

Volume 13  
Issue Four

# On Good Ground



PRICELESS  
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## It's Gotta Cost You Something

In those times when we're honest with ourselves we will acknowledge that while we have a desire to do things for God, we would rather the things we do not be too much of an inconvenience or a challenge. If we can sing, then God asking us through an inner prompting to deliver the sermon selection may not be that tall of an order. If we can't sing? Well, that's another story altogether! If we have \$300, a divine request to give \$50 to the visiting evangelist is one thing. But if we have only \$55 to get us through the rest of the week? Well...

In all of our doing, God doesn't simply look at the act, He's also looking at what it has cost us. If what we purpose to do for God is to be accepted, it must cost us something. That's because the cost we're willing to pay reflects just how worthy God is in our eyes.

David understood this deeply. As we know, the Bible tells us that David was a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22). This does not mean that David was perfect, by any means. He committed many sins, but when he did, he recognized his sins and

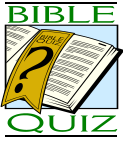
confessed them without excuse. David also knew the importance of making a sacrifice for God.

For example, when David sinned by conducting a census (an act that revealed David's pride and faith in the size of his army) God sent a plague upon Israel that killed 70,000 people (2 Samuel 24:1-15). David confessed his sin before the Lord and was instructed by the prophet Gad to build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah (vv. 17-18). When King David told Araunah that he had come to buy his threshing floor to build an altar to God, Araunah immediately offered to give David everything – the threshing floor, the oxen for the sacrifice and wood for the fire (vv. 19-23).

David immediately replied, "No, I insist on buying it, for I will not present burnt offerings to the Lord my God that have cost me nothing" (v. 24a NLT). David promptly paid Araunah 50 pieces of silver for the threshing floor and the oxen. He then built the altar, sacrificed burnt offerings and peace offering unto the Lord, and the plague was stopped (vv. 24b-25).

It is not enough that we make sacrifices for God – sacrifices of time, money, choice of activities, etc. – what's more important is that our sacrifices must cost us something. That's the only way that they will be meaningful to God. And remember, the cost is not measured in absolutes. Jesus said the widow who placed two mites into the offering plate (about a quarter of a penny), gave more than the rich who had given much more in actual dollars (Mark 12:41-43). How is that? Let the Lord Jesus declare it: "For they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood" (v. 44). The widow's tiny offering really cost her something.

So whatever you "give up" for God, whether it's big or small by the world's standards is not the issue. The only question that matters is what is it costing you? If it's costing you little or nothing, please know it is not a sacrifice worthy of our God. If we keep our heart and mind focused on to Whom it is we are making the sacrifice, we will give out of a heart of love and obedience, and will present to God a sacrifice that is both holy and acceptable.



**The Glory of Exodus?** Yes there was glory in the Exodus... when the people were delivered from Pharaoh. God's glory and God's hand was all over their deliverance. Then there was glory on the face of Moses after he came down from his visitation with God. Wonder how many times the glory of the Lord shines upon us after our visitation? Uhhmm.... Just a thought. Anyway, this issue's Bible Quiz, which may be quite difficult, so you might want to get a lifeline or call a friend or something; we want to know just how much you know about the glory of the Lord as it was revealed, where else, but in the book of Exodus. There, you have your clue, now you only have to give us the chapter and the verse. ☺

1. Upon what mountain did Moses receive the commandments?  
a. Sinai  
b. Everest  
c. Gilboa  
d. Rushmore
2. What did God command Moses to tell the Israelites to make?  
a. food  
b. wine  
c. sanctuary  
d. house
3. Of what were the vessels of the altar to be made?  
a. shittim wood  
b. gold  
c. silver  
d. brass
4. What did God's glory do to the tabernacle and the altar?  
a. blessed them  
b. claimed them  
c. sanctified them  
d. burned them
5. What was Aaron to burn in the tabernacle lamps every morning and night?  
a. oil  
b. incense  
c. feathers  
d. wine
6. The Lord commanded Moses to use myrrh, sweet cinnamon, sweet calamus, cassia, and olive oil to make what?  
a. soup  
b. oil  
c. medicine  
d. perfume
7. From what tribe did the workmen of the tabernacle come?  
a. Judah  
b. Israel  
c. Benjamin  
d. Levi
8. What other tribe assisted in building and furnishing the tabernacle?  
a. Levi  
b. Benjamin  
c. Dan  
d. Joseph
9. The curtains for the tent over the tabernacle were made of what?  
a. goat's hair  
b. ox hair  
c. linen  
d. silk
10. How many cherubims were made to put on the mercy seat of the ark?  
a. 1  
b. 2  
c. 3  
d. 6



(Answers on next page)

**SELAH.**  
Pause and calmly think  
about these.  
**REFLECTION**  
...As a man thinketh, so is He.



God never said to talk about your mountain. He said talk TO it. No matter what its name is.

*The sin is not having the thought, it's acting on it.*

There's a reason God spoke to people in their dreams. They were still enough to listen. God's act of kindness towards us is not based on what we do, it is based on what Jesus did. We like to say God orders our steps, but we don't put Him in charge of them. Somebody needs to eat off our tree.

Every trouble we have is a trouble we have allowed.

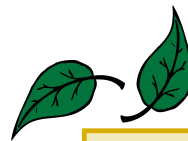
*Living by faith means God has our permission to interrupt our plans.*  
Serving God does more for us than it will ever do for God.

If Paul can breathe our threatenings and murder, then we can certainly breathe out faith.



Mahala (my 6-year-old with Down Syndrome) and I went to the grocery store one morning and as we entered, I noticed a lady in, maybe, her 60's and she was obviously upset over something. I put Mahala in the cart with her teddy bear and started shopping. As I gathered a few things, I went to put a bag of potatoes in the cart and realized I was going to have to get Mahala out to make room for the groceries. As I put the potatoes in the cart, I heard Mahala behind me. She had walked up to the lady and said, "What's wrong, Darlin'?" Then she hugged the lady's legs and repeated, "What's wrong?" The lady knelt down and said, "Nothing, baby, I'm just a little upset." Mahala then hugged her and handed her bear to the lady and said, "Here, have my bear." Mahala then walked back to our cart. In a few minutes the lady approached us and gave Mahala back the bear and thanked her. Mahala said, "You're welcome... It's OK, Baby!" Then the lady said to me, "Can I talk to you?" I told her of course she could. She said, "I got a phone call this morning and my daughter's newborn baby was tested for Down Syndrome. We won't have the results back for two weeks. I couldn't understand how this terrible thing could happen to us, but God sent your daughter to me to let me know it is going to be OK. Thank you for choosing today to get your groceries." I got chill bumps all over... I was speechless!

*Just a little something to consider... Actually two, first, we really never know how our actions will affect someone. And second, often things happen that we don't seem to understand, but there is always a purpose and no matter what, ALL things will work together for the good for those who love the Lord.*



### *The Prayer of Salvation*

God, I come to You in the name of Jesus. You said that all have fallen short of the glory of God. You sent Your Son that I would be saved.

Forgive me of my sins, Lord. I confess with my mouth and believe in my heart that Jesus died for me and You raised Him from the dead. I accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and believe that I have been born again. Thank You for loving me, for forgiving me and coming into my heart. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.



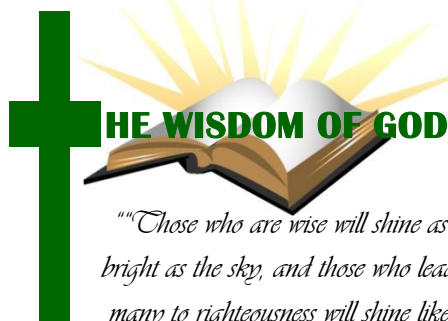
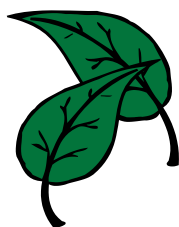
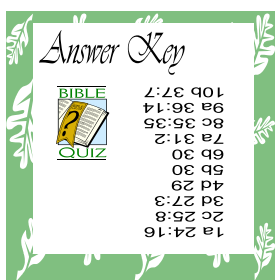


## A MOMENT WITH GOD

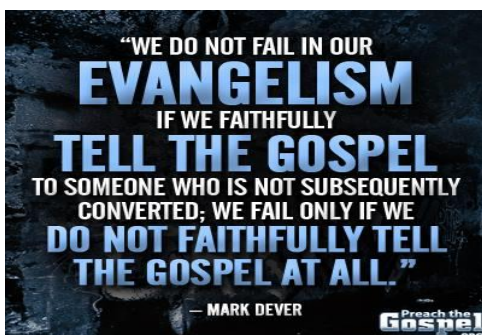
"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation,  
Oh Lord."



God's desire is that men pray everywhere. He wants us to pray without ceasing. We believe God and in His Word that tells us His will for our lives. God wants you to have life and that more abundantly. He wants you to be in health even as your soul prospers. We want you to know that we are praying God's will for you, but if you have any specific prayer requests feel free to email us at [prayer@ongoodground.org](mailto:prayer@ongoodground.org), visit us on the web at [www.ongoodground.org](http://www.ongoodground.org) or give us a call at (609) 723-3425.



"Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever." Daniel 12:3 NLT



## Yesterday's Anointing

One of the biggest enemies to continued success is past success. Your last presentation went well; everybody loved it. Brimming with confidence, you gave another presentation a few weeks later, and it fell flat. Less than half-way through, you knew it wasn't going well at all. What happened? Well, for the first presentation, you studied and prepared diligently. You also spent time praying, fasting and reading the Word. This time around? Well, you spent more time recalling your past success and picking out what you were going to wear than anything else. In the end, God taught you a hard lesson: today's success requires today's anointing.

The disciples experienced a similar situation. In Mark Chapter 6, Jesus sent them out two-by-two to preach and to heal the sick. Before releasing them He *"gave them power over unclean spirits"* (Mark 6:7). As a result, the disciples went forward preaching repentance *"and they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them"* (v. 13).

After they returned, the disciples continued to walk with Jesus, receiving His teaching and standing as witnesses to many miracles. In the process, they got to know Him better. In Mark Chapter 8, Jesus asked them, *"Who say ye that I am?"* Peter answered for them all: *"Thou art the Christ"* (v. 29). The disciples' knowledge had clearly grown and they had now come to know Jesus as Messiah.

However, later on, a distraught father brought his demon-possessed son to the disciples, but they could not cast the demon out (Mark 9:14-18). Jesus took command of the situation and delivered the young man (v.25-27). When the disciples asked Jesus why they could not cast out the demon, Jesus replied: *"This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting"* (v.28-29).

Prior to this event, the disciples went out and cast out *"many devils"* (Mark 6:13), but now they could not cast out one. And this was after they learned more about Jesus, saw Him feed a multitude with two fish and five loaves, saw Him walk on water, perform miraculous healings in various places and feed four thousand with seven loaves. If we were to put it in today's terms, the disciples continued to come to church and witnessed divine deliverance every week, but still stood powerless against the lone demon. Why? Because they were living off yesterday's success.

When Jesus told the disciples that the demon who was wreaking havoc in the young boy's life could not come out except by prayer and fasting, He was essentially telling them that to walk in continuing power and to be ready whenever trouble arose, the disciples had to have a lifestyle marked by prevailing prayer and communion with God. A lifestyle like His. That is where the anointing comes from. Jesus didn't pray and fast immediately before casting out the demon. His power to do so was found in His enduring relationship with the Father.

The disciple is not above his master (Luke 6:40). If Jesus had to rely daily on His connection with the Father to walk in power, how much more must we? Yesterday's anointing was sufficient for yesterday's problems. For today, we need a fresh anointing. So don't live off yesterday's laurels. Continue walking with God – through prayer, fasting and meditation on His Word – and let God empower you anew for every challenge and obstacle in your path today!



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Have you shared the Good News yet?



*"But the ones that fell on good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience." - Luke 8:15*



A FREE Christian Newsletter distributed by  
*Minister Jeffery B. Farnell*  
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By inspiration of The Holy Ghost.

### *We'd Love To Hear From You*

If you would like to support the work of this ministry, have an article, testimony, prayer request or thought to share, write us. Send your gift and/or letters:

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*May the Lord God bless you in astonishing ways!*  
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## Out Popped a Calf!

Moses was on the top of Mount Sinai communing with the Lord when the people got impatient and demanded Aaron make an idol that they would worship as a god (Exodus 31:18-32:1). Aaron told the people to bring him gold, which the Bible says, "he received ... from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf." Not only that, after Aaron saw what he had made, he built an altar before the golden idol (Exodus 32:4-5 NKJV). Yet, when Moses returned to the camp and demanded an explanation for his sinful conduct, Aaron replied that the people gave him gold "and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out" (v. 24). Instead of taking ownership of his wrongful conduct, Aaron resorted to excuses – "I just threw gold into the fire and out popped a calf!" Sounds ridiculous, until we consider the many times we "explain" why we miss the mark: "God knows my heart." "I'm not there yet." "God made me this way." "It's her fault; she made me so mad." Every time we make excuses like these we sound just like Aaron. Stop making excuses. Your sin does not just "happen." When you mess up, fess up; it's the only way to get your cleansing and get right with God (1 John 1:9).