never been before, I'm sure you'll agree that looking at a map and planning the route is always helpful. You can also ask somebody who knows how to get there if you've chosen the best way. There will be many different ways to arrive at any given destination. The process of fulfilling the will of God, that great journey of the Christian life, is very similar.

The Lord has a 'predetermined destination' for each one of us, which includes who we are and what we are to do as sons of God. This is what the Bible calls, 'Predestination'. In the abundant mercy of God, there will be many different ways we can arrive at this destination. However, we will most certainly get lost, and we could say 'eternally lost', if we don't give ourselves to planning our way and receiving direction from others. No one fulfils the will of God by chance.

The book of Proverbs says, 'The heart of a man plans his way, but the Lord directs His steps'. Prov 16:9. This is the key to finding and fulfilling the will of God. It is the interplay between our own initiative to make plans, and then our willingness to discuss those plans with others so that we can genuinely receive direction. It is our personal responsibility to make plans before God and to be accountable for those plans. No one can live our life for us. At the same time, no one can live their life in isolation and hope to come even remotely close to finding the will of God. We continually need the experience, wisdom, and insight of faithful men and women to keep us on the right path.

The wise man said, 'Without consultation, plans are frustrated, but with many counsellors they succeed. A man has joy in an apt answer, and how delightful is a timely word!' Prov 15:23. Perhaps Solomon learnt this from his



father. In one particularly important encounter, King David communicated his desire to build the Lord a house to Nathan the prophet, one of his trusted advisors. This was the plan in David's heart. Nathan's first reaction was to say, 'Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you'. 1 Chron 17:2. However, later that night, the Lord spoke to Nathan saying, 'Go and tell David My servant, "Thus says the Lord, You shall not build a house for Me to dwell in"'. 1 Chron 17:4.

If David had refused to humble himself and decided to press on regardless, there is little doubt that all of his plans to build the Lord's house would have been frustrated. They would have been destined to failure, and he would have stumbled. To his credit, we know that David found joy in this 'apt answer' and 'timely word' from Nathan. He allowed the Lord to change the direction and pace of His steps. David was able to raise

The book of Proverbs says, 'The heart of a man plans his way, but the Lord directs His steps'. This is the key to finding and fulfilling the will of God.



an offering and supply all the necessary provision for the Lord's house, but it was his son who actually built it. The Lord testified concerning David that He was 'a man after My own heart, who will do all My will'. Acts 13:22. This is our example if we desire to find the will of God. Making plans and then receiving direction is the only way we will arrive at 'that destination'.



Entwined

We know from different accounts in the Scripture, that Moses was named to bring Israel out of Egypt to the Promised Land. He was given a work to establish Israel as a house of priesthood so that they could be a nation among whom, and in whom, God would dwell. Moses' name and predestination was written down in the Lamb's book of life and we find that his destiny was completely entwined with the names of the whole nation of Israel.

Clearly, Moses knew that their names and destinies were linked because we read an interesting story in the book of Exodus. When the Israelite people incited Moses by making an idol of gold at Mt Sinai, the Lord proposed to completely wipe them out because of their sin. However, Moses reminded the Lord that he had been called to bring this people up out of Egypt. Moses asked the Lord to forgive the people's sin. But should He choose not to, Moses asked God to 'blot me out from Your book which You have written'.

Effectively, Moses was saying to God, 'Hang on! Wiping out this people is not an option. It is not what was written beside my name! When You

sent me down to Egypt, You ordained me to be a ruler and a deliverer, to bring this people out of the land of slavery and into a Promised Land.

You sent me to establish a covenant with them!" This interaction showed the priestly role of Moses on behalf of Israel for he stood in the gap. But at a more basic level, his name was entwined with their names. His work and predestination was to bring them out of Egypt and he desired a fulfilment of God's covenant with His people. So He appealed to the Lord, saying 'Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' Ex 32:13.

It is amazing to think that the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, just as man speaks to his friend! God knew all about him, his predestination and his work. And Moses really leaned on this friendship by reminding God, 'I haven't



Victor Hall

Our name and predestination, both individually and corporately, is so completely entwined with one another.

actually sinned against You. I am only here to do what You asked me to do. But if You wipe this people out, You will have to do the same to me. You will have to scrub out my name also, with the works which You recorded for me to do!

Here we see the mercy of God towards Moses as he dared to argue with his Maker. God could not blot out Moses' name! All the things listed under his name had to remain. So the Lord said to Moses, 'Lead the people where I told you'. Ex 33:1. In other words, He said, 'Do what is recorded. And I will blot out whoever has sinned against Me,' So, even though Moses was allowed to fulfil his predestination, God was still going to deal with every member of the nation of Israel according to their sin; which, at the bottom line, was their refusal to fulfil the works recorded against their individual names.

It is amazing to think that our name and predestination, both individually and corporately, is so completely entwined with one another.

Schemes & devices



Sue Falk

In our Western society, we are often only concerned with what we can see and touch, so the spiritual realm may have little impact and the devil can be relegated to fable and superstition. However, in his letters to the churches, the apostle Paul made some interesting statements regarding the devil. We are told to be aware of his schemes and to stand firm against his devices. Eph 6:11,13.

The Scripture records that Satan was a created angelic being, full of beauty, light, wisdom and authority, yet we read that he was not content with his own 'name' and calling, but aspired to be like God Himself. Ezek 28:12-18. Isa 14:11-14.

In the book of Ezekiel, the devil is portrayed as a king who also claimed to be a god. We read in the Old Testament account that he was corrupted by greed, envy and conceit. He was filled with violence and cast out of the mountain of God. Ezek 28:16. Jesus declared that

he saw Satan falling like lightning from heaven and we know that he now rules this world as the prince of darkness working in the 'sons of disobedience'. Luke 10:18. Eph 2:2. This is a disturbing thought because we have all been defiant and intractable at times. Like me, you may be horrified to think that Satan can use us to achieve his purpose because of our disobedience.

Although his methods are well-known to us, Paul warned that it will take the whole armour of God to withstand him. Our vulnerable areas must be surrounded by truth and our hearts protected. We need the gospel of peace to prepare us to walk in a perverse world and the shield of faith to shelter us from constant attack. The salvation of God is the helmet which will guard our minds and we are to defend ourselves with the sword of His word. Eph 6:11-13. It is interesting to note that even Jesus quoted Scripture to the devil when tempted by him on the mountain



top. Matt 4:1-11. But just as he departed from our Lord, Paul assured us that the devil will flee if we resist him. James 4:7.

As we study the Bible, we find that Satan's sole purpose is to cause men and women to stumble. Most Christians are familiar with the devil's use of condemnation and accusation but perhaps we are less aware of his destructive impact on our relationships. When we are not content with our 'name', we may compete and compare ourselves with others, allowing envy to invade our hearts; or we may become conceited if we consider our gifts to be superior. If we seek to make a 'name' for ourselves through wealth and acquisition, we may find ourselves consumed by greed.

So like our adversary, we can be corrupted and filled with violence toward others. We all know people who have left their churches because of injury or offence suffered within the seemingly safe walls of their Christian

We all know people who have left their churches because of injury or offence suffered within the seemingly safe walls of their Christian communities.

communities. In his letters, Paul encouraged the believers to show love and forgiveness to each other so that the devil was not given an advantage. 2 Cor 2:11. He, likewise, told the Ephesian church to abandon their anger toward one other so that the devil was not given an opportunity. Eph 4:27. If we are to withstand the devices of the devil, we must be obedient to the commandment to love, which Jesus said would fulfil the whole law of God. Matt 22: 39-40.



A gift with grace



Nathan Smith

The Scriptures teach that everyone is a slave of something. In Romans chapter 6, the apostle Paul wrote that we are either slaves of sin resulting in death, or we are slaves to God resulting in eternal life. Rom 6:21-22. Of course, no one wants to be a slave of anything! We are obsessed with independence and freedom. However, Paul goes on to say that, having been enslaved to God, we 'derive our benefit'. So what is the benefit that we receive when we become willing slaves of God?

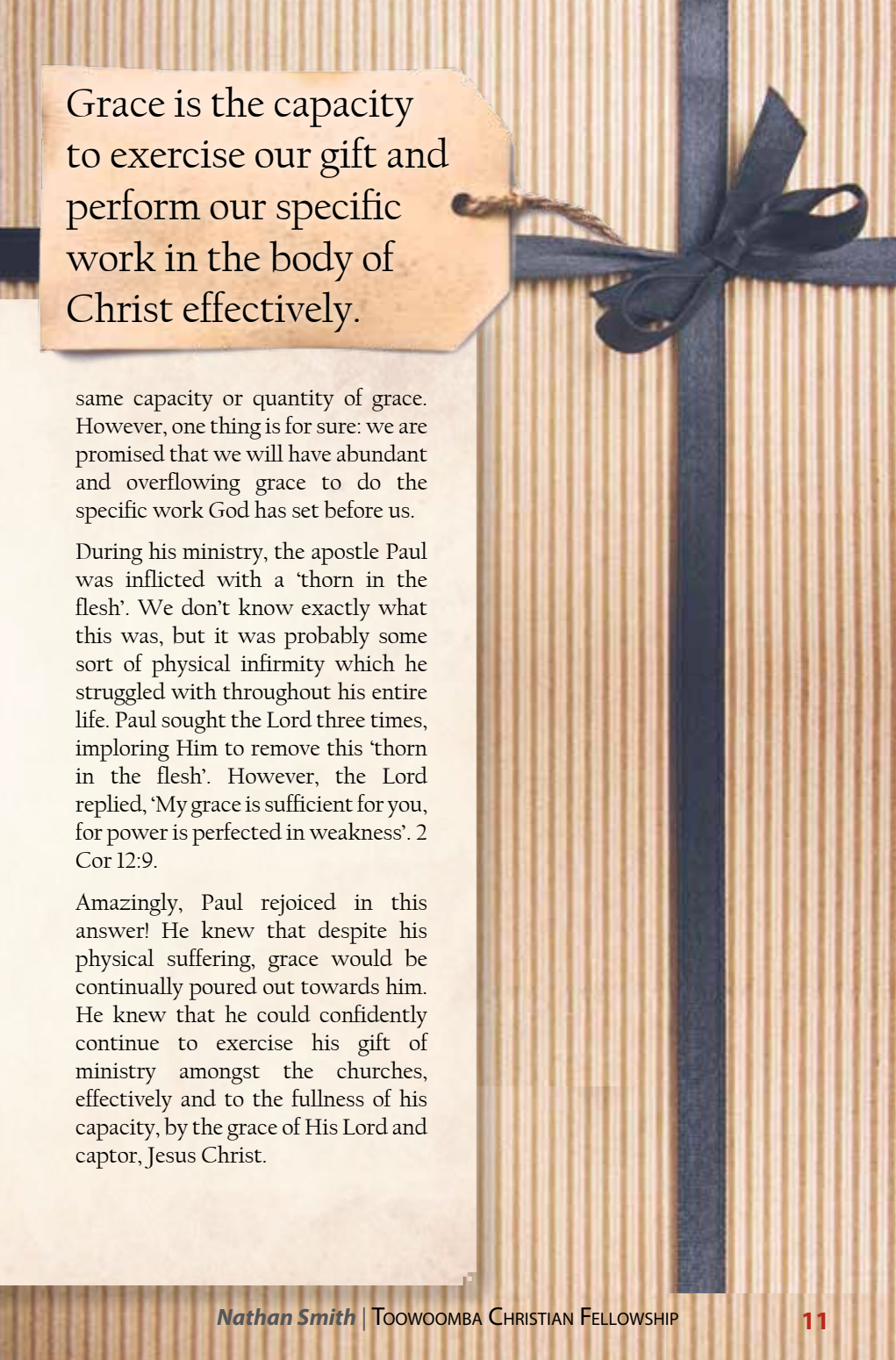
In Paul's letter to the Ephesian church he wrote, 'But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift'. Eph 4:8. We further read that 'when He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men'. Eph 4:7-8. Until we submit ourselves as willing slaves and captives of Christ, we are certainly enslaved to sin. However, when we become captives of Christ, we are promised a gift. This gift allows us to perform a unique and specific work in His kingdom.

But what is so special about this gift and how does it benefit us? Paul wrote

to the Roman church, 'For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly.' Rom 12:4-6. We know that every slave of Christ has received a unique and specific gift, but more importantly, we are given the gift of grace. Grace is the capacity to exercise our gift and perform our specific work in the body of Christ effectively.

It may be helpful to think of grace like the power steering in a car. Without it, driving is hard work! While travelling along a straight highway, we don't particularly notice whether we have power steering or not. However, when we begin to turn the wheel, we immediately gain a deep appreciation of this clever addition to the modern automobile! We could say that the 'grace' provided by power steering, gives us the capacity to exercise our 'gift' of driving.

We read earlier that each one of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Not everyone is given the



Grace is the capacity to exercise our gift and perform our specific work in the body of Christ effectively.

same capacity or quantity of grace. However, one thing is for sure: we are promised that we will have abundant and overflowing grace to do the specific work God has set before us.

During his ministry, the apostle Paul was inflicted with a 'thorn in the flesh'. We don't know exactly what this was, but it was probably some sort of physical infirmity which he struggled with throughout his entire life. Paul sought the Lord three times, imploring Him to remove this 'thorn in the flesh'. However, the Lord replied, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness'. 2 Cor 12:9.

Amazingly, Paul rejoiced in this answer! He knew that despite his physical suffering, grace would be continually poured out towards him. He knew that he could confidently continue to exercise his gift of ministry amongst the churches, effectively and to the fullness of his capacity, by the grace of His Lord and captor, Jesus Christ.

What should we call him?



Lachlan Perrin

Apart from all the prams, cots, toys and other equipment new parents must acquire, surely the most difficult decision to make during pregnancy is, 'What do we call him (or her)? A name is so finite and cannot be retracted. In desperation, expectant parents may tire from baby name research, admit defeat and ask, 'How on earth can we decide!?'

Well, fortunately the Bible tells us that children are a 'gift from the Lord' and are named and known by Him before their birth, not just when they are 'on earth'. Psa 127:3. Our name is much more than the title on our birth certificate, or the word that is called out when our coffee is ready at a cafe! It was written in the 'book of life' before the 'foundation of the world'. Eph 1:4. The Lord is continually calling us 'by name.' In fact, in Peter's first remarkable encounter with Jesus, He said 'You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Peter'. John 1:42.

Imagine meeting someone for the first time and their very first statement was to change your name! The prophet Isaiah wrote, 'The nations will see

your righteousness, and all kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name which the mouth of the Lord will designate'. Isa 62:2. When we turn to the Lord seeking restoration for our soul, He calls out to us. But unless we are listening for His voice, we won't recognise our name when He calls.

Many people spend their entire lives trying to 'make a name for themselves', fearing they won't be remembered or recognised for their accomplishments. But this will almost certainly guarantee that God won't remember us. In the book of Genesis, mankind learnt an important lesson. 'They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name".' Gen 11:4. It was easier for them to build a high tower than to pray. This would be like building a bridge across the Tasman Sea to speak with people in New Zealand, instead of picking up the phone!

Jesus foretold the end of those who pursued a different 'name' to the one He had given them. He said, 'Many will say to Me on that day, "Lord, Lord" and then I will declare to them, "I never knew

you; depart from Me you who practice lawlessness”.’ Matt 7:22,23. Unless we live according to the name which He has given us, and not according to the name that we try to make for ourselves, He is not our Lord at all. In fact, He will not recognise or remember us, despite our best efforts to know Him.

In contrast, all those who live in a submitted relationship with Him will receive strength and grace. And when this world passes away and we appear before God to give account, these words of Jesus will be our hope, ‘To him who overcomes ... I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it’. Rev 2:17.

The city of Zion is a metaphor for God’s city, a place of hopeful anticipation for Christians. In the Psalms, we read, ‘Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God. Of Zion it shall be said, “This one and that one were born in her,” and the Most High Himself will establish her. The Lord will count when He registers the peoples, “This one was born there”.’ Psa 87:3,5,6.

Heaven is like the final roll call of life, and mercifully, all our names are recorded on that roll. How we live our life here and now, whether it is according to the name He has given or the name we seek for ourselves, determines whether or not we will continue to be ‘registered’ there. For those whose names do remain in Zion, the psalmist declares that their resounding testimony and song will be, ‘All my springs of joy are in You’. Psa 87:7.

Unless we live according to the name which He has given us, and not the name that we try to make for ourselves, He is not our Lord at all.





Penny Smith

Rest for the Weary

We live in a society that is fast-paced and relentless. Fatigue is epidemic in the Western World and many live from day to day just trying to make it through. But is the saying true; is there really no rest for the weary? In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus said, 'Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.' Matt 11:28.

As Christians, we know this to be a reality. We can know rest even under the most difficult of circumstances, even during the busiest of times, when we come to the Lord in prayer. But how can one who does not know the Lord find this same rest? In Proverbs, the wise man wrote, 'Like cold water to a weary soul, so is good news from a distant land'. Prov 25:25. This is a wonderful analogy. We all know the refreshment that a cup of cold water brings after we have laboured hard all day.

So what is this 'good news from a distant land'? In the book of Isaiah, we read, 'How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace and brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation, And says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"' Isa 52:7.

The good news is the word of the Lord, the message of salvation. As Christians, it is our obligation to declare this good news. Just as the prophet Isaiah wrote, 'The LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners'. Isa 61:1.

In doing this, we are offering a cup of cold water to a weary soul. Jesus said, 'Whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward'. Matt 10:42.



Filling our hands

Before we can consider what it means to make offering, we firstly need to recognise that all things belong to the Lord. We read in the Psalms that 'every beast of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird of the mountains, and everything that moves in the field is Mine.' The Lord declares, 'The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine'. All wealth belongs to the Lord, and our capacity to generate wealth is also a gift from Him. Job recognised that the life of every living thing is in His hand, and the breath of all mankind.

We cannot make offering until we commit ourselves to the Lord as a slave who is ordained as a priest. It is then, and only then, that He fills our hands. When the priests of old were ordained, their hands were literally 'filled' with the ordination offerings. Speaking of the offerings, the Lord said, 'You shall put all these in the hands of Aaron and in the hands of his sons'. They then waved them before the Lord, before offering them back to Him on the altar as a soothing aroma. The Hebrew word that is translated 'ordain' literally means to 'fill the hand'.

When the Lord ordains us as a priest, He clothes us with priestly robes of righteousness. He fills our hands by giving us seed to sow, and grace to sow that seed. When this seed produces a harvest, we return this to the Lord in the sacrifice of thanksgiving. However, like King David, we testify, 'Who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given You.'

References:

Psa 50:10-11
Hag 2:8
Job 12:10
Ex 29:24
1 Chron 29:14

Further Study:

Ex 29:1-28

Daily Proverb:

Proverbs 6

Daily Devotions

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Restoring
my Soul

Start again



David Falk

I remember the first time I went to a church camp in about 1976. I was so impacted by the preacher that I committed my life to study the Scriptures. The word of direction that came to me that day, gave me a way forward, but it also took me back to my very beginnings where my name and work were preordained by God. I have tried to stay consistent with that direction for thirty-five years, but at various times in my Christian journey, I have strayed from the path of my predestination and have had to recover or realign myself.

Perhaps you have also become disconnected from the word that came at your beginnings. In the book of Samuel, we read the last words of King David who said, 'He has made an everlasting covenant with me ordered in all things and secure. For all my salvation and all my desire, will He not indeed make it grow?' 2 Sam 23: 4,5. In this context, the word

'ordered' is exactly the same one that was used for the 'ordering' of the fire under the altar as well as the 'ordering' of the pieces of the animal sacrifice, by the priest in the Old Testament tabernacle. Lev 1:7,8. So David was actually saying that our salvation and our desire are assured when we make offering.

**If you have lost
heart or become
disillusioned,
you can start again!**

We may sometimes feel despondent because we have not been fruitful. In the book of Isaiah, we read an encouragement to the barren woman who had not borne children. These words are a consolation to us when we find that we are not fulfilling our name and work. We read, 'Enlarge the place



of your tent; stretch out the curtains of your dwellings, spare not; lengthen your cords and strengthen your pegs. For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left. And your descendants will possess nations and will resettle the desolate cities. Fear not, for you will not be put to shame; and do not feel humiliated, for you will not be disgraced.' Isa 54:1-5.

In order to stretch out and extend our 'borders', we need to know how to pull up our tent pegs, move them and put them down again. Of course, we will be most vulnerable at this point and we may feel destabilised. We extend ourselves by making offering, but in the process we may become aware that another person has something against us, even if we have not intentionally sinned against them. If this is the case, we need to leave our gift in front of the 'altar' and make things right with the one we have offended. Matt 5:23. This

does not mean that we do not bring our gift, but that we must reconcile with our brother or sister before we convert it to an offering.

The prophet Malachi quoted the Lord Himself when he instructed the nation of Israel to bring their tithes and offerings to His storehouse. He said, 'Prove Me now in this' and see 'if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows'. Mal 3:10. If you have lost heart or become disillusioned, you can start again! I want to encourage you to take the first step toward your recovery by presenting yourself to God as a 'living sacrifice', which the apostle Paul called our 'reasonable service'. Rom 12:1. We can then begin to make offering with whatever we have in our hands which will include our skills, time, finances and resources.



Who is in charge here?



Shem Barnes

I want to see the Manager! Who is in charge here?!

I was recently with a group of young people on a leadership training course. It was quite entertaining to watch them argue about the best way to solve a particular group challenge which was set for them. The argument went for a whole hour! In the midst of their heated discussion, one of them yelled out, 'Who is in charge here?!

The interesting thing to note in just about every situation is that someone will most certainly end up taking charge. In fact, if we take the time to think about it, every single one of us will have someone or something in charge of our thoughts, opinions, beliefs, emotions and decisions! So, hopefully we are secure enough to ask the question, 'Who or what is influencing what I think, say and do? The people or things that come to mind right now are probably in charge of your life!

We are all influenced by someone or something. I can remember watching a movie about a submarine on a military mission. I was expecting the particular captain in this movie to have a heart

attack as he ran around barking orders to his crew members! Interestingly enough, not once in the movie did the captain actually have the steering wheel or controls in his hand. Even though specific crew members had the buttons at their fingertips, they took their charge from the captain who had clear authority and was in charge. No single person on this earth is in charge of themselves. But! We all get to steer our own ship!

Have you ever tried keeping two full-time jobs? You answered, 'No', right? That's because no one can serve two masters; but everyone has a master. The Bible says that we are either slaves to sin or slaves to godliness, which is also called 'righteousness'. We can't be slaves to both. In the end, we can only obey one of them. Either sin or God will be our master. Rom 6. So who or what is in charge of us?

I'm sure we are all aware that every person has a conscience. In fact, if you think about it, we have all heard our own conscience speaking at times! Our conscience is where the Spirit of God meets our spirit, the spirit of man. Do you remember the famous account in the Bible, where a woman caught in adultery was brought before Jesus to be



punished? Jesus had a lesson in mind for the woman's accusers. He asked for anyone who had no sin, to throw the first stone at the woman. The Bible tells us that those who were gathered were convicted by their conscience in regard to their own sin and left the woman alone. Jesus forgave this woman who was a slave to sin, and she was no longer enslaved to that master.

What influences you? Who is your master? For a Christian, God is in charge! How? He leads, directs, convicts and prompts us through His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit wants to speak with us about us. His voice is the still, small voice that is loud enough to be heard, but also quiet enough to be ignored.

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