



# The PARAKLETE

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## DISCOURAGEMENT – FIRST STEP TO DEPRESSION

Christian be ware when you get discouraged, because it can get worse by lapsing into depression. Most, if not all, of us have experienced moments of discouragement at some time in our lives.



The cause of this most common disorder could be anything from rejection by others, loss of a friend, problems with a child or even some difficulties at the Lord's Church.

Regardless of the cause of the hurt the pain is real.

I use the word "disorder" because it is not how we feel normally and causes abnormal behavior. It can happen to the young, the old, the rich or the poor, there is no status of life that shields one for discouragement.

Many in every congregation are experiencing it every Lord's Day. If we took a poll we would discover that one to five percent would admit it. However, a national survey reveals that the numbers are more like ten to twenty percent. If you'd ask your congregation if they have experienced depression (or discouragement), the numbers could even be higher. It is so common it is called the "common cold of the mind," and is being discovered more and more in young people.

It is estimated that eight million in the U. S. are so depressed that they can't effectively function at their jobs. We and our congregations are not immune, even though there are still some who question its existence in the Christian community. It is a human emotion, but we are not to live in that state of mind.

It is not a sin to be discouraged, but it is simply a response to life's situations, events, and relationships. However discouragement should not become a way of life for anyone, especially for a Christian. It is a sign that we are not reacting properly and must adjust our thinking. For example in the death of a loved one grief is a natural response. Grief is a good thing and is a protective device built within all of us. When we are going through it, it will give us time to adjust.

After the death of his son Abraham Lincoln said, "I think I shall never smile again," yet we have photographs of him after that event smiling. He needed time in recovery from that devastating loss. There is a difference between being unhappy and being discouraged. If my wife and I have a disagreement, I become unhappy, I don't like it, but it's part of living, so is discouragement, but that's different. Discouragement hurts all over, is mental in the beginning stages and can move to actual physiological disorder if not checked. Sleeping and eating habits are affected and perhaps to the extreme and is not a healthy way of life, physically as well as spiritually. So what can I do about it?

There are some very specific things we can do to prevent hurts and disappointments from becoming depression. One of these is to stop believing Satan's lies and believe God's truths. Here are a few examples: Satan's lie "God has left me." God's truths as He has said, "*I will never leave nor forsake you,*" Hebrews 13:5. Satan's lie, "No good can come from this." God's truth is "*All things work together for good to those who love the Lord and are called to His purpose,*" Romans 8:28. You may note that God does not say all things are good because they are not. However, He works through the bad, sad, or glad to work for our good.

One of Satan's lies is the "people have hurt you." But we are told that we do not wrestle with flesh and blood (people) but that we fight spiritual battles with the unseen world (Eph. 6:12).

Satan is very smooth in his misleading us just as he was in the garden when he twisted the very words of God and caused Adam and Eve to doubt. He has not changed. He used the lie that "God is punishing you." Yet we know from Scripture that God does not "punish His children," but that "*My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he disciplines everyone he accepts as a son,*" Heb. 12:5-6.

Sometimes it is so easy for Satan to cause us to think unscriptural because in times of discouragement we feel negative already.

## DISCOURAGE – FIRST STEP TO DEPRESSION

The Scriptures never hide the human side of our Bible heroes. King David was greatly distressed knowing the men were bitter and talking of stoning him. ***“But David found strength in the Lord God,”*** 1 Sam. 30:6. It doesn’t give a lot of detail but this much we know, his thoughts turned from the mind and attitude of men to that of his God. This is best accomplished by meditating on the Word of God. How can we know what God thinks? Only by what is recorded for our learning, the Bible.

Sometimes we have to remove ourselves from certain situations (TEMPORARILY). That is, not withdraw from life, but for a short time extricate ourselves from a problem so we can think clearly.

It has been written by others down through the ages that “we live in uncertain times.” Ask yourself, “Has there ever been a time in history when it wasn’t an uncertain time?” In addition I can’t think of one Bible character that did not have to deal with some traumatic experience. In fact some of the trauma in their lives would cause many in our age to just give up...but they did not. Why, because of their relationship to God.

Perhaps no Bible character has suffered more than Job. He had everything, family, name, plenty of wealth...but Satan used his influence to see that Job lost everything, children, wealth, livestock, crops, health and even his relationships. His response was ***“Naked I came from my mother’s womb and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, may the name of the Lord be praised,”*** Job 1:21

Follow the lives of Abraham, Moses, or nearly any prophet in the Old Testament and you will find that life presented problems that only God could solve. We serve the same God.

To face and handle these problems we need to surround ourselves with friends that can comfort us in times of need, 2 Cor. 1:4. However much of what is needed to get “back on track” is within ourselves. Learn to discern how God can use the discouragement for our good, Romans 8:29. Is He building a stronger Christian character within us? Is He teaching us compassion for others? Is He trying to teach us humility or a more loving attitude?

One thing is for sure, if He allows it in our lives it is for our good and the good of the Kingdom of God. No man (or woman) is an island, we are part of the whole, but we are not the whole.

## PRES MEETINGS SCHEDULED

**April 2** – Glen Este C of C, Cincinnati, OH, Terry Peer  
**April 23** – Mt. Byrd Christian Ch. Milton, KY, Aaron Snelling  
**May 14** – Central Christian Ch. Ironton, OH Willie Purdee  
**Denny - Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929**  
**Danny - Huntington, WV 304/633-5908**

## IT’S REALLY JUST THAT SIMPLE

A sick man visiting his friend and doctor in the doctor’s brand new office he turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and asked, “Doctor, I am afraid to die. Since you are an educated man and believer in Christ tell me what lies on the other side?”

The doctor softly replies, “I don’t know.” The man seemed shocked and said, “You don’t know? You, a Christian man, read the Bible, and yet you don’t know what’s on the other side?”

Just about that time there came a scratching and a whining at the door, as the doctor opened the door a little dog sprang into the room and leaped on the doctor’s lap and showed how happy he was.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, “Did you notice my dog? He’s never been in this room before. He didn’t know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing...I know my Master is there and that is enough.”

## THE LEGEND OF UNCLE SAM

Just how did the familiar cartoon character, Uncle Sam, come to be identified as a symbol of the United States?

No one knows for sure. But one theory is that Uncle Sam evolved from an actual person, businessman Samuel Wilson of Troy, NY, who was nicknamed “Uncle Sam.” Wilson supplied barrels of beef to the United States army during the War of 1812. He stamped these barrels with “U.S.” to indicate they were government property, but the soldiers on the front line dubbed the barrels as food from “Uncle Sam.” The nickname eventually came to be attached to the United States itself.

The cartoon figure of Uncle Sam as a goateed gentleman with top hat, bow tie, and striped pants evolved across several decades as political cartoonists depicted the United States through this drawing. But the one cartoonist credited with crystalizing this figure and giving it the touches that are still used today was Thomas Nast, a popular cartoonist of the late 1800s.

This cartoon symbol has been around a while, and so has the nation he represents. Long live Uncle Sam!

## **- .DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY . -**

### **Something lighthearted:**

While shopping for a bathroom scale, I found one that tracks not only weight but also body fat, bone mass, and water percentage. I nixed that one in favor of a low-tech model. As I told the salesperson, "I don't need to be depressed four ways; one is quite enough."

### **JOY IS OUR STRENGTH**

#### **Nehemiah 8: 10**

Nehemiah, a leader who God used to restore Israel and rebuild the city of Jerusalem was given a task. Did he have some reservations about this task? Yes. The people had been forced into exile because of their sin. Nehemiah gathered the people together, and the priest read the scriptures. The Children of God had gone a long time without hearing God's word. When they heard the word, they responded in sorrow, weeping, and mourning. I wonder what would happen today if people started reading God's Word with a listening heart and a receptive mind? Another question and maybe even more important is this, what would happen if we started listening to God speak to us through His Word?

Nehemiah, along with the others who taught the people said to them, ***"This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep."*** ***For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.***

***10 Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."***

How does all this relate to joy? It relates because Nehemiah understood God and His grace. As Nehemiah listened to God he realized that God had a plan and it was up to him and the other leaders to make the people understand God was in charge. If they obediently listened to God's Word their lives would be filled with joy, true joy provided by God.

Today, with all that is going on, should we listen to God's Word and bring joy into our lives? Could we possibly be listening more to what the

magazines, papers, TV and even politicians are telling us and our joy is nowhere to be found? Or if we have joy, it leaves us quickly because we are more inclined to hear all the worldly thoughts than what God might be saying to us.

One thing we have to grasp here is that there is a difference in **JOY** and **HAPPINESS**. We want joy, and we want an abundant portion of it but we have confused it with happiness. The difference between joy and happiness lives in the heart and mind.

There are different perspectives on these two words but not matter what one's thoughts are the idea that holds greater sway today is that experiencing happiness depends on what happens around you. Happiness happens to us. Even though we may seek it, desire it, pursue it, etc., feeling happiness is not a choice we make because life eliminates our happiness on a regular basis. Joy, on the other hand, is a choice purposefully made.

Joy is a fruit of the Spirit and we find that joy when we truly establish a relationship with God, a deep relationship, a daily relationship with the Father. That relationship comes when we listen to the Bible and allow it to lead us closer to Him.

Joy is inside us and God wants us to experience it, but occurrences in our days seem to take our joy away. No, our happiness may be dampened but our joy should still be practiced in our lives. It is possible to have joy in difficult times! It's possible to know joy or feel joy in spite of grief or uncertainty. Joy can be expressed without a smile on our face. Joy is present every moment while happiness seem to just be passing through. Happiness can be part of our lives for hours, days even weeks but in a instant it is gone. Joy is a constant, and God wants it that way.

Joy is based on hope and seeing the beauty of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is inside us to open our eyes to the glory of Christ. He doesn't do this without our thought or willingness. We must leave ourselves open to receive joy.

May I encourage you seek joy and I know that happiness will accompany it. "Joy is our strength!"

**Danny Evans is an associate and trustee  
of Barnabas Ministries**

## THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST

**TEXT: Ephesians 3:1-13**

The word "mystery" is used three times in these thirteen verses and each time refers to Christ. Paul states also that he is a prisoner of Christ and the word for prisoner is the Greek word "desmios" and means captive but not one held by force. Just as many today are held captive by many things they freely become captive by habit, intrigue, or some other reason, it is not by force. Paul felt compelled by the great "mystery" of our Lord particularly for the Gentiles.

Chapter 1 centers on the Father as Architect and Designer of the Church, Christ as the Purchaser, and the Holy Spirit as the Preserver of the Church. Chapter two explains mankind's (Jew and Gentile) deadness and were brought to life and placed in the Church.

### I. THE MYSTERY (3:1-6)

Christ and the Church were mysteries in that their place in the plan of God was "unknown" before.

#### A. PAUL'S POSITION

1. A PRISONER – for the Gentiles, v1
2. He considered it a work of grace, v2
3. The mystery was revealed to Paul, v3
4. By reading his writing others will know v4
5. See Acts 9:15-16

#### B. GOD'S SECRET PLAN

1. It was not revealed to the Prophets, v5
2. The mystery came in the Gospel, v6
3. The Gospel (death/burial/resurrection)
4. Who expected: One to die for others, One to have others sins placed on Him, or One to resurrect from the dead? – A Mystery!
5. This plan included all (Jew and Gentile)

### II. THE MYSTERY OF PAUL'S MINISTRY

#### A. HIS SURRENDERED ATTITUDE

1. He say it as a "gift" v7
2. It was a gift of God's grace (undeserved) v7
3. He realized it was by God's power, v7
4. See 1 Timothy 1:12

#### B. THE MYSTERY HUMBLED PAUL

1. Saw himself as "least" of God's people v8
2. He was handling the "unsearchable riches of Christ" v8
3. He had the gift to explain God's mystery
4. A ministry that even the Prophets didn't know, v9
5. He was to share with the Gentiles a mystery that was secret for 1000's of years, one that included Gentiles in light of Jewish

### III. GOD'S PUROSE IN THE MYSTERY

#### A. TO REVEAL HIS WISDOM (vv10-13)

1. Through the Church, v10
2. Revealed in heaven as well as earth, v10
3. Was His "eternal purpose" v11

#### B. THE MYSTERY REVEALED IN CHRIST

1. Faith gives access to the Father, v12
2. This faith allow us to approach God, v12

#### C. PAULS ANSWER TO DIFFICULTIES HERE

1. He asks us not to be discouraged, v13
2. Not even because of Paul's trials, v13
3. He suffered to reveal the mystery, v13
4. So we might enjoy eternal glory, v13

**CONCLUSION:** The world does not easily comprehend the "mystery" of God. Though His plan was always the same He kept it hid since time began so it could be progressively revealed. It would make no sense until we were proven to be unable to keep laws and commands. The law was simply to teach us we were hopeless without Jesus and that was the purpose of the Old Testament. It was to lead us to Christ, Gal. 3:24. The whole book of Galatians reveals the law was weak through our flesh, we could not keep the law, but we can have faith in Jesus.

## NOT GREATER THAN THE LORD

He walked on water  
While others stayed on board  
But then he sank

The servant is not greater than his Lord

They climbed a mountain  
And saw what angels long ago adored  
They fell and were afraid  
The servant is not greater than his Lord

Who is the greatest?  
Disciples of their Lord implored  
"He that is least among you all"  
The servant is not greater than his Lord

They wanted seats  
Those on the left and right to hoard  
They'll have to drink the cup  
The servant is not greater than his Lord

In upper room  
"Who is the greatest" brought discord  
You too must serve  
The servant is not greater than his Lord

The Head of man has washed their feet  
To bring them into one accord  
"You also ought to do the same"  
The servant is not greater than his Lord

Obedient unto death was He  
So be ye doers of the Word  
Partakers of His sufferings be  
The servant is not greater than his Lord

.-Manfred Langer, 4/12/95

## IT IS NOT EASY...

To apologize  
To begin over  
To take advice  
To be unselfish  
To admit error  
To be charitable  
To be considerate  
To say "I was wrong"  
To forgive and forget  
To think before you act  
To make the best of the bad  
To shoulder deserved blame  
To recognize the silver lining  
But it always pays to keep on trying

# BARN-a-book (a Barnabas Ministries study series)

## A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn Study Number One Hundred Twenty-one – Encouragement from Being Loved by God

God loves you. We need to let those words sink into our spirit. They are three of the most encouraging words that you can ever hear or speak. Many people in our world today are starving for God's love. Many people receive very little affirmation in their lives and very little love. I have heard many people say, with tears in their eyes, "My father never told me he loved me." I, myself never heard those words from my father. I don't blame him or feel he didn't love me, because he came out of an era where men didn't express their love well. I could tell he loved me, but I don't remember his ever saying those words to me. However, many never hear those words, nor even sense their father's love for them.

Some have never sensed a father's love because they lost their father when they were very young, perhaps even before they developed a memory of their father at all. Some have had fathers that were harsh and critical, and some had step-fathers that did not relate to them in a loving way and did not receive any affection or personal concern. This can create loneliness in their lives and for some it has a negative effect upon their lives in many ways and for many years.

Because of these things some have never "felt" the love of God in their hearts. They may know that God loves them on the basis of His Word, but never have the "feeling" that He loves them. I use the word "feeling" to mean they never sensed an internal reality of his love, only the intellectual understanding of the words.

One preacher said that he had ministered for many years before he had an experience in which he truly felt the love of God filling his heart. He said that it was an experience that he wished every person could have, stating "There's nothing as glorious this side of heaven as knowing that God loves you with an infinite, unconditional love and that it is out of His love that He has created you, forgiven you, and received you fully as his beloved child." It may help us all to look at a few of the wonderful truths about God's love for us.

- **GOD LOVES EACH ONE OF US UNCONDITIONALLY AND ABSOLUTELY.** God's love is absolute, and it does not change over time or according to your behavior. Consequences of bad behavior can rob you of the joy of that truth, as King David experienced. After he sinned he cried out "*Have mercy on me, O God according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions,*" Psalm 51:1. He then requests of God "*Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me,*" verse 12. This request had to be made because of his sin against God, but God still loved him absolutely. God's love is not influenced by circumstances, and it cannot be diminished.

God can never love you more than He loves you today, and neither can He love you less. He loves you because He created you and because He chooses to love you, now and every moment of your life. Nothing can separate you from God's love. "*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written*"

*"For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."*

*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who love us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, not any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creations, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord,"* Romans 8:35-39.

- **GOD LOVES US FIRST.** God does not wait for us to come to Him with an expression of love before He extends love to us. On the contrary, God loves us first. John said it simply and eloquently: "*We love Him because He first loved us,*" 1 John 4:19. God is always waiting with open arms, ready to receive those who turn to Him, and to bless us as His children.

In Jesus conversation with Nicodemus He stated, *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son,”* John 3:16-18. It should be noted that God loves the whole world and sent His Son to express His love before love was expressed to Him. God loved us first. We can be secure in God’s love that was expressed to us first and the goodness of God should lead to repentance. God loves us unconditionally and absolutely and that love was expressed to us before we thought of loving Him.

- **GOD’S LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.** I suppose every preacher has heard someone say: “I think God’s love has left me, I don’t feel loved by Him anymore,” or words to that effect. However, the Bible could not be clearer about the fact that God’s love endures forever. In Psalm 136 those very words: *“His love endures forever,”* is stated twenty-six times. Imagine, in one Psalm twenty-six times! Here are a few phrases that are followed by those words:

- ❖ *“For He is good, his love endures forever.”– verse 1*
- ❖ *“Who alone does great wonders, his love endures forever.” – verse 4*
- ❖ *“His understanding made the heavens, his love endures forever.” – verse 5*
- ❖ *“Who divided the Red Sea, his love endures forever” – verse 13*
- ❖ *“Who gave their land as an inheritance, his love endures forever.” – verse 21*
- ❖ *“Who give food to every creature, his love endures forever.” – verse 25*

Each of these statements and twenty others are followed by the words *“His love endures forever.”* God is the same yesterday, today and forever. He does not change and His love never fails.

Every person I know could use more encouragement and not just a little more encouragement, but a lot more encouragement. For the most part, our world is experiencing a drought of encouraging words, uplifting examples, genuine heroes, “good news” stories and genuine expressions of appreciation. We hear far more negative words of criticism, blame, and ridicule on a daily basis than we hear positive words of praise, recognition, and thankfulness.

Why is it that each of us has a deep need for encouragement, and yet so little encouragement is to be found? I believe the foremost reason is that so few people feel encouraged in their own spirits. It is very difficult to share with others something that you do not feel yourself. I believe that there is nothing more encouraging than knowing that God loves us.

Knowing His love, that is really sensing it, gives us dignity because we belong to Him and He has designed us as we are and after we have sinned He sent His Son to pay the price for that sin and gives us a down payment of His Holy Spirit. There is a hymn written by Mrs. Frank A. Breck titled “When Love Shines In” that expresses the results when one comprehends God’s love.

Jesus comes with power to gladden, when love shines in,  
Every life that woe can sadden, when love shines in.  
Love will teach us how to pray, love will drive the gloom away,  
Turn our darkness into day, when love shines in.  
How the world will grow with beauty, when love shines in  
And the heart rejoice in duty, when love shines in  
Trials may be sanctified, and the soul in peace abide,  
life will all be glorified, when love shines in.  
We may have unfading splendor, when love shines in,  
And a friendship true and tender, when love shines in.  
When earth victories shall be won and our love in heaven begun,  
There will be no need for sun, when love shines in.

God’s love is unconditional, absolute, first, and forever. That is real encouragement. Have a great day!

## IT'S NOT FAIR

We have all heard that statement or used it ourselves. We use it when we don't get our way or we don't get something we think we deserve. "My brother got a big sucker and I got a small one." "Tony gets to drive around in a brand new car and I'm still driving this old clunker." "Denny still has hair and I don't." Life is not fair! We should try telling that to Jesus who in His 33 years on earth had anything but an ideal life. He was rejected by most people and for a time His own family. He was arrested, nearly beaten to death, and carried His own cross to a place where they nailed Him to it, and we have the nerve to say life is not fair?

That's only a true statement about Jesus because He died on a cross to save us from our sin, that's not fair! When we receive Jesus as Lord and Savior we become "justified." Talk about not being fair, as a child of God we rise up from the waters of baptism with our sins washed away, we receive His Holy Spirit, and stand just as if we've never sinned, 2 Cor. 5:21. God made Jesus, who knew no sin, to be sin on our behalf and we become the righteousness of God in Christ. Friends, that is not fair.

Justification is from the Greek *dikaiosis* meaning we are acquitted of our guilt by the death of Jesus Christ. Another word closely related to that word is righteousness *dikaiosune*. Justification is being declared righteous in God's sight.

***"But now righteousness from God, apart from law has been made known to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe there is no difference...we are justified between Jew and Gentile for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus,"*** Rom. 3:21-24.

So the next time you think life is not fair remember what Jesus endured in His life to make us justified. We should never stop praising Him for what He has done. Until next time may God bless you all.

-Larry.

## OK, SO I'M NOT PERFECT!

Do you know of even one perfect Bible Character other than our Lord Jesus? I don't.

**Moses** lost his temper over trivialities.

**Abraham** got in trouble with authorities and tried to lie his way out of it.

**David** had a moral problem tried to murder his way out of it.

**Solomon**, though wise, didn't practice what he preached and had 800 women as his own.

**Hosea** divorced his wife and married a prostitute.

**Peter** had a bad temper and denied Christ.

The Scriptures do not hid mankind's flaws but exposes them to reveal that men, all men and women are in need of mercy and forgiveness. All Christians are sinners saved by grace, not goodness.

## SKEPTICISM

The word *skepticism* comes from the Latin word *scepticus* (inquiring, reflective, doubting). This Latin word, in turn, comes from the Greek word *scepsis* (inquiry, hesitation, doubt). Regarding the question of God's existence, skeptics are tentative in their beliefs, neither denying nor affirming God's existence. They are hesitant, doubtful, and unsure whether God exists. And if He does, skeptics are unsure whether people can know Him.

An obvious philosophical problem with this view is that skeptics are not skeptical that their skepticism is correct. They are not doubtful that their world view of doubt is accurate. In fact, skeptics seem certain that their viewpoint of uncertainty is true. They don't hesitate to affirm that their hesitancy is correct.

I love to ask skeptics questions like these: How do you explain the incredible evidence for intelligent design in our universe? What do you make of the 25,000 archaeological discoveries that even non-Christian archaeologist confirm the people, places, and events in the Bible? How do you explain the direct fulfillment of hundreds of Old Testament messianic prophecies in one person of Jesus Christ? Why do you suppose the New Testament writers were willing to suffer and die in defense of what they believe?

- Ron Rhodes

## THOUGHT FOR OLDER PEOPLE

The older I get the better I was.

## OPPORTUNITIES

**April 2** – PRES Meeting at Glen Este C of C, Cincinnati, OH, Terry Peer, Evangelist

**April 23** – PRES Meeting at Mt. Byrd Christian Church, Milton, KY, Aaron Snelling, Evangelist

**May 10-12** - Spring Clinic, Person to Person, Hillsboro, OH - Alex Eddy, Director

**May 14** – PRES Meeting at Central Christian Church, Ironton, OH, Willie Purdee, Evangelist

## DAFFY-NITIONS

**EGYPT** – Meaning, to cheat someone. “I paid ten bucks for this thing and it doesn’t even work, Egypt me.

**DEFEAT** – A part of the human anatomy. “Defeat is what takes you from place to place.”

**COMPOSURE** – The final act in planting shrub. “Joey, did you composure bushes after you transplanted them?”

**INNATE** – A numerical estimate such as, “I bet that I can make that shot innate tries.

## IRVING BERLIN AND “GOD BLESS AMERICA”

In 1892, a man by the name of Issy Balline emigrated from Russia to the United States. He was from a Jewish family. He became a song writer, changed his name, and we now know him as Irving Berlin.

He wrote, “God Bless America,” at the time of World War I, but he didn’t think it was a very good song, so he put it aside and it gathered dust on a shelf in his office.

In 1938, when it appeared that the world was headed for another war, Kate Smith, a popular singer came to Berlin and asked for a patriotic song to use in her daily radio broadcast.

Irving Berlin remembered his song, “God Bless America,” and he dusted it off and gave it to her who sang it on her radio broadcast. America has been singing it ever since.

It is a powerful prayer. Even on September 11, 2001, member of the United States Congress rose from their seats spontaneously and raised their voices in this song.

## A SIMPLE TRUTH

Faith in God will not get for you everything you want, but it will get for you what God wants you to have. The unbeliever does not need what he wants; the Christian should want only what he needs

-Vance Havner

## REAL FREEDOM IS NOT WANTING MORE THAN IS NEEDED AND NEEDING LITTLE CAUSE AND EFFECT

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing about whose profession was the oldest.

The surgeon said: “Eve was made from Adam’s rib, and that surely was a surgical operation.”

The architect said, “But prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job.” “But” interrupted the politician, “someone had to create the chaos first.”

## MINISTRY

“Ministry is...the calling of an inadequate man,

To an impossible task

For an indefinite period of time”

-Marshall Leggett

## A SENIOR’S LAMENT

I let my doctor check me, I didn’t feel just right.

Aches and pains wouldn’t let me sleep at night

He found no real disorder but didn’t let it rest

Since I have good insurance it wouldn’t hurt to test.

Sent me to the hospital, though I didn’t feel that bad I believe they gave me every test they had

Fluoroscope, cystoscope, my aging frame displayed

Stripped on an ice-cold table, my gizzards x-rayed.

I was checked for worms, parasites, fungus and crud

They pierced me with long needles taking my blood

Doctor then came and probed and poked around

To assure I was living they wired me for sound.

They finally concluded with result that filled a page  
What I have will someday kill me, my affliction is

OLD AGE

## THE SIN OF GOSSIP

Gossip is the tool of the coward.

Gossip is the product of shallow minds

Gossip is the diversion of a fool.

Gossip is like muddy streams that seeks to find its own level

Gossip is really lower than a viper

Gossip associates itself with lying.

## DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

What **BARNABAS MINISTRIES** believes

**BIBLE:** The only inspired record of God’s revelation to us

**SIN:** The only thing standing between God and man

**JESUS CHRIST:** The only perfect One who paid for sin

**THE GOSPEL:** The only record of Jesus’ life

**SALVATION:** The only hope of man

**FAITH:** is only “saving faith” if it includes repentance, confession of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and being baptized for the remission of sin.