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Glory Magazine

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LORD'S

YOU CANNOT STAND
AGAINST HIM

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TO DO GOOD

REVEALING
GOD'S GLORY

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AUTHORITY IS THE LORD'S

"You were given authority to rule the land, yet the land is not yours. The land is of the Father, and being of the Father it is IN HIM. You have abdicated your duty to remember Me. You have thrown away My teachings, and have relied upon your manipulation of My system. You have made My tables an uneven balance. I weight those who know Me against those who do not, and I have found you wanting. You want nothing more than to keep what was lended, steal what was borrowed, and destroy that which was Holy. My hand shall reach into the depths of the Earth and retrieve the gold, the silver, the rubies I have laid out before the Father. I will redeem those who believe I came into this World to be a light of knowledge to fulfill My calling from the Father.

"You may not keep any of the things you have acquired by deceptive means, and all that was given will be removed. I no longer have My face turned away from the surface. It is gazing upon your destruction. You have given yourselves over to the rulers of this World and, "Lo, to those who seek his face instead of Mine!" He shall make you rot in the ground while My light will raise up an army that you cannot see, and will rebuke you on the Day of Wrath. You have given Me much to despise yet, those in the Body of Christ, whom

I HAVE MADE CLEAN, shall rise up and meet Me. You have no more authority and I have seen time end as you know it.

"To those who know Me, look to the West and see the destruction. See My Glory as I raise you beyond the fires to cleanse My Bride for her wedding. Do not fear, for I have come to redeem My prize set before the World and all of her rulers to see. I will hide no longer. I will take My rightful bounty and bring to fruition all that was spoken over Me. She shall be My reward. Bring in the tithe, Oh, Man of God, and redeem yourselves from destruction. See Me or see the ruler of this World, but know that My wrath is far beyond all the destroyer can think. He knows his time is short, yet he will still grab upon the reigns of his chariot and beat his horses until the end comes.

"Pray for your nations. Seek My council. Repent. The fire will only attach itself to those who refuse My council, and I have the authority of righteous judgment. Take to the Word. Seek His shelter. Before the end comes, I WILL BE GLORIFIED."*

Be ready to walk away from everything you have ever known or done in this world...and follow HIM!

Blessings and honor,
Angela Errett

*Definition: lay hold of, grasp; accept; adopt as your own.

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That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works. Psalm 26:7

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by Bob Jacobus



You
CANNOT
STAND
Against Him



This statement was made to Haman, the preeminent noble in King Xerxes' court, by family and friends after Xerxes honored the Jew Mordecai.

**“Since Mordecai,
before whom your
downfall has started,
is of Jewish origin, you
cannot stand against
him—you will surely
come to ruin!”**

Esther 6.13 (NIV)

The narrative behind the statement has application to major socio-political story lines of the 2020s. The plots of today may read as a novel; however, it is history in the making. On the World level, there is the 21st century struggle for Israel and the threat of a World War. On the National level, there is a struggle for leadership and direction for a country that has been the global power for 80 years. On the local level, people try to grapple with postmodern philosophies concerning criminal justice, natural resource utilization/consumption, and gender. Even some congregational groups of the Christian Church are trying to normalize sin. The thing is... in postmodern thought, anything can be anything that you want it to be; right and wrong are completely dependent on personal whim and independent “think group” authority.

THE SKINNY

King Xerxes was the seat of power in ancient times. Haman was a noble in Xerxes' court; the Bible is unclear on how Haman rose to the highest official under the king. He hated Jews and plotted to annihilate the whole people group on the technicality that some Jews would not go along with bowing down to Haman, according to the king's edict. Mordecai was the main offender.

Haman wrangled another edict from King Xerxes condemning Jews to death. This edict moved to a more formal decree, making it impossible to walk back.

As a result of much prayer and fasting from the Jews who were at Susa, God intervened on the Jew's behalf by keeping Xerxes from sleeping. Xerxes ordered servants to read the archives of his reign to him and discovered that a person, Mordecai, who saved his life, had not been honored. To remedy his sleep disorder, he called for the most available noble to come to him and make recommendations on what he should do. Haman just happened to be in the court waiting to ask Xerxes for permission to impale Mordecai on a 75 foot pole.

The story now flips. Haman had to show Mordecai great honor. He went home distraught, and his close circle gave him the bad word that an unpleasant outcome was looming. Xerxes finds out that Haman played him so Haman could inflict genocide on the Jews. The villain,

Edict vs. Decree

The distinction between an edict and a decree is very subtle. Both are directive; however, an edict is more spur of the moment and made by one person. A decree can be made by one person, but typically, it is formalized by a governing group, is fleshed out, and is more specific concerning expectations, violations, and outcomes.

Edicts may become laws, and decrees are laws. Edicts may become decrees; however, decrees never revert because they do not have a pre-decree origin to revert to.

A new decree can mitigate unwanted outcomes of an old decree that is still operational.

Caveat: The Word of God supersedes edicts and decrees.

Haman, ended up impaled on the pole he prepared for the victim, Mordecai. The narrative in full is much more interesting; just read the book of Esther in the Bible.

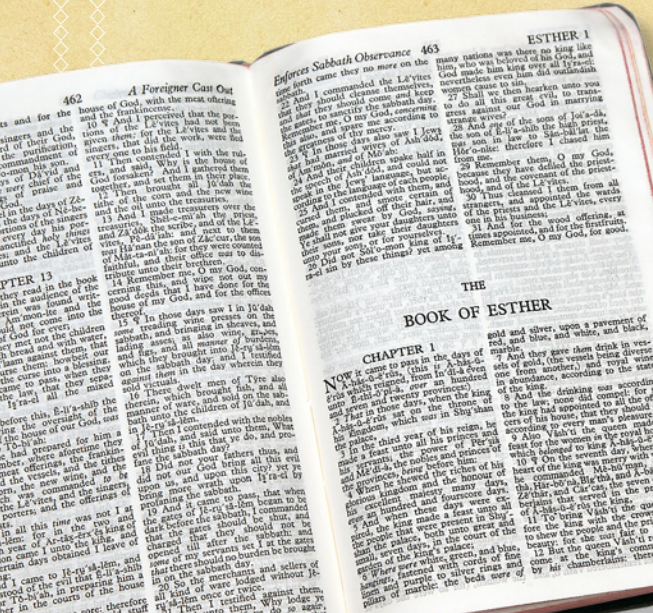
The triple bottom line of this narrative is that if you trust God, then you are eternally safe; if your unrighteousness harms others, then your life is at risk, and if you cross the King, your outcomes are not good.

Observation: In this narrative, King Xerxes asked for counsel and advice concerning official actions. The advice was not always good. God does not seek counsel outside the Godhead (Father, Son, Holy Ghost) when pronouncing an edict, decree, or His Word. A divine case to consider: 'The wages of sin is death' is an edict by the Word of God. It became a decree when it was formally recorded as scripture. God superseded with the WORD of God, He who became flesh and died so that the original edict/decree was satisfied for mankind.

The Nation Israel is of Jewish origin; you cannot stand against the homeland—you will surely come to ruin!

Now, that is a historical statement. This nation has been in the political crosshairs of the world since its formation. Egypt has experienced governmental and social failures multiple times because of persecuting Israel. Even when the Jewish people were dispersed and not at home in the homeland as in the Esther narrative and in modern times (Germany, Third Reich), outcomes for the opposing power were not good. Israel was established as a formal nation in the 20th century and had to withstand

Granger paper: Robyn MacKenzie/Bigstock.com; Book of Esther: sorsillo/Bigstock.com



enemies bent on destruction many times. These antagonists failed and are still in social upheaval 75 years later. Today, Israel is in a life-and-death struggle again; the outcomes will not be any different. The thing is, anyone or any nation that supports or approves of actions against Israel is subject to the same outcome. The thin line of complicity is withholding support and approval to Israel.

Righteousness is of God; you cannot stand against him—you will surely come to ruin!

On the local and national levels, struggles over righteousness and the implications thereof are at the forefront. A two-tiered justice system is not righteousness. Incarcerating victims and letting perpetrators go free without penalty is not righteous. A statement made by a leader regarding an adversary on trial, “He has every opportunity to prove his innocence,” is not righteous. The same leader said, “How many times do we have to prove that we can’t be trusted?”

Promoting electric vehicles as earth-saving and climate-saving solutions is a lie. It still takes the energy villain, fossil fuel, to provide for the manufacture of total electric infrastructure as well as the initial energy source for the cars of the future. Even more sinister is the extraction of rare minerals in low-wage, third-world countries used for necessary energy storage. Nations that can afford to be climate-clean exploit those who are not conscientious with extraction methods in meager economies. It is unrighteous for one nation to clear a guilty conscience at the expense

and sacrifice of a poorer nation.

Gender righteousness...now that is a senseless conversation in today’s world. Men who claim to identify as women can compete against women in sports. The biology is different; males have more natural prowess in physical contests. A bio male and bio female recently tied in a swimming event. The bio male received the trophy over the woman for some lame excuse she/her was more deserving. Children are given gender-correcting treatments, both physical and chemical, without telling their parents. This is not righteous, and such practices show disrespect to the Creator. The byline: “You will surely come to ruin.”

Abomination is a picture word in Hebrew. It means “stinks in the nose.” God clearly called out one egregious sin and stated in His written word that such sinners and those who approve and support them have no inheritance in Heaven. Can you imagine a church organization normalizing this behavior by decreeing that such offenders may become approved and ratified clergy, practitioners may marry in church under a sacred ceremony, and church funds would be designated to promote acceptance for those practicing this sin? This is an abomination to God; it stinks in His nose. It is not only a failure to acknowledge God but also like getting into His face and saying, “So what?”

Since the Man, Jesus, before whom your downfall has started, is of Jewish origin, you cannot stand against him—you will surely come to ruin!



As it is written:
“See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame.”
Romans 9:33 (NIV)



Jesus is the most famous Jew in history; being the Son of God, He is God. People have stood against Him for 2000 years and have come to ruin for 2000 years. People get uncomfortable and riled up at the sound of His name. God should elicit such reactions.

For those who know Him, His name embodies comfort, safety, strength, and wisdom. Most of all, it is a harbinger of salvation and eternal life. The spiritual nuance that Jesus lives in His believers and they in Him means that if one is “in Christ,” anyone or anything that comes against them will come to ruin, maybe not in this realm, but most certainly as we transition to the next. It is a good thing to stand with the One whom no one can stand against.

Shalom, Peace unto you.

by Angela Errett

The Seed

As a child, one of my favorite stories in the Bible was Adam and Eve. It was comforting to know that God made them, and if He made them, He made me! Over the last six months or so, I have prayed and asked God for revelation knowledge in the book of Genesis. What was revealed to me is contained in the following commentary and I take no credit for its presentation other than I put it on paper.

If this knowledge has been presented in this manner before, I am not aware of it, but I have only put down what was revealed to me. If it has been submitted before, then God wants it to be known again through a different vessel. Please ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and read with an open mind, and open heart, and know that no matter where you fall in your belief of God, He still loves you.



IT IS SAID THAT THE ANCIENT SAGES BELIEVE
**that when God parted the waters of
the firmament, GOD PLACED HIS SEED
IN THE DRY LAND.**

In the ancient world, agriculture was the way of life and still is today. From Adam to Abraham, Noah to Jesus, God set the pattern for sowing and reaping. Jesus began His ministry by preaching the gospel of the Kingdom. In Matthew chapter 13, He explains to the disciples the meaning of the first parable He spoke, the parable of the sower. It symbolizes a foundational design for life in the Kingdom because without seed, how can we be fruitful and multiply? You can see supernatural elements of seedtime and harvest from the book of Genesis to Revelation.

**While the earth remaineth,
seedtime and harvest, and
cold and heat, and summer
and winter, and day and night
shall not cease.
Genesis 8:22 (KJV)**

**And the dragon was wroth
with the woman, and went
to make war with the
remnant of her seed, which
keep the commandments
of God, and have the
testimony of Jesus Christ.
Revelation 12:17 (KJV)**

Let's take a look at some intriguing components of a seed. A seed can only be produced after its own kind. For example, an apple seed can only produce apples, and a barley seed can only produce barley. In recorded history, there has not been one apple tree that has produced a peach. Not one! Just like there has not been one ape that produces a human. But I digress.

A seed is genetically coded to produce what it is. Seeds are divinely programmed to multiply the same code and repeat the cycle, again, and again. Understanding that an acorn is not just an acorn but also a potential forest, you can begin to see how the Kingdom works.

A seed contains everything it needs and is protected inside its shell; however, it is in a state where physical development is halted until there is an outside influence. It is in a suspended state, unable to reproduce.

Seeds are constructed to survive the stress they must endure for a period of time, a season, in other words, until conditions are right. Think about it. If you place an acorn on a city sidewalk, it will remain an acorn through whatever season occurs: spring, summer, fall, or winter. The acorn doesn't place a demand on the environment it has found itself in; it just exists in a suspended state. But, when it is in the right environment, the environment places a demand on the seed!

There are five ways a seed travels: wind, water, animals, humans, and through bursting. No matter how the seed has traveled or the circumstances it has undergone, it ultimately depends on the ground it lands on to determine its growth. Sound familiar? (See Matthew 13)

Now, here is something fascinating. The hard outer shell of a seed is called a *testa*. It is a Latin word that means *a jar made of clay* or *something made out of burnt clay*, like earthenware. *Testa* is also the root word for our English word *testament*, which means *a covenant or will*. Also, it is the root of other Latin words with definitions like *hardcover, made of brick, an action of testifying to a fact, good evidence, someone who makes a will or relating to a will, and a witness or one who testifies*.

There is something else you need to know about a seed. When it has been planted, and the environment has made a demand on it to start the cycle of life, the contents of the seed have no other option other than to break through the outer shell. It is compelled to begin the cycle of life and cannot be stopped unless it is destroyed. The intriguing part of this process is that when the seed stresses and strains to break out, it leaves a mark or scar called a *hilum* on the surface at the point where it attaches to the seed stalk. The hilum, or scar, only forms after a seed has been set free to grow in the environment it finds itself in.

Every seed must first die and be scarred before it is liberated and able to be fruitful and multiply.

From Adam to Christ Jesus

Let's take the life of a seed a step further, using the same pattern established by God here in the

physical world, which we see every day, and apply it to Adam and then to the second Adam, Christ Jesus.

God created the species of Man in His image—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God created him in Spirit, formed him out of the dirt of the dry land, and breathed life into him so he could live in the physical realm of the Earth. God was expanding His kingdom, and inside the man was everything needed to reproduce his kind. He was the representation of God in the earth.

After Adam named all the animals, God found that none was a suitable helper for him, yet it was not good for man to be alone or all one. So, God made a woman to be his helper. God separated the inside of the seed from the outer shell. Adam was, in essence, the whole seed of the human race. When God put Adam to sleep—in a suspended state—a woman, or wombed man, was pulled out containing everything needed to complete the cycle of life as an incubator with a natural instinct to reproduce a seed. Inside of Adam, the seed for the rest of humanity remained. Now, that is an awesome God!

Adam was the one chosen to protect the woman from any outside influences, just as God had positioned them both in a place of protection—the Garden of Eden. Adam became the covering, the shell, and the protector for the woman.

This example helps to illustrate why when the woman ate the forbidden fruit and gave it to the man, both their eyes were open, but God called out to Adam, not her.

You see, God never told her not to eat the fruit once she was a separate being from the man. God spoke it to Man before the separation into two beings. He said, “And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:16-17 KJV). God never spoke those words to the woman. She only heard them when she was a part of the man, and once separated from him, she still remembered them. God had written it on her heart.

She was able to say to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden, but not of the fruit of the tree in the midst of the garden. God has said, ‘You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you’ll die.’” But she did eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. A desire to make herself wise like the gods, the kings, and the rulers outside the protection of the Garden of Eden caused her to trespass and seek a shortcut to gaining knowledge. She had coveted and listened to a voice of influence other than



Adam and God's. She was in an atmosphere that was placing a demand on her that she could not resist without remembering what she knew in her heart was right and wrong. She believed the lie of the serpent instead of the truth of who she really was, a child of God. The serpent and his lies were influencing the ground she was on. It overwhelmed her to the point of taking it to Adam to crack the shell so the cycle could begin. The serpent had beguiled the woman. He knew that for the process of rebellion to be accomplished for all eternity, he would have to demand that the woman start the process and break open the covering, the shell—Adam. This action would grow his seed of aversion to the truth of who Adam and the woman really were.

Because the serpent had trespassed God's design and influenced the natural cycle residing within the woman, God cursed him and put enmity between him and the woman and between his seed and her seed. Her seed would bruise the serpent's head and put him underfoot. God also told the woman, "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children;" (Genesis 3:16 NKJV). Now, the children she bore, the fruit of the seed process she started by listening to the serpent, can only be produced through suffering.

Adam fractured under the pressure of the atmosphere because a seed places no demand on the



Earth or World?

The first mention of the earth in the Bible comes in the very first chapter and verse, Genesis 1:1. In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. *Earth* means the whole entirety of the physical earth, its inhabitants, and its land. The same goes for the first time it is seen in the New Testament in the book of Matthew 5:5.

The first mention of the world doesn't come until the book of 1 Samuel.

"He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and he hath set the world upon them." (1 Samuel 2:8 KJV) *World* means to bring, carry, lead, and conduct here. You can see the distinction between the two words used in this passage.

The first mention of the world in the New Testament occurs in the book of Matthew 4:8. Here it expressly refers to *kosmos*, the ruling systems and leaders controlling the land and its inhabitants. In Matthew 4:8, the devil has taken Jesus up to the high mountain and is showing Him the leaders and systems, or government, currently ruling, and tempting Him to bow to those systems of ideas. Jesus refuses to bow because the only true ruling system that was meant to be implemented on the earth came from God and was overtaken by the serpent when he transgressed causing Adam to fall into sin. It was His purpose to take on every sin, die, and rise to life again to overthrow those governing ideas and give those who believe a wonderful Counselor who would lead and guide us to the original Kingdom of Heaven government.

NOW READ JOHN 15:17-19 KJV

These things I command you, that ye love one another. If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

NOW READ ISAIAH 9:6-7 KJV

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

You can clearly see the difference between the two words.

FURTHER STUDY: Read John 15

World: Ewalar/Bigstock.com

And unto Adam he said, because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Genesis 3:17-19 (KJV)

ground but responds to what the atmosphere demands of it. He was bound to his wife as one flesh (See Genesis 2:23-24). Once the serpent's influence grew too intense, the process established by God began. Adam had no choice but to "eat of the tree" because he was in covenant with her. However, he first forgot who he was, so he ate of the fruit; he then feared God, and Adam placed blame on the woman. That is why God cursed the ground from which His seed, Adam, had come—not Adam and the woman whom He loved. It was the serpent that had transgressed against God's original design.

It wasn't until their provision from Heaven was removed, and the atmosphere went from perfection to sin that Adam named his wife Eve because, at that point, she was now the mother of all living, living under the transgression begun by the serpent. (Eve means life-giver and is only used two times in the Bible.)

God could not allow Adam and Eve to remain in the Garden of Eden because if they ate from the tree of life, they would live and reproduce in a sinful, rebellious state against God for eternity. Therefore, He sent them out into the field, outside the protective gates of the garden, to till the ground where they came from that was now cursed. Their correction was for their own protection until the appointed time when they would be redeemed.

God's master plan for Eve's seed mentioned in Genesis 3:15, the one that would destroy the serpent, was fulfilled through Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God placed a pure and perfect seed containing His own DNA, untouched by the sin of man carried down through the generations, into Mary's womb. She was a virgin and the vessel God chose to deliver Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, into the earth to overcome the world (See page 9). God would be the unbreakable shell surrounding her, protecting her and shielding the enemy from knowing His plan.

And the angel said unto her, fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.
Luke 1:30-31(KJV)

Jesus was with God at the foundation of the earth before Adam was created. He knew the divine process because He was a part of it. He knew how it all worked and was not only the sacrificial Lamb but also the sacrificial Seed. He was born at the appointed time

when the ideas of the Kingdom of God could be understood again. In other words, He was born into the right environment or atmosphere. The language of agriculture was known, and the people knew what living in a kingdom was like.

He did not seek out the Pharisees for instruction—that was the wrong knowledge. He did not seek out Caesar—that was the wrong ground. He sought His Father continually. He knew that by remaining in a Holy atmosphere, the good ground He surrounded Himself with would produce everything He needed to accomplish His purpose and overcome the transgression of the serpent. He sought to influence others with His presence, His environment, and His atmosphere. Jesus knew that placing a demand on the mustard seed of faith, still residing in every human being since Adam, would then have an opportunity to grow. However, narrow is the path for those who will soften the soil of their own hearts to receive the good news of the gospel of the Kingdom then and now.

Jesus endured the Cross, knowing that He, too, must die and be scarred before Man can be liberated from sin. You see, a seed must sacrifice its existence for the life inside it to bear fruit.

The lives we are leading right here, right now, are a direct result of the environments we allow ourselves to remain in and the atmosphere we are allowing to

influence us. Without Jesus, that can only produce works of the flesh. But, when we are able to soften the ground in our hearts and allow Jesus to enter its field, the fruit of the Spirit brings forth love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.

Just like a seed, it doesn't matter what circumstances you have traveled through, such as divorce, bad relationships, poverty, or abuse; your fruit ultimately depends on where you decide to plant your feet. Strive to live in the atmosphere of the Spirit of Truth by crucifying influences, not of God, and allowing for your own testimony. Don't stay in a suspended state of darkness, standing on the other side of the garden and refusing to see the light. In other words, seek the Kingdom of God first, and all these things shall be added unto you. God is faithful to His seed. He never forgets where He has planted them.

Now is the time for the Kingdom message to travel the world at the speed of light, just like a fiber optic line carrying your internet signal, and just as God did to walk in the cool of the day with Adam. It is also time for the earth's atmosphere, through the Sons of God, to become one with its Creator and usher in the return of Christ Jesus. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 1:1-5 (KJV)

by Jason DePoy



USE EVERY CHANCE TO Do Good

Have you ever had the opportunity to sit on the sand at the beach and watch the sun go down as it melts into the horizon? If so, you know it's a very beautiful and tranquil experience.

My family and I were at the beach recently enjoying a sunset when an unexpected occasion arose.

Another family came stumbling down the street, and it was evident they had been overindulging in the nearby Cinco de Mayo celebrations. We exchanged hellos, and after watching them take some pictures of themselves in front of the sunset, I offered to take a picture of their entire family.

What happened next caught us all by surprise. After I took their picture, the family began to empty the contents of a sandwich bag into the surf and then took turns hugging one another. It quickly became obvious that they were honoring someone's wishes by spreading their ashes at the beach. Then, the Holy Spirit started nudging me to offer to pray with the family—but I hesitated. I mean, I was trying to enjoy a nice sunset on the beach before my dad had to fly back home after spending a week with us. Besides, what if they aren't believers? What if they reject my offer? I thought, "I don't have to be a Pastor all



“WE NEED PEOPLE WILLING TO RESPOND TO THE promptings of the Holy Spirit and Do Good WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES.”

~Jason DePoy

the time, right?” Isn’t it amazing how we try to justify not obeying the Lord when He prompts us to do something? I’m getting better at obeying, but sometimes, I’m still slow to respond. Awaking me out of my internal discussion with my conscience, my mother-in-law said, “Alright, Pastor Jason,” to which I replied, “I know, I know—the Lord’s been dealing with me about it.” (*Sometimes, God will use other people to nudge us into obedience.*)

At that moment, I jumped up, walked over to the family and said, “I don’t mean to interrupt, but I noticed you were having a memorial for someone by scattering their ashes in the ocean. I’m a Pastor, and if you’d like, I’d be happy to say a prayer with you.” After some deliberation, they all decided it would be a nice idea. We all huddled up and joined hands in a circle as the sun disappeared into the Gulf, and I prayed for their family. Tears started flowing, with some sobbing uncontrollably. Over the years, I’ve noticed that some of the sweetest, most powerful ministry opportunities occur when I respond during what seems to be an inconvenient time. God has taught me that people need you when they need you—not when it’s convenient for you.

The family thanked me, and even though they still appeared a bit ‘under the influence,’ they hugged me and said they believed that moment was orchestrated

by God. One of the deceased’s daughters came up to me again after I had sat back down to tell me my prayer made their family moment ‘so much better.’ That sounds like God to me—He makes our plans so much better.

This moment reminded me of Ephesians 5:16, which says from the New Century Version, “Use every chance you have for doing good, because these are evil times.”

Is it me, or does it seem like the world is quickly growing darker and colder? Have you been able to sense a shift in the atmosphere of society to lean more toward evil? There’s been a steady decline for years regarding what is ‘socially acceptable.’ Still, in my opinion, the last two years have grown darker exponentially faster than I’ve ever seen.

We need people willing to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and DO GOOD when the opportunity arises. The Bible tells us that as Jesus followers, we are the light of the world. This means you have been designed, engineered, and created to shine the Light of Christ in an increasingly dark world. Here’s the good news...it isn’t based on how you feel! As believers, we are the Temple of God and carry the Spirit of God on the inside of us; that means we are fully equipped to bring help, relief, encouragement, healing, peace, love, and joy to those around us (*even when we don’t feel like it or it seems inconvenient*).

The Light you carry IN YOU is greater than any darkness surrounding you! You may have read over that too quickly to let it sink in, so I will say it again—The Light you carry IN YOU is GREATER than any darkness surrounding you!

But we must be willing to let it shine. I say “willing” because our enemy, Satan, wants us so distracted and self-absorbed that we miss the opportunities that God places around us.

Being self-absorbed doesn’t always sound like “I’m so great, amazing, and awesome;” sometimes it sounds like “I’m so busy, tired, and overwhelmed.”

Sometimes we get so busy focusing on “me, myself, and I that we can’t hear The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

The enemy wants us task-oriented, while God wants us people-oriented. God’s primary focus is people, and so should ours. My spiritual father and pastor always said, “The greatest compliment you can have for another person is to be concerned for their eternal soul.”

I believe we’re living in the most distracted generation ever because we have an opportunity to be the most impactful generation ever. We need to allow God to interrupt our plans, agenda, vacation, sleep, and whatever else may be keeping us from loving and helping the people He places around us.

We see this example in Luke 8:40-56 when Jesus was headed to

Do Good

Jairus' house to heal his daughter. On the way, Jesus is interrupted by the woman with the issue of blood. During those days, she was considered 'unclean' and shouldn't have been out in public, but nonetheless, here she was, pushing through the crowd just to touch the hem of Jesus' garment. This caught the Master's attention and disrupted His and Jairus' plans to minister healing to his little girl. I mean, this was serious. She was his only daughter, and needed a miracle, so time was of the essence, or was it?

When you read this passage, you see that Jesus takes the time to discover who touched His robe in faith, so much so that healing virtue flowed from Him. (*Faith gets the Lord's attention!*) Jairus could have been very upset. I mean, he got to Jesus first. His only daughter is close to dying, and now this unclean woman is going to ruin everything, or is she? Jairus' daughter did end up dying because of this delay, but Jesus told him not to fear and to believe that his daughter would be ok. He went on and raised the young girl from the dead and restored her back to her family. Jesus was able to help both of their needs. You see, the Lord isn't bound by time. With Jesus, it isn't just A or B—it can be both.

He may interrupt your day, and you may have to leave your task incomplete, but when you allow Him to use you to help and impact other people, He'll make sure you can complete your

tasks. This is a Kingdom principle found in Matthew 6:33. When we seek first the Kingdom of God and what He considers to be right, then He'll add all the other "stuff" (the job, the task, our plans, what we need) to our lives after the Kingdom work is complete.

But do we give Him permission to interrupt our lives? Honestly, I'm still a work in progress. I'm not where I'd like to be in this area, but I'm better than I used to be.

Years ago, the Lord gave me a saying that helps me stay focused in this area. He told me that "we were all born for someone else." That means we're on this earth to help and impact other people for the glory of God. To do this with more power and effectiveness, we all need to learn to be flexible and pivot away from what we're currently doing when the need arises. This allows Jesus to be our Lord and our Shepherd leading and guiding us through life.

This World is growing darker, and people need the Light you're carrying inside you. We need to be willing to use every chance to DO GOOD. It can start with a smile, handshake, a hug, holding a door, a prayer, sitting and listening, or in countless other ways.

In the end, when we get to Heaven, we all want to hear "Well done, thy good and faithful servant." But to hear "Well done," we must make sure that we live our lives following Him and doing good.

“FOR HE WAS A GOOD MAN,
*full of the holy spirit
and of faith.*”

Acts 11:24 (NIV)



Photo © Backward Photography, Alan Tucker

By Al Tucker

REVEALING God's Glory

Stonecoal Lake, Lewis County

Last time, I shared a Father's Day message titled *"Praise God from whom all blessings flow"* and discussed how God the Father has blessed me my entire life. My ongoing Revealing God's Glory testimony is another of those blessings. I not only get great joy in sharing how God works in my life or in others as I write about them, but, more importantly, it affords me the opportunity to serve Him by pointing people to Christ or encouraging someone to grow in the Lord. Those of us who have come to know Jesus as

our Lord and Savior, converted Christians as they are known in the Book of Acts, are called to do His work using the unique gifts that we each have been given. No matter what gifts we have been given, we are all called to be encouragers. God's word is full of encouragement. It is one of the main themes throughout the New Testament and is used over one hundred times. It was also fundamental to Paul's ministry as he encouraged new converts to grow in Christ. His letters contain almost eighty uses of encouragement



Lewis Wetzel Park, Wetzel County



Scenic Highway, Pocahontas County

in various settings to help early believers mature in their faith and enable them to do the work of the Church. Here are a couple examples from Paul's letters:

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”
1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

“But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called ‘Today,’ so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”
Hebrews 3:13 (NIV)

Why such an emphasis on encouragement? I believe it is because God wants us, His followers, to communicate Jesus' encouragement to others just as the Apostles and early Saints did to the early converts. He expects us to communicate His truth and hope in such a way that will uplift, i.e., encourage, others to follow His will for their lives. Once again, that was as true in the early Church as it is today. God's work doesn't change, at least until Jesus returns. The Church would have never lifted off the ground without the Holy Spirit working through others. Now, it is our turn to be the spiritual encouragers. Before I elaborate on what I believe God expects of us, let's step back and examine the importance of encouragement in general. I'll start with an example of how a simple act of encouragement impacted my life and ultimately led to my writing about God's Glory.

Long ago, in the fall of 1958, I was a shy, introverted sixteen-year-old junior in high school. I had only been living in America for four years. Back then, all I wanted was to be seen and not heard. That was my comfort zone; no attention, please! One day, it came time for the annual high school speech contest. I'm sure I thought there was no way I was putting myself through that. Then Mr. Haught, my English teacher, approached me about trying out. You see, my older brother had won the contest in 1956 and 1957. Derek was much more confident than I and relished the spotlight. Mr. Haught thought it would benefit me and encouraged me to do so. Against all instincts, I relented. It turned out I actually enjoyed writing the speech. Still, I was terrified to present it, as I hated standing up in front of others and speaking. To my surprise, it went well, and I managed to be one of two from my class section selected for the final junior class tryout of eight students. Unfortunately, they scheduled the tryout to identify the two junior class representatives for 7:00 p.m. on a weekday evening. I couldn't make that time because I worked full-time at a local bowling alley from 6-11:00 p.m. Mr. Haught tried to have me present after school one day, but other teachers voted against that. The presiding teacher, the senior class English teacher, supposedly remarked that “his brother probably wrote it for him anyway.” At that time, my brother was away at college, and I would not have allowed him to do that anyway, as we were always very competitive. I was very disappointed I wasn't



Photos: © Backyard Photography, Alan Tucker

allowed to try out. I didn't bother in my senior year as that teacher never seemed to like me much. I never received any encouragement from her. I remember being jealous of the kids she liked; she always had time for them.

Three years after graduation, I had saved enough money to go to West Liberty College, where my oldest brother Ted was a senior and would eventually be the top graduate earning a Woodrow Wilson Scholarship to study at the University of Illinois. Today, Ted's portrait hangs at West Liberty as one of its distinguished alums. I took freshman English, and like all students, we were all required to write a term paper. When I got my paper back, it was an A+ with a note that read, "Excellent work, Alan. If I didn't know better, I would have thought Ted wrote this for you." In talking with her later, she encouraged me to write as much as possible, which I have done. Early in the Air Force, I got noticed for my writing ability, which led to many writing assignments over the years. I was once tasked with writing a major manual for my career field that was used across the Air Force. In my last assignment at the Pentagon, I often wrote or critiqued speeches and letters for our commanding two-star general. For sixty years, I jumped at the opportunity to write. Occasionally, I would think about my senior high school teacher who blew an opportunity to encourage a shy young man. But I was always thankful to Miss Tucker (no relation) for encouraging me to write as much as I could. A few years ago, Angela, our *Glory Magazine* editor, asked if I

would share my testimony with you, our readers. Today, I am amazingly blessed to have the opportunity to write for the greatest teacher of all time, Jesus, and to share His encouragement for yours and my life. Thank you, Miss Tucker, for unleashing the potential you saw in me.

When I look at my life, I can see so many Miss Tuckers, male and female, who inspired, fostered, emboldened, and positively challenged me. Yes, many, like my senior English teacher, couldn't be bothered, and yes, there were the toxic, negative people who would rather tear down, criticize, and throw cold water at every opportunity. They are all around us. I chose early in life to ignore those kinds of people and listen more to those who were willing to influence me in a positive manner to grow. I relished those nudges of encouragement. They were the fuel that fired my engine. Most of you reading this can probably identify with people who helped you along the way, those who encouraged you either directly through their timely words and tone of voice or by observing how they lived their lives. We look fondly at those who positively impacted us, as Miss Tucker did for me. Sadly, many people don't realize their dream or miss out on opportunities due to "the discouragers" around them. Then there are those who, for whatever reason, just don't have the kind of positive role models or caring people in their lives who can make a difference for them. How sad it must be to grow up and rarely get any encouragement. Also, sadly, some people fall short of who they could become because of their pride,

i.e., they think they know it all. They are usually the ones doing all the talking and not enough listening and reflecting. They tend towards being a negative influence unfortunately. Those of us who have been the beneficiaries of encouragement are very fortunate, which should make us very proactive in our own encouragement behavior. If we choose otherwise, then we turn out to be selfish and unworthy of the kindness extended to us.

While encouraging behavior is such an important element of life in general, it is even more important to those who accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. It has always been that way since Jesus walked this earth, was crucified, died, was buried, rose from the dead, and ascended into Heaven. During His three years on earth, the disciples received His encouragement daily and observed His miracles firsthand. They left their lives, careers, and families to follow Him. He tried to tell them that He would die and would be resurrected. But they never fully grasped that. When He rose from the grave, they eventually saw and interacted with Him and began to get an inkling. Then came Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles and other followers, equipping them to do God's work, His will. It was, in essence, the beginning of the Church's mission here on the earth.

Photos: © Backyard Photography, Alan Tucker



top: Marple Chapel, 1899, Upshur County; Hamlin Chapel, 1835, Pocahontas County



So there the disciples were, full of the Holy Spirit, trying to discern how to proceed. But first, they needed to reassure other followers, as many were new to their faith and needed to be encouraged to not lose hope, and to stand firm in their walk with Jesus. Many followers fled far away in fear of the Jewish leaders and tyrants like Saul from Tarsus, who led the persecution of the Christ converts. Saul was there at the stoning of Stephen, one of the early Saints whose last words were, *“Lord, do not hold this sin against them”* (Acts 7:60). This gruesome act and Saul's reputation had followers scattering in every direction. Not long after that, he was sent to root out the Jesus' followers who had fled to Damascus. Saul was more than happy to do so: *“Breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples,”* he secured approval from the high priest to round up *“all who belonged to the Way,”* take them prisoner, and return them to Jerusalem (See Acts 9:1-2).

We know what happens next. Saul is struck down on the road to Damascus, is blinded, meets Jesus, who asks him, *“Why are you persecuting me?”* and subsequently goes to Damascus, as instructed by Jesus, to become converted and filled by the Holy Spirit. He was immediately baptized and commanded to *“proclaim Jesus to the Gentiles as well as to the Jews.”* Wow, the meanest dude in the East, the one that Jesus' followers feared the most! Who is going to believe that this tyrant is now a willing, humble servant of God! Not many! But his initial preaching astonished those in Damascus. He even baffled Jews by proving that Jesus was the Messiah. How in the world could this be? The most rabid Jesus-hater becomes one of his greatest ambassadors, an Apostle no less? The only thing I can tell you with certainty is, *“with God, all things are possible.”* (Yes, I borrowed that from Scripture, but I can't say it any better, and you don't mess with perfection.) Now the tide had turned; the predator had become the prey as the Jews wanted Saul's head. He secretly hightails it to Jerusalem, hopefully for the protection of the Apostles. But unfortunately for him, they were still afraid of him, too, and were not about to let the fox in their sanctuary. What to do? Hated by most Jews in the city and feared by Jesus' followers, there was no one he could turn to. He needed a friend, he needed a mentor, he needed someone who was *“a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith”* (Acts 11:24). God knew whom he needed: Joses (Joseph), a Levite from Cyprus (See Acts 4:36).

Unlike Paul, we don't know much about Joseph's conversion. We know he lived on the island of Cyprus and belonged to the tribe of Levi, who was responsible



Tintern Abbey, Wales, 12th Century



English Village Church, 13th Century



Tangier Island Cross, VA, 20th Century

Photos: © Backyard Photography, Alan Tucker

for duties with the sanctuary. Some suggest he was a learned man and a teacher of the law in the synagogue. If such, he may have known or knew of Saul beforehand. We know Joseph was ‘all in’ like many early converts who gave all their belongings to the church to help the poor: *“having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the Apostles’ feet”* (Acts 4:37 NKJV). He would have had to travel to Jerusalem to do that. It is possible he was at Pentecost because he was full of the Holy Spirit, but that is speculation. We also know that he developed a reputation for encouraging others, which led the Apostles to call him Barnabas—which means *son of encouragement* (See Acts 4:36). I remember reading a Max Lucado book one time that said something to the extent “how cool it must have been to have the nickname, ‘The Encourager.’” I have also been blessed to know a few people who could have worn that nickname as well.

Barnabas had to have been full of the Holy Spirit to do God’s will. Here was Saul caught between a rock (the Apostle’s fear of him) and a hard place (the Jew’s hatred of his betrayal of the Law). So, in steps, Barnabas risked life and limb to become Saul’s advocate to the Apostles, explaining how Saul had *“seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to Him, and how he preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus”* (Acts 9:27 NKJV). The Apostles trusted Barnabas, who convinced them of Saul’s conversion. Saul was allowed to remain with them and preach in Jerusalem. Because the Jews conspired to kill him, Saul was then sent back to Tarsus, his home, for safety precautions.

So far, we have learned about the generosity of Barnabas, where he sold his property to help the poor, and his courage and trustworthiness. He welcomed Saul

after learning of his conversion, introduced him, and vouched for him to the Apostles. But there is so much more to Barnabas. He was a teacher, preacher, mentor, and one of the early church’s most effective missionaries. When the church leaders heard that some believers had traveled as far away as Antioch in Syria (the third largest city in the Roman world) and were leading Greeks to the Lord, they sent Barnabas to investigate. Arriving, he was glad to see what the grace of God had done and started doing what he did best, *“encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts...and a great number of people were brought to the Lord”* (See Acts 11:23-24).

At this point, Barnabas decided he needed help and made one of the most important decisions of his life, which had to have been divinely inspired. He chose to go and get Saul, who had been at Tarsus for a couple of years. Barnabas and Saul would spend a year ministering to believers in Antioch, Gentiles and Jews alike, and preaching the Gospel. Observing Barnabas and Saul, it was during this time that converts were first called Christians. I find it interesting that in a remote area of Syria, the term Christians was first used. While there, Barnabas and Saul became aware of an impending famine in Judea. They would subsequently be trusted with aid to take to Jerusalem.

Barnabas and Saul returned to Antioch, from where they were led by the Holy Spirit to embark on the first of Paul’s three missionary trips. Interestingly, their first stop was Cyprus, Barnabas’ home country. They would then travel to several Roman Empire cities in Asia, preaching first in the synagogues, hoping Jews would accept Jesus as the Messiah. They would not accept the truth and subsequently expelled Paul and Barnabas from their



Photos: © Backyard Photography, Alan Tucker

l-r: Gloucester Cathedral, England; Mayo Memorial Methodist Church, Paintsville, KY

region. Note that it is here where Luke, the author of Acts, replaces Saul's Hebrew name with his Roman name, Paul, and begins to mention Paul's name first more often than the other way around. The moment they shook the dust off their sandals when they were leaving the region was when God's ministry to the Gentiles began in earnest:

For the Lord has commanded us:

"I have set you as a light to the Gentiles. That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth."

Acts 13:47 (NKJV)

While Paul would become preeminent in the ministry to the Gentiles, Barnabas would continue to share in the work of transitioning Gentiles to the church. He knew the importance of nurturing those new to the faith and those who struggle with exhibiting the grace of God in their lives. We all need believers full of faith and the Holy Spirit to nurture us in our walk.

For the remainder of that first missionary trip, Barnabas would continue to use his unique gift, spiritual encouragement, as he worked alongside Paul. Later, at a specially called Jerusalem Council, the Apostles and elders were glad to hear of their success in converting Gentiles. They sat in silence *"as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them"* (Acts 15:2). They truly were God's amazing envoys to begin the preaching the Gospel *"to the ends of the earth."* However, as closely as they worked together and respected one another, it didn't mean they didn't have disagreements, even sharp disputes. One came about upon the start of the second missionary trip, which caused them to split. Early in the first trip, John Mark (author of the Gospel of Mark) unexpectedly left for unknown reasons. Even though that had happened, Barnabas wanted to take Mark on the second journey, but *"Paul did not think it wise to take*

him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia" (Acts 15:38). As they separated, Paul continued his planned trip, taking another disciple, Silas. Barnabas and Mark went in a different direction. I think that was God's plan all along as he began to expand the number of missionaries to reach more people. He knew missionaries needed to learn from his chosen ambassadors (Paul and Barnabas). Paul, who learned from the *"Son of Encouragement,"* would mentor many, including Silas, Titus, and Timothy.

Mark was a young man when he fled on the first journey. However, Barnabas must have seen Mark's potential, maybe because Mark was Barnabas' cousin. I like to think it was a combination of the two. But Barnabas' patient encouragement and tutelage turned Mark into the man of God he became. Mark completed the missionary journey with Barnabas and eventually went on to assist and minister to both Peter and Paul later in life. Then, he would become one of the first to document Jesus' life in writing, all because Barnabas didn't write him off for his youthful mistakes. I am glad I wasn't written off for my lifetime of mistakes; as I said earlier, *"with God, all things are possible."* And I am grateful that God put good men and women, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith, in my path, to steer me in the right direction. It leads me to raise my arms in worship and sing *"praise god from whom blessings flow!"*

What an impact Barnabas had on the life of the Church. As the *"Son of Encouragement,"* he was one of its first converts; he was called to be a missionary (see Acts 13:2-5); he was the first, along with Paul, to be called a Christian; and his work played a pivotal role in the Church's development in advocating for Paul and Mark and then mentoring them. Because *"he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith,"* he did God's will and all He commanded. And, because God gave him unique gifts such as generosity, leadership, reconciliation, patience, and, most importantly, spiritual

encouragement, Barnabas gave us Paul and Mark. Today, we are blessed to have God's inspired Word revealed through Paul in his letters and Mark in his Gospel to read, meditate upon, and guide our walk with Jesus.

Today, Barnabas is one of my Biblical heroes. I can't say that I have heard much about him for most of my life, and that's been a long time. I started singing in a boy's choir when I was 10, so that's a lot of sermons since 1952. Sadly, I was probably zoned out for many of them. However, since being saved, I've come to know not only who he is but also to be inspired by his life. He modeled so many Christian values that I believe God wants us to do, also. Simply said, he imitated Jesus, which Paul stressed in his letters that we should all do, *"Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ"* (See 1 Corinthians 11:1).

How do we model Christ?

- Our lives should be about God's work in some way. It can't be talk; it has to be about "the walk," which is seen.
- We should keep our minds filled with the love and promises of God, not worldly things.
- Our behavior points people to Christ.
- We exemplify the virtues of generosity (time and money). The Church needed both in Barnabas' time and still does.
- We value missionary work by performing or supporting it. Missionaries are God's light to the ends of the earth. We're all not called to be missionaries, but we can further that work by financially supporting those who are called to do it. That's how we help spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth.
- We are continuously proactive at spiritual encouragement, whether encouraging others in their journey (walk with Jesus) or comforting/consoling those in need. We all know people who are desperate for spiritual encouragement. Some of us have been the recipients of God's grace through others. We should seek to share His grace with those who need it.
- We are willing to forgive and give second chances as Barnabas did for Mark.
- We are humble and are satisfied to do the work we are called to do. Barnabas did that. He was humble enough to allow those who advanced beyond him (Paul and Mark) to take center stage. He knew their focus was on Christ, not themselves, and he stayed true to his calling.
- We understand everything is for God's glory and strive for that outcome.

At a minimum, we should all strive to be Barnabas-like and to be known as an encouraging person, not someone who tears down or belittles people. We should be kind in our words and strive to be gracious even when it is difficult. We can't point people to Jesus or impact their growth by making them feel inadequate. Around us, there are far too many people who discourage others. Let that not be us. But instead, let us be a light to the people we encounter. Paul said this better:

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

Dear friends, it has been a joy to share how God inspired a young Jew who lived so far from Judea back in the early days of the Church to become known as the "Son of Encouragement" and one of the central figures in spreading the life of Jesus and the hope of salvation to the ends of the earth. If you are a Christian like me, who didn't know the importance of encouragement in God's work, I pray you begin to use it in your walk with Jesus. God wants you to embrace encouragement in your daily life; if you don't believe me, grab your Bible and start reading the New Testament. You'll find I speak the truth.

Finally, if you do not know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, I encourage you to invite Him into your heart now and ask Him to forgive you of your sins. Then, seek out a pastor or a Christian friend you know and ask for his or her guidance. If you do that, you, too, can become someone known as a good person, full of the Holy Spirit and faith!

Until next time, Godspeed. Al

*Stop By
And Worship!*

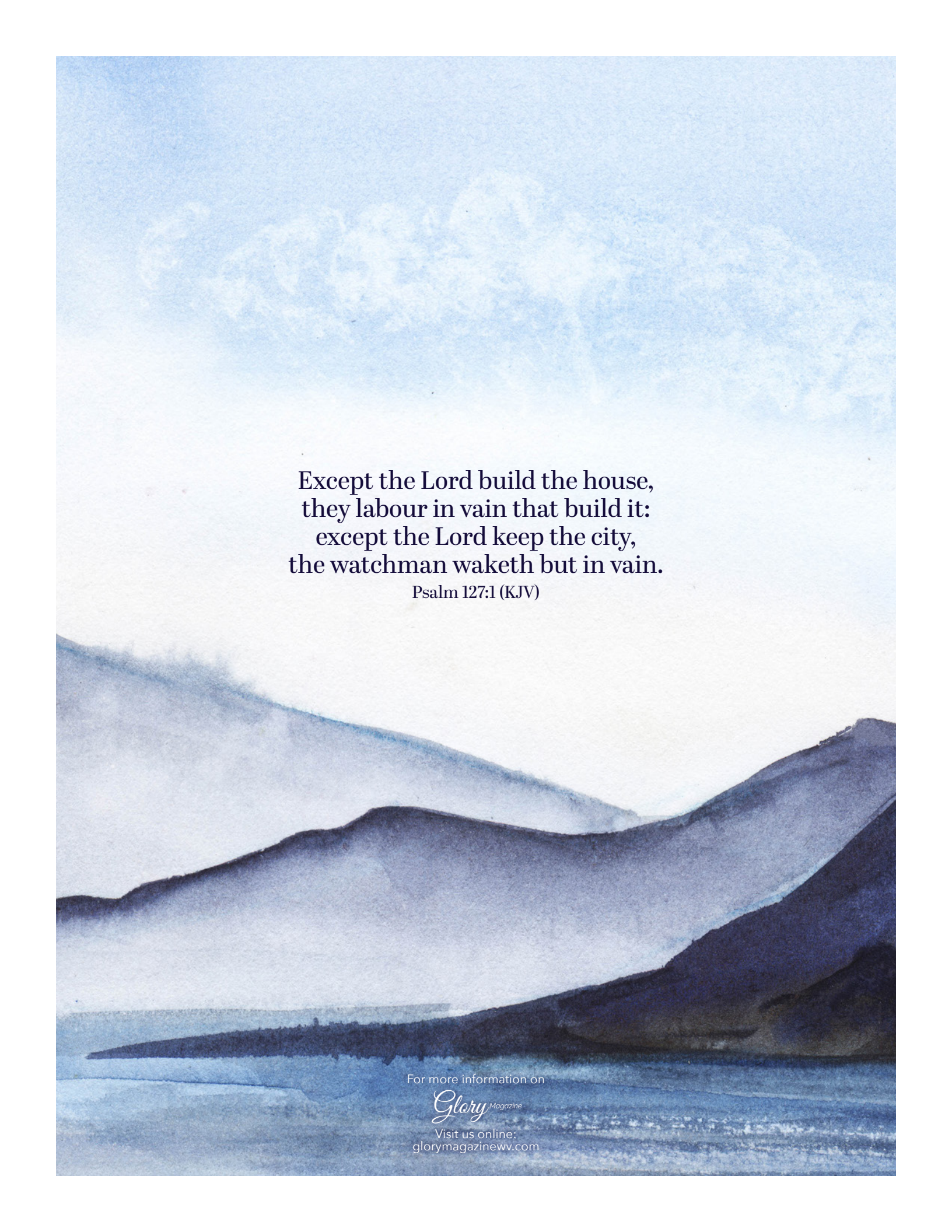
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Except the Lord build the house,
they labour in vain that build it:
except the Lord keep the city,
the watchman waketh but in vain.

Psalm 127:1 (KJV)

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