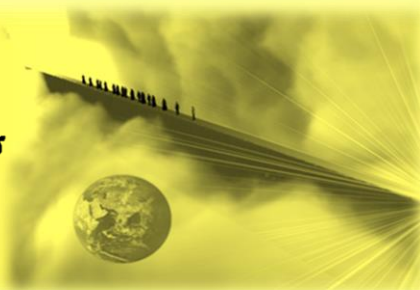




# The Bible Banner

July 2016

*Called... Chosen... Faithful*



The story is told of how a Dr. Macgregor met in a great Scotch city a little girl carrying in her arms a baby so bonny that she fairly staggered under its weight. "Baby's heavy, isn't he, dear?" said the doctor. "No," replied the little girl, "he's not heavy; he's my brother." Likewise, faithful followers of Christ will find that though they sometimes stagger under the weight of the task at hand, because of their love for Christ, His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

## **Herbal Salve**—for external use on cuts, insect bites and other skin problems

First infuse herbs into oil\* before adding beeswax.

¾ cup olive oil                      2 tsp frankincense powder  
Dried herbs-4 parts comfrey, 3 parts plantain leaves, 2  
parts red clover blossoms, 1 part burdock leaf, 1 part  
chamomile flowers  
½ cup beeswax grated, packed into cup

\*Fill oil with herbs to full, but not overflowing. Cook oil and herbs for 3 hours in a double boiler over very low heat. Strain herbs out.

Then place oil in short glass jar or jars. Place the jar into the water in a pot. (Do not allow the water to be deeper than the jar) Add beeswax, cooking until beeswax is melted. Remove to cool, stirring every 15 minutes until firmed.



## **Scripture Snapshots**—Photo by D. Roberts, age 11



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## *Called...Chosen and Faithful—for Better or for Worse?*

Recently, we reached a mile marker in our marriage. We have now been married for 20 years-- a grand accomplishment among the unfaithfulness of today's society. Some may look on and think that it has been 20 years of wedded bliss. But the truth of the matter is, if either of us thought of love as an emotion, our marriage would have ended years ago; for before we both drew closer to Christ, our marriage had big problems. But since our wedding day, this quote has held an important place in our household and I believe has made a difference.

*"True love is a high and holy principle, altogether different in character from that love which is awakened by impulse and which suddenly dies when severely tested."* (Letters to Young Lovers pg. 294)

The fact of the matter is, through the years, despite heartbreaks, heated arguments and sometimes even severe financial difficulties, by the grace of God, we made the decision to remain together. Faithfulness includes "sticking it out" even through tough times.

Today, the people that God has called out of the world are being tested to see if they will be called, and chosen, **and faithful**.

Revelation 17:14b says, *"He is Lord of lords, and King of kings: **and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.**"*

Jesus tells us in Matthew 22:14 that *"many are called, but few are chosen."*

All are called out of darkness, but a select group (those who are willing) is chosen to share the gospel with the rest of the world.

*"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:" 1 Peter 2:9*

This is what is referred to in the Bible as the elect. *"And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days."* Mark 13:20

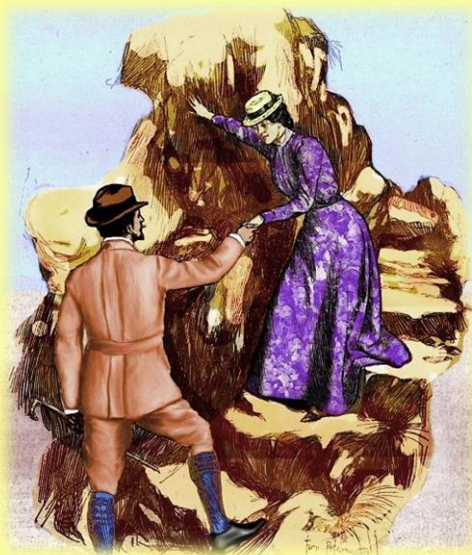
**Trials, difficulties and sometimes defeat, are the very food of faith**

The elect, the royal line, are those who have come out of the world. Their hearts are not engrossed with the things of the world, and they discern the importance of things only according to their eternal value. However, it soon becomes obvious that being "chosen" is not the easy road, for John 15:19 declares *"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."* Isaiah 48:10 is even more revealing. It says, *"Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction."*

George Mueller, a man of faith, who trusted God to supply his daily needs for the orphanages he established wrote, *"God delights to increase the faith of His children...I say, and say it deliberately--trials, difficulties and sometimes defeat, are the very food of faith...We should take them out of His hands as evidences of His love and care for us in developing more and more that faith which He is seeking to strengthen in us."*

Mueller recognized that hard times are "teachers" to prepare us for heaven. Perhaps he had read Isaiah 30:20. *"And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers:"*

Won't you choose today to stay faithful to God and His truth, *"for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, in prosperity or adversity"? Because "True love [for God] is a high and holy principle, altogether different in character from that love which is awakened by impulse and which suddenly dies when severely tested."* Will you be among those who are called, and chosen AND faithful?







## GOD'S AMAZING CREATURES

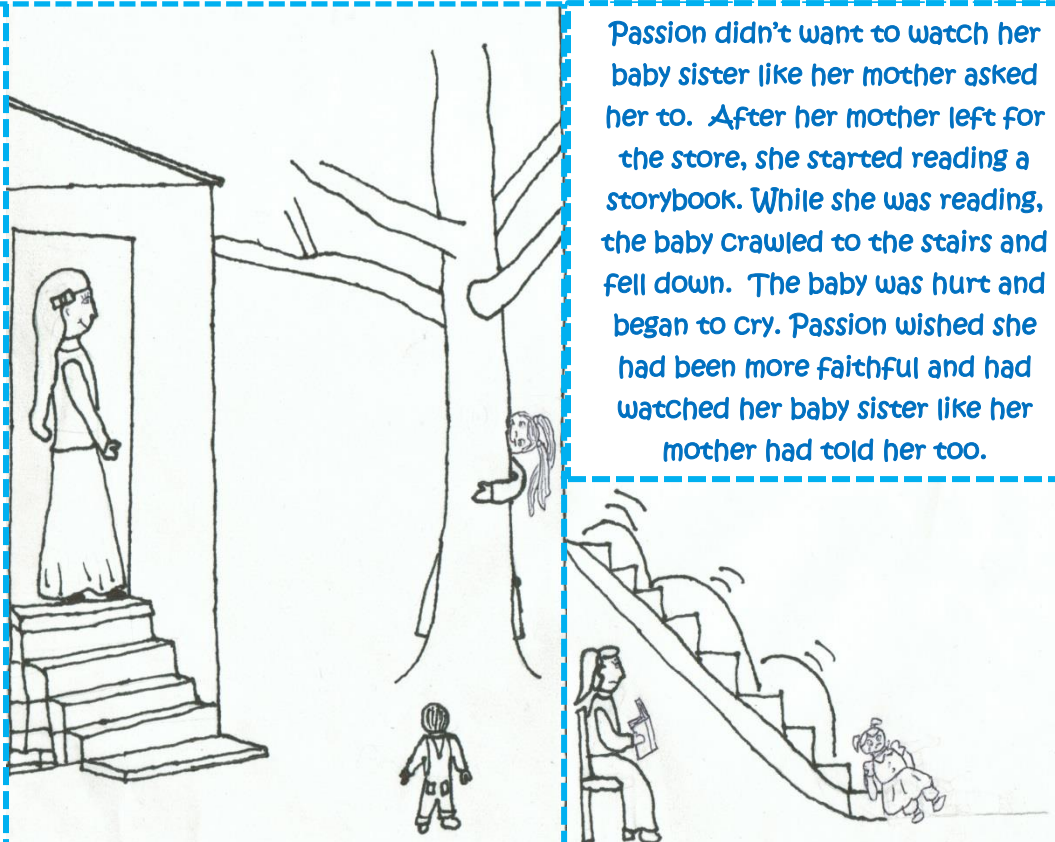
The emperor penguin is the tallest and heaviest of all penguins. It lives in Antarctica where it is very cold. In fact, emperor penguins breed in places that the air temperature can reach  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-40^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). The emperor penguin's diet consists primarily of fish, but they also can eat krill and squid. While the mother penguins go to fish in the sea, the fathers are faithful in taking good care of the egg and then the baby penguins when they hatch. Then the mothers take care of the babies while

the fathers go to the sea. Just like the emperor penguins are faithful in taking care of their babies, Jesus is always faithful and He will take care of you.

### MEMORY TEXT

**Luke 16:10** *"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much."*

Patience obeyed when her mother asked her to watch her baby brother. She played happily with her brother while her mother went to visit the sick neighbor woman. Patience faithfully took care of her baby brother. She made Jesus happy.



Passion didn't want to watch her baby sister like her mother asked her to. After her mother left for the store, she started reading a storybook. While she was reading, the baby crawled to the stairs and fell down. The baby was hurt and began to cry. Passion wished she had been more faithful and had watched her baby sister like her mother had told her too.

## All in a Leaf

"Is this it?" the little boy asked yet again, holding a leaf up for me to examine. We had been walking along a nature trail in Wisconsin, and right now the "sin" in the word seemed to stand out boldly. The mosquitos were some of the meanest I had ever felt, and although some of us had on natural bug repellants, the mosquitos were content to bypass the sprayed areas and to bite you through your clothing. Several of the little boys with us had more than one bite on their legs, and I had shown them how to find plantain leaves that were growing abundantly in the path. They learned to crinkle up the leaves until the juices flowed out and then apply them to their itching mosquito bites. The band-aid like placebo effect of the leaves was almost immediate, and the boys were enthralled and amazingly good at searching for more leaves. One of them even found the biggest broad-leaf plantain leaf I have ever seen.



I knew that these leaves have more than a placebo effect, and after seeing the results of the plantain leaves or the lack thereof on mosquito bites himself, one of the accompanying adults even commented that "You made a believer out of me". The effect of these leaves I well knew, for more than once I had run my own "scientific testing" on them. Most recently, we had used them on black fly bites. Besides the immediate relief, the lack of the usual painful swelling on day two of the black fly bites where plantain had been applied was phenomenal!

But my own experience with insect bites paled in comparison to that of a lady who was deathly allergic to bee stings. In fact, before the story she told me, the last bee stings had landed her in the emergency room because she couldn't breathe. On the occasion of her story, she was away from home and any other help when she got stung. Of course, she began praying. She then picked some plantain and after chewing it in her mouth, applied it to her bite. She continued to repeat the process. In this way, she would have been getting the juices both internally and externally. She waited, knowing that her throat could swell shut at any minute, but it never did... (In all fairness to the facts, I must add that this lady had also become a total vegetarian in the lapse of time between her first and second sting events. In our own experience, and although we don't know why, both my husband and I have found the change to a vegan diet to make a huge difference in our reaction to bee stings, but that is another story...) Perhaps, this effect is why the Natural Remedies Encyclopedia states that, "*Externally, plantain has a healing, antibiotic, and styptic (blood stanching) effect when applied to sores and wounds. It is commonly known to neutralize the toxins of insects and snakebites. Put freshly ground leaves (or chewed slightly) onto the bites of snakes, insects, and bees.*" (NRE Fourth Edition, pg. 141)

The PDR for Herbal Medicines tells us of plantain that "*The plant is widespread in the cool temperate regions of the world.*" Internally, plantain helps with respiratory problems and the Herbal PDR states that is useful for "*•Common cold • Cough/bronchitis • Fevers and colds • Inflammation of the mouth and pharynx • Inflammation of the skin*" It also declares that "*Liquid extract and the pressed juice of fresh Plantain herb have a proven bactericidal effect. The aucubigenin (hydrolysed acubin) and an antimicrobial saponin are believed to be responsible for the antibacterial effect.*" (Physician Desk Reference for Herbal Medicine, pg. 532)

For these reasons, it is no surprise that one of Plantain's other names is "Soldier's herb". Its effects are quite amazing, yet simple. One of my friends had her wisdom teeth extracted and they got very infected. She tried several things to get rid of the infection and nothing seemed to help until she put a plantain poultice on the spot. Overnight the infection went away. I believe her story, for a very similar one happened to me.



I was walking barefoot outside and cut my foot a few years ago. Since I was busy, I neglected to disinfect the cut and a couple of days later it had begun to hurt and I was alarmed to notice red streaks going up my leg from it. When I showed it to a friend that evening, she told me to put plantain on it. So that night I put a plantain poultice (of the lance-leaf variety) on it hoping it would help. The next morning, I was pleasantly surprised that the red streaks were all gone. I thank God that for the amazing remedies he has made for us, for "*He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man...*" Psalm 104:14



### LITTLE RUNNER'S HEALTH TIP

*Little Runner got a bug bite. He learned to find plantain leaves to rub on it. The plantain leaves made his bug bite feel better.*



## STUDY TO SHOW THYSELF APPROVED — CALLED?

Revelation 17:14 *"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: **and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.**"*

### WHO IS CALLED?

Matthew 20:16 *"So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen."*

1 Corinthians 1:23, 24 *"But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."*

John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

### WHAT STANDARD DOES GOD CALL US TO?

2 Timothy 1:9 *"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,"*

Isaiah 42:6 *"I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;"*

1 Thessalonians 4:7 *"For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness."*

### WHICH DIRECTION HAS GOD CALLED HIS PEOPLE?

**Into the ark of safety/covenant** – Genesis 6:18 *"But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee."* Genesis 7:1 *"And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation."*

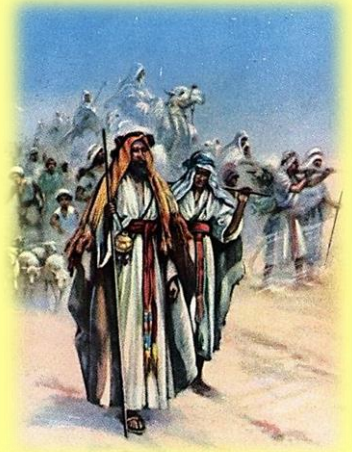
**Out of our comfort zone** -- Hebrews 11:8 *"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went."*

**To implicit obedience** -- Exodus 4:2-4 *"And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:"*

**Out of the wicked cities** -- Genesis 19:12-14 *"And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it. And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law."*

**Out of Egypt [the world] and the pleasures of sin for a season** -- Hebrews 11:24-27 *"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible."* James 1:27 *"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."*

**Out of Babylon (false religion)** – Revelation 18:1-5 *"And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird... And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities."*



**To a life of self-denial** -- Mark 8:34 *"And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."*

**To missionary service**—Mark 16:15 *"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."*

**To the marriage Supper of the Lamb**-- Revelation 19:9 *"And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."*

**To lay hold on eternal life**-- 1 Timothy 6:12 *"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."*

### **WHAT PROMISE IS GIVEN SPECIFICALLY FOR "THE CALLED"?**

Romans 8:28 *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."*

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## **Faithful 'til Death**



*"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Revelation 2:10*

The story is told of a faithful dog (whom we will call Rover) that was slowly dying. Gone were the days when he would run and play. His wasting body was just too tired, and he rarely moved from the spot where he was lying. However, his loyalty to his family was not dying. He still was a faithful, protector of them even though physically he could not do anything.

One-day Rover's family decided to go for a walk down the road. In his healthier days, Rover had always accompanied them. Now he was too tired to even walk a little way, much less take a long walk down the road. Yet, his protective instinct urged him to follow them. He tried to follow, but did not make it very far. His "family" saw him and gently tried to tell him to lie down, that they would be back home in a little bit. Sadly, he watched them go, but he did not follow, at least they thought he did not.

On their returning walk, they discovered him, lying exhausted halfway down the road. Even though he was dying, he had still attempted to follow and protect his family. However, he had only made it halfway down the road and that distance had so exhausted him that he could not make it back up the road to the house. By dark, even with coyotes howling around him, he still had not recovered his energy, and his sympathetic family carried him up to the house in a kennel. He managed to live for a little longer before his body gave up the struggle and he died.



Rover's faithfulness and selflessness contains a lesson for all of us, in being faithful to our Master Jesus Christ every day of our life until the day we die. Yet Jesus Christ Himself gave us an even greater example than Rover did. His faithfulness was so great, that He died to save sinners from the penalty of sin, and he offers pardon to every repentant sinner. Will you accept Christ's sacrifice on your behalf, and be faithful to Him even unto death?