



# The PARAKLETE

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## ENCOURAGEMENT EVEN IN STRUGGLES

There was an incident in my early Christian life that, at the time, seemed nothing more than a casual conversation with my brother Jay. Jay served as an elder at the Central Christian Church in Ironton, Ohio at the time. He went to be with the Lord in 1990.

In my formative years as a new Christian Jay encouraged me to be involved in everything related to the Lord's Church.

Quite often he and I would go on evangelistic calls on the night of the week the church scheduled for this purpose. After a call was made we'd sit in the car and chat for a while. As I recall this particular conversation took place in the winter and we had the motor running to keep us warm as we talked.

The conversation turned to our struggles to live as the Lord would have us to live (See Hebrews 12:4). We talked about our failures to live up to even our own expectations as men of God. On this night we talked for what seemed like hours, but looking back it was probably less than a half hour. We'd chuckle at some of the silly mistakes we'd made and with a lump in our throats and tears in our eyes, we'd talk of the heartbreak of missing the mark on more serious matters. We hugged and said goodbye for the evening and I thought that was the end of it.

About two weeks later Jay came to me in the church hallway and said our conversation was a blessing to one of the ladies in a class he had taught. He taught on a particular passage of Scripture that spoke of the struggles of living the Christian life (Eph. 6:12). A lady raised her hand and asked of the truth of the passage. In his reply he shared our conversation about our struggles. She replied, "I never would have guessed that you and Denny had a moment's difficulty to live the Christian life. You have no idea how encouraging it is to know you have to work at it also. Maybe I can make it after all."

Jay was happy to tell me of the conversation he had in class and I was thrilled that our private conversation he shared was an encouragement to her. The first thing that came to my mind were the words of Paul's struggles in Romans 7:7-25. I told Jay that passage came to me and he said it came to his mind also.

God wants us to realize struggles are good for us and we may need to share them with others at times. I know of no Christian who hasn't been disappointed in



IT NEEDS  
WORK TOO.

themselves. In the world, somewhere, there may be some egomaniac who is satisfied with himself and senses no need for further growth, but that's really an abnormal Christian self-view.

In thinking about the conversation in the car and the one Jay had in class, it came to mind that David had failed utterly, and yet God called him "a man after my own heart." I can recall the lie of Abraham (the father of faith), the anger of Moses, the sharp tongue of Elijah, the doubts of both Gideon in battle and of John the baptizer while in jail, the impatience of Peter, and the immaturity of Mark and the list goes on and on. Yet they were all men of God.

Why did God record these failures in the Bible? Only He knows the complete answer, but I can tell you what it has done for me as a Christian. It has encouraged me on more than a few occasions. It encouraged me:

1. When I fail, I recall that God's people are not robots but forgiven human beings who try to please Him.
2. When I fail, I remember good men and women have failed and God still used them, sometimes to do mighty things.
3. When I fail, I recall Jesus died to save me. Therefore, He's not looking for reasons to discard me, but rather ways to mature me.
4. When I fail, I'm reminded that I still have plenty of room for growth and can focus on improvement.

Think what an enormous ego we would develop if we thought for a moment that we had come to the end of our spiritual growth. The boasting, the arrogance and the accompanying pride would be too much for even a whisper of humility.

STRUGGLES ARE REMINDERS OF WHO WE ARE AND WHO GOD IS. THAT SHOULD CAUSE US TO LOOK UP FOR STRENGTH. IT SHOULD ALSO ENCOURAGE US TO DO BETTER, FOR HIS GLORY.

Isn't God wise in telling us "*If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purified us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is*

## ENCOURAGEMENT EVEN IN STRUGGLES

*faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives”,* (1 John 1:6-10, NIV).

Struggles build strength and knowing other Christians have the same struggle as we ourselves, gives us encouragement.

Acknowledging failures is not to condone sin in the slightest. Neither should we wallow in self-pity and give license to missing the mark. It's merely recognition of the truth and this should help eradicate pride.

We should avoid extremes in dealing with our struggles. We must not think it's acceptable to continue in substandard behavior “Just because others struggle too.” We must also avoid measuring ourselves by others and thinking we have arrived because we “struggle less” than others.

We should never purposely create a situation that would invite struggles. To do so would be artificial, unreal, and manufactured, serving no purpose. However, when the real thing comes along, we should learn and grow from it. Struggles are a part of Christian growth.

Knowing we're in the battle should be encouraging to us (See Romans 15:30). If we don't struggle, that's not necessarily a good thing. Psalm 73:3-7 ***“For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. They are free from the burdens common to man; They are not plagued by human ills. Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence. From their callous hearts come iniquity; the evil conceits of their minds know no limits.”***

Struggles strengthen us. Years ago when my boys were very young I went to the poultry farm and purchased two fertile eggs. I built a box and put a light for heat and a thermometer so I could regulate it. In time one egg hatched but the other didn't yet, though there was a crack in its shell. I helped it, I thought, by opening the shell a little, but it died. I had inadvertently killed the chick by not allowing it to do its own struggle to get out of the shell. We too must struggle.

### HIGHER GROUND TRAVELS THROUGH VALLEYS

“The basic question is not whether we have many or few valleys. It is not whether these valleys are dark or merely dim with shadows. The question is: How do we react to them? Or: How do we cope with the calamities that come our way?

With Christ we can face them calmly. With the Holy Spirit to guide me, I face them fearlessly. I know of a surety that only through them can I possibly travel on the higher ground with God” – Helen Keller.

Life may not be a struggle for a person who has plenty to live on, but nothing to live for. When you live for Christ you will have struggles, you will have valleys but the struggles do not last forever His mountain does.

## DENNY'S SCHEDULE

Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929

Denny has no speaking engagement for Nov-Dec at this time but is available as needed

## DANNY EVANS' SCHEDULE

Huntington, WBW 304/633-5908 (c) 304/736/2677

Danny too is available as this time of year many churches have in-house programs.

**IN CASE YOU HAVE NOT MARKED YOUR CALENDAR FOR WWW2020 THE DATES ARE – FEBRUARY 10-13, 2020. THESE ARE THE DAYS OF MON-THURS. MARK YOUR CALENDAR DEC. 31 is the DEADLINE for registration**

## SOME GOOD THOUGHTS FOR A GOOD DAY

Smile at people, it takes 72 muscles to frown, and only 14 to smile, so relax and smile.

Call people by name, the sweetest sound to a person is their own name from a friendly person.

Be friendly and helpful, the Scriptures tell us ***“a friend loves at all times,”*** Prov. 17:17.

Be cordial: Speak and be real. It will prove everything you do is a genuine pleasure.

Be genuinely interested in people. Just try it. It's difficult to like some people, but you can love all.

Be generous with praise. Be stingy with criticism and your opinion.

Be considerate. There are often three sides to a controversy, yours, theirs and right.

Be alert to give help. What we do for other's lives on and on.

Add to all of this a good sense of humor, loads of patience, a bit of humility and you will be rewarded with many friends. That's a promise, ***“A man that has friends must show himself friendly,”*** and ***“there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother,”*** Prov. 18:24

## PREACHER RECRUITMENT AND ENCOURAGEMENT SEMINAR (PRES)

This year at PRES we had approximately 65 preachers and 50 wives. We've had very good reports on the effectiveness of the program. It was meant to encourage preachers and their wives by letting them know they are not alone but part of a blessed group to share the Gospel. We love our preachers and have scheduled 2020 PRES on **August 21-22, MARK THE DATE!**



## - DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY. -

We are rapidly approaching a special time for the church. No, I'm not talking about Thanksgiving, Christmas or even the yearly gathering where we try to excite people in their spiritual lives, you know, "revivals." I think there are a few churches out there that still have revivals but that number is declining in a rapid fashion. The special time I have reference to is (now get ready for this) "Pastor Appreciation" day or month. It is that time each year when churches are encouraged to recognize the efforts of their preacher, they call "pastor," and reward him for his hard work. I totally understand the concept of this, but my head just spins trying to figure out who is being recognized. Yes, I get it that churches are supposed to support their preacher, but that is not what the title of the day or month states. Is the day respecting our preachers or are we noting the effort of elders (pastors)?"

Now I am not one who understands the Bible in large chunks but I think I grasp the thought that when "pastors" are referred to in the Bible it speaks of elders. They are the leaders who are shepherding the flock and leading them. But somewhere in time the term "pastors" has been applied to local preachers. When this time of lifting up the preacher was established, it should have been designated "Preacher Appreciation Day," or even better "Evangelist Appreciation Day."

I did some research and found "Pastor Appreciation Day" began as "Clergy Appreciation Month." In 1 Timothy 5:17 Paul wrote that the elders of the church are worthy of double honor. He reiterated this idea in 1 Thess. 5:12-13 when stated those who work among you should be held in the highest regard for their work. From this idea came the "Clergy Appreciation" in 1992, established for "pastors" and religious workers. Eventually it became "Pastor Appreciation," and once again the criterion for that appreciation is the elders, not the preacher.

I know there may be some that read this and say, "You must be kidding, what's the big deal?" I overheard someone (I forget the name) say "It would be hard to attend a church when the preacher doesn't even know what his responsibilities are." It is a "big deal" that we have changed titles and we call people by the wrong biblical name and change the meaning of the title when changed. For this we are now reaping the results.

Don't get me wrong, I truly believe preachers (or evangelists) should be recognized and encouraged for their work. Having spent years in the located

ministry, I know the work of a preacher isn't easy. Needless to say being a preacher is more than working one day a week and spending six by the pool eating chips or bonbons and playing golf. Being an evangelist is literally a 24/7 responsibility and unless you have served as a preacher you will not realize this.

Spending hours in homes comforting, by death beds, in hospitals, counseling young people, in emergency rooms, midnight phone responses, and the list could go on and on. If members followed the preacher in his hourly tasks they would get tired and want to set aside time to appreciate him. That would be good.

The day set aside to honor preachers is October 13<sup>th</sup>. You can celebrate the hard work of your preacher in a number of different ways. Each member can deliver a handwritten note with a gift card, or create a video presentation made of pictures of him in action over the years, or simple give him a heart-felt "thank you." But one of the most important ways to show you care is by assuring that you attend worship each week and listen to his message. Praying for him is one of the best ways to love him.

By the time you receive this the special day will have come and gone so let me say for you:

**"Thank you preacher for answering the call to be God's servant. Thanks for strengthening people's lives."**

HENRY AND  
SWEETIE SAY:



H: Sweetie, I've been thinking

S: Ah-Oh, we're in trouble!

H: Seriously, we should go to Hawaii for winter?

S: Henry, we can't afford to go to Hawaii season.

H: Sure we can. I've got it all worked out.

S: Yep, we're in trouble.

H: If we go to Hawaii for three months we would save money we spend on heating the house.

S: It would take more money than that, and what would we do about the church?

H: That's the brilliant part. We would not go to church over there and we could use that money too.

S: And if Jesus comes while we're neglecting His church and spending His money?

H: Sweetie, you disappoint me, you know its wrong, why did you even suggest we do that?

S: Henry, you are so spiritual.

H: Sometimes I inspire myself.

"Don't forsake the assembling of your selves together, as the manner of some is." Hebrews 10:25.

## SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS

**TEXT:** ISAIAH 1:18-19

**INTRO:** There are some things that never change because we have an unchanging God. God, the Christ, faith, hope, love and heaven never change. Sins and their effect on God's creation (mankind) doesn't change either. Sin's outward forms may change but not the root cause and effect.

Wise men in the past selected seven sins that to them were "deadly sins." All sins are harmful but there is none so deep dyed that Jesus can't heal. *"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they be as red as crimson they shall be as wool."* Again *"The blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanses us from all sin,"* Isaiah 1:18. However, we must not be so cavalier that we ignore the deadly spiritual attack on our soul of these seven sins.

- I. **PRIDE**
  - A. "The Lord hates a proud look," Prov. 6:16.
  - B. *"A man's pride will bring him low," "Pride goes before destruction."* Prov. 16:18
  - C. It cost Satan heaven and gained eternal hell.
- II. **AVARICE (GREED)**
  - A. The tenth Commandment (Coveting)
  - B. Sometimes getting money gets you.
  - C. The sin that grips, grabs, til it grasps you.
  - D. Eph. 4:19
- III. **GLUTTONY**
  - A. Most common is sin of indulgence
  - B. Craving anything until you are subject to it.
  - C. "Whose god is their bellies"
  - D. Prov. 23:21.
- IV. **ENVY**
  - A. Envying others takes focus off our own purpose
  - B. Envy steals our joy and darkens the heart
  - C. *"Let each esteem other better than themselves,"* Phil. 2:3.
  - D. Paul had jealousy against Jesus and harmed the church. Read 1 Peter 2:1-2
- V. **LUST**
  - A. It is more than the sexual appetite out of control.
  - B. Freedom isn't free, "God gave them over..."
  - C. Read 1 Thess. 4:3-8
  - D. David's lust cost him more than he could imagine
  - E. Matt. 5:28
- VI. **WRATH**
  - A. This deadly sin often leads to murder.
  - B. Cain is the first example
  - C. This sin clouds all reason...out of control.
  - D. Peter's temper caused him to utter against Jesus
  - E. Prov. 15:1
- VII. **SLOTHFULNESS**
  - A. It is not strange that laziness is a deadly sin
  - B. It causes one to cheat, steal, and lie.
  - C. Such a person can't be relied on.
  - D. God uses all kinds of people but not a lazy one.
  - E. Prov. 15:19

**CONCLUSION:** *"There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him; haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers,"* Prov. 6:16-19.

Our Lord was the epitome of perfect humanity when He walked the earth. As for pride, he was a humble man; greed, He was content; and gluttony He was self-controlled. When it came to envy He esteemed others better than Himself, and lust never threatened His holiness. Wrath was given over to patience and gentleness. As for laziness His glory was His servanthood. When tired and weary He never used that for an excuse not to do what was right. The Seven sins we have addressed are deadly to our spiritual life and thus to our own joy. If we concentrate on His will, we should have no fear of them.

## DECISION MAKING

When making a decision, ask yourself:

- Does it violate any part of Scripture (James 4:17, 1 John 2:4).
- Does it affect my spirituality? (1 Cor. 10:31, Col. 3:23).
- Will it be a stumbling block to someone? (1 Cor. 8:9, Rom. 14:13).
- Is it expedient? (1 Cor. 6:12).
- Would I want to see the Lord Jesus doing it? (1 John 2:6).
- Does it bring glory to the name of Jesus? (1 Cor. 10:31).
- Would I want to be doing this when Jesus comes? (1 John 2:28).
- It is not what we think or what we want that makes a thing pleasing in God's sight, but what does the Word of God say. The questions listed above are simple questions that will help us in decision-making..
- The Bible says, *"Thou wilt show me the path of life; in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore,"* Psalm 16:11.

## DON'T JUDGE GOD BY THE WEATHER

A young man was trying to establish himself as a peach grower. He had worked for years and invested his all in a peach orchard, which at last bloomed bounteously (that means a lot) and then came a frost. He didn't go to church the next Sunday, nor the next. His preacher went to visit him and inquired the reason for his absence in the assembly.

The discouraged young man explained, "I am not coming anymore. Do you think I can worship the God who loves me so little that He will let a frost kill all my peaches?"

The Old preacher looked at him a moment in silence, then replied kindly, "Young man, God loves you more than your peaches. He knows that while peaches grow better without frost, it is impossible to grow the best men without adversity. His object is to grow men, not peaches."

## SORROW'S SCHOOL

I walked a mile with Pleasure; she chattered all the way, but left me none the wiser for all she had to say.

I walked a mile with Sorrow and ne'er a word she said; but oh the things I learned from her when Sorrow walked with me!

-Robert Browning Hamilton

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

## A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn

### Study Number One Hundred Seven – An Encourager’s Hands

I can’t over emphasize the importance of encouraging words, but quite often words are not enough, sometimes more is needed to satisfy the needs of the discouraged and hurting. James and John renounce the concept of ministry in words only:

***“Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him ‘Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action is dead”***

James 2:15-17

***“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possession and sees his brother in Need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and truth”***

1 John 3:16-18

The ministry of encouragement involves doing as well as talking. That is not to say active listening and verbal encouragement are not important, for they are. Not only so but at times it is demanding as well. Listening empathetically and carefully selecting the right words to influence another person in a more positive , constructive and godly direction are crucial aspects of encouragement. Still, there is more. The crowning achievement of encouragement is learning to give yourself away in deeds of kindness.

The benefits of encouraging deeds are manifold. Jesus told His followers, ***“It is more blessed to give than to receive,”*** Acts 20:35. The wonderful thing about this is that He was not just speaking of the benefits of the one receiving, but for the one giving. It is a double blessing, for the giver and the receiver. “So what are some of the benefits?” you may ask. Here are a few of them.

- **FRIENDSHIPS** – Givers are constantly making new friends who bless their lives. They also improve existing friendships by making regular investments in their bank of friends. Steady expressions of love have a healthy return many times what it cost in time, effort and generosity. Sometimes conflicts between people can be traced to an individual damaging the relationship by neglect or just being a taker and never returning an expression of love. This is not the best illustration, but just as an ATM will reject attempts to withdraw from an account that has not had adequate deposits, people will refuse to give of their lives to someone who has not invested in them. So, friendships can be strengthened and new ones made by showing love in addition to speaking encouraging words
- **KINDNESS** – Kindness benefits its bearer by activating the biblical law of reciprocity. Christians should do what is right regardless of the consequences, but Jesus and Paul never hesitated to use reward as an incentive for righteous behavior. Good works are not meritorious but they do pay dividends.

***“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”***

Luke 6:38

***“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and Whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”***

1 Corinthians 9:6



*“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one that sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”*

Galatians 6:7-10

The law of sowing and reaping is unbreakable. The more one sows the more he will reap. A random act of kindness will have its reward, but it cannot compare with the joy of making encouragement a way of life. Those who encourage bountifully are blessed in the same manner.

- **CONTAGIOUSNESS** – When people respond in kind to human goodness, there is usually more than one beneficiary. The law of reciprocity starts a chain reaction that touches the lives of countless people. Like tossing a rock into a pond, the ripples of encouragement are far reaching. It is interesting to just think of how one act of compassion will multiply itself over and over again.

Kindness is contagious, and unsuspecting souls are encouraged every day as a result of something that happened somewhere else between two people unknown to them directly. Who knows where love will lead? Every day, Christians find encouragement in an event that took place 2,000 years ago.

- **CONTENTMENT** – Finally, giving produces the blessing of inner-peace. It just makes a person feel better. It is a blessing to just think about the pleasure God takes in witnessing His children encouraging others through good deeds. Still, helping others live more courageously is its own reward. Human beings were created with a need to make a difference in other people’s lives, and encouragement fills that innate desire.

It is hard for an individual to think about his own problems while trying to minister to someone else. There is no room for discouragement in a mind filled with concern for improving the well-being of another. This alone should be sufficient incentive not to miss another opportunity to encourage.

Christian is more than sound doctrine and pious words. It is laying up treasure in heaven by investing in others’ lives here on earth. This is something that can be done anywhere, anytime, by anyone. It is not necessary to be wealthy, brilliant, powerful or famous. All that is needed is a caring heart.

Encouraging others is one of the safest investments a person can make. No one can take away the grateful smiles and words of appreciation that are accumulated over a lifetime and stored in the heart. Some people collect coins, or spoons, or stamps or dolls, but an encourager collects something much more precious. What could be more satisfying than saving up memories of playing a small but significant role in providing the supportive context people need for making lasting positive changes in lives.

No one admires an indolent, miserly or gluttonous person. Those who are hungry for power or pleasure are pitied for their skewed sense of values. Those who are most respected are always the ones who make it their life’s ambition to contribute to the happiness and well-being of those whose lives they touch.

## REDNECK DICTIONARY

**ZEAL**, *v. and*. A warning concerning the outcome of a confrontation. “Bill you better not tell him he’s out of line cause zeal knock your head off.”

**WEPT**, *v. and n.* Statement of the accomplishment of a man. “Ole George just climbed into the pen and he wept that bull with his bare hands.”

**VEIL**, *n.* A proposition concerning a response to an action. “Veil just quit making that noise after midnight then I’ll not call the cops.”

**TIRE**, *n. and v.* An action that renders a person or a things motion. “If you just tire up to that tree I think I can shoe that horse.”

**SODOM**, *n and v,* An expression of the thing that was observed. “I know that’s not true because I sodom do it.”

A homemade version of redneck speak.

## THE BIBLE

“In this age of space flight, when we use the modern tools of science to advance into new regions of human activity, the Bible...this grandiose, stirring history of the gradual revelation and unfolding of the moral law...remains in every way an up-to-date book. Our knowledge and use of the laws of nature that enable us to fly to the moon also enable us to destroy our home planet with the atom bomb.

Science itself does not address the question whether we should use the power at our disposal for good or for evil. The guidelines of what we ought to do are furnished in the moral law of God. It is no longer enough that we pray that God may be with us on our side. We must learn again to pray that we may be on God’s side.”  
—Wernher von Braun

## THE GOSPEL

(An imaginary conversation)

Voice: “Gideon, go preach my gospel.” Gideon: “How can I go, Lord, I cannot speak, for I am a child,”

Voice: “Do you know the disease?” Gideon: “Oh, yes, Lord, I do.”

Voice: “Do you know the cure?” Gideon: “Indeed I do, glory be to your name.”

Voice: “Go then and tell them the disease and the cure. All the rest is nothing but talk.”

## JESUS WAS A REAL PERSON

The biblical accounts are based on eyewitness testimony (Luke 1:1-4). John writes, “*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched, this we proclaim concerning the Word of life*” (1 John 1:1). In 2 Peter 1:15 we read, “*We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*”

Certainly the resurrection of Jesus Christ was attested by multiple eyewitnesses. Jesus’ followers claimed, “*This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses*” (Acts 2:32). Speaking to some Jews, Peter claimed, “*You killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses*” (3:15).

The Jewish leaders tried to stop the disciples from testifying, but they responded, “*Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard*” (4:18-20).

Peter later said to some Gentiles, “*We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear*” 10:39-40).

## A FEW WORDS ABOUT LAUGHTER

- He who laughs, lasts.
- All things are cause for either laughter or weeping.
- I like the laughter that opens the lips, the heart and the soul of man
- “*A merry heart does good like medicine,*” Proverbs 17:22
- Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face.
- A good laugh is sunshine in a house.
- When the mouse laughs at the cat there is a hole nearby.
- He who tickles himself may laugh when he pleases.

## OPPORTUNITIES

Nov. 8-9 Restoration Destination, North Myrtle Beach, SC, Bill Wines, Director

### GENERATION GAP

A retired preacher made it a practice to visit the elementary school. One day he visited the 4<sup>th</sup> grade class where they were studying the states. The teacher asked them how many states there were and could they name them. The best any class member could come up with was 40.

The preacher told them that in his day a student knew the names of all the states. To this one little boy replied, "Yes, but in your day there only 13."

### ANGELS IN DISGUISE

Though angels are by nature incorporeal and invisible, they can nevertheless appear as men. In fact, their resemblance to men can be so realistic that they are mistaken for human beings. Hebrews 13:2 instructs us, "*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*" In the account of Jesus' ascension into heaven, Acts 1:10-11 we read, "*While they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'*" These two men were angels.

Abraham once welcomed three men in the plains of Mamre (Genesis 18:1-8). These men walked, talked, sat down, and ate, just like normal men, but they were not men; they were angels (see Genesis 18:22; 19:1). We have no scriptural evidence that angels need food for sustenance. However, based on this passage of Scripture, they can apparently appear as men and eat like men while fulfilling their assigned task. It appears that the angels did not need to eat but the bodies they possessed did.

A person who has helped you during a time of need may actually have been an angel that appeared as a human. Such appearances evidently can occur today just as they did in biblical times...but who or how would one prove or disprove a particular event?

### A QUOTE

"He knows so little and he knows it so fluently."

## LEARN TO SPELL

A driver noticed a man by the road that had apparently had a heart attack and needed help. So he stopped and pulled out his cell phone and called 911. The operator asked what the emergency was and the man told her and that he would stay with him until help arrived. The operator asked where they were and he replied "We are on Eucalyptus Street." The operator didn't understand the man and asked him to repeat the name of the street. Again he said, "Eucalyptus Street." The operator still didn't understand and asked him to spell it. He tried three times and finally said, "Never mind I'll drag him over to Elm."

### CHRIST OUR EXAMPLE

A gentleman had a lovely Chinese plate with curious raised figures on it. One day it fell from the wall on which it was hung, and was cracked right across the middle. Soon after the gentleman sent to China for six more of these valuable plates and to ensure an exact match, sent his cracked plate as a copy. To his intense astonishment, when six months later he received the six plates and his damaged one. He found the Chinese had so faithfully followed his copy that each new one had a crack right across it. If we imitate even the best of men we are apt to copy their imperfections, but if we follow Jesus, we are sure of a perfect pattern.

### QUESTION

"Why is it that the fewer the facts, the stronger the opinion?"

### BASEBALL TERMS IN THE BIBLE

Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning (big inning)"

Genesis 3:6 "Eve took first"

Genesis 3:6 "Adam stole second"

Judges 7:16 "Gideon rattled the pitchers."

Luke 15:20 The prodigal son made a home run.

### 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.