

August 2023

THE
LANTERN



II Peter 1:19

OF THE SCATTERED FAITHFUL

“So we regard the words of the prophets as confirmed beyond all doubt. You’re doing well by paying attention to their words. Continue to pay attention as you would to a light that shines in a dark place as you wait for day to come and the morning star to rise in your hearts.”

(II Peter 1:19 - GW)



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**Do You Have God's
"DNA?"**

(See page 5)

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All scriptures used in *The LANTERN* magazine are from the New King James version of the Bible, unless otherwise noted.

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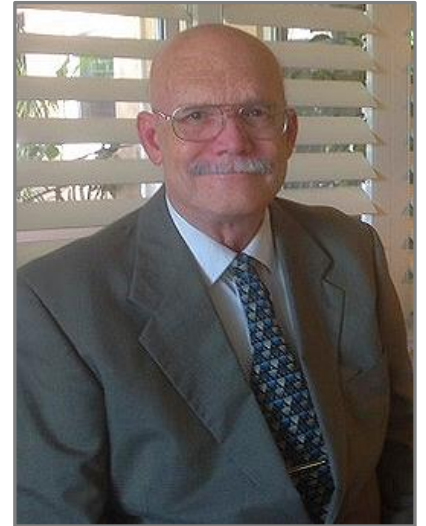
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Personal from the editor



WHY do you understand God's TRUTH?

"But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God" (I Corinthians 2:9-10).

Why do you understand God's TRUTH when billions of others don't? The answer to that question is found right in the scriptures quoted above. Yes, you understand God's plan now, while most of humanity does not. Is God a respecter of persons? NO! **"Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34).** Will everyone eventually be given an opportunity for salvation? ABSOLUTELY!

When I was a college student, one of the required courses for students was **"Humanities."** The professor who taught the class had an outstanding ability to make the subject very highly engaging. He always began his class with a thought-provoking statement or question that stimulated concentration and reasoning in his students.

One day, the teacher asked this question: **"What one thing in life do human beings everywhere want to have, above anything else?"** Well, there were a lot of hands raised; several answers were given. Then, after those many incorrect answers, he went on to say, **"What every single human being wants in life, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religious beliefs or cultural background, is... TO BE HAPPY!"** Not one student thought of that answer. But he was right! Now, here's an example of what LASTING happiness is, as DEFINED by GOD, NOT men... **"Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, Whose hope is in the LORD his God" (Psalm 146:5).**

For six thousand years man has sought his own governments, his own religions, his own philosophies, and thoughts. However, you and I have been given an understanding about happiness that's LASTING and not temporary! Mr. Armstrong wrote the following in his book *Mystery of the Ages* (page 120): **"When God "drove out the man" from the Garden of Eden ... God PRONOUNCED SENTENCE! God said, in effect: "You have made the decision for yourself and the world that shall spring from you. You have rejected me as the basic source of knowledge ... you have rejected power from me through my Spirit to live the righteous way ... Therefore I sentence you and the world you shall beget to 6,000 years of being *cut off* from access to me and my Spirit -- except for the exceedingly FEW I shall specially call. And that FEW shall be called for special service preparatory for the kingdom of God."**

God has blessed us by calling us now **(John 6:44)**, to prepare to teach others in the Kingdom of God! The day is coming when the knowledge of God and His Truth will be understood by the MANY, and not just the few. Man will learn for the first time what lasting happiness truly is! As God shows us in **Ezekiel 36:27: "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*."**

Gary R. Liebold

OUR JOB NOW..

A LIFE AND DEATH RESPONSIBILITY



Gary Liebold

From all the billions of people inhabiting earth today, God is calling but a very few now. Each one of us has a part to play in God's Plan that is extremely vital to the very success of that plan. That is how God designed it. We are essential to God's purpose, and the future of mankind.

God is the supreme architect, builder, and planner -- the actual author of work -- and even now, He is working to fulfill His Master Plan for all of mankind. God has chosen many people throughout history to help realize that plan and move it forward to fruition, and whenever God calls someone, He always has a specific job in mind for that called

and chosen person to do. Today, those of us being called now, at this time, have a special, designated job to do, one that is most unique in all of history. Do we realize how very important our calling is, and how critical this job is that we are assigned to do? We are imbued with a serious, life and death responsibility, and we must understand it and rise to the challenge!

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

From all the billions of people inhabiting earth today, God is calling but a very few (**Matthew 20:16; John 6:44**). Every one of us has a part to play in God's Plan that is extremely vital to the



very success of that plan. That is how God designed it. We are essential to God's purpose and the future of mankind.

The severity of our responsibility can be discovered in **Matthew 24:22**, **"And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved, but for the elect's sake, those days will be shortened."** Now do we understand?

Brethren, those of us who properly responded to God's call at this time (**John 6:44**), became God's elect. If we were called, repented of our sins, were baptized, and received God's Holy Spirit, then dedicated our lives to God's service, we are part of that select group. Think about it. If it wasn't for us, and our calling now for the part we play in God's plan, God could very well abandon this world to its fate. And that fate would be self-destruction, resulting in the annihilation of all mankind forever. **"Had not those days been cut short, not a soul would be saved alive; however, for the sake of the elect, those days will be cut short"** (**Matthew 24:22 - Moffatt**).

Mankind would be destroyed. The part we play now, the responsibility we have now, is critical to the physical survival of the world forever.

CONCERNING THE MILLENNIUM

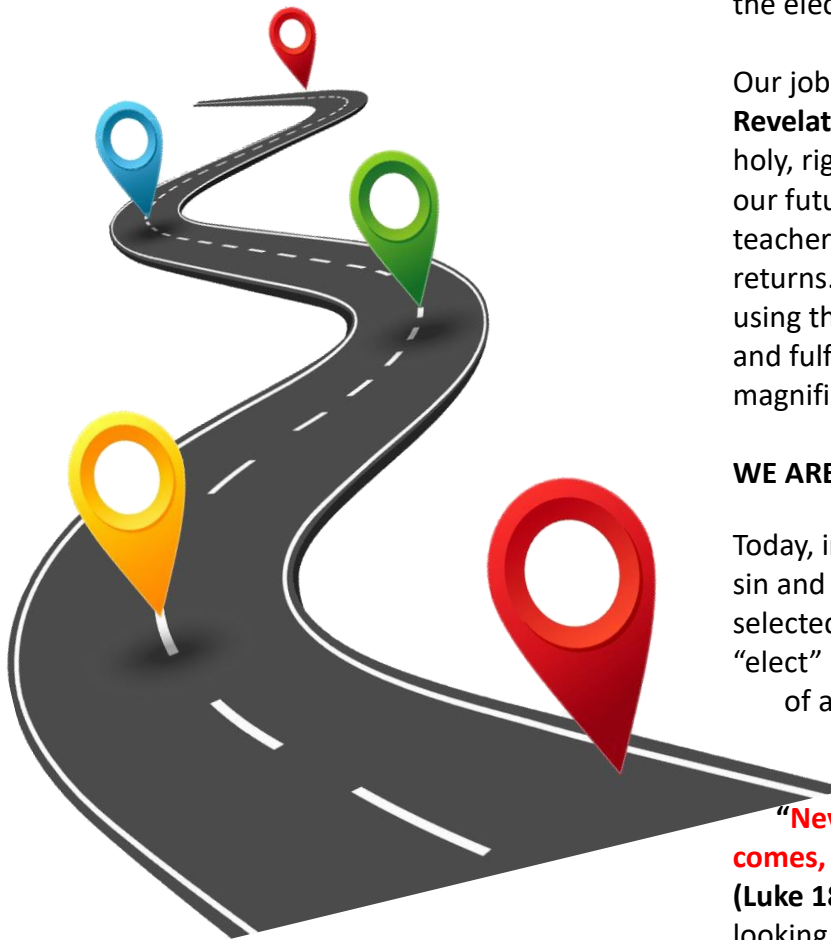
Just think about what would happen if the unthinkable occurred. If all humanity were destroyed, the Millennium would not occur as prophesied. What a horrifying thought! But God's Word will not fail -- He knew what He was doing when He called each of us to this job. Always remember, He chose us specifically at this time for this very purpose.

Since the Millennium is a major, quite wonderful, part of God's Master Plan, God's work through His people today is vital. If we do not fulfill our role as the elect of God in this end time, there won't be a physical World Tomorrow. Remember, **"...not a soul would be saved alive"** (**Matthew 24:22**). This means that an incredibly large number of human beings, millions, perhaps, would never be born and never have the opportunity to be part of the Family of God.



Our job - the part we must play now - is to ensure that there will be a physical Millennium, or as Mr. Armstrong often referred to it, the

World Tomorrow. We must be holding fast to God's truth today. This is a tremendous role, a matchless privilege, that God has given us in the fulfillment of His plan.



with a curse” (“utter destruction” - AMP). Take a moment and note the word “lest”. This simple little word informs us that a positive result depends on the proper action by God's people, the elect of the end-time.

Our job is to hold fast (**I Thessalonians 5:21, Revelation 3:11**), and while doing so, develop holy, righteous character so that we can fulfill our future calling, our future jobs, as rulers and teachers, king-priests, when Jesus Christ returns. Pray. Study. Fast. Meditate. We must be using these tools now to help us do our jobs and fulfill our designated purpose in this magnificent job we've been given.

WE ARE THE ELECT

Today, in order that this sick, sad world full of sin and corruption might be spared, God has selected a small number of people to be His “elect” (**Matthew 24:22**). We ARE the elect, one of a few standing firm, and for whose sake the physical world and all humanity will be spared from total, utter destruction.

“Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8). We are that faithful elect He is looking for and counting on. Our job


TOP PRIORITY - DO THE JOB!

In Mr. Armstrong's “Personal” from the November 1965 *Plain Truth* magazine, we can read, “**The divine instruction book tells us how to live -- how to succeed -- how to find real happiness! It says: “Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might...” (Ecclesiastes 9:10).**” We must do the job we've been given, and that is -- to make our calling and election sure (**II Peter 1:10**).

Examine **Malachi 4:5-6**, “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth



is a deadly serious affair, a life and death responsibility. Millions of lives depend on us. Let's all hold fast and do our job -- for them! ◆



DO YOU HAVE GOD'S “DNA?”

Geary Whiting

DNA. Most of us are familiar with this scientific and medical term -- a complicated design function that all human beings, and in fact, all living organisms possess. But do we understand the complexity and wonder of DNA, and can we see a duality here concerning the comparison of physical DNA and spiritual “DNA?”

To begin with, we should recap exactly what DNA is. There are multiple definitions of DNA in both medical and scientific sources, but to simplify, DNA, located in practically every cell in our bodies, contains our hereditary material and our genes -- the fundamental and distinct characteristics of someone or something that make each one unique -- as well as the instructions necessary for growth, development, and reproduction. The instructions necessary for life itself. Combined with environmental and social contexts, DNA gives us our abilities, our health, and our basic behavior. In other words, DNA makes each of us who we are!

So now that we know what physical DNA encompasses -- basically individual characteristics -- let's look at the concept of SPIRITUAL “DNA.”

There are two types of spiritual “DNA” that we are dealing with today, two very different types of “DNA” -- Satan's “DNA” and God's “DNA.” In **Galatians 5:19 - 23**, we can see these clear and distinct descriptions of characteristics of both Satan and God.

First, let's examine the characteristics of Satan's “DNA.” Using the Tyndale version of the Bible, in **Galatians 5:19-21**, the characteristics, or works, of Satan are vividly described. **“But when you**

follow your own wrong inclinations, your lives will produce these evil results: impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, idolatry, spiritualism (that is encouraging the activity of demons), hatred, infighting, jealousy, and anger. Consider the constant effort to get the best for yourself, complaints, criticism, the feeling that everyone else is wrong except for those in your own little group. And there will be wrong doctrine, envy, murder, drunkenness, wild parties and all those sorts of things. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the kingdom of God.”
GOD’S “DNA”

So now, we can look at what God’s “DNA” is. Simply, it is His Holy Spirit!

If we refer to **Romans 8:9**, we can see that if we don’t have God’s Holy Spirit, then we have Satan’s “DNA.” **“But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”**

So now, we can look at what God’s “DNA” is. Simply, it is His Holy Spirit! The actual message **Romans 8:9** gives us could be stated as, “If you do not have my spirit, my “DNA” (says God), if I cannot recognize you as having my qualities, you aren’t mine! Let me repeat -- you aren’t

mine. And God’s characteristics are clearly outlined for us in **Galatians 5:22-23**, **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”** God’s Holy Spirit produces these fruits, His fruits, in us, and together with God’s law, there is no conflict in us. It is obvious that there are two types of spiritual “DNA,” completely different, producing different fruits. We must be developing the characteristics of God’s Holy Spirit, His “DNA”, and we should be asking ourselves, **“How much of God’s “DNA” do we have at this point in our lives, at this juncture of our spiritual development?”**

To help us visualize and better remember what, exactly, we are talking about concerning God’s “DNA,” we will present an acronym, an expanded acronym if you will, to detail this information concisely.

- D - DESTINATION:** The destination is God’s Kingdom and our relationship to it.
- N - NAME:** This refers to God’s Family Name; OUR NAME as members of His Family in the future.
- A - ATTRIBUTES:** We must possess godly attributes, or characteristics. All the factors

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above work in tandem together to point us toward God and our potential future destiny with Him -- as members of His Family, along with Jesus Christ. As we travel through the challenges of our lives, we must keep in mind our goal as true Christians, our destination of God's

...to reach the goal, or destination, and obtain the NAME of God's Family, we must be developing the attributes of Godly character in our lives now. (Galatians 5:22-23)

Kingdom, reachable at the return of Jesus Christ to this earth (**Luke 1:32-33; Luke 12:32; James 2:5; 2 Peter 1:11; Isaiah 9:7; Daniel 2:44**). At that time, we will take on the name of God's Family as working members of that family (**Ephesians 3:14-15, Psalm 8:1, Psalm 8:9**). Rulers and teachers in the World Tomorrow -- pillars in God's Temple. And to do so, to reach the goal, or destination, and obtain the name of God's Family, we must be developing the attributes of Godly character in our lives now (**Galatians 5:22-23**).

TEACHING AND TRAINING

In my recent sermonettes, you have heard me talk about my Equine Massage Academy for Horse and Rider, and my background at Ambassador College. Mr. Armstrong, founder of Ambassador College, used to refer to the College as God's WEST POINT of the Work. Perhaps you remember this yourself. This is where students were to be trained to be the best they could be, to bring out the best characteristics in each of them. This was God's West Point.

There was something very special about the

Ambassador College education, especially in the way the college interacted with each student. The education was all encompassing, in the way that everything was provided for each student - delicious, wholesome meals, quality educational experiences, and even work, so the students could pay off their tuition. These were optimum conditions for each person to receive an excellent education and concentrate on individual development, which would serve them well for their future successes. The whole point was that these were God's Ambassadors in training, just as we are today. And there are multiple lessons we can each learn from that example.

When I pioneered my school, I wasn't sure how to teach the subject of equine massage. I didn't know the best way to teach. But a couple of years into it, I applied the Ambassador College concept, a concept that would create, on a physical level, a superior method for students to learn the curriculum of horse massage and to develop their talents and abilities in the field and in their personal lives. So, I created an umbrella education. The students just show up and my academy will feed them, lodge them, teach them, and will be there for them, guiding them to become the best they can be.

I love the job of a teacher and love the idea that I was trying to follow in the footsteps of the

Mr. Armstrong, founder of Ambassador College, used to refer to the college as God's WEST POINT of the Work.

Ambassador College curriculum in character development, God's West Point education, if you will. It has been a tremendous training and growth experience for me as well as my students!

There have been some amazing things that have taken place in my program over the years that encourage me, and hopefully you, the reader, as well. Students come from all different backgrounds, carrying diverse experiences, when they attend my school. As with any interaction we might have with any other human being, we often don't know the impact we can make with another person, but I have been extremely blessed and inspired to hear how successful the lessons, not just in horse massage, but also by displaying God's way of life, have been for some of my students. One woman emailed me, stating, **"I came to your school to learn how to massage a horse because I was planning on divorcing my husband. I didn't think he would want to be involved with any of my horse activities. Then something you said in your school, something that came out of your mouth, your philosophies, how you thought, got my attention. I went back to reading the Bible and I fell in love with my husband all over again!"**

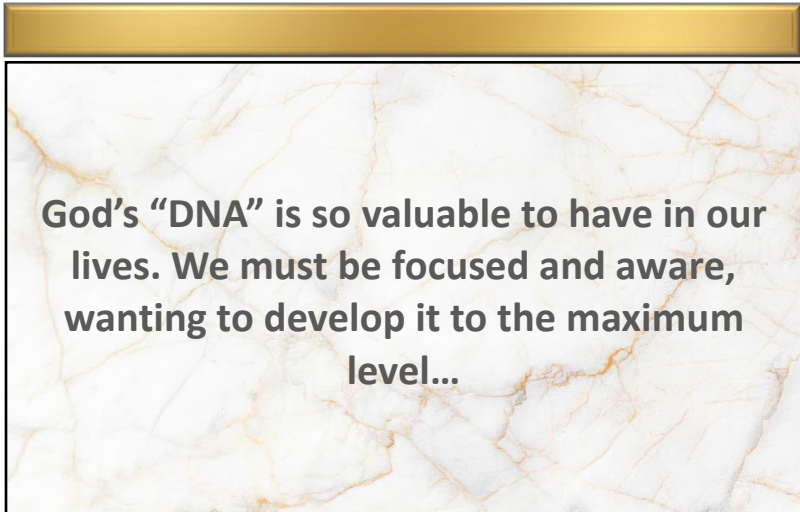
Years later, I spoke with her and learned that she and her husband had a son now, and that she was planning to send him to my school one day. This was encouraging and uplifting for me to learn. But that was not all. Another woman who attended my school made big changes in her life and was excited about what she, too, learned, and began to apply the lessons to her life. Unfortunately, she developed inoperable cancer. When I heard the news, I contacted her and she told me she was dying, but she was still happy and positive. When I asked her how this was possible, she said, **"Because of you. It's what you taught me in school. It's what you said and how you said it and who you are!"**

INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL

How inspiring for me to see an example of how God works in us and how we can use our gift of God's Holy Spirit -- those special characteristics -- to grow in each of us if we let it, and to flow out from us to others if we apply God's laws

correctly. I applied the education and example of Ambassador College physically in my life, as the founder and teacher of my own Equine Massage Academy for Horse and Rider, and am using what I have learned to serve others. I want to use God's Spirit, God's "DNA," as all of us must, and use what I've learned from God's West Point spiritually, as well as physically, to help others develop their incredible human potential.

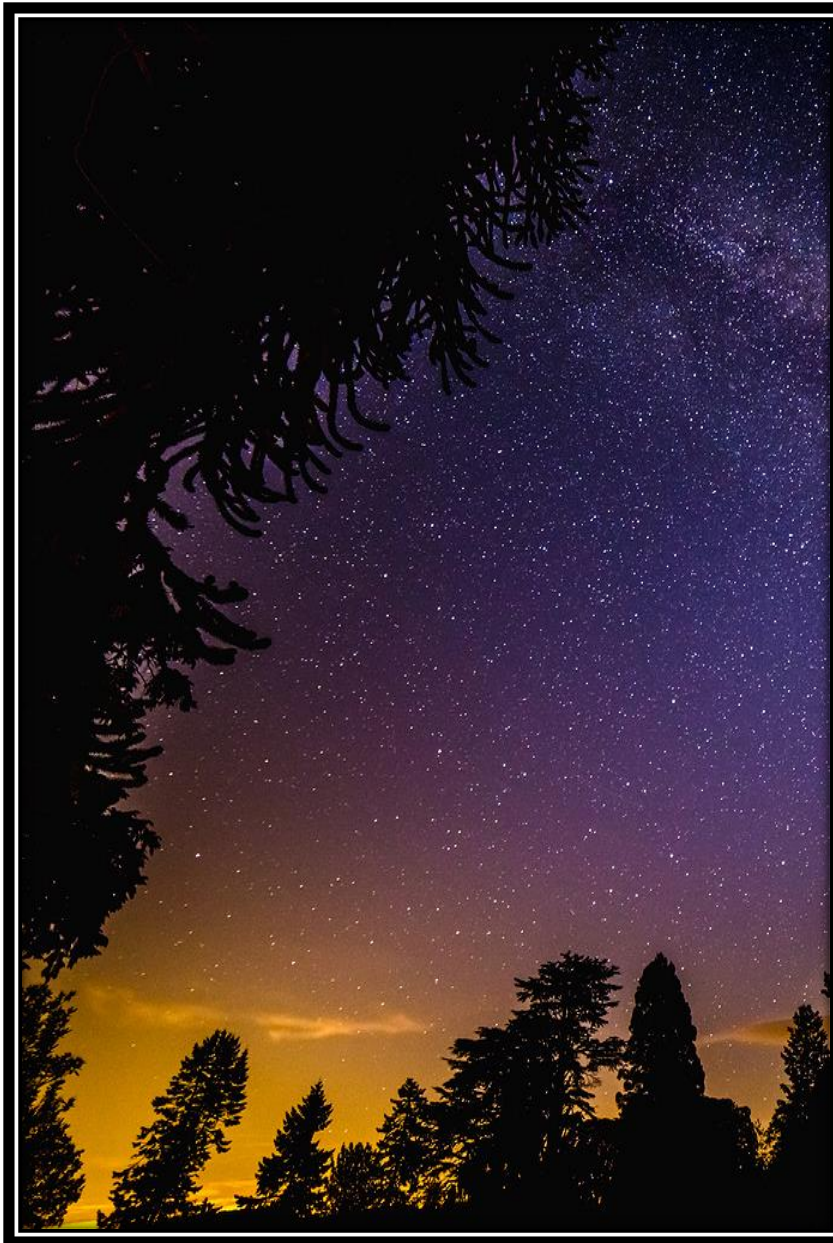
God's "DNA" is so valuable to have in our lives. We must be focused and aware, wanting to develop it to the maximum level we can in the time we have in our lives. We only have this short span of time to develop the characteristics of Godly "DNA" -- to reach that destination (**Daniel 7:18**), with the God Family Name (**Isaiah 56:5**),



God's "DNA" is so valuable to have in our lives. We must be focused and aware, wanting to develop it to the maximum level...

and develop to the full, the attributes of Godly character in our lives now (**Galatians 5:22-23**). So, we must ask ourselves, **how much of God's "DNA" do we have at this point in our lives?** Do an honest evaluation, and then strive further to reach the highest possible goal.

Remember, in **Matthew 6:33** we are admonished, **"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."** Remember, God's Holy Spirit is His "DNA." How much do we crave and desire to have it to the full? ♦



“IN THIS MANNER, THEREFORE PRAY:”

Gary Liebold

*In Jesus Christ’s prayer outline, He gave His disciples an example of how to pray (Matthew 6:9-13). “**In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven...**” Jesus opened His prayer by praying to the Father. Does this mean we can never address Christ in a prayer? Is speaking to Christ blasphemous? What did God’s end-time apostle (Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong), teach on this subject? We should know!*

Jesus had a close personal relationship with God the Father. There are many examples where we see His prayers and supplications given before God. “**Now it came to pass in those days that He [Jesus] went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God” (Luke 6:12).**

“And being in agony, He [Jesus] prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground” (Luke 22:44).

“During his life on earth, Jesus prayed to God, who could save him from death. He prayed and pleaded with loud crying and tears, and he was heard because of his devotion to God” (Hebrews 5:7 - GW).

Christ’s earnest, fervent prayers to the Father made His victory over sin and death possible. We, too, can have a close personal relationship with God. God speaks to us through the pages of His Bible. We communicate with and talk to Him through our frequent, heartfelt prayers.

Christ's disciples were very much aware that Jesus, their teacher, had close contact with God the Father, and would call upon His name consistently, asking for His help in everything. As a result, one of Jesus' disciples asked Him to teach them (the disciples), how to pray. This prayer example is the spiritual outline that gives us real results and the spiritual "framework" we should build our prayers around.

"Now it came to pass, as He [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples"" (Luke 11:1). Jesus then went on to give His disciples instructions on how to pray rightly, meaningfully, and effectively.

"Now it came to pass, as He [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.""
(Luke 11:1)

He taught His disciples to pray, **"In this manner..." (Matthew 6:9)**. In other words, they were to pray in a SIMILAR way, or "MANNER." He was not intending for the disciples to use His sample prayer as something to say repetitively. In fact, in **verse 7** we can read where Jesus told them not to be repetitive with their prayers. **"And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words" (Matthew 6:7).**

Nowhere in scripture do we find where Christ told His disciples to memorize this prayer and repeat it to God when they approach His throne. Again, Christ was simply outlining the proper application of

prayer, and some of the basic points we should be asking God for when we pray.

PRAYING TO THE FATHER

If we follow the outline given in **Luke 11** and in **Matthew 6**, we will find that Christ opened His prayer with **"... Our FATHER in heaven, Hallowed be Your name..." (Mathew 6:9).**

Christ clearly opened His prayer by praying to the Father. He revealed the Father to His disciples. That's exactly what He has taught us to do as well! When we pray, we speak directly to the Father. That was Christ's instruction!

We also see in **verses 5-6**, that when we pray, we are to go into a private place, praying to the **FATHER**. **"And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly" (Matthew 6:5-6).**

Our deep heartfelt prayers to the FATHER will help us to build a closer personal relationship with Him. **"For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15 - RSV).** The phrase "Abba Father" is often translated to mean "Daddy, Father." That IS the kind of relationship our Father wants us to have with Him.

Jesus instructed His disciples to PRAY TO THE FATHER in His (Christ's) name. **"And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you" (John 16:23).** When we pray to the Father, we are to give that prayer in the name of Christ our High Priest, by HIS authority. That's why we end a prayer to the Father by referencing Christ's name, as He instructed. Through Christ, we are given access to the Father (**Ephesians 2:18**).

(Continued on page 15)

GOD, I LOVE YOU BECAUSE...



Geary Whiting

Recently, I discovered a letter in my files from a woman to a man entitled, “I Love You Because...” When reading it, I counted 167 reasons that she committed to paper. Wow! 167 reasons to love someone! Do we see the parallel here in what this lady is praising her husband for, with characteristics that God has displayed to us?

Each year that we observe God’s Holy Days, we learn more of the depth and detail of God’s plan for mankind that He presents to us. For example, we have already kept the spring festivals for 2023 -- Passover, The Days of Unleavened Bread, and Pentecost -- with their very individual meanings and place in the outline of God’s Master Plan. As we approach the next set of God’s Holy Days -- The Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, The Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day --

there is a whole different set of meanings in each of them to round out the entire picture of what God has in mind for us as His people. But before we begin to participate in these upcoming Holy Days, we should begin to prepare for them by checking our attitude toward our understanding of God, His love for us, and our love for Him. Then we can keep these Holy Days with our minds truly open so that we can glean as much spiritual meat from them to grow in God’s grace and knowledge.

THE SPRING HOLY DAYS

During Passover, our assignment was to look at the Passover, to look at Jesus Christ. In I **Corinthians**, Paul had to correct some of the Corinthians because they were not looking at Christ, they were NOT keeping the Passover correctly. In essence, Paul told them, “You really need to examine yourself; you need to seriously



consider your wrong attitudes” (II **Corinthians 13:5**). This is a key point to observing this day correctly.

Concerning the Days of Unleavened Bread, we know that these days represent putting sin out of our lives. But, to do that, we must look and dig -- we must examine ourselves. We have seven days to look at ourselves. To dig and dig and dig and ask God to show us the hidden sins in our lives, the things that we don't see, and to strengthen us in our weak areas that we have been trying to overcome. Sometimes we can get a defeatist attitude and emotionally beat ourselves up, so to speak, and see nothing but problems, trials, and challenges. But we should measure how we've grown each year, for this gives us the courage we need to go forward and continue throughout the year to work on what we have discovered to be personal insufficiencies.

Pentecost then becomes an uplifting time for us as it pictures our future opportunity to become first-fruits in God's Kingdom at the return of Jesus Christ. We are striving for this now through all of our efforts during our lifetime, through our daily contact with God, through prayer and Bible study, and His loving guidance and the blessing of His gift of the Holy Spirit.

We have so much to be thankful for!

I LOVE YOU BECAUSE...

Recently, I discovered a letter in my files written by a woman to a man entitled “**I Love You Because...**” When reading it, I counted 167 reasons that she committed to paper. Wow! 167 reasons to love someone! So inspiring that I wanted to share some of her points in this article. For instance, she wrote:

- 1). You are gentle.
- 2). You are strong.
- 3). You are like a mighty oak tree to me.
- 4). You are my bank, and I am your river. I can be free to experience my worth and be free to be all that I can be.
- 5). You make me want to be a better person.
- 6). You leave me crazy large tips so I can buy things for myself.
- 7). You truly encourage me.



- 8). You pray with me.
- 9). You pray for me.
- 10). Your love inspires me to grow into the woman God made me to be.
- 11). You are willing to change and improve things about yourself to bring me happiness.
- 12). You search me and long to know me.
- 13). You are patient with me.
- 14). You compliment me on so many little things.
- 15). You encourage me to look at myself and appreciate all that God has given me.
- 16). You share your dreams with me.
- 17). You saw my value when you met me, and you see my value now.

Do we see the parallel here in what this lady is praising her husband for with characteristics that God has displayed to us? There is a lot in this list as I go through it. I remember Mr. Liebold reading an exercise he requested from a couple he counseled in marriage. He talked about the woman detailing ten things she loved about her husband, while her husband had only one point. A pretty telling picture, wouldn't we say? Although, in general, women are more detailed than men, and they are going to see a lot of positive things to focus on in the ones they love, probably more of the little things. Men are, overall, looking at the big picture so they may not list as many qualities in the same circumstance. However, think about how that lady felt. Think, in the depth of the lesson before us, how God felt when He heard of this. And how God feels when we aren't appreciative of Him.

WHY DO WE LOVE GOD?

Most likely we've all heard sermon messages before suggesting that we write lists to help us in various aspects of our spiritual development. For

example, prayer requests, blessings to be thankful for, and many others. But, have we ever thought of writing a list of the reasons we love God -- just as the lady quoted here in this article wrote down concerning her love for her husband. Well, this would be a good thing for all of us to do, and to help prod or encourage us to proceed with this type of a project, here are a few of the many, many things to love God for. I'm going to give you only 10 reasons to make it simple to start, and here goes:



“ I Love God because...”

1). God is my righteous judge (**II Timothy 4:8; Psalm 43**).



2). God gives me laws which keep me safe and happy (**Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 5; Psalm 119**).



3). God's values never change, He is always consistent (**Malachi 3:6**).

4). “God takes care of me with His great blessings (**Malachi 3:10**).

5). God is full of loving-kindness (**Psalm 51**).

6). I am precious in God's sight (**I Peter 3:4**).

7). God will never leave me nor forsake me (**Isaiah 49:15**).



8). God speaks to me. I am led by his great power. Sometimes it's unexpected thoughts, but oftentimes it's in reading his scriptures. God speaks to me, and I'm led by HIS power (**John 14**).

9). The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall never be wanting. Wow! What kind of security is THAT? Never to be wanting. God takes care of His sheep, and we are His sheep (**Psalm 23**).

10). God's plan for mankind (**I John 3:1-2**; **I Corinthians 2:9**; **Romans 8:29**).

The list is really a very endless list, it seems to me. King David lists the greatness of God in the Psalms. You can look at all what King David said -- what he listed in there -- of why he loved God.

Thinking of these reasons alone, we need to expand the basic meaning of each into the depth of each reason listed. For instance, where would our society be without laws? Laws that keep us safe? Well, we are seeing less and less adherence to laws, and more violence due to breaking those laws. But do we stop and think how blessed we are to keep God's laws? Well,

God gives me laws which keep me safe. (**Deuteronomy 5**).

Here's another reason that is not only so important to us, but also important to one's mate, and even society, and that is something to love God because of. His consistency. He never, ever changes (**Malachi 3:6**). He holds a standard, the gold standard, if you will, and that's what we're doing right now. By recognizing these standards, we should be trying to put out the substandard things in our lives that don't belong there. It's a journey and it's a long journey. And it won't happen overnight. But if we focus on the wonder of God, the stresses and depressing things of the world will affect us less. Thankfully, God knows how much work we must go through. He is always there to help us. Well, we can stop right there and remember that's what God does for us. He searches us and he wants us to know Him.

As we each begin to compile our own list of the reasons we each personally love God, it would be good to go through the hymnal. What a study tool we have at our fingertips! It's an interesting thing about our hymnal, because all these reasons to love God are listed in the hymns that we sing each Sabbath.

Remember, as we study Him and know Him and love Him -- become more like Him -- we also become Him.

MOVING FORWARD

So, as we approach the fall Holy Days, we are going to continue to discover things in our lives which may depress us because we may have overlooked them. But we need to be encouraged as well. Sometimes we just simply need to stop and take note and review the reasons why we love God. So, this might be a good list to put together. When we see the goodness of God, as we think about why we

love God, it takes us back to one scripture. As it says in the latter half of **Romans 2:4**, “... the goodness of God leads you to repentance...” It’s HIS goodness that we must look for, search, and recognize that goodness and His love for us as exhibited in the Holy Days. They lay out God’s Master Plan for all mankind. We looked, we heeded; we paid



attention. Now it’s time to act.

So, the list... How big is our “**I love God because...**” list going to be? Well, it could be quite extensive, as there are so many promises found in scriptures that we can read and take inspiration from. So many miracles and blessings in our personal lives that God has bestowed upon us.

God, I love you because... ♦

In This Manner, Pray...

(Continued from page 10)

The apostle Paul (as well as all the apostles), prayed directly to God our Father (**Ephesians 3:11-14; Colossians 1:3; Ephesians 5:20; I Peter 1:17**). So, as we see, prayers are to be given directly to our Father in Heaven. However, there is no place in scripture that prevents us from also speaking to Christ!

THE QUESTION IS...

Now, the question is: Since we pray to the Father, does that mean it is a sin, or it’s blasphemous, to even address Jesus Christ in a prayer? What did God’s apostle (Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong), teach? Here are Mr. Armstrong’s words as found in the *Good News* magazine, May 1960: “**We have access direct to the FATHER -- and also to JESUS Christ! Many times DAILY we may go into intimate COMMUNION with BOTH God and Christ – our FATHER and our BROTHER! ... God’s Church**

certainly does not forbid members to commune with and pray to Christ Jesus -- but neither must we leave UNDONE the communion and fellowship with and prayers to THE FATHER, who is the HEAD of Christ, and of all that is!”

Also, in a *World Tomorrow* broadcast entitled, “**Christ Our High Priest: Hebrews 4,**” Mr. Armstrong reiterated the fact that one can pray directly to Christ. He said, “**Yes, He [Christ] is the mediator. My friends, you don’t need to pray to some dead woman. You don’t need to pray to any dead saint. You can pray directly to the Lord Jesus Christ at the right hand of God, the Living Savior. I want to show you how great He is.**”

Yes, Jesus Christ sits at the right hand of God (**Hebrews 12:2**). Our prayers should always begin by addressing our FATHER, as Christ taught. However, it is NOT sin, nor is it blasphemous, to speak directly to Christ also, in a prayer! ♦

BIBLE STUDY

OVERVIEW OF LIFE IN THE WORLD TOMORROW

After Jesus Christ returns to establish God's Kingdom on earth, people will begin to experience the blessings that come from obeying God's law of love. There will be cooperation leading to peace, joy, health, and abundance for all. The whole world will come to understand God's Master Plan for mankind!

1. At His return, Jesus Christ will rebuild the war-ravaged nations of the earth, beginning with the end-time descendants of Jacob, who will have been held captive in foreign lands. He will rescue them, uplift them, and restore them as an example for all nations to follow. **(Isaiah 27:6; Ezekiel 36:8-11; Amos 9:7-11; Zechariah 8:7-8).**

2. The devastated cities of this earth will be totally rebuilt, featuring the city of Jerusalem, brought to perfection in splendor and magnificence, as the world headquarters of Christ's government and the capital of the earth. **(Jeremiah 3:17; Isaiah 62:1-2,7; Zechariah 8:3).** While today's crowded, chaotic cities are rampant with every kind of evil, cities in the Millennium will be small enough to establish family-oriented communities with a proper balance between commerce and agriculture. **(Jeremiah 33:10-11).**

3. The coming Kingdom of God will consist of a world ruling government of immortal, spirit-born members of the Family of God working together under the leadership of Jesus Christ. God's Kingdom will restore the laws and rule of God to the entire earth, resulting in a new civilization living in complete peace and prosperity. **(Isaiah 11:9; Jeremiah 31:34).**

4. During the coming Millennial age, most of the earth's land surface will become whole and productive. God will cause the laws of nature to function for the benefit of those who obey Him **(Malachi 3:10-12)**. Beautiful, unpolluted lakes and streams, forests, and fertile agricultural lands will be found all over the world, with an abundance of crops and foodstuffs that God will bless the world with **(Jeremiah 31:12; Amos 9:13)**. Nations will learn that obedience to God's laws provides universal peace and happiness in the Millennium!

5. In the World Tomorrow, we see that man will be completely healed, both physically and spiritually. **(Ezekiel 36:26-27, 47:12; Joel 2:28-29)**. The blind, deaf, mute, and lame will all be miraculously healed **(Isaiah 35:5)**, while all other sicknesses and diseases will become obsolete **(Isaiah 33:24, 58:8; Jeremiah 30:17)**.

Through God's Holy Spirit of cooperation, there will be peace, joy, radiant health, and abundance for all the world as it comes to understand God's Master Plan for mankind. People will then love God and their neighbors, exhibiting God's way of GIVE to all. This is what will make the Millennium the utopian paradise pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles! ♦

Excerpts From the Desk of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong...

For each continuing issue of our magazine, we will post various EXCERPTS from Mr. Armstrong's past writings, sermons, and Bible studies.

MYSTERY OF THE AGES

Herbert W. Armstrong

Pages 348-349 (original, hardbound edition)

Elijah to Come in Our Day

Remember, once again, God's principle of duality. As Jesus said in Matthew, the prophecy of Malachi 3:1 applied to John the Baptist in type; but if you will continue reading through verse 5, it becomes very clear that the prophecy is speaking of one to prepare the way before the Second Coming of Christ. John the Baptist was a voice crying out in the physical wilderness of the Jordan River, preparing the way for the First Coming of Christ, as a physical human being, to his physical Temple at Jerusalem and to the physical people of Judah, announcing the advance good news that the kingdom of God would in the future be established. But also preparing the way before his Second Coming was a messenger of whom Elijah was a type. A voice crying out in the worldwide spiritual wilderness of religious confusion, preparing the way for the spiritual glorified King of kings and Lord of lords to come in the supreme power and glory of God to his spiritual temple, the Church (Eph. 2:21), to actually establish the kingdom of God.

Further, in Matthew 17:1-8, Peter, James and John saw the vision of Moses, Elijah and Christ glorified in the kingdom of God. Then in verse 10 the disciples asked Jesus, "Why then say the scribes that Elias [Elijah] must first come?" Remember John the Baptist had finished his ministry and had been imprisoned before Jesus even began his ministry. At the time the disciples asked this question, John the Baptist had come and been put to death. Yet Jesus answered, speaking of the yet future, "[Elijah] truly shall first come, and restore all things" (verse 11).

This could not possibly refer to John the Baptist. John the Baptist restored nothing, but called on people to repent in preparation for the First Coming of Jesus as a physical human.

In the first few years of the New Testament Church, Jesus' true gospel had been suppressed and supplanted with a false gospel -- not the gospel of Christ (the kingdom of God) but man's false gospel about a Christ who did away with his Father's commandments.

Also **Malachi 4:5-6 pictures the Elijah to come at the very end of the Church age** -- at a time when, if this end-time message were not proclaimed, the glorified Christ would come and smite the world with total destruction. (The word *curse* in this verse is translated from the Hebrew, which in Moffatt's translation is given the meaning *total destruction*.) ♦ **(Emphasis above, by editor of *The Lantern magazine*)**



COMING ARTICLES



II Peter 1:19

◆ Cultivating Gratitude

While each of us lives in differing circumstances, and some may not have the ability to grow a garden, we can take a lesson from the concept of gardening, in that it takes *cultivation* - planning and preparation and lots of diligent work - to start and successfully grow a garden. Likewise, we should be cultivating gratitude, the state or art of being grateful or thankful, for it has both a physical and spiritual impact on our lives.

◆ The Remedy for Spiritual Doubt

Have you ever in your life had a doubt of any kind? Perhaps you've had a doubt about your job, or an employer or employee. Maybe you've had doubts about a whole range of physical topics or circumstances experienced in your life. But, what about having SPIRITUAL doubts such as doubts about God's Church, or even doubts about your own spiritual survival? Those are doubts that can be very deadly, spiritually! This article will look at the remedy for spiritual doubt.

◆ Bible Study – How to Pray

Jesus Christ's disciples knew that through His close contact with God the Father by daily prayers, His life was filled with faith, love, and power from God. They asked Christ to teach them how to pray, and the Bible preserves His inspired instructions for us today. This Bible study will cover some of Jesus Christ's uplifting directives about how to pray.