The Texas Herald, V. 32, No. 2, February 1981

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"NOT MY WILL—BUT THINE"

MY WILL

"Laid on Thine altar, O my Lord divine,
Accept my gifts this day, for Jesus' sake,
I have no jewels to adorn Thy shrine,
Nor any world-famed sacrifice to make;
But here I bring within my trembling hand,
This will of mine, a thing that seemeth small,
Yet Thou alone, O Lord, canst understand
How when I yield Thee this, I yield all.

"Hidden therein Thy searching gaze can see
Struggles of passion, visions of delight,
All that I have, or am, or fain would be,
Deep loves, fond hopes, and longings infinite;
It hath been wet with tears, and dimmed with sighs,
Clinched in my grasp, till beauty hath it none;
Now from Thy footstool, where it vanquished lies,
The prayer ascendeth, 'May Thy will be done.'

"Take it, O Father, ere my courage fail,
And merge it so into Thine own will, that e'en
If in some desperate hour my cries prevail,
And Thou give back my gift, it may have been
So changed, so purified, so fair have grown,
So one with Thee, so filled with love divine,
I may not know or feel it as my own,
But gaining back my will, may find it Thine."

—Author Unknown.

"And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

Matthew 26:39.
God Knows Best

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” (Rom. 8: 28)

It isn’t true, as some people say, that “All things work together for good.” With some folks it seems that most everything works for harm to them.

It isn’t always true that “all things work together for good to them that love God.” For often things seem to work against some who do love God, at least love Him in a measure.

But it IS true — as God’s Word declares it is — that “All things work together for good to them that love God, to them WHO ARE THE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.”

In other words, to those who love God to the extent that they want only His will and only His purpose done in their lives.

The hardest struggle in the world for most Christians, is not their struggle with the devil, with temptation and sin.

Their hardest battle is between their own will and God’s will.

That struggle is as old as Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and as new as where we will go today, who we will see, and what we will say.

God had his will and plan for Adam and Eve. He explained that plan to them and asked them to follow it and obey his will.

They — tempted by satan — chose to do their own will instead of His.

This resulted, as it always does, in heart-ache and tragedy. Many Christians speak lightly, even laughingly, about how hard it is to say “Not my will but thine be done.” They seem to think that it is only the most deeply consecrated Christian that could be expected to thus surrender completely to the will of God.

But anything less than full surrender to God’s will, for any Christian, is sin. And not only sin — but the most awful sin.

It is nothing short of rebellion. And, in any civilized society or nation, there is only one remedy for rebellion: it must be put down — either by expulsion, or surrender, or death.

In Adam’s case it was both expulsion and death — physical expulsion from the Garden, and Spiritual death to Adam and his seed.

To the Christian — when clearly shown God’s Will, from His Word or by His Holy Spirit — there is only one honest and loyal and loving thing to do, and that is to say, “Amen, Lord. By your Grace and help that is what I will do.”

The only alternative is expulsion from God’s Holy presence, suffering His displeasure and chastening, until the death of Self brings about our glad surrender.

How unthinkable it is for the Christian to question God’s will for His own children.

He who so loved us that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

He who is wise enough to create the universe, keep the sun, moon and stars and the earth in their places, furnish us life, health and food and shelter, and notice every sparrow’s fall, is He not to be trusted with our lives and care?

He who is powerful enough to stop the sun, still the seas, and raise the dead, is He not to be trusted to guide our little destinies?

He who planned our salvation and sainthood before the foundation of the world, cannot He be trusted to allow only that which is good for us to come to us?

“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” (Rom. 8: 32)

You who testify that you have such a hard time saying, “Not my will but thine be done,” or singing, “I’ll go where you want me to go, dear Lord,” do you realize what your words reveal — that you are in rebellion against the God who created you, loved you, saved you, and is even now trying to perfect that which concerns you? (Psalm 138: 8)

But you say, “The Cross is so hard to bear!”

What foolishness! It is not the Cross that is hard, but your heart and stubborn will.

“The cross of Christ is such a burden as sails are to a ship or wings are to a bird.” —Samuel Rutherford
Once the will is surrendered in love to a loving Father, any cross that He sends you is lovely, and easy to bear.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matt. 11:28-30)

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb. 12:2)

Refusal, or even struggle, to accept God's will for our lives, is a sign of our distrust of God's love, His wisdom, His goodness, His fairness, and His Power.

Our rebellion is, of course, spurred on by satan, but it is never-the-less our old Adamic nature striving to rule our own destiny and refusing to bow to God's dominion.

With us, as with Adam, if we refuse God's rule, we are accepting satan's rule, as he whispers that "our" way is better than God's — at least in this instance — and that, after all, it won't affect our standing with God, or our entrance into Heaven.

Won't it? No king can tolerate or allow a rebel to his rule.

"He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." (Matt. 12:30)

Your rebellion not only blocks God's plans for your own life, but your rebellion and doubt of his loving and wise judgment, encourages others to rebel and discourages their surrender.
To rebel at God's will is to show your distrust of His love. His wisdom, His power, His goodness, and His Word.

God's Word is filled with assurances that when a man's life is entrusted to God's care and direction, He will take good care of him.

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." (Psalm 37: 5)

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3: 6)

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." (John 14: 21)

"If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." (John 14: 21)

"If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." (John 15: 7)

It isn't the Christian that gladly surrenders to God's will for his life, that has the hard time. He is the one who rejoices "with joy unspeakable and full of glory." (1 Pet. 1: 8), for he enjoys the sweet fellowship of God the Father and of Jesus Christ the Son, that the rebel never knows.

The rebel is the one that has it hard.

"God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." (James 4: 6)

The proud, rebellious Christian often testifies that the "devil is resisting him because he is serving the Lord," when oftentimes it is God Himself who is resisting him because of his proud and stubborn rebellion to God's Will.

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." (I Cor. 2: 9)

"But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them." (Isa. 63: 10)

Many, many Christians think God's will is hard, harsh and almost unbearable. By thinking thus, they brand God as hard, harsh and unjust.

When you study God's Will, which is His Word, you find that He wills his obedient and surrendered children: Salvation, Health, the Holy Spirit, wise Guidance, Safety, and the Provision of every need.

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3: 9)

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." (3 John 2)

"And Jesus put forth his hand and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean." (Matt. 8: 3)

"Receive ye the Holy Ghost." (John 20: 22)

"And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice." (John 10: 4)

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." (Isa. 30: 21)

"There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling." (Prov. 3: 6)

"For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

"They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone." (Psalm 91: 10-12)

"My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4: 19)

Men have formed their opinion of God's will as being hard and almost unbearable, by the one instance in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus, in agony of spirit, cried out, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." (Luke 22: 42)

Yet Jesus was constantly doing God's will, with no struggle, every day He walked the earth.

"When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things." (John 8: 28-29)

"And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him." (John 14: 30)

"My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." (John 4: 34)

We cannot understand all of the struggle Jesus had in the Garden, or just what He referred to as "this cup". We know that Jesus laid down his life willingly.

"Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." (John 10: 17-18)

Jesus knew that He was to die on the Cross, and He deliberately "set his face to go to Jerusalem." (Luke 9: 51)

He announced that He would be crucified, buried and the third day would rise again. (Matt. 16: 21)

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On NOT Being Yourself...

By R. L. Graham

How often, in our earlier days, we were told to "be your Self." Don't be shy," we were told. "Don't be afraid to express your Self. Don't be afraid to tell people about your Self. Speak up! Make your Self heard!"

And slowly we learned. We learned how not to be a retiring, shy flower. We learned ways and means to call attention to our Self. We learned how to modestly brag; how to be humbly proud; how to let people know about our superiority and good works—without, at the same time, being overbearing and bluntly bragadocious. We learned to quietly exude demure self-confidence; so that (in all modesty, of course) we could rest in the admiring glances and esteem of others. We became, as it were, a skilled artisan in the manufacture and attraction of other people's esteem. This lusty joy we sought, in one way or another, to surround our Self with. It was our unspoken— and usually unadmitted—goal; for even to our Self we did not truly admit our need. But we sought it—esteem of Self—endlessly.

Not that we sought this delicious reinforcement only in our actual human relationships. Our reveries as well were largely devoted to the subject. Indeed, our most comforting daydreams were those in which we projected our Self into situations where we earned and received the admiration of others as well as (depending on the fancy of the moment) their consolations; their ministrations for poor hurt us; their apologies because they had misunderstood and maligned our wondrous, precious, ultimately, incredibly, amazingly, glorious, generous, noble, beneficent, hugely outstanding SELF. How tender! How hurt! How adorable, that Self! What a flower! What a dear! O! O! O! My Self! What a wonderful, admirable, poor, hurt, glorious thing. Me!

Did it matter that I also hated, feared, despised and shrank from my Self—as well as from the Selves of others? Did it matter that I almost totally lacked Self-control and would fly off the handle at the drop of a hat? Did it matter that the only virtues I lacked were patience, consideration, love, true honesty, long-suffering and compassion? Not at all! For I could put these on (in my own eyes) at the drop of a hat, climb out of the deepest pit of harsh and gloomy self-hate, and ascend to the top of the mount of Self-gloration in two-tenths of a second flat, whilst yet remaining totally oblivious to the inherent contradictions of this sudden transformation. But behold! I also was just as likely to descend with the same incredible rapidity to the very bottom of the same pit of nether gloom, forgetting where I had been a moment before.

And that was Self! Poor old mercurial Self! The poor, dear, disinterested, put-upon, self-pitying, horrid old man. A staggering scarecrow bundle of total despair, ready to swell up in a trice to put on the noble, self-admiring visage of a Gabriel blowing his own horn; and equally ready to swell up and burst into blind, petulant, jealous rage when this incredibly fantastic Self was let down—or fancied that it was. O! how ready Self was to believe those dark thoughts that came to it whispering, "You've been let down! So-and-so has (overlooked) (ignored) (forsaken) (been disrespectful of) (paid insufficient heed to) (disobeyed) (insufficiently rewarded) (cast aspersions upon) your precious, generous, noble, long-suffering Self!" O, how we would seize upon such thoughts, glorying in the Self-pity, resentment, hurt and hatred they engendered.

And what of pleasing God, Who orders us to give in to no such thoughts—ever! What of true humility? What of true love? What of true and tender joy? What of Jesus?

We knew no such thing. We knew no such Person. We had no such Lord. But then we came to know the Lord! And now—praise His wonderful Name!—He makes it possible for us to set aside the ghastly thoughts, the emotions, the goals, the desperate needs of Self. He makes it possible to set them all aside! Indeed, He has made it possible to set Self aside altogether, replacing the villain with His Self. For it is Him—His very Self!—He wants us to please; not our Self. It is Him He wants us to obey and feed upon; not Self. It is to glorify and serve Him that He wants our every effort to be directed toward—and never to glorify and serve Self. Never! And to be especially careful that we never covertly glorify Self by subtly drawing attention to those good works we do whilst purportedly glorifying Him!

Yes, my willful, soulish Self—thou braggart!—if I would please the Father, my first work is to overcome thee, Thee! My fleshly soul! My Self! For thou art the enemy, and would endlessly have me serve thee—and feed on thee—rather than serve Him and feed on Him! But it is Him I must eat. It is His blood I must cherish; His flesh I must ingest. I must endlessly abide in Him; for apart from Him I can do (and am) nothing! That is my prime work! And, further, I must more than make Him mine; I must make Him my very life—the substance of my "I." For it is His wisdom; His Compassion; His Self-denial and Humility; His Self-effacement; His forgiveness; His tenderness and patience; His faith and joy—it is the very spiritual Person of Jesus with His goodness and kindness and gentle gifts—that I must put on. He must become my raison d'etre. He must be the One I seek to elevate; never me! He must be the One Who receives all credit, all kudos, whilst I become more and more invisible; until, like a pale, feeble version, as it were, of the Holy Spirit, I learn to speak only what I hear, to speak not of my own Self, not on my own authority, but with words and thoughts that are given me by our Lord. I must devote my every (tiny!) resource to learning through practice how to discern good from evil, learning which of the many thoughts that come into me are of Him and which are of Self. For Self, the thoughts of Self, are those of my adversary, the Devil, the one who is on the side of man, of Self, and not of God.

In sum, it is Jesus I must learn how to consciously put on, lest I endlessly fall, dishonoring Him, forsaking the charge He has given me. By His grace, I must put Self by the boards.

O precious Father! Give me Thy Wisdom. Give me Thy Love, Hope, Faith, Discernment and Knowledge—in the Person of the Lord Jesus. O, establish me so completely in Him that I'll always be aware that I am in Him, and He in me. Keep me continuously claiming the very awareness of His Presence; for I know that He is always here! O Father, give me remembrance, by Thy Holy Spirit, to ever and always look to and call upon and abide in Thee, in the person of the Lord Jesus. Stabilize me! Keep me, O Lord, looking to Thee—to Him—and never ever again to Self. Ever! I ask and thank Thee for this glory and wonder in the Name of the Lord Jesus, in Whom I abide. Praise Thee! Here I am, Lord Jesus, I abide in Thee! Amen

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PAUL--The Defendant

By J. A. Dennis

A frank attempt to learn from Paul how Christians should face the problems of today.

As we retrace these thrilling journeys with the world's greatest interpreter of Christ, shall we not see more clearly the way our steps should go, and take courage in knowing that, once, a MAN so closely followed the Son of God?

(Continued from last Month)

CHAPTER 23

PAUL AND PRAISE

"Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine inequities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth Thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's." (Psalm 103: 1-5)

God's exhortation for his people to Praise and Worship Him runs like a Golden Stream through his Word; from Moses' song of Victory and Triumph after God had miraculously led the Israelites through the Red Sea, and then drowned the Egyptians as they attempted to follow (Exodus 14 and 15); to the Four Beasts in Heaven crying, "Holy, Holy, Holy", as the four and twenty Elders fall down before God's throne, worshipping Him, and casting their crowns before Him, saying, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created". (Rev. 4: 8-11)

"Whoso offereth Praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God." (Psalm 50: 23)

When the seventy returned, to report with joy, the Victories God had given them on their first missionary journey, Jesus rejoiced in his Spirit.

"In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him." (Luke 10: 17-22)

Paul spoke much of Praising and Worshipping God.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1: 3)

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Col. 3: 16)

"Rejoice evermore, Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thess. 5: 16-18)

From his prison cell in Rome, Paul wrote these words to the saints at Philippi.

"Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice . . . . Be careful for nothing: but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4: 4, 6, 7)

One of the greatest stories in the Bible, of Victory through Praise, is that of God's delivering Judah from the multitude that came against them, when King Jehoshaphat and his people prayed and sang praises unto God. (2 Chron. 20: 1-30)

Paul tells us that the Old Testament stories regarding the children of Israel, were written for examples and warnings to us.

"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." (I Cor. 10: 11)

Prais

MIGHTIER THAN ARMIES

"Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours but God's." (II Chron. 20:15.)

In the story of Jehoshaphat, as record-
ed in II Chronicles, Chapter Twenty, we find a perfect outline of God's plan for our victory over any problem or danger that confronts the Christian. The story is told simply and in detail, so that we may not miss one single important step in gaining victory over the difficulty or danger that threatens us who are God's children.

Jehoshaphat had been a good king over Judah. He "sought to the Lord God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel." (II Chron. 17:4) He "took away the high places and the groves out of Judah." (II Chron. 17:6.) He set up a traveling or circuit "Bible School," sending priests and princes to the cities of Judah teaching the "Book of the Law." (II Chron. 17:7-10.) He also established a system of courts and judges at Jerusalem and throughout Judah, that justice might be done in all cases of controversy between the citizens of Judah. (II Chron. 19:5-11.)

Yet, in spite of this, God permitted the armies of the Moabites, the Ammonites and the inhabitants of Mount Seir to come up against Jehoshaphat and the kingdom of Judah, to make war with them. Here, then, begins the story of God's deliverance, not only for Jehoshaphat and the armies of Judah, but for all Christians who will follow Jehoshaphat's example and do what he proceeded to do.

The first thing Jehoshaphat did, when danger confronted him, was to turn to the Lord in fasting and prayer.

"And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. "And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the Lord: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord." (II Chron. 20:3-4.)

If America, faced with communism, evil, danger, war, should turn to the Lord in prayer and fasting as did Jehoshaphat and Judah, it would be an easy thing for God to deliver us. Instead, we rely on our armies, our wealth, and our H-bombs—and so we know no security and no peace.

Many prayers are going up in America, from individuals, prayer groups, and in churches, for God to turn America back from her wicked ways, to Him and His Righteousness. But there is no na-
tional call to prayer, no actual reliance upon God and His ways, little fasting and little faith in God's way of deliverance.

Next, Jehoshaphat, as the nation's head, stood up in the great congregation and led them in prayer.

"And said, O Lord God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?

"Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?

"And they dwell therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name , saying,

"If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help.

"And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldst not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not;

"Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit.

"O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee." (II Chron. 20:12.)

The king was not alone in his prayer.

"And all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives and their children." (Verse 13.)

God has promised in His word that whenever His people call on Him in earnest, in repentance, in humility and in desperation, that He will hear and answer.

PASS ON THE PRAISE

"YOU ARE A GREAT little wife, and I don't know what I would do without you." And as he spoke he put his arms about her and kissed her, and she forgot all the care in that moment. And, forgetting it all, she sang as she washed the dishes, and sang as she made the beds, and the song was heard next door, and a woman there caught the refrain and sang also, and two homes were happier because he had told her that sweet old story—the story of the love of a husband for a wife.

As she sang, the butcher boy who called for the order heard it and went out whistling on his journey, and the world heard the whistle, and one man hearing it thought, "Here is a lad who loves his work, a lad happy and contented."

And because she sang her heart was mellowed and as she swept about the back door the cool air kissed her on each cheek, and she thought of a poor old woman she knew, and a little basket went over to that home with a quarter for a crate or two of wood.

So, because he kissed her and praised her, the song came and the influence went out and out.

Pass on the praise.

A word and you make a rift in the situation and asuring Him that we

PASS ON THE PRAISE!

—Heart Blessings.

—Herald of Hope

"If my people, which are called by any name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (II Chron. 7:14.)

How will God answer? He will answer in one or more ways: by His Word, as we read it; by speaking in "a still small voice" to our hearts as we pray; by providence, the opening or shutting of doors beyond our own efforts or ability; by prophecy through the lips of a consecrated prophet of God, one with the true gift of prophecy. (Not all modern-day-so-called "prophecies" are the pure voice of God speaking. It takes an humble and consecrated vessel to bear God's divine message.)

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." (Matt. 7:7.)

In Jehoshaphat's case God answered through a prophecy coming from the lips of the prophet Jahaziel. "And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours but God's.

"Tomorrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel.

"Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O Judah and Jerusalem; tomorrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you." (Verses 15-17.)

Oh, if God's people today could only accept this charge! "Be not afraid nor dismayed . . . for the battle is not yours, but God's. . . . Ye shall not need to fight in this battle . . . for the Lord will be with you."

We fuss and fume and fear and cry and try every worldly way under the sun to get ourselves out of the predicaments we allow ourselves to get into, instead of humbling ourselves before God, acknowledging our inability to cope with the situation and assisting Him that we are looking to Him to work it out in His wisdom and might.

God cannot carry our burdens until we really "turn them over to Him." He cannot keep our bodies in health until we commit them entirely into His keeping. He cannot keep our business, our homes, our children, our lives, until we wholeheartedly and sincerely have committed them into His keeping. Until we've
God's answer is so contrary to the world as to seem ridiculous to us. Doubt and fear and question and continue in our defeat. Because, usually, with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the Lord, worshipping the Korhites, and of the children of Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with a loud voice and candles in their hands as they faced the Korhites. And as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear ye, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth for ever." (Verses 20-21)

Picture what they were doing, at God's command! Imagine the President of the United States, as Commander-in-chief of the armed forces of America, reviewing his troops as they face an invading enemy army. And, after praying and receiving God's answer, picture him sending them out to face the foe with the command that they were NOT TO FIRE A SINGLE SHOT OR DROP A SINGLE BOMB!

And, more, picture the Commander-in-chief appointing a battalion of singers to lead the army, not singing the usual army songs but singing "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty." That is exactly what Jehoshaphat was ordered to do, and that is precisely what he did do.

And that is what God is commanding you to do in a personal way, as you face your "enemy," to "fear not," to "stand still," to "praise the Lord," to "see the salvation of the Lord," for "the battle is not yours, but God's." "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (I Thess. 5:16-18.)

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass." (Psalm 37:5.)

And what is the promised result? The very victory that Jehoshaphat and Judah enjoyed. The same miraculous victory that God gave to Gideon and his 300 followers who held only trumpets and candles in their hands as they faced an enemy as "sands of the sea" for numbers. (Judges 7.)

God only works miracles when nothing but a miracle will save us. As long as our human hands can work out our own salvation, no miracle is needed. As long as our human hands are TRYING TO WORK out our own salvation, no miracle is promised or forthcoming.

When we recognize that we are at the end of our human resources, and are completely surrendered to the will, the mercy and power of God, then He can step in and work a miracle in our behalf. And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.

"For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.

"And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they

"taken our hands off" and let Him have complete control.

Paul had perfect peace because he had made a perfect committal. We have only partial peace in body, mind, and spirit, because we've made only a partial committal.

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep THAT WHICH I HAVE COMMITTED UNTO HIM against that day." (II Tim. 1:12.)

Jehoshaphat had done several important things up to this point. 1. He had called the nation and himself to fasting and prayer. 2. He had reminded God of His promised protection. Had acknowledged that they had no might of their own with which to face the enemy, and that they were relying on God for deliverance. 3. He had received instructions as to what to do.

The next step is terribly important. Many Christians fall down here and lose the victory that God has for them.

Jehoshaphat accepted the answer as from God and set about to obey.

Many times we Christians, after praying desperately about a situation or a problem or a sickness, get God's answer, either from His Word, or in our own hearts, or through someone's prophecy or sermon, or God's open door. But we refuse to accept it as from God. We doubt and fear and question and continue in our defeat. Because, usually, God's answer is so contrary to the world as to seem ridiculous to us.

We forget that "the foolishness of God is wiser than men." (I Cor. 1:25), and that "the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God." (I Cor. 3:19.)

Jehoshaphat did not question God's voice or God's wisdom, though it was a fantastic and foolish thing, from the human standpoint, that God had commanded him to do.

"And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the Lord, worshipping the Lord.

"And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with a loud voice on high." (Verses 18-19.)

What was it that God had commanded Jehoshaphat to do?

He, with the people of Judah, was to go out against the multitudes arrayed against them. They were to go out immediately, the very next day. But they were commanded NOT TO EIGHT. They were to "stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord." (Verse 17.)

Often the "standing still" in the face of danger or trouble or need is harder than trying to go forward: "Not to fight" is much harder than fighting. Waiting on the Lord to move is harder than making futile motions of our own.

But the glorious promise that was to go with them!

"Be not afraid nor dismayed, by reason of this multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's." (Verse 15.)

Jehoshaphat had prayed, he had asked God's help; he had admitted his own helplessness; he had thrown himself entirely into the hands of God; God had answered; had told Jehoshaphat what to do; Jehoshaphat had accepted, without murmuring, questioning or disputing God's command; he had thanked God for His answer and for His Victory.

Next, Jehoshaphat set himself to carry out God's orders, regardless of their seeming "foolishness." "And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekon: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear ye, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper." "And when they began to sing and to praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth for ever." (Verses 20-21)
looked unto the multitude, and behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped." (Verses 22-24.)

"When they began to sing and to praise." Not only were Jehoshaphat and the inhabitants of Judah spared from harm, by obeying God's unusual orders, but they came home laden with wealth. It took them three days to gather up the spoil from the bodies of the dead soldiers who had come up against Jerusalem.

"And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much." (II Chron. 20-25.)

The people under Jehoshaphat came home rejoicing and in triumph.

"Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the Lord had made them to rejoice over their enemies. "And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the Lord." (Verses 27-28.)

Did He, at the last minute, weaken, and try to escape? Perhaps He did not fully realize, until in the Garden, all that it was to mean — separation from God, becoming sin itself, God's turning His back — and was asking that these things not have to be.

But there is one thing in which the average Christian is correct, when considering their surrender to God's will, and their being able to say with Jesus, "Not my will, but thine, be done." And that is that it had something to do with the Cross, with His Death.

And that is what is involved in our surrender to God's will: our death — the death of our stubborn will, our pride, our self, our rebellion against God.

Part of that rebellion — open warfare against God ended when we were saved. But not all.

Our rebellion merely went "underground" Nursed and fostered by self, pride, stubborness, and our loathing to "surrender" — and encouraged by satan — we try to argue, rationalize, plead, evade, pray away, or do any thing possible to keep from wholeheartedly saying, "Thy will be done in me — in everything!"

What joy we miss, what blessed bliss, of knowing His sweet approval and fellowship!

What struggles we suffer, what frustration, what bitterness, what remorse, what chastening we endure, what murmuring at the roughness of our way, all because we fail to love God enough, to trust Him enough, to gladly throw our lives into His miraculous care, and shout, as our heavy burdens roll off onto His broad shoulders: "Not my will, but THINE be done!"

"Have Thine own way, Lord, Have Thine own way! Thou art the potter, I am the clay. Mould me and make me, after Thy will, While I am waiting, yielded and still."

—Adelaide A. Pollard

Are you having a hard time trusting and surrendering yourself to God's will? Then ask Him for His Grace to permit you to see what a privilege it is for a Christian to have Him as our guide and ruler and to have His perfect will done in our lives, instead of our own foolish way.

His grace is sufficient to make His will wonderful to you. "My grace is sufficient for thee." (II Cor. 12: 9) And once you see it, you will thank the Lord all the days of your life that you learned to love and trust Him enough to gladly surrender your will and way to His loving care and to joyously say, "Not my will but thine be done."

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Rom. 8: 28)

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

"Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Heb. 13: 20-21)

—J. A. DENNIS

America, Repent or Perish

This is a booklet we believe every person in America, Christian and non-Christian, should read NOW, in this Great Nation's most crucial hour, as she faces God's Judgment. We will send up to 25 of America, Repent or Perish, free and post-paid, to anyone who will prayerfully distribute them for God's Glory and the Salvation of souls. This offer good only within the United States. Order From:

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4. Confess that you are unable of yourself to overcome the difficulty, but that you are relying on God for wisdom and help, and promise Him that WHATSOEVER He tells you to do, you WILL DO IT. "I can of my own self do nothing." (John 5:30.) "But the Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works." (John 14:10.)

5. Wait on God for the answer. Seek to learn His will through prayer, searching the Scriptures, hearing the Word, or through the Providential opening or shutting of doors. "Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." (Psalm 27:14.)

6. When God’s answer comes, do not question, doubt, fear or argue, no matter how foolish it sounds. Check it with God’s Word. God doesn’t guide contrary to His Word. "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed: and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31-32.)

7. Obey what God’s Word or God’s Voice has told you to do. "Whosoever he saith unto you, do it." (John 2:5.)

8. Thank God for the victory, NOW, immediately, BEFORE the answer comes into being. "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (I Thess. 5:18.)

9. TRUST God. Be prepared to "stand still and see the salvation of the Lord." Commit the whole matter to Him. Leave it on His shoulders. Remember, Lord. "Commit the whole matter to Him. Voice has told you to do. "Whatsoever He tells you to do, you WILL DO IT. "I can of my own self do nothing." (John 14:10.)

10. Go forth rejoicing, singing praises unto God, ignoring circumstances, symptoms, appearances, the size or ferocity of the enemy. Keep your eyes upon the Lord Jesus.

Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him. Knowing that God "always causeth us to triumph in Christ." (II Cor. 2:14.)

Rejoice that God through Christ Jesus has taken over the situation. And rejoice, knowing that WHEN GIVEN A FREE HAND, God has NEVER LOST A BATTLE. Only when we tie His hands by our lack of committal does He fail.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Do these things that Jehovahshaphat did, and you will come through the battle unscathed.

More, you will bring home the spoils of Victory.

Then rejoice all the more. Let the neighbors and the heathen know that once more God has triumphed over evil.

Rejoice!

"Ye will not have to fight . . . Set yourselves . . . Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord . . . For the battle is not yours, but God's."

Praise the Lord!

Hallelujah!

Praise

EAGLES' WINGS

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31.)

The eagle has been called King of the air. His domain is high above the earth. He builds his home in the rocky mountain peaks. He doesn't fly with flapping wings like other birds. With outspread wings he soars, high up in space, or swoops down to earth in search of prey, then soars away to his mountain home.

In like manner "Eagles of the Lord" live above the people of the world, up where the air is purer, up where the view is broader, up on the mountain heights.

Eagles, unlike some birds of prey, eat only freshly killed meat. They swoop down on a flock of sheep, snatch a young lamb in their fierce claws, and fly away to share this fresh meat with the young eaglets in the mountain nest.

Christian Eagles, likewise, thrive on living food, the flesh and blood of the Lamb of God. Jesus said, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you." (John 6:53.)

The Psalmist said, "Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things, so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."

Eagles of the Lord have two powerful wings. Many Christians use only one wing and wonder why they do not make much spiritual progress. The one wing they use is prayer. It is a very necessary wing, if we would rise up and live victoriously. But used alone it is not enough to overcome the world, the flesh and the devil.

Jesus said, "Men ought always to pray and not to faint." (Luke 18:1.) Paul said, "Pray without ceasing." (I Thess. 5:17.) That we must do. But we are still using only one wing. Many Christians Pray, and Pray, but seldom receive the answer to their cries. They "Pray in circles" as a bird would fly if using only one wing.

What is the other wing that Eagles of the Lord use in order to soar up above the sordid things of the world and live on the mountain top?

That second wing is Praise. Praise and Thanksgiving to Almighty God for His many and wonderful blessings. None of us appreciate as we should the many, many wonderful and lovely things our Heavenly Father does for us every day. We take too many things for granted, or take credit for them ourselves.

Not one of us could live one moment without God. The air we breathe is loaned to us by His goodness. The food we eat comes from His bounty. The earth, that grows the food, was made by Him. The sunshine, the rain, the growing seed, all come from Him. The clothes, the homes, the furniture, the cars, were all made possible by His goodness. None of us know whether we will be here tomorrow. Each of us is but a heartbeat from eternity. Everything is in His wonderful hands. Yet we take these things for granted; yes, we even complain if the weather is bad or we do not have all we would like to have.

God's Word says, "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving; and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." (Ps. 100:4.) "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (I Thess. 5:16-18.) "Rejoice and be exceeding glad." (Matt. 5:12.)

Praise and Thanksgiving, gratitude and appreciation, are a sweet savour in the nostrils of God. Thanksgiving is an indication of faith. When someone promises you a gift or a dinner, a job or a raise, you immediately say, "Thank you!", though you have not yet received anything except a promise. Do we trust men more than we trust God and His promises?

Overcoming Christians are not only praying Christians; they are Praising Christians. Eagles of the Lord have learned how to use this second Wing and so to rise to greater heights than the average Christian knows.

"They shall mount up with wings AS EAGLES." Not as birds, though they also have two wings, but as EAGLES. Birds flap their wings and fly before the storm. Eagles soar triumphantly ABOVE the storm.

E. Stanley Jones has given us an eyewitness account of how an eagle meets an approaching storm, such as often strike in India. While the smaller birds were flap-flapping their way to some
shelter, the majestic eagle flew to the highest branch on a nearby tree. There he FACED the coming storm, lifted his great wings at the proper angle, and calmly waited for the fury of the storm to hit him.

The eagle knows instinctively what it took men centuries to learn: the exact angle for a wing to meet the wind to bear airplane or glider or eagle into the sky.

As the wind struck the eagle’s up-turned wings he was blown almost straight UP—up above the storm—and he soared off ABOVE the clouds to his mountain home.

Had his wings been slanted “down,” the storm would have beaten him down to defeat. But slanted UP, they carried him to Victory.

So with the Christian, when he sees the storms of life approaching. He can “flap, flap,” pray, pray, and get little help. If his wings are “down” the storms will strike him down to defeat.

But if, like the eagle, he will get up that other wing—Praise—and hold both of them—Prayer and Praise—UP at the proper Believing angle, the storms that beat against us all will only blow him UP, closer to God and ABOVE the storms that would destroy us.

Have you found it hard to rise above the fears and doubts and defeats of this everyday world in which we live? Do you seem to be going around in circles as you pray and pray and wonder why your prayers aren’t answered?

Get up that second wing, the wing of Praise. Lift them both Heavenward, FACE the approaching storm. Let it blow you up, UP, above the storm and strife, until you experience the miracle that Christ came to give you, Victory over every foe, and you soar in the blue skies and rest on the mountain top with God, an Eagle of the Lord, indeed.

Truly, Paul the Defendant was an Eagle of the Lord, Soaring high above the dark clouds that faced his ministry. Beaten and jailed at Philippi, Paul and Silas sang Praises unto God at midnight, and the other prisoners heard them. God heard them, too, and sent an earthquake that shook the jail apart, setting the captives free, and saving the jailor.

Continually, Paul met fierce storms of hate, persecution, arrest, beatings, stonings, shipwrecks, friends forsaking him, years behind prison walls. He rose triumphant above it all, by lifting his Wings of Prayer and Praise, and letting every storm drive him closer to his Master, Jesus!

Thank you, Paul!

“...And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” (Rom. 8:28.)

PRAYER IS VICTORY

“Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ.” (I Cor. 15:57.)

Praise is more powerful than prayer. Praise without prayer might be presumption. But prayer without praise is unbelief. Praise anticipates the victory. Praise acknowledges that the answer is on its way. Praise testifies that God is more powerful than the devil or any situation the devil can bring upon us. Praise witnesses to the goodness and might and mercy and wisdom of God.

Praise is the “hymn of committal.” Praise proclaims that the burden is no longer on our shoulders, but on the Lord. Praise testifies that no matter what the outcome, we will be “glad and rejoice.” Praise demonstrates the relief of a small child, faced with danger, when his father appears on the scene to take over in the child’s behalf.

Praise is the release that comes when committal is made to a “higher power.” Praise is the joyful acclaim that God is on the throne and all is well. Praise is the most powerful “prayer of faith.”

Praise says, “It is done! Hallelujah!” Praise shouts, “My worries are over, my struggling is ended. God has taken over. The battle is now His concern, not mine. I am free to stand still, to cease to fight, to see the salvation of the Lord!”

Praise shouts, “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.” “I will yet come forth as gold.” “In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.”

Praise confesses, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me: and the life that I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Gal. 2:20.)

Praise shouts, “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he is in the world.” (I John 4:4.)

Praise proclaims, “And they overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony.” (Rev. 12:11.)

Praise frightens the devil. Praise puts him to rout.

Praise makes the devil tremble. Praise causes him to flee.

Praise begs God. Praise thanks Him in advance. “Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me... Lazarus, come forth.” (John 11:41, 43.)

Praise brings our petition to God. Praise takes home the answer.

Praise says, “Please.” Praise says, “Thank you.”

Praise changes things. Praise shouts down the walls so we can take the city. (Josh. 6:20.)

Praise is “weeping may endure for a night.” Praise is, “Joy cometh in the morning.” (Ps. 30:5.)

Praise is an “eagle of the Lord” trying to fly with only one wing. Praise is the “king of the air” soaring high above the storm on two raised wings.

Praise—yes. Pray much, pray “without ceasing.” But don’t forget to praise God for the promised answer.

Praise is wondering “if it will come to pass.” Praise is “knowing it is done.”

God likes to see His children pray. But He rejoices to hear them praising Him for the expected answer.

Praise may move mountains. Praise moves God, so that He cannot refrain from rejoicing with His praising children in their victory.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

“Let everything that hath breath Praise the Lord.” (Ps. 150:6.)

“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise.” (Psalm 100:4.)

“Praise ye the Lord.”
(Psalm 150:6.)

(Concluded Next Month)
I WAS PERPLEXED, BUT NOT IN DESPAIR
2 COR. 4:8

During those 50 days of insurrection in the city of Managua, while the fratricide war developed throughout the whole country, great multitudes revolting everywhere, everywhere seeking a hiding place, got into our parsonage for security.

Taking advantage of the good opportunity God offered, I started in the very minute to explain them that rice and beans had I none, but only the true bread from Jesus, he that believes in Him shall never hunger or thirst. Some of them whispered: seems, it is right, but others, no, we do not know for sure who this man is to speak unto us that we may hear him. Nothing happened until one of those ill-fated days my speech was blocked by the detonation of a bomb which fell about 20 meters from the parsonage. When they saw the obvious protection of God, all of them fell on their faces believing and accepting him.

We continued daily putting God's message of love in the hearts of my new converts who had gone through the ravages of war, starvation, suffering, political turmoil and the loss of loved ones, with such a profound wound in their hearts that my messages had to go direct primarily to their spiritual need for retention. (As I write this testimony, I wish you to pray as you read it, that they may see Jesus in action among them, and that we understand their spiritual need, and care Spiritually speaking, I sit where they sit, and walk where they walk. Oh, that I can be able to convey their thoughts and feelings to them in my own words, so I can make the Word of God relevant to them.)

Few days later while ministering to them, behold a Jeep full of soldiers came to the church. A tall and brawny man rushed from the vehicle to the pulpit and asked to the song leader: "Say, you pastor" . . . easily scared, he interrupted him: "I'm not the pastor," and pointing at me, said, "he is there." Immediately he approached me with his gun in hands pointing upon my chest made this demand: "If you are a pastor, answer like him and tell me. Where is Yahweh?" The seconds passed swiftly, and as I expected the word of wisdom from God, all my new born babies were weeping and lamenting for the cruel death that they and I were going have. At last I answered him: Yahweh is right here in my heart. He wants to live in yours also.

Will you let him in?" He did not answer. Very quiet and slowly he began to remove his gun from my chest, and left the church building stammering like this: "I also am a preacher and know the bible better than your pastor. I'll see you."

This intoxicated soldier had the opportunity to be saved, but he rejected it. Only God knows. Few days later we heard he was killed by the terrorists.

This testimony is true. I know Pastor Escorcia personally.

Kenneth W. Lowry
Christian Witness Crusades
1206 Springrock
Houston, Texas 77055

THE DIFFERENCE

The difference is that I know Him—the precious One who dwells inside.

Before? I thought 'twas Self; whilst Sin my actions did decide.

The One is Truth. Soul! Him obey and He thy friend will ever be.
The other lies; Self is his way. He'd rob thee of eternity.
—R. L. Graham
P. O. Box 10297
St. Petersburg, Fla. 33733

"When a firm, decisive spirit is recognized it is curious to see how the space clears around a man and leaves him room and freedom."
—John Foster.

I PRAYED

I prayed for love;
He said, "Go practice it."
I asked for faith;
"Use the bit you have," said He.
I begged forgiveness;
"Forgive your brother," He replied.
I prayed for peace;
He answered, "Love your enemy."
I asked Him how to pray;
He sighed, "You've read my Words.
The greatest prayer of all is to obey."