

The VINE & BRANCHES



The Newsletter of WORKERS TOGETHER WITH HIM, Inc.
Jesus said, "For without Me, ye can do nothing."

INCORPORATED SEPTEMBER 28, 1999

CHARTER 01552809-01

Post Office Box 4217 Brownsville, TX, USA 78523-4217

Office (956) 574-9475

E-Mail: WorkersTogether@AOL.COM

Web Site: www.workerstogetherwithhim.org

Beloved of God, and fellow workers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ,

The blessings of our Lord be richly manifest to you and your loved ones in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom be praise and glory forever.

Psalms 115:1:

Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.

I honestly believe that it is much harder for a minister of the Gospel to deal with success rather than with failure. Let's face it, when you've fallen on your backside, it is easy to remember to ask the Lord for a hand up. It's when things are going well that we are prone to forget Who deserves the glory.

I Corinthians 4:7:

For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

I have come to the place in my walk with the Lord that I EXPECT to see miracles of healing when I lay hands on the sick to minister to them. But how did I receive such power? On my own merits? The only spiritual paycheck I've ever deserved is DEATH!

Romans 6:23:

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Every thing you or I have ever received from God has been a gift of His grace. Therefore,

II Corinthians 4:5:

For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

I recently returned from a very successful presentation of the Weapons of our Warfare seminar in Muskegon, Michigan, hosted by Steve and Lori Stafford. Their testimonies appear on page 11 of this

newsletter. This was the first presentation of this seminar in the United States, and I was very encouraged by the results. Freely as we have received, so we freely give.

Matthew 10:8:

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

It thrills me to see the hearts of God's people set free from bondage, from heartache and disappointment, from oppression and discouragement. Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:32)." Truth is a bondage breaker. Truth sets you free to serve God.

Exodus 9:1:

Then the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

Our Web-site is up and running, thanks largely to the efforts of our friend and brother Rudolf Illavsky in Austria. We hope this will be a blessing to you, and a way to introduce people to Workers Together With Him.

Tomorrow morning, I leave for Tathra, Australia and the seminar hosted by John Goulis. Thank you so much for your prayers for me and for my family, and thank you for the support that helps make these ventures possible.

I am very pleased to present you with this newsletter. And I hope to see you soon in my travels!

Love in Christ,

Rev. Tim Sullivan

There is NO Respect of Persons with God

by Rev. Tim Sullivan

The great passion in the life of the apostle Paul was to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to make known the truth regarding salvation.

Romans 1:15-16:

So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Before a man can ever be convinced that Jesus Christ IS the Savior, he must first be convicted in his heart of his NEED for salvation. Paul understood this, and so, according to the revelation given him by God, he set forth not only Christ the Savior, but also the desperate condition of the unsaved man. In order to expose man for what he truly is, Paul stripped away all of man's costumes, all his garments of self-righteousness, and made him stand naked before the mirror in the light of God.

Romans 2:11:

For there is no respect of persons with God.

God is not a respecter of persons. This truth He made known to His prophet Samuel when he was considering which of Jesse's sons would inherit the throne of king Saul.

1 Samuel 16:7:

But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.

God is never fooled by man's outward appearance, by his performances.

Matthew 6:5:

And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

God sees what is going on inside man's heart.

Ezekiel 33:31:

And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them:

for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.

Mark 7:6:

He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

Before you and I can get anywhere in our walk with God, we must realize that God is not interested in our performances. God is not impressed by you or me. He wants our hearts to be right with Him.

The story of Abel and Cain teaches us what God does respect.

Genesis 4:1-4:

And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord.

And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord.

And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

Abel's sacrifice showed his faith in the promised Savior, and his recognition that he was in need of salvation. Cain's offering showed his complete disregard for such things. God had respect unto Abel and his offering because Abel showed respect unto God. Abel demonstrated his desire to walk in the statutes and commandments of God.

Leviticus 26:3-12:

If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them;

Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.

And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land.

And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword.

And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an

hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.

For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you.

And ye shall eat old store, and bring forth the old because of the new.

And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you.

And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.

Some people try to persuade God to answer their prayers by offering Him deals and promises. But God is not moved by gifts or bribes.

II Chronicles 19:7:

Wherefore now let the fear of the Lord be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.

Neither is God moved by our religious acts.

Isaiah 17:8:

And he shall not look to the altars, the work of his hands, neither shall respect that which his fingers have made, either the groves, or the images.

God has respect toward the lowly in heart.

Psalms 138:6:

Though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.

This is what He demands of us as well.

Deuteronomy 16:19:

Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.

James 2:1-9:

My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men

oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

Man-made philosophies and religions have for their premise the "innate goodness" of mankind. They suppose that the way of holiness is to "fan the flame" of human kindness, love and understanding. This is the way of Cain, to deny man's sinful state and to reject the salvation offered by Christ. If we are ever going to further the Gospel, we must see people as God sees them. ALL men are sinners. There is NO respect of persons with God. ALL men need Christ. There is NO OTHER WAY to eternal life. And YOU are the one who has the privilege of telling them about Him!



Books by Rev. Tim Sullivan

By The Grace of God I Am What I Am

Featuring: Precepts and Premises; A Fountain of Life; The Evidence of Things Not Seen; But Ye Say; and By the Grace of God I Am What I Am.

If Ye Do These Things, Ye Shall Never Fall

Inspiring messages on: Faith; Virtue; Knowledge; Temperance; Patience; Godliness; Brotherly Kindness; and Charity.

Walking On The King's Highway

Including: A Time of War; The Prosperity of the Lord's Servant; Discretion Shall Preserve Thee; The Generation of Jesus Christ; Disappointed in God; Holistic Christianity; and Walking on the King's Highway.

Suggested Donation: \$10.00 ea. plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling. Please make checks payable to:

Workers Together With Him.

Coming Soon!

Auf der Strasse des Königs gehen (*The German translation of "Walking On The King's Highway" to be published in Switzerland.*)

Yesterday, Today & For Ever

by Todd W. Pikel

“God’s Eternal Purpose”

By faith we have access to the Father through Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the basis for, or the **foundation** of, our faith. It is **by** Jesus Christ and **through** Jesus Christ that we have access to the Father. And so we turn to Hebrews 13:8, which will be the theme of this series, “Yesterday, Today & For Ever.”

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Hebrews 12:1

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith

Jesus Christ is the author and finisher; He is the beginner and completer, the alpha and omega. Yes, we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, but witnesses to what?

Hebrews 11:4

By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which **[faith]** he obtained *witness* that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it **[faith]** he being dead yet speaketh.

By **faith** Abel obtained witness that he was **righteous**. The only righteousness that has ever stood the scrutiny of God is the righteousness of Jesus Christ. The Word of God says that no man is righteous on his own, no man can stand before God by his **own** righteousness. How did Abel do it?

Genesis 4:1-6

And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

By **faith** Abel obtained witness. How did he do it? Well there’s only **ONE WAY**, and that’s by the faith of Jesus Christ, **God’s Eternal Purpose**. “No man,” said Jesus, “cometh unto the Father but by me.” How could Able have the faith of Jesus Christ, if Jesus hadn’t come yet? Good question, right? Well, do you remember the fall of Adam and Eve?

Genesis 3:7

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Their eyes were opened after sin had entered and they tried to cover their sin. They tried to cover themselves. This however didn’t work and God revealed to them that He would cover their sin with a redeemer. Someone would pay the price for sin and defeat the enemy who had deceived Eve, who gave to Adam and they did eat the fruit from the forbidden tree.

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Along with this promise God gives us the first “type or picture” of the very nature of the sacrifice and the results of it. This sacrifice would be a covering for sin. They were provided a covering for their nakedness. God clothed them.

Genesis 3:21

Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

God didn’t create new animals to make these coats of skins. He must have used animals that were already there in the Garden as the result of His original handiwork. Remember, Adam named all the animals.

Although the animal used isn’t named, one could safely bet that it was a lamb, as it was a picture of Christ. Remember what John the Baptist said when seeing Jesus coming to him to be baptized?

John 1:29

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

To this agree the following Scriptures.

Genesis 22:8

And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

John 1:36

And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God. Jesus Christ is the basis of and the reason for our faith in God.

Romans 3:21,22a

But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

Even the **righteousness of God** which is **by faith** of Jesus Christ **unto all** and **upon all** them that believe:

We have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Jesus Christ. Remember the coats of skin God provided to clothe Adam and Eve? Well, the righteousness of God, which is by faith of Jesus Christ, is unto all and **upon** all that believe. We are literally clothed in the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:2

By whom [**Jesus Christ**] also we have **access by faith** into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Moreover, there is only one way to get this faith. That's by hearing God's Word.

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

So whether it be Adam, Abel, Moses, Abraham, Isaac, David, Isaiah, Paul, Peter or you and me, our access to the Father is **by** and **through** the faith of Jesus Christ. It is to all those who embrace the promise.

Galatians 2:20:

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live **by the faith of the Son of God**, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Philippians 3:9

And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is **through the faith of Christ**, the **righteousness** which is of God **by faith**:

Therefore we who live in the time of the better things to come can take joy in the surety of the one who is faithful and true. The one who paid the way for our access to the Father with His own blood, so that we may worship the Father in Spirit and truth. The type and shadow having been fulfilled in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 12:24

And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel

It speaks better things than that of Abel because the promise has been fulfilled, the picture has been developed and is in full color for all the world to see. The color is crimson red. The color of our Lord's blood.

Hebrews 9:14

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Jesus Christ is **God's Eternal Purpose**.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

(In the next issue of The Vine and Branches, this series continues with "Christ The Veil")



Members One of Another

by Beatrice Scherer
Olten, Switzerland

As you commit your works unto the Lord, truly desiring to serve Him by bringing forth good fruit, it happens sometimes that your eyes fall on your neighbor's fruit, and you are comparing his with your own. Sometimes you get the impression that your work counts less; that it is not spiritual enough, not enough this or that. Other times you think that your work is even so wonderful that it deserves special recognition.

How profitable and refreshing is it then, to remember that we are all **WORKERS TOGETHER WITH HIM**, each and every one having his own

work, his individual place and function in the Church, the Body of Christ, which is after God's design.

I Corinthians 12:18:

But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

Romans 12:4-5:

For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

Not only are we members of the same Body, but also "members one of another", which stresses our interdependence.

Ephesians 4:15-16:

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

How it must be pleasing to God, when He sees His people work together for the edification of the Body, helping and strengthening each other in loving service and in obedience to Christ.

John 6:28-29:

Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

I wish and pray for all Christians everywhere, that we continue to work and function together in truth and with pure hearts. May all our works be according to Christ's commandments, and may we by them demonstrate that we believe on Him Who has been sent, Jesus Christ, the Head of the Body. Let us never cease to care for each other, and strive to be thankful for every worker, and for every worker's work, even for the tiniest hidden fruit that is brought forth.

I Corinthians 12:26:

And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

Romans 15:6:

That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God bless you!

Positive News Flash!

BY REV. MARTY DURBIN

"You can't control the wind, but you can control the sails"

I use to be a sailor on the high seas, even sailed several times through the so-called "Devil's Triangle". This saying meant a lot to me when I first heard it, and it still does today. I do know that life's situations can change like the wind. On a sail boat, a strong wind change can really hurt the boat or the crew. A very strong wind gust can breach the boat (that's when a mono hulled sail boat lays on its side, and the mast hits the water). On a good sail boat with a ready captain, you can quickly let out the main sail, and the boat will right itself. (That's controlling the sails). I've done it with no problems, with just a few things down in the cabin thrown around, (and one of my sailing mates upside down. Oh well).

I know life's situations can change just as quickly. We all need to be like a good captain, be ready for the rough times when they hit like a hard wind. With knowledge of God, His Word, and the gifts of The Spirit, we can be ready. Of course, that does not mean we always will be. Things happen, life is not always smooth sailing. When it is, let's really savor the moment. When you have a good year, or a good week, or even a few good moments, really thank God, and enjoy that time. Like a perfect sunny day, sailing on clear smooth waters, with a light breeze at your back. Yes, I can almost feel it, just thinking of it! Praise God for the good times!

If I only had faith as Jesus did, during those rough nights at sea.

Luke 8:25:

And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.

I wish I could had done this one night in the Bermuda Triangle, when the waves were 14 feet, and the wind was howling so loud, it alone scared

the dickens out of me.

We know life will not always be like smooth sailing. I've had my bad times, being sick and not even wanting to live, like Job when he cursed the day he was born. Yet I would never curse, or forget God. I would still pray, read my Bible, speak in tongues, even fast on juices, at times like Job not seeing deliverance. I would often remember the words of The Apostle Paul as he said;

Philippians 4:11-13:

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

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

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

I have been a miracle of healing quite a few times under the hands of a brother, or sister in Christ, and I've seen, and done miracles of healing under my own hands, yet this one sickness held on to me. A doctor wrote a prescription for me, and with it, prayer, and being ministered to I feel great again! Praise to God, for all good things. He must work with some doctors, and even with some prescriptions they give us. So if you, or someone you know has not been as healthy as you would like, never give up on God, never give in. So what if we go to a doctor, and may even need a pill, or some natural herbs, or vitamins? Do not judge your brother.

Romans 14:1:

Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.

For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs.

Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.

Of course, I am not saying that anyone who needs a doctor, or who takes herbs, or needs medication is weak in the faith. However, we should all work on nurturing and building up our faith. Our faith can, and should grow as Jesus' disciples clearly state.

Luke 17:5:

And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

Yes our faith can, and does grow, through hearing God's Word, prayer, and building up ourselves by speaking in tongues. We really should all try to worry less, and believe more.

Matthew 6:25:

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Try not to worry. As one great philosopher said; "The secret to life is, not to worry about the little things, and everything is a little thing." Everything really is a little thing for God, now isn't it?

Matthew 6:26-34:

Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? (*You're a pretty good bird too!*)

Which of you by taking thought (*being worried*) can add one cubit unto his stature?

And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:.) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

God knows our needs. Sometimes we just need more patience, which Webster's Dictionary defines as "the quality of enduring with calmness; quiet perseverance."

Matthew 6:33-34:

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Let us live in the present. It's all we really can do, anyway. We really will make it through tomorrow. Like the children of Israel in the wilderness,

hey, the manna will be there, brother! So don't worry... be happy! Let's not worry about tomorrow today. Plan for it yes, but don't worry about it. The more we can put on God's Word, and take upon us the Weapons of the Warfare the more we will be like a prepared captain, ready for those strong winds (the hard times).

Ephesians 6:10-11:

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.



Worship

by Evan B. Pyle

Pastor, Grace and Power Fellowship
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

There has been a great move and trend during this century, and more so recently, to make the message of Christianity "relevant" to our lives and our "modern lifestyle". Nowhere has this been more apparent than in worship. New expressions of worship are sweeping the church, not only in Charismatic churches, but also in every major denomination. Traditionally staid sanctuaries are being rocked by drumbeats and amplified music. Controversies and divisions have sprung up over the raising of hands; hand clapping; "praise" music versus traditional hymns; dancing; exuberant participation versus silent contemplation. Clearly there is a problem. But, I'm not at all sure the *problem* has even been identified. What can be seen is the *result* of the problem: Strife, divisions and controversy.

James 3:15-16:

This wisdom descendeth not from above, but [is] earthly, sensual, devilish.

For where envying and strife [is], there [is] confusion and every evil work.

What I believe is lacking in all of this controversy is clear Bible teaching on the subject of worship. Good teaching, followed by good practice,

will yield good fruit.

James 3:17-18:

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, [and] easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

Psalms 119:130:

The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

The genesis of the problem lies, I believe, in trying to make Christianity "relevant" to our current times. While this sounds right, I believe it is the path that ends in a lost generation of Christians. In order to make it "relevant", the truth must be moved to suit the circumstance. Truth is unchanging and demands that our lives change in order to be true. When we start by making changes to appeal to "outsiders", we are on the slippery slope. Soon, all of the unchanging and immutable truths that have been the bedrock of our faith and walk have been changed and our foundation is lost. All points of navigation have become *relative* and we are lost. I fear that in our eagerness to accept *all religious persuasions as valid expressions* we have fallen prey to "relativism", the curse of our age. Let us return to **absolutes** in understanding worship, so we can worship God in Spirit and in truth.

Noah Webster, in his original 1828 dictionary, defines worship as "to honor with extravagant love and extreme submission". This definition certainly includes corporate worship (worship together as a group), but is not limited to corporate worship. Focusing on corporate worship alone, and on the *form* of that worship, has led us astray. Worship, as in other spiritual issues, is a **heart attitude**, not an issue of *form*. When our religion becomes about *what we are doing and how we are doing it*, we have false religion.

I Samuel 16:7B:

...for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.

II Timothy 3:5:

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Philippians 3:3:

For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and

have no confidence in the flesh.

Abraham is set forth by the Holy Ghost as a pattern for New Testament believers.

Romans 4:12:

And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which [he had] being [yet] uncircumcised.

Worship is first mentioned in the Bible in connection with Abraham. The record reveals Abraham's faith and attitude in worship.

Genesis 15:4-6:

And, behold, the word of the Lord [came] unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.

And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

In Abraham's relationship with the Lord, he did not rely on his own righteousness or works. He believed and God counted it to him for righteousness.

Genesis 22:2-5:

And he said, Take now thy son, thine only [son] Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and **I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.**

This, then, is the foundational usage of worship in the Bible. What better example is there of extravagant love and extreme submission? The Lord had made and established His covenants with Abraham, and Abraham responded with faith, for the Bible says he believed God. In this extraordinary account, Abraham had such faith in God's

faithfulness to His promises, that he offered up the most precious thing in his life, the promised heir, his beloved son, accounting that God would surely raise Isaac from the dead. Abraham exhibited this faith when in verse 5 he told his young men that he and the lad would return.

Abraham also demonstrated his faith, and prophesied of the coming Christ, by stating that God would provide a sacrifice.

Genesis 22:8:

And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

So, what does Abraham's story teach us of worship? Simply, that Abraham offered **all** on the altar. He held nothing back. He did so with faith in God's provision. Abraham did as God commanded. In obedience, Abraham offered to God what God had given to Abraham. Abraham acted in simple obedience, not to *get God to bless him* for doing it.

(In the next issue of *The Vine and Branches*, this series continues with "What is True Worship?")



One Soldier Speaks

by Jay Pearson

As soldiers of the Lord Jesus Christ our weapons of warfare are not carnal. This means they are not 9mm's or knives or even verbal bashing of an opponent. These mentioned weapons are not only carnal, but inferior, and produce minimal results. You may hurt or kill someone with them, but you can't win an eternal victory. Physical warfare is one thing. Spiritual warfare is quite different and can only be understood by people with spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Again let me say as a soldier of the Lord Jesus

Christ that our weapons of warfare are not carnal, but spiritual.

II Corinthians 10:3-4

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Whether you're in school, on recess, or at your everyday job this truth is vital to your survival. A child's situations are just as critical as an adult's. The imprints of their situations are sometimes much deeper because their hearts are more tender and less calloused. This article is written for soldiers of the Lord: eight year olds, eighteen year olds, or 54 year olds. Think of this and know the Lord; the power you have within you to operate is unsurpassed not only in this world, but in that which is to come.

Ephesians 1:19-21

And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

Supernatural power is not more powerful than God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Super— (natural). Any degree of natural is worldly. God is almighty and spiritual. The spiritual realm is far above the natural, even supernatural. In the beginning God spoke and it was so. In the present God speaks and it is so. In the future God will speak what He will speak, and it shall be so.

Isaiah 55:11:

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Now I would like you to think of an army. Are all combat personnel? Do all stand on the front lines taking the hits or delivering the blows? My point is this; if you find it difficult to see yourself as a soldier because you think your job is less important, consider this. The head of the troops decides the individual's (MOS) method of service and where he would best serve the whole, just as the

Lord provides your ministry and leads you to it. Every member of an army is just as important. The soldier on the front lines can't be effective in battle worrying about his supplies left behind. You can't continue to fight if you haven't been supplied with food. Again my point, every man, woman, and child is truly important in the spiritual battle. Your adversary would have you think you're inadequate and that someone else is taking care of it. He would inject you with fear and paralyze your ability to expose him and crush his assault.

I Peter 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

James 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Everyone will share the same just reward: the front, middle, and rear lines. If you are obedient to the Lord, whether you swing sword, spoon, or plow, the Lord rewards your obedience. David divided the spoils with those that stayed behind.

I Samuel 30:23-25

Then said David, Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the LORD hath given us, who hath preserved us, and delivered the company that came against us into our hand. For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike.

And it was so from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day.

Children, quit flexing your muscles and call upon the Lord.

I Timothy 4:8

For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

Let's keep it simple, you adults.

II Timothy 2:4

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

Who do you think you are? The answer is extremely important to you and to God.

I John 3:2

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.

One soldier speaks to another. I love you in the Lord. More importantly, He loves you, and you are His soldier.

Ephesians 6:10-18

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;



Testimonies from the
Weapons of our Warfare
seminar held in Muskegon, Mi.

Dear Tim,

My wife (Lori) and I recently graduated from The Weapons of Our Warfare class in February. Words just cannot express my gratitude for the things of God that have been revealed to me! To be able to use all the gifts of the Spirit as God intended truly magnifies Him and what His Son did for us. I was taught before that most of God's Word was not written to us, only the epistles were. To see Jesus Christ all throughout the Bible is priceless! Now God is so much bigger than I ever imagined, and I am a quite a few notches lower than I

previously thought. I feel like the blindfold has been removed when I read God's Holy Word.

Consequently, it has been much more enjoyable being around other Christians as I can love them and accept them for who they are, not judging them for what I think they should be. I keep you and your family, and Todd and Evi, in my prayers to God for your lives and your work in the ministry of the Gospel.

Love in Christ,
Steven Stafford

Dear Tim,

I want to tell you how thankful I am to have been led by God to take The Weapons of our Warfare Class. It was definitely God working in my heart to take the class and who revealed to me many awesome truths (and continues to reveal) from His Word which I now carry with me as precious treasure. I learned many great things from God's Word in the class but if I would have to sum it up I would say that because of this class, God's presence, His power, and His awesome love really became real to me. God has been working so much in my life and I now feel I am more prepared to serve God's people fully, not only to share with them Jesus Christ unto Salvation but to minister healing and use the other gifts as well. I am very excited to see what God has in store for us and how he will open the doors for us to minister to His people. Thank you, brother, for your love for God and your commitment to do His work.

Love in Christ,
Lori Stafford

**We then,
as workers together with him,
beseech you also
that ye receive not the grace of God
in vain.**

II Corinthians 6:1

Workers Together With Him

Upcoming Events

The Weapons of our Warfare

Tathra, Australia March 4-12, 2000

Cornwall, England April 15-23, 2000

Switzerland July 15-23 2000

Baton Rouge, Louisiana Sept.29-Oct.8 2000

Mexico City, Mexico November 2000

If you would like to attend any of the above seminars please contact us at our office by phone or e-mail. WorkersTogether@aol.com Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated for these events. God Bless and thank you!

Workers Together With Him is an international Christian ministry dedicated to the furtherance of the message of Salvation and the education of Christians to the end that they be a living testimony of God's love, power and glory. Teachings are distributed via congregational meetings, seminars and tapes, retreats and various publications. This ministry is financed entirely by the tithes and offerings of its supporters.

*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 iniquities;
who healeth all thy diseases;
Who redeemeth thy life from destruction;
who crowneth thee with lovingkindness
and tender mercies;
Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things;
so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.
Psalms 103:1-5*

Workers Together With Him

Post Office Box 4217

Brownsville, Texas USA 78523-4217

Phone: 956-574-9475

E-Mail: WorkersTogether@AOL.com

Web Site www.workerstogetherwithhim.org

THE VINE & BRANCHES, the newsletter of Workers Together With Him, is published six times a year and is freely distributed to our supporters. If you would like your name added or deleted from our mailing list, please let us know. Written contributions are encouraged and may be submitted to our office for publication upon approval.