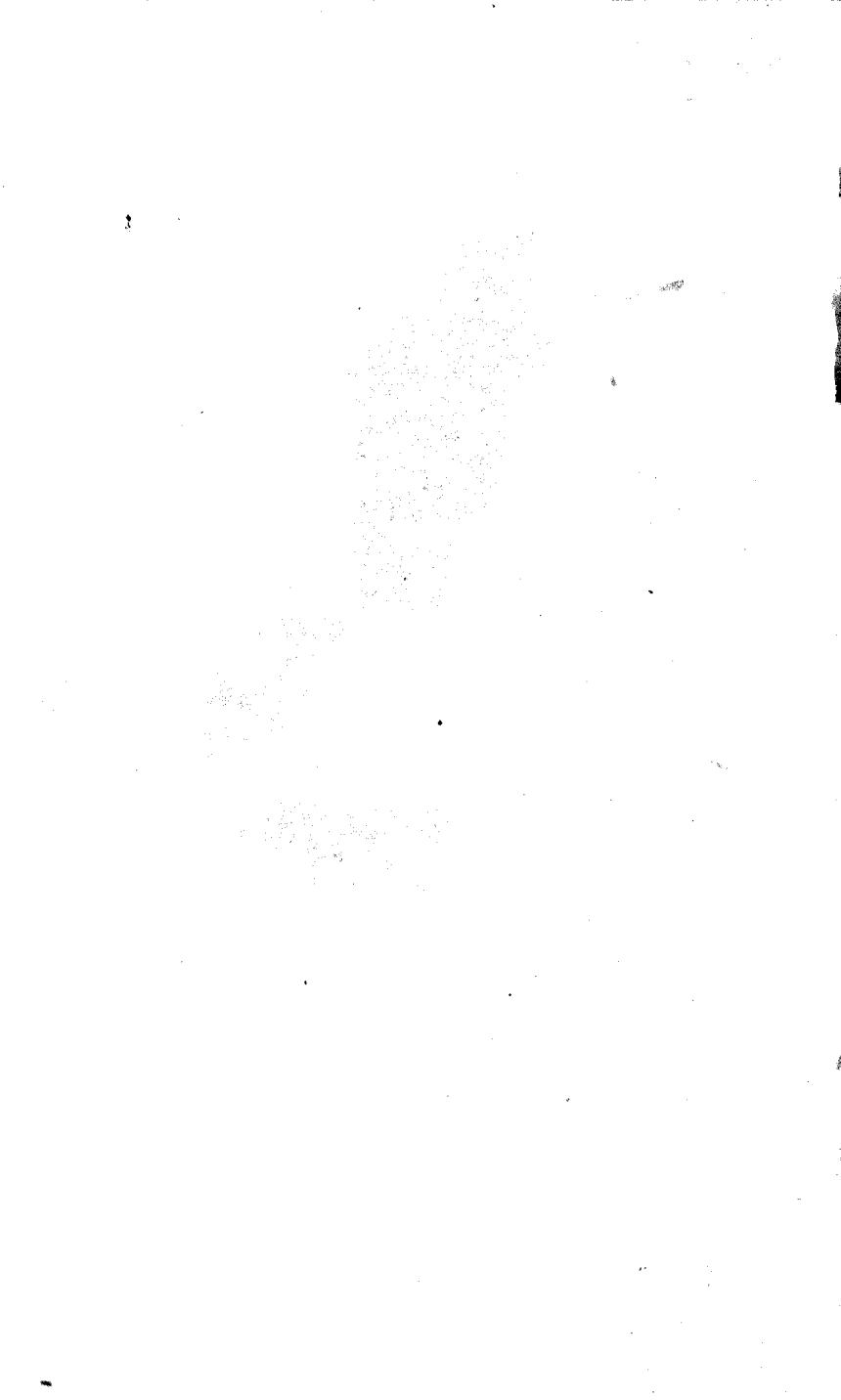


**GOD'S  
MAGNIFIED WORD**

*Studies in Abundant Living*

**Victor Paul Wierwille**



Michelle Quinn

**GOD'S  
MAGNIFIED WORD**

*Volume IV,  
Studies in Abundant Living*

**Victor Paul Wierwille**

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To my fellow  
Board of Trustees  
brothers

Ermal L. Owens  
and  
Harry Ernst Wierwille

For their faithfulness and  
dedication as  
vice-president and  
secretary-treasurer  
during the founding years of  
The Way Ministry International



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## Preface

*God's Magnified Word* is organized into four parts: "God's Abundant Goodness," "A Believer's Walk," "God's Strength in Us," "The Greatness of the Church of Grace." Within each part are chapters, each chapter having been researched and originally written as an individual study. By loosely grouping the chapters under general topics, a reader can get a broader overview as the parts fit together to make up the larger whole.

However, because the chapters were written as individual studies and then grouped into topical units, a reader may find that all facets of the topic are not covered. More information may be sought in other writings published by The American Christian Press, though more exhaustive research and writing, no doubt, still need to be done on all topics. In the meantime, I know that the contents of Volume IV of "Studies in Abundant Living" will not only unveil more of God's Word for you, but, in doing so, will also uplift you—mentally and physically and spiritually.

Let us put God's Word in our hearts and minds, for it alone can give us complete deliverance and dispel the darkness of this world.



*Part I*

**God's Abundant  
Goodness**



# Part I

## God's Abundant Goodness

Throughout God's Word are constant examples and promises of abundance which God has made available to us, His children. One great key to abundant living involves a person's ability to rest. "A Rest to God's People" shows that God Himself established the precedent of resting when He did so on the seventh day, after ending His work on the sixth day. God provides special ways for us, His children, to rest and thereby have great endurance and peace.

"The Benefits of God" expounds the gem-filled one hundred and third psalm. This psalm unfolds a knowledge of God and encourages our humble praise and thanks to Him for being so understanding and so abundantly good to us.

In the third chapter, "Job: From Victim to Victor," we see the stark contrast of the prosperity of possessions, family, and health which God wants for His

## *God's Abundant Goodness*

own, juxtaposed with the destitution that Satan can inflict on man. Satan made a shambles of Job's life. Yet, out of the ash heap of Job's dilemma, God reversed Job's circumstances and marvelously delivered him.

God's love and abundance are manifold. How edifying it is to know of God's abundant goodness. What peace of mind and strength of believing we can gain from this knowledge of God and the promises of His matchless Word.

## A Rest to God's People

One great key to successful living revolves around a person's ability to rest: to relax, to feel composed and assured. Capable athletes, such as boxers, must know how to roll with the punches. A man running in a race must know how to pace himself. People who play football must learn how to unpile slowly so that they get some needed rest before they get back into the huddle. A successful, long-lived business or professional person also has to be able to "live restfully." He has to learn to have confidence and ease when he is engaged in the enormous responsibilities and activities that are heaped upon him.

According to Genesis 2:2, when God had finished all of His works, it says, "And on the seventh day\*

\*The Samaritan Pentateuch and the Septuagint read "sixth day." Also, see Exodus 20:9 and 10: "Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day *is* the sabbath of the Lord thy God: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that *is* within thy gates."

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God ended his work which he had made; and he rested..." Hebrews 4:4 says, about the same event, "For he spake in a certain place of the seventh *day* on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works." In this same context we find in Hebrews a tremendous truth of God that we need to claim for ourselves.

Hebrews 4:9:

There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

"There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God." This is the secret to peaceful living; yet, very, very few Christians know the reality and the depth of this "rest." In the Book of I Kings, God talks about this rest for a whole nation.

I Kings 8:56:

Blessed *be* the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people Israel [to the whole nation], according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.

God did not fail on even one Word of His promises, and the promise here was that the whole nation of Israel should have rest. That is how God blessed His people.

God also promised rest to an entire city if they would return to His Word. For to Jerusalem, God said, there is “the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest.”

Jeremiah 6:16:

Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye [inhabitants of Jerusalem] in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk *therein*.

At one time Israel as a nation found rest; God also promised rest to the city of Jerusalem when He spoke that there “...is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest....” However, the people by their own volition determined not to walk according to God’s Word and, therefore, they were denied the promised rest.

There is another rest in the Word, and that is the rest found in a marital relationship. Naomi said to her daughters-in-law Orpha and Ruth as recorded in Ruth 1:9, “The Lord grant you that ye may find rest, each *of you* in the house of her husband.” Ruth did just that when she married Boaz. So there can be rest in married life.

In the Gospel Period, Jesus Christ promised rest to those who would be his disciples.

## God's Abundant Goodness

Matthew 11:28 and 29:

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

“Come unto me...and I will give you rest...ye shall find rest unto your souls.” Another great promise of rest is found in the Book of Psalms.

Psalms 37:4-7:

Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass.

And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

Don't pay any attention to those who appear to prosper in their own ways, but rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him. That is the great key to restful living. We cannot be conditioned by the people and situations surrounding us and still expect to find rest. Looking at the Lord and waiting patiently



## *A Rest to God's People*

for Him, delighting ourselves in the Lord, committing our ways to Him, trusting in Him—this gives us rest.

God, after He had finished His creation, rested. The word “rest” means the same as the word “sat.” Why do people sit? To rest. When God had finished His works, He rested, He sat. Everything was finished. When Jesus Christ had finished his work for us, he ascended into heaven and sat down.\* The believer's right to rest is a result of the finished work of Christ. When Christ had finished his work, he sat down on the right hand of God because all had been completed for man—for those who choose to believe.

Another great usage of “sat” occurs when the day of Pentecost was fully come. Acts 2:3 says that the gift of the holy spirit was given “...and it [holy spirit] sat upon each of them [the twelve apostles].” The fulfillment of all requirements toward the giving of the holy spirit to those who believe had been completely completed and, therefore, it sat, rested, on each of them.

This secret to living restfully is embodied within Christ's finished work for the believer. We know that we are what God says we are, that we have what

\*Hebrews 10:12: “But this man [Jesus Christ], after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God.” See also Hebrews 1:3, Ephesians 1:20, and Romans 8:34.

## *God's Abundant Goodness*

He says we have, that we will be what He says we will be. We know that we have passed from death unto life. We know that we are a part of the family of God, the Body of Christ. We know that we have been circumcised with Christ, we have been baptized with him, we have been buried with him, we have been raised together with him. When he ascended, according to the Word of God, we ascended with him and are seated with him at the right hand of God.\* This is why we have a life which is more abundant. This is why we can have great restfulness.

With this knowledge of God's Word in our lives, we have really reached the end of our struggles; the end of all fear, worry, and anxiety because we have full knowledge that God is our all in all. When God looks at us, He sees us as one with Him because of what Christ wrought: God in Christ in us. You and I have entered into that rest spiritually by what Jesus Christ did for us. Now it becomes a part of our lives as we literally walk upon that Word and claim those promises which are ours. Look at the confidence we have if we walk according to the advice of Philipians.

\*Ephesians 2:5 and 6: "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

## *A Rest to God's People*

Philippians 4:6:

Be careful [The word "careful" should be translated "anxious." Be anxious] for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

We have no anxiety when we live in the knowledge of what Christ accomplished for us. The next verse in Philippians 4 continues to encourage us.

Philippians 4:7:

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall [absolutely] keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Isn't that a beautiful rest? That is the secret of living serenely. Spiritually we *are* what the Word of God says we are and we *have* what the Word of God says we have. Christ paid for it; he purchased it. Then why do we so frequently see Christians who are nervous, frustrated, and full of fear? Because they have not learned the secret of living, the secret of resting in that rest which is already theirs and was paid for by Christ Jesus. When we have confidence in the promises of God because of the accomplishments of Christ Jesus, we have the peace of God in our hearts and minds.

## *God's Abundant Goodness*

When we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, he takes his abode within us. And then by our application of the Word, we can live in him: he in us; and we in him. As we speak God's Word, it becomes living and real in our lives. As we believe God's Word, it comes into concretion. Practicing God's Word brings peace into fruition in our lives.

I Peter 5:7:

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

This verse says, "Casting all...." And the word "all" means *all*. Trusting God's Word is so simple, but the Adversary tries to talk us out of it. Satan keeps doing his utmost to keep us from believing the totality of the word "all." And he does this so stealthily that we aren't aware of what's happening until our lives are frayed and threadbare.

I Peter 5:8:

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

Once you and I have entered into God's rest, then no longer can we be disturbed by the roaring of the Adversary. We have cast our care upon God. The Adversary is just roaring, and he cannot bite when

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he is roaring. The reason he makes a loud, ferocious racket is to frighten us, to freeze us in our tracks so that he can then pounce. But we are no longer to be disturbed by the roar of what people say. The questions our best friends may ask no longer upset us. The doubts that other people have about God and His Word don't rattle us, because we are in His rest. We have arrived at the place that we trust God's Word. This is why we are no longer circumstance-conditioned; we are God's Word-conditioned. Most people go through life being conditioned by their circumstances—by people, places, things. So one day they feel as lighthearted as can be and the next day they are moody and melancholy. The people who are perfectly conditioned by God's Word have an even, steady assurance and peacefulness.

Now a different scripture to fit into the context of this study on rest is Philippians 4:11.

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content.

That is the King James rendition, and it is erroneous. This verse conveys the idea that, for example, if you are sick, you should just enjoy being sick—be content and at peace with your condition. If you are dying, be content that you are dying. If someone runs

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over your foot and smashes it with a tractor, be content. No, No! You see, this teaching that you have to be content with suffering is just a trick of the Adversary. How can you have confidence and feel rested when you're miserable? God does not need the Adversary to help make your life and mine complete. We've got something far better in Christ Jesus. The accurate text of Philippians 4:11 reads: "Not that I speak in respect of want; for I have learned in whatsoever state I am, I am self-sufficient, self-adequate." What a tremendous revelation! We are self-adequate. Why? Because God made us adequate. That is why circumstances do not condition us. God made us adequate and sufficient—and God should know. Look at the next two verses in Philippians 4.

Verses 12 and 13:

[In my self-adequacy] I [Paul] know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

I can do all things [I can do them because I am in that rest; I have learned the secret of living.] through Christ which [who] strengtheneth me.

The Amplified Bible translates verse 13 as follows: "I am ready for anything and equal to anything through him who infuses inner strength into me

## *A Rest to God's People*

[that is, I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency].” Our ability comes from an infusion; it is a spiritual intravenous feeding: Christ in us the hope of glory. That is quality spiritual strengthening, isn't it? Why do we need this infusion?

Colossians 1:10:

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.

We walk worthy of the Lord by being fruitful—not only fruitful, but increasing in that knowledge of God. The more knowledge of God's Word we have, the more fruitful in every good work we can become. The knowledge of the Word and its application will produce fruit. By conditioning our minds to God's Word and walking in its truth, we enter into great rest. This rest is a result of believing the integrity of God's wonderful, matchless Word. What a magnificent reality. Truly, there remains a rest to God's people when we cast our cares upon Him, when we are anxious for nothing, when we accept what God through Christ Jesus has given us.

## The Benefits of God

Psalms 103 is a tremendous example of knowledge and praise. Just the reading of it thrills the heart of anyone who loves God. The beauty with which this is set just from a human point of view, without even thinking of its spiritual impact, should set at peace the soul of any man or woman. For us as born-again believers there are tremendous spiritual truths hidden in this psalm that will elevate and enrich our lives as we learn them.

### PSALMS 103

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:

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

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and



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tender mercies;

Who satisfieth thy mouth with good *things*;  
*so that* thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment  
for all that are oppressed.

He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts  
unto the children of Israel.

The Lord *is* merciful and gracious, slow to anger,  
and plenteous in mercy.

He will not always chide: neither will he keep  
*his anger* for ever.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor  
rewarded us according to our iniquities.

For as the heaven is high above the earth, so  
great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

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

Like as a father pitieth *his* children, so the  
Lord pitieth them that fear him.

For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth  
that we *are* dust.

*As for* man, his days *are* as grass: as a flower  
of the field, so he flourisheth.

For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone;  
and the place thereof shall know it no more.

But the mercy of the Lord *is* from everlasting  
to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his  
righteousness unto children's children;

To such as keep his covenant, and to those that

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remember his commandments to do them.

The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.

Bless the Lord, ye his angels [messengers, ministers], that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.

Bless the Lord, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the Lord, O my soul.

To understand the richness of this psalm, let's look at it verse by verse.

### Verses 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.

With my whole being, I want to bless the Lord and bless His holy name. And let me not forget all His benefits. Wouldn't it be too overwhelming if verse 2 said, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and remember all His benefits?" Which one of us could possibly begin to remember and then enumerate all the blessings, all the benefits, that we have received from God through the years? None of us could. Therefore,

in this tremendous psalm God does not tell us to remember all the benefits; He simply asks us not to forget them all. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." There are certainly some times that we can remember when He has benefited us. He has called us out of darkness into the marvelous light of the gospel of redemption and salvation; He has made His Word living and real to us; He has taught us the keys that are so beautifully written in His Word such as, His Word is His will. How tremendous it is to just not forget what we were at one time and what He has made us today. What joy it is to realize the grace with which God has taken and loved us with an everlasting love, putting His hand on us to somehow bring us into a life that many of us would have considered impossible. We have had answers to prayer; we have had the privilege of ministering to people and seeing God's mighty deliverance performed in their lives; we have seen people's lives changed when we have taught them the Word of God, when this Word of God again started to make sense to them as they saw how beautifully it fits together.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." Just think of a few of them and your heart will bubble with thanksgiving. The enthusiasm within your soul of knowing that God has wrought

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these things within your life will indeed inspire you to "bless His holy name." How blessed we are!

Verse 3:

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities [sins]...

Now there are many people who believe the first part of this verse, but somehow when they get to the second part they begin to doubt.

...who healeth all thy diseases.

Now logically, if any one person has a right to scratch out a part of a verse in the Word of God, then every person has a right to scratch out whatever he chooses. But, when one person deletes or negates one verse and someone else deletes another verse, we no longer have the Word of God. It is either all God's Word or it isn't. It is as simple as all that. Just because one verse or passage does not agree with your or my theology does not invalidate it or make it any less God's Word. It is not a question of whether the truth of God's Word agrees with our theology; it is a question of whether or not we agree with God's Word.

Verse 3 of Psalms 103 very plainly says, "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all [without exception] thy diseases." Does God forgive your

## *The Benefits of God*

sins? Well then, does God heal you? He must or He is a liar; but God is no liar. People may then question, "Well, why doesn't God heal everybody?" Healing for all is God's will. But when we fail to rise up to our rightful and legal privileges, due to a variety of causes—the greatest cause being a negative society where people talk about, expect, and cope with negative things—we fail to be healed. To claim and manifest God's healing we must believe on the positives of His Word, not the negatives of the world. If we would become immersed in the Word and start living, we would find that God is still able to quiet down the nerves; God is still able to bring health and peace without antibiotics, sedatives, or alcohol.

Verse 4:

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction...

God redeems us from the destruction that is constantly around to destroy us. Do you get the impact of this truth? That which surrounds us everyday, that which endeavors to kill us prematurely—God has redeemed our lives from that type of destruction. And He adds to this safeness the warmth and love which makes life enjoyable.

## God's Abundant Goodness

Verses 4b and 5a:

...who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and  
[by His] tender mercies.

Who satisfieth thy [your] mouth with good  
*things*...

We are redeemed from a life of destruction, from a life of negatives—the frustrations, the fears, the anxieties. He redeems us from this. Then He crowns us with lovingkindness and tender mercies and satisfies our mouths with *good* things. This is a tremendous difference from what some people have in their mouths. Some have all negatives while others have positives. And when you meet the second type, the moment they shake your hand you sense their goodness and soundness.

Verse 5:

Who satisfieth thy mouth with good *things*;  
*so that* thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Here God's Word is not talking about Ponce de Leon's fountain of youth in Florida. If you are 75, you cannot believe to be 20. God set up the law of time. Therefore, once you are 21, you cannot go back to being 20 in the physical sense because that is a natural law. He established that law of time, but He also set the spiritual law. This is in the context of this tremendous psalm containing the wonderful

## *The Benefits of God*

spiritual truth, "...thy youth is renewed like the eagle's." This expression means that, no matter how old you are, you can constantly have youthful vigor and maintain that mental aliveness; you are not burdened down with the negatives of other people of the same age. Young people are vivacious; they feel as though they can conquer the world, as though they can trounce on any problem.

Until Bishop K.C. Pillai from India taught the greatness of this renewing of youth like the eagle's, this figure of speech didn't make sense to me. What does the eagle have which renews its strength, and how does that relate to us? Well, this passage refers to an eagle found in the Orient. This kind of eagle will periodically soar to tremendous heights, and then suddenly, it will fold its wings under, head straight down, and bomb into the sea with as much speed as it can generate. When the eagle surfaces, it hasn't any feathers on its back, so must float back to shore and crawl in among the bushes until its feathers have grown out. Isn't that something!

God renews our youth like the eagle's. He renews our youth by enabling us to get rid of all our ballast—all those old, dirty feathers, all those negatives, those fears, those worries, those anxieties, all of the things that have burdened us down.

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This renewal like an eagle's is a benefit we should not forget. "...Forget not all his benefits...." Think about how God has enabled us to drop off those things that at one time disturbed us and, in many cases, overcame us. It must be as the Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 3:13 and 14: "...Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark...." Forgetting the things which are behind is the same general truth written in this psalm: "*so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.*"

Verses 6 and 7:

The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.

He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.

Isn't that terrific! Have you read in the Old Testament how God worked with Moses? Aaron was given to Moses to be Moses' mouthpiece. So God gave information to Moses, who in turn told Aaron, who in turn told Pharaoh and the children of Israel. "He [God] made known his ways unto Moses...." With a careful reading of the Old Testament, we note that God told Moses why He did certain things, what His purposes were, His intents. But God never fully explained Himself to the children of Israel. He made known His ways unto Moses, but all that the children



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of Israel ever saw were the acts of God. They believed God because of the acts they saw and not because God went around explaining His actions to them.

Verses 8-10:

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

He will not always chide: neither will he keep *his anger* for ever (The figure of speech is *anthropopatheia*, attributing to God the human characteristic of anger).

He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

This verse ten contains another figure of speech *exergasia*. Here we have the same expression stated in two different ways which establishes the truth as unchangeable.\* God does not deal with us according to our sins which also includes that He does not reward us according to our iniquities. That truth is established.

Verses 11 and 12:

For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him [who have respect for Him, who love Him, who have awe for Him].

\*Genesis 41:32: "And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; *it is* because the thing *is* established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass."

## *God's Abundant Goodness*

As far as the east is from the west, *so* far hath he removed our transgressions [sins, iniquities] from us.

How far is the east from the west? Do you know that the east *never* meets the west? That cannot be said of north and south. People, when we begin to tell the greatness of God's Word and understand the way in which God dealt with us when He gave us remission and forgiveness of sins, then we cannot help but be thankful to be alive and to be a part of God's love and wonderful power today. God is merciful beyond measure to those who respect Him.

Verses 13 and 14:

Like as a father pitieth *his* children, *so* the Lord pitieth [loveth] them that fear [awe, respect] him.

For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we *are* dust.

Thank God He does remember our dust. It would be miserable if He didn't remember and understand us. Had God not known us, He never would have instituted the means by which Christ had ultimately to come to redeem us and give us victory in our lives. God knows our frame. He knows that we are like grass. He knows that the wind passes over and the place thereof remembers it no more.

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Verses 15-19:

*As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.*

*For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.*

*But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;*

*To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.*

*The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom [God's kingdom] ruleth over all.*

God will have the ultimate say. He is the one who has the final pronouncement. And His mercy abounds to those that keep His commandments, His Word.

Then comes this powerful twentieth verse.

Verse 20:

*Bless the Lord, ye his angels [The word is messengers], that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.*

These verses talk about how God has redeemed us, how He has cast our sin from us as far as the east is from the west, and that He has prepared His throne.

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His kingdom rules over all. Therefore, "Bless the Lord, ye his messengers [not angels, but people who speak His Word] that excel in strength..." *Our* excelling in strength comes with our having cast off all those things which have held us back; then with singleness of mind we have set our sights on the things of God and moved forth with the greatness of His Word. That is why we excel in strength. It is His strength in us. Another scripture, Philippians 4:13, corroborates this by saying, "I can do all things through Christ which [who] strengtheneth me." God's strength in Christ in us is our strength.

Verses 21 and 22:

Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.

Bless the Lord, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the Lord, O my soul.

When we know the greatness of God's Word and of His works, when we know that this Word of God is accurate and life-giving, there is nothing to do but to say, "Bless the Lord for His incomparable greatness. I have not forgotten all His benefits to me. I thank Him for forgiving my shortcomings and for healing all my diseases. It is God who has crowned me with lovingkindness and tender mercies in place of the world's destruction; it is God who has satisfied my mouth with good things and given me the re-

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newed life of a youth. All God's messengers, all God's ministers, all God's hosts, all God's works in all places of God's dominion praise His name. Bless the Lord, O my soul." What a positive, uplifting psalm. How thankful and blessed we are when we consider God as the great psalmist did.

## **Job: From Victim to Victor**

God's Goodness

vs.

The Devil's Badness

There are many passages in the Bible on healing, but there is only one book that deals with human suffering and healing. That book is the Book of Job.

The story of Job is a drama. It is a true story: the story of men's lives—such as your life and mine. No one sojourns in life for a long period of time until he or she experiences at least a portion of the emotions and pain expressed in the account of Job. Job's story moves from suffering to believing to deliverance.

The Book of Job gives us, in detailed form, a striking comparison between the goodness of God and the badness of the Devil. We see vividly the true color of Satan. Job starkly shows what happens to every man when Satan has his way.

Job is the man in whose life the will of God is manifested at times, and the power of Satan at

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other times. In this account we see God as He really is to His children. We see God's great goodness, His absolute will, His supreme love. Then, also, we see a true picture of Satan: the poverty to which he reduces men, his hate, his complete evil.

God had the account of Job recorded for one major purpose: to show us the goodness of God and the badness of the Devil; to show us the perfection of God and the wickedness of the Devil; to show us that God is all good and that the Devil is all bad. God desires all men to see His will, in contrast to the Devil's will.

In the first chapter of this book, Job is blessed as God wanted him to be having those things which God desires for all believers.

Job 1:1:

...Job...was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

This word "perfect" means faultless. In the sight of God, Job walked perfectly according to God's will. "Upright" means moral integrity. Job, because of his relationship with God, was an upright man. The statement "perfect and upright" is a figure of speech called *hendiadys*, which would literally be stated as "uprightly perfect." Job feared God, which means he

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had great reverence, respect, and awe for God. Because Job feared God, he "eschewed [shunned] evil"; even all appearances of evil were distasteful to him.

Job 1:2:

...there were born unto him [Job] seven sons and three daughters.

God's plan for man is that he should have a prosperous family life, that he be blessed with a good wife and loving children. When a man loves God, when he really knows and honors Him, his family is blessed.

Job 1:3:

His [Job's] substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

God's will for His people is prosperity and abundance, that all men may know and see God's blessing exemplified. Job was a God-fearing man, and, because he revered and served God and believed for an abundance, God poured out these material blessings upon him. The will of God is always abundance for His believing people. God's will is specifically stated



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in III John 2: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." And the psalmist observed how God cares for the righteous in Psalms 37:25: "I have been young, and *now* am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." God's will is an abundance of prosperity and blessings unlimited for His children.

Job 1:4:

And his sons went and feasted *in their* houses, every one his day....

Every one of Job's sons had a house to live in. God was pleased that Job believed for all these possessions and that Job's sons were so richly blessed as well. It is God's will for people to have blessings. God is good and His goodness is to be manifested. Most people think that the more spiritual a man becomes, the less joy and pleasure he has in life. This is not true when God has His way.

Satan's comments about Job's condition were very accurate.

Job 1:10:

Hast not thou [God] made an hedge about him [Job], and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the

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work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

This is an accurate analysis of the goodness and will of God for men. Notice, God had put a hedge around Job. Why shouldn't God put a hedge around believers? It is His will for His people to be protected; it is God's will for people to have goodness; it is His will for people to have the power of God in their lives. When we belong to God, we should expect God's hedge to be around us for our complete protection from the Devil and his acts. God makes a hedge available for the life of every believer; but the impenetrability of the hedge is dependent upon our believing the promises of His Word.

God is always good; God never brings evil. There is absolutely no darkness in God; no sickness, no poverty, no deficiency. God does not want His people afflicted, miserable, poor, unhappy, or defeated. All the blessings that came to Job were abundance from God, because Job loved and respected Him. When God's will was operative in Job, his life was abundant. God wants all good for all His children: health, prosperity, happiness, and abundance.

Now let us note the description of the Devil.

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Job 1:6 and 7:

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.

And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

God is everywhere present at all times; the Devil is not. The Devil is only present at certain times. His place of habitation is the earth.

Job 1:9:

Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

We just read of God's goodness flowing from God to Job; now Satan comes along and starts interjecting questions. Next Satan will try to tempt God.

Job 1:11:

But [you, God,] put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he [Job] hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

God always puts His blessing on believers and the Devil is always trying to take away man's blessing. God's will is abundance; the Devil's will is poverty

## God's Abundant Goodness

and destruction. People sometimes say, "God sent a sickness or disease or calamity." This is not true; the Devil sends it. Note what the Devil will do to a man if he can; note his true intent and desire.

One day when Job's sons and daughters were happy and enjoying life, Satan, not God, brought destruction.

Job 1:13-19:

And there was a day when his sons and his daughters *were* eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:

And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them:

And the Sabeans fell *upon them*, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

While he *was* yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

While he *was* yet speaking, there came also another, and said, the Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the

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servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

While he *was* speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters *were* eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:

And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they were dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

Note that the Devil worked through people as well as the natural elements. He used the Sabeans and the Chaldeans and the wind. The Devil may work through your best friend, through your neighbor, or through any other person to assert himself in your life and take away from you what God has given you.

Wouldn't you agree that all Job's losses were too much for one man to endure? The Devil is never satisfied until he has reduced man to complete nothingness. Yet even after all these losses for Job, Satan's true and full colors had not yet been completely displayed.

Job 2:7:

So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

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Who smote Job? Satan did. Satan covered Job with boils.

Job left the place where he was living and walked out to a little ash heap. He sat down upon the ash heap, took a potsherd and scraped himself.\*

Job was miserable from head to foot both mentally and physically because of Satan's workings. Yet, people try to make us believe that sickness is a blessing which will draw men closer to God or cause them to be better Christians. They say that it humbles one so he may become a more refined man of God. This is not what God's Word says. In the last chapter of the Book of Job, in Job 42:10, God calls sickness "captivity." What is captivity? It is enslavement, bondage, that which prevents a person from doing what one ought to be doing or what one wants to be doing. God called Job's sickness and disease "captivity," and we must call things by God's terms.

Once I was talking to a woman whose father had been sick for two and a half months, and she herself was a nervous wreck. "He can't turn over in bed because when he does the pain is like a knife in his

\*The "ash heap" symbolizes utter penitence. A clay pot symbolizes divinity to the people of the Bible lands, thus they believe that scraping with a piece of a broken pot, a potsherd, will have a healing effect.

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back. He can't endure taking a bath because his body is so tender," she said. You call that heaven? I would rather call it hell. Some may call it good; the Word calls it captivity.

If people say it is God's will for Christians to be poor, miserable, and afflicted, you must read the Book of Job to them. This Book of Job shows God's will manifested in Job's prosperity, happiness, peace, and joy. It was Satan, not God, who took away the prosperity, happiness, peace, and joy which Job once had.

God made Job the most prosperous man in all the East. Satan came and took all, leaving Job without family, without possessions, and without health. What a contrast! Job had been perfect and complete. Satan made Job to become imperfect and destitute.





### Believing and Fear

According to the fifth verse of the first chapter of Job, Job feared that his children were not properly respecting God. Job was afraid that his children were sinning, that they might have separated themselves from God in their hearts, that they were not living as they ought to have been. So Job, in order to safeguard them, offered burnt offerings continually for every one of his children.

Job 1:5:

...Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings *according* to the number of them [his children] all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

Here we are told one of Job's fears. It is also the first clue we have to a hole in God's hedge around Job. Is fear so potent that one break in the hedge

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was all Satan needed to get into Job's life to defeat him and to bring all of the power of evil upon Job? How detrimental is fear?

Fear, in psychological terms, is classified as an emotion. Psychology says that new-born children have only two fears: one is the fear of falling and the other is the fear of loud noises. Thus man's multiple fears are basically acquired or learned, not innate. Fears are obtained by the avenue of the five senses. If your child is afraid of the "boogy man," he has that fear because someone taught him wrongly. If your child has a fear of being deserted, someone has put that fear in your child by wrong teaching or bad treatment.

Fear works the same in your life and in my life as it did in Job's. Job sensed that his daughters and his sons were not living right with God, and what he *believed* brought that fear into his conscious life. Fear is believing—negative believing. Job believed that the things he and his family possessed were too good to last. Job received the results of his negative believing. So it was Job's fear that was the hole in God's hedge which gave Satan an opening through which he could enter and destroy Job.

If I have fear, that fear has not come from God but through my wrong believing. If I have fear, I have

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listened to and believed Satan, for "...God hath not given us the spirit of fear..."\* On the other hand, God makes positive believing so simple.

Fear is the product of negative believing; it is wrong thinking, wrong believing. In Mark 5:36 Jesus said, "...Be not afraid, only believe." If it be true that Christ is with you always, then why should you fear? When you fear, you are not believing God's Word.

Any man who believes God's words will be blessed. Positive believing, believing God, gives you the fulfillment of the promises of God for your life. But if a person believes the lies of the Devil, he is going to be full of fear and thus reap the corresponding results.

I dare not give Satan a chance to get into my mind and put those negative fears within me. Today, I make a positive confession. I confess what the Word says. I confess my believing in God and what He says, and then by my will I believe God's promises to me and fears disappear. Fears have brought nothing but ruin, defeat, and captivity. The moment we are afraid, Satan has already moved in. And when

\*II Timothy 1:7: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

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he wiggles in through a break in the hedge and gets a toehold, it won't be long until he has a foothold.

We must believe rightly without fear of anything, knowing that with the Lord in your life nothing can harm you. We must know the Lord is with us as stated in Psalms 139:8: "...if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou *art there*." We must expect to drive our automobiles and be safe. We must expect to go to our businesses and jobs without fear, because underneath us are the everlasting arms of God, on each side of us are the everlasting arms of God, and above us are the everlasting arms of God.

What was it the angel said to the shepherds on the Judean hills the night Jesus was born? "Fear not." What did the angel say who appeared to Mary, the mother of Jesus? "Fear not." Wherever God is and wherever the power of God is known, the message is "Fear not." Job got the result of his fearing.

Job 3:25:

For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.

This verse should be in letters an inch high, for it unfolds the great law of believing. Whatever we are believing is how we are going to be living.

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Proverbs 23:7:

...as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.

Jesus' words, "Be of good cheer," are recorded several times in the gospels. Literally, the meaning is "believe positively that which is right; be not afraid."

Mark 11:22-24:

And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Have you been living in fear? Fear is wrong believing, not trusting the promises of God. You can live on positive believing if you will change your thinking patterns. You must do the changing by the renewing of your mind according to the promises in the Word of God.

<b>TO BELIEVE</b>	
<b>NEGATIVE</b>	<b>POSITIVE</b>
<b>Doubt</b>	<b>Confidence</b>
<b>Worry</b>	<b>Trust</b>
<b>Fear</b>	<b>Faith</b>
ISSUES IN	ISSUES IN
<b>UNBELIEF</b>	<b>BELIEVING</b>

Job was sick for a period of perhaps six months or so—not for years, as some people exaggerate. Notice that after Job was released from captivity, he lived a hundred and thirty years.

I know we are not perfect as far as physical perfection is concerned. We may at times have diseases, but these should not linger. When we say “I believe God’s Word” and *really* believe it, we come out the victor. We will come out the same way Job came out—delivered.

Many people believe it is God who tries or tests men; but that is not what the Scriptures say.

James 1:13 and 14:

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted

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with evil, neither tempteth he any man:  
But every man is tempted, when he is drawn  
away of his own lust, and enticed.

We receive good from God and evil from the hand of Satan. Whatever we have in life, we manifest because of our believing.

God brings only blessings. It seems to take much spiritual growth before people will accept the fact that God is good, *always*. Remember that III John 2 says, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." John 10:10 says, "...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." And Psalms 37:4 says, "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

It is God's will "...above all things"—for us to prosper. Therefore, why not believe God's promise of prosperity rather than fear Satan's poverty? The prosperity of your substance and health is dependent upon how much our minds are renewed to what God's Word says.

Do you think things are too good for you? Do you think God has been too good to you and blessed you with too much? Has He opened the windows of

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heaven too wide for you and you have received too many blessings? The Word says that you are supposed to prosper.

God wants you to have prosperity; Satan wants us to have nothing. Our believing—positive or negative—determines our condition. This is a law.



### Miserable Comforters

Job 2:11-13:

Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came every one from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.

And when they lifted up their eyes afar off, and knew him not, they lifted up their voice, and wept; and they rent every one his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven.

So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spake a word unto him: for they saw that *his* grief was very great.

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Later in the record, Job called these three men, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, "miserable comforters."\* The study of these three men in chapters four through forty is most enlightening. Note that when these three men, who were friends of Job, heard about his unhappy condition, they came to comfort him. So they sat down with him for seven days and seven nights without saying a word. This is an Oriental custom showing total sympathy in extreme distress. They sat on the ash heap with Job because they saw that his grief was overwhelming. These "miserable comforters" were well-meaning men. But yet a well-meaning person can still be wrong. Note something else about Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar: they spoke great truths at various places in the Book of Job, but not truth for the given situation. After Satan brought all this destruction and sickness, he endeavored, by using Job's intimate friends, to bring more evil to Job. We see that the Devil frequently uses those whom we think of as our best friends to aggravate our conditions. The Devil is wily.

Note that in the New Testament when the Devil tempted Jesus, he quoted scripture. The portions of scripture the Devil quoted were true enough, but he removed them from their context. Whenever the

\*Job 16:1 and 2: "Then Job answered and said, I have heard many such things: miserable comforters *are* ye all."

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Devil uses truth, he always twists, manipulates it. Likewise, Job's three friends who came to comfort him spoke truths, but not the truth regarding Job's particular situation.

Eliphaz spoke first in Job 4:5.

But now it [Job's dilemma] is come upon thee, and thou faintest; it toucheth thee, and thou art troubled.

Eliphaz reproved Job. He said, "Job, you are a wonderful man, but now since this trouble has come upon you, you cannot take it." God is judging you, friend Job, so you had better repent and get right with Him. This was the attitude of Eliphaz.

Job 4:6 and 7:

*Is not this thy fear, thy confidence, thy hope, and the uprightness of thy ways?*

Remember, I pray thee, who *ever* perished, being innocent? or where were the righteous cut off?

"Job, can you show me that there was ever a man who perished who was innocent, or where the righteous men were cut off?" This passage of Scripture sound like truth, but Eliphaz inaccurately interpreted it.

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Job was faultless, he eschewed evil. Did he perish? I should say not. These men thought they knew the reason, but the final outcome had not yet been recorded. When the end came, the Lord broke Job's bands of the captivity.

Job again spoke in chapter seven.

Job 7:4:

When I lie down, I say, When shall I arise,  
and the night be gone? and I am full of tossings  
to and fro unto the dawning of the day.

I point out this verse to you because so many people say that sickness is a blessing of God, that it is the Lord's will. The night has unending hours in it for the sick. When is the night going to end? Sickness upon men many times makes it impossible for them to rest, tossing about all night.

Job 7:5 and 6:

My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of  
dust; my skin is broken, and become loathsome.  
My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle,  
and are spent without hope.

A weaver's shuttle was about the slowest machine. Job said, "That's what my captivity is today. My days are so slow, they move with the speed of a weaver's

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shuttle." This is an Orientalism used to show slowness. We might say, "Time moves as fast as molasses in January." When we have sickness upon our bodies, the days and nights inch by. When we have happiness, good health, and strength for good hard work, then the days pass speedily.

Job's second friend Bildad spoke in chapter eight.

Job 8:2:

How long wilt thou speak these *things*? and  
*how long shall* the words of thy mouth *be like*  
a strong wind?

"Your words are like a strong wind, Job. You are telling us you are a righteous man. You cannot kid us. We are your friends; we know you."

Job 8:6:

If thou *wert* pure and upright; surely now he  
would awake for thee, and make the habitation  
of thy righteousness prosperous.

Bildad looked at Job and said, "Job, you have a secret sin in your life; there is something wrong. You are out of alignment and harmony with God; therefore, this sickness is upon you. If you were pure and upright, God would let you prosper."

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Job was beginning to come to the end of his tolerance. He couldn't stand his friends' insinuations much longer. He loved them, but they were making life even more miserable for him, so he told them so in chapter twelve.

Job 12:2:

No doubt but ye *are* the people, and wisdom shall die with you.

Job was being facetious with his friends. Job must have had a good sense of humor. Being full of boils and then having friends rub him the wrong way, Job still quipped, "I suppose that when you three fellows die (Professor Eliphaz, Rev. Bildad, and Dr. Zophar) the world will be without wisdom." So Job censured the arrogance and the pretentiousness of these friends. The Book of Job shows that wicked men often prosper. Even the unjust who practice the laws of God find that His laws work for all who apply them. That the laws of God are true and unchanging is the reason an unjust man may prosper in the ways of the world, even as the Book of Job clearly teaches. But, we must always remember that God's judgments are not man's judgments.

Job reproved his friends and continued to confess his confidence in God. Not once throughout all the

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chapters from four to forty does Job renounce God or blame God for the evil which came upon him. Job constantly kept confessing that God is righteous and that He gives that which is good.

Job continued scolding his friends in chapter thirteen.

Job 13:4:

But ye [my friends] *are* forgers of lies, ye *are* all physicians of no value.

Job then makes his ultimate commitment.

Job 13:15:

Though he [God] slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

In this verse the Orientalisms must be understood, as they must be in many places in the Bible, because the Bible is an Eastern book. The Bible uses Eastern expressions of thought which are foreign to the Western mind.\* The Eastern man's expressions

\*Two other scriptures in the Book of Job also necessitate this same understanding of Orientalisms: Job 1:21 and 22: "...the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord, In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." The word "foolishly" is "with injustice." This is true because the Eastern man used these expressions. Therefore, Job did not charge God with injustice, even though the words were not spoken according to God's true actions.

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attribute to God certain actions which, according to His Word, God is incapable of doing. The expressions are words from the lips of men, but the truths in the Bible clarify that God did not and would not do those things, as seen in Hebrews 2:14: "...through death he [Jesus Christ] might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil." *God* is not going to slay Job; the power of death belongs to the Devil.

Job's statement of "though he slay me, yet will I trust in him" reminds us of the three men whom King Nebuchadnezzar threatened to have thrown into the fiery furnace. The Book of Daniel gives this account.

Daniel 3:17 and 18:

...[The three believers say,] our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver *us* out of thine hand, O king.

...we will not serve thy gods...

That is believing; that is trust in God in the same proportions as Job's.

Job 14:1 and 2:

Man *that is* born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.



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He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down:  
he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth  
not.

However, Job still retained his hope in the resurrection.

Job 14:14:

If a man die, shall he live *again*? all the days  
of my appointed time will I wait, till my change  
come.

In the fifteenth chapter, Eliphaz reproved Job for justifying himself and accused him of being conceited.

Job 15:2, 11-13:

Should a wise man utter vain knowledge, and  
fill his belly with the east wind?

*Are* the consolations of God small with thee?  
is there any secret thing with thee?

Why doth thine heart carry thee away? and  
what do thy eyes wink at,

That thou turnest thy spirit against God, and  
lettest *such* words go out of thy mouth?

“Job, we cannot see it, but what are you overlooking? What is this evil you have in the background of your mind? Try to justify yourself, but we know you are full of sin. Come on, be honest.”

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Job rebuked his friends in his response to their harassments.

**Job 16:2:**

I have heard many such things: miserable comforters *are* ye all.

**Job 19:2:**

How long will ye vex my soul, and break me in pieces with words?

It is an easy thing to speak words that injure and harm while thinking you are doing good. Job said, "Your words break me in pieces."

**Job 19:18 and 19:**

Yea, young children despised me; I arose, and they spake against me.

All my inward friends abhorred me: and they whom I loved are turned against me.

Job said, "Now that I am sick, all the young children I used to talk to and take care of think that I am the one who is wrong. They think it is something I have done that has brought this sickness upon me, that it is my fault, and that I do not love God. All my friends have forsaken me."

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Then Job gave a vivid description of his sickness.

Job 19:20:

My bone cleaveth to my skin and to my flesh,  
and I am escaped with the skin of my teeth.

In spite of his desperate condition, Job again stated his hope in a resurrection.

Job 19:25 and 26:

For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth:  
And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God.

Even after suffering all his losses, his illnesses, and his miserable comforters, Job continued looking to God. Isn't that a wonderful confession to make, that the Lord is your redeemer, that you know your redeemer lives and that he will appear upon the earth and you shall see him?

In Sanskrit the last part of verse 26 is more accurately translated: "Although my body becomes frail and deteriorated, yet without my body shall I see God." According to God's Word, the resurrected ones will have a new body in the fashion of Christ's resurrected body. Therefore, "without my body" means without this present physical body which

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corrupts, but in a new, resurrected body Job would see God.

In the twenty-first chapter, Job analyzed the prosperity of the wicked in detail. I want to take time at this point to clarify this important truth.

**Job 21:7-10:**

Wherefore do the wicked live, become old, yea, are mighty in power?

Their seed is established in their sight with them, and their offspring before their eyes.

Their houses *are* safe from fear, neither *is* the rod of God upon them.

Their bull gendereth, and faileth not; their cow calveth, and casteth not her calf.

The reason the wicked man prospers, when a godly man seems not to, is due to the truth that the wicked man is not righteous in Christ, thus he belongs to the Devil. The Devil owns the unbeliever's life and everything he has. In contrast, the Devil has no legal rights over a man who has been born again of the Spirit of God, if that man will insist on the same. Therefore, the Devil will do his best to afflict, harm, and injure the Christian. There is no reason for the Devil to cast down the unbeliever who already belongs to him. The more Satan allows his own unrighteous ones to operate the immutable laws, which

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work for the just and the unjust alike, the more confused an unknowing Christian becomes. Satan will try to afflict the saint and let the sinner be blessed, reversing appearances so that the saint looks as the greatest sinner should.

In the twenty-second chapter of the Book of Job, Eliphaz again accused Job of many sins and asked him to repent.

Job 22:21-23:

Acquaint now thyself with him [God], and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.

Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart.

If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up....

There could not have been truer words spoken, even if Jesus himself had spoken; but this accusation of having left or turned from the Almighty could not be placed against Job. The Bible says in the first chapter of this book that Job was a righteous man. If a sinner turns to God, he will get peace. When he puts God's words in his heart, the man will be edified.

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I challenge you to start thinking about and believing this statement: Job 22:28: "Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee...." In other words, if you declare a promise of God, it must come to pass. What a great promise this is when we use it in our everyday living!

The story of Job moves on with Job's still maintaining that he is righteous, he has not wandered from God.

Job 27:6 and 8:

My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach *me* so long as I live.

For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?

There is the whole key: holding fast our righteousness in our own minds. "God taketh away his soul" is again the Orientalism, an Eastern expression, not truth. God doesn't take away the soul because that is in the Devil's power.

Finally, Job's three friends tired of talking to Job because Job confessed his righteousness in God. His three friends couldn't understand it.

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Job 32:1:

So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he *was* righteous in his own eyes.

There then appeared a new man on the scene. This man, Elihu, was angry with Job and also with Job's three friends.

Job 32:2 and 3:

Then was kindled the wrath of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite...against Job was his wrath kindled, because he justified himself rather than God.

Also against his three friends was his [Elihu's] wrath kindled, because they had found no answer, and *yet* had condemned Job.

Well, Elihu was not smarter, I assure you, than those with whom he was angry. He was very unkind to Job throughout the conversation.

As we read various scattered verses from Job, I just want to call to your attention a very beautiful verse.

Job 35:10:

...Where is God my maker, who giveth songs in the night.

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It's a wonderful thing to know that you and God are right. God's spirit within you has made you righteous; so, no matter what your friends say, you know that you have a "song in the night."

God spoke to Job in chapter thirty-eight.

Job 38:22 and 23:

Hast thou [Job] entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail,  
Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?

Are there treasures in snow and hail? The twenty-third verse is still future. Scientists came up a few years ago with a bold declaration that there are "floating ice cubes" weighing two and three hundred pounds each floating in space. I do not know if they are right or wrong, but my Bible says that there are going to be great hail stones, "...the treasures of the hail, which I have reserved against the time of trouble...." We simply thrill with the revelation of those men many, many thousands of years ago.

Job 38:31:

Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?



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This was written in Job thousands of years before the coming of Jesus. Man talked about the Pleiades and the bands of Orion, yet our astronomers have not known anything about them for more than perhaps a few hundred years.

Job 38:32:

...canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?

Arcturus is another one of the stars. Arcturus is always on time, never off a second. "Job, can you guide Arcturus or does God guide it?"

Job 40:2-5:

Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct *him*? he that reproveth God, let him answer it.

Then Job answered the Lord, and said, Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth.

Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further.

In other words, even though a man is righteous before God, he does not go around bragging about his righteousness to men upon earth. Do not brag about your righteousness, but claim your righteousness, live it. Do not boast that you are righteous because,

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are you the fellow that keeps Arcturus in its course?  
Job said, "I am vile...."

God spoke to Job again in the last part of the fortieth chapter about His power, finally concluding His message to Job at the end of the forty-first chapter. In Job 42, Job responded.

Job 42:1-5:

Then Job answered the Lord, and said,

I know that thou canst do every *thing*, and *that* no thought can be withholden from thee.

Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.

Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.

I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.

There is a tremendous difference between hearing about God and seeing God for oneself. Job said, "Up until this time, while I had all this abundance upon my life, I only heard of thee with the hearing of the ear. But since I have come through this, I now see." It is wonderful that a man may be a Christian today and come through a period of affliction or a

period of sickness which Satan brings upon him, and all at once his believing rises and he has power to overcome his circumstances. That man taps the resources by positive believing and God delivers him from Satan's captivity. Many of us have mainly heard of God by the hearing of the ears. But we grow spiritually as we believe the Word of God. We see that God lives and moves and has His being in people today, and we discover He is the same today as He was yesterday or will be tomorrow. This is the day to believe to see.

Job said, "Up until this time I have just heard about you, God, but now I see." What did he hear? Oh, he heard that God was peaceful and kind; God was considerate; he heard that God heals people. "But now I see."

Then God made a promise to Job, Job acted upon the promise, and God fulfilled it. This is the principle to apply in our lives when we want our prayers answered.



### Job's Deliverance

Job admitted in Job 42:5 that "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now my eye seeth thee." Once Job "saw God," God was able to do a most wonderful thing for Job—He delivered him. But in the sequence of events, God first corrected Job's three friends.

Job 42:7:

And it was so, that after the Lord had spoken these words unto Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me *the thing that is right*, as my servant Job *hath*.

The Lord was angry with Job's three friends, his "miserable comforters." Originally, these men had come to pray for Job; but, instead, God commanded that Job pray for them.

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Job 42:8 and 9:

Therefore take unto you [God was still speaking to Eliphaz] now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you *after your folly*, in that ye have not spoken of me *the thing which is right*, like my servant Job.

So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite *and* Zophar the Naamathite went, and did according as the Lord commanded them: the Lord also accepted Job.

Then comes this powerful, succinct verse that tells of God's fulfillment of His Word.

Job 42:10:

And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.

Satan brought the captivity, but the Lord reversed it by freeing Job. In one short verse of scripture we learn two great truths: God delivered Job from Satan's captivity and then gave to Job double what he previously had when he already had been the wealthiest man in the East. The Word says, "...the Lord turned the captivity of Job...." Satan would

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never have reversed it. When did God reverse his captivity? When Job prayed for his friends.

There is a wonderful key. I have found that sometimes when people start ministering to others, they receive their own healing. As Job prayed for his friends, he received blessings for himself also.

As Job obeyed the Word of God and prayed for his friends, God turned the captivity of Job. God also did something more: "...also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before." Job 42 gives the specifics.

**Job 42:12 and 13:**

So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.

He had also seven sons and three daughters.

During the 140 years that Job lived after his deliverance, God added to Job's substance until he possessed double his original possessions, with the exception of his children.

**Job 42:16 and 17:**

After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons,

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*even four generations.*

So Job died, *being* old and full of days.

Isn't that wonderful! A man of God walking through life may have a temporary captivity, but the Lord can break the chains of bondage and set him free. Job had a full life.

Do you think that when a person dies at the age of twenty in an automobile accident he has had a full life? Who is aborting our lives when we have heart trouble and die between thirty and forty years of age? Who has the power of death? Hebrews 2:14 contains the answer.

Hebrews 2:14:

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.

If we give him opportunity, Satan will capture and ruin us. Yet, the Devil has no legal rights over a believer. You and I must claim our God-given protection and abundance.

I want to close by showing one more important point. Sometimes we as children of God do not



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claim our deliverance from the tricks of Satan. At these times Satan may overcome us in our minds and flesh, but he cannot touch the spirit from God in us. Satan cannot destroy the spirit which came when we were born again, for the nature of God in us is *eternal life*. This spirit, which is the anointing of God, cannot be taken away and cannot die. God just cannot be defeated by Satan in any way. Christians, believe God and be delivered from every captivity now! Let it be said of you, as it was of Job, "And the Lord turned the captivity." Don't just hear of God's power with your ears; see it with your eyes by receiving God's abundant goodness.

## About the Author

Victor Paul Wierwille has spent many years searching, and seeking enlightenment on God's Word from men of God scattered across the continent. His academic career after high school continued at the Mission House (Lakeland) College and Seminary, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, where he received his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Divinity degrees. Dr. Wierwille studied at the University of Chicago and at Princeton Theological Seminary where he was awarded the Master of Theology degree in Practical Theology. Later he completed his work for the Doctor of Theology degree.

For sixteen years Dr. Wierwille served as a pastor in northwestern Ohio. During these years he searched the Word of God for keys to powerful victorious living. Dr. Wierwille visited E. Stanley Jones and studied his Ashram program. Such men as Glenn Clark, Rufus Mosley, Starr Daily, Albert Cliffe, Bishop K.C. Pillai and others were guests of Dr. Wierwille's local congregation. Karl Barth of Switzerland was a friend and consultant, as was George M. Lamsa, the Aramaic scholar, as well as other European and Far Eastern scholars. With these men Dr. Wierwille quested for Biblical enlightenment. In 1953 he began teaching classes on Power for Abundant Living. These

concentrated sessions are specifically directed to unfold the Word of God as the Will of God and to answer crucial questions regarding the holy spirit and its present availability and efficacy in believers' lives. Leading men and women from all over the world into receiving the more abundant life quickly consumed Dr. Wierwille's full time, so it became necessary for him to resign his local pastorate. Since that time Dr. Wierwille has devoted his entire energy to The Way Biblical Research Center in New Knoxville, Ohio. There, as elsewhere in the United States and foreign countries, he continues to study, write and teach the greatness of God's Word.



