

The VINE & BRANCHES

The Newsletter of WORKERS TOGETHER WITH HIM, inc.

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Jesus said, "For without Me, ye can do nothing."

God bless you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings.

So much has occurred in the four months that have passed since the last issue of the Vine & Branches newsletter. In March, I presented "That the Church May Receive Edifying" in Swansea, Wales. In April, I had the blessing of teaching a Sunday fellowship in Tallahassee, Florida. In May, I presented "If Ye Do These Things, Ye Shall Never Fall" in Siselen, Switzerland. At the end of that month, I was a guest speaker at the Liberty House of Prayer in Independence, Louisiana. In June, on route to Greece, I taught at a home fellowship in the Netherlands. Then I presented "That the Church May Receive Edifying" in Thassos, Greece, and "If Ye Do These Things, Ye Shall Never Fall" in Thessaloniki. In July, I presented "That the Church May Receive Edifying" in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and next week I head out for Lansing, Michigan, for another presentation of that class.

By the grace and mercy of God, these were all joyous occasions to the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I want to thank all the people who helped make these events possible: in Wales, Carl and Vivienne Roberts; in Tallahassee, David and Sue Duris; I thank Alois and Regina Eggmann, who were my hosts in Switzerland, as well as Daniel and Tresa Bucher who helped organize that class and Beatrice Mantock, who did a marvelous job of interpreting for me. On behalf of myself and Steve Monahan, I'd like to thank Andy Calpin for being such a great host during our brief visit in the Netherlands, and also Mary Calpin for opening her home to our fellowship meeting. Thanks to Dimitris and Marjo Pelidis and to Todd and Evi Pekel for all the work they did to help the

classes in Greece go so well. (Steve's report on our Greek adventure appears later in this issue.) And finally, thanks to Jay and Jerelyn Pearson for their hospitality during a wonderful class in Louisiana.

I thank God for His Word's assurance that your labor will not go unrewarded.

For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. (Heb. 6:10)

My schedule for this year is about complete. In late August, I will be returning to England to teach the premier presentation of "The Exceeding Greatness of His Power" which is the second part of the Weapons of Our Warfare class. Coming up in late October is the premier presentation of the Children's course on the Weapons of Our Warfare in Cornwall, England. I have also accepted an invitation to present Part Two of the Weapons of Our Warfare series in Michigan in early November.

Already, I have received several invitations for the coming year. Regarding all upcoming events, the wisdom of James endures: "For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that" (James 4:15). By and in His infinite grace, I hope for continuing opportunities to serve you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this newsletter.

In the service of His Majesty, the King of kings,

Rev. Tim Sullivan



The Sin of Presumption

by Tim Sullivan

It seems a common problem among people who want to be considered the servants of the Lord: We are rarely (if ever) satisfied with the quality of our service. Personally speaking, there isn't a day goes by that I don't feel like I should be doing more for the Lord. Now, this is an acceptable state of mind so long as it remains in check. I'd hate to be guilty of harboring a self-satisfied spirit. On the other hand, I know that it is faithful obedience and not religious activity that is the key to pleasing God. Whatsoever I do in the name of the Lord is pleasing to Him only so long as He wanted that thing done.

This desire to "do more" is what makes us susceptible to the sin of presumptuousness. We who desire to live by faith sometimes think that in order to "prove ourselves" we should be willing to take chances or "walk out on a limb" for God's holy cause.

Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. (Psalm 19:13)

The "great transgression" of Psalm 19:13 is disobedience in the name of the Lord. It is the sin of presumption, to act without authority or permission, supposing that God is somehow obligated to support you in your chosen venture. Webster's Dictionary tells us that presumption is "marked by headstrong confidence; it is unreasonable adventurousness; it is venturing to undertake something without reasonable prospect of success, or against the usual probabilities of safety." Our Lord does not want us to be presumptuous. He wants us to follow Him and to act within the boundaries He sets.

One of the Biblical qualifications to the office of an elder is that the candidate be not selfwilled.

For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; (Titus 1:7)

To be selfwilled is to be presumptuous. It is presumptuous for anyone to think he can best serve God outside the confines of His holy government. Those who despise God's government despise the God who ordained it.

But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous

are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. (2 Peter 2:10)

And the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there before the LORD thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel. And all the people shall hear, and fear, and do no more presumptuously. (Deut. 17:12-13)

The people of God can rest assured that God keeps His eyes on those He entrusts with the oversight of His flock.

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. (1 Peter 5:2,3)

Every overseer will give account of his rule.

Obeys them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. (Hebrews 13:17)

So often it is the presumptuous behavior of the elders themselves that leads others to despise their rule. Such is the case of those who claim to speak for the Lord when He has not in fact spoken to them.

But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him. (Deuteronomy 18:20-22)

Here we read of a company of selfwilled soldiers who went presumptuously into battle.

Then ye answered and said unto me, We have sinned against the LORD, we will go up and fight, according to all that the LORD our God commanded us. And when ye had girded on every man his weapons of war, ye were ready to go up into the hill. And the LORD said unto me, Say unto them, Go not up, neither fight; for I am not among you; lest ye be smitten before your enemies. So I spake unto you; and ye would not hear, but rebelled against the commandment of the LORD, and went presumptuously up into the hill. And the Amorites, which dwelt in that mountain, came out against you, and chased you, as bees do, and destroyed

you in Seir, even unto Hormah. And ye returned and wept before the LORD; but the LORD would not hearken to your voice, nor give ear unto you.

(Deuteronomy 1:41-45)

These soldiers were not lacking in weapons of warfare, nor were they lacking in zeal. Their lack was in obedience. They failed because they “went presumptuously up into the hill.” Zechariah 4:6b declares, “Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.” Yes, the testimony of Romans 8:31 is true: “If God be for us, who can be against us?” But let us never *presume* that God is for us! If our cause is not the Lord’s cause, our striving will be in vain.

The tragic death of King Josiah testifies of a man who died as a result of a presumptuous sin. Josiah got involved in a fight that was none of his business.

After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Carchemish by Euphrates: and Josiah went out against him. But he sent ambassadors to him, saying, What have I to do with thee, thou king of Judah? I come not against thee this day, but against the house wherewith I have war: for God commanded me to make haste: forbear thee from meddling with God, who is with me, that he destroy thee not. (2 Chronicles 35: 20, 21)

The king of Egypt warned Josiah to stop meddling with God, and mind his own business. But Josiah would not hearken to his counsel.

Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo. And the archers shot at king Josiah; and the king said to his servants, Have me away; for I am sore wounded. His servants therefore took him out of that chariot, and put him in the second chariot that he had; and they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died, and was buried in one of the sepulchres of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah. And Jeremiah lamented for Josiah: and all the singing men and the singing women spake of Josiah in their lamentations to this day, and made them an ordinance in Israel: and, behold, they are written in the lamentations.

(2 Chronicles 35: 22-25)

Josiah was among the finest of all the kings of Judah. How Jeremiah must have wept! He knew Josiah should not have died in battle that day. He should not have even been on the battlefield.

Compare Josiah’s defeat with King David’s victory as recorded in 1 Chronicles 14.

And David enquired of God, saying, Shall I go up against the Philistines? and wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto him, Go up; for I will deliver them into thine hand. So they came up to Baalperazim; and David smote them there...

(1 Chronicles 14:10-11a)

David knew that being one of God’s chosen people did not, in and of itself, guarantee his victory. It certainly put him in the best possible position for success, a “golden opportunity” if there ever was one! It did not, however, give him license to be selfwilled. His success was determined by his obedience.

There is a lovely saying that is popular among Christians today: “What would Jesus do?” This is fine and proper in its true context. Our Lord left many wonderful examples for us to follow. But we must not misinterpret this saying to suggest that we should try to *figure out* the proper Christian response to a situation at hand. Imagine walking into a church that seems more preoccupied with the sale of religious goods than with true worship. You ask yourself, “What would Jesus do?” Well, on one occasion, He overturned all the tables and drove the merchants out of the building! Is that what the Lord wants you to do? You’d better be sure!

When you ask, “What would Jesus do?” *who* are you asking? If you are asking *yourself*, you are asking for trouble! Rather than ask yourself, “What would Jesus do?” ask, “Lord, what would You have me to do?” The best response to the query “What would Jesus do?” is that He would seek the will of His Father.

...I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.(John 5:30b)

The triumph of Elijah over the prophets of Baal demonstrates the victory that is ours through obedience.

And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word. Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

(1 Kings 18:21-24)

All through the day, the prophets of Baal called upon the name of their dark lord without success. Finally, they gave up. Now it was Elijah's turn.

And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded. And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down. And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name: And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time. And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

(1 Kings 18:29-35)

Talk about high drama! The high priests of darkness watched in wonder and mounting terror as men poured four, eight, no, twelve barrels of water over the altar. The evening sky, growing dark as the sun sank into the horizon, provided the perfect backdrop...

And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. (1 Kings 18:36)

No wonder Elijah was so absolutely confident! He knew there would be no answer from Baal. He knew the fire from heaven would fall at the precise moment God told him it would. "Let it be known that I am thy servant!" he cried out, "And I have done all these things at thy word!"

Maybe I should write a book called "The Elijah Prayer" and teach that his prayer is a template of how all prayers should be prayed. It might even become a best seller! But does that mean all such prayers would be answered? Not unless each petitioner could say as did Elijah, "I have done all these things at thy word."

Imagine if Elijah thought, "Wow, that worked out awfully well! I think I'll try it again next Sunday with the Philistines!" Would he have had the same success? Of

course not! But don't we do the same thing when we devise situations of our own minds by which we intend to "prove" God?

What Elijah knew is the same thing that all great men of prayer have known. The first thing to discover is God's will. Do you really think God would have answered George Mueller's famous petitions for his orphanages if God did not want those orphanages built in the first place? Of course not.

That is why I like to say I do not believe in prayer. I hope that statement shocks you, but I also hope you will see my point: No, I don't believe in *prayer*. I believe in *God* and that is why I pray. I do not believe in reading the Bible. I believe in *God* and that is why I read His Word. My faith is in Him, and not in rituals.

What can we learn from the examples of Josiah, David and Elijah? God does not want us taking chances, acting presumptuously and calling it faith. He doesn't want us meddling in situations that are not our business. Therefore, we should pray for wisdom, that we be kept back from presumptuous sins and instead enjoy the victories that have been set in front of us.

Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. (Psalm 19:13)

God does not set battles in front of you. God sets *victories* before you. I pray you will enjoy a victorious life of service to the Most High.



One Soldier Speaks:

**Jesus Christ said:
"Without Me you can do nothing"
(Keep your Shoulders under your Head)**

by Jay Pearson
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Initially as a born again Christian when I read the Word I would run out and apply it in a situation I found to be similar. Results appeared to be sometimes productive. Now I know that I was very short sighted.

As I began to mature I would receive a word of knowledge, quickly bolt from the source, run out to do what I thought it was meant to accomplish. Again sometimes it appeared to be productive.

As I continued to mature I would even wait for a word of wisdom, quickly sever the connection and run to do what I knew I should do on my own; for now I not only knew about the situation, but I knew what to do with it. Ah, and sometimes it appeared to be a productive result and sometimes not. I was left to wonder what was I missing.

Continuing to mature I would collect an awareness and even receive such to the need of spiritual weaponry and techniques of spiritual warfare. Adding to my arsenal and filling my quiver with such things as faith, helmet of salvation, my feet shod with the preparation of the gospel, speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues and prophecy. My duffel bag was full. I was ready for the course. I was primed, pumped and full of zeal, knowledge and even power. Now I was perfectly trained, equipped and supplied. How could I go wrong?

Sprinting in the direction of need I began to minister that which I chose to do. Sometimes the results appeared to work. Yes, you are right, sometimes not. Sometimes people received. Sometimes I got my donkey kicked and sometimes I got trampled. I asked the Lord, what is wrong? A still small voice replied, "Without Me you can do nothing." I fell on my face before him totally exhausted, out of gas, feeling incomplete. I was refueled, recharged and repented of my sins and received all the forgiveness I could hold. I rose to my feet and ran off and did the same thing and received the same results. Exhausted again, I heard the same thing, "Without Me you can do nothing."

Have you ever tried to operate an electric drill with a 12-foot cord 14 feet from the wall socket without an extension cord? How about a battery drill with a one-day life charge for 4 days without recharging? You can have all the things mentioned in I Corinthians chapters 12-14, but without the Lord you can do nothing. Yes you can know and you can have all things pertaining to God, but without Jesus Christ you can do nothing. Jesus Christ is life, your life when you are born again. Without Jesus you can do nothing, but with the Lord, Philippians 4:13 says you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.

You can not store enough of His power within you to operate alone. When you break the connection the power is gone. The power emanates from and is Christ. All the fullness of the Godhead is resident within Him. He is Lord, Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son. He

is the head and you are the body. Praise God for the King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Christ.

As a closing resolution to the aforementioned dilemma: Wait on the Lord, ye are complete in Him. Don't go without or beyond your Direction. Wait upon the Lord, every situation will be resolved according to His will, time and purpose when you operate in Him.

The one and only appropriate alignment with God is to be under Jesus Christ. Keep your shoulders under your HEAD and you will be complete as a Christian in perfect alignment with God and his Son. The emphasis here is HEAD. This is where you receive direction. Jesus Christ is not only the answer but also the question. He is everything and you belong to Him.

One soldier speaks by the grace of God and in His holy name, Jesus Christ our Lord. Please remember, Without Him you can do nothing.



The Unpossessed Land

by Evan Pyle
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

I was always under the impression that, under Joshua, Israel took all, or almost all, of the land promised by God. In fact, Joshua 11:23 seems to say just this. "So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And the land rested from war."

Yet, Joshua 13:1 found the aged and failing Joshua receiving a message from God by utterance that very much land remained yet to be possessed. "Now Joshua was old and stricken in years; and the Lord said unto him, Thou art old and stricken in years, and there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed." The chapter goes on to list areas and territories which Israel had yet to conquer. Yes, Israel had made great conquests, and had rest from their enemies around them. Yet God had more in store for them, and He would have cleared the way for them had they merely entered these unconquered territories by faith. God had swept their enemies before them every time. Apparently, though, Israel had collectively reached a place of "good enough". God's

promises to Abraham in Genesis shows that Israel never occupied more than perhaps a fourth of the geographical area God described to Abraham.

Have you, like me, asked yourself how many times you have stopped short of occupying territory God would have you to occupy and subdue for His kingdom? Honestly, I think of this truth primarily in terms of areas of my life that God is calling me to subdue and place under His Lordship. We have limited God by being satisfied with less than our full inheritance. We see the victories and are satisfied. We think that it is “good enough” when the Lord has predestined a calling for us that goes beyond the present accomplishments.

As a consequence of stopping short, two things have happened in our lives. First, we fail to labor in fields God meant for us and, second, we fail to drive the “inhabitants” (those besetting sins) out of the territory we do occupy. These “inhabitants” that have been allowed to remain plague us as they did the Israelites, in seeking to turn them from following God.

Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, even these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you: Know for a certainty that the Lord your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the Lord your God hath given you.
(Joshua 23:12,13)

Thy substance and thy treasures will I give to the spoil without price, and that for all thy sins, even in all thy borders. (Jeremiah 15:13)

Speaking from personal experience, I fear we grow tired of the struggle and regrettably settle for good enough. But “good enough” never is, is it? Our place of rest as Christians is not in ceasing from the struggle, but in entering and occupying new territory for the Lord.

Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.
(Hebrews 4:11)

There are lasting riches and great blessing for the faithful soldiers who fulfill their calling without falling short, who like Paul can say, “I have finished my course, I have kept the faith”.

He maketh peace in thy borders, and filleth thee with the finest of the wheat. (Psalms 147:14)

And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones.
(Isaiah 54:12)



Caleb's Strength

by Todd Pikel
Thessaloniki, Greece

One needn't search too hard to find admirable people in the Bible. The obedience and meekness of a Moses, the valor and pure-heartedness of a David, or the courage and eloquence of an apostle Paul make them favorites among those of us who read of their lives and exploits even centuries later. Another of our forefathers in the faith, however, has not only gained my admiration, but has through his example, opened my eyes to a greater understanding concerning our walk with God.

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them. And Moses by the commandment of the LORD sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men were heads of the children of Israel. And these were their names: of the tribe of Reuben, Shammua the son of Zaccur. Of the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat the son of Hori. Of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh. (Numbers 13:1-6)

We first learn of Caleb as being one of the men that Moses sent to spy out the Promised Land. It's important to note that Moses didn't chose these men haphazardly, but rather, “by the commandment of the Lord.” Moreover, these rulers in their respective tribes were given a job to do.

And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said unto them, Get you up this way southward, and go up into the mountain: And see the land, what it is; and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many; And what the land is that they dwell in, whether it be good or bad; and what cities they be that they dwell in, whether in tents, or in strong holds; And what the land is, whether it be fat or lean, whether there be wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land.
(Numbers 13:17-20)

Their assignment seems simple enough. They were to go and see the land and bring back a report concerning the cities, their inhabitants and whether the land was fat or lean. Upon their return to Moses and the children of Israel, they brought back proof of the fat-

ness of the land.

And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs. The place was called the brook Eshcol, because of the cluster of grapes which the children of Israel cut down from thence. And they returned from searching of the land after forty days. (Numbers 13:23-25)

Now it appears that a favorable report is to follow, especially after bringing back such convincing evidence of the fatness of the land.

And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land. And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. (Numbers 13:25-27)

“Surely it floweth with milk and honey,” are the words they use echoing the words God used to describe the land that He had promised to their fathers. Their report, however, is *not* concluded.

Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. (Numbers 13:28)

Now their fear and lack of faith is revealed. These men saw the inhabitants and cities in *their own* strength. “The people be *strong*...the cities are walled and *very great*...we saw the children of *Anak* there.” Surely, Caleb must have seen the walled cities and the children of Anak, yet his message is quite different from those that went with him to spy out the land.

And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. (Numbers 13:30)

“Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it,” are the words Caleb said to Moses and the children of Israel.

But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak,

which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight. (Numbers 13:31-33)

These men brought up an evil report of the land. They said it was “a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof.” Moreover, they said, “the people are stronger than we...men of great stature...giants...we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in theirs.” These men only saw the giants and the walled cities. They forgot that God was on their side. Their report was based on *their own* strength.

And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt. (Numbers 14:1-4)

Those people (whose strength is their own) have no choice but to return to bondage and the land of Egypt...the very thing they had been delivered from!

And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not. (Num. 14:6-9)

Do you see it? Caleb’s strength was not his own. Caleb was *strong in the Lord*. “If the Lord delight in us, then *He* will bring us into this land and give it us.” The Lord said of Caleb that he “hath followed me fully.” Therefore, Caleb receives a promise from the Lord.

But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it. (Numbers 14:24)

The children of Israel *also* receive a promise from the Lord. A promise as sure and true as the one Caleb received.

Because all those men which have seen my glory, and

my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; Surely they shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:

(Numbers 14:22,23)

Now, forty plus years later, after the promises of God were fulfilled concerning those that provoked Him, the children of Judah come to Joshua who is dividing the land among all the children of Israel.

Then the children of Judah came unto Joshua in Gilgal: and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite said unto him, Thou knowest the thing that the LORD said unto Moses the man of God concerning me and thee in Kadesh-barnea. (Joshua 14:6)

Caleb reminds Joshua of the events that had occurred forty-five years earlier.

Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh-barnea to espy out the land; and I brought him word again as it was in mine heart. Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the LORD my God. And Moses swore on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God. (Joshua 14:7-9)

Again, Caleb's strength in the Lord can be seen.

And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the LORD spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old. As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in. (Joshua 14:10,11)

What a tremendous statement! As his strength was then, said Caleb, *"even so is my strength now."* Remember that these words are coming from the lips of an eighty-five year old man! Now, no eighty-five year old is going to have the strength of a forty-year-old. But Caleb's strength was not his own, Caleb *was strong in the Lord!*

Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the LORD spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the LORD will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the LORD said. (Joshua 14:12)

Caleb's inheritance was among the giants, the sons of Anak. The cities were great and fenced and yet this eighty-five year old man knew the secret to his success or failure. *"If so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out...AS THE LORD SAID!*

And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance. Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite unto this day, because that he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel.

(Joshua 14:13,14)

Now what do you suppose happened when Caleb went to possess the land?

And they gave Hebron unto Caleb, as Moses said: and he expelled thence the three sons of Anak.

(Judges 1:20)

Let us learn, as Caleb well knew, where our strength needs to be. Let those who endeavor to wholly follow the Lord our God be as strong as Caleb by making the Lord our strength. May we also say, *"as my strength was then, even so is it now, for war, both to go out, and to come in."*

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. (Ephesians 6:10)



In the Footsteps of Paul

by Steve Monahan
Ponchatoola, Louisiana

(Introduction by Tim Sullivan)

Over 20 years ago, I was living in Oak Park, Illinois doing a sort of missionary work. I had been sent there along with a small band of Christians which included the then-newly-married Steve and Debra Monahan. We did the best we knew to study the Bible and testify of the Lord. At one point, I painted a large map of Greece on our living room wall to help in our study of Paul's travels in Greece.

Years went by and I lost contact with the Monahans. By the time our paths crossed again, we had children who were not that much younger than we were when we'd first met! We were soon to discover that our friendship, rooted in our Christian faith, had been only enriched by the years.

This summer, in what was my third trip to Greece, I had the added blessing of the company of my friend Steve. We arrived in Greece after a short stopover in the Nether-

lands, where we enjoyed a wonderful fellowship with the believers there. From there we traveled to the cities we once knew only as names in the Bible and dots on our living room wall. This is his report of our trip to Greece, which he has with characteristic good humor subtitled:

“Four Men in a Small Car”

On the night of June 20th, 2002, Tim and I arrived at the airport in Thessaloniki, Greece and were welcomed by our host, Todd Pekel, and by Rudolf Illavsky (of Vienna, Austria), our travel companions for the next ten days. We promptly *stuffed* our luggage and ourselves into a mid-size automobile and off we went for a night’s rest in Halkidiki, a village beside the Aegean Sea.

The next morning we traveled along the coast to the city of Kavala, known in the apostle Paul’s day as Neapolis (see Acts 16:6-12), and then by ferry to the island of Thassos. Here, hosted by our brother in the Lord, Dimitris Pelidis, Tim presented the weekend seminar on the utterance gifts of the Spirit entitled, “That the Church May Receive Edifying.”

Since it would be useless to try to describe the whole experience, I’ll just share a few impressions; the first being of the joy of having fellowship with brothers and sisters of different national origins. Though our native tongues weren’t the same, we sure spoke the same language when it came to our love of the Lord, our desire to grow up in Him, be led by the Spirit and walk in holiness. This was very much in evidence during the class. We formed bonds as we feasted together on God’s Word and on really good food between sessions. In the end, some spoke with *other* tongues for the first time, and interpreted and one very earnest brother was baptized in the sea.

I was also strongly impressed with the reality that as nations go, the USA is brand new. Greece *is not*! Standing in cities continuously inhabited for around three thousand years, or in the midst of ancient ruins, I felt a sense of the piling up of the centuries of mankind, along with a sobering certainty that we are now very near the end of those centuries. The day of the Lord is at hand. Brothers and sisters, this is real! Let us take heed to ourselves.

After the class in Thassos, we four (Todd, Rudi, Tim and myself) got in the car, ferried to Kavala/Neapolis, and drove on to ancient Philippi where we saw the river when Paul met Lydia (see Acts 16:13-15) and the mar-

ketplace where he and Silas were beaten. More old stones, more pondering, then it was back in the car to Thessaloniki (see Acts 17:1-9). The next day we got into an even *smaller* car, in which we spend significant portions of the next three days (Todd did all the driving, bless his heart!) as we visited Veroia (Berea), Athens and Corinth.

One vivid experience that stood out for me in all this occurred at Corinth. As I walked through the ruins of the ancient city considering the lives of those to whom Paul first wrote his epistles, I was struck by the realization that those people are GONE – those who heeded the Apostle’s admonition and those who did not. It’s over for them, and God alone remembers their deeds, which are now sealed in a book to be opened at the Judgment. “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10). Let’s not forget that though we are saved by grace through faith, our faith (or lack of it) is revealed by what we *do*.

How appropriate that having finished our tour, we returned to Thessaloniki for the final weekend seminar. This one, hosted by Todd, was entitled, “If Ye Do These Things, Ye Shall Never Fall.” If you are willing to take heed to yourself, to be convicted – touched by God in uncomfortable places, this exposition of 2 Peter 1:1-10 is something you would do well to hear. Presented with love and compassion but without compromise, I believe that it is a vital teaching for the Church in our day.

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to this wonderful week. I’d like to thank Todd and Evi and Dimitris and Marjo for their hospitality, Elias and Aleka, Iannis, Nikos and Zoi, Simmos and Olga, Theano and others as well for making me feel welcome and wanted. Also thanks to Rudi for encouragement in things where I’ve lacked confidence. Finally, I’d like to express my deepest thanks to my home church, The Liberty House of Prayer, pastored by Bro. Vince Falcone, for sponsoring my trip.

(Steve has put together a 60-minute slide presentation of our travels in Greece. If your church group would be interested in having him make his presentation, please contact Steve via the office of Workers Together With Him for scheduling. We also recorded a video of our travels that we plan to release in three formats: in English, in German and in Spanish. I anticipate this project will be completed by the new year.)



But By The Holy Ghost

by George Straub
Zug, Switzerland

Sometimes I think back to how I studied the Bible in the past. I used to have many sophisticated books on my desk and the best Bible program on my computer. And in my heart I had one thought: I wanted to meet the man who was able to do more difficult and outstanding research than I, for surely he alone would be able to lead me to greater understanding of the truth. Although I now realize my work was only an intellectual pastime, at the time I was convinced I was doing the will of God.

These days are past. I now enjoy a new freedom and a new way of studying the Word of God. I rely on neither sophisticated books or computer programs. The Bible and the Spirit of God are more than enough.

It was a real new and exciting experience for me when I was preparing a teaching a few month ago. I prayed for the guidance of the Lord and asked Him to enlighten my eyes that I can see the things He wants me to know. I stood up and there in my mind was verse 3b of 1 Corinthians 12: "and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost."

It is interesting to note that I never understood this verse before. I was secretly convinced that there had to be a corruption somewhere in the original Greek manuscript. But on this day I had not only the verse in my mind but also the interpretation: "no man can say Jesus is the Lord unless God has revealed it to him." This was a wonderful truth to discover. It was such a refreshing thought to realize the magnitude of grace of God and that it was not our work which had saved us. God revealed to us the truth. He opened our eyes to the truth about His Son and we believed it. We believed the revelation.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Another passage which followed easily to my mind was from the gospel of Matthew:

When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say

that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. (Matthew 16:13-17)

I had long wondered why Jesus said to Simon Peter "for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." Why was it necessary that God reveal the truth about Jesus to Peter? Didn't the apostles take this truth for granted? They lived many days together with Jesus. They had seen the miracles He did. Again, the answer was found in 1 Corinthians 12:3b: No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. Even the personal presence of Jesus was not enough. God had to reveal to their hearts who this man was. "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." What a wonderful truth to keep in mind as we continue to search the Scriptures to learn the wonderful things of God!



Coming Soon!

The Children's Class on The Weapons of our Warfare

In the book of 1 Samuel we read of David's famous battle with the champion of the Philistines, the giant Goliath. Just before David ran to face the giant, King Saul tried to persuade David to borrow his armor.

And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him. (1 Sam. 17:38-39)

King Saul was not only a fully-grown adult, but "from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people" (1 Sam. 9:2). Saul's armor would not have served David at all. In fact, Saul's armor would have been a great hindrance to David, too much for him to bear, and unsuited for his battle.

With this Biblical truth in mind, I am pleased to an-

nounce that I will be teaching a new course entitled "The Children's Class on the Weapons Of Our Warfare" for children aged six to sixteen. This class will be held in Cornwall, England. In content and in schedule, this class has been specially adapted for children.

We will learn about the nine gifts of the Spirit, the weapons of our spiritual warfare. Students will be led into their practical use as well. At the same time, we will learn about many of the key people and events of the Bible. We will study about the week of Creation; Adam and Eve; Noah and the ark; Abraham and Sarah; Joseph and the Pharaoh's dream. We will read about Moses; Joshua; David; Solomon; Balaam and the talking donkey; the prophets Elijah and Elisha; Daniel and the lion's den; Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the burning fiery furnace. We will also learn about John the Baptist, the Apostles, and of course, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This class will be taught from Sunday, October 20 to Saturday, October 27, with lessons from 9:00 to 11:00 in the morning and 2:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon. There will be a water baptism service on Saturday, October 26th for all that have not yet been baptized. The class will conclude with a graduation service on Sunday, October 27th.

We will be using the Authorized King James Version of the Bible, so please make sure your children bring one to class, preferably a "big-letter" edition.

While the children classes are in session, there will be special adult fellowships as well. Todd Pekel will be on hand to present his original seminar, "The House of God." Other speakers will include Jerome Lucas of England, Carl Roberts of Wales and Ray Beard of Alaska, USA.

This class, like all seminars presented by Workers Together With Him, will be free of charge. An offering for the continued work of Workers Together With Him will be received at the conclusion of the week.

Those of you who were in attendance at the Weapons of Our Warfare seminar held at this location a few years ago will remember how wonderfully scenic this location is. Space is extremely limited, so register now! Please contact Rev. Jerome Lucas for more information.

Telephone: 044-208-248-3798;

E-mail: wtogetherwithhim@aol.com

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The WTWH Bookstore

Books by Rev. Tim Sullivan:

The Weapons of our Warfare

Forty-four chapters of Biblical teaching on the Weapons of Our Warfare, the nine spiritual gifts given by God to the Church today. (432 pages, published 2001) Suggested donation \$20.00.

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*. (110 pages, published 1999) Suggested donation: \$10.00

Auf Der Strasse Des Königs Gehen

The German edition of *Walking On The King's Highway* translated by Beatrice Mantock. (84 pages, published 2000. Available in Europe only). Suggested donation \$10.00

If Ye Do These Things, Ye Shall Never Fall

Lessons on: *Faith; Virtue; Knowledge; Temperance; Patience; Godliness; Brotherly Kindness and Charity*. (120 pages, published 1998) Suggested donation \$10.00

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*. (100 pages, published 1996). Suggested donation \$10.00

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The House Of God by Rev. Todd Pekel:

Chapters entitled: *Christ the Spiritual Rock, Christ the Foundation, Christ the Chief-Cornerstone, Christ the Head, Christ the Temple* and *Christ the Door*. (58 pages, published 2000). Suggested donation \$10.00

Workers Together With Him

Upcoming Events

August 2-4: That The Church May Receive Edifying
(Part 1 of the Weapons of Our Warfare series)

Hosted by Jim and Shawnee Vickery, Lansing, Michigan, USA

August 28-31: The Exceeding Greatness of His Power
(Part 2 of the Weapons of Our Warfare series)

Hosted by Jerome and Aine Lucas, South Harrow, England, UK

October 20-27: The Children's Class on The Weapons of Our Warfare

Hosted by Jerome and Aine Lucas, Cornwall, England, UK

November 8-10: The Exceeding Greatness of His Power
(Part 2 of the Weapons of Our Warfare series)

Hosted by Jim and Shawnee Vickery, Lansing, Michigan, USA

For additional information, or to request a class in your area, please write or call our office.

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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 various publications. This ministry is financed entirely by the tithes and offerings of its supporters.

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