

Tid Bits of the Wisdom Wonderful Word



JANUARY 2010



VOL 4 NO. 2

I AM, I WILL, and I HAVE

How do you see your relationship with the Lord? Let's look at three different relationships that we have with the Lord.

I AM!

When Moses was feeding his flock on the back side of the desert, he saw a bush that was burning, but was not consumed. He stopped to see what was happening. When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, the Lord called him by his name. Moses said, "Here I am."

Have you ever turned to see what the Lord was doing in your life? There are many things that happen daily that are definitely the hand of the Lord, but so often we never stop and turn to see what the Lord is doing. We don't have the burning bush, but we do have the cross! Have you ever turned to take a good look at the cross? Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32). The Lord draws us to Himself with the cross and when He sees that we turn aside, He calls us by our name, and He says to us, "**I AM, THAT I AM!**" Do we respond like Moses with, "Here I am."?

And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. Ex 3:14

What is an "I AM" relationship? It is a relationship where God is present now? It is a personal relationship. Do you talk about God as if He is somewhere else, or do you talk about God as if He is present? Salvation is us becoming aware of God's presence. He calls us by name and we respond, "Here I am." This is the beginning of a relationship and the beginning of a new life. Just as the Lord had a work for Moses to do, He has a work for you and me to do as His child and He calls us to that work the moment we are saved. He tells us, just as He told Moses, "I AM, THAT I AM!"

When the Lord says He is the I AM, He is saying He is whatever we need in order to do the will of God. He is our strength, our wisdom, our leader, our comforter, our daily saviour and He is what we need at this very moment; not was, or will be, but He is our God at this very moment. When He says, "I AM THAT I AM," He is saying that is just the way it is. He is saying, get used to Me. This is the way it is. He is God and His will and His purposes will be done. We don't change Him; He changes us. He is a present saviour. I worry about those who talk about the Lord as if He is a stranger. Have you come face to face with the Lord as Moses did? Not visionally, but spiritually. I don't see a body, but I feel a warmth of His presence. I don't hear an audible voice, but I clearly hear His words. Those words say, "I AM here!" What a God we have in the "I AM".

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HAVE YOU READ THROUGH YOUR BIBLE THIS YEAR? PLEASE SEND US YOUR NAME BEFORE THE FIRST OF FEBRUARY SO WE CAN PRINT A LIST OF ALL WHO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR READING THIS YEAR. IF YOU HAVE ATTEMPTED TO READ THROUGH AND HAVE NOT FINISHED, PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW FAR YOU HAVE COME AND PLEASE DO NOT STOP UNTIL YOU HAVE FINISHED.



This is an article out of an old book that was written some time in the 1800's. The date, the name of the book, name of the author are missing and the pages are coming apart at the touch. I think you will enjoy the article.

READING THE BIBLE!

Reading the Bible should form a part of family worship. God commands us to teach the Word of the Lord diligently to our children and talk of it when we sit in our houses. The most natural way to do this is to read aloud portions of the Bible everyday, in the family, and talk about them, or make such comments as may seem best. The whole Bible should be read through by course, or if that is not done, certain books should be read in that way. One chapter a day will take you through the Bible in about three years. Three chapters a day and five on the Sabbath will take you through in one year. If you read the Bible through every three years you will read it through ten times in thirty years, or fifteen times if the family remains together forty-five years.

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I AM, I WILL and I HAVE

I WILL!

Our "I AM" relationship is where our faith is exercised. Our "I WILL" relationship is where our hope is exercised by faith. While our God is present with us at this very moment, there are some things that He has promised that will not be fulfilled until a later time. Because we believe that our God will keep His word, we can, with patience, wait for Him to fulfill His promises.

Abraham knew what it was to wait upon the Lord.

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. Gen 12:1-3

And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee. Gen 13:16-17

These were some great promises. Abraham takes off and wanders for years, waiting for the Lord to fulfill these words. Twenty-five years later he receives his son that was promised, but the land was not given in his lifetime. He didn't see that come to pass, but the Lord kept His word and did exactly what He said He would do for Abraham. His timing was not at all what Abraham expected, but it happened.

As children of God, we have some great promises from the Lord.

And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day. John 6:40

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. John 14:3

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. John 14:14

We have a promise that we will be raised in the last day. We also have a promise of living with the Lord forever. He is coming again to receive us to Himself. We also have a promise that the Lord will answer our prayers. This is the "I WILL" relationship, waiting for the fulfillment of the promises. Do we live by faith and hope for the promises like Abraham did?

I HAVE!

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. John 17:4

Believers in the Old Testament spoke about what God was going to do and we, the church of the New Testament, speak about what the Lord Jesus Christ has done. God reminds us that the work of redemption has been done. Not might be or will be, but has been finished! He says, "I HAVE!"

After a work has been finished, it is time to say thank you! It is time to show gratitude, praise and worship. The Lord Jesus Christ has already overcome this world and all we have to do is live in that overcoming power that He has already provided, so we can finish with the words, "I have overcome!" For through the Lord Jesus Christ, we can do all things!

Now lets move from who God is to us, to who we are to God. When I say, "I am" to God, what does that say to God? Can we say that we are His humble servant? Can we say we are His obedient servant? Can we say we love Him? When He says I am the I AM, that brings to my mind all of the things He is to me. When I say, "I am" to God, that brings to God's mind all that I am to Him. What kind of a child of God have we become?

When we say, "I will" to God, what have we promised Him? What can He expect from us? He has promised us some wonderful things. What have we promised Him and will we keep those promises? What have we committed to do for the Lord?

Then we come to the "I have" part. What have we done for Christ? Since He saved us by His precious blood and gave us eternal life, what have we done for Him? Have we walked in the Spirit? Have we told others what He has done for us? Have we had good fellowship with Him in prayer on a regular basis? Have we laid hold on this eternal life He has given us? What have we done for Christ?

When God says, "I AM, I WILL and I HAVE", these are words that have never been broken, and never been changed. When we say, "I am, I will and I have," these are words that sometimes we perform and sometimes we do not perform! We are not without sin and we are not always faithful, BUT we should never wickedly depart from doing right.

There is no question what the Lord has done for us. The question is, who are we, what are we going to do and what have we done for Christ? Let's submit ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit and let Him make us as much like Christ as possible.

GOD

I AM - Present

I WILL - Promised

I HAVE - Proclaimed

MAN

I am - Submitted

I will - Committed

I have - Completed

----Editor

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READING THE BIBLE!

Of course, when the Bible is thus read, much will not be understood by the younger members of the family, and much that is understood will be forgotten. But by successive readings, more and more Bible history and Bible truth will adhere to the mind.

The elevated, spiritual style in which the Bible is written will become familiar to us, and those grand characters of the Bible, like Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David, Elijah, Paul, and, chiefest of all, Christ, will become like household friends. The family will grow up under their influence.

The division of the Bible into chapters and verses is a great convenience for family reading, and yet sometimes an interesting narrative, or continued argument is cut into by these divisions, and one feels like reading right on until the story or argument is finished.

All in the family who can read should join in this exercise, reading two or five verses alternately. It is much easier to understand and remember what is being read if we have the Bible open before us.

Besides reading at family worship, the Bible should be constantly at hand, ready to be appealed to during the day when any question arises about the right or wrong of any course of conduct. Our children should see that it is, in fact, as well as in theory, the man of our counsel, our rule of practice as well as of faith.

Some families have the happy custom of repeating each one a verse at family worship. Many Christians, who are tolerably familiar with the drift of the Bible as a whole, can repeat very few whole verses correctly. They should fix more of them in the mind.

It would be an excellent plan if each church goer would commit to memory, the texts from which he hears sermons preached on the Sabbath. The texts from which ministers preach are usually among the choicest in God's Word. Commit to memory those that

you hear preached from in one year, and you will have, in your head and heart, a rich store of Bible truth.

PRAYER

Prayer is of course, the most essential part of family worship, for it is by prayer that we directly approach God to thank, or supplicate, or adore Him.

One form of this kind of family worship is asking a blessing, or giving thanks, at the table. Christ gave thanks when He miraculously fed the thousands, and when He broke bread for His disciples. His example has been followed ever since. Our most prominent and ever-pressing bodily want is food for the body. It is representative of all our bodily wants. God supplies that want, and when we sit down to our tables, it is fitting that we thank Him.

When we pray at the family altar we should thank God for the blessings already bestowed before we ask for more. If our hearts feel grateful, our lips will naturally express our gratitude, while, if our hearts are not grateful, all our professions and expressions of gratitude will be a mockery of God.

Confession of sin and shortcomings will naturally find a place in our prayer, while, of course, we will ask for the blessings which we need as a family.

In all these things - thanks, confession, and supplication - the prayer should be specific. Particular things should be mentioned. Some prayers are so general that, at their close, we can hardly remember anything in particular for which God has been thanked, or for which confession or supplication has been made. What family is there that does not, everyday, have special occasions for thanksgiving or for supplication? Some member is taken sick or restored to health; someone is being tempted or delivered from temptation; someone is starting on a long journey or has just safely returned from one; someone, a stranger perhaps, has just joined the family circle, or someone is leaving it permanently; death is in the house, or wedding bells are ringing - all such special things should be reme-

mebered at the family altar. In this way our children will be taught to take all their joys and griefs to the Lord.

Above all things, avoid formality in family prayer. Avoid getting into ruts of prayer. Let the prayer be the expression to God of the actual wants of the family. There should be in it that unction which comes only from a living communion of the soul with God. Let things and persons outside the family be remembered; neighbors, the sick, the church, the community; but it is better to have the prayer short and full of life and earnestness, than to have it dull and formal and long. Let long prayers be reserved for the closet; they are needed there.

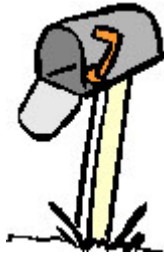
And what is prayed at the family altar should be lived and acted through the day.

Some men pray in the morning that their children may become Christians, and then go out and pray all day by their conduct that they may become rich.

It is vain for a man to pray in the morning that Christ may dwell in his heart, and then, during the day, take no pains to cultivate the Christian graces. Of what use to pray for a revival in the morning, and all day long speak not one word nor do one thing to advance Christ's kingdom? Where is the consistency in praying for the conversion of the world to Christ, and then spending as much in one day, or one week, on some foolish habit, as you give in a year to the cause of missions? Let your prayers at the family altar be reinforced by the daily life or they will accomplish but a little. When we think how little agreement there is between our prayers, even our fervent ones, and our daily lives, it is no wonder that so many children from Christian families grow up to godless lives.

It is an excellent custom which some families observe of having a family prayer-meeting every Sunday night, in which all the family, from the youngest to the eldest, offer prayer, If we commence in this way with the

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by
Gloria Brewster



INSPIRATIONS

THE AGED WOMEN!

The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Titus 2:3-5

About 15 years ago a lady called our church and asked if there was a woman that would come to her house and counsel her. I was the lady they sent. When I arrived she was very disturbed and emotional. I listened to her plight and shared scripture with her as to what the Lord said she was to do. As I read the scripture, you could see in her eyes that she was understanding and it was as if a light had come on. All of a sudden she bent forward and took me by the hand and said, "You are an answer to my prayers!" I said, "I am?" She said, "Yes, I have asked the Lord to send an older woman to me, that could help me know what to do and you are that older woman." She was excited that I was an old lady, while I was sitting there in shock thinking she and I were the same age!

Well, I had just turned 50 years old and I never thought of myself as OLD! What a shock to my system! I ran home and took a good look in the mirror and had to admit that I wasn't a YOUNG WOMAN.

Since I am an older woman, there is one thing I would like to teach you. That is how to love your husband! Not that I've learned it all, but I have learned how important it is to love that man. When I first saw Jerry, my thoughts were what he might mean to my life, not what I might mean to his life. My thoughts were what he might do for me, not what I might be called to do for him. I was very self-centered, but did not realize it at that time. I had much to learn!

The first four years of our marriage I stayed mad at him because he was not fulfilling my needs as I thought he should. Not that he wasn't trying. He was trying very hard, but the Lord would not allow him to touch the empty part of my heart. The Lord wanted to be the one to meet my need. He did not want me to look to Jerry for my life. When I got that straight with the Lord and began to look to the Lord, and then to Jerry, it began to work and I began to learn how to love Jerry.

Love is doing what is right even when you have no desire to. Love is doing what you do to bless another life, even if it is very hard to do. Love is putting someone else before your needs. Loving as Christ did is the most rewarding act you can commit.

You cannot love and resent at the same time. You cannot love and hold a grudge. You cannot love and be angry at the same time. You either do what comes natural (which naturally is wrong) or you do what God says to do and you act through the spirit of love. Many times Jerry and I have irritated one another and found ourselves ready to devour one another. Vengeance is so ugly! Remember, vengeance belongs to God. Jerry and I have learned that we do not have to prove that we are right and we do not have to prove that the other one is dumb!

When we back off and give a little time and thought to the other person, it gives room to make things right without feeling like you have to vindicate yourself. Knowing the other one is not waiting to say, "I told you so," also helps tremendously.

We will never agree on everything and we will never remember things alike, but there is never a reason to divide over our differences. As the Scripture says,

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

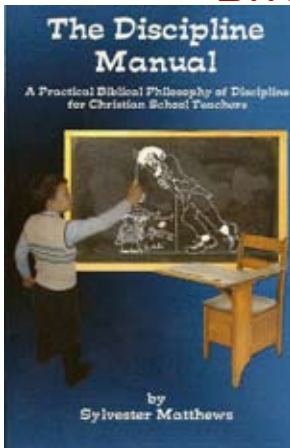
Ps 133:1-2

Unity is the best way to know that you are walking in love. You don't have to agree with someone in order to love them, but you do have to be agreeable to enjoy a love relationship. Women set the spirit of the home, and it is so easy to have a bad spirit. When we live with a bad spirit we do damage to the very people that we look to for our encouragement. We shoot ourselves in the foot.

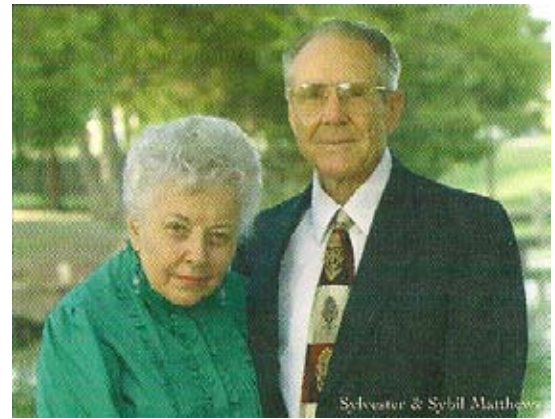
How do we know that we have been effective with our love? By the smile that our husband has when he looks into our eyes. If, when our eyes meet, we see contempt, anger or disgust, then our manner of loving has not been effective. There is a warmth and a pleasant atmosphere when a person knows that they are loved. I watch Jerry's face when he looks at me and I know if I am effective or if I am repulsive. And believe me, I can be both! When I get mad, I have a 1,000 ways to kill and 999 will work! I must not live

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BROTHER SYLVESTER MATTHEWS



Was born in Tyler, Texas, and attended Tyler High School, Tyler Junior College and the University of Texas in Austin. He received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1953. He graduated in 1957 with a Bachelor of Divinity at Temple Baptist Theological Seminary in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He pastored for 42 yrs and has taught at almost every level. He has been administrator and principal and has 25 yrs. of practical experience in the classroom. At present he is teaching high school math at Mesquite Baptist Academy, Open Door Baptist Church, Mesquite, Texas.



In the summer of 1954 I enrolled at Tennessee Temple College in Chattanooga, Tennessee to take a few make-up courses before entering Seminary. For the first eighteen months at Highland Park Baptist, I was asked to teach a Junior Sunday School class. Randy Faulkner, one of Dr. J.R. Faulkner's sons, was a member of that class. Randy was a very respectful young man, and if all the members of the class had been like him, teaching that class would have been a breeze, but this just wasn't the case. There happened to be another young man in the group, whose name I don't remember, but whose disruptive behavior was a continuous distraction. That kid was a "pill." I am confident God allowed him to be in that class to test my faith and to prepare me for future ministry. Every Sunday I moved this young man outside the classroom to have a special meeting with Mrs. Henderson, our junior superintendent. To be perfectly honest, I just did not know how to handle this kind of behavior neither did I know the first thing about the discipline of children.

After graduating from seminary, a group of us from Temple were asked to teach at Baptist Evangelistic Schools of Texas, a preacher's school in Dallas started by Brother Joe Boyd and Brother Jack Hyles. A couple of years after arriving in Texas, I was asked by Brother Boyd to become principal of Open Door Christian Academy as well as teach in the school. It was here that I began a life-long friendship with Jerry Brewster and Gloria (Krueger) Brewster (the editor of Tid Bits) who were students in our high school. As the years passed, opportunities arose for me to become more involved in teaching at different grade levels. The longer I taught the more I realized the importance of classroom discipline. It became evident to me that well-trained teachers become less effective if they cannot control their students. More than ever I desired to correct this weakness in my life and to help others as well. To find answers I began to study, attend seminars, read books, and to search the Scriptures to see what the Word of God says about discipline. By 1983 I had gathered enough material to put together a manual in notebook form. Recently, this manual was revised and published in book form. To my surprise it has been well received and many Christian educators have been helped by observing these Biblical principles of discipline.

Gloria and I have fond memories of Bro. Matthews in the class room. I was the only student in Algebra II, so Bro. Matthews put me on one side of a room divider and his Biology class, which Gloria was in, on the other side of the room divider and he taught both classes at the same time. Gloria and I figured out that we could leave the divider open about two inches and both sat at the back and made eyes at each other during class. Bro. Matthews finally realized what we were doing and said to Gloria, "Gloria, are you in Algebra or Biology?" With red faces we closed the divider. Bro. Matthews was a great teacher and a great example for us as students. We have remained friends through the years. We were just so glad Bro. Matthews did not see fit to use our behavior as an example!

Bro. Matthews loved his students and they still call him from time to time to say hello and let him know what is going on in their lives. We will forever be thankful for his influence in our lives as teenagers.

If you are interested in his book, The Discipline Manual, you can contact him at 322 Teakwood Street, Mesquite, Texas 75149-4760



Can you relate to this dog and cat? I can.

Some days I am the dog and some days I am the cat. This picture reminds me of two verses in the Bible. The dog reminds me of the overcoming Christian.

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. Rev 21:7

The cat reminds me of being content.

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Phil 4:11-13

TID BITS MONTHLY REPORT

Another new year has arrived! A fresh start! What are we going to do with it? It's a gift. We may not have a complete year before the Lord comes back or takes us home. What we do, we must do today!

The time we take to publish this paper and the time you take to read it, is a small portion of time and doesn't seem like much, but everything done is making a difference. When we come to the end of our life, it is these things that we did moment by moment that make up our lives.

I ran into an old friend that was in my Bible class 40 years ago and she was telling me about a lesson I taught that they had never forgotten. I had forgotten teaching it! We do things and forget, but God doesn't forget and one day we give an account for everything. Today is a gift of time and opportunity. What will we do with it?

There was a time when I thought it was dumb to set goals, because so many people set unrealistic goals in January and give up in the month of February, but I realize today that we only accomplish that which we plan to do. Let's be balanced and be realistic and set some goals for this year. Let's change the things that need to be changed, let's straighten up the things that are crooked and let's build the things that are needed, but let's get busy till Christ returns. The only way we can go forward and have wisdom enough to do that which is profitable, is to begin by reading God's Word. If you haven't already committed to read through your Bible this year, could I persuade you to do so? You will not regret having taken on this challenge. Should you lose the schedule we sent last month, you can remember that by reading three chapters a day and five chapters on Sunday you can read through the Bible in one year.

Our monthly support is right at the amount we spend monthly for postage. We have spent the extra that the Lord so graciously gave us this year and we are praying that He will touch hearts and again meet the needs of this year. We are so thankful for our faithful friends who have taken it upon themselves to support this work each month.

Our office is coming along. We are building shelves and painting. We are bringing the books out of storage and into the room. Soon we will be able to bring the computers out. We would like to dedicate this room to the work of writing and printing the Wonderful Word of the Lord.

We have had several comments this month from those who have enjoyed the paper. Here are two of the letters:

Dear Jerry & Gloria, Just a line to thank you again for this "Tid Bits of Wisdom". It has to take a lot of work to put this out every month. May God bless each one who works so hard each month on this. I enjoy it very much. We wish all of you a wonderful Christmas and a Happy and Healthy new year. We must always keep our mind on what Christmas is all about. May God bless your whole family. Lewis & Ann.

I just love the Tid Bits of Wisdom every month. I know it takes a LOT of hard work on several people's part to get this published and out every month. I enjoy it through and through. I would like to request that one be sent to my aunt. She enjoys stories/trials that people have faced and how God has worked it all out. There is so much encouragement in your few pages of trivia, stories and even the funny jokes that gives me hope and acknowledgement that there are many Christians out there in this world that still love people and are eager to be a blessing. I know the postage is tight and I am willing to give up my monthly issue in order for my aunt to get a copy. I believe that she will cherish having it come directly to her home. You all are a blessing and a refreshment and a great encouragement to others. Myra C.

We also received a letter from a friend that expressed the heartaches he has experienced because of an unusual upbringing. His family told him he was to never have children. Because of his mother and father's behavior the family was afraid that he would be like them and his children would be like them and therefore they told him having children was wicked. He and his wife are passed child bearing years today and have had many heartaches because of the perverse teachings of those who reared him. He has come a long way in his life, undoing the things that could, and almost did, destroy his life. Christ has taught him how to lead a normal life today and he is an example of the fact that Christ is all anyone needs. Many children today are being misled by perverted parents or family and will go through much heartaches because of it, but isn't it wonderful to know that a relationship with the Lord can undo all the damage as we follow Christ.

THE VESSEL

The Master was looking for a vessel to use.
Before Him were many, which one would He choose?

"Take me," cried the gold one, shiny and bright,
"I'm of great value and I do things just right!
My beauty and luster will outshine the rest,
And for someone like You, Master, gold would be best."

The Master passed on with no word at all,
And looked at a silver urn, so grand and tall.
"I'll serve you, dear Master, I'll pour out your wine.
I'll be on your table whenever you dine.
My lines are so graceful, my carving so true,
And silver will always compliment you."

Unheeding, the Master passed on to the brass,
Wide-mouthed and shallow and polished like glass.

"Here, here," cried the vessel, "I know I will do.
Place me on your table for all men to view."

"Look at me," cried the gauntlet of crystal so clear.

"My transparency shows my contents so dear.
Though fragile am I, I will serve you with pride.
And I'm sure I'll be happy in your house to abide."

The Master came next to a vessel of wood,
Polished and carved, it solidly stood.
"You may use me, Master," the wooden bowl said,
But I'd rather you use me for fruit, and not bread."

Then the Master looked down and saw a vessel of clay,
Empty and broken it helplessly lay.
No hope had the vessel that the Master might choose,
To cleanse, to make whole, to fill, and to use.

"Ah, now this is the vessel I've been hoping to find.
I'll mend it, and use it, and make it all mine.
I need not the vessel of pride in itself,
Nor the one that's too narrow to sit on the shelf,

Nor one that is big-mouthed and shallow and loud,
Nor one that displays its contents so proud,
Nor the one who thinks he can do things just right,

But this plain earthly vessel filled with my power and might!"
Then gently He lifted the vessel of clay,
Mended it, and cleansed it, and filled it that day.

He spoke to it kindly, "There's work you must do.
Just pour out to others, what I've poured into you."

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THE AGED WOMEN!

with the spirit to destroy if I hope to live in love! Too many hours have been wasted with silly emotions that divide one another. Life is too short to live mad.

Jerry and I are living in our 50th year of marriage. We have experienced every phase of marriage except unfaithfulness. Thank the Lord we haven't had to endure the pain of unfaithfulness. I cannot tell you how many times I have seen my husband look to the ceiling to avoid casting his eyes on a lewd woman. He has taken great efforts to be true to me and I appreciate all of those efforts. Both Jerry and I decided before marriage that there would be no going home to momma for either one of us. That kept us together through our tough times. We believed that we made our bed and we were responsible to stay in it. When you believe these principles, you work out your differences so you don't have to live miserably! Neither one of us believed in divorce, so if we were going to have to stay together forever, then we would do what we could to be happy. These beliefs determined our work ethics to solve problems. The results have been a wonderful marriage that we wouldn't take anything for. Anything you work for, you appreciate. I'm glad it has not been easy learning to love one another. Our love is a deep love that covers every part of our lives. We know each other inside and out. He thinks my thoughts and I think his. It's a wonderful life.

Jerry had his yearly check up the day before Thanksgiving and it was not good news. His heart is working at 20%. We are not living in fear or anxiousness. We believe that God determines our times and we are going to enjoy every moment we have together, just as we have in the past. The truth is, none of us know our time.

Are we doing the best we can with the time we have? How long has

it been since you stopped and said, "I love you," to that loved one in your life? I hope you will forgive me for making this article so personal to my life, but Jerry's check up has made me stop and remember just how blessed I have been to have a godly loving and thoughtful husband all of these wonderful years. Maybe I'm not the only one who should stop and give thanks for God's goodness to us and our loved ones.

My mother was a widow for over 40 years and I shall never forget what she said to me about five years after my father was gone. She said, "Gloria, I used to get so mad when your father left his socks in the floor at the end of the bed. She said, "For 33 years I tried to get him to pick them up and he never learned." Then she got this look on her face that I shall never forget and said, "I would give anything to have his socks in the floor at the end of the bed today." Some of the things that we allow to divide us, one day will seem so small.

You and I do not know if we have a tomorrow and we should make sure that we tell our loved ones what they have meant to us today. My sister just fell dead one morning and I had no opportunity to say a word. I am so glad that we had laughed together the day before. I had given her my time that Saturday and fixed her hair for her. While I would have loved to have told her goodbye, I had no regrets because I had told her I loved her.

Jerry and I are in our 60's and at our best we don't have a long time left. We have decided, we are going to get the best out of the time the Lord gives us. What about you and your loved ones? When we are gone, let those who knew us remember us as a person who loved with a pure love to all and let our lives encourage others to live in this same love. Pure Christianity produces the greatest relationships in the world. Let's enjoy those relationships as if there is no tomorrow.

ANTIQUES

**My Grandma used it
My Mother threw it
And I bought it**

(Continued from page 3)

READ THE BIBLE

children when they are young, they will form the habit of prayer, and it will be far easier for them to grow up into the Christian life and profess Christ. No multiplicity of public meetings on the Sabbath ought to interfere with a religious meeting for the family on that day, in which the exercises shall be longer and more varied than on week days.

Some have family worship only on the Sabbath. That is far better than not to have it at all; but why not have it everyday? Does not God give us blessings everyday? And do we not stand in need of Him everyday, of His help and His protecting care? And do we not need for ourselves and our children the daily influence of the family altar?

COPPER WIRE FACTS!

After having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year, New York scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the New Yorkers, in the weeks that followed, a California archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet, and shortly after, a story in the LA Times read: California archaeologists, finding traces of 200 year old copper wire, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the New Yorkers.

One week later, the Dallas Morning News, a local newspaper in Dallas, Texas reported the following: After digging as deep as 30 feet in his pasture near Waco, Texas, Bubby Brown, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Bubba has therefore concluded that 300 years ago, Texas had already gone wireless.

Just makes you proud to be from Texas!

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The B-I-B-L-E

Ps 119:9

**The B-I-B-L-E,
Yes that's the book for me;
I stand alone on the Word of
God,
The B-I-B-L-E.**

Ps 119:11

**Thy word have I hid in mine
heart, that I might not sin against
thee.**

Ps 119:38

**Stablish thy word unto thy ser-
vant, who is devoted to thy fear.**

Ps 119:105

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.**

Ps 119:133

**Order my steps in thy word : and
let not any iniquity have domin-
ion over me.**

Ps 119:140

**Thy word is very pure: therefore
thy servant loveth it.**

THE WONDERFUL WORD

&

TID BIT'S OF WISDOM

--Psalms 68:11--

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