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“They confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a city.” (Heb 11:13–16)

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The Mirror In The Face

In these days of instant communication with just about everyone everywhere, people are spending less and less time face to face. If they do see the face of someone they are in contact with, it is often on a smart phone, webcam or an internet site. Connections are becoming more electronic than organic. Friends can be seen walking together in public places but talking on their mobile phones to those not present. Family members in the same house, or even the same room, often email, text, or twitter each other rather than speak directly to one another. Popular blogs and websites such as Myspace and Friendster offer new ways to say in touch with people you are unable to touch. Ironically the most popular social network (over 500 million members) is named Facebook, which in reality is neither. All this is written not to complain about modern media and telecommunication but to say that something is lacking when we no longer have face to face encounters with one another. When the Apostle John used the only form of long distance communication available in his day, he wrote that he would not write with paper and ink but would speak to his correspondent face to face (2Jn 1:12; 3Jn 1:13). We can only fully focus on one face at a time, and that is the one right in front of us. The state of actually being face to face with someone means you both are close and are giving your whole, undivided attention to each other. **This is the way we should commune with God: face to face.**

In the Bible we find that face has a number of meanings. The Old Testament Hebrew word for it is always plural, showing

that the face is made up of different parts. Literally translated it is that which “turns toward.” The New Testament Greek word can be interpreted as “toward the eyes.” **Where we turn our face to is the place of our vision, attention and destination.** The face is the part of the body from which we identify an individual, from which we communicate and that which displays our inner feelings and emotions. The word is also used anthropomorphically as in the “face of the deep, of the earth, etc.” The face can show the state of a relationship like when a ruler turns his face away in anger or towards us with blessing and grace as he “lifts up” our face. To be before someone’s face means being in their immediate presence. God has a face, but not in the sense of a created man’s whose vision is limited by the way his face is turned. *God is a Spirit Who alone perfectly sees everything everywhere all in one eternal instant.* Nothing can be hidden from Him and He can give His full attention to everyone everywhere at the same time. His is either the most beautiful or the most terrible face that we will ever see. *In eternity His servants’ reward is to see and reflect His face* while His enemies will flee from it and find no place to hide. In this article we will examine just one aspect of seeing God’s face. This is the fact that **as we spend time face to face with God we are changed.**

Face To Face

The first place in the Biblical record where one is said to have seen God face to face is recounted in Genesis 32. Jacob was afraid of facing his twin brother whom he had beguiled. Using all his cunning he tried to avert the upcoming conflict he feared with Esau. Then left alone at Jabbok, Jacob wrestled with a mysterious

man. Some think that this foe was a Theophany, which are visible manifestations of God that took place before the incarnation of Christ. Though he held his own against the man/angel all night long, with just one touch, his opponent dislocated Jacob's hip. This is the strongest joint in the body and one that Jacob had been running around on all his life. In spite of this injury he did not give up or let go. He held on and demanded a blessing. In response the man asked him his name. He answered with just one word, Jacob, which in his language means "deceiver." With heavenly authority the man declared him an overcomer and changed his name to Israel, which can be translated as "prince" or "he struggles with God" (NIV). Our struggle with God is not a physical one, though we must daily crucify our flesh with its affections and lusts. *It is not to get God to change, but ourselves.* He is not the enemy, our brother is not the enemy; it is our own fallen nature, our old man. **Face to face with God we see ourselves the way the Lord sees us—the way we really are.** *From His face we see glory and grace that leads us to conviction, confession, transformation and triumph.*

Faced With The Goodness Of God

Even after salvation we need to keep on fighting the good fight; to hold on to Him Who has laid hold of us, to keep God's face ever before us. **Throughout history good men have seen how bad they really were only after being faced with the goodness of God.** "Now that I have seen you I repent" (Job 42:5-6). "Woe is me! because I am a man of unclean lips" (Isa 6:5). "My comeliness was turned in me into corruption" (Dan 10:8). "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord" (Lk 5:8). "When

I saw Him I fell at His feet as dead" (Rev 1:17). But in the light of God's face it is not just our sin and failure that is revealed. We will discover, as Jacob did on being called a powerful prince, that *God sees us in Christ as overcomers and destined for the throne.* In the morning Israel named the place Peniel (face of God) "**for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved**" (Gen 32:30). His life was preserved, but not as the same man he had been. Jacob left Jabbok broken and limping but also turned into Israel, a new man. After being changed, Israel told the brother he had so feared to face that, "I have seen thy face, as though I had seen the face of God" (Gen 33:10). **After spending time face to face with the Lord we will view our earthly adversaries differently.** As someone once said, "I have seen the enemy, and he is me." **Face to face with God we will forget our fears and battles with our brethren and see them, and ourselves, the way God does, as new creations and more than conquerors in Christ.**

Seeing The Face Of God

The second place where a man is said to have seen God face to face relates to Moses. Exodus 33:11 testifies that Jehovah spoke to Moses face to face as with a friend. Yet just a few verses later, when the disheartened Moses asked to see God's glory, he was told "you cannot see My face, for no one may see Me and live" (Exo 33:20). Even so God called him up Mount Sinai where He hid and covered Moses with His hand as His glory passed by. *Just this fleeting glimpse of God, just seeing Him obscurely from afar, was enough to revive, renew, and refresh Moses for the journey.* **After seeing the face of God, surely we cannot live the same**

way we did before. When Moses came down the mount with the Law the second time, his face shone. This frightened the children of Israel so much that he had to hide the fading radiance behind a veil. **After spending time with God and His word, we too will reflect and witness His glorious gospel to those around us, not darkness, defeat or death.**

Elijah too was discouraged by focusing on the wretched condition of God's people (1Kgs 19). The Lord told him to go to a mountain and stand before His face as He passed by. There, on hearing the gentle whisper of God, he wrapped his prophet's mantle around his face and stood before the Lord. Instead of giving up, giving in or dying as he had wished, Elijah was revived for even greater ministry, a ministry that is still not finished yet.

Centuries later these same two prophets are seen with open and unveiled faces, finally seeing God face to face. On the mount of transfiguration they appeared in glory with Jesus speaking of His upcoming exodus in Jerusalem (Lk 9:30-31). Only through the death and resurrection of Jesus is there salvation for anyone, as the law and the prophets testify. We too may be feeling defeated and discouraged by the way that is before us, the people around us, or our own fears and failures within. **Look to Jesus, the Friend of sinners and saints, and see your salvation and sanctification! With our eyes on His face we can run and win the race.**

Jesus: The Reflection Of God's Face

Scripture reveals that God dwells in unapproachable light which no man can see nor has seen; *nevertheless He invites us to*

seek His face (1Tim 6:16). No mortal man can comprehend God the Father except through the Son of God Who became flesh. Jesus is the exact representation of God. Only God can fully know, see and reveal God. The Savior said that "anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father." Yet as Jesus became sin for us on the cross, it seems that God and mankind turned away from the Son and hid their faces from Him (Psa 22:1; Hab 1:13; Isa 53:3). When Adam sinned, he fled and hid from the presence (literally "face") of God. *In the Old Testament the Shekinah glory of God was hidden from mankind behind a veil or a cloud.* But because of the offering of Christ on Calvary, where His face was marred more than any man's, the veil is torn and taken away. **We can now come face to face with God in a new and living way** (Heb 10:20). Jesus was made sin for us so we could be made righteous in Him. "The light of the glorious gospel of Christ, Who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For God, Who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, *to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ*" (2Cor 4:4,6). By knowing Christ we are changed and are become a new creation.

The Mirror Of God's Face

The only face we can never observe or recognize on our own is our own. We need the aid of a mirror to see it. People should not stand before a looking glass to see their beauty or spend time admiring their features. They should go to it to see what is wrong with them, not what is right. *When we look at Him Whose face is brighter than the sun and Whose eyes are as a flame of fire, every spot and wrinkle of ours will be exposed, cleansed and corrected.*

In the mirror of God's face we see our stained and sinful state and also the image of what we will be in Him. "We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord are changed into the same image from glory to glory" (2Cor 3:18). **The more we see Him, the more we will become like Him.** It is true we are not perfect yet. Though our salvation is instant, sanctification takes time, but "beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, *when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is*" (1Jn 3:2). "Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see Him face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known" (1Cor 13:12).

Fast & Seek His Face

Have you spent any time lately looking at the Lord in the way a friend does, face to face? When was the last time you stopped and stayed silent, uninterrupted in His presence, gazing upon His countenance? It may be time for you to fast and pray. It might not be food you need to fast from, but your phone. In the morning do you first check email, news or the Internet? Get untangled from the net, get unstuck from the World Wide Web for a while and watch and wait for that face that is always watching yours. Do you take more time looking at the face in the mirror than contemplating the mirror that is in the face of God? ***Do you want God's undivided attention; are you willing to give Him yours?*** You may need to close your computer as well as your eyes in order to see Him. You may need to turn off your music and media to have time to hear Him. Though it is a fearful and terrible thing for our old man to see, **the perfect**

love coming from Christ's face will cast out all our fears, change us and cause us to love Him and our brethren (1Jn 4:9-21). *God's face will shine through the darkest times in your life and give you grace and truth to go on to perfection.* Seeing God face to face forever is the joy that is set before His servants. May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace! □

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“These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb” (Rev 14:4).

In previous installments of our study of eternal Zion, we saw that Mount Zion is the eternal dwelling place of God and the throne of His heavenly Kingdom. We are now seeking to answer the age-old question of *who* are the 144,000 that will be with God eternally in Zion (Psa 15:1; 24:3). In the last portion of our study of the 144,000 on Mount Zion, we again considered this remarkable verse in Revelation 14:4. In particular we are referring to the portion that states, *“These are they that are not defiled with women; for they are virgins.”* This passage has produced a number of different interpretations, resulting in a good deal of controversy.

Surrendering Our Rights

As the scriptures declare, and as we have stated, marriage is ordained of God, is good, and everyone has a God-given right to a Biblical marriage. But we have also stated that there are those who choose, according to the clear will of God, *not* to demand their “rights,” with regard to marriage, in order to fulfill the specific calling and purpose of God in their lives. Both Jesus Himself, and

also the Apostle Paul as well, are excellent examples of this attitude and sacrifice. Jesus said, *“I seek not Mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent Me”* (Jn 5:30). The Apostle Paul clearly had a right to be married, but surrendered that right to do specifically what God wanted. *“Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife?...But I have used none of these things...”* (1Cor 9:5,15). Both Jesus and Paul surrendered their individual “rights” to the Father, the sovereign King of the Universe, in order to fulfill the Father’s perfect plan in their lives and ministry. It is very clear that a part of that individual plan for both of them was to abstain from marriage. May God raise up a great host in this eleventh hour, who will be willing to surrender their own rights and wants, in order to fulfill the desire and will of the Lord.

Teachings Of Jesus & Paul

In our last two installments, we have studied two important portions of scripture from the New Testament that touch on the Biblical issues of marriage and celibacy. These scripture portions are often neglected, misunderstood, or ignored in the world-wide church today. The first and shorter scriptural portion were the counsels given by Jesus Himself, in Mathew 19:3-12. In our last installment, we studied from the entire seventh chapter of First Corinthians, which gives us the more detailed exposition of the Apostle Paul regarding marriage and celibacy. These counsels were given to the entire church: believers and ministers alike! In both portions, both Jesus and the Apostle Paul, clearly and definitely advised those who could receive the grace of God to live a single life to do so. That is indisputable, although many Christians today seem to overlook, ignore, or even deny this clear truth. But we are to live by “every word that proceeds

from the mouth of God,” and we are to “rightly divide the word of truth.” Some church denominations even go so far as to demand that the ministers in their churches be married, which opposes the teachings both of Jesus and Paul. Other erroneous churches demand that ministers be only unmarried individuals, which also conflicts with the counsels of 1 Timothy 3. Optimally, this decision is one that should be made by each individual through diligent study of the Word of God, and through prayer to God for His specific will for his or her life and ministry!

Prophecy Of Isaiah

Are there other scriptures that should be considered regarding Zion and marriage? Yes, indeed! Even in the Old Testament, Isaiah gave a detailed and marvelous prophecy regarding many who would be brought by God to Mount Zion: *“Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath **joined himself to the Lord**, speak, saying, ‘The Lord hath utterly separated me from His people’; neither let the eunuch say, ‘Behold, I am a dry tree.’ For thus saith the Lord unto the **eunuchs** that keep My sabbaths, and choose the things that please Me, and take hold of My covenant; even unto them will I give in Mine house and within My walls **a place and a name** better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off. Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord, **to serve Him**, and to love the name of the Lord, **to be His servants**, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it; and taketh hold of My covenant; even them will I bring **to My holy mountain**, and make them joyful in My house of prayer; their burnt offering and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon Mine altar, for Mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people”* (Isa 56:3-7).

A Fabulous Inheritance

In this passage we see many beautiful truths which mirror our principal New Testament passage about Mount Zion found in Revelation 14:1-5. A fabulous inheritance is promised to these eunuchs who join themselves unto the Lord to serve Him. Although we do not often hear the word “eunuch” in our common speech today, it is understood that the word, at the very least, refers to those who have chosen to remain unmarried. First we see them promised “**a place** and a **name** better than of sons and of daughters.” The Bible reveals that Mount Zion, the chosen habitation of God (Psa 132:13-14), is the highest and most beautiful **place** in the eternal heavens, being called “the **perfection** of beauty” (Psa 50:2). “Glorious things are spoken” of Zion (Ps 87:3). No “place” will ever be more desired than Mount Zion, the eternal abode of the triune God.

A New Name

Those who are members of the perfected church of the New Testament age, being the Bride of Christ, will have wondrous **names** written upon them. “*And I will write upon him the **name of My God**, and the **name of the city of My God**, which is New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from My God: and I will write upon him **My new name**”* (Rev 3:12). Those on Mount Zion, being a part of the Bride of Christ, will have that blessing. Furthermore, it is also said of the 144,00 that “His Father’s **name** (was) written **in their foreheads**” (Rev 14:1; 22:4). Such a special and prominent placement of the Father’s name is a definite sign to all, that that one dwells with Christ in Zion, the highest place in the eternal heavens. “*The Lord loveth the gates of Zion, **more than all** of the dwellings of Jacob”* (Ps 87:2). They will

have “an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off” (Isa 56:5). These “sons of strangers who have joined themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants” even them will God bring to His Holy Mountain!! So once again the ancient inquiries of the Psalmists (Psa 15:1; 24:3) are answered through the prophet Isaiah, hundreds of years later, foretelling of the 144,000 seen in Revelation 14.

Fullness Of Joy

The prophet Isaiah speaks of their **joy** in the house of prayer. The fellowship that these 144,000 have with God is the most intimate of all the redeemed in eternity. Their closeness to God in eternity is revealed by their standing with the Lamb on Mount Zion. They shall see His face (Rev 22:4)! In His “presence is fullness of joy,” and those who see His face will experience unspeakable joys, and that for all of eternity! They are heard singing a new song that others could **not learn!**

A Beautiful Fruitful Tree

We see also that God commands these eunuchs to **not** say, “I am a dry tree.” A dry tree is something without outward beauty and certainly not fruit bearing. In the estimation of many worldly-wise people, for someone to remain unmarried and to have no natural children would certainly seem to be an unfruitful life. To many who lack an eternal vision, such a sacrifice in this world would seem to be foolish, misguided, and plain wrong. But as we have seen in the lives of Jesus and Paul, although they had no natural offspring, they were true fathers (Isa 9:6; 1Cor 4:14-15). In eternity, the Father Himself will reveal the fruitfulness and rewards of many saints who had no

natural children. Isaiah himself refers to many of them when he says, “**Sing**, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord” (Isa 54:1).

Crown Of Rejoicing

They will have eternal joy, **both** in the Lord Himself, but **also** in those whom they served and helped to reach the eternal Kingdom of God. “*For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For ye are our glory and joy*” (1Thess 2:19-20). “*Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved*” (Phil 4:1). The Apostle Paul sacrificed his earthly “rights” for the Lord, and for the sake of others, expectantly awaiting to see his “children” in eternity with great delight. Jesus also, for the “joy set before Him” of seeing His seed, offered His life in sacrifice for all of mankind (Isa 53:10). Of many of these on Mount Zion the prophecy of Isaiah will be fulfilled which says, “*Lift up thine eyes round about, and behold: all these gather together, and come to thee. As I live saith the Lord, thou shalt surely clothe thee with them all, as with an ornament, and bind them on thee, as a bride doeth*” (Study carefully Isaiah 49:18-23).

Revelation In Eternity

The many sacrifices that these 144,000 made while on earth will be abundantly rewarded in eternity. They denied their own “rights” and plans, in order to take up their crosses and live for God and for others. Eternity will reveal the fruits of their labors. “*For the Lord shall comfort Zion: He will comfort all her waste places; and He*

will make her **wilderness** like Eden, and her **desert** like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody” (Isa 51:3). May God in this eleventh hour raise up many with such a vision and bring them to Zion. “When the Lord shall build up Zion, He shall appear in His glory” (Psa 102:16). Maranatha! □

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In Genesis 1:31, the word of God describes that everything God created was “very good.” However, when we see a poodle, we see a dog with a multitude of health problems. This is not just limited to poodles; all dogs from alsatians, great danes to chihuahuas have short comings that would hinder them if they were let out into the wild to fend for themselves. Could there have been any poodles in the Garden of Eden? Were there any great danes on Noah’s Ark? No. Poodles have only come into existence in recent times. So if God didn’t create poodles, then who did?

In the journal *Science* (November 22, 2002), secular scientists reaffirmed something that has been well known and accepted. All dogs from wolves and dingoes down to poodles and chihuahuas are all closely related. From a Biblical perspective, this means they are all within the same *kind*. Genesis chapter one tells us that creatures were made to reproduce after their own kind. The *dog kind* is just one of these.

The researchers stated: “The origin of the domestic dog from wolves has been established...we examined the mitochondrial DNA sequence variation among 654 domestic dogs representing all major dog populations worldwide...suggesting a common origin from a

single gene pool for all dog populations.” “Only subtle differences distinguish dogs from coyotes, jackals, and other canids.”

Creationists point out, though, that even if new species of organisms result from natural selection, no new genetic information is involved—the process only operates on the information already present in the genes. This information can be lost, redistributed and concentrated—but the process has nothing whatsoever to do with the molecules-to-man, fish-to-philosopher evolutionary idea.

If all dogs are the same *kind*, then from a Biblical perspective, only two of the original dog kind were needed on Noah’s Ark. After these dogs came off the Ark and the population of dogs increased on the earth, new species of dogs formed as the dog population split up and moved to different places over the earth—but they are all dogs, nonetheless.

In the world, environmental and other factors affect which organism with a specific collection of genes will survive and which will not. Humans can further artificially affect the outcome by determining which animals breed with which. This is called artificial selection—and this process has developed the enormous variety of domestic breeds in the time since the flood. Poodles were quite simply developed over time, from a wolf ancestor, just like all the other domestic varieties of dogs.

So we could say that God created the *original* dogs, and certain dogs such as poodles were developed from that original kind—but only using the information God put there in the first place. But after God pronounced everything as “very good” originally, Adam then

sinned, resulting in the whole of creation being cursed. Everything began to run down. As each succeeding generation of creatures were produced, copying mistakes and mutations affected the genes. Now, six thousand years later, there is quite a collection of such mistakes in the genomes of all the animals and humans on this earth. Poodles, English foxhounds and all other domestic varieties of dogs are the result of a downward process! They have not just developed from dog genes, but from cursed copies of dog genes!

Although some mutations can be beneficial, at least in a limited sense, most mutations are harmful. The most serious mutations would not survive “naturally” in the environment, as they would be lost from the population as the dogs that carried them died before reproducing.

Now, theoretically, in a sense, if one were to start with wolves, and breed generations of dogs, breeding the right combinations together with all the same sorts of mutations occurring all over again in the right sequence etc., then one could breed a dog with chihuahua characteristics. But, one could *never* breed a wolf from a chihuahua because the necessary information for wolves has been corrupted or deleted. Therefore, when one breeds chihuahuas with chihuahuas, only chihuahuas will be produced. In a sense, a chihuahua is the end of the line for a dog—there is not enough variety left for anything different to develop.

The secular world uses natural selection and specialization as a major part of the supposed evidence for molecules-to-man evolution. However, such changes have nothing to do with this sort of evolution.

People need to be educated about this so they are not brainwashed and led astray by the world’s teachings. Many Christian children’s books that deal with creation frequently have pictures of Adam, Eve and the animals in the Garden of Eden in which the animals pictured are the domestic varieties that are well-known today. This means that churches are giving the impression to students that God created the domestic varieties of animals. Public schools on the other hand teach their pupils that such creatures have been developed by processes of change both natural and artificial and are incorrectly presented to students as “evolution.” The children that are in church Sunday morning and in school Monday morning are forced to come to the conclusion that Christianity doesn’t accept real science and therefore the Bible must be wrong.

It is so important for churches to teach Christians the right way to look at the world—giving them a correct understanding of science and history, so they will be able to see past the evolutionary indoctrination of the world. Dog varieties such as greyhounds, poodles and bull terriers really are a reminder of both creation and the curse. So the next time you see a chihuahua, perhaps you could use it as a talking point to explain sin—but make sure you go on to explain the message of salvation to overcome the effects of sin. For as by one man’s disobedience, the man Adam, many were made sinners. So by the obedience of one man, the Man Christ Jesus, shall many be made righteous. ◻

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IN HIS HOUSE

PART 1 — SPARROWS & SWALLOWS

In this series we will be studying the unusual and unexpected things that the Bible records as being found in the House of God. The term “House of God” itself has various meanings and connotations throughout the scriptures. Lord-willing, we will look at some of these illustrations for God’s dwelling place in future installments. Of course, all the buildings, objects and locations on earth that were called God’s house are just shadows and symbols of His eternal, heavenly habitation which is Mount Zion and New Jerusalem (Exo 25:40; Heb 8:5). We too may feel that we do not really belong in God’s holy house, and in our former fallen state we would be right to think so. Because of sin, mankind has been exiled and alienated from God’s presence. All have sinned and gone astray and since the fall man have kept going further and further away from God. But when we repent and believe in the finished work of Jesus Christ, take water baptism and receive the Holy Spirit, we come back into His household and family. **Moreover, not only do we have a place in, but we actually become the house of God.**

Lowly Little Creatures

Let us begin to investigate a few of those surprising organisms and objects that are found—and find a place—in God’s house. The first of these will be the sparrows and swallows. There are bigger, better and more beautiful birds that we could study, but as we examine the characteristics of these lowly little creatures, we will find the lessons learned from them apply to our own lives. We will be reminded and encouraged that **God has prepared a place for us and is preparing us for that place.** Knowing our own selves and our old natures, this may be the biggest surprise of all.

The Humble Sparrow

Sparrows are plump and dumpy little birds. Their plumage is dull and dreary unlike other bright and colorful fowl. They do not have powerful beaks or claws like the fierce birds of prey. Their flight is not swift and they cannot soar into the heavens like the majestic eagles. To get anywhere they have to rapidly beat and flap their stubby wings. Fluttering around in groups near the ground, they scavenge for any seeds and leftover scraps that can be found. In spite of all these supposed defects and inadequacies, sparrows are probably the most common species of wild bird in the world. In the Biblical languages their name is derived from the fact that they are small or from how they hop and chirp. Many people feel their own condition and career is similar to a sparrow’s. They too scurry about, unattractive, untalented and unnoticed in the midst of the mob. Having to hurry here and there in the hustle and bustle just to get by, they never seem to get anywhere and feel they are making no progress or profit in their lives. Yet despite the image that modern

media and culture promotes, not all are called to be beauty queens, body builders and billionaires. *God chooses the weak things of the world, the lowly and despised things. For the humble sparrow, God provided a secure nesting and resting place. He offers the same to you and your family.* This place is in His presence, in His house.

The Least In The Lord's House

Being far from Jerusalem, the writer of Psalm 84 desperately desired to see and be again in the temple there. It is said that “absence makes the heart grow fonder” and “you don’t know what you’ve got until it’s gone.” Many of us who have the liberty and ability to assemble and worship together often take this blessing for granted. One day our condition could change and then, like the psalmist, we too would experience the longing for fellowship in God’s house. Sparrows are social creatures. A single or solo sparrow is symbolic of sadness, abandonment and loneliness. “I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon the house top” (Psa 102:7). Saints too, though their name means separated ones, are not made in isolation. ***It is together with all the saints that we can fully know the love that passes knowledge.*** In his song, the son of Korah recalled all those unimportant and ordinary little birds he had seen in times past flitting about in the temple. He lamented that those small creatures were still there, while he could not be. “Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even Thine altars, O Lord. **Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house: they will be still praising Thee**” (Psa 84:3-4). In the past the psalmist had been one of the song leaders or “directors of music” but now those chattering little sparrows could still be heard in the temple while his voice could not (Psa 42:1-4). In the

end he comes to the realization that although God is the high and holy One Who inhabits eternity, He also dwells with the meek and lowly. Rather than lead or stand on center stage, *this singer would now be happy just to have the least or last place, as long as that place was in God’s house.* He was willing to be only a doorkeeper, welcoming and making a way for others to enter in. But rather than being just a doorway, some men want to be the destination. They expect to be honored rather than considering it an honor to even be allowed into God’s house at all. *We must continually keep that attitude of gratitude and amazement that God has made a place for us.* Then we too will be ever praising Him.

Sparrow Saints

When the Apostle Paul encountered the educated and cultured Greek philosophers of his day, they despised him. “Some said, ‘What will this babbler say?’” (Acts 17:18). The word they used for babbler is really “seed picker” which is the little sparrow of the market place. That name became proverbial for loafers who picked up bits and pieces of information and then tried to pass them off as their own wisdom. The Jews also disparaged Jesus’ disciples in the same way. They considered them ignorant, uneducated and ordinary men (Acts 4:13). Nevertheless the apostles’ boldness amazed those Jewish leaders and caused them to take note they had been with Jesus. “Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world?...for the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: but we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness. But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God...for ye see your calling, brethren,

how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called” (1Cor 1:20-26). If we spend time with Him Who was crucified for our sin we will receive *true wisdom*. If we remain with Him Who was resurrected for our righteousness we receive *true power*. “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus...let us draw near...let us hold fast” (Heb 10:19). Both the intellectual and religious elites of our day will reject us also, the same way they did Christ and His apostles in their time. Nevertheless, as you abide with the crucified and risen Savior you will realize that God has accepted you. *You will receive confidence to be His witness and you will receive boldness to come right unto His throne!*

The Eyes Of The Lord

By human standards, the life of a sparrow is considered of little value. Jesus Himself noted this fact in Matthew 10 when he taught that two sparrows cost a penny and in Luke 12 were he stated five sold for two cents. It seems the more of them there were the less they were worth. The Lord went on to say that even though these birds were of little significance to mankind, **God’s eyes were ever upon every one of them**. He knows when and where each one falls to the ground. Then Jesus said that we are worth more to the Father than many sparrows. Some saints may feel useless, inconsequential or think if they died no one would notice or miss them. But it is **in the Lord’s eyes we find our significance and worth**, not the world’s. God values things differently from the way men do. When Jesus watched a widow put a few mites into the offering box, He said that she had given more than those who had put in much. When another woman poured out all her alabaster box

upon Jesus, the disciples thought it a waste, but the Lord said it would always be remembered. When the disciples saw the multitude as a costly burden, Jesus saw them with compassion and had a burden for them. Some may consider sparrows a nuisance and say God’s abode is too good for them and for you also, but **the Lord always has space and a place for the humble and needy in His house**. There are no little people to God. *The smallest soul is worth more than the whole world*. No one is too little for God’s infinite and eternal love. **The eye that sees every sparrow is always upon you and esteems you of great value.**

The Rush Of The Swallow

The other commonplace little bird the psalmist sang of was the swallow. In shape it is almost the opposite of the sparrow. It is very lean and streamlined. It has almost no legs because it spends all its time ceaselessly racing around on the wing instead of hopping about like the sparrow. Though these two birds differ physically, their lifestyles are much the same. Both never seem to relax. Whether darting around like the swallow or flitting about like the sparrow as they try to find enough for themselves and their young to survive on, they never stay still for a waking moment. These birds became proverbial for something that cannot rest. “Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest” (Pro 26:2 NIV). *Has your daily life become a hectic rush? Like the swallow, do you feel you are flying at full speed and not getting anywhere? Are you always on the hop like the sparrow? More important than the physical stress, are you ever at spiritual peace and rest? There was one place those harried and hurried little creatures were able to find untroubled rest and make a secure*

nest. The psalm shows that this is near the altar of God. To the natural mind this would appear the last place they could keep their eggs and little houses of clay safe. With all the ceaseless activity going on and the continual blazing fire upon the brazen altar, it does not seem like a safe nesting place. **But when we come to the cross, rest by faith upon the finished work of Christ and wait on God's will, we will find perfect peace** in spite of the rush of the world around us.

God can teach and speak to you even through small things like sparrows and swallows. It is not really birds that the Lord is so concerned about, but you and your family. When we commit ourselves and our offspring into God's care, we can be sure that He will keep us safe forever. **You are noticed, known and valued by the Lord.** He sees the things that make you fail and fall. He has a hiding place for you to discover. You will only find true rest and peace through the cross and in His presence. You will always be welcome and secure in His house. For the New Testament pilgrim, it is only when we are in God's house that we are truly at home! □

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The sudden “catching up” or transportation of the perfected saints of the church to heaven is generally known as the “*rapture.*” This will take place suddenly, secretly, and unexpectedly. Therefore, it is usually called the “secret rapture.” The glorious truth concerning the rapture is portrayed in types and shadows in the holy Word of God. In this study, we will consider five of those types and shadows.

Enoch Translated

Firstly, in the book of Genesis, we read of Enoch being translated to heaven without experiencing death. *“And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him”* (Gen 5:24). Here it is written that Enoch walked with God, which means he walked with God by faith. *“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God”* (Heb 11:5). Enoch’s transportation to heaven is a type of the rapture.

Even as Enoch walked with God by faith and pleased Him with his life, we must also live an overcoming Christian life by faith and please God in all that we do. *“For we walk by faith, not by sight”* (2Cor 5:7). Without faith it is impossible to please God, which means faith pleases God, and great faith pleases Him greatly.

Therefore, as we await the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, let us continue to believe and trust in Him. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. He is willing and well able to complete the work of grace which He began in our lives. *“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that calleth you, Who also will do it”* (1Thess 5:23-24).

Elijah & The Whirlwind

Secondly, the prophet Elijah being taken up into heaven by a whirlwind is a type of the rapture. *“And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and **Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven**”* (2Kgs 2:11). The whirlwind here signifies the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Elijah’s anointing was so spectacular that even his disciple Elisha greatly desired it and asked for a double portion of the same anointing. *“And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, ‘Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee.’ And Elisha said, ‘I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me’”* (2Kgs 2:9).

God has elected us to be the Bride of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, through the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Only when we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking with tongues, we become part and parcel of the mystical body of Christ. *“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit”* (1Cor 12:13). *“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave*

them utterance” (Acts 2:4). Being part of the body of Christ, we need to grow in the anointing which will transform our character and make us like Jesus so that we might be prepared for the rapture. *“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord”* (2Cor 3:18).

The Twinkling Of An Eye

Thirdly, in the book of Malachi we see the Lord suddenly coming into His temple to gather His jewels (saints) unto Himself. *“Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, Whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. And they shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him”* (Mal 3:1,17). Here again the truth of the rapture is revealed in a type and shadow.

The second coming of the Lord will take place in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye. *“For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be”* (Mat 24:27). *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed* (1Cor 15:52). Therefore we are exhorted to live soberly. *“But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer”* (1Pet 4:7). As the church age is imminently coming to a close, let us watch and pray all the more. **Let us not say in our hearts, “the Lord delayeth His coming.”** *“Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*

For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation” (1Thess 5:6-8).

Eagle Saints

Fourthly, as the Lord Jesus Christ was speaking to His disciples about His second coming, the Lord portrayed the rapture in a seemingly strange expression. Let us see that in Luke 17:37: *“And they answered and said unto Him, ‘Where, Lord?’ And He said unto them, ‘Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.”* Here, the “body” (“corpse” in Greek) signifies the Lord Jesus and the eagles represent the overcoming saints of the New Testament period. As the eagles gather where the body is, likewise, saints are attracted to Christ. They are drawn to Christ by His love and by His holiness.

The Lord Jesus Christ, the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, is an abomination to the world. *“Every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians”* (Gen 46:34). *“For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls”* (1Pet 2:25). But unto us who are saved, He is fairer than ten thousand (SS 5:10,16). The Lord Jesus Christ, Who is our heavenly Bridegroom, is beautiful beyond description.

The beauty of Jesus is very different from the beauty we see in this world. He is altogether lovely. There is no beauty like the beauty of Jesus. He is more beautiful than all the angels in heaven. He is more beautiful than all the saints who are on earth and in heaven. He is more beautiful than the heaven of heavens. Jesus’ beauty is not a skin-deep beauty. His beauty is not an earthly

beauty. It is not the beauty of mortals. It is not fleeting beauty. Youth and beauty pass away but the beauty of our Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. What is this beauty? This beauty is the beauty of His character. Therefore, this beauty is eternal, supernatural, incorruptible, unblemished, and spotless. It is an all-surpassing beauty. **“How great is His goodness, and how great is His beauty!”** (Zech 9:17). O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!

Very soon the **“eagle-saints”** will be gathered to the bosom of Jesus. Let us not be distracted by the fading and vain glories of this life, rather let us be attracted to the beauty of His character. Let us love His appearing and be prepared to meet Him at His soon return.

John Caught Up

Fifthly, in the book of Revelation we see how the Apostle John was transported to heaven, to be found before the very throne of God. *“After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, ‘Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.’ And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne”* (Rev 4:1-2). The Apostle John being caught up to heaven at the voice of the Lord is a beautiful type of the rapture.

The voice which John heard sounded like a trumpet. The Word of God says that the Lord will descend from heaven with a shout and with the trump of God. *“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the*

trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1Thess 4:16-17). The Lord Jesus Christ, after having defeated the devil at the cross of Calvary, ascended to heaven with a shout of triumph and victory. *“God is gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet”* (Psa 47:5). Very soon our Jesus will descend from heaven with a shout of victory to gather His saints unto Himself.

When John was commanded to **“come up hither,”** immediately he was in the Spirit. So it was the anointing of the Holy Spirit which enabled the man of God to be caught up to the throne of God. Here we are given the understanding of an important truth of utmost significance. Only those who live in the Spirit at all times will make it in the rapture. The saints of God who are led by the Spirit of God now will receive a special unction at the appearing of Jesus Christ. This is called the anointing for the rapture or grace at the revelation of Jesus Christ. *“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ”* (1Pet 1:13). As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. Jesus is coming back, not for the children of men, but for the sons of God. Therefore, dear child of God, walk in the Spirit and be ready for the coming of the Lord.

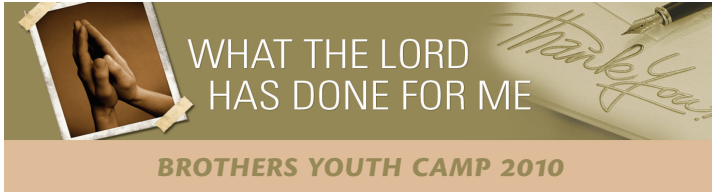
A Place For You!

From the various scriptures that we have looked at in our study, we can clearly see how the truth concerning the rapture is portrayed in types and shadows in the Bible. Surely the rapture is

at hand. When the Apostle John was in the island of Patmos, the Spirit of God showed him various places in the eternal kingdom of God (Rev 21:1-2). The place that is being prepared for the Bride of Christ is the New Jerusalem in which is situated the Mount Zion, the joy of the whole earth. *“Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God”* (Rev 21:9-11).

Dear child of God, be of good cheer. The Lord will perfect that which concerns you and rapture you to glory. His grace is sufficient for you. He said, *“I go to prepare a place for you. 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”* (Jn 14:1-3). **MARANATHA!!!** □

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Below are a few first hand testimonies from some of the young brothers regarding our summer Youth Camp.

➤ I had so much bitterness and grief in my heart. Before I went to youth camp, I prayed this prayer: "Lord, please set me free." One night I confessed my faults, including all my grief and bitterness. By faith, I said I will overcome and God will do a work. The next day when we were all praying for the people who didn't have the Holy Spirit, a new anointing fell on me with new tongues.

➤ On Wednesday night I was able to confess my sins to a minister. I was so relieved! It felt like a giant weight fell off me. Also, on Thursday night before the meeting, one of the ministers asked everyone to write down something they wanted God to do for them before coming to the meeting. When I got to my cabin, I wrote on a paper that I wanted God to give me the Holy Spirit and I put it in my Bible. The worship was a blessing and we were jumping, singing and dancing for a long time. Then the message came about receiving the Holy Spirit. All those that wanted the Holy Spirit were asked to come to the front. I prayed for a while and then I received the Holy Spirit. So I want to thank God for that.

➤ Coming to this Youth Camp, I wanted to receive the Holy Spirit. I prayed and cried for the anointing. Then I started speaking

in tongues. It was an amazing feeling. I did not want to stop, so I kept speaking in tongues and God really blessed me that night. God helped me to rejoice in His presence.

➤ When I felt the Holy Spirit, I felt like I was so light I could stand upside down on my pinky finger! I felt all my sins had been washed away and I was born again. Now I am not afraid to raise my voice or anything else in front of my friends or anyone else.

➤ The seminars answered many of the questions I had. For example, the seminars gave me a clear idea of how to handle a variety of different scenarios and situations that can be encountered while witnessing for Christ. Overall, the Youth Camp has been a real eye-opener.

➤ I want to thank God for revealing to me certain idols that were taking the place of God in my life. God showed me some relationships I had to break off and things I needed to get rid of. These things were also hindering me from worshiping God to the fullest. After I made a decision to get rid of those idols, I felt a liberty like never before. God also spoke to me multiple times about how He has a plan for my life and that I just had to trust His promises. Later in one of the altar calls, I felt a sudden lift and deliverance of burdens that weighed me down.

➤ I came to this camp hoping something would be done in my life: a real change. But I didn't think I was going to receive anything because I didn't deserve it. But on Tuesday night, God personally touched me and anointed me. When I started getting filled, on the inside, I wanted more because I had not felt like that in two years. I kept telling the Lord that I wanted more, and that is exactly what He did.

➤ At the altar call, I was filled with the anointing. I felt free, peaceful and guiltless in God's presence. Then on Thursday night, I felt the urge to dance in God's presence. I felt so open to rejoice as if no one but God was watching me and it brought me joy. I was also blessed to witness the power of prayer when the camp prayed for those who had not received the Holy Spirit and to see God answer that prayer. God spoke to me through Thursday's message about having a passion for God, a desire to be His witness, to be separate from the world, and to understand our calling to be His witnesses.

➤ God spoke to me about two things. One is to be humble and have a humble heart. The other thing is to speak in tongues more often. Even though I received the Holy Spirit, I don't speak in tongues that much. Here, I had a chance to speak in tongues and to really cry out to God. God touched me with fire and sent me a new anointing. I felt like I could praise God for hours on Thursday night.

➤ I want to thank Him for giving me a blessing to start a new revolution. My heart had been weakened by rebellion and other attitudes; I felt so cold-hearted. But being in this year's camp, my life has been so changed. I believe that God has a plan for me, and I want to be able to do His will.

➤ One night when I was praying, I heard the Holy Ghost coming like a wind. Then I began speaking in tongues and I felt a refreshing, a fire in my heart. Also when I confessed my sins with conviction to a servant of God, I felt a huge burden lift off me and I was free. I heard God telling me: "Your sins are forgiven: go thou and sin no more." ◻

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Many times we think of missionaries as those who traverse hard uncivilized cultures in nations on the other side of the world, but the Lord can also call us to be missionaries right where we are. We can be sent to take the good news of Jesus Christ to the lost and perishing souls that are in our own neighborhoods. In this issue of *Heroes of Faith*, we will look at Jerry McAuley, a man called of the Lord to reach out to people within New York City. The Lord transformed his life from being a thief living in and out of prisons, to being a preacher of the gospel to the homeless and needy on the streets. His case would have been considered, in the eyes of man, an impossible one, but what is impossible with man is possible with the Lord. He is credited with starting the first “rescue mission” in America which still continues unto this day as the New York City Rescue Mission.

Jerry was born in 1839 in Ireland and was brought up by his grandmother. He never knew his father, and his mother either could not or would not care for him. In this state, he began to make trouble and steal early in life. At the age of 13, he was sent to live with his sister in New York but couldn't stand this arrangement for long and eventually ran away and lived with a family in the slums of the lower east side of Manhattan. He continued his life of stealing and described himself as a “rogue and street thief.” He would be in and out of local jail-houses and became an annoyance to everyone in the area.

When he was 19 years old he was falsely accused of highway robbery and was sentenced to 15 years in the Sing Sing prison which was about 30 miles north of New York City. For the first time in his life, Jerry felt sorry for the way he had lived. This led to a change of attitude while in prison. For the first few years he was very obedient and he even learned to read and write.

After about five years in prison, during a Sunday chapel service, Jerry heard the testimony of a man named Orville Gardner. His testimony moved Jerry to ponder his life because Gardner had at one time been a companion of Jerry in his stealing and trouble-making days. Gardner had such a reputation for being rough and violent that he was nicknamed Orville “the Awful.” Gardner had attended a prayer service conducted by Jeremiah Lanphier who was responsible for starting the famous Fulton Street Prayer Meetings (please see *Pilgrims Journal* #56 for more on Jeremiah Lanphier). During that meeting, Gardner was converted and his life was radically transformed. He started taking the message of Christ to those whom he thought needed it most: inmates in jails and prisons. And so it was on that Sunday morning that Jerry heard his one time partner in crime share the message of salvation. Hearing that message, and seeing the conversion in his friend's life, was a turning point in Jerry's life. His own conversion followed: *“I wanted to be different. I thought about the new look in Gardner's face. ‘What makes it?’ I said, ‘and he's different, why can't I be?’ You wouldn't think I'd have minded, but if 10,000 people had been in my cell, I couldn't have felt worse about praying. I knelt down, blushing as I had never done before in my life. Then I'd get up again, and that's the way it was for three or four weeks, till I was just desperate. Then came a night when I said I'd pray till some sense comes to me and if it didn't I'd never pray again. I was so weak and trembly that it seemed as if I could easily die. I knelt there and waited between the times I prayed. I wouldn't stir from my knees. My eyes were*

shut. I was in agony, and the sweat was rolling from my face in big drops, and 'God be merciful to me a sinner!' came from my lips. Then in a minute, something seemed to be by me. I heard a voice, or I felt I heard one plain enough. It said, 'My son, thy sins, which are many, are forgiven.' To the day of my death, I'll think I saw a light about me, and smelled something as sweet as flowers in the cell. I didn't know if I was alive or not. I shouted out, 'Oh, praise God! Praise God!'"

On March 8, 1864, Jerry received a pardon by the Governor for his crimes and was thereafter released from the Sing Sing prison. After being released, Jerry struggled in his Christian life and had times of backsliding. The Lord raised up a "city missionary" to help Jerry through these rough years by giving him guidance and checking on him regularly. In years to come, Jerry himself would become such a missionary, and go on to help many people that faced the same circumstances that he once faced.

One day while Jerry was at work, the Lord gave him a vision, revealing His calling and direction for Jerry's life: "I was working for the Lord down in the Fourth ward. I had a house and people were coming in. There was a bath, and as they came in I washed and cleansed them outside, and the Lord cleansed them inside. They came at first by small numbers, then by hundreds, and afterwards by thousands. Before I came out of this vision I was in tears. Then something said to me, 'Would you do that for the Lord if He should call you? Would you do it for Jesus' sake?' And I answered, 'Yes, Lord, open the way, and I will go.'" Because of this vision, Jerry began seeking out a way to help people in the physical realm so that he could share the word of God with them and the Lord could help them in the spiritual realm. In 1872 the Lord opened the way for Jerry to start his first rescue mission at 316 Water Street named "Helping Hand for Men." He said it was the "guide-board to bring many a poor soul to the foot

of the cross." Every night they would have meetings where Jerry would share his testimony. This brought hope to the lives of these men as they realized the power of Jesus to transform lives like Jerry McAuley.

The Lord used McAuley tremendously for many years as he showed the love of Christ to thousands that came through his rescue homes. After just three years McAuley wrote: "*The humble chapel of the Helping Hand has been opened and lighted every evening for a gospel service. Hundreds of souls have been converted to God in this hallowed spot. The Lord has truly honored the place and the work. Multitudes of poor, sinful ones come in during the day for help and counsel. We point them to Jesus, the great Physician and Helper of body and soul, and many a one has it been our pleasure to lead to the fountain opened for sin and uncleanness.*" In years to come, through his influence and example, hundreds of rescue missions would be started and millions of people would be helped. In his autobiography he wrote: "*I have been a great sinner, and have found Jesus a great Savior, and this is why I would tell my story, that others may be led to adore and seek the blessed Friend Who saved, and has thus far kept me by His grace.*" In September 1884, Jerry McAuley went to be with the Lord. During his funeral, traffic had to be stopped in Manhattan as multitudes flooded the streets in remembrance of this kind-hearted and compassionate man. He had opened and prepared homes for the poor and needy to find rest and salvation but now he is resting in the eternal home prepared by his heavenly Father. "*And the King shall answer and say unto them, 'Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me'" (Mat 25:40). □*

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Can You Sleep When The Winds Blow?

Years ago a farmer owned land along the Atlantic seacoast. He constantly advertised for hired hands. Most people were reluctant to work on farms along the Atlantic. They dreaded the awful storms that raged across the Atlantic, wreaking havoc on the buildings and crops.

As the farmer searched for people to fill the job, he received a steady stream of refusals. Finally, a short, thin man, well past middle age, approached the farmer. "Are you a good farmhand?" the farmer asked him. "Well, I can sleep when the wind blows," answered the little man. Although puzzled by this answer, the farmer, desperate for help, hired him.

The little man worked well around the farm, busy from dawn to dusk, and the farmer felt satisfied with the man's work. Then one night the wind howled loudly in from offshore. Jumping out of bed, the farmer grabbed a lantern and rushed next door to the hired hand's sleeping quarters. He shook the little man and yelled, "Get up! A storm is coming! Tie things down before they blow away!" The little man rolled over in bed and said firmly, "No sir. I told you, I can sleep when the wind blows."

Enraged by the response, the farmer was tempted to fire him on the spot. Instead, he hurried outside to prepare for the storm. To his amazement, he discovered that all of the haystacks

had been covered with tarpaulins. The cows were in the barn, the chickens were in the coops, and the doors were barred. The shutters were tightly secured. Everything was tied down. Nothing could be blown away. The farmer then understood what his hired hand had meant, so he returned to his bed to also sleep while the wind blew.

Can you sleep when the wind blows through your life? The hired hand in the story was able to sleep because he had secured the farm against the storm. When you have properly prepared yourself, you will have nothing to fear, even in a sudden storm. How can we be thus prepared? We, as believers in Christ, secure ourselves against the storms of life by grounding ourselves in the Word of God. Even when we do not understand, we can just hold His hand and trust in His promises, and receive His peace in the midst of our storms. If you are being tossed about and troubled today, cast all your cares upon Jesus: live a carefree life before the God Who is careful about you.

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock" (Mat 7:24-25).

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