



NON-PROFIT

The Good News Letter

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TAX-EXEMPT

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" MARK 16:15

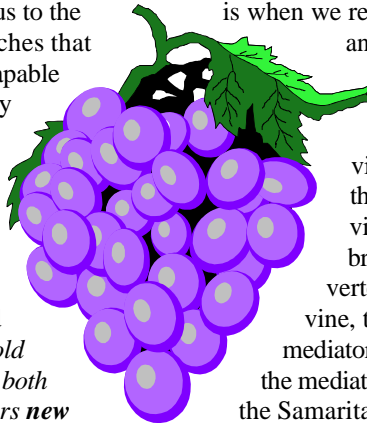
JAN. - FEB. 1997

FROM US TO YOU

It's January once again! This is usually the month when people take inventory of their lives and make New Year's resolutions based on what they see. One of the most common is to lose all the weight that was gained during the holidays. The human race has had a problem with food since Eve ate the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden! However, the Bible speaks about a different kind of fruit. In our November-December 1996 newsletter we published Anne's article, **"The Fruit of The Spirit of God."** Jesus spoke about spiritual fruit frequently. So did the Apostles. In fact, the word "fruit" is mentioned 52 times in the New Testament alone, in 43 verses! In the entire Bible it occurs 172 times in 158 verses. Yet despite the heavy scriptural emphasis on it, very little instruction is actually given in churches today regarding this subject. Therefore, we plan to revisit it often in the months to come. For Jesus told us clearly that unless God is able to produce fruit in the life of an individual, they will never reach Heaven! (See Matthew 7:15-23.) This is why it is so important that we, as Christians, remain faithful to Christ.

The Lord compared Himself to a grape vine, and us to the branches (John 15:1-8). Now, what happens to branches that become separated from the vine? They are no longer capable of producing good fruit. And any fruit that has already begun to grow will dry up from lack of moisture. People, the **wine** of the Spirit of God (see Acts 2:13) doesn't come from raisins! It comes from mature fruit that has withstood the test of time and has grown into a crop **worthy** of harvesting! (Matthew 3:8, Luke 3:9, Colossians 1:10, James 3:17, & Isaiah 5:1-5.) Do you want the Holy Spirit in your heart and your life? Jesus said, *"...no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, he pours new wine into new wineskins"* (Mark 2:22 NIV). If you are a Christian, you are the wineskin that Jesus was referring to! You may want the power and the authority that His Holy Spirit brings to a believer, however, God cannot pour His Spirit into a vessel, a person, who has not become a **totally new creation** in Christ Jesus (John 1:12-13 & 2 Corinthians 5:17)! If He did that, His Spirit would kill you! For the Lord is Holy, Holy, Holy!

Wine contains alcohol. And alcohol has traditionally been used to sterilize medical instruments or to cleanse a wound (Luke 10:34). That's because it kills the germs that cause infection. Jesus compared His blood to wine (Matthew 26:26-29). For it washes *"...away the sin of the world!"* (John 1:29 NIV). And since we live in such a filthy world today, we, as Christians, need to continually renew our relationship with Christ, in humility and devotion. But this is not currently happening in the church! Too many Christians are trying to please God in their own way, on their own terms (Proverbs 12:12), and are not being led and directed by the Holy Spirit. Yet God cannot give them His Holy Spirit because they have become separated from the Vine, Jesus Christ! Consequently, especially in the United States and Europe (see Luke 12:48), this is the Lord's message for much of His church. *"...I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but*



you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of My God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with Me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before My Father and His angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (Revelation 3:1-6 NIV. Also, see 3:14-19).

As Christians, we have been redeemed (John 3:3, 2 Corinthians 4:6, and 1 Peter 2:9) from the sinful state in which we once existed. Nevertheless, that doesn't mean that we can return to our prior lifestyle as if nothing ever happened. We now belong to Christ, *"...to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God"* (Romans 7:4 NIV). However, the only way that this will happen

is when we receive our nourishment from Him! Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches, not the other way around! The church today is so lacking in this vital doctrine that Christians are not producing Holy Spirit fruit for God (Galatians 5:22-24 & Ephesians 5:9). In a vineyard, the rain will fall just as hard on the branches that are withering away on the ground as it will on the vine itself (Matthew 5:45). But that won't do the dead branches any good, because unless that rain water is converted into sap and the branches receive it through the vine, they will simply shrivel up and die! The vine is the mediator between the rain and the branches, just as Christ is the mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5). Jesus told the Samaritan woman by the well, *"...Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life"* (John 4:13-14 NIV).

Too many Christians these days have been listening to so much bad doctrine (2 Timothy 4:3-4) that they have taken their eyes off of Christ. Consequently, they have no joy (see 2 Corinthians 1:24 and Galatians 4:15-16), no power (Philippians 3:10), and no Christian love (John 15:10 & 1 Corinthians 13). John the Baptist said of Jesus, *"He must become greater; I must become less"* (John 3:30 NIV). Have your own desires and self-will been getting in God's way? As believers, we need to recognize that God doesn't need our assistance (see Judges 7:2 & 1 Corinthians 1:27-29) to bring forth good fruit. He needs our obedience (see 1 Samuel 15:22)! We are not God's partners (James 4:10). We are His servants! (See Matthew 25:21-30.) We hope that this month's article, **"Living By Faith"** will be a blessing to those who have been confused about this subject.

In closing, we would like to ask those of you who are strong in Christ to pray for us and, especially our Spanish translator, Mrs. Torrado, who has developed many health problems, particularly in regard to her eyesight.

In the Lord's service, we remain, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*

Living By Faith

By Anne Kaestner

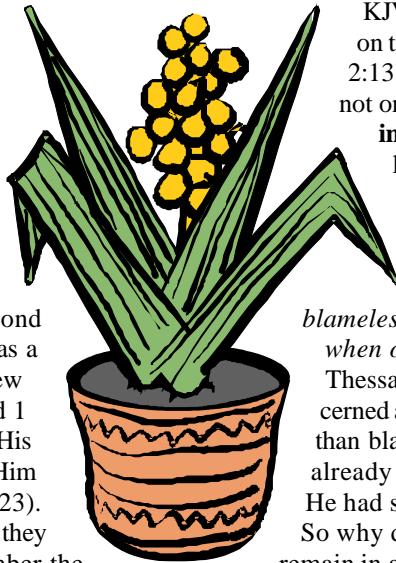
Anyone who likes gardening, knows that the traditional pot used by horticulturists is made of reddish clay. Plants do well in them, which shouldn't be surprising, since clay is a natural material which comes from the earth. I remember back in the 1980's when my husband, Eric, and I were driving home from a vacation and passed through the state of Alabama. I noticed the farmland around us and was surprised at the reddish color of the soil. Eric told me that the earth was red because it contained a lot of clay. This is the type of soil from which mankind originated! (See Isaiah 64:8.) Scientists have discovered that if all the liquid is taken out of the human body all that remains is a collection of inexpensive chemicals, worth no more than a few dollars. That's because the human body was formed from chemical contents that are found in the earth! The first human being ever to exist, the prototype for us all, was a man named Adam. "The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7 NIV). His wife's name was Eve. God made her body out of one of Adam's ribs (see Genesis 2:22), therefore it also consisted of earth dust. All of us have descended from these two people! That's why all human anatomy is made up of the same ingredients as the body of Adam. Consequently, God "...knows how we are formed, He remembers that we are dust" (Psalms 103:14 NIV).

Now what is a bag of potting soil worth? I saw an eight pound bag selling at a supermarket recently, and it was on sale for 88 cents! Soil is not a status symbol. You don't find designer earth for sale. It is inconsequential in our society. Yet, the **soul** of mankind is of such great value to God that He paid a price for the redemption of mankind that goes beyond comprehension (John 3:16 & 1 Peter 1:18-19). It was a price we couldn't possibly pay ourselves (see Matthew 18:23-27, Romans 3:23 & 6:23, Ephesians 2:1-9, and 1 Peter 2:10). So what does God get in exchange for His staggering investment? All He asks is that we allow Him to grow, in us, the fruit of His Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). In fact, unless He can produce good fruit in a person, they will never make it to Heaven (Luke 3:9)! Remember the parable of the Sower. Some of the seed that was sown fell on rocky soil (Matthew 13:5 & 20-21) where it couldn't grow properly. For the roots had no room to dig down deep into the ground. Other seed fell on earth that was inhabited by thorns which choked it (vs. 13:7 & 22). But the seed which lasted the shortest amount of time landed along the pathway (vs. 13:4 & 19). That ground was so hard (Psalm 95:8, Mark 6:52, Mark 8:17, & Hebrews 3:15) that the seed never had a chance! As a result, the birds dove down right away and ate it. The only seed that was able to grow into good fruit was that which fell in fertile soil, which was free from encumbrances and soft enough for it to sprout deep roots. The soil is the human heart, and unless that heart is humble before God (Psalm 51:17, Luke 14:8-11, 18:10-14, and John 13:3-17) the communication lines between the Christian and the Lord will be clogged.

Christ must take **first** place in the believer's heart before **everything** else. That includes family, church, friends, career, pride, sports, money, entertainment, etc. (see Matthew 10:37-39). God gave mankind free will at the time of creation, and He has never taken that away. Therefore, He will not force Himself on you. That's why it is important for each Christian to continually renew his or her relationship with God, through Jesus, His Son (Acts 4:12). Becoming Born Again (see John 3:3) is relatively easy. But being **saved** is a different

matter entirely! Remember that Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man **remains in Me** and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not **remain in Me**, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, **thrown into the fire and burned**" (John 15:5-6 NIV). It is through the precious blood of Christ that we are washed clean. But this cleansing must be a continual process! (See Isaiah 1:18.)

In His prophecy of the last days, Jesus said, "At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, **but he who stands firm to the end will be saved**" (Matthew 24:10-13 NIV). Notice first of all that Jesus acknowledged that it is possible for Christians to turn away from the faith. If it wasn't possible, Jesus wouldn't have told us that it will happen. The Lord and His disciples remind us about the importance of remaining faithful to God. For example, Paul wrote to the Corinthian church, "...we write none other things unto you, than what ye read or acknowledge; **and I trust ye shall acknowledge even to the end**" (2 Corinthians 1:13



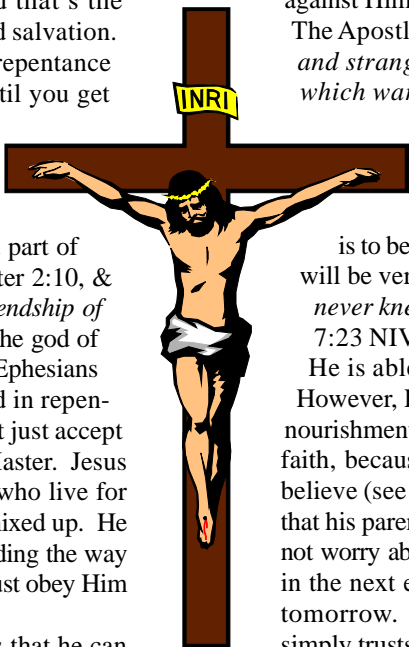
KJV). To the Thessalonians, Paul wrote extolling them on the virtues of their Christian walk (1 Thessalonians 2:13 thru 3:12), but also making it clear that they must not only continue in their love and faithfulness, but also **increase** in it (verse 3:12). Paul wanted to let them know that God, through His Holy Spirit, had the ability to keep them strong in righteousness. Yet Paul's words in certain passages sounded more like a prayer than a letter. For instance, "May He strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all His holy ones" (1 Thessalonians 3:13 NIV). Now why would Paul be concerned about the Thessalonian church being anything other than blameless and holy when the Lord returns? He had already complimented them on the purity of their faith. He had stated that God had the power to keep them holy. So why didn't he just take it for granted that they would remain in good shape spiritually? The reason is this. There is a difference between being Born Again and being saved.

The Born Again experience takes place immediately after a sinner repents of his sin and asks Christ into his life. It is not a continuing process. You are spiritually reborn (John 1:12-13) at the time that you accept the Lord's salvation. If you are at church when this happens, and you get killed in an accident on the way home, you will go straight to Heaven. But what if the accident doesn't kill you? What if you wake up in the hospital and the doctor tells you that he had to amputate your leg in order to save your life? Will you become angry at God? Will you say, "Alright God, I came to you in repentance and wanted to live for You, but look at what You allowed to happen! I was better off before. At least then I had two legs! Now I'm going right back to being a sinner again!" Or, will you determine in your heart that, come what may, you are going to live for God anyway! Consider the experience of Richie Roberts, a prisoner whose testimony we published in our June 1989 newsletter. In part, he wrote to us saying, "... I was married twice. I have four children: one I don't know where he is, and one has went astray. The other two are small and now live in Florida with their mother, who has left me when I came to jail... Satan has been in my life for a long time, and even now he tries to come back. But he is now lost, for the Holy Spirit is with me. Satan is very tricky with his lies! Since I been in jail I lost everything, my wife, two of my children

don't talk to me; I even had lost one of my legs. I have problems with my lungs and I've had doctors tell me that I don't have long to live. I know for me to die would be my glory for I will be with my Father who art in Heaven. I tell you the truth, I know God is going to have me go out there and show to people His work in me, for it is not what you can do for the Lord, but what He can do through you. After all the events that happened in my life I just look up and say, 'Thank you my Father. Surely you know what is best for me.'"

At the moment that you surrendered your heart and life to Christ, you made a promise to remain faithful to Him no matter what. And make no mistake, you're going to be tested! Those of you who have seen the "Pilgrim's Progress" video that we have been distributing in prisons, may remember the scene near the beginning where the main character, Christian, meets up with another man who wants to accompany him on his journey to the Celestial City. They set out together enthusiastic about their destination, but it doesn't take long before they arrive at a muddy pond, and both of them fall into the water. Christian isn't discouraged, and continues on his way, but his new friend no longer wishes to accompany him. His original zeal was quickly dampened, and all it took was a fall into dirty water! Both of them began the journey together, but only one of them was willing to travel the route all the way to the end. And that's the difference between the Born Again experience and salvation. You are reborn in Christ after you turn to Him in repentance and commitment, but salvation does not occur until you get to the end of your journey! In other words, until you die. Jesus told us that living for Him isn't going to be easy, because when we accept Him as our Lord and Savior, we are no longer a part of this world system. Instead, we become a part of the Kingdom of God (see John 3:5, & 17:16, 1 Peter 2:10, & Hebrews 12:22-23). Consequently, since "...the friendship of the world is enmity with God..." (James 4:4 KJV), the god of this world, Satan (Matthew 4:8-10, John 14:30, & Ephesians 2:2), regards us as his enemy. If you came to God in repentance, you made a commitment to Him. You didn't just accept Christ as your Savior, but also as your Lord and Master. Jesus is a good Master. He is kind and loving to those who live for Him (Matthew 11:29-30), but don't get your roles mixed up. He is the boss, not you! He makes the decisions regarding the way your life will go, and you, as an obedient servant, must obey Him in trust and sincerity.

The man who puts this world first, and thinks that he can find a little corner of his life for God is not living for Him at all. Whether he realizes it or not, he is trusting in his own righteousness (Matthew 5:20, John 10:1, Romans 3:22-24, Isaiah 59:15-16 & 64:6) instead of yielding to the Holy Spirit and living by the righteousness of Christ! Moses had the fruit of faith and he trusted God no matter how things looked on the surface, because "...faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1 KJV). Unfortunately, in view of some of the bad doctrine that has been taught on faith during the last few decades, this scripture can be misinterpreted. So, before I go any further, I want to make it clear that this verse does **not** apply to those Christians who have not yet crucified all their worldly wants and desires and laid them at the feet of Christ! Remember that Paul told the Galatian church, "*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me*" (Galatians 2:20 NIV). The Apostle Paul didn't die through crucifixion, as Jesus did. He was beheaded in Rome. So what did Paul mean when he said, "I have been crucified with Christ"? He was saying "the selfish, human part of my nature is now dead. All those worldly wants and desires I had in the past are gone. They belonged to the **old** Paul. And the old Paul is dead!"



When I came to God in repentance and humility, I gave my life to Him! All my sins were paid for on the cross of Calvary. They are now in the past, forgiven and forgotten by God. But my life, as it was, is now over. I no longer live to serve Paul. I live to serve Christ! And I am led and directed by His Spirit! I don't decide what I will and what I won't do for God. His Spirit tells me what to do! And it is my responsibility to constantly seek the will of God, not my will, but Christ! For now I am a new creation in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17)." Then, later on, Paul tells the Galatians, that if they truly want to be saved, they, also, must forget about their own personal hopes and dreams and put their lives totally in the hands of God! Too many Christians have been led by false prophets (Matthew 7:15-16) to believe that God exists to serve us. He does not! We exist to serve Him! That's why "*those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other*" (Galatians 5:24-26 NIV).

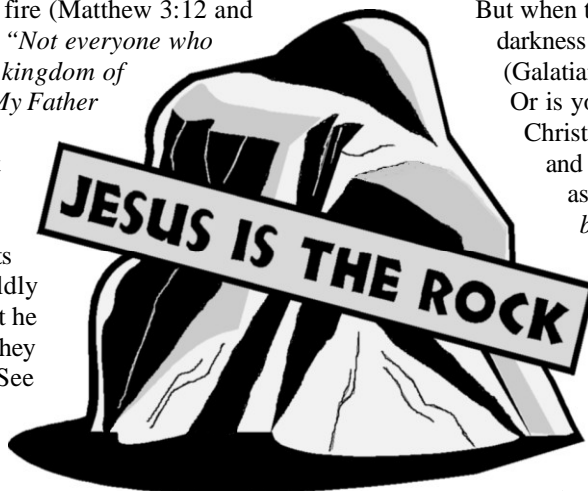
The **only** way that a person can truly please God is to be led by His Spirit. And the only way to be led by His Spirit is to **give up** those worldly passions and desires that war against the Spirit. If God wants your life to go in one direction and your own will struggles against Him to go in another, you're not truly living for Christ! The Apostle Peter wrote, "*Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us*" (1 Peter 2:11-12 NIV). The way that you do this

is to be totally Christ-centered. The self-centered Christian will be very surprised one day when Jesus says to Him, "... *I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!*" (Matthew 7:23 NIV). Remember that you cannot please God unless He is able to grow good fruit in you (Matthew 21:33-44). However, He won't be able to do that unless you receive your nourishment from the Vine of Christ. Now we can get back to faith, because true faith in God is **trust** in Him! It means to believe (see John 3:16) in Him as a sweet, innocent child trusts that his parents will provide for him (Matthew 18:3-4). He does not worry about the rent payments, or who he's going to vote for in the next election, or whether he'll have enough food to eat tomorrow. His mind is at rest about these matters, for he simply trusts that his parents will take care of him. Jesus taught us that we have to trust God the same way (Matthew 6:25-34). This is the faith God wants to see in us, **not** faith that God will give us a fancy new car, or that we'll become rich through the stock market. That's not Christian faith! It's worldly (James 4:4), and not pleasing to the Lord. God will give you what you need to live for Him, and to grow good spiritual fruit for His Kingdom. But, "*Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world... My kingdom is from another place'*" (John 18:36 NIV). Therefore, if you're a part of the Kingdom of God, your hopes and dreams should not be earthly, but Heavenly! "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*" (Luke 12:34 NIV).

Those believers who have truly been led by the Spirit of God, are those who have loved Him enough to desire His will and His direction in their lives. Moses and Joseph were two prime examples. Moses knew what true faith in God is all about! (See Hebrews 11:24-29.) And it was because Moses had such strong faith and trust in His Creator, that the Lord was able to use him in such a mighty way! Satan tried to destroy the Hebrews. He thought he had them cornered between the charging Egyptian chariots and the Red Sea, but, as a result of the faith and obedience of that one man, God opened up the sea and took the Hebrews across it on (Continued On Page 4)

dry land! Then, after the Egyptian army went charging after them, God put the sea back where it was supposed to be and Pharaoh's entire army was drowned (see Exodus 14:1 thru 15:13). Likewise, Satan thought that he had scored some points after he hardened the hearts of the sons of Jacob against their brother Joseph. For Joseph was the only one of them who was truly living for God. However, God turned the whole thing around and, despite all the horrible things that happened to Joseph, God brought him through it all victoriously. For during those years of slavery and imprisonment in Egypt, Joseph continued to trust God. As a result, the fires of affliction burned off all the impurities in his heart (Zechariah 13:9 & Isaiah 48:10), and God prepared in him a weapon, "...the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" (Ephesians 6:17 NIV. Also, see Isaiah 54:16). Consequently, not only did the Lord use Joseph to spare all his brothers from starvation, but to also preserve the heritage of their faith according to the promise that God had given to Joseph's great grandfather, Abraham (see Genesis 22:16-18). There are many other examples of how God is able to turn the devil's tactics around so as to bring glory to Himself. He can also use backslidden Christians and false prophets to do the same thing, but that doesn't mean that the fruit that they produce is good (Matthew 7:15-20). And, at the time of the harvest, the Lord will separate the wheat from the chaff and the chaff will be burned with unquenchable fire (Matthew 3:12 and Luke 3:17). Remember that Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in Heaven" (Matthew 7:21 NIV).

At the beginning, when a believer first comes to the Lord, no matter how much of a big shot he may have been in the world, he is starting from scratch if he wants to live for God! He is not to use the worldly techniques, acquaintances, and skills that he learned while living in Satan's kingdom. They are abhorrent in the kingdom of God! (See 1 John 2:15-17.) If you were a gambler, or a bar tender, or a prostitute, or an actress, while living for the world, you will have to relinquish your career if you want to live for God (Mark 8:36). The first thoughts that are going to occur to most people hearing this are, "How will I support myself? Who will take care of me? Will I starve to death? Where will I live?" Jesus said, "do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:31-33 NIV). If you want to live for God, you must live by **faith**, for "...without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6 NIV). When we walk by faith (see Romans 1:17 and 2 Corinthians 5:7), we allow God to grow good fruit in us. We don't try to grow our own fruit for Him, because it won't be acceptable! Christians have been hearing about faith for a long time, but true faith has been so distorted that many believers think that they can add Christianity on to whatever their own goals may be, and they expect it to be acceptable to the Lord. It will not! Brethren, the hearts of the unsaved won't be touched for Christ by what we **tell** them unless they **see the fruit** in our lives! This is not the meat of the Word of God. It is only baby food! However, most Christians these days are so worldly that even though it has been years, in many cases, since they came to Christ, they are still living on the milk of the Gospel!



(See 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 & Hebrews 5:11-14.)

The most difficult aspect of affliction for the Christian comes when the person doesn't understand why they are going through their struggle. For that is when Satan attacks their faith! It will sound something like this, "If God really loves you, why is He allowing this to happen to you?" When these tests occur, they separate the wheat from the chaff (Matthew 13:24-30), those who truly love Christ from those who are lukewarm Christians (see Revelation 3:16). So be aware that your faith will be tested! (See 1 Thessalonians 2:4, James 1:12, & 1 Peter 4:12-13.) When you're in school, how does the teacher know how much you have learned unless she gives you a test? This is true in every aspect of life. Whether it's a new design for aircraft, a stain remover for fabric, or a pill that will cure some disease, it isn't worth a thing until it has been tested severely and has been proven ready for battle! The same thing is true with your faith. When everything is going well in your life and you have no opposition, it is easy to praise Jesus. But will you still love Him when all Hell seems to come against you, your loved ones get sick, your home is destroyed, your friends turn against you, and you're alone in a cold, dark place? Will your faith fail? Will Satan be able to deceive you with his lies? Will you allow circumstances to drag you under? Or will you keep your eyes on Jesus anyway, and trust Him to be your strength and your navigator, even in the midst of the fiercest storm (see Psalm 107:28-30)? Every believer will face the trials and tests of faith.

But when the storm winds blow hard and the forces of darkness come against you, will you fall by the wayside (Galatians 5:4, 1 Timothy 6:10, and 2 Peter 2:15-22)? Or is your faith securely built on the solid Rock of Christ Jesus? (See Matthew 7:24-27, 1 Peter 2:4-9, and 1 Corinthians 10:4.) Will you be able to say, as did Habakkuk, "Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior" (Habakkuk 3:17-18 NIV)?

When our faith is built on the Rock, the earth loses its power over us! As the prophet said, "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings" (Psalm 40:2 KJV). When we rely on our own flesh, we will fail (see Psalm 127:1). However, when we trust in Christ, His Spirit is there to guide us no matter how fierce the storm or how dark it may get (see Isaiah 9:2, 42:16, Psalm 36:7, and Mark 4:39). No demon of Hell can pull us under, because our faith is securely built on the Rock! The three top disciples whom Jesus chose to change the world with His Gospel were not intellectuals. Most were fishermen! The world didn't even know who Jesus was (John 1:10), nor did they want to know (see John 5:44). But Simon Peter, a simple, uneducated man knew (Matthew 16:16-17) because he accepted Him through faith, and the Holy Spirit revealed the Truth to him, for Peter was with the Truth made flesh (John 8:32 and 14:6). So don't be surprised when the world treats you as if you are crazy for following Jesus (1 John 3:1). For if they don't know Christ as their Savior and Lord, how can they possibly understand those who love Him (1 Corinthians 2:14), who have been delivered out of darkness into His Holy light? "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in **earthen vessels**, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us" (2 Corinthians 4:5-7 KJV).