



The Shining Light®

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 2 MAR-APR 2021

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Here Am I,
Send Me!





By Ray Spoor

In the early days of Methodism, twenty-five people living in a Kentucky town decided that if they could get the preacher they wanted, they would be able to support one. Accordingly, they wrote requesting a certain Brother Johnson who, at that time, was one of the best-loved and most effective ministers in the state. It was decided, however, that Brother Johnson should be sent to another station.

There was a young man at the conference who was ready to start his first year in the ministry. He had no experience or reputation as a preacher. He had a retiring disposition which would cause him to suffer keenly if he was treated coldly by those to whom he was sent. Such was the treatment that probably awaited the one who should go instead of the man asked for in this particular place. However, this young man was chosen as the one to go. This bishop was to accompany him on his journey there.

The journey of the bishop and the new preacher covered about two hundred miles, and the young man had the blessed opportunity of observing and partaking of the saintly bishop's prayerful spirit. There was always a season of prayer whenever they had occasion to stop for rest, meals, or lodging, or for calling on some pious family.

While they were stopping at a certain home, the good brother who was head of the family unthinkingly told the young man that he would be very unwelcome at the place of his appointment. Immediately the sensitive youth became greatly affected. He was not afraid of personal danger, toil, or hardship; but feeling that he was intruding where he was not wanted seemed more than he could bear. Resolving that he would not submit to such mortification, he confided to the bishop what had been told him, adding that he could not consent to making such an imposition.

The bishop exhorted him not to make any rash decision, but to wait until he had seen the place and met the people; and in the meantime, to pray much. The young man took his advice.

Reaching their destination, they became guests of a prominent man of the church whose home afterward was always open to traveling preachers. The next morning as the bishop was preparing to leave, he and his host were conversing in the parlor.

The young preacher sat on the porch, having no intention of listening. But the window was open and there was only a thin curtain between, so the youth could not help hearing the conversation.

"Well, brother," began the bishop, "how will the

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pouring out his heart to God in burdened prayer. He went to the window, thinking of the few reluctant hearers who would be at the church. What accounted for the strange sight which met his eyes? Flocks of people were headed toward his church.

At first he was astonished. Then something seemed to tell him that God was answering his prayers. His heart was filled with joy. He gained courage and weakness fled away.

Hastening to his pulpit, after lifting his heart to God in silent prayer, he announced his text: "And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried." The people were amazed at the confidence and authority that attended his words. The embarrassment and timidity were gone.

During the last month he had spent at least thirty hours of intercessory prayer. Now he spoke as one gloriously baptized with the Holy Ghost. The power of God rested on the audience. Sobs and

groans were heard in every part of the house. Without pausing in his discourse, he stepped down from the pulpit and invited the people to come forward and pray. They came streaming down the aisle, crying for mercy; and before the meeting closed, seven people were saved.

Afterward, he retired to his closet of prayer—not as before, disheartened and sad, but victorious, as one who had conquered. He thought of good Brother George who had been persuaded that the appointment was right. He thought of his fasting and prayer, of the faithfulness of God; and his faith in God and in the power of prayer received such a strengthening as it had never had before.

The revival lasted for four weeks. During that time, the young preacher did little else than attend to the spiritual needs of the people.

Thus under God, through the instrumentality of his unwelcome preacher, was the congregation established in this Kentucky town in 1823.



"And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried."



Social Distancing

Sis. Rebekah Oppel (Age 11)

Social distancing is a plan by the kings of the earth to separate the people. They do this so the people won't come together and fight against them. Social distancing has been created so that the people do not expose the rulers.

The rulers use various ways to cause division. One of the best tactics they have is to pit the people against each other. They do this through imagined differences among the people. Two of the main tools they use are the media and churches.

Social distancing has been happening long before this coronavirus crisis. For example, you may judge me by my church, or by how I'm dressed, or by my skin color. You may look at me and immediately assume that I am not an intelligent person. You may make this assumption before you have ever talked to me in person.

Division has been put in your mind by the Kings of the Earth. How are we going to demand justice if we never talk to each other because we are a different skin color or because we are dressed differently or because we have different amounts of money?

Of course, if you are sick you should stay home and away from other people, but this should be a short-term separation not an ongoing situation. Nothing should ever divide us long-term. It seems like something is behind all of this.

LET'S COME TOGETHER AND DEMAND JUSTICE!

ARE THEY FOR ME?

Sis. Kathy Loewen

I have a question for you, dear reader. Of the plentiful promises and commands that we find written in the Bible, which ones apply to us? Which one applies to you? Are they mostly applicable to the people that lived in the past, or for everyone else around you? Search your heart and ask yourself the following question: "Are they for me?"

Most of us are familiar with the promise that is found in John 3:16. We understand that God's love has brought about a redemption plan, and we believe it and are saved. Do all other promises count for us like this one?

Let's look at the verse where God gives the command, "As he which hath called you is Holy, so be ye holy." (1 Pet. 1:15) Who is he referring to? He's calling you. The command is to be holy in all areas of your life. Does God require something of us

that is not a possibility? Never! Just as any reasonable father, God never asks more of us than what we are able to do. Therefore we must conclude that it is possible to live holy with God's help.

What about all of the many other promises and other commands? You won't be tempted above what you are able to bear (1 Cor 10:13). "My grace is sufficient for thee" (2 Cor 12:9). "As I was with Moses, so will I be with you. I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee...Be strong and of a good courage." (Josh 1:5). Meditate on these promises and commands, and consider whether they are meant for you.

Read Psalm 1:1-3. Every promise is for each one

of us to take hold of. "The righteous are bold as a lion." "When thou passest through the waters... the fire... I will be with thee." "In my father's house are many mansions, I go to prepare a place for you..." These all apply to us if we will only believe it.

Mat 21:22 says, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

"Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered to-

gether in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Mat 18:19-20.

Believe these promises for yourself, and you will receive answers to your prayers.

"As thy days, so shall thy strength be." Deut. 33: 25.

"God is our refuge, underneath are his Everlasting Arms."

"The violent take it

by force" Matt. 11:12. Will you take it? Can you be the violent one? Spiritually speaking of course. We must be violent against all doubts in order to take hold of God's promises to us. When you believe, according to your days, so will your strength be.

All of the wonderful promises apply to us, and they are meant for you. They weren't just for the people of the past, or just for those coming in the future. They are also for us in the present, for those who are currently living, for you and I. For all the commands of God that we find, there is a way to fulfill them. Let's take every promise found within the Bible for ourselves!





Bible Promises

Fill in the blanks for each one of these promises in the Bible!

The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them _____.

Psalm 34:17

For every one that asketh _____; and he that seeketh _____;

and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Luke 11:10

Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the _____.

Psalm 37:4

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which

_____. Jeremiah 33:3

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, _____

Matthew 21:22

SCENES OF REVIVAL

North Wales

1859

“There is a most powerful movement amongst the children. They meet to pray everywhere, in the roads, the houses, the school rooms, etc. They are full of the spirit of prayer, and it is remarkable what high and enlarged ideas they have, though expressed in humble language. They pray for all classes; sometimes a youth may be heard praying earnestly for an ungodly father, who was himself a month before a swearer and blasphemer.

We know many examples of the kind...”

“On Monday morning, November 28, while the master of the day-school at this place offered up prayer, as was his custom before the school duties commenced, the Lord poured out a ‘spirit of grace and supplications’ on him, and upon all the children present, about ninety in number, so that they continued in the exercise of prayer and praise until noon. A considerable number of the neighbours assembled to look on and to listen, and they might have said, ‘When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.’ They were deeply affected while listening to young children pouring out their full hearts in earnest prayer before the throne of grace. Many of the petitions were remembered and repeated afterwards... ‘Save me, oh, save me through the blood of Christ. The blood of Jesus can cleanse a great sinner like me.’ A little boy prayed for his father with great earnestness, and with weeping eyes, ‘Oh, save my father. My father is ungodly, save; oh, save my father, for Jesus Christ’s sake.’ Others pleaded for brothers and sisters, and the various members of their families. A woman who came to the place without knowing what was going forward, was so impressed by the sight, that although she had scoffed at every manifestation of feeling in religion only the previous evening, she was so overcome that she joined the children in their devotional exercises.”

“The sight was awfully stirring—young men who had been indifferent about their souls before now cried out the loudest, ‘What must I do to be saved?’ while aged men with hoary hairs were as lively as lambs, praising God for visiting His people with showers of heavenly rain...”