HE WAS THERE ALL THE TIME

Read Luke 24:13-27. This provides the background for the message. Jesus joined two disciples on the road to Emmaus. He walked with them and talked with them, but they didn't recognize Jesus. Cleopas accounted Jesus as a stranger in Jerusalem. The disciples did not recognize Jesus until their eyes were opened.

There is a beautiful song that goes something like this, "He was there all the time, He was there all the time, waiting patiently in line. He was there all the time." Jesus was with the disciples all the time, but they only recognized Him towards the end of His visit. Jesus is waiting in line patiently to work and move in our lives. Jesus often allows us to do what we want to. He allows us to explore life without Him. He waits patiently until our eyes are opened and we see Him. Our minds are enlightened and our understanding recognizes Jesus and His right to our lives.

I. WHEN I AM TIRED, HE IS THERE TO STRENGTHEN.

The fact is people do get tired. Some are exhausted because of hard work. Most people become mentally. The stress and strain of daily living drains our physical energy. Our lives are filled with activities. We are on the go constantly. You may become so involved in activities at work, at church, in pleasure, and in entertainment that you are on the go seven days a week. Consider Ephesians 5:16, "Redeeming the time because the days are evil." Consider also Psalm 46:10, "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exulted among the heathen. I will be exulted in the earth." The pressure, wars, crimes, the economy, and sin is putting on the human mind can become almost unbearable.

The folly is you can act foolish in your tired condition. Marriages are suffering because of the modern pace of living. When the husband and the wife are tired all the time, they will argue and quarrel often. The relationships of parents and children become stained. The family may be biting and devouring one another and not even recognize why they are acting that way.

If each family member doesn't wake up, serious problems will be the result.

The finding, Jesus wants to help us. Jesus is able to
give us the rest in mind, soul, and body that is needed. His precious promise is so wonderful. It is recorded in Matt. 11:28, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Without Jesus we can’t do anything, but with Him we can do more than we think. John 15:5 Paul reminds us in Phil. 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Jesus told the apostle Paul, "...My grace is sufficient for thee: For my strength is made perfect in weakness..." II Cor. 12:9 Lord open our eyes so that we can see our strength comes from thee.

II. WHEN I AM TROUBLED, HE IS THERE TO SHARE.

The fact is people do become troubled. Many things in life and about life will bother us. The Bible shows us many examples of troubled people. In Psalm 73, we find the psalmist wondering why the wicked prospered. He saw the wicked with plenty. The wicked seemed to have fewer problems. The psalmist was serving the Lord. He had problems and needs. He couldn’t understand until he went into God’s sanctuary. Psa. 73:17 Hezekiah was troubled over the threat of the enemy toward Israel. When confronted with the trouble, Hezekiah went to the Lord’s house and told the Lord all about it. Isa. 37:1-3 Troubles are a part of life. Job said, "Man that’s born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble." Job 14:1

The folly is you can act foolish when troubled. You can worry and fret over troubles instead of trusting the Lord. Prov. 3:5,6 You can blame others for troubles and say things that leave emotional scars for years to come. When troubles come you can start to drink alcohol to get away from it all. You can use drugs to numb the pain and loneliness troubles cause. You can even blame and rebel against the Lord. When Jonah was faced with a problem he chose to start running from God. A race he couldn’t win. He received a good education at the university of whales.

The finding, Jesus wants to be very near in troubled times. Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled. Ye believe in God, believe also in me." John 14:1 Jesus wants to walk with us like He walked with the disciples on the Emmaus road. During the storms of life, Jesus says, "Be of good cheer; it is I, do not be afraid." Matt. 14:27 Martha was troubled and burdened in life, but Mary sat at Jesus’ feet listening to His words. Luke 10:39:40 The psalmist said, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: For thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Psa. 23:4 Mercy and grace that is needed in daily life can be obtained at the throne of grace. Heb. 4:16 Lord open our eyes that we may see that Jesus wants to share our troubles.

III. WHEN I AM TEMPTED, HE IS THERE TO SEPARATE.

The fact is you will be tempted. The devil is the tempter. He seeks and strives to allure all men to sin. He works overtime on God’s people to distract us from serving the Lord. Paul wrote, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man." I Cor. 10:13 The devil is our adversary. He seeks to devour and damage the testimony of the redeemed. James reminds us that God tempts no man. "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; For God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted when he is drawn of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." James 1:13-15

Adam and Eve were tempted of the serpent in the garden of Eden and sinned against the Lord by eating the forbidden fruit. Spiritual and physical death was the consequence of sin. David saw Bathsheba. He was tempted by her beauty and committed adultery. The first of many sins to cover up. II Sam. 11:4 Achan was tempted to sin by taking a wedge of gold. Josh. 7:1 Demas was tempted to quit serving the apostle Paul and did quit because he loved the present world. II Tim. 4:10 Even Jesus was tempted by the devil in Matt. 4:1-11. Thank God while man is tempted and fails, Jesus was tempted and prevailed.

The folly is you can act foolish when you are tempted. The saved person has two natures within. We often experience the conflict Paul wrote about in Rom. 7:14-25. We can yield to temptation, even knowing that to yield is sin. The very act of yielding is sin.

You may try to justify or excuse yourself for sin. When you sin you are to blame and it is your fault. God draws you by His spirit to resist the devil and temptation. The devil draws you to sin and its temporal pleasure. We make the choice. We decide what we are going to do. I have heard people say, "The devil made me do it." But that is a lie. You hear others say, I couldn’t help it, but that also is a lie. The devil always seems to tempt us during our idle times in the Lord’s service. Times of temptation are very lonely and disturbing times. Lives have been wrecked and ruined by a few moments of pleasure. Paul was aware of the weakness of the flesh when he wrote, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: Lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." I Cor. 9:27

The finding, The tempter came to Jesus and tempted Him 3 times. Jesus answered each temptation with God’s precious word. Matt. 4:4,7,10 He is our example of victory over the devil and his temptations. The devil tempted Jesus when He was alone and hungry. Matt. 4:2 The devil used what appealed to the flesh. The devil works through the lust of the
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flesh and eyes and the pride of life. 1 John 2:15-17 Paul wrote about temptation in I Cor. 10:13. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: But God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." I Cor. 10:13

Sin will keep you from the word and the word will keep you from sin. David wrote "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." Psa. 119:11

IV. WHEN I AM THIRSTY, HE IS THERE TO SATISFY.

The fact is man is thirsty and hungry in his soul. He is seeking, searching, and striving to satisfy the thirst and hunger. The wisest of all men made a search of life. He wanted to find the best things in life. He made an investigation of life. He tried numerous avenues and concluded the best thing was to fear God and keep His commandments. Ecc. 12:13,14.

God's people long for fulfillment and contentment and happiness. We want to find what lasts. We want to find true joy. We may even look to the world to find what God alone can give us. If we become friends of the world we are no friends to God. Friendship with the world will replace your desire for the Lord with deterioration, determination with doubt, direction with desperation, and discernment with darkness. The folly is you can act foolish when you are thirsty. Your search for happiness can lead you into many dead end paths. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov. 16:25. We dream of what we think will offer true happiness. Some dream of power, popularity, plenty, pleasure, and passion only to find once they are experienced emptiness and vanity prevails. Some explore every available avenue to no conclusion.

Some have sought meaning in the freedom of alcohol and drugs only to be enslaved by them. Look at the alcoholic and the dope heads. You may be going down a dead end path, taking the wrong turn and going in the wrong direction.

The finding. Only Jesus can satisfy. The psalmist stated it beautifully when he wrote, "For He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness." Psa. 107:9 When you find the Lord you find completeness and you are truly made whole. Paul wrote, "And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power." Col. 2:10 The psalmist wrote, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Psa. 23:1

He set the imprisoned free, gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, understanding to the ignorant, and life to the dead.

V. WHEN I WAS TARNISHED, HE WAS THERE TO SAVE.

This means they are separated from God and cannot and do not have communion with Him. Lost men are also depraved in sin. Jeremiah wrote, "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jer. 17:9 Lost men are disobedient in sin. Eph. 2:2,3 Lost men are condemned and damned in sin. "He that believeth on Him is not condemned: But he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten son of God." John 3:18 Sin has affected every part of man's being. We are marred by sin.

The folly is you can act foolish when you are tarnished and are a sinner. Rom. 3:23 Your thinking, attitudes, motives, manners, actions, etc., are influenced by the sinful nature of man. You can ignore your condition, but it will just get worse. You can justify, excuse, cover up, or refuse to deal with your condition, but it is still there. You will have to consider the question, "What will you do with Jesus?" There is a place reserved in your heart for the Lord Jesus alone. You will never be satisfied or happy until Jesus comes into your heart. The lost try to find fulfillment in sin. They go deeper and get bolder in what they do. Paul said men would wax worse and worse. II Tim. 3:13.

The finding. Jesus can save those tarnished, spotted, and stained by sin. He is the only one who has the power and ability to save. Acts 4:12; Matt. 1:21 He purges and cleanses man of sin. Hebs. 9:22; I John 1:9 Jesus can make man righteous before God. "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; That we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." II Cor. 5:21 Paul describes how we are made righteous. "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." Rom. 4:5 The Load of sin is heavy. The feeling of sin is guilt and shame and condemnation. The influence of sin is far reaching.

In Jesus we have a three fold deliverance and redemption. "Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver; in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us." II Cor. 1:10 He has delivered us from the penalty of sin. He is presently delivering from the power of sin in life. He will one day deliver from the very presence of sin. Rev. 21:27 Lord open our eyes so that we can see that Jesus wants to save and forgive those tarnished by sin.

Remember the song, "He was there all the time, waiting patiently in line. He was there all the time." Jesus is waiting patiently in line to help you in any and every way possible. Lord grant us the grace to let Jesus have first place in our hearts. Matt. 6:33

JESUS IS OUR HOPE
THE GLORIOUS SHIPS OF JESUS

Hebrews 1

I. THE GLORY OF HIS SONSHIP. V.2. His Son, v.2; The Son, v.8; His only begotten Son, John 3:16; His beloved Son, Matt. 3:17.

Christ the Son, greater than all sons in His priority, from eternity, in His dignity, angels worship Him.

II. THE GLORY OF HIS HEIRSHIP. Appointed heir of all things, v.2; the earth and its fulness; angels are His, saints are His, heaven is His.

III. THE GLORY OF HIS CREATORSHIP. He made the worlds, v.2. He not only created the worlds, but He makes the ages; He is the first and the last.

IV. THE GLORY OF HIS RELATIONSHIP. V.3.

1. The brightness of His glory; the outshining of His glory, though veiled in His flesh - Rev. 1:13—17.

2. The express image of His person; equal with God; His power not less mighty; His wisdom not less keen, His love not less tender.

V. THE GLORY OF HIS PROPRIETORSHIP.

“Upholding all things”; animate and inanimate; earth, sun, moon, stars, angels, men, animals.

VI. THE GLORY OF HIS MEDIATORSHIP. “By himself he purged our sins.” V.3.

Himself came not to shine, not to show forth His heavenly majesty, not to rule by His just and holy might—NO—He came by Himself to purge our sins. What height of glory! What depth of abasement! What an awful sacrifice! What unspeakable love!

VII. THE GLORY OF HIS KINGSHIP. He sat down, v.3.

1. What a place for Christ; He who sat in a mother’s lap, sat on Jacob’s well, had nowhere to lay His head, stood a criminal at Pilate’s bar, hung in blood on a cross, lay a corpse in a grave.

2. What a power for Christ; “at the right hand.” What influence, what power is His.

3. What reward is His; not only the glory He had ere He came to earth, but the glory of redemption—a new race added.

VIII. THE GLORY OF HIS LORDSHIP. “Let all the angels of God worship him,” v.6. This because of His priority, superiority all the angels; if angels, what about men.

IX. THE GLORY OF HIS DEITYSHIP. Read v.8: “Thy throne, O God.”

1. What a throne Divine, supreme, universal, eternal.

2. What a scepter! His laws. His administrations. His methods are righteous.

3. His title—“O GOD.”


“My shall be changed — thou art the same.”

1. “Thou remainest” points to the past — He was or He could not remain.

2. “Thou art the same.” present.

3. Thy years shall not fail. future.

By George White

THE STORMS OF LIFE

By HARMON HUNT

TEXT: Mark 4:35-41

INTRO: This passage of Scripture deals with a miracle in the life of Jesus. When studying the Bible we sometimes overlook some very valuable lessons. This passage teaches us many things which are pertinent to our lives. Let’s examine this passage and learn.

I. LET US EXAMINE THE FACTS REVEALED IN THE PASSAGE

A. First, notice the storm.

1. We find that Jesus had been teaching His disciples and others. v 1

2. At evening, Jesus and the disciples board a ship and pass over to the other side. v 35

3. A storm arises. v.37.

4. They cannot save themselves thus they panic and are terrified. v 38

B. Secondly, notice the Saviour.

1. Jesus was tired but was devoted to His disciples.

2. Jesus had a reason for permitting the storm and remains calm. v 38

C. Thirdly, notice the silence after it.

1. After the disciples come to Him, Jesus rebukes the winds. v 39

2. He shows that He has power over the elements. (Declares Divinity)

D. Fourthly, notice Jesus’ questions.

1. “Why are ye so fearful?”

2. There was no reason to fear.

3. “How is it that ye have no faith?”

4. Jesus permitted the storm in order to test faith and help them to grow in grace.

II. LET US CONSIDER THE FACTS AND APPLY THEM.

A. Just like this storm, many difficult times come upon us in this life.

1. God permits troubled times to arise, even without warning.

2. They terrify us and we’re too panic.

3. God knows and has reasons for allowing them to occur, and we are assured that it is for our good.

Scripture: Romans 8:28

4. Although it seems hard to bear, we are promised that he is near.

Scripture: Psalm 27:5

B. Just as He was with His disciples, so is He just as near to us.

1. We tend to try to solve our problems without Him.

2. Our troubles, great or small, are of great concern to Him.

Scripture: I Peter 5:7

3. We should realize that in our storms, He has an opportunity to declare His power to the world.

Scripture: Matt. 5:16

4. We should shine the brightest for Him when we are in the darkest.

Help us sound out God's Word on radio waves, printed page, and missionary endeavor. Send an offering today!!
C. Just as Jesus helped His disciples, He will help us.  
   1. We too have no reason to fear.  
   Scripture: Heb. 13:5-6  
   2. Notice that "...We may boldly say"  
   3. Jesus wants us to trust Him.  
   Scripture: Mark 11:24  
   4. Notice also: "Ye shall have them"  
D. Just as Jesus wanted His disciples to grow in faith, so should we.  
   1. He wants and needs strong, dedicated men and women for His work.  
   2. We should allow the storms to be tools with which to grow.  
   3. We should flee to Shelter when the storm arises.  
   4. Our faith will bring honor and glory to our Lord.

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**GOD'S FAITHFUL MINORITY**

**D.B. Wright**

**Text:** Malachi 3:16-17

**Intro:**

A. Jesus taught that "few" in comparison to the whole of mankind will enter heaven. Matt. 7:13-14  
   1. This does not say that many cannot be saved! I Tim. 2:3-4  
   2. On the first Pentecost after the death of Jesus, 3,000 were saved and added to the church in one day! Soon 5,000 were added!  
   3. The duty and responsibility of the Lord's church is to work, witness, and pray to win some. I Cor. 9:22

B. Our Scripture for the message speaks of God's faithful minority in trying times.  
   1. Jesus sought to prepare His church for such time by saying, "BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE: FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD...FOR THEY PERSECUTED THE PROPHETS WHICH WERE BEFORE YOU." Matt. 5:10-12  

C. Paul sought to prepare Christians for such in these words, "YEA, AND ALL THAT WILL LIVE GODLY IN CHRIST JESUS SHALL SUFFER PERSECUTION," II Tim. 3:12

D. God's faithful exhort one another.  
   1. Exhort: (urge, spur, prod, appeal to, beg, stimulate, excite, provoke) Hebs. 10:24-25; 3:12-13
E. The suffering of faithful Paul served as a stimulant to many others to speak boldly the Word of God. Phil. 1:14  
F. Our Text has some good things to say about God's faithful minority. Faithful to God, to His word, to His people, to His church.

I. GOD'S FAITHFUL MINORITY ARE A RESERVED PEOPLE!  
   A. "They shall be mine, saith the Lord, in that day when I make up my jewels..." II Tim. 2:19
   B. Soul preservation, galore!!!  
      2. Romans 8:1  
      3. II Tim. 2:13
   D. "Reserved" for a "reservation" in Heaven! I Peter 1:3-5

II. GOD'S FAITHFUL MINORITY REMINDED ONE ANOTHER.  
   A. God's faithful pray for one another! Ephesians 6:18
   B. God's faithful edify one another! Rom. 14:19, I Cor. 14:26
   C. God's faithful admonish one another!  
      1. Admonish: (forwarn, caution, counsel)  
      2. Every part of the church services should be designed to do God's will to this end. Col. 3:16

III. THE LIFE AND WORK OF GOD'S FAITHFUL TO BE REVIEWED!  
   A. Romans 14:10-12 "But why dost thou judge thy brother?...So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."
   B. II Cor. 5:10, I John 2:28, Luke 12:2,3; Hebs. 4:13
   C. I Cor. 3:13-15
   E. "We are stewards of Grace," I Peter 4:10, Luke 19:12-15

IV. GOD'S FAITHFUL MINORITY WILL BE REWARDED FOR SERVICE AND FAITHFULNESS!  
   A. Hebs. 6:10a  
   B. Rev. 22:12  
   C. A trophy is available...run to win! I Cor. 9:24  
   D. Luke 19:16-19
   E. Personally, I want to hear Him, "Well done!" Matt. 25:23
   F. I want a trophy to lay at His feet! Rev. 4:10-11
   G. I also want "peace of mind now" as well as a crown then! II Tim. 4:7-8

**JESUS IS COMING AGAIN**
REGAINING THROUGH OBEYDENCE

Text: Joshua 8:1-35

In our last lesson, Chapter 7 of Joshua, we noticed where the people of God, Israel, went down in defeat. We noticed 3 causes of defeat: Self Confidence, Supineness in Prayer, and the Sin of Disobedience. God has never intended for His people to be defeated or live in defeat. You can surely mark it down that when we are defeated, it is not God's fault. God's people need to watch out for the devil. His ultimate aim in all of his endeavors and enticements is to bring us down to defeat, despair, and destruction. Notice the first part of John 10:10.

May we ever be mindful that the devil opposes three things. They are: (1) Faith in God, (2) Faithfulness to God, and (3) Fullness of God. You can see his hindrance connected with them putting their faith in God in the fact that he tried to keep them in Egypt. In regards to his attempts to destroy their faithfulness to God, the scriptures reveal time after time where he tried to get them to doubt God's word, power, and provision. Finally he tried to cheat them out of experiencing the fullness of God or all that the Lord had for them by trying to keep them from claiming their possessions in the Promise Land.

It may be well to also point out here that everything we do for the Lord which is going to pass two tests - The Faith test and the Fire test. I wish that someone had told me years ago about the Fire test because it sure would have relieved my mind to have known why I experienced some of the things which have happened to me. These truths are substantiated in Romans 14:23, Hebs. 11:6 and I Cor. 3:12-15.

Now, let us turn our attention to the 8th Chapter of Joshua. First, let us notice:

I. THE PLANNED STRATEGY FOR VICTORY. This is seen in Joshua 8:1-29. Please read this section carefully as we will not take up the space to print it here.

The profitable truths can be gleaned from this section as follows. After an experience of defeat, it is much more difficult to overcome. Thirty minutes of willful disobedience in the life of a child of God has resulted in years out of the will of God. If we could get this seared into our heart - that lost ground is mighty hard to regain - we would be more careful. There have been so many times that I've evidenced this in my own personal life as well as church life. I've seen so many churches be led by their pastor to do a particular thing and the devil, through people, would oppose it, and in many instances succeed in stopping this forward progress. Later on, the church would realize that she needed to take this step forward and would proceed to do so but experienced so many problems and obstacles this second time. Would to God we would all LEARN to LISTEN to the Lord. A lot of churches need to realize that they are commanded and admonished to follow their pastor as he follows the Lord. Hebs. 13:17. Do not misread me. I don't believe in Pastoral dictatorship, but I do believe in strong leadership and I believe the Bible to teach us in command, precept, and example that when a congregation of people fail to follow and listen to God's man, then they are in store for a lot of heart ache, plus the fact that they will never develop to the full potential that God desired for them. As you notice this section of scripture, they were TOLD what to do.

II. THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH FOR VICTORY. First notice with me the passage. This is Joshua 8:30-35. Please read carefully.

The principles which were set forth in this passage are as follows: The Law of God (The Word) must be very important to them. They were taught the way to be blessed. They were warned that if they failed to OBEY the Word, they would be cursed. Next, you notice the erection of the altar. The altar is a place of communion, worship, discipline, and obedience. We must constantly remember that to be set free does not eliminate us from our responsibilities. May God help us to be very sensitive to the leadership of the Spirit and realize that if our pastor is really a God called preacher walking with the Lord, then we had better listen to him, obey his leadership, and walk with him to accomplish greater things in the Lord.

NEW VOLUME

Come to our Bible Conference February 16-20, 1983 and pick up your free copy of SOUNDING OUT THE WORD Vol. 4. This is a 73 page outline book of 25 sermon outlines and 1 written out sermon by Charles Swilling. Back issues of our paper and other outline books are available.

Glen Tropp
1-2-3-4 Contact

How many times do we hear words—everyday words—that have more than one common meaning? "Physical" can refer to labor or to a medical check up. "Stamp" brings to mind a temper tantrum or a 20 cent square. What about the word "contact"? What comes to mind? contact lenses—contact paper—contact sports? Did you think of some contacts you make for the Lord?

The first area of spiritual contact is MINISTERING TO SOMEONE'S NEEDS. There is a need to teach people, to help them learn God's principles and to help them apply the truths to their lives. Matthew 28:20 Then there is the ministry of charity. James 2:15,16 shows that it is hard to meet a person's spiritual needs when they have outstanding physical needs. Does not I Corinthians 13 tell us that the basis for all our Christian works should be charity? Another way to minister is to be friendly. As ambassadors for the King of Kings, we should show our very best sides as we seek to enlist others into His service. The lost world needs to find the friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Make Jesus your example and befriend those around you. The fourth thing to consider is listening. Is there a need for listeners? Think about James 1:27; the people mentioned in this verse are without companionship. If you feel you have little talent to use for God—reconsider! II Chronicles 35:2 tells us that some people need to be encouraged to come to God's house. Others have the desire to attend church but have no transportation. Is this a need that you can meet?

The second area of spiritual contacts is: WIN SOMEONE TO THE LORD. Probably you think this area consists only of witnessing. Witnessing is important, Heb. 2:3, but it is not your sole responsibility in winning someone. Along with your personal testimony or with your explanation from the scriptures should be the good example that you set. I Cor. 9:22,23. Another way to win someone to Christ is to bring them to church to hear God's word preached and taught. Rom. 10:13,14 The offering that you give for missions make you partaker of the harvest of each missionary you aided. I Cor. 16:15,16 Set a goal for yourself: Let God use you to lead a soul to the saving knowledge of Jesus then teach that babe in Christ how to search the scriptures and how to serve the Saviour. When this has been accomplished, a soul and a life have been won.

The third area of spiritual contacts is: ENCOURAGE SOMEONE. Heb. 10:23,24. Galatians 6:6 admonishes the saints: "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Being involved in any work for God is hard; satan and his children block every effort you make to serve the Lord. They attack through your family, friends, finances, flesh, and faith. To deal with this adversity, we need to encourage each other. Be a good example. I Tim. 4:12 People notice if you are "always there", if you are active, if you are available.

If you are ardent—and they desire to achieve those same qualities. You might encourage others by using the telephone or mailing cards and letters. Heb. 13:16, Gal. 6:10,11 There is something that anyone from 2 months to 122 years can do which is to give encouragement to those they meet. Yes, it is smile! Smiles are catching and they show the love of Jesus and the eagerness of the smiler to be active for Jesus. A warm smile can thaw a frozen spirit—try it! A last encourager is prayer. We are told what prayer can do in James 5:16. Knowing what God has promised in I John 5:14,15 (surely you are looking up the scripture references!) is a comfort when someone says, "I'm praying for you." Praying for people has an added advantage—not only does it draw you closer to God, but it pulls you into a closer fellowship with that person you prayed for.

The last area of consideration is: CONTACT WITH GOD. Our contact with God is through prayer. Matthew 6:9 tells us, "After this manner therefore pray ye..." I Thesalonians 5:17 instructs us to "Pray without ceasing." There are some conditions for effective prayer, James 5:16 and I Peter 3:2 and Psalm 66:18. Not only should we seek fellowship with God, but we should be open for His contact with us. God speaks to us through His Holy Word—it can be read, preached or witnessed of.

Ruth Phillips

This diagram shows our contact with God and His contact with us. The exchange is needed for a perfect fellowship—to keep us on the right track. But even as a body of water needs an outlet to remain viable, so must a Christian use his life and voice to make contact with others. If there is no ministering, witnessing or encouraging then that child of God becomes Stagnant. If you put a jar of anything on the shelf and leave it there, unopened, unused, undisrupted, that product will become rancid.

Think about your life. Have you made contact with God? Do you allow Him to make contact with you? Are you concerned about contacting others?

1 - MINISTER
2 - WIN
3 - ENCOURAGE
4 - PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY
CONTACT!
Three Keys To Soldiering

Text: II Tim. 2:1-4  C Swilling

I. CONSIDER THE COMMANDER.
   A. Consider His Person. Hebs. 12:4
      Matt. 9:36; Hebs. 4:15; John 14:6
   B. Consider His power.
      1. John 11:43,44
      2. Mark 4:39
   C. Consider His promises.
      1. Matt. 28:19,20
      2. II Pet. 3:9
   D. Consider His position.
      1. Matt. 1:21
      2. John 1:29
   E. Consider His pre-eminence. John 1:1,14

II. CONSIDER THE CAUSE.
   A. The cause involves the Saviour.
      1. Hebs. 7:25
      2. Hebs. 1:3; Col. 1:17
   B. The cause involves the sinner.
      1. Rom. 5:8
   C. The cause involves the saint.
      1. Mark 16:15; Matt. 28:20
      2. II Cor. 5:20
   D. The cause involves serenity.
      Col. 3:15; Phil. 4:7
   E. The cause involves solutions.
      Matt. 6:33; Isa. 26:3
   F. The cause involves service.
      Eph. 3:21

III. CONSIDER HIS COMING.
   A. He comes to reign with His servants. Rev. 5:10; Rev. 22:5
   B. He comes to reward His servants.
      II Cor. 5:10; Rev. 22:12
   C. He comes to give His servants rest. Rev. 14:13; Matt. 11:28-30
   D. He comes to reveal to His servants. II Thess. 1:7-10
   E. He comes to give retribution to the lost. Rev. 20:11-15

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