

The Bible Banner



January 2022

Fear God and Give Glory to Him

The parable is told of two men who planted olive trees in their fields. Afterward one of them prayed, "Dear Lord, my trees need water. Please send rain." The showers came! He then petitioned, "They need sunshine," and God bathed them with sunlight! Later he cried, "Father, my trees need something to make them hardy. Please send a frost tonight." It came, but it killed them all.

The man went over to the other man's grove, and found that his olive trees were flourishing. "How can this be?" he asked. The reply came, "When I prayed, I didn't ask for rain, sunshine, or frost; I just said, 'Lord, you made these trees. You know what they need. Just send what is best!'"

Truly, *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."* Prov. 9:10

Lentil "Cutlets"

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| 2 cups precooked lentils | ¾ tsp salt |
| 2 cups mashed potatoes, seasoned | ½ tsp sage |
| 6 Tbsp onion, chopped | olive oil |

Combine onion and seasonings and about 2 Tbsp olive oil into a small pan and simmer to soften onion. Do not brown. Add lentils and mix with potatoes. Form into patties and brown lightly in hot oven or oiled skillet. (If you have very thin mashed potatoes you might have to add a little flour to thicken the patties, but this is not usually necessary.)



"Lentils are often overlooked, even though they're an inexpensive way of getting a wide variety of nutrients. For example, they're packed with B vitamins, magnesium, zinc, [folate], and potassium. Lentils are made up of more than 25% protein, which makes them an excellent meat alternative. They're also a great source of iron... In addition to being rich in fiber and protein, beans and lentils are good sources of calcium."

Source: <https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/lentils#nutrition>, <https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/vegan-calcium-sources>

PROFITABLE TRADITIONS

Cultivate Character – *"And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."* Deut. 6:7

One of the best and most enjoyable ways for children to learn to improve their characters is through stories.

It has been said, *"People forget facts, but they remember stories."*

Visit <https://lightindarkness.site/character-building-stories/>

to read or download some of our favorite character building stories.

Quotable Quotes

"We fear men so much, because we fear God so little."

William Gurnall

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Or visit us at: www.biblepicturepathways.com or www.swiftrunnerministries.com



A LESSON IN FEAR

"If you don't transcribe it you are going to fail the test." I was painfully aware that the preceding statement was true, however, I just couldn't bring myself to type/transcribe a certain word in its blasphemous context.



I had taken on an online transcription job to do some "tent-making" like Paul (Acts 18:1-3) in order to keep food on the table, taxes paid, etc., while keeping up with our ministry projects. I knew our ministry was really God-supported, but I didn't want to be negligent in any human effort that God desired to be connected with His Divine Power. Now, I had a choice to make, did I trust "common reasoning" and transcribe the blasphemous word or did I realize that without the blessing of God, I had nothing. Indeed, it was a loaded decision, since the test was probably graded by computer, so there was no human to understand and give me a little leeway. But, according to the scriptures, we are to "*Fear God, and give glory to him...*" (Revelation 14:7) We are to "*fear God*" more than we fear anything that man can do to us—including man giving us a failing grade on a test. Psalm 118:6 states, "*The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?*" And Psalm 56:11 "*In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.*" It was a little test, but ultimately it would reveal who I worshipped. Did I trust God as did Daniel in Babylon, or did I actually trust myself and the world's ways more than God? In the end, I chose to fail the human test so I could pass God's test of character. Ultimately, I decided to transcribe a [foreign] tag instead of the word, after all, my "*conversation [citizenship] is in heaven...*" Philippians 3:20--blasphemous words then, are foreign to me. Then, with bated breath and a prayer, I clicked the submit button.

"Failed section" almost immediately showed up on my screen, but God's smile was worth it all. And ultimately He blessed me with a retry so I passed the larger transcription test. (Thankfully, now that I have passed I am allowed to easily opt out of profane transcriptions.) Sometimes we think we fear God, but how are we doing in the little daily tests of life? If we can't stand, but instead compromise principle when our life is NOT in danger, we certainly won't be able to stand in the larger tests. Character is formed in the little tests of life, for it is written, "*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.*" Luke 16:10

We are not only to "*Fear God*", we are to "*give glory to Him.*" God's glory is His character. God Himself defined it for us in Exodus 33:18,19 when Moses said, "*I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.*" And God said, "*I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.*" We give glory to God, when we reflect His character to the world. How do we do this?

It is evident that giving glory to God is intimately connected with a message of health and temperance for it is written, "*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*" 1 Corinthians 10:31 According to Peter's Ladder of Sanctification --"*add to... temperance patience*" 2 Peter 1:5-6-- an intemperate man will never be a patient man. Obviously, an impatient man cannot reflect the character of "*a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.*" Psalm 86:15 Indeed, it has been said, "*A man who is intemperate, who uses stimulating indulgences--beer, wine, strong drinks, tea and coffee, opium, tobacco, or any of these substances that are deleterious to health--cannot be a patient man. So temperance is a round of the ladder upon which we must plant our feet before we can add the grace of patience.*" {19MR 343.1}

The message of three angels preceding Christ's Second Advent saying "*Fear God, and give glory to him...*" may be compared and contrasted with a similar message announcing His birth and first Advent. The Bible records the beautiful story, "*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.*"



*“And the angel said unto them, **Fear not**: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

*“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, **Glory to God** in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” Luke 2:8-14*

Many lessons may be learned from this comparison—while we are to “*fear God*” that is, have an ultimate awe, reverence and respect for God, we are also to “*Fear not*.” The story in Luke reveals that in His mercy God allows a little picture—one angel, in this case-- to shadow forth what is to come before more glory is revealed. While many think of the earth being “*lightened with His glory*” (Revelation) 18:1 as a miraculous happening similar to Pentecost, 1 Peter 4:14 gives another angle that is not so appealing to the unregenerate heart. Peter states, “*If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.*” Is God’s glory shown forth when His people are persecuted for righteousness’ sake? Just this week, someone forwarded a video of many airline workers who had been laid off, due largely to their religious objections to the vaccine mandate. The forwarder wrote of how inspiring the testimonies of those standing firm for truth were to him. It is my belief that God is giving us a little picture of the struggles ahead. In His mercy, He is giving us “a practice run” to get used to persecution for worshipping God according to conscience. Right now, people are being persecuted for their refusal to desecrate the body temple, but later it will concern more distinctly His temple of truth, as revealed in the infallible Word of God, and also His temple of time, the Sabbath.



Right now is the time to learn to overcome fear by love. For it is written, “*There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*” 1 John 4:18 In society today, we see fear is being used as a method of control, and the Bible reveals that those who are fearful will not be saved. “*But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*” Revelation 21:8 Perhaps, this is because those who are fearful are known for making bad decisions. (Deut. 1:17) Maybe it is because those who are fearful cause others to panic and make bad decisions.

(Deut. 20:8) Indeed, Isaiah 24:18 prophesies, “*And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake.*” Whatever the case, we are not to be fearful. But, I have to confess, I am a “chicken” at heart, so I must rely on God’s strength to be made perfect in my weakness. Every day I pray for courage, steadfastness and that God will help me not to be among “*the wicked*” who “*flee when no man pursueth: but*” among “*the righteous*” who “*are bold as a lion.*” Proverbs 28:1

One night recently, I got to see one way that God answers that prayer. Each night, before I go to sleep I strive to remember to ask God to shield my mind while I am sleeping from any external forces trying to brainwash me. This particular night, my mind and person was struck with “the spirit of fear.” My heart was beating extremely rapidly when I woke up. But even before I completely woke up, I recognized the calming power of God. It was if my mind had been told to “be afraid,” but when my mind went to look up in its files what it was supposed to do with fear, the first thing it found was this scripture song, “*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*” 2 Timothy 1:7 This song* that was playing through my head over and over as I woke up derailed “the spirit of fear.” I was so excited to see how God had protected me with His word. I knew Psalm 119:11 said, “*Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*” But I just recently recognized this truth in Psalm 91. For it is written, “*He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.*” Psalm 91:4 What an awesome God we serve! His Word is our protection. Therefore, in this world of turmoil, “*I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.*

Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.” Luke 12:4-7 “Fear God,” trust Him, and His love and protection will cause you to “fear not.” For it is written, “*The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.*” Prov. 29:25

*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DW6i6hNUE-E&ab_channel=SingtheSwordoftheSpirit-BibleSongsbyKarenSilvermail



Prophetic News Notes — God's Glory Shines through Affliction

Two Kentucky infants placed in a bathtub with a blanket, pillow and a Bible by their grandmother as a deadly tornado approached survived even after the tub was ripped from the floor and "lifted".

During the storm that killed at least 92 last weekend, grandmother Clara Lutz said a prayer and hid 15-month-old Kaden and three-month-old Dallas with a blanket, a pillow and a Bible in the bathtub just before it was ripped out of the house.¹

Lutz, who had been hit in the back of the head by the water tank from the tub, said she began looking everywhere among the wreckage for the children. "All I could say was, 'Lord please bring my babies back safely. Please, I beg thee,'" she said.¹



The moment when sheriff deputies found the two babies in a bathtub wrapped in a blanket with a Bible was captured on their bodycams.³

After the babies were rescued successfully and reunited with their grandmother, she yelled, "Praise God, Lord Jesus! Oh thank you, Jesus."²

The kids were found 35 minutes after the storm hit the city... While the sheriffs were searching at night through the debris with flashlights, they found an overturned bathtub that still held the two little babies... Kaden was pulled out safely from the bathtub and appeared happy and fine when he was taken out. He did not even cry much....² As a mother of four,

and a teacher of many, this is perhaps the most amazing part to me. It distinctly demonstrates God's care for His children and is a distinct fulfillment of His promise, "*Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night...*" Psalm 91:5

Three-month-old Dallas' head had a lump that Lutz called a "goose egg" as a result of the incident. This lump was said to be caused by his brain bleeding. Before he could be taken to the hospital for treatment, however, the bleeding had already stopped.⁵

"The actions taken by the grandmother, placing blankets, pillows, is what made the difference," said Dep. Trent Arnold.³ But the Grandmother thanks God for keeping her grandchildren safe.⁵ Truly, "*Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.*" Proverbs 30:5

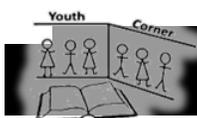
1- Headline Screen shot <https://ln247.news/kentucky-tornado-two-babies-put-in-bathtub-with-bible-pulled-alive-from-rubble/> 2- <https://meaww.com/two-babies-rescued-in-kentucky-after-the-strong-tornado>

3- <https://www.wky.com/article/body-camera-video-babies-found-alive-bathtub-after-kentucky-tornado/38605446#>

4- Bathtub picture- <https://aleteia.org/2021/12/21/foand-alive-two-babies-in-a-tub-with-a-bible-survive-tornado/>

5- <https://www.christianitydaily.com/articles/14366/20211222/grandmother-thanks-god-for-keeping-grandchildren-safe-after-tornado-sent-them-into-the-air.htm>

*"God desires His people to prepare for the soon-coming crisis. Prepared or unprepared, they must all meet it; and those only who have brought their lives into conformity to the divine standard, will stand firm at that time of test and trial. **When secular rulers unite with ministers of religion to dictate in matters of conscience, then it will be seen who really fear and serve God. When the darkness is deepest, the light of a godlike character will shine the brightest. When every other trust fails, then it will be seen who have an abiding trust in Jehovah.**" {Acts of the Apostles 431.2}*



DEATH VALIDATED THEIR MESSAGE

"And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God." Mark 15:39 Undoubtedly, it was how Jesus conducted himself while he was persecuted and dying that converted both the Roman centurion and the thief on the cross. Yet, this seemingly strange method of giving glory to God is often reflected in His faithful followers.

At the 100th anniversary of the 1889 arrival of missionaries in what was then the Belgian Congo, Christians gathered in Zaire (as today's Democratic Republic of the Congo was called in 1989) to celebrate. Near the end of the celebration, a very old man stood to give a speech. He stated that he would die soon and that he needed to tell something that no other man still living knew.

The man explained that when the first white missionaries came, his people didn't know whether to believe their message or not.

So the natives devised a plan to slowly and secretly poison the missionaries and watch them die. One by one, children and adults became ill, died and were buried. Surely, to the missionaries it must have seemed that their efforts to share the gospel were dying too. But, in fact, **it was when the native people saw how these missionaries died that they decided to believe their message.** For, *"As in the darkest night the stars shine brightest, so the most brilliant beams of God's glory are revealed in the deepest gloom."* {ST, March 22, 1905 par. 8}



Congolese converts to Protestantism with white missionaries at the Congo-Balolo Mission, c.1889

https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Christianity_in_the_Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo

The missionaries never knew what was happening. They didn't know they were being poisoned, and they didn't know why they were dying, but despite this, their faithfulness to the Lord convinced the people they ministered to that their message was true. Indeed, God is often glorified in ways contrary to human reasoning. Consider how Jesus spoke of His death: *"And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal."* John 12:23-25

John 12:23-25

Oh, precious promise that, *"A true Christian is never laid aside. God will use him effectually in health and in sickness, in life and in death. It is in the darkness of affliction, bereavement, trial, and persecution, that the light of Christian faith shines brightest, and the Lord's promises are found most precious."* {Sketches from the Life of Paul, pg. 294.1}



A Little Runner's Health Story Special

Mrs. R. Learns the Importance of Sunshine

Mrs. R. stretched and yawned trying to wake up. "Ouch, I feeling like something is squeezing my head," she said. "Oh, how I wish I could wake up without a headache." Mrs. R tried to read her Bible, but reading made her head hurt worse. "I wish the sun would shine so I could get rid of my headache," Mrs. R said. "I wish the sun would shine so my eyes and body wouldn't hurt so badly. I wish the sun would shine so my ears would not feel like they are full of water." But it was winter and clouds were blocking the sun, so she could not see it was shining. Finally, Mrs. R decided to sing some scripture songs to herself for worship and then she went to go fix breakfast.



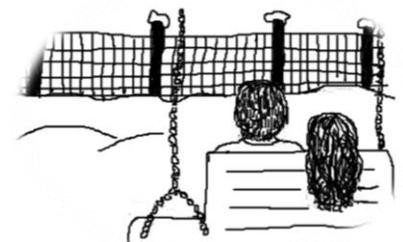
Mrs. R. decided to make a surprise for everyone for breakfast. Mrs. R. measured and Mrs. R. mixed. Mrs. R. blended and Mrs. R. boiled. Mrs. R. scooped and Mrs. R. baked. By the time breakfast was in the oven, Mrs. R was really tired, so she went to go lie down. "I wish I had some energy," thought Mrs. R. "I have so many things to do today." But by the time breakfast was ready Mrs. R. was so tired that Mr. R. had to help her down the stairs.

After breakfast and worship Mrs. R. looked at the dirty kitchen floor. "I should sweep the floor," thought Mrs. R, "but I am so tired and my head hurts." So Mrs. R. went to do something she could do sitting down.

After a little while, Mr. R. came to see her. "Look," he motioned, "there is sunshine outside." Mrs. R. hurried to get on her coat. And Mrs. R. hurried to put on her hat and Mrs. R. hurried to put on her socks and boots. She was trying to hurry, but she was so tired she didn't move very fast. Finally, Mrs. R got outside, but the sun was not in the front yard, the sun was not in the backyard, the sun was not in the plowed driveway. The sun was down in the garden surrounded by a fence and lots of snow that made it hard to open the gate.

"Alas," thought Mrs. R. "I am so tired I will just sit on the porch swing. I do not have energy to shovel all that snow." But just then Mr. R. came outside, "Why aren't you in the sun?" he asked.

"There is too much snow around the fence," said Mrs. R. Mr. R. sat down in the swing and looked at all the snow and the fence. He looked and looked and looked.



Then Mr. R. got an idea, "Look," he said "there is a little sun over there. That is not inside the fence. I will shovel a path for you."

Mr. R. went and got the snow shovel. He shoveled and he shoveled and he shoveled some more. Then Mr. R. stomped down some of the snow with his big boots. Stomp, stomp, stomp. "Uh-oh, there is a hole there" he said as his foot went down, down into a hole. He fixed the hole so Mrs. R. would not fall into it.

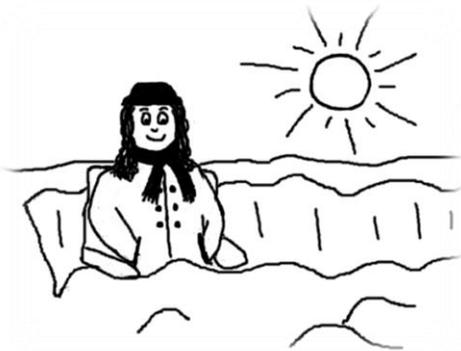


Mr. R finished shoveling the path for Mrs. R. just as a cloud moved in front of the sun. "That is not a nice cloud," said Mr. R. Mrs. R. didn't think it was a very nice cloud either especially after all Mr. R's hard work.

"Thank you for shoveling for me," said Mrs. R. "Maybe the cloud will move." And Mrs. R sat down in her chair to wait, but it was cold outside in the snow. "Brr, said Mrs. R. "I hope that cloud moves soon or I will just have to go back inside. It is cold out here. Cold, cold, cold."

Little by little the sun peeked around the cloud. "This is more like it," thought Mrs. R. "now I can at least see that the sun still exists." It had not been sunny for almost two months and Mrs. R. missed the sun a great deal. She knew the sun was still there, but just the same she wanted to see it.

Finally, the sun came out from behind the cloud. Mrs. R. sat in the sunshine for almost half an hour. The metal screen Mrs. R. was holding reflected pretty colors from the sunbeams that twinkled pink, blue, green, yellow, orange, and purple. Mrs. R. thought the reflections were very pretty. She thought of the verse in the Bible that that says *"Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun."* Eccl. 11:7 Sometimes Mrs. R. closed her eyes and tilted her face toward the sun. Soon Mrs. R noticed her eyes did not hurt anymore. Next Mrs. R noticed her ears did not feel full of water anymore. Then Mrs. R. noticed that her head did not hurt as much either. "Sunshine helps us get Vitamin D," thought Mrs. R. "but I think I get more than just Vitamin D from the sun."



Mrs. R. thought of a little plastic flower that Mrs. D. had. It had a solar panel on the pot, and when the sun shone on it, the leaves of the flower waved up and down. But when it was not in the sun, the flower just sat still and didn't move. "I think I am like that flower," thought Mrs. R. "I need radiant energy from the sunlight so I will have less pain and more energy. I need the radiant energy from the sun so my liver and hormones will work better. I need the radiant energy from the sun so that I will be happier and healthier." When Mrs. R. got up from sitting in the sun she noticed that she had more energy. She went for a walk. She filled up the water pitcher. She even shoveled the snow off of a little bit of the path. Finally, Mrs. R. went inside to sweep the floor. Mrs. R. knew sunlight was important and sunshine was part of God's plan for good health.

Kids' Corner

God's Amazing Creatures

The Northern Hawk Owl is a bird that behaves like a hawk but looks like an owl. It lives in the boreal [very cold, northern] forest which is in Canada and Alaska. The Hawk Owl is mostly solitary, meaning that it lives alone.

Hawk Owls eat voles and other small mammals. They search for food mainly by day, making them different from most owls. Northern Hawk Owls can see prey up to half a mile (0.8 kilometers) away, and their ears can detect prey under one foot of snow (0.3 meters). If smaller birds attack them to scare them away or a large predator shows up, hawk owls try to make themselves look thinner and less noticeable by closing their yellow eyes and sleeking down their feathers. They sleek and smooth their feathers by applying pressure to them.

The Hawk Owl isn't shy when it comes to people and can often be seen perched in the tops of tall, easy-to-see trees like spruce or pine. Aren't you glad that God made all kinds of unique animals for you to learn about?



Also, make sure you read the Little Runner's Health Story above.