

Believe And Do Not Doubt



by Dawn Reed
E. Ky. Columnist

I had some big decisions to make-game changers-and

had set a whole day aside for prayer. I went about the day but was in constant contact with my Heavenly Father.

Driving out of the hollow, I spoke aloud to Him. "Your Word says in James 1 that if I need wisdom, I should ask You and You will give it. So, I'm asking You to give me wisdom. And the next verse says for me to believe and not doubt. THIS TIME, Lord, I'm NOT going to doubt. I'm going to believe and EXPECT!" Any passerby would have assumed I had my cell phone on speaker, or that I was talking to myself. It was way better than that.

I also asked God to make His direction so clear even

a blind person could see it. That may sound irreverent. You probably pray with much better words, and maybe a thee or thou thrown in; not me.

James 1:5 instructs, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously, to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." I have LOVED that verse! Verse six goes further, "But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind." Been there many a time.

I've prayed James 1:5 frequently over the years yet stopped short. I took my re-

quests before the Lord but then figured I would still mess it up. Thought I would miss the instructions and end up all turned around and in a tangle. I either hadn't read verse six or it had been torn out of my Bible.

So often in the past, I prayed for guidance, for wisdom, but then DOUBTED. That was the OLD me. Not gonna do it anymore! If I don't believe that God can do something, that He WILL, then I'm just wasting my breath in asking.

This time was different. I made my petitions to the Lord and then watched and waited expectantly. I had a deadline but I wasn't going to worry. I wouldn't fret and try to figure

out another plan. This time, I was waiting, believing!

Beth Moore once said, "God is always on time, but He is rarely early." His absolute direction came 30 minutes before the deadline was up! And THIS blind woman could see it clearly! I would still have to show up and would need courage, but I had immeasurable peace!

God is many good things, sometimes He is just plain sweet. He gave me confirmation during our FaceTime Sunday School class on Sunday morning and also in my beloved's online sermon!

"...you must believe and not doubt..." Six words that change everything!

Seeds of Hope



"This is going to hurt me more than it does you," said the father to his young son as he took him from the family room for interrupting our conversation. I'd heard that statement many times and always wondered what the parent wanted the child to understand when it was used. If it was used to redirect a child's behavior and teach him or her an important lesson about life, why not say so. That's what the author of Psalm 94 meant when he wrote, "If God disciplines you, consider yourself blessed" or "full of blessings!"

To discipline means "to teach." Discipline is not punishment as we understand it - though it may involve suffering and loss, disappoint-

ment and feelings of rejection. When God disciplines us, it is His method to bring us back to live within His commandments and laws and the teachings of Jesus. It is about "getting our attention" when we are overcome by temptation and fall into sin. It's about being confronted by God when He corrects us for allowing the "things or the people or the attractions of this world" to take His place. It is about worshipping those things rather than the Creator of those "things."

One of the blessings of discipline is that it has long term benefits for the Christian. If in His mercy He brings loss or suffering to teach us a lesson today, and if we are willing to learn from the loss or suffering when it happens, we will be spared from greater losses or more suffering in the future - and bring more honor to Him.

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Enoch, Noah, the Ark and the Church

by BOB CASEY, preacher
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In the Gospel, according to 1 Peter 3:18-21, we find these words, "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: ¹⁹By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; ²⁰Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. ²¹The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"

Many have sought to answer the question, 'Since Jesus was not left in Hades - Hell, just where did he go in spirit while his body was reposed in the tomb?' Some suggest that because of what he said to the penitent thief, that he and the thief went into Heaven, but this is not correct. Jesus, upon meeting Mary in the early morning hours, said to her as she went to meet him, "Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father..." (John 20:17) So, we see clearly that Jesus had not yet gone back into the presence of his father. So, where and what did he do in this time in the tomb? No one alive knows exactly all the things that may have occurred. But, this passage does tell us about the one thing we know of. He went and preached to the spirits in prison.

In Genesis 3:15, Jesus was promised to the world. Here he is introduced as a preacher, so he went not in the flesh (for he was dead in the body). So, he went by a special operation of God in the spirit, along with Enoch and Noah who were the former preachers who made a plea with them to forsake their sin and live in righteousness. But, we now know that all, except Noah and his family, refused. Now they found themselves dead and without a body. So they were called the spirits in person. There sins were aggravated from the patience and long-suffering of God while he waited on them to repent. For 120 years he

did so while Noah built the ark. So, ignoring the warning that came through the preaching, the flood came. Their bodies all drown and their spirits were cast into hell, which is called a prison. 2 Peter 2:4-5 says so.

Notice that the ark and the church are synonymous in Scripture as the one and the same. So Noah and his family all went into the ark and were saved, thereby we see that not a single soul was saved outside the ark. So, we see Noah's salvation in the ark upon the water prefigures the salvation of all obedient Christians in the Church by baptism in water. So, the temporal salvation by the ark was a type, so the anti-type (foreshadow or representation) where unto is the eternal salvation of believers by baptism. So, the inspired apostle, to avoid any mistakes, declares the meaning of saving baptism, saying, this water is not to put away the dirt from the body but is an answer by faith and the resolution of a good conscience that engages on to total belief in Jesus and to be totally devoted to God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit. And, at the same time, renouncing the lust of the world, the flesh, and the devil himself so this covenant made and kept will certainly save us at the end.

In the actions of faith, God is pleased to convey all his blessings upon us (Ephesians 1 & 3) and add us to his church (Acts 2:49).

At this present time, he sits at the Father's right hand where even today intercedes for us when we offer our prayers to him. But, the unbeliever has no such outlet of help in time of trouble because they have not obeyed him to salvation. It is not that they cannot but that they will not.

So, John 17:2-5 says that our Lord finished his work on earth but went back to Heaven to work upon the eternal dwelling place for all who will obey him. John 14:1-6 says so.

Remember Hebrews 5:8-9 reveals that only those who obey the Lord will have eternal life. You may not have it, that is the promise, but you can if you will hear him today and follow through by repentance, belief, confession; and yes, to be baptized in enough water to bury you. Plus, it must be for the remission of sins to be beneficial to you.

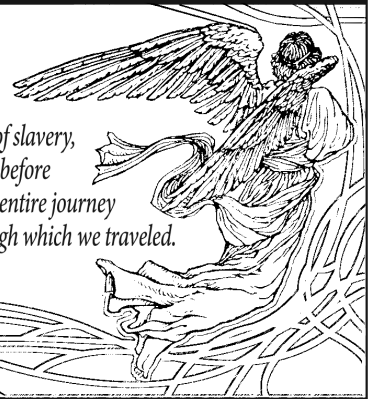
Come, or call us anytime, if you are interested in saving your eternal soul.

Sincerely, Bob Casey, (1-859-369-4165), local

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled.

JOSHUA 24:17



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BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

EZEKIEL 34:12

As a **shepherd** looks **after** his **scattered flock** when he is **with** them, so **will** I **look** after my **sheep**. I will **rescue** them **from** all the **places** where **they were** scattered on a **day** of **clouds** and **darkness**.

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Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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Americanisms



"I don't have false teeth. Do you think I'd buy teeth like these?"
— Carol Burnett

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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Ezekiel in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Who had 900 iron chariots and made 20 years of life unbearable for the Israelites? Tobiah, Pilate, Sisera, Absalom
3. How did God evaluate His work after six days, as all He made was ...? Heav-

enly divine, Righteous sake, Thine image, Very good

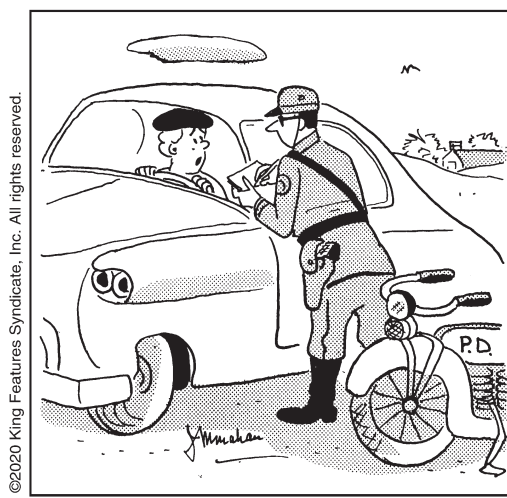
4. Who was the father of Apostles James and John? Zacchaeus, Zebedee, Zebulun, Zechariah

5. 27,000 men were killed when what city's walls fell on them? Sechem, Sodom, Aphek, Jericho

6. Who burned his son alive as a sacrifice? Achan, Ahaz, Moses, Shimei

Answers on bottom of Page 12

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in bookstores and online.



"But you can't give me a ticket — I have a _____ and your not in it!"

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

- Recovery
- PUNTUR
- Trash
- BRIDES
- Daub
- MARES
- Widen
- GREEDD

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