



NON-PROFIT



TAX-EXEMPT

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

MAY-JULY 1999

FROM US TO YOU

We have a saying that we use whenever we are going through a particularly stressful period. It is, "God must be about to do something wonderful for us!" It always happens that way! Right before the Lord does anything great in our lives or our ministry, Satan is allowed to test us with all kinds of strange and irritating harassments. As the Apostle Peter warned the church, "...Do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ..." (1 Peter 4:12-13 NIV). You may have noticed that this newsletter is late getting out. We have been plagued with a multiplicity of delays and interruptions. Eric has been dealing with all kinds of computer related problems and, since our last issue, we have had to replace and upgrade both our hardware and software. And there have been many other delays as well. Some have been nuisance related, while others have been far more serious, such as the recent death of Anne's Uncle, Edward Riccio. This came shortly after Anne discovered that she had skin cancer. She had surgery to remove it, but the sutures caused an infection, which slowed things down even more. Do we sound overwhelmed? How can anyone be overwhelmed when they are truly living by faith (Matthew 6:25-34 & Philippians 4:6)? For, as long as we remain in Christ, God turns every attack into a victory (Isaiah 54:15 & Romans 8:28), even when the situation seems impossible. The main article in this issue, "**Trials and Tests of Faith**" goes into more detail on this subject.

There are some Christians reading this who have been feeling defeated and depressed. They think God has let them down because He has not answered their prayers in the way that they want them answered. They do not understand that clashes inevitably occur when the plans of an individual conflict with the will of God. For example, when we first started this organization we never dreamed that God wanted to turn it into a nationwide prison ministry. Yet the Lord told us, through prophecy, that He was going to give us a ministry. So, in August 1988, we started a Bible study. We are now living in a nice house that we inherited last year when Eric's mother died. But back in those days, we were living in a small apartment above a store, where we remained for the first 18 years of our marriage. We invited a number of people to attend the meeting, which was supposed to take place on a Sunday afternoon. The weather was **very** hot and humid! Even so, we got dressed up in our church clothes and began to pray together before the people arrived. We had no air conditioning in our living room and our clothes seemed to stick to our skin.

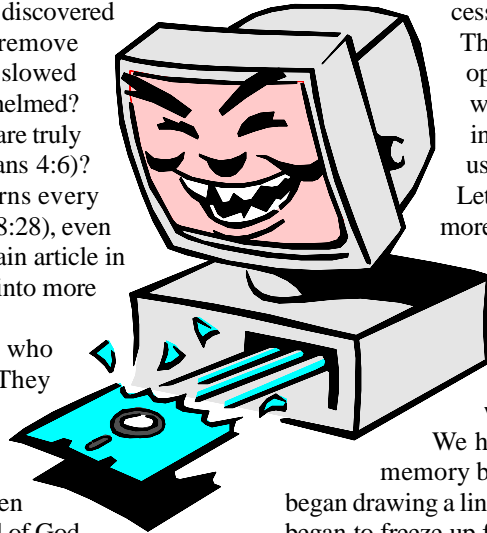
God's Spirit attended the meeting, for we felt His Presence (see Matthew 18:20). But nobody else showed up! During the week we listened to all the excuses. Then we set it up once again for the following Sunday. The same thing happened! Eric, who was still a fairly new believer back then, became upset. He said, "God has let us down." Anne said, "No He hasn't! I'm going to just trust Him and wait for **Him** to lead us." A couple of weeks went by. Anne continued in prayer,

and spent some of that time distributing Christian tracts in parking lots near our home. Then, after one prayerful night that stretched into the morning hours, the Lord gave Anne one word, "Newsletter." Eric was just getting up for work and, when she told him about it, he knew from the Lord that this was the direction in which we were to go. We bought a computer, office furniture, supplies, etc. and Eric customized the software to meet our needs. Then we printed 100 copies of our first issue and passed them out to people we knew. The reaction was so positive that the next month we printed up 300. Even that was not enough! Then Eric found a commercial printer who would produce 1,000 copies for us for less money than the retail printer had charged for 300. But he would not print less than 1,000. Eric went home and told Anne about it. She replied, "Whatever are we going to do with 1,000 copies?" We tried giving some to nursing homes, but that didn't work out. We tried several other institutions as well, but with no success. Then Anne decided to try correctional facilities. That's when we hit the target! It was the only door open to us at the time, but the heartwarming response we received was **very** encouraging. Letters poured into our office from chaplains and inmates, telling us how much they enjoyed reading "The Good News Letter." We continued to spread the newsletter into more and more prisons and jails. Then the problems began!

Everything that could possibly go wrong did! We went through at least 3 computer monitors that first year. We had trouble with **all** of our equipment. Our software programs were doing crazy things. It was mind boggling! We had to deal with fonts that disappeared from the memory banks. Then there was the time that our software began drawing a line through everything we typed! And our keyboard began to freeze up fifteen minutes after we started using it. Peter was right. These things were definitely strange! But then, "...we wrestle **not** against flesh and blood, but against... **spiritual** wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12 KJV). We also had health problems, very little money, even trouble getting a ministry checking account! You see, God allows attacks like this to occur so that, after He has accomplished the things He planned to do (see Isaiah 55:10-11), "...no flesh should glory in His presence" (1 Corinthians 1:29 KJV). For, despite everything Satan threw against us, this ministry not only survived, but flourished. Currently the Lord has been pruning us back once again (John 15:1-2), so that He can grow even more good fruit (Matthew 3:10 & 7:17-19).

In closing, we would like to announce that Bible Believers Fellowship, Inc. has received its first grant! The American Bible Society will be supplying us on a regular basis with quantities of free New Testaments, Christian calendars, postcards, and tray cards. They are in English and Spanish, and should be used for the spiritual edification of prisoners. We will be getting them out (**only**) to authorized correctional facilities' chaplains and inmates as soon as possible.

In Christ we remain, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*



TRIALS AND TESTS OF FAITH

By Anne Kaestner

Most of you who are reading this consider yourselves Born Again Christians (John 3:3). That means that at some time in the past, you realized that your life had been heading in the wrong direction! (See Psalm 94:11 & 1 Corinthians 3:20.) You felt the soft admonition of the Holy Spirit and the burden in your heart seemed too heavy to bear (Matthew 11:28-30). So you humbled yourself before God (see Psalms 51:17), repented of your sins (Matthew 3:8, Mark 1:4 & Luke 5:32) and accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior (Luke 1:47 & Romans 1:16). Then you made God a promise that, with His help and guidance, you would **turn** from the destructive path you were on (Matthew 7:13-14) and **live by faith** (Romans 1:17, 2 Corinthians 5:7, Galatians 2:20 & Hebrews 10:38). You know that God heard you, for in the days that followed you felt a peaceful reassurance that He had everything under control. You were no longer carrying that heavy burden of sin. You had given it to Jesus and He was carrying it instead (Isaiah 53:6 & John 19:17-18). You probably felt as light as a feather! Praise God, your sins were gone! But what now? Has it been years since that happened? Has your initial enthusiasm become deflated? Do you feel like a balloon that has been slowly losing air until it is left empty, shriveled up and abandoned? Some of you are wondering why life suddenly got so hard. Have you asked yourself, "What about the promises of God? Where is Jesus when I need Him?"

Many people assume that Jesus Christ came to bring peace to this **world** or to make our lives easier in this evil realm. They could not be more wrong! Jesus said, "*My kingdom is **not** of this world...*" (John 18:36 KJV). Therefore, "*do not suppose that I have come to bring **peace** to the earth. I did **not** come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn a man **against** his father, a daughter **against** her mother, a daughter-in-law **against** her mother-in-law -- a man's enemies will be the members of his own household*" (Matthew 10:34-36 NIV. Also, see Ephesians 6:17 & Hebrews 4:12). So much for the "family values" that are promoted at most churches today! Christ wasn't saying that we must be against our loved ones per se. What we must be against is the worldly spirit in them that Satan can tap into and use as a means by which to destroy our faith, if we let him. Yet when you and I **remain** in Christ (John 15:4-7), He gives us a new nature. And if the hearts of those in your household are not right with God, they will "...think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you" (1 Peter 4:4 NIV. Also, see verses 14-16). For "...**you were dead** in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of **this world**... But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **made us alive with Christ**..." (Ephesians 2:1-5 NIV). Therefore, what fellowship has life with death? "...Or what fellowship can **light** have with **darkness**?" (2 Corinthians 6:14 NIV. Also, see John 3:19-21).

When you are **reborn** in Christ, you no longer have the same father. For you are no longer born of the perishable seed of Man (see 1 Corinthians 15:22 & 15:50). You are born of God (John 1:12-13). That's why Jesus said, "...call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in Heaven" (Matthew 23:9 KJV. Also, see Matthew 12:46-50). The Apostle Peter told us, "...it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were **redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but**

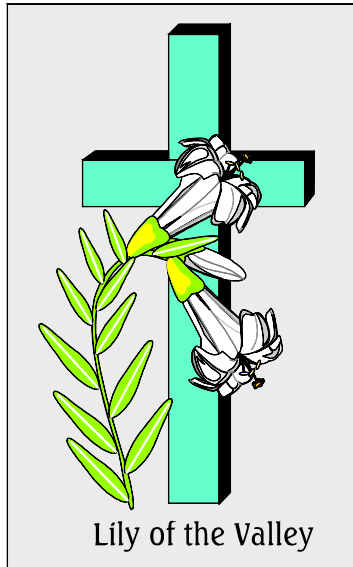
with the precious blood of Christ..." (1 Peter 1:18-19 NIV). Therefore, Jesus said, "*Anyone who loves his father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me...*" (Matthew 10:37-39 NIV). Nothing must come between God and us! If anything in your life does, you will have problems in your Christian walk!

The Bible tells us about a righteous man named Job. Job had enough good sense to fear God (Psalm 111:10, Ecclesiastes 12:13, Revelation 14:7) and obey His commandments. So the Lord blessed him in many ways. Job had a happy family, wealth, and a prestigious place in the community. However, one day "...*the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, 'Where have you come from?' Satan answered the LORD, 'From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it'*" (Job 1:6-7 NIV). Satan was once an angel of God. His name was Lucifer. And, he still has much of the power and ability that God had once given him in that capacity. He is a fallen angel (Luke 10:18), and he presides over a kingdom of fallen angels (Revelation 12:7-9) that are called demons or evil spirits. Never-

theless, we learn from Job 1:6-7 that they are still occasionally invited into Heaven to meet with the Lord. Why? It is because God often uses the services of fallen angels to do His bidding. Do you remember the Christian hymn entitled, "Lily of the Valley"? One passage in it says, "There's a wall of fire about me. I've nothing now to fear." God protects those who love and serve Him with a spiritual **hedge** of fire. Nevertheless, He occasionally allows demons to test our loyalty to Him, or to keep us humble, such as in the life of the Apostle Paul (2 Corinthians 12:7-9). He also uses them to punish people who do evil. One such occurrence is mentioned in 1 Kings 22:19-23. And when King Saul continually rebelled against God, the Lord sent one of these demons to torment him (1 Samuel 16:14-23 & 18:10-12).

God was so proud of Job that He used the opportunity to brag about him. So He "...*said to Satan, 'Have you considered My servant Job?*

*There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.' 'Does Job fear God for nothing?' Satan replied. 'Have You not put a **hedge** around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out Your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face'*" (Job 1:8-11 NIV). The devil was telling God, "Job doesn't really love You. He only loves the blessings that come from You! He knows that it's in his best interest to serve You because You have been treating him so well. But it's not really You that he loves, it's himself, his family, and his possessions. As long as You keep giving him good things and making him rich, he'll serve You. But if You take away all that he has and allow me to test him, he will curse You to Your face!" God knew Job would not fail Him, but He wanted Satan to know it too. Something similar took place in the life of Simon Peter. After the Lord rose from the dead and appeared to His disciples, Jesus said to Peter, "*Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat...*" (Luke 22:31 NIV). As in the case of Job, Satan deliberately set out to destroy Peter's faith. Nevertheless, he was limited in what he could do because God was protecting Peter, as He



protects all of those who love and serve Him (Matthew 4:6). Therefore, the devil needed to persuade God to remove some of His protection over Peter so that he could tempt him to stray away from the Lord's sheepfold (Isaiah 53:6, John 10:14-16 & Luke 15:4-7). Jesus knew this, and that God had granted His permission. Yet He said, "...I have prayed for you, Simon, **that your faith may not fail.** And when you have **turned back,** strengthen your brothers" (Luke 22:32 NIV).

This is what it is all about whenever a child of God (see John 1:12-13) goes through a bitter trial. It is about faith! There are many in the church today who are "fair weather" Christians. As long as God continues to bless them and give them what they want they will serve Him. But as soon as their faith is tested, they fall by the **wayside**, because they never truly loved Christ. They only loved the things He has given them! God sprinkled His Holy seed among them, the seed that should have grown in them and blossomed into good fruit (John 15:1-6, Matthew 7:15-20, Romans 7:4, Galatians 5:22-25, Colossians 1:6 & 1:10, James 3:17, Jude 1:12) producing new life in Christ (John 1:12-13, 3:3-8, Romans 6:4 & 2 Corinthians 5:17). However, that seed never grew properly. It was the seed that "...fell by the **way side;** and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it" (Luke 8:5 KJV. Also, see 8:11-12). The new church in Corinth, Greece, had a real problem with this. Like many in the flock today, they bragged about how many blessings God had given them, and about all their worldly possessions. They felt very special to the Lord, like King's Kids. By contrast, the Apostle Paul had given up everything for Christ (Philippians 3:3-14. Also, see Mark 10:28). So he was greatly alarmed at the carnal spirit (1 Corinthians 3:3-4 & 1 John 2:15-17) he saw in the Corinthian church. And he wrote back to them hoping that his sarcasm would jolt them into realizing that they were dwelling too much on the things of this world (1 Corinthians 4:8-14) and had not yet reached maturity in Christ. For fruit does not come from immature branches, but only those that have **survived the winds and storms of life** (Ephesians 4:14-15) and have remained in the Light (John 8:12) and been nourished by the precious food (John 6:53, Luke 22:19 & 1 Cor. 11:23-29) of the Vine (John 15:1).

Now, God could have refused to test Job. However, if He had done that, it would have looked as if Satan was right. God knew that Job was mature enough spiritually that he could be trusted. So, "*the LORD said to Satan, 'Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, **but on the man himself do not lay a finger.**' Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD*" (Job 1:12 NIV). God never tempts us to commit sin (James 1:13). The devil and his demons do that! Have you ever noticed that when something goes wrong in your life, it seems that **everything** else goes wrong at the same time? That's what happened to Job! Do you think that you've had a bad day? Everything was just fine in Job's life until one day when "*a messenger came to Job and said, 'The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!'*" While he was still speaking, *another messenger came and said, 'The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!'*" While he was still speaking, *another messenger came and said, 'The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!'*" (Job 1:14-17 NIV). Now that's bad! If that happened to you, would you turn your back on God? Well, Job didn't! Then it got worse! "...*Yet another messenger came and said, 'Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and*

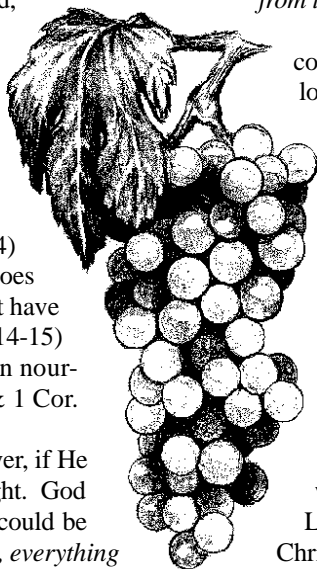
struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!'" (Job 1:18-19).

What would you do if you were in a situation like that? Job is not some fictional character in a story. He was a **real** man who lived several thousand years before the birth of Jesus Christ. Things seemed to be about as bad as they could get. That's when the devil usually whispers in your ear, "God has become your enemy. He doesn't love you. You haven't done anything to deserve this, but He has allowed this to happen! You'd be a fool to continue to serve Him after all of this." However, Job didn't succumb to the devil's temptation. To the contrary, Job **humbled** himself before the Lord and **worshiped** Him! He said, "...*Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised*" (Job 1:20-21 NIV). Obviously, this wasn't good news to Satan! For Job had determined in his heart that, come what may, he would **trust** God and serve Him **anyway!** So the devil went back to God, and the Lord was again able to joyfully brag about Job. Therefore, Satan decided to try a new technique. "'*Skin for skin!*" Satan replied. '*A man will give all he has for his own life. But stretch out Your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse You to Your face.*' The LORD said to Satan, '*Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.*' So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head" (Job 2:4-7 NIV).

Now, remember how I told you that Satan will try to convince you that your situation is hopeless, that God doesn't love you anymore and that you might as well give up? He said the same thing to Job, through his wife. That's why your family must not come before your relationship with God! For Satan will use **anything** he can to lead you astray! How did the devil get Adam to sin against God? It was through Eve, his wife! (See Genesis 3:6.) Poor Job was in such misery that he "...*took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes. His wife said to him, 'Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!'*" He replied, '*You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?'*" In all this, *Job did not sin in what he said*" (Job 2:8-10 NIV). What was it about Job that gave him so much confidence in the Lord? It was the same thing that should give every true Christian the same type of hope and strength today. Job said, "*I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God*" (Job 19:25-26 NIV. Also, see 1 Corinthians 15:35-44). The Bible says, "...*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*" (2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV). It doesn't matter whether you go around calling yourself Born Again (John 3:3) or not. If you are so stubborn and rebellious that God cannot mold you into a "**new creation**", you are **not in Christ Jesus**. And if you are a Christian, it is not your job to "...*merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says*" (James 1:22 NIV)!

The reason why so many of you are having problems in your Christian walk is because you are trying to please two masters (see Matthew 6:24). You are still carnal in your heart (Galatians 5:19-21) and lukewarm in your faith (Revelation 3:16). You are not truly living for Jesus because there is still too much of the world within you (James 4:4), through your old nature (Ephesians 2:2-3, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 & Galatians 5:19-21). Thus, you have been trying to build your own relationship with God. However, "...*unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain*" (Psalms 127:1 NIV). After a person initially comes to God, the Holy Spirit begins His work in their life. For if you truly love and serve the

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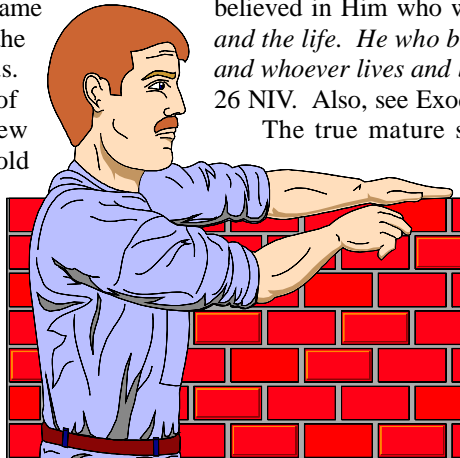
Lord, your body is supposed to become “...a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price...” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV). Would you like to live in some dark (John 3:19-21), dirty (Isaiah 64:6) house that was built on a bad foundation? The Lord certainly doesn't! So now that He owns the property, which is you beloved of God, He wants to make you into a fitting habitation for His Spirit. Jesus said, “...everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it **did not fall**, because it had its **foundation on the rock**. But everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash” (Matthew 7:24-27 NIV). Jesus Christ is the **Rock** of our salvation (Acts 4:10-11, 1 Corinthians 10:4 & 1 Peter 2:4)!

However, before He can use you in any significant way, God has to begin His demolition work on you. A new house cannot be constructed on ground that is already occupied by another building. First that building has to be **knocked right down to the ground**. That occurs when you humble yourself before God and give it all up to Him. Yes, I know that you did that when you first came to Christ. But it takes a long time for God to get the world out of us before He can put His Spirit into us. Then, after all of the garbage and stubborn roots of your past have been dug up and hauled away, a new foundation can finally be laid on the ruins of the old site. And brick by brick, stone by stone, the Lord begins to rebuild you into the person He wants you to be, a shining reflection of the Son He loves (Matthew 17:5 & Luke 3:21-22). Therefore, Christ must be the Cornerstone of our faith (1 Peter 2:6)! “As you come to Him, the living Stone -- rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him -- you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:4-5 NIV. Also, see Ephesians 2:19-22). That's why your life is falling apart around you! It is because God wants to **separate** you (2 Corinthians 6:17) from every stumbling block of the past and remake you into a new creation in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church saying, “By the grace God has given me, I laid a **foundation** as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be **revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work**” (1 Corinthians 3:10-13 NIV). Christ is the bedrock, the Cornerstone of our faith! Yet He has been rejected by people since the days of Cain (Genesis 4:1-12, Hebrews 11:4, 1 John 3:12 & Jude 1:11). All the glitter and tinsel and fancy cathedrals in the world will not replace Him! All the beautiful artwork in the world will not replace Him! No matter how much gold, silver, or anything else you have in your church it will not matter one iota to God if your foundation is not built on the solid Rock of Christ! Yes, the fires of affliction hurt. But fire purifies. And farmers have learned that the most fertile soil there is for growing anything is that which has been purified by fire. Remember that the Lord formed our earthly bodies out of “...the dust

of the ground...” (Genesis 2:7 NIV). God wants to grow good fruit in us, but He cannot do that if we are not fertile and soft hearted enough to accept **His** seed and to allow it to grow within us.

There are a great many lukewarm wishy-washy Christians among the flock. But Jesus said of the latter day Laodicean Church, “...because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth” (Revelation 3:16 KJV). Yet He also said, “To him who **overcomes and does My will to the end**, I will give authority over the nations” (Revelation 2:26 NIV). Anyone can live for Christ when everything is going well in their life. But only those who truly love Him will remain faithful to Him when the storms of adversity come along and begin to rock the boat. Jesus said that many will call Him Lord, and on that day He will say to them, “...Away from Me, you evildoers!” (Matthew 7:23 NIV). The true church of Christ is a church that does not trust in its own judgement, or become alarmed by what it sees on the surface. For it lives by faith! “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1 KJV). Job had never seen his Redeemer. Christ had never come into this world at that time. But Job believed in Him anyway! He said, “I myself will see Him with my own eyes -- I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!” (Job 19:27 NIV). He is saying, “I will not have to depend on what someone else tells me about Him. I will see Him with my own eyes, in my own body.” Job believed in “...the resurrection of the righteous” (Luke 14:14 NIV), because he believed in Him who would one day say, “...I AM the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die...” (John 11:25-26 NIV. Also, see Exodus 3:14 & John 8:58).



The true mature servant of Christ does not seek after **self-esteem** or personal honor (Matthew 6:1-8 and Luke 14:8-11). He denies himself (Luke 9:23) and lifts up Christ, no matter what it costs him (Matthew 10:39)! He does not preach a social agenda or a “feel good” Gospel. He is often ridiculed by the church (John 16:2), and abused by his family (Psalms 27:10). His friends think he has gone crazy, and he has suffered many losses in his life (1 Corinthians 4:11-13). Yet the fire of affliction (Isaiah

48:9-11, Proverbs 17:3, 1 Peter 1:7 & Revelation 3:17-19) has burned off all the chaff around him (Matthew 13:24-43) and despite all he has suffered, he has not become bitter or angry toward God. He loves Christ **more** as a result of his suffering. Job was among the small percentage of the flock who did not suffer as a result of his own sin. Nor was God trying to teach him something. Job had been honored by God. For he had been found worthy to suffer for the sake of the Gospel. (Also, see Matthew 5:11-12 & Acts 5:41). Satan did everything in his power to destroy Job's tenacious determination to live for God. He took away everything Job had loved. He humiliated him and he turned Job's friend's into patronizing, supercilious irritants. They were convinced of their own righteousness. Yet for Job, who needed compassion and a kind word, they had only cheap platitudes. How awful it must have been for Job. For it seemed to him that God, whom he loved, had turned against him. Yet Job would not turn against God! He said, “Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him...” (Job 13:15 NIV. Also, see Habakkuk 3:17-18). And in the end, “...the LORD made him prosperous again and gave him **twice** as much as he had before. All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before came and ate with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the LORD had brought upon him, and each one gave him a piece of silver and a gold ring. The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first...” (Job 42:10-12 NIV). Amen.