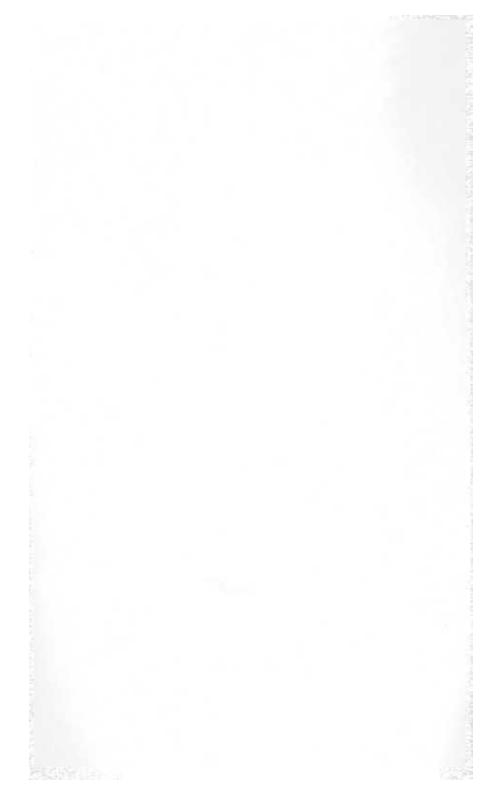
TAKE GOD AT HIS WORD

Victor Paul Wierwille



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TAKE GOD AT HIS WORD

Victor Paul Wierwille

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To Dorothy Owens and Rhoda Wierwille
—for your years of loving service
to God, to the household
and to The Teacher—
Thank you, Dorothy. Thank you, Rhoda.



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Preface

Dr. Victor Paul Wierwille was known for many years and to many people as "The Teacher". His teaching of God's Word enlightened and enriched, bringing insight and understanding of the Scriptures to many of God's people. But, it also oftened challenged.

He often presented his listeners and his students with the challenge to trust God and His Word as much as the word of the banker, the word of the lawyer or the word of other men. Then logically he would point out that, because the Word of God was written by holy men of God who were inspired by God and who wrote what God wanted them to write, it is worthy of more trust than are the words of men. We are so often prone, Dr. Wierwille would point out, to take man at his word, why should we not take the wonderful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ at His Word?

God bless you as you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and as you too *Take God at His Word*.

Christopher C. Geer Bonn, West Germany September 1987

CHAPTER 1

Commitment to Truth

God never set the standard for failure; God only set the standard for success for every born-again believer. Ignorance is never a virtue, no matter how you look at it, when knowledge is available; and the knowledge of the integrity and accuracy of God's Word is available to people.

God gave His Word, in the written form, the reason being that He might interpret Himself and His will to us and for us. The Word of God is the will of God, and no man or woman can really know the will of God without knowing the Word of God. To know God's will you cannot go by tradition, you cannot go by the history of so-called Christendom, you have to go back to the integrity of God's Word. You cannot go by what men say, by what theologians say, by what clergy or by what anyone else may say, you have to come back to the Word of God.

In every organized sport there are rules,

and when you play a sport you have to play by the rules for that sport. When there are any differences of opinion between officials in a sports competition, then they refer back to the rule book. They read it, and then they determine from the rule book what is the proper decision to make. Likewise, if you want to play in God's league, then you play by God's Rule Book. It is as simple as that; we go back to the Rule Book.

God's Son, Jesus Christ, fully exemplified and manifested God's written Word. He always did the will of his Father, and that is why he could say, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."

As sons of God, born again of God's Spirit with Christ in us, the hope of glory, we are to live God's Word. This Word makes known Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, and the Father, God. That is a tremendous calling.

Ephesians 3:19:

And to know [experientially] the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

You will never know the love of Christ until you get born again of God's Spirit. And then to read, "that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God," a man's heart can almost never take that in because it is so big.

As you read God's Word, you always have

to put your own name in, because the Word of God is always personal. God's Word is God's will, and it is talking personally to you, that you might "know the love of Christ," what he did, what he paid for you, how much he loved you, and that you "might be filled with all the fulness of God." How can any Christian believer ever be a failure? God never made a failure. God only made successes, men and women who are successful.

I did not die for you. I did not write this wonderful Word of God. I am simply sharing it with you. It is of God's Spirit that we are born again; and God's will is that you have all the fullness of God. It is breathtaking!

You are what the Word of God says you are. You have what the Word of God says you have. And yet, how many times have we not heard negatives from Christian believers? How many times we have heard that they are not worthy. The Bible says that when you are born again of God's Spirit you have the fullness of God in Christ in you. That makes you more than a conqueror as you stand on His Word, and it gives you a more than an abundant life.

Christians have lived so far below par that it is almost unbelievable. And the reason that Christians have lived so far below par is because everybody has talked them out of the great accuracy and integrity of God's revealed Word.

Thus through the centuries Christendom

has come to the place where today it is almost the laughing-stock of the multitudes of people of the world. It is so totally non-Christian that calling it Christianity does not make it Christianity, anymore than putting a wheelbarrow into a garage makes it a Mercedes-Benz.

Through the centuries the world, as well as so-called Christendom, has tended to make everybody negative. It has been wrong church doctrine that has degraded Christians and caused them to be condemned and to feel condemned in their minds. And so, men and women all through the centuries, rather than being successes for God, have manifested tremendous failures. And again, God never made a failure. How can you be a failure being filled with all the fullness of God in Christ in you? It could only be because you do not know what you are filled with, and it is God's Word that tells us what He is in Christ in us.

It is interesting to note that the word orthopodeō in the Greek means: "to walk with a straight foot," not with a crooked one. It is related to our word "orthopaedic" which deals in part with treatment of the feet. This is one of the words translated in the New Testament into the English "walk".

We, as God's sons and daughters, must first rightly divide the Word, which is the will of God, and then we must walk on it. We are not to vary to the left or to the right, but rather we are to walk straight.

Deuteronomy 28:1:

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments [that is His Word] which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth.

This is addressed to Israel, but God has never done less after Pentecost than He did before. "If thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God," that is to His Word, "to observe and to do all his commandments," that is a straight-footed walk, "that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations," the Gentiles in their day and the unbelievers in ours, "of the earth".

Verse 14:

And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

To turn to the side, either the right or the left, would not be walking with a straight foot. To go to the side is always to go after other gods to serve them. Anyone who would do that would need some orthopaedic correction, because he is not straight-on with God's Word.

I Samuel 8:1-3:

And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel.

Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: they were judges in Beer-sheba.

And his sons walked not in his [Samuel's] ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.

They were bought with money underneath the table, just like so many times today people in top circles of influence and control are bought. These men were bought, and they turned aside. When they turned aside they needed some orthopaedic correction, for they were to follow right on God's Word as their father Samuel had done.

Verses 4 and 5:

Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,

And said unto him [Samuel], Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

Samuel's sons were not walking straightfootedly, but neither were the elders, because the elders were asking for a king. And when it comes to sin, what is the difference? If it is sin, it is sin. Only in the eyes of man have there been grades of sin, but not in God's.

I am sure Samuel was hurt when he knew about his sons taking bribes and perverting judgement. But likewise, he was hurt when he heard that all the elders wanted a king.

Verse 6:

But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the Lord.

They wanted to have a king like all the other nations so they could brag about it and tell how wonderful they were.

Verse 7:

And the Lord said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

God said, "The people have not rejected you, Samuel, they have really rejected Me." But men of God always take it rather personally, and Samuel felt badly. He must have felt like he had erred, but God said, "Look Samuel, they are not rejecting you, they are really rejecting Me."

The more that we look at records in God's Word the more we see that the

Swith a straight foot.

I Kings 3:1-14:

And Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and took Pharaoh's daughter, and brought her into the city of David, until he had made an end of building his own house, and the house of the Lord, and the wall of Jerusalem round about.

Only the people sacrificed in high places, because there was no house built unto the name of the Lord, until those days.

And Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places.

And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar.

In Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked [straight footed] before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

And now, O Lord my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.

And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

And the speech [that which Solomon said] pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.

And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;

Behold, I have done according to thy

words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.

And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes [that is the Word, the law] and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.

If Solomon would walk in God's ways then God would lengthen Solomon's days. God's promise to Solomon was not unconditional, but rather Solomon had to walk in God's ways.

Let us look at Psalm 1.

Psalms 1:1 and 2:

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

There it is again, the walk right-on with God's Word.

Verse 3:

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Would God do any less for His sons than He did for His servants in the Old Testament? Certainly not. Whenever we walk with a straight foot upon God's Word and we do not waver to the right or to the left we are going to prosper. God never made anything but a success of men and women who have believed His Word.

As long as Israel walked on God's Word there was no enemy who could touch them. It was only when they turned aside and did not walk straight on God's Word and when they worshipped other gods that they went into captivity.

Psalms 84:11:

For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

To walk uprightly is to walk with a straight foot on the Word of God, right down the centre of God's Word. And to those who

walk uprightly He will withhold no good thing.

Jeremiah 10:23:

O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

Man has to come to God's Word if he wants to walk right-on, for no man walking by his own senses will ever walk on the greatness of God's Word. He has got to come to God's Word, and to rightly divide it, and then to walk upon it.

Romans 6:4:

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

To walk in the newness of life is to walk upon the Word, and specifically that part which is addressed to the Church of the Body. You have got to get committed to God's Word, and the commitment is in action, in walking right-on with His Word.

I Corinthians 3:3:

For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

These believers were not walking upon the revealed Word of God; they were not walking rightly.

II Corinthians 4:2:

But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully....

Walking in craftiness is to walk slyly or underhandedly. You have to renounce those things and to not handle the Word of God deceitfully, but to walk right-on with the Word.

II Corinthians 5:7:

(For we walk by faith [believing], not by sight.)

We are to walk by believing and not by the five-senses man. We are not conditioned by men or by tradition; we are conditioned by the Word, and then we walk by believing God's Word.

Galatians 2:11:

But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.

That is confrontation to another believer based upon the Word, for if a believer gets his foot side-tracked off of the Word, then another believer brings that believer back on

the Word by showing him the Word.

Verses 12-14:

For before that certain came from James, he [Peter] did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.

And the other Jews [Judaeans*] dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.

But when I saw that they walked [orthopodeo, to walk with a straight foot, not with a crooked foot] not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel [right-on with the Word], I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew [Judaean], livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews [Judaeans], why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews [Judaeans]?

医克里氏 网络人名萨尔瓦 埃曼克

^{*} The word "Jew" and its variations as used in the King James Version should always be understood as meaning "Judaean". The word "Jew" came into vernacular usage relatively late. It was first included in an English Bible in its present form of "Jew" in the eighteenth century. The text reads "Judaean" and in our research work we prefer what the text says. For further information see Victor Paul Wierwille, "Jew and Judean," Jesus Christ Our Passover (New Knoxville, Ohio: American Christian Press, 1980), Appendix 3, pp. 435-440.

That must have been a hard thing for Paul. Often people think how hard it was for Peter, but that is only the senses man thinking that way. It must have been harder for Paul than it was for Peter. Everybody always feels sorry for Peter, but how about Paul? Paul loved Peter, and Paul loved Barnabas. Paul's heart was going out to him and yet he had to confront him with the Word of God. That is not an easy thing to do, sense-knowledge wise, but somebody has got to do it, and that somebody is a believer who knows the Word and is walking it.

Paul did not judge Peter; he simply loved him and gave him the Word. That is correction with love; and love is really the thing that has to be manifested whenever you confront people on the Word. You do not walk around and say, "Well, look at me, how righteous I am." For when you point a finger at another man or woman then you are pointing three fingers back at yourself and at your own unrighteousness. Peter was not walking uprightly, and Paul set him straight.

In our commitment to the truth, it is not the amount of head knowledge that we have, for if we do not walk upon God's Word with a straight foot then it is not pleasing to God. People can, at times, have a fantastic head knowledge of God's Word but still not walk upon it. In that case there is nothing wrong with the truth or the knowledge of God's Word, it is the individual.

Galatians 5:16:

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

To walk by the spirit is first and foremost to walk by the revelation given in the Scriptures. You walk by it, and if you do that with your foot right-on, you are not going to fulfil the lusts of the flesh.

Ephesians 2:2:

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.

You are to walk right-on with the Word, with a straight foot, neither wavering to the right nor to the left.

Verse 10:

For we are his [God's] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus [He created spirit within us giving us eternal life] unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

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Ephesians 4:1:

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you [lovingly beg you, implore you] that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.

Commitment to Truth

The vocation that you have been called with is to be a believer. All the other work in the world is only an avocation.

Verse 17:

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind.

Ephesians 5:2 and 8: And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us....

For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.

You do not walk by the senses man, you do not do what other people do, but rather you walk on the Word.

Verse 15:

See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise.

To walk circumspectly means to walk right-on. You are to see that you walk right-on—orthopaedically, straight footed on the Word of God—otherwise you would be a fool, but if you walk right-on you will be wise.

Philippians 3:17: Brethren, be followers together of me,

and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

When they do not walk accordingly you confront them with the Word in love.

Colossians 2:6:

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him.

Colossians 4:5:

Walk in wisdom toward them that are without....

Wisdom is knowledge applied. You are to walk in wisdom, the knowledge from God's Word applied.

I Thessalonians 4:1:

Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

As you walk, you will abound more and more, and you will keep growing and growing and growing.

Verse 12:

That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and *that* ye may have lack of nothing.

It is all in the walk. What do you want out of life? It is up to you; nobody else can do it for you. We know that perfection is with the Lord, but the Word is available, and we walk upon the Word with a straight foot saying what the Word says with love.

I John 1:5 and 6:

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.

I John 2:6:

He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he [Jesus Christ] walked.

That is how we ought to walk, as we see Christ walk in the Gospels.

III John 3 and 4:

For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

That is how I feel, and how any man or woman who ministers God's Word feels. Each individual is the one responsible in his or her own life to either walk with a straight foot upon God's Word or not to.

CHAPTER 2

Take God at His Word

In the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, when we study and work them with a minute accuracy, we see Jesus Christ as the lone man of Galilee. Time and time again he had to walk alone. Everybody else left; everybody else went some other way; but he stood. We see him in the Gospels as the man unknown, and he ends up in the Gospels at Calvary on the cross.

In the Church Epistles we see him as the risen lord, the triumphant conqueror of sin, of sickness, of death, and of all the powers of hell. There is a tremendous difference between the way we see the man of Galilee and the way we see him in the Church Epistles. It is the revelation of him in the Church Epistles that made possible, and still makes possible, a new creation, a new breed of men and women, that had never occurred in the history of the world before.

Romans 8:37:

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

This is a new breed that the world had never seen before—men and women who are more than conquerors. The text literally reads "super-conquerors". In order to be men and women who are super conquerors they have to be men and women without any sense of inferiority or condemnation.

Let us look also at verse 34.

Romans 8:34:

...who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

When Jesus Christ was here upon earth he did a perfect work for us. In the new birth he did a perfect work in us. And, seated at God's right hand, he is doing a perfect work in behalf of us, making intercession for the saints, the born-again ones. It is none other than Christ himself—the perfect sacrifice according to the Gospels; the perfect risen, ascended lord and saviour according to the Church Epistles—who is seated at the right hand of God, who is making intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

The Word of God is not like an ordinary book. It is the Father, God, speaking to His children, and that makes God's Word singularly significant. God's Word speaks even more plainly than the word of any man.

and certainly not any less plainly. His Word is impregnated with the very life of God Almighty Who created the heavens and the earth.

Hebrews 4:9:

There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

The Word of God will never be a rest to the people who do not belong to God. To the God-rejectors, and to those that have no respect for God or for His Word, the Word will never be a rest. But to the people of God, who love Him, it is a rest.

Verse 10:

For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his.

I suppose in some of our lives, there was a time when we thought we were really doing God a favour by working so hard for Him. Perhaps we went witnessing eight hours a day, or we gave financially, or we helped in church work. The Word of God says there is a rest to the people of God, to those who have ceased from their own works and who have turned to His work rather than their own work.

Verse 11:

Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the

same example of unbelief.

The only way you can labour to enter into that rest is to go to God's Word and believe what God's Word says. The labour is to study the Word of God and to rightly divide it, so that you stand approved before God. That is the labour to enter into the rest that the Word makes available to you.

Verse 12:

For the word of God is quick [living], and powerful [energetic], and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Word of God is sharper than any twoedged sword. With a two-edged sword you could cut things quite sharply, but the Word of God is sharper, because the Word of God pierces even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit.

I am not a medical doctor, but I have been informed by very knowledgeable people in the medical professions that with all of our scientific knowledge and all of our abilities we cannot separate joints and marrow. God's Word says that it is so sharp that it can separate joints and marrow. What the world cannot do, and what man cannot do with all of his knowledge, God's Word will do in a man if the man hears and

believes His Word.

"And is a discerner"; the word "discerner" is "critic". The Word of God is a critic of the thoughts and the intents of the heart. A man may criticize God's Word, but the man who does that is going to be judged by the same Word of which he sits as a critic now.

Verse 13:

Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Before God all things are naked and open. You may be able to fool me, and I may be able to fool you, but neither you nor I are able to fool God, because for Him all things are naked and open.

God's means of reaching man is through His Word. God is Spirit, and the only way for God to reach a man of body and soul is through His Word.

In I Thessalonians, chapter 2, we read:

I Thessalonians 2:13:

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

Let me remind you that they did not have

God's Word written and recorded like we have it available to us. Paul, in his day, stood up, and he was a human being, and he spoke. The spoken Word was all that they had. People today will not even believe the written Word. What would these same people have done in Paul's day if they had only had the spoken Word?

There is a tremendous record in Acts 19 which we will take a look at.

Acts 19:20:

So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

It was the Word of God that grew, and it grew by people speaking it. We share God's Word, then people believe it, and then it grows. Here in Ephesus the Word of God grew. It will never grow until people teach it, because there is never a mighty growing of God's Word without a mighty teaching of that Word. It takes men who will even hazard their lives to teach the Word and who will teach it despite personal hardship.

It was not the importance of any man that grew, it was the Word of God that grew and prevailed. When that Word of God prevails in your life to the end that you have got more respect for it than you do for your banker, or your undertaker, or for any other individual, when you get to the point that, for you, the Word of God means what it says and it says what it means, and you believe it, then that Word prevails. If we

will trust a senses man, how about trusting God's men? When God's Word becomes living and real we become living epistles to the measure that the Word prevails in our walks.*

The Word is God revealed, for God is Spirit. The Word is Christ revealed, for how could we know His wonderful Son without His Word? The Word is holy spirit revealed. God's Word becomes a living reality on the lips of love, and never on the lips of those whose lives are out of fellowship with Him, who walk by their five senses rather than the spirit.

II Corinthians 2:14:

Now thanks *be* unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

He always causes us to triumph in Christ. Therefore, can we ever be a failure when we are walking for Him? If the whole world says you are a failure and you are walking for Him, and on His Word, then they have got to be wrong, because God's Word has stood a lot longer than the critics who are criticizing it. The Word is the revealed mind

^{*}II Corinthians 3:3: "Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart."

of God; it is the will of God. In Matthew, chapter 4, when the adversary was tempting Jesus Christ, Jesus answered, "It is written." The Word! The Word!

Matthew 4:4:

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

If you are going to have physical power, you have to have physical food. If you are going to have spiritual power, you have got to have God's Word. Any time God's Word is spoken with believing on the lips of believing and love it will produce the same results as it did when it was first spoken. It has not become one iota weaker today than it was the very first time when it was spoken on the lips of a believer. It is the same God and the same Word of God.

Job 23:12:

Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

That is impressive when we consider all the time we spend for our daily meals. Job said he had not gone back on the commandment of God's lips, and that he had esteemed the words of God more than his physical food. Remember that Job had a

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pretty serious opportunity.* He was able to stand, even in the midst of that fantastic adversity because, "I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food."

Psalms 107:19 and 20:

Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses.

He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

It was God's Word that delivered them. His Word is life.

Mark 16:19 and 20:

So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven [this is the ascension], and sat on the right hand of God.

And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

They went forth and they preached, and that is tremendous because there is never any growing or prevailing of God's Word until somebody goes forth with it and

^{*}See Victor Paul Wierwille, "Job: From Victim to Victor," *God's Magnified Word* (New Knoxville, Ohio: American Christian Press, 1977), pp. 28-71.

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preaches it. People will never know God until they hear His Word, and they will never hear it until somebody speaks it.

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They, by the freedom of their wills, went forth and they preached everywhere. One would not think that this is still possible today because we have so often heard, "You have got to be careful or you might offend someone." What is the matter with us? Men have been offending God for centuries by thinking themselves critics of His Word. Why should we be afraid to speak the Word? God's Word only offends those who do not want to believe, but for those who believe it is the Word of Life, it is peace and it brings rest.

The word of man, for the most part, has gained the ascendancy far above the authority of God's Word for most men and women today. We have to come to the place that we doubt men's words but that we never doubt God's Word, for the authority and the integrity of God's Word stands par excellence.

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CHAPTER 3

The Last Will and Testament of God

The healing balm of God's magnificent Word will permeate the believing heart, and it will make the believer a spiritual athlete of God, for it is the Word for champions. The Bible is God's first and last, His one and only, Will and Testament.

Men many times make more than one will and testament, because man may change his mind. Thus, when he changes his mind, he changes his will, but God is unchangeable. Thus God has only one Word, which is always His will; for He is God, the one and only God Who does not change. "I am the Lord, I change not."

When the last will and testament of a father is probated in court before a judge, the appointed administrator is required to carry out the stipulations of the will in detail. Only a wayward child, one very unworthy, would ever try to upset the will of the father.

What is your attitude toward God's Last Will and Testament? Do you accept it as it is written, or do you choose to try to upset the Will of your Father? The Word of God is always the will of God for His children. A father's last will and testament is always for his loved ones only. The Word of God was designed by the Father so that His sons and daughters might know His Will and subsequently enjoy the inheritance.

A will is not for those who are not mentioned in the will. This Last Will and Testament, God's revealed Word, is as genuine as if your Father himself stood and spoke this same Word to you. It is His Will and Testament; therefore, it is His Word.

A last will and testament is always personal. It is an exciting moment in your life when you, as His son or daughter, hear the Will, and you understand it, because it is explained. It is as personal as any words can ever be. You hear and see yourself mentioned, and then finally the great reality dawns upon you that that is really you—that it is for you, and to you, and that all that is set forth in His Will is really and truly your legal sonship right to inherit.

I think of Revelation 3:20.

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

The Word literally reveals God's Will and

Testament, and He places us, His sons and daughters, as the administrators of the Will and Testament. We are God's administrators here upon earth. He has put us in Christ's stead here upon earth, for Jesus Christ has ascended and is seated at the right hand of God until the return. This is why the record in the Gospel of John states that the works that Jesus Christ did we shall also do, and greater works.

We are God's administrators, His ambas-sadors.

II Corinthians 5:17:

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature [new creation]: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

This is true, for you are born again of God's Spirit; you are a new creation with Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Verses 18 and 19:

And all things [new] are of God, who hath reconciled [past tense] us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us [present tense] the ministry of reconciliation;

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

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Take God at His Word

He has committed to us the Word, which is His Last Will and Testament. It means what it says, and it says what it means. And, He has not only given us the ministry, but He has given us the word of reconciliation that can carry out the ministry of reconciliation. It is only the Word of God, rightly divided and taught, that will ever reconcile men and women to God. This Word is His Last Will and Testament. Do you believe it, or do you want to overthrow it?

Verse 20:

Now then [not when we die, but right now with Christ in us, the hope of glory] we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

Right now we are ambassadors for Christ, because He has given us the Word and the ministry, so we are ambassadors. When you are born again of God's Spirit you are an ambassador. The question is not: "Are you an ambassador?" The question is: "What kind of an ambassador are you?" Are you saying what the Word says? Do you stand for what the Word stands for? Do you speak the Word? Do you accurately speak that Last Will and Testament, or do you change it?

Verse 21:

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be

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made the righteousness of God in him.

I have found very, very few Christians around the world who really believe the Last Will and Testament of God. No man can make any other man believe it; each man has to make up his own mind whether or not he is going to believe it. We believe the last will and testament of an earthly father, and an earthly father is not God. Then why should we, for one moment, doubt God's Last Will and Testament?

Only a wayward son or daughter would endeavour to upset the will of an earthly father. How much less we should ever think of upsetting the Will of the heavenly Father. It is His Will and Testament—it is His Word. It is absolutely our responsibility to accept the terms of our Father's Will. He earned it for us, and He made it available for us, His beloved sons and daughters.

Did you ever note I John 3?

I John 3:1 and 2:

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Right now we are sons of God. How the adversary has defeated Christians! Hardly anybody dares to speak what the Word says for fear of criticism, for fear of judgement, for fear of losing their social, or political, or economic, or some other standing. We are what the Word of God says we are, and we have what the Word of God says we have. It says, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God." Why don't we stand up and act like it?

The whole world will try to defeat you and tell you, "You are not a son of God. You are not good enough. You sin too much." But we are what the Word of God says we are, and we have what it says we have. It has nothing at all to do with how we feel, it has everything to do with what the Father declares in His Last Will and Testament. He made it available, and that is why we are His sons now.

"And it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." That is God's Will and Testament. "We shall see him as he is," to receive the inheritance, to enjoy the inheritance, and to be thankful that the inheritance is ours.

Let us look at Psalm 103.

Psalms 103:1 and 2: Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

This great psalm closes with the same words with which it opens:

Psalms 103:22: ...bless the Lord, O my soul.

Those words are singularly significant because the word for "Lord" here in the first verse, as well as in the last, is the Hebrew word *Jehovah*. Whenever the word *Jehovah* is used in the Bible, it is always God in relationship to that which He has created. When, however, the Hebrew word *Elohim* is used in the Bible, it is always God as the Creator.*

Psalms 103:1:

Bless the Lord, [Bless Jehovah, God in relationship to that which He has created which is] O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

This is highly significant when we compare it with Ephesians.

Ephesians 1:3:

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ....

In Ephesians, we would have the equivalent of the word *Elohim*. In Ephesians it would be to bless *Elohim*; in Psalms it is to bless *Jehovah*.

^{*}See Victor Paul Wierwille, Living Victoriously, ed. Christopher C. Geer (Altrincham, Cheshire: European Christian Press, 1987), p. 78.

In this we have a very simple and beautiful truth. In the Old Testament, before the day of Pentecost, they were simply men of body and soul. They could only bless Jehovah, and that by words of thanksgiving, by praying with the understanding, because they did not have the spirit of God in Christ in them. They were not born again, thus the only thing they could do was to bless Jehovah.

Ephesians, however, is written after the day of Pentecost. When men and women are born again of God's Spirit they become body, soul and spirit. And now, via the spirit, they are able to worship God the Creator, Who in Hebrew is *Elohim*. Jesus said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." This is something that David could not do, for he was not born again. That is why in Psalm 103 it has to be God in relationship to that which He has created, *Jehovah*, and in Ephesians 1:3 it has to be God, the Creator, which in the Hebrew is *Elohim*.

No man can worship God by any other means than by speaking in tongues, which was not available until God made it available on the day of Pentecost.* When you speak in tongues, which is prayer in the spirit, you are worshipping Him, *Elohim*. The only other way that you could ever "bless the Lord" would be as *Jehovah*. God in relationship to

^{*}See Victor Paul Wierwille, "What is True Worship?" The New, Dynamic Church (New Knoxville, Ohio: American Christian Press, 1971), pp. 81-92.

that which He has created.

"Bless Jehovah", that is all they could do, but today we are also to bless the Creator, Elohim. Most Christians today have never gotten to the reality of Elohim; they are still back in Jehovah; and so, they live far below par.

Psalms 103:1:

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Not only does the psalmist say, "Bless the Lord, O my soul," but he says, "all that is within me, bless his holy name." Everything starts with the individual. "My soul" is "me, myself," and this is what the psalmist was talking about. "Bless Jehovah, O my soul [me]." Man is body and soul; he is called the soul man, or the natural man, and that is why the word "soul" is used. "Bless the Lord, O my soul...." It is always an individual thing; everything starts with the individual.

The day of Pentecost was the first time that the new birth was ever made available, and people could be born again. Remember Romans 10:9 and 10:

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth

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confession is made unto salvation.

Then they were born again. It is a personal thing, "If thou shalt confess," just like, "Bless the Lord, O my soul," is a personal thing. Everything starts with God, number one, and then secondly you, the individual. God is a personal God; He is not a socialistic one; He is an individualistic one. He is more interested in answering our prayers than we are to get our prayers answered. He watches over the flowers of the field, over the birds of the air and over the foxes; how much more shall your heavenly Father watch over you.

Psalms 103:1:

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

That reminds me of the records in Matthew 22:37 and Luke 10:27 that tell us, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, mind, and strength.

It is remarkable that in I Corinthians 14:15 we are told:

...I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also....

So, at times it will be, "Father, I thank you," prayer with the understanding, which is the *Jehovah* side. And, at times it will be prayer in the spirit, via speaking in tongues, which is the *Elohim* side.

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"All that is within me, bless his holy name." The word "holy" is also translated in the Old Testament "consecrated, dedicated, hallowed, saint" and "sanctuary". To understand this word "holy" of Psalm 103, we must go back to Exodus chapter 3, and its first occurrence.

Exodus 3:1-4:

Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he [Moses] led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, *even* to Horeb.

And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him [unto Moses] in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he [Moses] looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him....

We must note that first of all the angel of the Lord appeared unto Moses. No man ever comes to God without God being the Prime Mover; God always moves first. That is what He did for Moses here; God had to first move and then Moses looked.

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In that, there is another great truth that must be recognized. When God moves, man must take an honest look at it. There are people today to whom we show the greatness of God's Word, and they never take a look at it. They are all pre-set; they have got their minds made up. The Word does not have that type of pre-eminence, that type of authority for them, because it is not literally the Last Will and Testament of God for them.

The Lord made the first move, and then Moses looked. Moses said, "I am going to investigate this a little further."

Verses 2 and 3:

...and he [Moses] looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

God moves—then man moves—then God moves again.

Verse 4:

And when the Lord [Jehovah] saw that he turned aside to see, God [Elohim] called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

God calls, but whenever man responds to

God, man usually gets really egotistical: "I have read Genesis, I know the Bible now," or "I have taken so many Bible classes I know it now," or "I am a graduate of Christian leadership training classes; you cannot teach ME anything anymore."

Moses said, "Here am I." "You got your man; it is me, Lord; I am the guy!"

Verse 5:

And he [Elohim] said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

This is the first occurrence of the word "holy" in the Bible. It is consecrated, dedicated, hallowed by God, and no man simply runs over on top of it.

Moses got real excited; he saw the burning bush and heard the voice. Then he said, "Lord, you got your man; here am I!" But, the Lord said, "Hold it a minute. Don't feel so self-important. Take the shoes off of your feet, for the place whereon you are standing is holy, it is consecrated, dedicated, hallowed." The reason it was holy, consecrated, dedicated, hallowed is because God had separated it out.

Now let us watch as this develops.

Verse 6:

Moreover he said, I am the God [Elohim] of thy father, the God [Elohim] of Abraham, the God [Elohim]

of Isaac, and the God [Elohim] of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God [Elohim].

At first Moses came very boldly; but then, he finally got to the place where he knew that he had been wrong.

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In verse 4 it was Jehovah that saw that Moses turned aside to see, and Elohim that spoke to him. Then, in verse 6, Elohim is used five times which is significant because five is the number for grace.

Verses 7 and 8:

And the Lord [Jehovah] said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

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And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

That is wonderful. God said, "I am come down." Nobody prayed Him down; nobody sent a delegation to heaven and said, "We are in such bad shape down here You had better come down here and help us." God came

down on His own. He saw, and He is going to deliver them.

Verses 9 and 10:

Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.

Come now therefore, and I will send thee...

This is God speaking to Moses: "I will send thee." Who is going to send him? Originally, Moses saw some burning, and he said, "I am going over there and investigate this for myself. I am going to do this."

Then God straightened out his theology for him, and He said, "I am going to send you."

Verses 10 and 11:

...unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

Back in verse 4, he had said, "Here am I," and now he is beginning to say, "Who am I?"

Verses 12 and 13: And he said, Certainly I will be with

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thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God [Elohim] upon this mountain.

And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?

"What is his name?" In Psalm 103 we read, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name."

Verse 14:

And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

How wonderful! In verse 4 Moses says, "Here am I." God turns the whole thing around, and says, "I AM".

Man is always saying that he is the "I AM". God is saying that He is the "I AM". Man will always offer himself like Moses did: "Here am I; take me; I got it; I will do it." God said, "You have got the 'Am I' wrong. You need to get it turned around. It is the 'I AM'." That is why He turned it around for Moses.

And this is why in Psalm 103 where it

says, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name," we remember that God's name—the "I AM" God's name—is holy, consecrated, dedicated and hallowed.

Psalms 103:2,3 and 12: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

Usually what man forgets, God remembers, like His Last Will and Testament—and, what man remembers, God forgets, like the sins that He has removed as far as the east is from the west. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."

We have only one life to live, and to give. Why not give our utmost for His highest? Why not love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbour as ourselves? We have got everything to win and nothing to lose, because eternity is a lot longer than this present moment of time. We ought to build our believing upon eternity, not upon the moment, and upon the promises of the Last Will and Testament of God.

About the Author

Victor Paul Wierwille spent many decades searching out the truths of God's Word. As part of his search he consulted and worked with many outstanding individuals in Christian studies for keys to power-filled, victorious living. Such men as Karl Barth, Joseph Bauer, Glenn Clark, Karl J. Ernst, Josiah Friedli, Louis C. Hessert, Elmer G. Homrighausen, E. Stanley Jones, George M. Lamsa, Richard and Reinhold Niebuhr, K.C. Pillai, Paul Tillich, Ernst Traeger, and many others were a part of Dr. Wierwille's quest to find the truths of the Word of God.

Dr. Wierwille's academic career included Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Theology degrees from Mission House (Lakeland) College and Seminary, graduate studies at the University of Chicago and at Princeton Theological Seminary, where he earned the Master of Theology degree in Practical Theology. Later he completed his work for the Doctor of Theology degree at Pike's Peak Bible Seminary and Burton College in Manitou Springs, Colorado.

For over forty years, Dr. Wierwille devoted his major energies to intensive research and teaching of the accuracy of God's Word. Beginning in 1953 he taught Biblical research and teaching classes on Power for Abundant Living. He was the founder and first president of The Way International, a non-sectarian, non-denominational Biblical research, teaching and fellowship ministry.

