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**PROPELLING FORCES**  
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**And**

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## FOREWORD

Each of us has moments when the memories of pleasant experiences seem to focus their forces in a great stream and flood our hearts with an inspiration which illuminates our pathway and points out the future more clearly. Although the far reaching termination of our thoughts in these moments extends beyond the bounds of our vocabulary, yet our efforts to convey them bear at least a part of the unusual energy and light of the holy hour. Such inspiration based upon pleasant memory is valuable and should be shared, however, the propelling force derived from this source is not comparable to the awakening and energizing forces felt as the Christ himself moves into our innermost being. The divine inspiration accompanying Him lights new lamps in old hearts and makes new connections in old nerve cells. In such newly awakened souls are found messages clamoring for expression. The authors of the messages found in this book have been propelled by an inner urge to give expression to some burning inspiration.

The efforts of eager devoted servants have many times inspired others to devotion. Their cumbersome plans and unskilled labor are often overshadowed by the beauty and attraction of their devotion.

The authors of the messages found in this book are only asking to be considered as humble servants eager to serve. Another effort has been made to share the inspiration of a sacred and happy moment.

The Authors

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### 01 -- WHO'S IN AUTHORITY?

By Grover Van Duyn

Nothing is so attractive to man as authority, and nothing so beautiful as poise and composure. Many who admire it fail to possess it in their own lives. The activities of Jesus as He associated with the people and dealt with the laws of nature, moved the best scholars to inquire of Him by what authority He spoke and performed His great deeds. Multitudes followed. Him because of His great poise and authority over all conditions and in all environments.

Each human child has been born with the voice of nature speaking on every side. We admire the tide because of its regularity and beauty, yet nothing connected with this wondrous phenomenon has attracted the interest of man like the unconquerable authority by which it sweeps the beach and lifts the ocean liner. Behind the lovely nature poems which call to our attention the return of the beautiful birds in springtime is the attractiveness of the great authority which drives them to and fro as the seasons change. The authority in nature which man has respected throughout the centuries has inspired within him a great desire to possess the quality of authority. He wishes to have the authority to adjust his environments rather than adjust himself to them. He purchases insurance in order to retain control over conditions about him when he is ill or too old to support himself in the position of his choosing.

The primitive man was willing to sacrifice his daughter in order to extend his authority over the neighboring valley. Often the ruler possessing great authority in his kingdom was willing to offer the mother of his own children for the authority over a wider territory. Nations have

offered the flower of their manhood for the authority over struggling colonies. The cost of the great Spanish Armada burdened every home in Spain in order to gratify the desire of the royalty to extend authority over the struggling colonies in the American wilderness. Japan is willing to discard every honorable agreement and treaty with the nations of the world in order to extend her authority over eastern Asia.

Difficult social and economic conditions we have today have developed to the point where many nations are willing to cede unlimited authority to a leader who they believe can unravel the tangle of capital and industry and thus establish security in the basic institutions.

When authority is once attained it is guarded with great jealousy. Cities have been enclosed with high stone walls and iron walls and iron gates hoping to retain it. Rome stooped to the crucifixion of hundreds of subjects in order to retain supremacy over her people. Nations have spent more for armies and navies than for the education of the youth in order to retain authority. A wicked Egyptian king, frightened at the rise of a mighty nation of servants among his own people, ordered the death of four thousand innocent baby boys in order to reduce the strength of this people within his territory, and thus safeguard his own authority. A devilish Herod was moved with indignation and jealousy as the Wise Men announced the birth of the King of the Jews in his own domain. He arose in his ire to protect his authority and instigated the murder of two thousand children in order to eliminate one who he feared would wrench from his hands his most coveted power. The Chinese nation spent many years building a great wall, at the expenditure of thousands of thousands of human lives and fabulous sums of money, in order to exclude their enemy and retain complete authority over their own territory. When this wall was completed a great iron gate was made and entrusted to one man. The enemy bribed the gate-keeper and led their army through. The strength of this unusual piece of masonry work was lost when one man lost his authority over his own will.

In 1916 the scientists went into their laboratories, behind closed doors, and used certain facts, with given chemicals, and produced explosives which were used to kill thousands of young men in the great world war. In 1924 the same scientists entered the same laboratories, behind the same closed doors, with the same facts and the same chemicals, and produced fertilizer which was used to grow better wheat to feed the orphans of the men who were killed by the explosives. Was the authority of the great death shell within the iron casing or behind the closed door, or in the heart of the man who used the facts?

A three-year-old child spoke as wisely as Solomon when she said, "Me can make me mind myself." This little child uttered the same philosophy that was given by the prophet, who said, "He that ruleth his own spirit is greater than he that taketh a city."

Every child is familiar with the story of Joseph, who was kidnapped and taken to a strange country. This indeed is a sad story, yet people throughout the ages have been delighted at the manifestation of the spirit possessing the lad while he served a jail sentence under false accusations. The fine ideals instilled within him by his parents stood him well in this great time of adversity. Again we see the lad towering as high as the greatest Hebrew characters when he stands with perfect poise before the disturbed king. The very spirit of the coming Messiah seemed to be

in complete authority in his life as he stood a prince and ruler before his brothers who had sold him and treated him so inhumanly.

Who was in authority in the life of Daniel when he, as a prisoner, defied the government of his custody rather than sacrifice his religion? The young lad, David, was scorned, threatened and rebuked because of his questions relative to the giant who seemed to be in authority over the whole battlefield, but please tell me who was in authority of the young man's heart which gave him such poise as he tripped across the meadow toward the threatening enemy. The young lad's hand was guided by an unwavering confidence when he made his first shot. Surely, the quiet days and nights spent as a shepherd singing and communing with the stars and their creator had prepared him to submit his life completely to the authority of the great Shepherd who furnished him poise for the crucial moment.

A few days ago I found myself at a great airport, selecting a ship which would bring me to my home with the greatest speed. When I had secured my passport and signed certain papers I was soon escorted to this monster bird of the air by a porter who carried with him a stepladder. I climbed up this ladder and stepped into a cabin whose door was locked behind me. I was soon seated and tied fast. When the hour of departure arrived the great engine roared with perfect harmony. The pilot sat alone, separate from the passengers, and manipulated certain mechanical devices as he seemed to test every instrument before he left the earth. Immediately we had turned about and were far above the great city under a ceiling of clouds. As we went higher and higher, and passed through the misty clouds far above the hills, I began to feel that my life was in the hands of another. At once I was reminded of my carelessness in that I had made no inquiry as to who was driving the plane and what knowledge and ability he possessed. I was helpless and knew not who was in charge of my life, nevertheless I prayed sincerely that the one in charge had complete authority over this powerful vessel that could take me up or down as we sailed through the dark night. After an hour through an uncharted path to me, I arrived safely at my destination, not entirely due to the fact the engine performed perfectly, but decidedly due to the fact someone had complete authority over a propelling force to which my life was bound.

Many lives have met with fatal wreck, in the dark, when the way was not charted clearly before them; others have been lost because circumstances took them far from the familiar highways upon which the masses traveled. Each life sometime will meet an unusual situation. We need a pilot to guide who has authority in our lives and who is familiar with the way we must travel.

Recently, I spent the night in the Atlas Hotel of San Francisco. This hotel is located in that part of the city which was leveled to the earth by a great earthquake. I arose at five o'clock in the morning and went immediately to the pier, which was anchoring a great ocean liner just arriving from Honolulu. I was granted permission to cross the gang plank and visit the great ship. I, at once, met the young pilot who had spent the night alone in the cabin manning this monster floating city. His peculiar personality seemed to blend with mine, which gave me a warm introduction and welcome that brought great privileges. He escorted me to the hull of the vessel, where I saw a dozen engines standing on end like great locomotives. I saw the iron joist and steel weather-boarding of the great vessel. I saw the freight compartment which was filled with hundreds of tons of fresh pineapple. Finally, he started with me toward the upper deck. We climbed eight or ten great flights of stairs and finally found ourselves on the top deck, where there

seemed to be somewhat of a commotion. Insurance men were making certain records and investigating various rooms whose doors were broken and splintered. Mattresses, blankets and carpets were hanging on the brass railings dripping with briny water.

I, at once, asked my young Norwegian friend what was wrong. He said, "Oh, Mr. Van Duyn, I came through a storm last night and the waves have broken the doors in. Many of my passengers had to flee to the center rooms or go below for protection." I said, "You do not mean to tell me that the waves came over this mammoth ship," which to me seemed as high as a great apartment house. He said, "Oh, certainly, the waves dashed entirely over the top." I said to the young man, "Please, sir, where were you?" He at once replied, "Come go with me." We walked and walked and walked. To me it was as far as two city blocks. Finally, we arrived at a little glass house. Then he answered my question by pointing to the enclosure which was about eight feet square, and said, "I was in here." In reply to my simple questions he explained in detail that he had driven this great vessel through the dark, loaded with thirteen hundred human beings. He guided the whole ship, with all who were entrusted in his care, sitting upon a little stool, with his hands on a great wheel and his eye on a chart.

Upon his invitation I sat on the stool and held the wheel while he explained the long curved line on his chart, which had been carefully followed. The mark which traced the charted way had been made by an instrument of the ship. I, at once, realized that the instrument before me was the mariner's compass and the chart before me marked the way from Honolulu across the Pacific Ocean, through the Golden Gate into San Francisco. I left the fine young man who had been so courteous to me, with a lesson which I shall never forget. The picture of the storm and the darkness of the sea, with the mountains of rocks ready to crush were visions of life's way, yet I said within my own heart, should the great Pilot who knows the way of life, with its darkness, storms, and rocks, have authority in the vessel in which I sail, I, too, may land safely in the harbor of the Golden Gate.

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## 02 -- THE NEW BIRTH

By J. W. Montgomery

Text: John 3:3, "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

These words were uttered by Jesus Christ, the King of the Jews, to Nicodemus in a night conference in Jerusalem during the great feast of the Passover.

The master teacher had just come from Capernaum to keep the national festival at the sacred city of the Jewish people. The streets were overtaxed with the throngs and multitudes who had come from all parts of the world to participate in the celebration. It was the time of the year their attention was called to the great visitation of God's mercy to their fathers. A time when both rich and poor forgot their cares and responsibilities and gave themselves completely to the worship of God by day, and the enjoyment of the feasts that were spread by night. Not only were the streets filled with a solid mass of humanity, but the courts, the squares, the hillsides and valleys

were filled with pilgrims who had come from all nations of the earth. Josephus says by actual count two million and seven hundred thousand people were in and around Jerusalem at that time.

Christ did not give his time and attention to a single individual because there were no masses to reach. Multitudes were just outside the door. He took time for such a conference because he met an earnest seeker of truth.

All day he had been instructing the excited masses and reasoning with contentious scribes. He had been attesting his divine authority by healing the sick, giving sight to the blind and causing the lame to walk.

Out of the thousands who had seen and heard him that day we have only one man on record who was moved with sufficient and abiding interest to seek the Lord during the night season. This one came with an honest heart and an open mind. While many of the miracles and sayings of Jesus puzzled him, none of them had hindered his faith in His divine origin and authority. He opened the conference by saying, "Master, we know that thou art a teacher come from God, for no man can do the miracles that thou doest except God be with him."

The evidences that Jesus is the Son of God and the only Savior have been increasing through the centuries for nineteen hundred years. Strange, however, that in this age the same as in the days when Christ attended the feast of the Passover in Jerusalem, there are millions who reject Him and continue in indifference. Today as in the centuries of the past He comes to the weary with the kind offer of rest, and they cling to their burdens and refuse His help. He comes to the afflicted, offering to heal their sorrows and bear their grief and they mourn over their troubles, and will not be comforted. He comes to the worldly and the unbelieving, to the disappointed and the unhappy hearts offering a solution for their problems, and a cure for their ills, bringing the testimony of millions of earth and in heaven that He is able to do all He promises. Yet they shut their heart's door against him, and continue to live without peace and finally die without hope.

Jesus dealt as frankly with the single soul that night as he had done with multitudes during the day. If Nicodemus expected to get into the kingdom of heaven through some easier route by personally contacting the One who held the key to the kingdom, he was sadly disappointed. Christ had no easier means of salvation to offer to the individual than He had set forth in public. It was the same redemption that must come through a complete transformation in his life. If the doctrine of the new birth is rejected the hope of eternal safety must be sacrificed. "Jesus said to Nicodemus, ye must be born again."

Just why men will reject the doctrine of the new birth in their religion, and accept the principle of it in everything else is a living mystery.

If a man fails in business his neighbors believe he should take courage and get a new start. They admire him if he can build on the ruins of a once profitable concern. If his later endeavors are more successful than the first his career is pointed out as an example and a guide to the business world around him.

If one's home life fails, his friends will urge him to a new attitude and a new start rather than to the divorce courts. They are happy when adjustments are made in the home, and a new and better atmosphere prevails.

Jesus Christ has provided a way by which those who have failed spiritually may have a new start. They may have a new birth. They are invited to come to him and exchange the ashes of a ruined life and a burnt out soul for a life of beauty and of righteousness. In this, as in the case of the fallen business or the unhappy home, new principles must be obtained and adopted. A happy life cannot be built on unhappy conditions of the heart. Jesus offers to give one newness of life -- a changed life. This cannot come to one who has an unchanged heart. To change conditions around one is not sufficient. Without an inward change he would soon drift back to his own element, no matter how favorable his environment may be. "Out of the heart are the issues of life."

Jesus knew that a mere change of mind, or a passing resolution on the part of Nicodemus would not do. He must have a change of mind, and must resolve to take the right course. But this is not sufficient in itself. He must be led to a complete change in his nature if he is to be comfortable in the society of his Lord. So Jesus tells him that EXCEPT a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.

The Lord makes use of the word EXCEPT only in connection with strong meanings. Generally when he makes DIVINE REQUIREMENT.

You will notice on one occasion he said EXCEPT YE REPENT ye shall likewise perish. "God commandeth all men everywhere to repent, because all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Without repentance there can be no pardon. So the word EXCEPT is here used in connection with the divine requirement for pardon.

Again you will find in Christ's language "Except ye be converted and become as little children ye cannot see the kingdom of heaven."

Then in Matthew 5:20 He says, "Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and the Pharisees ye cannot enter the kingdom of God."

Each time he uses this word in connection with a divine requirement. Whether he be a ruler or a servant. Whether alone or in the multitudes, one must accept the doctrine of the new birth, or else reject the Christ who provided it.

Why do men quibble and hesitate in the matter of accepting Christ and His teachings? Christianity has been in the world for nineteen hundred years. It has proved itself mightier than all the powers of the earth. It is the greatest source of life and permanency in the most advanced and progressive nations of the world. It has brought light to thousands of dark homes, and peace and rest to millions of wretched hearts. Yet there seems to be nothing about which men are so slow, and so unwilling to accept. They do not hesitate to show themselves anxious about trade, prices, work, health and means of living. They read books, newspapers, magazines, hear lectures, travel far and near, and inquire of friends and strangers about houses, land, goods and occupations. All of

these are valuable in their places, but are nothing compared with the "New life that is hid away with Christ in God."

Yet men are reserved, cautious and timid even when they begin to be concerned about the matter of their salvation. They can talk fast and well on any other subject in the world, and then become perfectly speechless and silent when the question of their personal salvation is mentioned.

Nicodemus was a member of the strictest sect of the Jews. He was rich, learned, and powerful. Yet he feared and hesitated while in the act of seeking the Lord.

There the poor old Pharisee sits before Jesus, anxious, agitated and wondering. He is trying in vain to put on an air of composure and dignity, that will impress the Lord with his importance. But Jesus is calm, tender and kind. He knows that even a rich and learned ruler in Israel cannot be happy in this life, and have an established hope of the life to come without the new birth. So he tells him in plain and unmistakable language that "Ye must be born again."

In that quiet conference with a single individual that night, the Master Teacher set forth truths of greater importance to man than have ever been discussed in the cabinets of kings or councils of nations. He laid down principles that should govern our conduct, and guide us in aiding others, principles that completely change one's life.

If you doubt the need of this great change in your heart, my friend, I urge you to search the Scriptures concerning it. Throughout the Scriptures, in both the Old and the New Testament, man is shown to be helpless and hopeless without a Savior. He cannot save himself. Salvation has been provided for man because he is lost without it. For this purpose Christ came into the world -- to seek and to save the lost.

Referring to those who have not put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness, the Bible tells us that "they are sold under sin," that they are dead in trespasses and in sins, and that they are in bondage and in darkness: Without peace, without hope, without pardon, and without God in the world. Such a creature is tormented with regrets of the past, and is overshadowed with a thick cloud of doubt and fear concerning his future state.

No, the mystery is not that men must be born again. The great mystery lies in the fact that so many are unwilling to accept the new birth that has been provided for them.

My friend, have you been born again? Have you been made a new creature in Christ Jesus? Have old things passed away from your life and all things been made new?

If you will earnestly seek the Lord He will make you an heir of God and a joint-heir with Christ. Yea, the Scriptures hath declared that eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the hearts of man the things that God hath prepared for them that love him.

So in the language of the great apostle to the Gentiles, I urge you in this closing breath to "Be ye reconciled to God."



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### 03 -- HABITS -- MY FRIENDS OR ENEMIES

By Grover Van Duyn

Since we are limited in physical and mental strength as well as in time, our heavenly Father has given us a servant within our very being to attend to the simple things of our daily routine while we are left free to think and discover new beauties in life.

Should we each day have as a new task, the discovery of every movement and detail of feeding and dressing, little time would be left for the preparation and care of a home or the cultural things of life.

No place in the complex mechanism of man is the handiwork of Divinity so evident as in the ability to store thoughts and actions in the nerves and muscles which may be expressed in habit. The capacity of the human life would have been futile had this characteristic been left out.

The habits of the human body are so intelligent in conduct that they can do certain work better than we can with most conscious attention. When the butcher thinks of each movement while sharpening his knife, he is in danger of cutting himself. But leaving it to habit, the knife will be sharpened while he transacts business with his customer. Indeed man is marvelously and wonderfully made. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." Evidently, the Great Teacher considered the wonderful ability of mind and body in the control of conduct after line upon line and precept upon precept had been given. Habit prevented the knife from going too far as the butcher performed his act in whetting. God has recognized the strength of habit in training for Christian conduct in the details of a daily life under difficult circumstances. Those who have done right continuously for many years have more strength in meeting the enemy. Satan seems to know the strength which is accumulated by continual, faithful service. Therefore, he is interested in having us live irregularly in our religious life. The irregular Christian life is reduced in its strength to that of a first performer. The regular Christian life consistent in righteous conduct is stronger since the resistance of the flesh is reduced to the minimum.

William James, the great psychologist, in speaking of habit formation, refers to the drunkard who said, "It won't count this time." "It is true he may not count it and a kind heaven may not count it, but it is being counted none the less. Down in his nerve cells and fibers the molecules are counting it, registering and storing it up to be used against him when the next temptation comes. Nothing we ever do is, in strict scientific literalness, wiped out. Of course, this has its good side as well as its bad one.

Repeated actions record themselves deeply into our nervous system waiting to reproduce the action upon a similar impulse.

Our reactions to a given situation are unconsciously affected by the outcome of habits or dispositions that have been acquired in previous experiences. Habit may be a tool or servant of intelligence.

Habit is the faculty of forming particular aptitudes. The forms of behavior with which we are born are known as reflexes; the forms of behavior which are substituted for them are designated by such names as acquired reflexes or habits.

The fact habit has something to do with our three meals daily at regular hours in no way lessens the nourishment of food; in fact, it is an asset to digestion and assimilation since the whole system is regulated to the incident. A fixed time of worship; or reading the Holy Word, is beneficial and most conducive to a regulated, healthful, religious life since the whole system more easily co-ordinates and sympathizes with this particular spiritual and mental action of the inner man.

Should the nervous and muscular system of the human body not be capable of performing the simpler duties of life somewhat independently we would be able to accomplish only a few of the primitive functions in a whole life time. Strip man of the blessing of habit propensity and possibility and he will perish very early. In fact, it seems impossible that the species of any animal life could be perpetuated without this one great faculty which is hidden in the very nerves and fibers.

Many of our actions which eventually come under the master habit were carefully thought out and done over and over consciously in every detail. Our entire system is inclined to do what it has done. The muscles of our body are sympathetic with the mind and nervous system and work smoothly doing those things which have been done repeatedly. Since every human soul regardless of the spiritual attainment is associated with and confined in a body of muscles and nerves, correct habit of conduct and right living will soon find an asset and force within the body assisting at all times in carrying out the conduct which has been conscientiously and carefully designed in the light of righteousness.

This dominant force of our body stands ready to be developed as a great ally for any cause in which we may be interested. It makes no choice as to right or wrong but at once begins to establish its stronghold within us. Habits may be developed which will greatly assist Satan in binding us hand and feet while he drives us to perdition. Or, habits may be developed which will strengthen every right action and enlist a great force within us for right living.

Those who deny the transformation of the soul in a definite religious experience would leave out the miracle of conversion and give the credit of good living to human behavior in training. God created man as a free moral agent and offered the plan of salvation at the cost of Calvary. He also gave him a body capable of being trained to assist the inner man in his religious activities.

Conversion is so thorough in its renovation and restoration of the right purposes of the soul and the remodeling of the mind that the whole system is at once susceptible to new habits of living.

Although we may have a complete consecration to the Lord we still have characteristics of the flesh which hinder and contend like the drag of a worn out machine. God can mightily assist us in crucifying and conquering the human and bringing it subservient to the spiritual. Also we can

mightily assist ourselves in developing this body to become a servant to our Christian living and practices. This is done by a persistent line of good thinking and actions which in turn develop into habits which seek to stand by us and bolster us up in our Christian warfare. This characteristic of our human mechanism may be trained like a good servant to lift when we meet a heavy load.

There are those who have advocated a peculiar liberty as contrasted with ultra cold formality to the extent that any conduct in good order becomes irreligious. "The heavens declare the glory of God" -- in what? In beauty and perfect regularity of performance. The rhythmic performance of our heart as well as all other organs of our body is absolutely necessary for health. Our relationship to God should be so paramount and definitely established that all our conduct and actions center about this ideal in such regularity that a rhythmic habit of living is established as a fortress defending our soul in its faithful devotion to God.

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#### 04 -- SAVING OTHERS

By J. W. Montgomery

Mark 15:33 -- "He saved others, himself he cannot save."

This phrase was coined near the cross of Calvary. The words were first uttered by one of our Lord's bitterest enemies. He sought the shame and further disgrace of Christ, as he hung on the cross, dying outside the walls of the city, with the back of society's hand already turned against Him. This critic would not have done Him honor for the world. He could not find language with which to express the contempt he felt for the man of the seamless robe. Yet, in his attempt to add his bit of ridicule to the mockings of the mob around him, he actually spoke a divine truth, unaware. He praised the Master by mistake. He pointed out the very purpose of Christ's coming into the world.

Christ could not save himself and save others. In order to save others he must give himself. It was upon this principle that he founded his kingdom in the world. And because he did build his kingdom on the principle of giving, it continues until now.

Others had come into the world and attempted to establish empires on the principle of selfishness, and by suppressing their enemies. They built for a season, and caused their achievements to be praised by men for a generations and soon passed from the memory of the race. But Jesus Christ came into the world to teach men the glorious principle of the strong bearing the infirmities of the weak. The principle of self-denial. The blessedness of giving one's strength, energy, money and time for the salvation of others. The glory of looking out for the interest of less fortunate people of the earth. Because He lived and taught these principles, and then died and confirmed them, you and I have His wonderful gospel brought to us through the sacrifice of others. Then, quoting from an outstanding church leader: "It is our duty to give to every man the gospel of Christ, in the same measure as we have received it." Yes, the enemy of Christ, in his attempt to mock him, spoke a great truth. Christ did save others, but could not save himself while doing it.

As followers of Jesus Christ, you and I cannot save ourselves if we are successful in winning others. No one can reach and win a dying world in a half-hearted way. The Lord has demanded whole-hearted service, and to render such one must forget himself in the interest of others.

All nature bears out this principle. The grain of wheat, as such, is of very little use in the world. But when it is placed in the earth and gives its life many more grains are produced, and when they have likewise yielded up their life-germs in the production of the crop, many bushels are harvested, and finally thousands and even millions of bushels have been reaped from the small beginning.

Then, strange as His language may sound, Jesus declared that, "He that would save his life shall lose it, and he that shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's shall save it." Who but the Son of God would dare utter such strange language. Yet how true it is. How many times have we seen churches become selfish and undertake to promote a program, to the neglect of the heathen around the world. We have watched such churches grow smaller and smaller, and have heard their leaders make one excuse after another for their failures, when the whole trouble lay in the fact that they undertook to outwit the principles of the very Christ they preached. He said, "Give and it shall be given."

Then, on the other hand, we have seen small and struggling churches forget themselves in the interest of a lost world, and go seemingly a bit out of reason in their efforts to get a saving gospel to the people, and we have yet the first one like this to see dwindle away and die. God will honor an unselfish church or individual. It cannot be otherwise. He reminds us that He loves a cheerful giver; and has pointed out no less than fifty cases in the Bible where selfishness led to the downfall of individuals, nations, and churches.

One can neither be happy nor safe if he is selfish. Selfishness kills happiness and plants fear in the heart of its subject. It destroys faith and banishes hope. It erases the vision for bigger and better things in life. For one to think constantly of, and worry about, his own interest, is death to his brightest hopes.

A man was slowly making his way through the awful snow storm. His limbs were well-nigh frozen through, and he kept thinking of his awful plight, and how horrible it was to die of cold so close to his own doorsteps. If only he could make it another hundred yards or so he would be safely home. But this seemed impossible. Finally he stopped and tried to hold to the telephone pole for a bit, but suddenly he seemed to realize more fully that he was simply frozen through, and soon must die. He gave up the fight and slid down beside the pole. It happened he fell beside a fellowman who had lost the fight before him. This attracted his attention, and he wondered if the poor fellow was still alive. He managed to crawl over near his head, and found that he was still breathing. He began working with his new subject of interest, and soon the blood began to flow more freely through his own veins. Finally he was able to take the man up in his arms and carry him to his own home. Kind hands helped them in and to a warm room and bed. Next morning the neighbor who had been brought in the night before declared that he would always be indebted to the other for saving his life. But the burden-bearer insisted that the event had meant as much to him as to the other. He said, "My friend, if you had not been beside that pole last night I would still be

there this morning." We finally save ourselves and our spiritual standing with God by saving others, but we can never win others by saving ourselves!

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05 -- TODAY WE LIVE

By J. W. Montgomery

"Shew his salvation from day to day."

Why worry about yesterday? It is gone forever. If it taught a lesson that is of value now one should use it for good, and forget the trials and dark shadows through which it came.

Why worry about tomorrow? It has not yet come. If we rob ourselves of the precious moments we have worrying about the ones that may come we will not be prepared to meet the problems and enjoy the blessings of tomorrow when it arrives.

There are those with capacity for sunshine and happiness who spend hours each day in the shadow of yesterday's cloud. Perhaps some one spoke unkindly to them, and their pride is hurt. They carefully wrapped the unpleasant event in their memory, and brought it all the way through the night just for the privilege of becoming miserable over it again at dawn. If the matter is of such nature as to cause severe suffering today they are sure to bind it fast with the cords of memory and keep it for tomorrow's misery. Then if it proves painful enough they will lock it up in their hearts and keep it forever. It will become a chronic disease and they will have the privilege of complaining about its cruel hand upon them as long as they live.

Many strong men have either stopped still or slowed their trains to a mere creep because they gathered rubbish yesterday and they are piling it on the rails before them today. They do not quite understand why they make no speed. They whistle loudly for others to clear the track so they may get ahead, while the wheels continue to slip on the rubbish of their own unpleasant memories. If the right-of-way is ever cleared one must do it himself. No one can do it for him.

To harbor an unforgiving spirit is to place impossible difficulties in the wake of a Christian's career. No progress will ever be made until it is eliminated.

Then there are those who have little happiness today because they are anxious for a better position tomorrow. They live in fear and dread. They are afraid the full force of their gifts will never be discovered and appreciated. They are in constant strain lest they miss an opportunity to display talent that may properly impress others. This class of suffering mortals generally assume a superior air that tends to separate them from the closer fellowship of common folks. They are afraid to meet humanity on a common level, lest it become known that they have faults like the rest. They lose the joy of the deeper understanding of people today because they wish to excel tomorrow. Little slights and criticisms disturb their peace of mind because their dignity is always at stake. They would rather fill the place ahead, even though they are never able to do it well than to be well qualified for the place and never called to it. They would be willing to exchange power for position, and misery can be the only answer to their attitude. The bit of false satisfaction they

have comes only through the dreams of higher honors. All the joys that God provided for them today is sacrificed in their efforts to provide better things for themselves tomorrow.

Wretched is the man who lives with the memories of yesterday's unpleasant moment, and sad is the heart of the one who forgets today's blessings in the hope of a broader scope tomorrow.

The golden opportunities and heaven-sent blessings of today are here to be used and enjoyed now, for TODAY WE LIVE!

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THE END