

# The INTERCESSOR

Presenting every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume 22

Number 2

## What is an Intercessor?

by Norman Grubb

Following last issue's introduction to the principle of intercession, Norman now focuses more closely on how God calls out intercessors today, drawing on his own personal experiences.

Let us examine intercession more closely. We would again say it for those within hearing distance: There is suffering as well as glory in this. We all come to the cross for salvation, then we take our place on the cross for our union, and we now can take up our individual cross for the world, if we are willing to. The first two are necessities, the third is voluntary. "Take it up, if you wish," and this time for others.

The first form intercession takes is commission. The Spirit causes me to know that there is something He will do, and do it by me, specifically. It is not something I sought, but it sought me. I'm simply caught by it and cannot escape. I just find myself immersed in it and obsessed by it. So get this clear: It is not a matter of my running around and trying to *find* my commission. No, *it finds me. It is from the Holy Spirit.* Don't try and find such a commission. That will be the old snare of self-effort. If not conscious of such a specific commission, then I can say to the Lord who is living His life by me, "If You give me

such a commission, You'll make me know it. If not, I just tell You I am ready."

Such a commission is no passing thing. It is not a prayer I can take up and put down. It is not participating in various interests and activities. It is "*This one thing I do.*" It will be the main drive of my life until it is gained.

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Then when conscious of the commission, I respond like Isaiah, "Here am I; send me." By that I mean my body is wholly available, which of course includes my soul with its emotions, and my concentrated thought-processes. And somewhere along that line is coming travail and death. There will be a *price paid* equivalent to a death; but there again, we do not seek that out or make it up. He brings us into it and through it. We may not even recognize the death process until we are well into it. It may mean literal

sacrifice of all that goes with our body living: our time, our faculties, our possessions, our finances, our homes, and usually most costly and common of all, our reputation. Misunderstanding and even opposition may arise in our own family circle, among our friends, our social circle, our church fellowship, or right out to the public. As we go through or have gone through our intercession, we shall well know where we have died.

One who brought to light the principle of intercession to the church in our generation was Rees Howells. He always spoke concerning intercession as "the firstfruits going to the altar,"

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which referred in type to the meal offering of Leviticus 2. There the first handful of the flour is burned on the altar, and the rest feeds the priests. By that he meant that there would be this “death” in which the self-life, the body-soul life, has had its human setbacks, sacrifice, maybe failure in the eyes of the world or church, and out of that death came the life to others. It is the 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 principle, but this time in specific rather than general form—for this is where Paul is speaking about bearing in our body the dying of the Lord Jesus. He then writes, “So death worketh in us, but life in you.”

There will be *a price paid* equivalent to a death; but there again, we do not seek that out or make it up. He brings us into it and through it. We may not even recognize the death process until we are well into it.

The intercession is completed, first by being gained on the level of faith, as the intercessor becomes settled in his inner consciousness that the Lord has done it; and second, by his own continued involvement in it, by whatever action accompanies it, while the Spirit brings the thing to pass. And it continues until the intercessor knows that his part in it is *fulfilled*.  
Commission. Cost. Completion.

### AN EXAMPLE: PERSONAL

Here are a few personal instances. When at Cambridge after World War I, I was unable to take part in my favorite games of “rugger” and field hockey because of a wounded leg.

But I had one overwhelming urge—to get around to all the rooms of the men in my College, Trinity, and witness to them and ask them to join our then-small group of the Cambridge InterCollegiate Christian Union, commonly called C.I.C.C.U. I did this, though often it cost me a lot to do it, for they were mainly men who had held good ranks in the army and were pretty sophisticated, being older than the average undergraduates. Then, with only two terms left to complete my degree, the call of God came clear to me to leave the University and join C. T. Studd and his small band, who had been alone in the heart of Africa all the war years. I did not do this easily, because it was against the advice of my friends, and according to Cambridge rules I could not return later and pick up where I dropped out. But I did do it, and it was “death” to me on that level.

But before I left, near the end of that term, the Spirit distinctly came on me to go and speak in no uncertain terms to all I knew personally who had not accepted Christ, or who at least showed no sign of spiritual life—men whom I never expected to see again in this life. I went and pulled no punches, and a number came out for Christ, about sixteen of them. This caused a stir like a touch of revival and the C.I.C.C.U. men asked me to come and tell them about it. As I did so, it came like a vision to me that every university and college in Britain and the world should have its evangelical and witnessing union, as we had. So I suggested to two of my friends that we take a hall in London and invite some from Oxford and London and other colleges, and hold

an intervarsity conference. About sixty of us attended. Little did I then realize that this was the start of what has since grown to become the world-wide InterVarsity Fellowship, now in hundreds and probably thousands of colleges in all nations, developed under the dedicated leadership of Douglas Johnson and Oliver Barclay in Britain, Howard Guinness in Canada and Australia, and Stacey Woods in the U.S.A. and on through the world. There had been this definite “commission” that *I had* to give myself to witness in the university. There had also been an unexpected form of “death”—in not remaining to get my degree, though it entailed only a couple of terms. But the intercession was gained on this far larger scale, as the IVF has become this world-wide student fellowship.

Again, after Pauline and I returned to England in 1931 to carry on the home end, God's commission to our Worldwide Evangelization Crusade was to go to any unevangelized area of the world. It was our custom then for those at the home end to take a slightly larger share of what monthly money there was before it was apportioned to the fields, as it cost more to live in England than in Africa. But when we had practically nothing to send to the thirty-five missionaries (we were nearly penniless that first month), the Lord clearly said to Pauline and me, “Why not personally live by the injunction to ‘take no thought for food and clothing...but seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,’ and believe the promise that ‘all these things will be added unto you’?”

We saw the point and accepted it from God, though to us at that time it

was a big thing—having no earthly source of supply, not even from the mission— and we also thought at that time we should never get anyone else to join us in the work of the home end on those same conditions! But how way off we were, for our WEC co-workers (maybe over a hundred of them at all our home bases round the world) all these years have taken no mission funds for personal needs, but have lived by the promises of God.

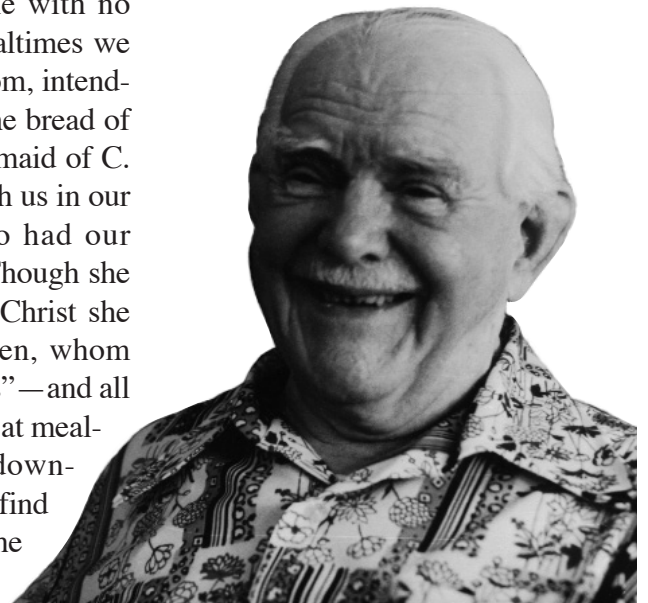
In those first days we did sometimes touch bottom. When we were

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about a dozen of us, we lived for a week in our London home with no household supplies. At mealtimes we joined in the fellowship room, intending to thank the Lord for the bread of life! But the retired lady's maid of C. T. Studd's mother lived with us in our basement, where we also had our kitchen and dining room. Though she did not outwardly profess Christ she really loved our young men, whom she called “Hallelujah Boys”—and all we knew was that each day at meal-time the bell rang from downstairs. We trooped down to find bread, cheese and tea on the table. We always thanked

the Lord that, having asked only for daily bread, we got cheese on top! We could only guess that Miss Mussett put it there. Also, for months we lived practically entirely on sacks of lentils sent us by a Christian farmer...but that was Daniel's food, and we flourished on it. Sometimes, though, we felt like the children of Israel who cried to God for quails and then got them until they “came out of their nostrils”! But those were early days and it has rarely happened since.

It seemed to us more an adventure of faith than a death to ourselves; yet it was a spark which set us alight in our divine commission. The commission was on us to see that all those unevangelized areas of the world which were brought to our attention were entered and occupied, God sending the stream of recruits to enter them. What exploits of faith there were in the entry of some of them! But this is not the place for those stories. Year by year we did that, opening a new field every year, until we are now on forty fields. And we have already mentioned how the gospel has



been going out to tens of thousands, and how living churches have been founded which are now continuing with their own witness in many lands of Africa...and in Indonesia, India, Thailand, Japan, South America, Europe, and elsewhere. Pauline and I had that specific commission; we knew we had it, and that it must be fulfilled. God told us to take this way of personal *financial* death, which has become our home-base principle ever since. The intercession has been fulfilled—our part in it—by the establishment of these many fields in many countries. We meanwhile gained our individual intercession by it becoming easy for us, ever since, to trust the Lord for personal finances and to take our share in the stand of faith for the increasingly large finances needed by

the Crusade throughout the world—with no appeals made to man.

I would say that, right up to today, God gives us the privilege of being intercessors. As my years in our direct WEC activities ceased, the Lord gave me the plain calling—another definite commission—to get around the U.S.A. with the message of union and replacement in Christ which has been the mainstream of this book. I had to do it. I had to go round and repeat unendingly what God has made so real to me. There are always new facets of light, but the heart of the message is ever the same. The price of this intercession is to continue nonstop into my eighties, even though my old leg injury makes walking a difficulty—though in fact, you don't notice the dying when absorbed in the harvest-

ing. And now, after going round for about ten years, the Lord Himself has called in co-intercessors, all unknown to me. For Pauline and me an intercession has been gained, and the harvest is being widely reaped.

*For many years after his retirement as General Secretary of the Worldwide Evangelization Crusade, Norman Grubb traveled extensively sharing the truth of our union with Christ. He also carried on a huge personal correspondence with individuals throughout the world. He was the author of many books and pamphlets, a number of which are available through the Zerubbabel Book Ministry. Norman lived with his daughter, Priscilla, in Fort Washington, PA. Norman P. Grubb entered the Kingdom at 98 years of age.*

## Editor's Note

This issue's collection of vintage and fresh features and excerpts from Norman's books offers a very sharp and timely focus on spiritual warfare. C.T. Studd lays down the gauntlet to engage in the warfare in the second half of "The Chocolate Soldier." Relying, as always, on the Bible, C.T. sharply contrasts the heroes with the "Chocolates" of their day and notes that we are currently surely in the last Laodicean stage of the Church age—"the lukewarm Church. His final command? "Enlist!"

Brett Burrowes' Bible study, "Armageddon...Beneath Our Very Eyes" (taken from the July/August, 1994 *Intercessor*) is also a call to arms. "This battle is not something spectacu-

lar...but rages within those trials as their inner core and spiritual essence." Furthering this perspective, Brett discusses the weapons of our warfare named in Ephesians 6 with a deeper perspective—in light of who we are and Who is warring through and as us.

Left to Norman is the answer to the next question, "Now that I'm equipped, how is the war waged, and what is the offensive battle plan?" Our lead article, Norman's "What is an Intercessor?" lays it out. We are commissioned, as are officers in the armed services, to do a specific intercession—become totally engaged on behalf of a specific person or accomplishment. Just as in war we must have a battle plan and specific objectives, so God commissions His intercessors toward a specific goal through three stages: commission,

cost and completion. And Norman shows us examples of this warfare his life, which he calls "an adventure...at the highest level of spiritual faith."

This month's excerpt from *The Intercession of Rees Howells* touches briefly on the cost of victory—a scriptural reminder from the Apostle Paul that the Christ-life is a laid-down life so that our "kinsmen according to the flesh" might know Christ in His fullness. In this day of prosperity preaching, it is a sobering reminder that only through identification with Him in suffering do we labor in our faith-battles on behalf of those around us.

Kim Langley presents a microcosm of boot-camp training, and a reminder that spiritual warfare begins in our thought-life—affirming the truth against appearances. Becoming

skilled in this manner of warfare prepares the way for greater battles for the liberation others from Satan's dominion.

"Getting Free from Sexual Sin," an exchange of e-mails, underscores the powerful stronghold of sexual sin in a young man's life and the spiritual warfare waged by he and his Christian friends. It is particularly revealing to get a glimpse of how the battle was fought and the liberation that came through honest confession, repentance, and complete trust in Christ in the form of Christian friends—a true victory!

Norman strengthens the foundation of our warfare—faith—in a book excerpt, "That Clever God." Discussing the basic difference between Satan's sin and Man's, he reminds us of the naturalness of

faith—in our freedom to choose, we take what is available, and it "takes us"—whether food or salvation. Norman points out that we begin deluded by Satan, and must be thoroughly disillusioned—faced with our sins by the light of God's perfect law—to desire change and reach out by faith to Christ for salvation.

Finally, we are thrilled to announce exciting news! We have launched our official Website, [www.zpress.org](http://www.zpress.org) featuring back issues of *The Intercessor*, convenient online ordering of books and other materials, a subscription for daily e-devotionals, and much more. Finally, we are soon to be offering on CD some of Norman's teachings never before offered to the public. For a taste, be sure to read this issue's CD review, "The Uniqueness of Our Message."

## NARROW IS THE ROAD...

Very many think the road to heaven is an easy affair and they get slack and then comes the mischief; unless Jesus and the Bible lied (and they didn't, of course), the road will always be straight and narrow and uphill. The Word of God by lip, life and by print is the only way for these sin-soaked souls. You might as well expect to pelt a crocodile with Carter's Little Liver Pills as try any other medicine on these ulcerous hearts than the blood and Spirit of Jesus. But Hallelujah, when they penetrate into their souls the cancer gives place to the most miraculous sight on earth or perhaps in heaven. The blood and the Spirit will wash and recreate the vilest if he is willing.

-C.T. Studd

## Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this magazine is to further the great high calling of the Lord Jesus to carry His Gospel to the whole world. This calling is known in the Christian world as the Great Commission. Our interpretation of the Gospel is that Jesus Christ is the second member of the Trinity, fully God, made manifest in the flesh. He was tempted in all points as we are, but totally without sin. He was crucified for the sins of the world, was buried, and rose from the dead on the third day, according to the Scriptures. He gives the power to become the sons of God to all who receive Him.

Beyond this forgiveness of sins, *The Intercessor* is committed to proclaiming to every creature the mystery of the Gospel, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory (Col. 1:27). The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church at Pentecost means that Christ has joined Himself to us as one spirit (1 Cor. 6:17). Thus we see that Christ has reproduced Himself in our flesh, and we Christians are really Christ living as us (Gal. 2:20).

Therefore, there is not only the forgiveness of sins but also a life in Christ of knowing we are dead to sin (Rom. 6). Furthermore, we are dead to the Law (Rom. 7), since the power of sin is through the Law. Christ is the only Lawkeeper (Rom. 8), and there is no independent human nature that can keep the Law, though we are continually tempted to believe so.

Belief in an independent human nature is Satan's lie and the root of sin. Non-Christians are really Satan-indwelt, expressing his lusts (John 8:44), just as we have come to learn that Christians are Christ-indwelt, expressing His righteousness (2 Cor. 6:16). Humans have no moral nature of their own, meaning that we are simply expressions of the indwelling deity nature, either of Christ or Satan (the fallen created being who is the spirit of error). Sin in a Christian is a result of believing again Satan's lie that there is a human nature which can do good or evil.

Our full restoration, then, is to see ourselves as Christ in the world and to labor and travail to see Christ formed in others according to the mighty working of the Spirit. This is "intercession," the definite laying down of our lives to present every man perfect in Christ (Col. 1:28). *The Intercessor* is committed to this great and thrilling commission, the cost of bringing it about, and the resurrection joy of reaping the harvest!

## PART TWO

# THE CHOCOLATE SOLDIER

by C. T. Studd

And so the tale goes on. Go where you will through the Scriptures or history, you will find that men who really knew God, and did not merely say they did, were invariably paragons of pluck, dare-devil desperadoes for Jesus, gamblers for God. "Fools and madmen!" shout the world and the Chocolates. "Yes, for Christ's sake," add the angels.

Nobly they fought to win the prize:

Climbing the steep ascent  
of heaven,

Through peril, toil  
and pain.

O God, to us let grace  
be given,

To follow in their train.

The Chocolate Christians of today can at least boast of having an ancient pedigree. There are CHOCOLATES A LA REUBEN, who have great searchings of heart, and make great resolves of heart too. But somehow they still sit among the sheepfolds, listening to the pipings of their much loved organs, or the strumming of their guitars. It is good to have great heart-searching. It is better to make a great heart resolve. But if, instead of obeying, we squat among the sheep, leaving our few hard-pressed brothers to tackle the wolves by themselves, we are only Chocolate Christians.

You made a great resolve to go to Africa for Christ a year or two ago. Where are you now? Still in the West? In Britain? Yes! Yes! Lollipop! (Judges 5:16).

There are CHOCOLATES MEROZ who earned the curse of the angel of the Lord. War was declared, the battle about to begin. The odds were outrageous but Meroz remained in England, attending

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conventions until the battle was over. Then he went in comfort and security as a tourist! Doubtless they said they "couldn't fight until they had been properly ordained, and besides, there was so much to be done in fat, overfed Meroz. Surely to feed a flock of fat sheep has always been considered the ideal training for war." As though the best training for a soldier was to become a nursemaid!! (Judges 5:23).

CHOCOLATES DU BALAAM begin first class and earn the name of prophets. Then they develop a squint, melt, and finally run out of the frying pan into the fire! Thus was Balaam.

One day he could not get his left eye to look at God. It would look at earth and riches and that chit of a girl, Miss Popularity. He ought to have done as

God told him, and plucked it out.

But he said that was too much to ask of any man, and besides he wanted the best of both worlds. He had the hearty desire to die the death of the righteous, but he was not willing to pay the price of a righteous life. He had not the pluck to curse God's people so he made plans for others to make them sin. But one day, while his dupes were putting his chestnuts into the fire, they fell in themselves and Balaam with them

(Numbers 23 & 24).

"I counsel you to buy from Me salve to put on your eyes, so that you can once again see the folly of flirting with the world."

CHOCOLATE DEMAS left fiery, hard-hitting Paul for an easier path. He said he thought Paul should wink at or slobber over sin instead of rebuking it. "He was so very fond of the knife, you know. He never would use sticking plas-

ter, because he said it never healed the sore, but made it burrow underneath and become bigger, worse and dangerous" (2 Timothy 4:10).

Mark joined the Chocolate Brigade once. He left Paul and Barnabas in the lurch, and went back to Jerusalem for a rest cure—a religious retreat. Thank God he got sick of it before long, and re-enlisting in God's army became a useful soldier (Acts 13:13).

Many fine youngsters are turned into Chocolates by old prophets. Old prophets who have lost their fire, or who fire off words instead of deeds, usually become great Chocolate manufacturers. That poor young prophet! He did so well when he obeyed God only, but it was all over with him when he listened to another voice, even though it was that of an old prophet. Did not the old prophet say he was a prophet? And say that he had got the message straight from God? What a damnable lie! The floor of Christendom and elsewhere is littered with WRECKS made by old prophets. God won't stand non-

sense from any man. Every man has to choose between Christ and Barabbas, and every Christian between God and some old prophet. Better be a silly donkey in the estimation of an old prophet than to listen to his soft talk and flattery, and afterwards become a wreck. "This is My beloved Son, hear HIM." No, not even Moses, not Elijah, nor both. "HEAR HIM." "You have an anointing from God, and you do not need anyone to teach you." You say you believe the Bible! Do your deeds give the lie to your words? (1

Kings 13).

THE TEN SPIES WERE CHOCOLATES. They melted and ran over the whole congregation of Israel, turning them into Chocolate Creams—softies, afraid to face the fire and water before them. God put them all into the saucepan again and boiled them for forty years in the desert, and left them there. He has no use for Chocolates. It is not small things that He despises, but 'Chocolates,' for He said, "Your little ones shall inherit the promised land which you have forfeited through listening to men and despising

*Difficulties, dangers, disease, death or divisions don't deter any but Chocolates from executing God's will. When someone says there is a lion in the way, the real Christian promptly replies, "That's hardly enough inducement for me; I want a bear or two besides to make it worth my while to go."*

Me" (Numbers 13).

JONAH became a Chocolate Soldier once. Told to go to Africa, he went to Liverpool and took ship for America. Luckily he met a storm and a whale which, after three day's instruction, taught him how to pray and obey, and set him once again on the right track (Jonah 1).

There is nothing that shows up CHOCOLATES so much as a bit of a breeze among God's people. Paul and Barnabas had one once. Judging from experience, I guess there were some

Chocolates about then who got into a fog right away! Before that they had vowed they would go to the mission field, but this breeze between P. and B. put them off. If they had not been MADE OF CHOCOLATE they would have said, "This affair between Paul and Barnabas only makes it more necessary for me to keep close to God, and to do what He told me to do more exactly and punctually; so I shall go to Africa a bit sooner, that's all!"

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CHOCOLATES are very fond of talking loud and long against some whom they call fanatics, as though there were any danger of Christians being fanatics nowadays! Why, fanatics among Christians are as rare as the dodo.

Now, if they declaimed against tepidity, they would talk sense. God's real people have always been called fanatics. Jesus was called mad, so was Paul; so were Whitefield, Wesley, Moody, Spurgeon. No one has graduated far in God's school who has not been paid the compliment of being called a fanatic. We Christians of today are indeed a tepid crew. Had we but half the fire and enthusiasm of the Suffragettes of the past, we would have the world evangelised and Christ back amongst us in no time. Had we the pluck

and heroism of the Battle of Britain pilots, or the men who go on Polar expeditions or climb Everest, or for any ordinary daredevil enterprise, we could have every soul on earth knowing the name of Jesus Christ in less than ten years.

Alas! What stirs ordinary men's blood and turns them into heroes makes most Christians run like a flock of frightened sheep. Militants daily risk their lives in furtherance of their particular cause, and subscribe with their means in a way that cries "Shame!" on us Christians, who generally brand the braving of risks and fighting against odds as "tempting God."

CHOCOLATE CARAMELS ('stick-jaw,' boys call them) jawing, "I go, sir," and sticking fast in Christendom! No conquest is made in assured safety, and conquest for Christ certainly cannot be so made.

We Christians too often SUBSTITUTE PRAYER FOR PLAYING THE GAME. Prayer is good; but when used as a substitute for obedience it is nothing but blatant hypocrisy, a despicable Pharisaism. We need as many meetings for action as for prayer—perhaps more. Every orthodox prayer meeting is opened by God saying to His people, "Go work today; pray that labourers will be sent into My vineyard." It is continued by the Christian's response, "I go, Lord, wherever You send me, that Your Name may be hallowed everywhere, that Your kingdom may come speedily, that Your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven." But if it ends in nobody going anywhere, it had better never have been held at all. Like faith, prayer without works is dead. That is why many PRAYER MEETINGS might

well be styled "much bleating, yet little wool." Zerubbabel did not only hold prayer meetings; he went and cut down trees and started to build. Hence God said, "From this day on I will bless you."

A report says that someone has rediscovered the secret of the old masters. Cannot we Christians rediscover, and put into practice, the secret of our Great Master and His former pupils, heroism? He and they did not save themselves; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death, and so kept on saving them by losing them for Christ's sake.

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We are frittering away time and money in a multiplicity of conventions, conferences and retreats, when the real need is to go straight and full steam into battle. The 'vox humana' plays too important a part in our Christian organs and organisations today. The music, whoever plays, is bound to be thin when the stops of 'instant obedience' and 'fiery valour' are missing or unused. Without them, to play the 'Lost Chord' of heroism is an impossibility.

"Do whatever He tells you," said the

Blessed Virgin. Do what? Not put treacle and spice into the soft holy vessels inside the house, but pour the water of life into those empty stone ones outside! Cana's marriage feast would have ended in shame had the wine run short. Christ's marriage feast only begins when the wine is sufficient—a blend from every nation, tribe, people and language. The supply is assured as soon as the water is poured out as Christ directed, into "the uttermost parts of the earth." The mischief today is the reluctance of the servants to do the outside work. They all want to serve indoors, wear smart clothes, listen to the conversation, and make a terrible lot of themselves in the butler's pantry.

DO LET US MAKE A REAL START NOW—AT ONCE. For years, like Mr. Winkle, we've declared we were just about to begin, and then never began at all.

We must divorce Chocolate and Disobedience, and marry Faith and Heroism.

"Who shall begin the battle?" asked the king. "You will," replied the prophet. And when the king and the young officers led the way, although the odds against them were terrific, they won with ridiculous ease (1 Kings 20:14).

So, too, the apostles led in the war of God to the uttermost parts of the earth.

GOD'S SUMMONS TODAY is to the young men and women of Great Britain and the Commonwealth, of America and Europe, and of third world countries, who call themselves by the name of Christ.

"New wine," said Christ, "must be poured into new wineskins." Those



superfluously labelled and patched-up old-fashioned ones are as hopeless as the 'New Theology.' They cannot be moved lest they burst with pride and spill the wine in the wrong place.

Listen! "In the last days, God says, I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions [of faith], your old men will dream dreams [of valorous obedience]. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out My Spirit in those days, and they shall prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, and everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved." But how can they call on Him of whom they have not even heard? Must you stay, young man? Can't you go, young woman, and tell them? Truly we are in the last—the Laodicean stage—that of the Lukewarm Church.

Will you be to Christ the partner of His throne or an emetic (Rev. 3:16); a Militant or a Chocolate Christian? Will you fear or will you fight? Shall your brothers go to war and will you sit here? When He comes, will He find faith on the earth?

A thousand times you have admitted Christ's "Love so amazing, so divine, Demands your life, your soul, your all."

Will you be a miser and withhold what honour demands of you? Will you give like Ananias and Sapphira who, pretending they gave all, gave only part?

Possessing and enjoying the vineyard, will you, like the tenants, refuse the agreed rent? (Luke 20:9-11). Will you fear death, or the devil, or men, and will you

not fear SHAME? Some shall rise to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Shall we refuse to emulate the heroes of old, or shall we accomplish the double fulfilment of these glorious words:

All these, being men of war, came with a perfect heart to make Jesus King over all the world. They were all mighty men of valour for the war! He that was least was equal to a hundred, and the greatest to a thousand! They were not of double heart! Their faces were like the faces of lions! They were as swift as the gazelles on the mountains (to do their

*Will you be to Christ the partner of His throne or an emetic (Rev 3:16); a Militant or a Chocolate Christian? Will you fear or will you fight? Shall your brothers go to war and will you sit here? When He comes, will He find faith on the earth?*

Lord's commands!)

You sought in time past for Jesus to be king over you. NOW THEN DO IT! (Compare 1 Chronicles 12:8, 33, 38, and 2 Samuel 3:17-18.)

Shall we not reply, "We are Yours, Jesus, and on Your side. May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if I do not do what the Father promised You on oath, and transfer the kingdom from the house of Satan and establish Your throne over all the world." (Compare 1 Chron. 12:18, and 2 Samuel 3:9-10.)

Come then, let us restore the 'lost chord' of Christianity—HEROISM—to the world, and the crown of the world to Christ. Christ Himself asks you, "Will you be a malingerer or a militant?"

To your knees, man! And to your Bible! Decide at once! Don't hedge! Time flies! Cease your insults to God. Quit consulting flesh and blood. Stop your lame lying and cowardly excuses. Enlist! Here are your papers and oath of allegiance. Scratch out one side and sign the other in the presence of God and the recording angel. Mark God's endorsements underneath:

#### HENCEFORTH

<i>For me</i>	<i>For me</i>
To live is Christ	Chocolate my name
To die is gain	Tepidity my
I'll be a militant	or temperature
A man of God	A malingerer, I
A gambler for	A child of men
Christ	A self-excuser
A hero	A humbug
<i>Sign here</i>	<i>Sign here</i>

God's promises are sure in either case:

"I am with you always"	"I will spit you out of my mouth."
------------------------	------------------------------------

Good Lord!

Baptise us with the Holy Spirit and with fire! Cure us of this dread plague of Sleeping Sickness, this crazy talking in our sleep, that even as we unceasingly pray. May Your Name be hallowed everywhere. Your kingdom come speedily. Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Amen and Amen!

# That Clever God

by Norman Grubb

We ask ourselves, How can a general fact become a personal experience? The answer is that simplest of ways by which alone all the generalities of life become personal experiences. It is the simple principle of supply and demand. The Bible calls it the way of faith. We might define it as freedom in action. God has so ordered the universe, all being forms of His self-manifestation, and our relation to it, that we are surrounded, almost overwhelmed, by all that is available to us—food, air, every convenience of life. We have a general recognition and acceptance of the fact that such things are beneficial for us and available to us. We call that believing in things.

But before anything, which is not mine already, can become mine in experience, it is obvious that I must come to want it, and then in my freedom appropriate it. My stomach needs food, it is available and I eat it. My lungs need air and I breathe it. My body needs a chair and I sit on it. But note that the effect of this response of my demand to the supply is that what I take takes me. I take the food and it takes me over for good or ill. I sit in the chair, and the chair holds me, not I it.

So faith, as freedom in action, is only faith when it produces the reflex action. The taker is taken, the grabber grabbed. Faith is not taking, but being taken, not grabbing but being grabbed. And the one and the same principle operates on all levels. There is no secular and spiritual with God. All is basi-

cally spiritual, for the one Spirit, that One Person, is manifesting Himself through all, and this is the principle of His self-manifestation.

So faith, as freedom in action, is only faith when it produces the reflex action. The taker is taken, the grabber grabbed. Faith is not taking, but being taken, not grabbing but being grabbed. And the one and the same principle operates on all levels.

But when it comes to our need of a right relationship to God, we meet a special problem. There is no automatic demand which will appropriate the supply. We humans by no means desire this revolutionary change. We are sat-

There has to come an awakening, a disillusionment, a sense of need and lack, to bring us to see that we are off the track. The first approach, therefore, that the God of our being has to make to us, to get us within hearing distance of Him, is exposure before remedy. It must be negative before positive: and this approach is what the Bible calls “law.”

isfied with ourselves, or make out to ourselves that we are; we find at least enough attraction in our normal self-interested way of life to be repelled at

the thought of any violent change. In fact, we are, as the Bible says, “deceived,” “blinded,” having been born in the delusion—the product of the Fall—that life is just we living it the way we think best. At most, a little religion, a few good works, satisfy any inner demand for some place in our lives for God and the service of others.

There has to come an awakening, a disillusionment, a sense of need and lack, to bring us to see that we are off the track. The first approach, therefore, that the God of our being has to make to us, to get us within hearing distance of Him, is exposure before remedy. It must be negative before positive: and this approach is what the Bible calls “law.”

We have already mentioned that we use the word law to define the only way in which something can properly function. It is the law of its being. Thus we are continually busy seeking and discovering all the laws of our universe. If we attempt to make a thing work against the law of its being, we get trouble. This is true of all the laws of the body, of science, of mathematics, or the man-made laws of social or national life. But there is only one ultimate law, as the Bible has revealed it to us—that God is love. This is what God is. This is how God works. The universe is this law in operation. All is love and compounded of love. This is, therefore, the law of our being, for our being is in God. Anything which is not self-giving love, is broken law, and has

its adverse consequences.

We humans instinctively know wrong from right, because, though Adam fell, he did not take the final, absolute step that Lucifer took. Lucifer from the centre of his being rejected God and made himself a god in reverse. To him good became evil, and evil good, self-giving bad, self-loving good. Lucifer became as fixed as a god of self-loving as God is fixed as the God of self-giving. There can be no change in either. There is no response in Lucifer to right ways, no discomfort that he is wrong; he is not savable.

But Adam's sin was not a basic choice of evil for good, not a sin of spirit so much as of flesh. Eve was tricked, and Adam knowingly followed her to keep her, rather than blatantly defied God. When he took of the wrong tree, he chose the way of self-gratification but hoped, as it were, that God was not looking. He hoped for the best of both worlds. Impossible, but it left him with the vivid realization that he had done wrong. He hid himself from God.

Satan does not hide himself. He is in open defiance; he has proclaimed himself as a rival god with a rival kingdom. Adam and we of the human race do not call evil good. We still call good good and evil evil. So we are reachable and savable. Captives of Satan, bound to him, his property, sharing his destiny, but not yet fixed devils. We might be called children of the devil, but not yet sons of the devil. Satan has his being in God but, as a free spirit, has totally rejected even the recognition of that fact. We have our being in God, but, though we are joined to Satan, have not so cut ourselves off by the final choice of our wills and hearts, that we do not

recognize or respond to the One in whom we live and have our being.

That is why we humans instinctively know wrong from right: we know that what proceeds from selfishness is wrong, whatever is self-giving is right. Paul truly said that we have the law written in our hearts, and John speaks of "the light that lighteth every man," and the conscience that bears witness to the truth.

But in our freedom, we easily rationalize, we stifle that inner voice and find ways around it. So God, through Moses, defined that law in

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written terms which we call the Ten Commandments. Jesus defined it in still more absolute and inclusive terms in the two commandments of absolute love towards God and our neighbor.

The normal operation of a law is a perfectly natural functioning of things according to its law—in ease, in spontaneity. So the law by which something works is not normally a burdensome thing or an imposition on it. It is only when it seeks to function against the law of its being, that this law is like an enemy to it. An automobile runs smoothly according to its mechanical laws: pull the wrong lever and it grinds

to a halt by being made to oppose its own laws.

So we humans are challenged and opposed by what should be the natural law of our being in God, the life of self-giving love, because we have ground to a halt by the turn of the wrong lever and are seeking to make life work on the unlawful principle of self-loving love. What should be normal, spontaneous, automatic, confronts us in our hearts and by written commandments as a threatening demand: "Do this and you live. Don't do it and you die."

Law, then, is not God's frown on us; it is the first form of His love. The Bible calls law elementary religion. It is the delicate way in which God reaches us on the only level upon which we could be reached, for love always adapts itself to situations. Being self-satisfied and self-reliant, we would see no point in being told that we need God. Very well then, God meets us where we are in our self-centeredness. "You know what you ought to be. You say you can be it. Well, be it. Here is the law. Keep it." How clever and adaptable love is. You aren't conditioned yet for true religion; well, then have a religion on your own level—the law.

We must have the wrong way exposed to us which in our blindness we try to make out is the right, before we are conditioned to desire or find the right.

### **The Answer Begun**

The effect of this inner and outer law on us is two-fold. On our response hangs our eternal destiny. We can either respond by hypocrisy or honesty. As a fact, we all start by being

hypocrites. That is, we pretend to ourselves and others that we keep the law reasonably well, enough to salve our consciences: we have enough religion or a philosophy of some kind to cover our tracks, for a self must always have a foothold for its selfhood—a righteousness (rightness) of some sort. What we really do is to try to keep the eleventh commandment, to hide the truth from ourselves as from others—“Thou shalt not be found out!”

Honesty is when by some means or other (God has a thousand original ways), we are brought up sharp enough in our lives, suddenly or gradually, to be faced with the plain recognition that we are not what we should be. We are law breakers. The moment of truth is when in our freedom we admit that fact. That is honesty, and that is also a total self-humiliation. The supposed foundations to our selfhood have given way. That is why there is a cost in it. The false front of our self-justifying religion or philosophy collapses.

But this admission of merely being a law-breaker in the sense of not living up to the standards of God’s law is not sufficient by itself. The point is that it is the law of *God*, and, therefore, the law on which our being is founded, so that we are at variance with the Source, the Originator, the Upholder of our being. Therefore, we are at variance with life itself. We are wrong, we are lost, we are in the dimension of what Jesus called “outer darkness.”

Now when that is an admitted reality to me, I am conditioned for the truth. I have a need and I must have it met. I can no longer consciously continue at variance with the God of my

being and under His justifiable condemnation, with its necessary ultimate ending in “everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord”. What then shall I do to make amends? But that is exactly what I cannot do as a self-confessed law-breaker with the usual consequences of law breaking.

This is the moment, the first moment when He who is love, the ground of my being, can get over to me what love is and what He is, and what I am to be. Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, is the answer. What He did for me and as me was what I could not do for myself. This is the eternal love. Now in my total need I am conditioned simply to see with thankfulness that what I could not do to remove guilt, condemnation, ever-lasting separation, He did for me; and they are no more. Seeing is recognizing and receiving and release.

In my freedom of choice, which hardly was conscious choice, when my need was so desperate and the supply so complete, I suddenly realize that God is now my God and Father, and Jesus Christ my Savior and Lord; and not only have I a conscious peace and release, but I have a love for Him. What I probably do not realize is that this is the beginning of my living the eternal quality of life for which I was originally created. The restoration to God of His stolen property has taken place. A revolutionary change has taken place. For the first time in my human history, I love someone else more than myself. A new love, greater than my love for myself, has taken possession of me: love for God and Jesus.

I do not yet realize that this is not my human affections. I probably think

this is my love for Him, but what has really happened is that in receiving Christ I have received into myself the One who is love, and what I regard as my love for Him is really the first expression of God’s self-giving love in me, loving another more than myself, “The love of God (not love for God) shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.” This new love, greater than love for myself, has taken possession of me, causing me to start being an other-lover: for I very soon find that if I have love for Jesus, I also have love for all men, for He and His world are identified. I find in myself, not only the love for Him, but also the desire that my friends, my neighbors, and all men should share the secret of life that I have found and that they equally need, and that I should take my share in the ministry to mankind in all ways available to me.

This is eternal life which is eternal self-giving love begun in me. I have “come home,” and begun to be the light and the love I was destined to be. What we call Christianity, therefore, is not belief in a doctrine, not membership in a church, not allegiance to a Bible or a Jesus of history, but a new love; for again we say, we live where we love, and this new love is for the first time in my human history the love of someone more than myself: and this is and means a new quality of life of which the potential and implications are way out of sight beyond space and time, just as an Amazon river starts by a trickle at its source, or a prairie fire begins with a spark.

*-The Spontaneous You*

# Tape Talk

by Gail Bedell

## CD REVIEW:

### *The Uniqueness of Our Message* by Norman Grubb

This talk, recorded on the first night of a weekend retreat, is full of insight into the uniqueness of the Total Truth message and its scriptural underpinnings. After some personal comments, Norman describes what he has found in the scriptures to be God's purpose: "Getting into men—expressing Himself in men throughout the ages." Norman points out that what he is sharing is unique—rarely written or spoken about today. Using his words: "We are in for a confrontation.... It affects our very being.... Everything is blown up if you come to Jesus.... He explodes everything—your relationships, your cooperation.... It is rare today to find a group or a person who represents a group to whom this is to them what it is to us.... It is a relationship with the perfect Person—and we are perfect persons, an expression of the perfect Person. That's the difficulty; perfection is the problem. The purpose of God is completed selves—as Jesus is perfect." The rest of Norman's talk provides the explanation for these assertions.

Norman begins by laying the foundation: God is the only Person in the universe, all creation is an expression of Himself, and the

choice between opposites is necessary to bring about consciousness. From the statement that "God cannot lie," we understand that God made the original choice (to speak in human terms) to confine Himself to being outpoured love. It is necessary in the choice between opposites that there is a death to one—a swallowing up of the one—for the manifestation of the opposite. Before time, God made the choice to express Himself as outpoured love and therefore "cannot lie" (be self-for-self). Norman points out that this is a seldom understood but fundamental uniqueness of Christianity. All other religions are about a relationship with God—but without the cross. Left to itself, any being is a self-for-self. The opposite is the choice God made in begetting His Son as an expression of self-for-others—a "cross in the heart of God."

"There we start our uniqueness," Norman continues. All creation is God re-expressing Himself in various forms—trees, for example, at a lower level. God created Man like Himself in quantity—body, soul, spirit—to be His ultimate means of re-expression. But Man must face the same choice between opposites in order to become a conscious being. "We have to settle in to who we are—by a delusion—and to be delivered from it strongly." Norman describes the necessity of the temptation of Adam and Eve to make them

aware of their personhood. The consequence of their disobedience was to take in the satanic nature and the lie that a person is a separate self from God. Once we have come to the Savior, we have to learn what a self is and how it functions—the same thing Jesus learned through obedience. Norman gives excellent detail on Satan's self-delusion and how he lives out in us when we think of ourselves independently. "Just me" and "good me" are equally evil. "Abiding in *you* is the problem, not abiding in Christ."

This talk—available on audio-cassette and soon to be available on CD—is a real gem. Norman so thoroughly explains the foundational truths upon which our union with Christ is understood. Having found these extremely challenging concepts to grasp, I was pleased with the many and varied examples Norman gave. Most meaningful to me was Norman's description of the uniqueness of our Total Truth message, especially the radical impact of Christ on lives. He makes it plain why this is a message "only for the desperate."

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# Rejoice in the Lord Always...

by Kim Langley

It was Monday morning and it was a gray, rainy day, when I was heading to work in my car thinking, “Well, this is perfect! This is the perfect time to apply the truth of who I am in Jesus Christ.” Leaving for work that day I felt downhearted, tired and discouraged! Not much like I thought I *should* feel. However, I knew that this was exactly the opportunity I needed to believe the truth about myself.

I am a Christian, which means I have accepted Christ as my personal saviour. God says that I am “joined to the Lord one spirit” (1 Cor. 6:17). We also know from Galatians 2:20, that since my death and new birth in Him, Jesus Christ is actually living His life through me. The *independent I* that I thought I was, which was really Satan living as me, was crucified with Christ. This means that in situations when I feel negative, I can know that this is just going on in my soul, but the reality is that Christ is right there, as me in my human form, and He is the positive. This is just one small example of dealing with an everyday soul reaction which we all have all the time over lots of different daily situations.

A current situation for me is working toward starting my own business. Not only is this an incredible opportunity to own a business; I will also have the privilege of working within a hugely successful international Christian organisation and serving other women in my community. Whilst this is such a great chance, it is also a big step from

anything I have done before and has presented me with some faith challenges. Most commonly I have felt inadequate and as though *I* don’t have what it takes to do what is required. The truth is that there is no such thing as just an *I* that can do anything!

At times in the past when I have fallen for that lie and acted on it, which is sin, Satan has just confirmed it all the more. If I say, and then act on, ‘I am inadequate,’ the problem is with the ‘I.’ When I believe this statement, because I have bought into an independent *I*, Satan takes over and lives out via my members (Romans 6:13). He then lives out the very thing that I have believed about myself, in this case, that I am inadequate and can’t do whatever I need to do to start a business. Satan makes this a reality by acting those things out and confirming the lie that I have believed.

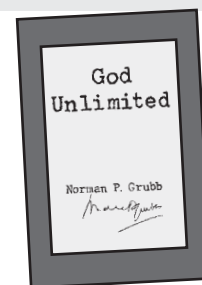
However, when I make a choice to obey God and to believe what He has said about me, this confirms Christ as my reality. I may still *feel* the same way in my soul, but I can rely on Christ as sufficient to do whatever the next thing is that needs to be done. I can trust Him to live out however he chooses, whether it looks successful to me or not. The irony is that once, by the faith of the Son of God, I have affirmed God’s truth about myself and overcome the temptation to believe the lie, then I get on with the task at hand, knowing that it is really Christ as me.

Just to be clear, before I can move

into this right believing with Christ living out freely, if I have chosen into sin then I must confess and repent of this first. Now I am free from the bondage of sin and instead of focusing on my own inadequacies, I focus on what I am doing at this moment. I trust that Christ can handle the job through me and that He is the sufficient One. Then if I start to panic and feel overwhelmed by what I might have to deal with in the future, I just remind myself that there is no “just me” and Jesus Christ can handle whatever comes up, moment by moment.

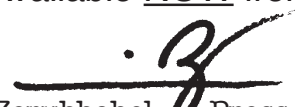
As I write this, it sounds so simple and the truth is, it is! In the midst of all our doubts and negative feelings about ourselves or any given situation, our only responsibility is to recognise who we really are, Jesus Christ, which is what God says about us. Our gray, rainy Mondays are just the negatives that we need to show up the positive One in us!

## Norman Grubb’s God Unlimited



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## Zerubbabel Focus

# My Role in the Ministry...

by Joanna Langley

Some of you might know me as the girl with the British accent who answers the phone when you call Zerubbabel Press to order books or to add a friend to *The Intercessor* mailing list. My name is Joanna Langley and I work for Zerubbabel Inc. as Administrative Manager. I would like to share with you how I came to work for Zerubbabel and what my job entails. I am hoping this article will become a regular feature whereby you can share in the exciting projects God is working on through Zerubbabel.

I'll begin with a little background about myself. I was born in Northampton, England in 1978. I have been attending Zerubbabel Summer camps in Boone, with my family, and visiting friends made at Camp since 1994. I always loved being here and was very sad to say goodbye and return to England. My spiritual family in Boone has been a huge part of my life and have been there for me through hard times and good. I would not be where I am today if it were not for my friends here. Of course we know it is Christ through them; but they have been obedient to living our Total Truth and as a result they have been available vessels for Christ to do his saving work, and I truly have been saved.

I spent the summer of 2004 in Boone. We began discussing the possibility of me working for Zerubbabel. With no full-time staff member, there

was definitely a need. We applied for an H1B visa for me to work here for the next three years. By the end of the summer, my visa waiver was due to expire and so without knowing if my application was successful I had to say my goodbyes and leave town. I settled within myself, on the drive to the airport, that God was in absolute control and whatever the outcome His plans for me were perfect; bringing to mind a favorite verse of mine—Jeremiah 29:11. While waiting to board my plane, I decided to check my email one more time to see if I had been notified of the result of my application. To my delight, I had an email to say that my application was accepted pending an interview at the U.S. Embassy in London!

Once back in England, I took a temporary job while I waited for my interview date at the Embassy to roll around. It took a couple of months but I was glad to be able to spend time with my family before I left. I had to wait five hours at the Embassy for my interview, which lasted no more than five minutes! It was a long wait but well worth every second! The Officer asked me a few quick questions about the work I would be doing and then took my passport and told me it would be mailed back to me with my visa in the next few days! I was ecstatic! God's plan really was for me to move to America and work for Zerubbabel!

I moved to Boone, North Carolina

in November 2004 on my 26th birthday! I started work the next day, and began learning about the current operations of the ministry. Previously, ministry tasks were divided between various members of the body utilizing each person's different skills and gifts. I started gradually taking over these tasks—for example filling book orders, handling correspondence, banking, processing mail, learning the operations and maintenance of existing computer systems, and getting involved with the publishing of *The Intercessor*. I at once set to streamlining various procedures and updating technology in the office. My previous qualifications and experience in business and technology are skills which have proven very useful.

Perhaps a less-significant task, but a rewarding and worthwhile change for me, was to re-vamp the Zerubbabel office. Situated in a basement, with no natural light, plain white walls and grey carpet, it left a lot to be desired! I got some advice on paint color from our resident artist whom some of you will know, Steven Prewitt. The walls got a nice splash of color and the floor got padding and a brand new carpet! With some plants, "natural" light bulbs and better office organization, the office was much improved and a far more pleasant place to work in.

At the same time as learning and updating the smaller, operational-type



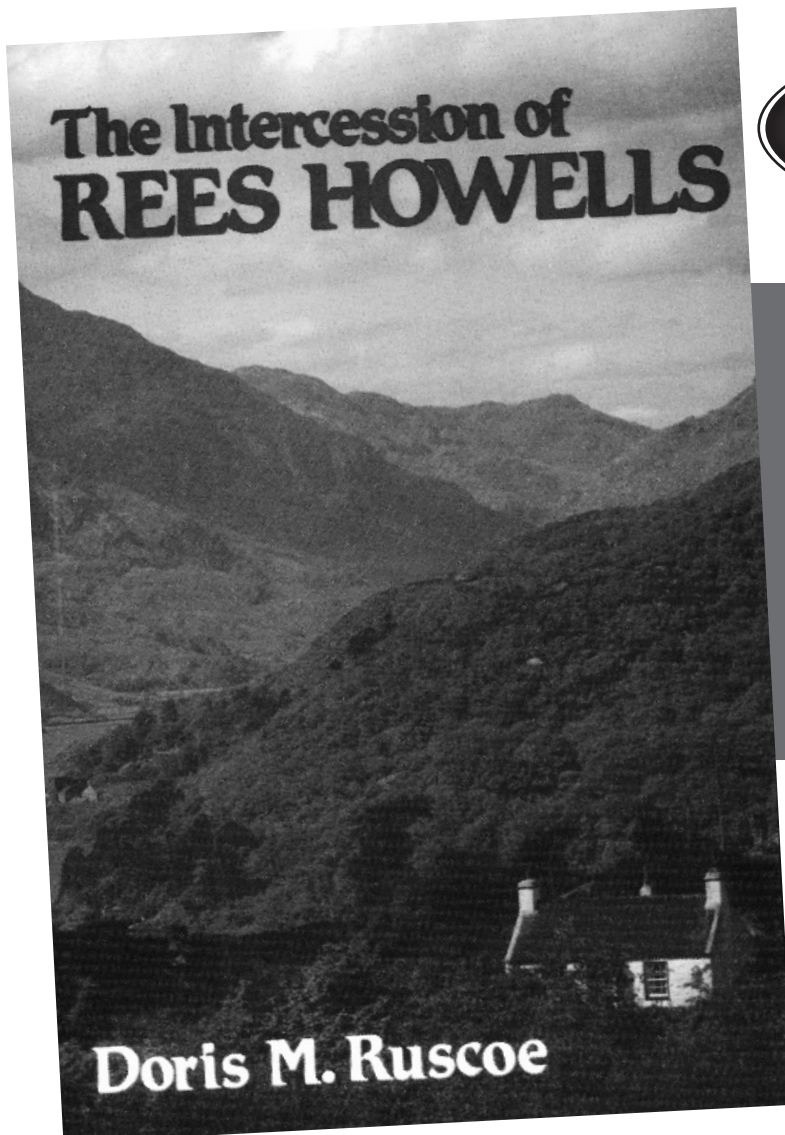
functions of the ministry, there were broader issues to consider too. Over the years, many goals and objectives have been set at Zerubbabel Business meetings; with no one working full-time, progress has been slow. This is where I feel the greatest responsibility in my position here. These goals have been the result of God expressing his thoughts and desires through His vessels here and are all a means by which we can fulfill our commission to “present every man perfect in Christ” (Col.

1:28) and to share the mystery hidden through the ages: “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Col. 1:27).

I began discussing the status of these projects with the various people involved. This was challenging at times as some projects involved various people who all had different involvement; so piecing it together was my first task. I then started taking on responsibility for these projects and continue to work on these today. While it is tempting to tell you about these

projects now, I am going to wait until the next issue of *The Intercessor*, where I will get into the details of these projects and what progress has been made so far. You will notice, however, that the Zerubbabel Press Web site has been launched (see ad on page 14); but more about that next time!

For now I will finish by saying how grateful I am to be here and to be a part of what God is doing through Zerubbabel. I look forward to sharing more with you all in future issues.



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# BIBLE STUDY: The

by Brett Burrowes

## ARMAGEDDON... BENEATH OUR VERY EYES

Most Christians have heard that in the final days before the second coming, there will be a great climactic battle of the world against the saints called Armageddon. But what if I told you that Armageddon has already begun, that the church is already under siege, that you are fighting for your very lives? Oh come on, you'd say, we have a nice comfortable life in the suburbs, the American dream. Battles happen in far off lands like Iraq and Bosnia, but not here. Yet beneath our very eyes, in the spiritual realm, a battle continually rages, one in which, if we are unaware of it, we will surely be defeated. For this is what Ephesians 6:10-17 asserts. Now this battle is not something spectacular in addition to the everyday trials of life but rages within those trials as their inner core and spiritual essence. Spiritual battles may be taking place in such mundane issues as who shall prepare dinner. Every decision we make, and every situation we are in has the potential to become a spiritual battleground, since at every point Satan waits to trap us in his lie of independent self. This lie concerns the very way we perceive reality, our circumstances, even our very selves, and if we are not aware of the means God has provided to counter Satan's tactics, we shall surely lose the battle.

According to Eph. 6:12, our enemy is spiritual. They are not human beings, though it may appear they

are. For if we think that our enemy is our human self or other human beings, no matter how horrible or evil their actions, we will lose the battle that really counts. We must not fail to recognize that we are fighting the battle with the spirit which operates in persons, and not with the persons themselves. They are only the vessel which Satan has taken over through their choice. To think that

**Choice involves recognizable alternatives. This is the fundamental law of opposites: we can only know something by comparing and contrasting it with something else. We can only know hot because we know cold. We can know one state of emotion like anger because we have other emotions with which to contrast it.**

we are fighting the battle against mere human beings is to treat them as independent selves, and thus to be defeated already by the devil.

## SATAN'S SPIRITS ARE AT WORK TO DESTROY

In addition, Satan has a vast array of evil angelic spirits at his disposal and direction (Eph. 6:12). They surround and press in on us on all sides like Pharaoh's armies surrounded Israel on the shore of the Red Sea. This host of evil spirits seeks to purge

the earth of this new human race, the new creation, by means of their own program of ethnic cleansing, just as the Serbs have attempted to purge the Bosnians from their land. All the devil's schemes have this as their ultimate purpose and goal—to destroy and incapacitate the people of God. These spirits are the true rulers of our society and culture. They powerfully influence and guide the prevailing moral and spiritual values of our culture and attempt to destroy the church through moral compromise. They distort our culture's perception of spiritual reality, causing many to disbelieve the truth about God and themselves as revealed in the Scriptures, desiring to corrupt the church with false doctrine and to weaken its faith in divine revelation. They direct society in a program of rebellion against God and hostility towards His people, to harass and persecute them. This is less prevalent in our society, but much more common in Communist countries and countries where other religions predominate, such as India, Nepal, and Moslem countries. They inspire resentful and grudge-bearing Christians to promote division and disunity in the church in whatever way possible. Any self-centered and unsubmitive attitude will be exploited by these powers to the detriment of the body of Christ.

Human beings and institutions function as the instruments and vessels of these evil powers in their

# Battle Is Joined

attack upon the church. The state may be used to persecute Christians openly. Schools may be used to destroy our children's morals and their belief in the truth of the gospel, either directly, through the teaching of immoral behavior, or indirectly, through peer pressure. False teachers are sent to deceive those inside and outside the church. We know of the existence of the cults, which seek to convert uninformed new Christians to their beliefs. In fact, on the mission field, the success of the cults has often been at the expense of the church, as they sway recent converts to their point of view. But false teaching also goes on inside the church. Even believers may become its instruments by believing Satan's lie of independent self.

## THE SPIRIT BATTLE BEGAN WHEN SATAN WAS DEFEATED

This battle began when Christ decisively defeated Satan and his angels at the cross (Col. 2:15; Eph. 1:21). With His death and resurrection, Christ triumphed over them, and broke their grasp over humanity and over creation (Heb. 2:14-15). But the war is not yet over. Just as World War II had its D-day, when we decisively defeated the Nazis and gained the beachhead at Normandy, so Christ's defeat of the powers was decisive, but not final. There was another year of hard fighting in World War II until the day of victory, or V-day, came. This is true of our

battle also, for although Christ has won the decisive battle for us, the church is still threatened by the devil and his evil powers. The war is not yet won, even though we know that we are destined to win.

We must recognize fully the power of our enemy. They possess vast intelligence in executing their stratagems against the church. They are invisible and incredibly deceptive, hiding behind human instruments, whom we are tempted to believe are

**We cannot actually choose to be independent selves; that is the lie. All we get to choose is our view or perception of ourselves, and by that choice we determine what spirit operates us.**

mere independent selves acting on their own. Since our enemy is so overwhelmingly powerful, we must find a way to defend ourselves.

## GOD SUPPLIES THE FULL ARMOR FOR BATTLE

The battle can only be fought with the armor and weapons that God provides (Eph. 6:11,13-17). In order to do this, we must acknowledge our utter defenselessness against these powers, and that we are unable to resist them in our own strength. Only then are we ready to appropriate and completely depend upon the full armor of God for our defense. Alcoholics Anonymous recognizes

that acknowledging one's powerlessness is the first step in winning the battle against alcohol. This holds true not only for addictions, but for all spiritual battles. We cannot overcome the enemy in our own strength, for such strength is an illusion. We are not independent selves who possess strength.

This armor consists of the attributes of God as He goes forth to defend and deliver His people as the Divine Warrior (Is. 59:15-17); it is not merely given by God as if it were something separable from Himself. The armor *is* God. Through the indwelling Spirit, God enables us to participate in His own qualities of truth, righteousness, peace, and power, in order to resist the enemy. God's own presence within us is the armor, if we faithfully act in accordance with what we know to be the truth, namely that Christ Himself is living His life in us, we trust Him to do so (Gal. 2:20).

Each part of the armor of God protects us against a specific objective of our enemy, and only in taking up the whole armor of God can we defend ourselves. Girded with the belt of truth, we are protected against the false teaching of the devil. When a warrior girded his loins, he made sure his robe or garment was fastened securely above the knees, so that he would not trip in battle. Thus girding one's loins meant being prepared for attack and ready to move

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# Breaking Free From Sexual Sin: *First Steps*

*Below is an email dialogue initiated by a brother in Christ who recently made a choice to break free from sexual sin. As the emails show, this brother confessed to a group of fellow believers and turned to them for support, encouragement, and accountability. In addition to the emails, these men met regularly and spoke on the phone often.*

*Incidentally, the emails refer to resources that would be helpful for anyone honestly ready to be free of sexual sin. The emails themselves, however, are not shared here as a how-to, but rather as a candid testimony and an account of the open confession, honesty, and accountability that are the first steps to experiencing God's healing and restoration.*

*For obvious reasons, the names of those involved in the email dialogue have been changed.*

From: Paul  
To: John, Carl, Mark, Joe, Ken, Sean  
Date: April 6

Guys,

I'm e-mailing about an issue of sexual sin that I've been struggling with. On this list are Mark, Carl, Joe, and John from the Local Bible study, and Sean and Ken from North Carolina. I think I've talked with most of you at one time or another about this issue, but wanted to get everyone up to date as I ask for your collective help. I think Joe and John know the least about this, so let me just give them the quick background:

I've struggled with "everyman's battle" of uncontrolled lust and masturbation since about the 4th grade.

Sometime around high school I was introduced to my first porn flick, and then with the rise of the internet and the infinite accessibility and privacy it offers, I've become increasingly ensnared by online porn over the past 4-5 years. I've made lots of efforts to beat this on my own, and have generally gotten nowhere—just a lot of repeated cycles of trying and failing. In the past year, with the advent of our Bible study, I've actually confessed the sin to a few guys like Mark, Carl, and Sean, and have initiated some very minimal accountability. I kind of thought I was going to be successful just on the momentum of having a few people know about it, and so I really did not put any serious effort into developing accountability relationships on the issue. I think I

also was not ready to do whatever it takes to stop, and so I wanted to keep as many "back doors" open for myself as possible.

That's the background. Most recently, I had installed some "accountability software" on my computer that was supposed to send Mark and Carl regular e-mail updates about what kind of websites I was visiting. This gave me and them a false sense that all was well for a little while. Then, a couple of weeks ago I actually figured out how to get around the software and get online without it knowing. So I fell down again. Then two things happened: 1) I was very moved by Mark's recent confession of his own sin and how the long chain of events related to this same issue ultimately led him into the unfortunate place he wound up in, and 2) Carl congratulated me at Bible study a couple of weeks ago for "doing so well" according to the accountability software—needless to say, I was very ashamed, and ended up confessing to him and Mark what was really going on.

I've been clean now since the confession to Carl and Mark on 3/22. But I know that I won't be able to stay clean without some serious help. I started talking to Carl and Mark about this, and they were challenging me to get rid of internet connectivity in my house altogether. I had some very

strong emotional responses to this idea—the internet is a huge part of my life now and I really couldn't imagine how I could give it up, and didn't want to believe it was even necessary. This is still a very hard thing for me—I go back and forth.

But this past Tuesday I had a very long conversation with Sean and Ken. For those who know, Sean is my best friend. It was actually God's grace through Sean that brought me to Christ in the first place several years ago, and his spiritual guidance and friendship have been absolutely invaluable to me in my life. Ken is a friend of Sean's whom I have met once or twice. He has struggled with sexual sin for many years in his own life. He has recently made some very difficult choices in order to deal with it in a right Christian way, and God has blessed him with much success. As a result, he has felt a calling to give back and help others with this problem, offering insights and encouragement from his own experience. Anyway, I had a very long conversation with both of them on Tuesday. I was so stubborn bastard but they were gracious and patient yet insistent on what they believe will be best for me. The end result is that I've committed to giving up control of my situation for a while here and putting it in the hands of people I trust, including all of you. I'm going to give up internet connectivity in my apartment and explore a lot of other changes, too. I'm also going to seek serious accountability from all of you if you are willing to help me out.

What are next steps? Well, one issue for me is that there are some difficult details to work out regarding the

internet access issue. Because of certain work and life obligations, it's logistically hard for me to abandon connectivity completely, even if I'm willing. A plan I've come up with together with Sean and Ken would involve some help from the local guys: I would like to continue to pay for my internet service, but turn over all of my connection hardware (including modem, router, wireless network card, etc.) to you guys. I'm hoping that then every once in a while—perhaps weekly in conjunction with Bible study—you could bring the stuff over and allow me to log on in your presence and take care of any issues that have come up over the past week that require me to have access on my personal computer. Also, once in a while, if I'm working on some sort of project for work that requires me to be on my computer with continuous access for a little while, I'm hoping someone in the study might be able to come over for a couple of hours and just hang out and watch a movie or something while I do what I need to do. I'm anticipating that this situation would be pretty rare.

In addition to the internet thing, I'm hoping everyone will check in with me from time to time or ask me about this when you see me in an effort to hold me accountable. The more people involved, the better, and I will probably make the whole Bible study aware of the issue at some point. For now, though, you guys are the core group that I'd really like to be involved if you are willing. And I'll naturally be looking to Sean as the main man to guide me for now and call the shots on what he thinks is best for me.

So that's it, guys! Sorry for the long e-mail!! (one benefit to all of you with this situation is that there will be a lot less of my long, wordy e-mails floating around out there... :)

Write me back if you get a chance and let me know if you're willing to help out at all. And anything is appreciated—even if you just ask me about it once in a while. I don't need everyone to offer to move in with me or anything! (Although getting John into the apartment opening on the second floor here might be a perfect intervention... :)

Thanks guys, and God bless!

Paul

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From: Joe

To: Paul, John, Carl, Mark, Ken, Sean

Date: April 6

Paul,

Yes, I know that I hit "reply all." Chalk talk...I want to thank you for the email (which will soon be ending as a pattern of common life, for you...) and for the conversation—you have encouraged me a lot with your honesty. You have put yourself out to be vulnerable—wow. Talk about the love of Jesus overshadowing all fears. Thanks, Paul, for putting Christ's love to the test—I assure you that He will not let you down. I will try my best, with His help, not to let you down either. See you tomorrow night. Again, thanks!

Lord bless you.

Joe

From: Carl  
To: Paul, John, Mark, Joe, Ken, Sean  
Date: April 7

Hey Paul,

I'm in. The next time we meet, we can talk specific logistics!

You are not alone. You are prayed for. God has a great plan. Since we are having an open and honest talk—I need to ask you if you are still having communication with your ex-girlfriend—the one who was behind the depression years back? If so, that is an issue in this whole thing. We might need to address that as well. If you keep tearing open a wound, it will never heal—we gotta get some salt in there, clean it, bandage it, and allow it to heal.

Paul, you're our brother—we are each other's keeper—to be sappy—if you die man, we die. One body, one faith, one hope, one love. Your struggle is my struggle. My struggle is your struggle.

Talk to you soon.  
Carl

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From: John  
To: Paul, Carl, Mark, Joe, Ken, Sean  
Date: April 7

Hey Bro- (and bros)

I echo what Carl wrote. You are loved Paul and your struggles are our struggles and vice versa. If we cannot depend on one another in these times, who can we depend on? I commend the steps that you've been taking and I

know that God honors our obedience. You know that I have sexual sin struggles myself and your obedience to Christ through the words and advice of your brothers is an encouragement to me. I think that it's worthwhile to sit down soon as family and determine the strategies for not only you Paul, but for all of us who share in sexual struggle. Know that you can count on me and my phone is always on and my ears are always open. I'm praying for you bro and I look forward to talking to you in person soon about this.

Your bro in the battle-  
John

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From: Mark  
To: Paul, Carl, John, Joe, Ken, Sean  
Date: April 7

Paul,

It is awesome to see how the Lord is prompting you to move urgently and strategically on this. Praise God, you know I have been humbled greatly regarding this area and am there to be a support in anyway I can. I really feel that it is going to require us to up the ante on the communication lines as we all have moments where we will need follow through as well...I'm at the library as we speak typing a paper where I can access impure material. I had to call my buddy to check in and make sure I've "kept clean" during it! I look forward to seeing what it looks like to have more guys I can call during these more random moments and that can call me as it is a spiritual battle field and we can use this technology

for good sometimes.

On the note of being challenged the Lord has been speaking to me regarding...*The Rich Young Man* [Editor's Note: Luke 18:18-30 quoted in original, left out here for brevity].

I'm not advocating adding our own spins to the Bible but I can't help but think if we included a "home with internet access" to the underlined part in verse 29 [So He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life]. Jesus is telling us in order to follow Him we will be leaving the things most dear and close to us in this world. To me it was my family when I first heard the "good news" and 3 years ago it was internet in my apartment, now it is my pride and neediness to be adored and respected by others as well as finding my purpose in being a servantaholic. Like you and I talked about Paul, giving up the internet will not be the end all but that doesn't mean that it isn't what you might need to leave now and today—out of your house. But the Lord urges us to commit suicide to our sinful/carnal/fleshly/world side each day and if that does not happen Genesis 4:7 says, "But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it." I'm excited to hear that you are doing this and exploring what it looks like for you. Maybe this will give us guys at the study an opportunity to be closer as brothers while hanging out at Paul's watching movies... .

Okay, okay, I'll get off my pulpit!!!! Again thanks Paul and look forward to hearing how I can specifically fit into this...

Mark

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From: Paul  
To: John, Carl, Mark, Joe, Ken, Sean  
Date: April 7

Guys,

Thank you so much for your support!! I really appreciate the e-mails and phone calls -- it means a lot. It can be easy to get discouraged about this struggle, but I'm really feeling optimistic now about beating this with all of your help. I keep thinking about 1 John 1:7 (our official blog quote!): "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." I feel like one of the most important and helpful parts of this is just throwing open the closet doors and letting the light in, airing it all out, and getting a bunch of people involved with openness and honesty.

I've also been thinking about Matthew 16:25—"For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it." I got rid of my desktop background and replaced it with that quote in big bold letters, so it will be there for me any time I want to feel mad about not being able to get on the internet... :)

Anyway, to update you on details, I've been taking care of some last minute logistical items on the internet

(e.g. changing over my e-mail to a new web-based account, updating my bank accounts, credit cards, etc.). I will likely cancel my DSL access tomorrow and turn over my wireless adaptor to someone so that I can't pick up any connections from my neighbors. At some point I will be getting cable internet access—it was supposed to be set up today but it didn't work and they need to send a technician out Tuesday afternoon to do something with the line. Once that gets working (hopefully Tuesday) I will give someone the cable modem. Then from then on I can just have someone bring the cable modem to Bible study every once in a while.

In the meantime, increased contact is helpful so I don't get tempted while I still have the connection here (honestly speaking, I feel okay in that regard right now. I'm already feeling tempted to the other thing, but have not felt in any danger of going online right now. That doesn't mean I'm not still taking the risk seriously, though.) Other items of note -- for the past 2-3 days I've been trying to "bounce my eyes" as I encounter women out in the world, on TV, magazines, etc.) Already God is showing me just how pervasive lust has been in my life without my even realizing it—all the second (and third and fourth!) glances I used to take, etc. Also part of the plan is that I'm going to start reading a book called *Breaking Free: Understanding Sexual Sin and the Healing Power of Jesus*, by Russell Willingham. Ken recommended this one. If anyone else wants to pick up a copy and read along with me, feel free. Also, John mentioned that he has some resources from John Piper that he found very helpful—we may look at

those, too.

Alright guys, thanks again for your support in this!!!!!!

Paul

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From: Paul  
To: John, Carl, Mark, Joe, Ken, Sean  
Date: April 10

Hello all,

Just a quick update to say I am now disconnected, which is good. Also of note, John lent me a book called *Sex and the Supremacy of Christ*, by John Piper. It comes with a DVD that has two sermons he gave at a conference on sexual sin. Wow! It was very inspiring, and a great Biblical message. Very good stuff—we all might benefit from watching this together and talking about it. I'm starting to dig into the book as well... .

That's all for now. See most of you guys on Wednesday,  
Paul

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From: John  
To: Paul, Carl, Mark, Joe, Ken, Sean  
Date: April 10

Guys,

I am attempting to meet with Mark tonight to see if we can step aside from the study for 4-6 weeks and do a series on sexual purity and the Biblical perspective on sex. If that pans out, we can incorporate the DVD messages

into that. I think it would be awesome for the entire group. Look forward to seeing you all Wednesday.

John

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From: Ken

To: Paul, John, Carl, Mark, Joe, Sean

Date: April 11

Paul,

Ken here. I am sorry I have not responded sooner. I am very encouraged by the steps you have made. I felt it a privilege to speak with you last week and to share my struggles and offer any insight into how to stop the cycle. Many times in my life I thought, there is no way I can stop this (sexual sin), now I have to remind myself that I have stopped and I can stay stopped. There is no question that you are in the most critical phase in this process. My biggest advice right now to you is to keep doing what you are doing... meaning stay accountable and in close contact with one of your friends. You have to keep the mo going, so that some day soon you can realize that “Hey I really can stop and stay stopped.” And of course the “I” is really Christ himself living out by me (Gal. 2:20).

One of my favorite emphases in the Bible is the one on obedience. In Phil. Ch. 2, it talks about the obedience of Christ, to the point of Jesus dying on the cross sin-free and completely innocent. It says therefore God exalted Him to the highest place so that every knee should bow and cry out his name. Does God have to do

this for us? Definitely not, however His love works both ways, there are consequences to our sin, so that hopefully we will stop and not be cut off from God, and He has a way of confirming our obedience and where our heart is. Experiencing this has been as important as stopping the sin. But, I could not have done any of this without people like Sean and others, who by God working through them, has held me accountable. Obviously, you will need to continue to be brutally honest and open and trusting to be ultimately free of the bondage that has held you for so long. I say all this to you in all humility because I have been exactly where you are and still am in many ways. I love that you are surrounded by brothers in Christ who care and want God’s highest and best for you.

Your brother in Christ,  
Ken

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From: Paul

To: John, Carl, Mark, Joe, Ken, Sean

Date: April 17

Hey guys,

Just a quick note to wish you all a Happy Easter and to update you all on my progress. Things are going very well! God has been very gracious to me, especially through all of you! I have been completely “clean” for a good five weeks now, which is a long time for me given my past track record. Also, I don’t quite know how to explain this part, but I feel I’m also past my usual point of failure. In the

past, whenever I’ve made serious efforts to get clean, it often has seemed as though God granted me some brief reprieve from temptation, but then when the first pangs of real serious temptation would hit me again, I would promptly collapse. Well, I went through an initial “easier” period again this time, and then more recently have started to encounter those waves of really strong temptation again. Only this time God’s support feels different (largely because of YOUR presence and support!!), and I haven’t caved in but rather have started to settle in to living with that strong temptation and NOT giving in to it. I know I’m still incredibly vulnerable (I think Paul says something to the effect of “whenever I want to do good, I know that evil is close at hand”) and I continue to be held up by grace alone, but still it does give some significant confidence just to think “Hey, it IS possible—I’m actually doing it—I’m NOT giving in and it hasn’t caused me to die or burst into flames yet! In fact, I’m getting along okay...” So anyway... .

On a more logistical note, I’ve been living without home internet for over a week now, and amazingly that has not caused me to spontaneously combust either! In fact, while there has definitely been some inconvenience, I’m finding it to be not as bad as I imagined, and God has used it to open up some other great opportunities for me. For example, I now have a lot more time to read, call friends, etc. I also went out and bought a bike, and I’m getting excited about using it for a little exercise and outdoors time.

Also of note, I’ve been digging into two great books: *Breaking Free* by Russell Willingham, and *Sex and the*



*Supremacy of Christ* by John Piper et al. Both books are exactly the kind of thing I needed to read—strong Biblical grounding, with bold and direct discussion of the real underlying issues that lead to entanglement in sexual sin. They are both helping me to look beyond the surface of this issue to its real spiritual roots, and that is creating a lot of potential for growth for me. If anyone else wants to read along with me and discuss the books in more depth, I think we could really get something good out of them!

Anyway, all that to say thanks to God for His grace and the good things He is doing for me, and thanks to all of you for your help and support! Please continue to hang with me, as I imagine that dangerous times will crop up further down the road if I get complacent or if people stop asking me about it and allow me to start to feel “anonymous” again.

Alright guys, talk to you soon,  
Paul

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From: Sean  
To: Paul, Ken, Mark, John, Carl, Joe  
Date: April 17

Thanks for the note bro. Very encouraging. One thought—I agree that complacency is dangerous. Also be careful not to put the responsibility on others to keep you straight by asking you about it. I certainly hope that everyone will continue to support and encourage you, but even if everyone else falls away, you are still responsible!

Sean

From: Carl  
To: Paul, Ken, Mark, John, Sean, Joe  
Date: April 18

Hey Paul,

Praise God. I know from personal experience how frustrating it can be to sometimes feel like you are taking one step forward, two steps back, and it is awesome to see that you have taken two steps forward. I am constantly reminded of how growth produces friction. Just think, you are going to be a great help to those around you who struggle with the same thing—you are experiencing a struggle that is being undergone by literally millions of people, and God is showing you that He can do it—if you let Him. One day at a time. We always tell the guys here in the recovery program, don’t worry about tomorrow—just stay clean for this hour. Once you make it through this hour, focus on next hour—and it graduates from there.

I’m sorry that I missed you at Bible study last Wednesday—I was sick. I didn’t get a chance to ask you about your former girlfriend—have you cut that off completely yet, or are you still maintaining contact? Gotta ask the tough questions.

Carl

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From: Mark  
To: Paul, Ken, Sean, John, Carl, Joe  
Date: April 17

Great to hear Paul. You know I’m right there with you man, each day of victory is an encouragement and bless-

ing as long as we never forget the grace of Christ like you mentioned. It’s too easy to accept standards the world sets for us; when we attempt to be right with the Lord and repent, life becomes more of a battlefield with quiet lulls before the storm like you might be experiencing. I hope we can continue praying for one another during these times. And Paul, thanks for keeping us posted and please continue to do so.

Hasta,  
Mark

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From: Paul  
To: Sean, Ken, Mark, John, Carl, Joe  
Date: April 17

Hey guys—thanks for the thoughts and encouragement. Carl—sorry, I forgot to respond to your question before. I don’t really have any significant ongoing contact with her. For the past 2-3 years I’d say I’ve e-mailed her once or twice a year to see what she is up to. I don’t really need to continue doing that, though—the response is usually pretty unsatisfying anyway! :) Last contact was back in September when I had heard she was engaged and I wrote her a note to say congrats and find out if she had decided on a career after school yet. Anyway, I will just consider it to be no more contact from now on. There was a time (about three years ago) when permanently cutting off contact felt like it would be really hard for me, but now it’s no big deal at all.

Thanks again for the continued encouragement, guys!

Paul

From: Paul

To: Sean, Ken, Mark, John, Carl, Joe

Date: May 25

Hey guys!

I talked to Sean for a long time last night, but I need to confess something to you guys as well (with some background for those I haven't talked to so much since initial emails on the topic). With the sexual sin we were discussing, God gave me much success through his grace at first, and I was really excited to share this with all of you—I think I brought it up at the study about two weeks ago. I made it out two full months completely clean of any pornography whatsoever or any masturbation, and even the manifestations of lust in my thoughts, my “eye behavior,” etc., had really changed. This was really incredible for me! Unfortunately, earlier this week I fell down again. I was on vacation and spent a good portion of it alone at the shore. Faced with what was probably way too much free time and alone time on my hands, I wound up caving in to some intense temptation and acting out.

I, of course, feel terrible about the fact that I made the choice to sin again, and I feel quite a bit of right Godly shame about it. I was particularly disappointed to lose an opportunity to continue encouraging any of you with the success that God was giving me on this issue. Actually, it is toward that end that I decided I'd like to e-mail you all about it. For one thing, I want to confess in an effort to be more “transparent” to all of you, as Bob encouraged us to do. For another, as any of you know who have struggled

with this same problem, the period right after any kind of failure is absolutely prime time for Satan to send you slip-sliding right on down the slippery slope back into a whole world of sin and despair again. I'd like to avoid that slip-slide! and confessing like this feels like a way to provide a little but-tress and spark of momentum to get me going back in the right direction again instead of continuing in the wrong one.

Finally, I hope my experiences might be helpful to others of you! I certainly did not need to make the choice to sin, and I regret that I did. But I know that God's purpose will still be done through it—he will turn it into good somehow for me, and perhaps for you, too! Toward that end, here are two little thoughts or lessons learned from my recent experience that might be helpful to others:

1) All sin is isolating. Aloneness puts us at a greater risk to sin because Satan gets us in a corner where he can work on us one-on-one. Then sin itself can cause you to feel shame and to isolate yourself further, worsening the cycle. Fellowship and openness is what really breaks through this cycle. I know/knew this, but practically speaking I made a mistake of thinking I could handle a whole lot of free time on my own with nothing to do but sit around and think. I'm going to be much more careful about getting into a situation like that again, and would recommend you think about that too if you are struggling with this problem! Mark has really underscored this point for me recently in a very nice e-mail—thanks Mark!

2) All sin stems from a primary act of unbelief. It's not really about your self failing to make a correct moral

choice. The spiritual fact is, there is no independent self on which we must rely! As Galatians 2:20 and the obligatory Romans 7 and 8 tell us, through our faith it is no longer we that live, but Christ that lives in us. And as the Lord told Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:9, “My grace is sufficient for you.” Or as He promises us in 1 Corinthians 10:13, “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.” I gave in recently because I allowed myself to believe Satan's lie that told me that I couldn't bear the temptation any longer and that my only choice was to give in to it. This is a frank lie that is in direct contradiction with what we know to be the facts: there is no me but Christ that lives in me; Christ bore all temptations and never sinned; God's grace through Christ in us is sufficient for us to avoid sin; and God does not ever allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear with His grace—He always provides a way out. I know I had ways out that were available to me, but chose to sin because of this primary act of unbelief—the belief that I was fighting it on my own and couldn't handle it anymore. I hope I will make better choices in the future that reflect a true reliance on God's grace! I'm indebted to Sean for the understanding of this point, and frankly I probably mucked it all up. Sean, please jump in if I said it wrong or if you can say it better!

That's all for now, guys! See you all soon,  
Paul

From: Sean  
 To: Paul, Ken, Mark, John, Carl, Joe  
 Date: May 26

Paul,

Sorry for the delay. No jumping in needed bro! You got it. Like we talked about the other night, ALL sin for those of us who are Christians always starts with a lie (authored by Satan) we choose to believe about ourselves—that we are somehow independently operating selves rather than vessels of the Holy Spirit and indeed expressions of Christ Himself. The lie can be dressed up in any number of ways: *I* can't help it, *I* feel like acting out, or even the “positive” *I'm* doing better, *I* can resist. At the source of each of these statements is false belief or false understanding about who the “I” really is. Most of the world, even most the Christian world, think the “I” is just an alone me out there in the universe, trying to do right, failing a lot, relying on God for help sometimes more than others. This simply isn't true. Scripture makes it very clear that as Christians we are simply vessels through which God lives out *His* desires and purposes (Gal. 2:20, 1 John 4:6).

When Satan shoots his darts at the believer, he is in one way or another trying to convince us of that false alone “I” rather than the Christ-I scripture tells us we really are. This is the only way Satan can knock us off our footing and effectively “take the reigns” and lead us into sin. If we are seeing ourselves for who we really are—vessels containing and expressing God Himself, then we know that we are whole, complete, and needing nothing. We have no false needs or deficiencies or wants. Of course we

still feel or experience temptation, but by standing in the truth (which is simply faith lived out), Christ is in control—and He doesn't give in! And this is the really where the battle against sin by the believer is won. It's not in self-effort, praying more, sacrificing more, studying more, serving more, etc, but in the simple effortless decision to trust and believe in this moment.

Thanks so much for your openness and honesty bro. You are such an encouragement and to so many others too. Just keep sticking to the truth! It's such a privilege be a part of this conversation, and it's such great discipline to—it's the strategizing in the war room before the imminent battle. Let's keep it going.

Sean

### The Price of Victory

*I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, that I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:*

—Romans 9:1-3

The apostle Paul had such a burden for his own people that he said he would be willing to be accursed for their sake, if that would save them. Only one man before him said a thing like that—Moses. God has not made this test too plain so that men will not dabble with it. The apostle fulfilled his own word and “laid aside every weight to run this race and win this prize.” He said, “What things were gain to me those I counted loss for Christ. Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and do count them but dung that I may win Christ” (Philippians 3:7, 8, 9), and again, “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death” (Philippians 3:10).

—from *The Intercession of Rees Howells*  
 by Doris Ruscoe

# Letters from Norman...

*The Worldwide  
Evangelization*

C. T. STUDD, Founder



*Crusade*

Office of  
NORMAN P. GRUBB

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
BOX A - FORT WASHINGTON, PA. 19034  
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Sept. 27. 81

Dear Folks,

Among so many loving letters I received is one from one of us with whom I had been very close since she first launched out to Congo, and we have shared mountains of correspondence through the years, so you will understand my writing her in specially endearing terms.

But as she so openly shared with me that "it is true that I do not express things in quite the way you Union Life people do, and I do have those reservations about the spiritual wisdom of replacing the CONTAINER aspect 'Christ living in me' with this strong emphasis in the BEING aspect 'Christ is me,' God's ministry through me is increasingly Gal. 2.20, when I remain the CONTAINER as in 2 Cor. 4.7 carrying the light of the world to those in darkness, letting Him shine out of the lamp—Matt. 5.16 & Phil. 2.15."

As she so beautifully and clearly put what I think many Weccers and others also think, I am going to be very bold and send you my answer and explanation (in my execrable typing!), to that part of the letter and mine to hers. I am bold to do this, and believe she won't mind my doing it, because I am so sure she is saying in one sentence what so many are saying, and I am so grateful to her for coming right out with it in a sentence (though I am taking many sentences in answering); and I also realise that the Lord might give me my glorious calling to Himself any time, so that I want to take any final opportunity of sharing specially with my Weccers what God has made so real from the Scriptures and the Spirit, and has really been so much my message since God gave Pauline and me such a part in the rebuilding of our precious WEC.

So this comes with my love and word of explanation.

My precious Lorraine,

It was lovely getting such a letter from you yesterday, and though there are many precious loving letters coming in, some call for an immediate answer.

Yes, thank you for your caring love for both Pauline and me, and sharing our joy for her at home with her Loved One, and I, though of course missing her, rejoicing in the marvel of our 62 years in the Lord's calling. In addition to our praise time when putting the body in the ground, and then in our home, I was asked to have a "memorial" time on Sun. afternoon because there were so many younger ones who knew so little of her. So I had some freedom and I really turned it into shewing how step by step the Lord got us first in our "whole" relationship with Himself (describing the various stages), and then our married life as part of the joyful "living sacrifice," and then on to leadings into the total faith life etc. from 1931 onward. They tell me the younger folk listened intently and word came back of some greatly quickened.

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# The Worldwide Evangelization

C. T. STUDD, Founder



# Crusade

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You see, you really hit the spot when you say your calling is to emphasise us as “container” of Him, rather than in the more “dangerous emphasis on BEING ‘Christ is me.’” How I love you that as a Weccer you put the whole thing in one right nut shell, though I will hasten to say we don’t say “Christ is me,” though we sometimes may seem to. Of course HE only is our GLORIOUS ETERNAL CHRIST, but we do mean we are Christ in our form. You see, it is actually something we strongly say that we do not remain “pots” “container” (and they have now asked me to write on that for our Union Life mag!), because we are not “pots,”—containers, but “persons”. In other words, the container reality is the middle term of our famous Gal.2.20 (I live, yet, not I, but Christ lives in me); whereas Paul (and we by grace) move right on to the third and last term—“the life I now live I live...” Back from pot (container) to person!!

Indeed I have written my last book YES I AM just to seek to tackle this paradox to its roots, and will hopefully send you a copy when it comes in the Spring, You see our point is that the human self is in one sense for ever just the container—vessel, branch, temple, slave (Rom.6.16-23), body-member, and thus we actually have no “human nature,” merely vast human potential (like a computer). But our nature has always been which Deity expresses himself by us and his nature. From the Fall the symbol of course of eating a fruit (which becomes you within), the spirit of error began to live his life in us (Eph.2:1-3) (the father’s nature): 2 Cor.4:4; and above all Jesus’ own word “you are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do” (John 8.44)—not our lusts, but his lusts! And the same in 1 John 3:8-12 heading up in Cain “of that wicked one.” But Satan has duped us into thinking it is our human selves operating ourselves. His lie of independence.

And then by the precious blood, our outer sins and their consequences are blotted out; and by His Body (which was our body wherein this spirit of error operated his nature), God actually MADE HIM SIN for us—how can we take that in, for sin is Satan expressing his satanic self-hood by us as us in our bodies. So His body was “made sin.” And then by body death out went that sin-spirit in its nature (Rom.6.10 etc); and so in our faith union out he went from being the operating god by us; and in the resurrection in came His own spirit of truth and His nature (2 Pet.1:4).

So then we first have to “see” our position as you say, as “containers” which we are for ever, in order, via Rom.7, to be released from the false concept that we ran our own lives by self-effort, and to “see” that very self-effort was Satan, who is self for self, operating in us (Rom.7:17,20). So as containers we now see we have exchanged inner “Gods,” (that false phony god of this world, of course, for the Living God); and now are real human persons operating in our full liberated humanity as persons, yet knowing (through that middle term of Gal.2:20) that it is for ever really He, not we; and now accept ourselves back as operating persons! Isn’t that precisely what Jesus was—a total MAN in total human operation as a conscious Self, saying “I am, I am,” yet then always saying “I know and do nothing by Myself, and if you see Me you see the Father”; and then I

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John 4:17 for us.

So you see, our "struggle" is how to put this paradox into words. We are more than containers. We are actually persons in His image, operating as conscious persons (and my Lorraine has surely been that all these glorious years!), and yet, yet, yet, it is NOT WE, BUT HE. So we struggle to say it as we are Christ in our human forms, with all the risk of being misunderstood as if we are saying we are Christ (which of course is of all things laughable, because when you finally know you were never more than a "container" with all those Bible symbols of our container-hood, and you have "died" to any false deceived concept of being something by ourselves, then we know we cannot be Christ or God) and if anyone seems to imply they think we say that, they really judge themselves as those who might think it of themselves! Whereas for us it is LAUGHABLY IMPOSSIBLE!

So, I am saying that though your calling has been gloriously to underline the "container" aspect and have this glorious fruit among those girls (and it is necessary we have a time regarding ourselves as container), yet in the maturity we "see" what you so blessedly are, that you ARE Lorraine spontaneously expressing Christ in your Lorraine form, even as you (me) did once express Satan. See even what Jesus called his loved Peter in Matt. 16:23!

So I love to have the chance of sharing this with you because we have had those precious "open" years together, and this is precisely what I have spoken and stood for all my WEC days and built WEC on from 1931, and we express that same boldness of Caleb, "let us go up...for we are well able." Peter's "such as I have give I thee" etc.

So I say we are actually giving the two sides of that precious Gal. 2.20 coin; and you really give and live the final side, only your ministry has been the middle one! But, and I see it as the Lord, I somehow so put that, that my precious WEC has rejected it and me, and really think I've somehow gone off the deep-end doctrinally, whereas I deeply believe we are "right on" (though sometimes not in our lame expression of it), and I long to get it back over to our Weccers, because I know many labor in struggles with self-life or how to confront and handle Satan in outer life and others (another precious reality as in terms of Jesus' word to Pilate—John 19:11); and I can't share with them. They are hidden when challenged with "that's another question": unfazed except by you in your letter! And of course I see God has used this kind of "excommunication" from ministry to WEC to open what is already a nation (on a small scale) and to become international (to the whole church) message which we call "Union Life." And nothing different from what I have stood for in WEC these 60 years!!

So thank you for letting me share this and pour it out to you just because we have in past days been such total co-sharers.

Jesus said, not "you have the light," but "You ARE the light!" Glory!

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## Bible Study: The Battle Is Joined

continued from page 19

into action. False teaching causes us to trip, so that we are unable to advance against the enemy and extend God's rule over the lives of others. With the belt of God's truth, we are enabled to recognize Satanic deception in our own lives and the lives of others.

### SATAN SEEKS TO DESTROY AND DIVIDE THE CHURCH

The breastplate of righteousness protects our hearts against forsaking our commitment to glorifying God by compromising the high moral standards of God's Law. If Satan can get the soldiers of God's army to betray their commander in their hearts, so that they will not follow His orders, he has already won the battle. The army of the Lord will be nothing more than a disorderly mob, as willing to fight its own members as those of the opposing army. High discipline and obedience to the commands of the general are essential to winning any battle.

Our feet being ready with the gospel of peace prepare us for any attack that seeks to divide the church (Eph. 6:15). The image of having your feet fitted is a symbol of haste, and of being prepared, as when the ancient Israelites had to be ready to take flight from Egypt on a moment's notice (Exod. 12:11). Here we are to be prepared for any attack on the unity of the church that Satan may make. What better way to reduce the effectiveness of an army than to divide and conquer? So Satan seeks to destroy the peace and harmony within the church to destroy its effectiveness in preaching the gospel of salvation. We should examine our-

selves: have we contributed to division in the church by engaging in unnecessary conflict or thinking of our needs above those of the whole church?

### OUR DEFENSE:

The shield of faith (6:16) protects us against the doubts that would lead us to question God's character and disbelieve His promise, particularly His promise to live His life through us (Gal. 2:20). The purpose of sending flaming arrows into the ranks of an army was to cause them to panic and break rank. If the soldiers failed to trust the commander by remaining in place, pandemonium was the result. So Satan sends fiery darts into the church, attempting to get us to lose faith in our commander, to live from our panicky fearful feelings, so that we act as if we were independent of our general, Christ Himself. In fact, however, the moment we allow Satan's fiery darts to penetrate our faith through our feelings, we are already weapons of unrighteousness against others (Rom. 6:13).

The helmet of salvation (Eph. 6:17) protects us against the despair which Satan seeks to produce in the Lord's army. How can we fight if we have no expectation of ultimately being victorious? The devil presents pictures to our minds of the forces arrayed against us and these pictures stagger our imaginations. The seemingly impossible situations we find ourselves in, how will we ever win? We must be armed with the hope and assurance that we will have the victory, no matter what the odds.

### OUR WEAPONS:

These first five arms are primarily for defense against enemy attack, but the purpose of the battle is not primarily defensive. Unless an army makes offensive

moves against the opposing army, to capture and defeat their strongholds, the battle will never be won. God, and we as His army, are, after all, the invaders into Satan's realm. God has established His church in enemy territory, so that it might reclaim the fallen creation for God's kingdom. For this reason, God has given us a weapon as well to advance against the enemy and make claims on his territory. The sword of the Spirit is the word of God, the truth which judges the motives of human hearts (Heb. 4:12) and claims human beings for the kingdom. In the fantasy novel, *The Sword Of Shannara*, the hero defeats the evil druid with a sword whose only power is to reveal the truth and expose lies. Only as the hero faces the truth about himself does he become ready to face the evil druid. The sword is utterly ineffective as a physical weapon, but the hero learns that the very existence and power of the druid lies in deception, for the druid has already been dead for a thousand years! As the hero touches the evil druid with the sword of truth, his self-deception is exposed and he vanishes. This is true in the spiritual realm as well. Through our teaching of no independent self, we are reminding the devil that he was already defeated two thousand years ago at the cross, and that his power lies solely in his ability to deceive and to control humanity through that deception. As we teach people the truth about themselves, about no independent self, the Spirit uses us as a weapon to defeat the stronghold of Satan in people's lives and to reclaim them for His kingdom.

### STAND FIRM FOR SATAN'S FINAL DEFEAT

After equipping with the full armor of God, we are ready to take our stand against the powers of evil. These enemies

are to be resisted with force. Paul commands us, after we have put on the full armor of God, to stand against the enemy. Standing involves two aspects: first we are not to give up any ground to the enemy, but to hold onto what the Lord has obtained for us. That means not allowing Satan to gain any foothold in our lives through false doctrine, through division in the church, through a loss of faith in God, or through despair. When an army stands firm in a defensive posture, nothing can break through the lines to reclaim the territory that has already been won. By standing firm in what we believe, we will not allow the devil to regain dominion over us. We testify to the powers of darkness of their initial defeat by Christ in His death and resurrection, and to their final defeat when He returns.

But standing is not merely a defensive

posture. By standing as a unified army, the Spirit can make offensive moves against the evil powers of this world, reclaiming our own lives and the lives of others from the enemy. How can an army be an effective instrument in the hands of its commander unless it acts in a unified fashion? If, at the smallest problem, the army erupts into pandemonium, what use is the army to the leader? Standing firm by staying in formation, is what makes the army effective. If one person breaks the line, it is like having an Achilles' heel in the battalion. The enemy, being a master tactician, will direct his forces precisely at that point of weakness, and will attempt to press home for victory.

#### BE READY FOR BATTLE

Armageddon has already begun spiritually. The church is surrounded by hos-

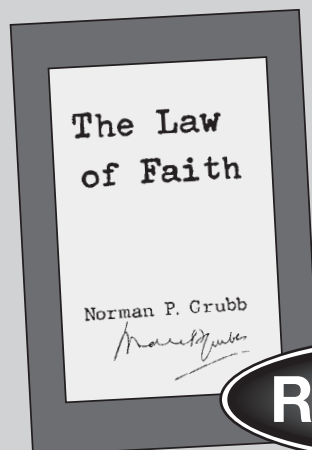
tile forces dedicated to her destruction. If we do not know the battle in which we are engaged, we are like the witless fool who wanders onto the battlefield and gets killed because he didn't know that a battle was taking place. Are we ready for battle? Are we prepared for attacks of Satan's lie of independent self, attacks on our trust and hope in God? Are we ready at a moment's notice to counter whatever move the enemy might make? Armageddon is already here, and we must be ready now.

*Brett Burrowes received his Ph.D. in New Testament from Durham University in England and two Master's degrees from Gordon-Cornwell Theological Seminary. He currently teaches Biblical studies at Siena College near Albany, New York, and is a Zerubbabel Contact and Teacher-Sharer.*

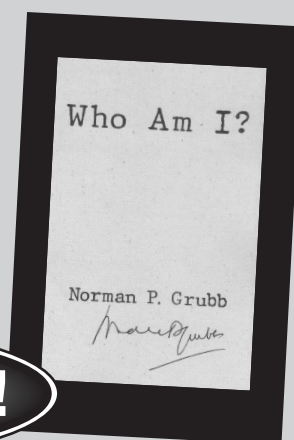
Norman Grubb's

# Who Am I? and The Law of Faith

*Unedited from the original.*



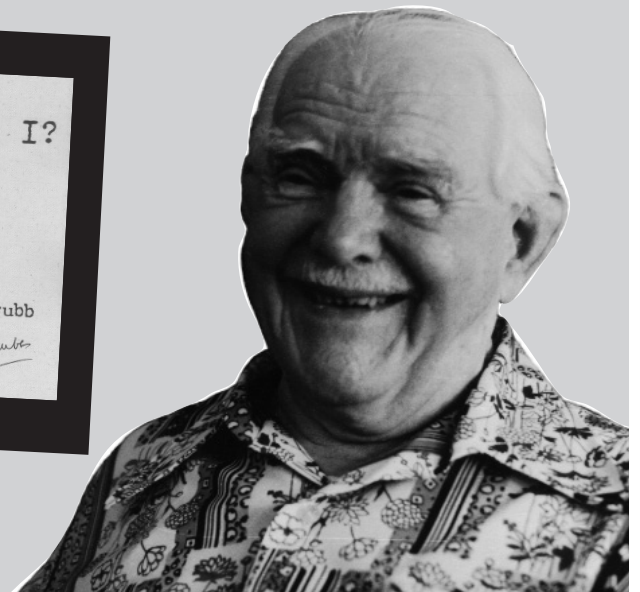
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## A New Life in Christ...

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits at God's right hand in the place of honor and power. Let heaven fill your thoughts. Do not think only about things down here on earth. For you died when Christ died, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your real life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

—Colossians 3:1-4  
(*New Living Translation*)

## Words to Live By...

Discern between soul and spirit where the soul, the seat of the emotions and reason is variable and can convey variable impressions to us, as much lowering as elevating; but we live back beneath the outer covering of soul, where our spirit is joined to His Spirit, and there the relationship is invariable, and there He is in all His sufficiency, no matter how the outer storms may blow, or we may "feel" a poor recommendation of Him.

## Subscriptions

*The Intercessor* is printed quarterly by Zerubbabel, Inc., and is mailed without charge to anyone who requests to be put on our mailing list. *The Intercessor* is published in Boone, NC and we shall be glad to place you on our subscription list.

*The Intercessor* is published for about \$5,200 an issue on the Lord's provisions. We have had a generous outpouring of God's gifts thus far and are truly grateful to each who has participated. By faith, we look for the continual outflow of the "word of God" by us.

Material related solely to the magazine (i.e., letters, questions, information, articles for publication, etc.) should be sent to the magazine office address, PO Box 1710, Blowing Rock, NC 28605. To make tax deductible financial contributions for all Zerubbabel outreaches, or to seek information on the Zerubbabel outreach activities, this address should also be used.

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# Zerubbabel Tape Ministry

The following audiotapes are offered as an aid to affirming the Lord's revelations of "Christ in you." They will be of interest to those Christians who are seeking to further their understanding of living in union with Christ. All tapes have been recorded live at various gatherings and may contain some background noise. Editing has been kept to a minimum in order to preserve the precious truths these tapes contain.

## NORMAN GRUBB

**Introduction**—Collected teachings and personal testimony providing an overview of the principles that have guided his ministry. Singing Hills, NH, 1987 Set of two tapes— \$10.00

**The Meaning of Life**—Who are we? Why do we live? How do we live? Norman details his personal search for the answers to these questions and shares with us how we can know the answers for ourselves. 1970's. Set of six tapes—\$30.00

**Suffering**—There is no suffering apart from glory, and no glory apart from suffering. Singing Hills, NH 1987. One tape—\$5.00

**As He Is, So Are We**—An overview of 1 John, followed by a discussion of sin in the believer. Baltimore, MD, 1987. One tape— \$5.00

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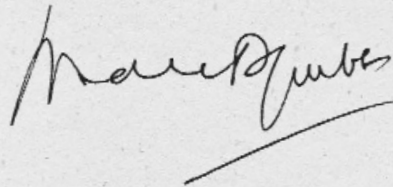
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