

Just As I Am



**by Dawn Reed
E. Ky. Columnist**

In the middle of making banana bread yesterday I realized I was completely out of self-rising flour. No worries, I thought, I would just make my own adding baking powder and salt. Dragging a chair over, I searched high and low to no avail. (Probably a good thing; I hadn't used it in a decade.) AND, I found that I was out of sugar. I had to go to the store.

It had been a glorious morning of coffee and studying on the back porch. I was not in any way ready for public viewing. My hair was pulled back in a big clip. Not a "sorority poof" pulled back, but an "I have GOT to get these bangs out of my eyes" pulled back. Think about it, have you EVER seen me in public with my hair pulled back? Exactly. Plus, I had on my son's Belfry Pirates t-shirt he wore as a Freshman, circa 2003. I was a mess.

I had two choices. I could stop banana bread making, get a shower and shampoo my hair to be ready to go to the store for self-rising flour and sugar OR... I could go just exactly as I was. I was leaning toward choice A. But, if I washed my hair and dried it right before making the banana bread, there was a chance a hair-albeit a CLEAN hair-might get in the food. (That brought back terrible, life-altering memories of 2009 when one of my son's college friends found a hair in his biscuits and gra-

vy!) Now, I was leaning toward choice B. Stinking choice B. It was the quickest. I already had two loaves in the oven. The other ingredients were ready. It would only take a few minutes to fetch the flour and sugar and get the last two loaves baking. "I'm going just as I am," I told the ripe bananas. I probably wouldn't see anybody I knew, I lied to myself. Realistically, they probably wouldn't even recognize me! Whew!

I grumbled the whole way to Food City.

Grabbing keys and purse, I set a pace that would have been good for a 5K. I saw Mike the Pepsi Man at the front door. Dad gum it! He is a friend and comes to church. He waved, I waved. He probably thought I had the flu and was getting meds.

As I made my purchases and headed home, I couldn't help thinking of the phrase "just as I am." That was a blast from the past.

Back in the 1900 and 70's, "Just As I Am" (#240 in our hymn book) was the invitation for every church service I ever attended. We sang 72 or 73 verses, whichever was needed. I knew the words back then, but not their import.

I did some research. This classic, well-known hymn was written in 1834 by Charlotte Elliot. According to many sources (aka internet sites), Miss Elliott became an invalid after a serious illness when she was in her early 30's. Askheraboutthymn.com tells how the song came about: "Pastor Caesar Malan, seeing not only her physical pain but also her longing for wholeness and acceptance, he gently reassured her saying, 'Charlotte, you are loved just as you are.'" Those words took hold. Years later, in a time of feeling despair and defeat, Charlotte penned the words to a hymn that would linger forever.

"Just as I am, without one plea, but that Thy blood was

shed for me. And that Thou biddest me come to Thee, O Lamb, of God I come. I come." The modern day translation would be: "Just like I am, without a prayer, but You (Jesus) shed Your blood for me. And then You call me to come to You! Oh, Lamb of God I'm coming. I'm coming to You!" Wow! I got chills as I typed those words!

God is God and we are not. He knows us inside and out, bangs back or not... and STILL loves us, LONGS for us to have a relationship with Him! We make things complicated thinking we have to get straightened up before we go to Him. If we COULD straighten up, we wouldn't NEED Him!

Now I am SO GLAD I ran out of self-rising flour and sugar and had to go to the store looking frightful, even though I don't ever plan on doing it again! It led me to find out about Charlotte Elliot from the 1800's and gave me a fresh view of an old hymn!

Church News

Mail announcements to The Estill Tribune, 6135 Winchester Road, Irvine, KY 40336 Call (606) 723-5012; Fax to (606) 723-2743; or E-mail it to <News@EstillTribune.Com>

Wed.-Fri., Oct. 2-4 and Sunday, Oct. 6

SI Christian Revival & Homecoming

South Irvine Christian Church will be having a 3-day revival, Wednesday-Friday, October 2-4, 2019, followed by their 93rd annual homecoming on Sunday, October 6th.

Revival services begin at 7:00 p.m. each night with Bro. John McCord preaching on Wednesday, October 2nd. Special music will be provided by Steve Mays and Steve Isaacs. Bro. Joe Hall will preach on Thursday and Friday, October 3-4, with spe-

cial music by Sheila Niece on Thursday and Sheila Hayes on Friday.

Homecoming services on Sunday, October 6th will begin at 11:00 a.m. with a potluck fellowship dinner after morning service. Johnetta Whalen will provide the special music. The church is hoping for at least 93 to attend to coincide with years.

Bro. Mike Chism and the congregation welcome everyone to attend each of these services.

Saturday, October 5th at 6:00pm

Gospel Singing at Pine Hill

Pine Hill Baptist Church will be having a Gospel Singing this coming Saturday, October 5, 2019, starting at 6:00

p.m. The guest group will be The Praise Singers. There will be refreshments afterwards and everyone is welcome.

Friday-Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 4-6

Ivory Hill Baptist Church will be having Revival and Homecoming

Ivory Hill Baptist Church will be having a revival on Friday, and Saturday, October 4 and 5 at 7 p.m.. There will be special singing at each service.

Bro. Scott Rogers, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, will be the evangelist on Friday evening. He is the son of Bro. Warren Rogers, pastor of Ivory Hill Baptist Church.

Bro. Linville Spangler will bring the message on Satur-

day evening, October 5.

Homecoming will be observed on Sunday, October 6. Bro. Marion Brewer will bring the message at 11:00 a.m. Bro. Steve Mays will provide special music.

A potluck lunch will be served following morning worship. Everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information, please call Bro. Rogers at (606) 481-0444.

Sunday, October 13th at 10:30am

Epperson Old Fashion Day

Epperson First Church of God, located on Kentucky 89, Irvine Road, in Clark County, will be having an Old Fashion Day on Sunday, October 13,

2019, starting at 10:30 a.m. There will be great singing by Ryan and Heidi from Somerset. Lunch follows the service. Bring nothing but yourself.



was a medium? Jehu, Amaziah, Saul, Neco

4. From 1 Samuel 19, whose life was saved when his wife put an idol into his bed? Samson, David, Amon, Cyrus

5. Who was the father of Elkanah? Jeremiah, Philip, Esau, Jeroham

6. From Esther 1, how many days did Ahasuerus' feast last? 2, 4, 7, 10

Answers on bottom of Page 12

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in stores and online.

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

2 CORINTHIANS 8:8-9

I am not **commanding** you, but I **want** to **test** the **sincerity** of your **love** by **comparing** it with the earnestness of **others**. For you **know** the **grace** of our **Lord Jesus Christ**, that **though** he was rich, **yet** for your **sake** he became **poor**, so that **you** through his **poverty** might become **rich**.

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

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M	R	O	S	L	V	R	D	O	K
P	H	H	E	H	E	Y	N	T	A
A	C	T	J	C	R	K	A	H	S
R	T	I	N	I	T	N	M	E	T
I	E	I	Y	R	Y	O	M	R	N
N	S	L	O	R	D	W	O	S	A
G	T	K	U	G	R	A	C	E	W

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

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seeds of Hope



Most of us have a memory or two of family trips we took when we were children. Excitement filled our hearts as we began the trip. Then, after a while, boredom and restlessness would set in and everyone became anxious and angry and wondered why we ever left home. No matter where we were going or how long it took, someone would ask the question, "Are we there yet?" It is a question that is handed down from one generation to the next and one family to another. It's part of every journey.

And the answer was and still is the same: "Almost" or "Not yet." It reminds us of the fact that life is indeed a journey and we are never sure where or when it will end.

It is difficult to face the uncertainties of life wondering when there will be some final resolution to the issues that surround us and threaten us constantly. We are troubled when we see injustice and feel deceived. We want to be free from the fear and threat of terrorism and enjoy the reign of peace and joy. We hear of wars and rumors of wars. We are forced to face the fact that conflict and crises pervade our world and disturb our lives. And the peace that the leaders of this world promise us, never comes.

So we call on God and ask, "Are we there yet? Is it time for Your return?" And He answers, "Almost. Not yet. My time has not come. You and I still have work to do."

As we Christians have His light in this darkness and His hope in the midst of despair, we must share this gift of light and hope with others so they can pray with us.

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Invoking Upon God to do Evil

by BOB CASEY, preacher
Cornerstone Church of Christ
70 Bond Street at Camp Avenue in West Irvine

The definition of the word "invoke" is a simple term, meaning: 'to call upon God for help, for blessings, for inspiration and for support.'

These things, many may do many times in our life. In times of trouble, we want the help from God. In times of scarcity or uncertainty, we ask for blessings. In times when we don't know what to do or where to go, we desire the inspiration that only God can give. In times when we may lose someone very close to us, we turn to God for his support.

And this is the way it should be; but I am also aware that this is not the way it is! A sign on the highway said, 'when all else fails, turn to God... or read the Bible.' I don't care for these signs. Why would I object, you ask? Why not say it this way, 'Before we have loss or failures, seek the Lord first; then you will have less failures and losses.'

It would be very rare indeed if a funeral was held in which a supposed man of God would not be present to read from the Bible and some words of support, usually adding a prayer to the program as well. But, the sad thing is, in many of these assemblies, the deceased or his family, may have been among those who gave very little attention in their lives to invite or invoke the Lord into their lives. What a shame!

One of the largest amount of verbs within the Bible is the word 'do.' Jesus says in **Luke 6:46**, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Also, Jesus said in **Matthew 7:24**, "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:"

I, once and more, visited a person who was determined by the doctors to be terminal with only a short time to live, who said they believed in God and Christ but would not humble themselves to obey him. Thus, I hope they will reconsider the alternative and obey and live for him even if their time is short, but at least they will have some consideration, which the Lord will decide. But, unless they do, I don't believe that they will ever have any hope at The Judgment. Our Lord expresses this fact with great clarity in **Matthew 7:21**, saying, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Fact is, it is one thing to claim to be a believer, and never a doer; it won't get you into his Heaven!

In Luke 8:21, it reveals that God's family is made up of those that hear God's word and doeth it. Are you one of these or are you a believer only? Then, in **John 14:15**, Jesus says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

I once had a conversation with a fellow who was a member of a noted denomination who expressed his love of the Lord. Then, I said to him, what would you say if I said I can prove that you do not in fact love the Lord? He challenged me to prove it; so, I read the verse in John 14:15. He said, 'I believe it.' Then, I asked, 'Do you believe that baptism is necessary for the remission of sins and for eternal salvation?' He said, 'No, I do not.' So, I said, there you have proved with your own mouth that you do not love the Lord. Then I added, **John 15:14**, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." And, so it is!

Don't invoke the Lord's name without being willing to humble yourselves unto his will. If you do, your effort will be in vain.

Call or visit with us any time, 1-859-369-4165.

PS - Bro. Charlie Ward will be preaching to us, October 8th. Come and hear.

Sincerely, Bob Casey