

Friends, one of the greatest blessings we have received – if not *the* greatest – is God’s forgiveness. We are forgiven not because we deserve it, but because God is merciful. Jeremiah said it right, “It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed” (Lamentation 3:22). Having been so richly blessed, let us now purpose to be a blessing and be quick to forgive others and extend to them the same mercy that our loving God has graciously extended to us. In this way, we can truly be followers of God, putting a smile on His face as we spread His goodness in the earth.



Once upon a time, there was an island where all forces of personality and feelings lived: Happiness, Sadness, Knowledge, and all of the others, including Love. One day it was announced to the forces that the island would sink, so all repaired their boats and left. Love was the only one who stayed. Love wanted to persevere until the last possible moment. When the island was almost sinking, Love needed help. Richness was passing by Love in a grand boat. Love said, "Richness, can you take me with you?" Richness answered, "No, I can't. There is a lot of gold and silver in my boat. There is no place here for you." Love decided to ask Vanity who was also passing by in a beautiful vessel. "Vanity, please help me!" "I can't help you Love. You are all wet and might damage my boat," answered Vanity. Sadness was close by so Love asked for help from him. "Sadness, let me go with you." "Oh... Love, I am so sad that I need to be alone!" Happiness passed by Love too, but she was so happy she could not hear when Love called her. Suddenly, there was a voice, "Come Love, I will take you." It was an elder. Love felt too blessed and overjoyed that he even forgot to ask the elder her name. When they arrived at dry land, the elder went her own way. Love realizing how much he owed the elder asked Knowledge, another elder, "Who helped me?" "It was Time," Knowledge answered. "Time?" asked Love. "But why did Time help me?" Knowledge smiled with deep wisdom and answered, "Because only Time is capable of understanding how much Love is worth saving."

A simple story about learning the value of love. Treasure it. Go after it. Save it. It's worth it. Oh,, Lord teach us to number our days that we might apply our hearts with wisdom.

## SELAH.

Pause and calmly think about these.

## REFLECTION

...As a man thinketh, so is He.

God cannot prepare a table for us before the presence of our enemies, if we don't forgive them.

**HAPPINESS IS A WATERED DOWN SUBSTITUTE FOR JOY.**

THE FLESH TURNS UP\* THE SPIRIT LIFTS UP\*

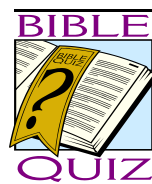
In order to walk with somebody you have to walk in the same direction.

**God wants us looking in two places, inward and upward.**

The enemy will tempt us in the areas of our strength and our weakness.

The minute we become afraid, is the moment we decide to do nothing.

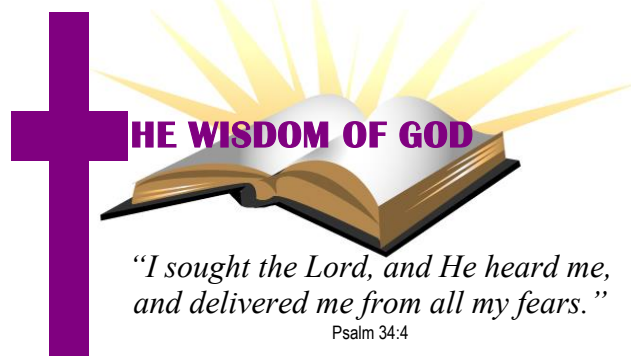
**Tithing is a heart condition.**



**LOVE QUIZ.** In recognition of Valentine's Day, we wanted to do a quiz based on the love Jesus declared. This one is pretty easy and here's a clue for where you can find the Scripture, 9 of the answers are in the 1<sup>st</sup> Book of something and one in the 1<sup>st</sup> Book of something else. But you have to tell us the verse. ☺

1. A person "truly has the love of God been made perfect in them" if they what?
  - a. study scripture
  - b. attend church
  - c. keep God's word
  - d. acknowledge their sins
2. What does the Bible say about the person who loves the world?
  - a. the love of money has led him astray
  - b. he needs to bring God's love to the world
  - c. he is too far gone to be saved
  - d. the love of the Father is not in him
3. "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called \_\_\_\_\_."
  - a. loving church members
  - b. beloved little children
  - c. children of Jesus
  - d. children of God
4. The person "who loves his brothers, also" what?
  - a. "continues in the light."
  - b. "is in darkness."
  - c. "truly serves the Lord."
  - d. "loves the Lord."
5. "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only" what?
  - a. deceiving myself
  - b. a resounding gong
  - c. telling lies
  - d. a stringless harp
6. How can believers know God loves them?
  - a. by realizing that He sent His Son as to sacrifice for their sin
  - b. by having problem-free lives
  - c. by attending church regularly
  - d. They can never really be sure God loves them
7. Why do people love God?
  - a. It is a commandment.
  - b. He is good to people.
  - c. What's not to love?
  - d. Because He first loved us.
8. What does perfect love do?
  - a. brings us peace
  - b. wins over the enemy
  - c. casts out fear
  - d. overcome sins
9. "He that loveth not knoweth not God..."; why?
  - a. The greatest is love
  - b. God is love
  - c. Christ taught us to love
  - d. Love is eternal
10. How can we know that we have passed from spiritual death to spiritual life?
  - a. "because we have obtained the ability to discern right from wrong"
  - b. "those who worship God, must do so on His terms"
  - c. "because we love the brethren"
  - d. "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God"

(Answers on next page)





# Keep Going

Recently I had a chore that needed to be done that could only be described as tedious. I really didn't feel like doing it. Nevertheless, I began taking on the boring task. Soon after I started, however, I wanted to stop. There were certainly better things to do, I thought; but I just kept pushing through. This battle to keep from stopping took place several times, but each time I just kept going, with no delay or break. Before I knew it, the task was done, which made me glad, but I was even happier that I didn't give in to the temptation to stop.

When I was done, the Lord said to me, "Victory often comes if you just keep going." *Keep going.* There's nothing impressive or glamorous about that. As Christians, we want to walk in power and authority, rebuking storms and casting out demons. Putting one foot in front of the other? Turning hand over hand? Nah. Give us something exciting, something we can testify about.

How often we miss it. The power of God is often revealed in the little things, the simple things. A group of women were on their way to Jesus' tomb to anoint his body with burial spices. As they walked they asked, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" (Mark 16:1-3 NLT). With no answer in hand the women kept walking. When they arrived at the tomb, the stone, which was very large "had already been rolled aside." (v. 4). God had sent an angel to perform the job.

Those women were able to witness and benefit from the power of God because they kept walking; they kept going. Had they delayed their journey until they figured out how the stone was going to be removed, they would have missed out on God's display of power and compassion. However, because they simply kept walking toward the tomb, they were able to see the hand of God operating in their lives.

It was the same for the children of Israel who had just been freed from hundreds of years of Egyptian bondage. After the Israelites left Egypt, Pharaoh changed his mind and decided to pursue them and bring them back to Egypt to serve him (Exodus 14:5-6). Pharaoh took his best chariots and pursued the people. When the Israelites saw the Egyptians approaching, they began to panic. They said to Moses, "Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? Weren't there enough graves for us in Egypt?" (vv. 10-11). Moses then sought God in prayer. God's response is revealing: "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward" (v. 15).

God then told Moses to lift up his rod. When he did, the Red Sea parted and God's people were able to cross over on dry ground to safety and watch God drown the Egyptians as the walls of water came crashing down upon them (vv. 16-28). When the people of God stopped crying and complaining, and simply kept moving forward as God directed, they were able to witness a miraculous move of God.

Where are you today? Are you waiting for God to move in your life to fill a need or answer a prayer? Perhaps God is waiting on you. Not to get out of the boat and walk on water, but perhaps to simply get off the couch and walk down the street to visit your neighbor or to get involved in your church. Maybe he needs you to just keep walking in your daily routine as a way to demonstrate your faith and trust in Him.

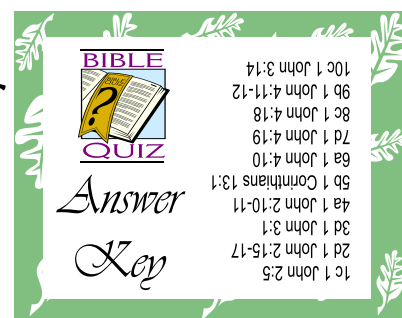
It may not be glamorous or romantic, but there is something powerful in the simple act of moving forward. So wherever you are today, don't just sit there. Get on the move as the Spirit directs you. And when you feel like giving up, just keep pressing on. If you do, you will soon see God work on your behalf and meet your deepest need.

## 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.



Intercessory prayer at the church is held **Mondays at 7pm**. We believe, as we have been taught, that prayers can do what God can do. We want you to know that we are praying for you. If you have any specific prayer requests for yourself or a loved one, feel free to email us at [prayer@ongoodground.org](mailto:prayer@ongoodground.org), visit the web at [www.ongoodground.org](http://www.ongoodground.org) or call us at (609) 723-3425.



For God so loved the world

that He gave

His only

begotten

So

That whosoever

believeth in Him

should not perish,

but have everlasting life.



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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*

## Why So Deep?

Ever been around a brother or sister in Christ who, in sharing something with you from the Word of God, suddenly went deep? You know, they started talking with such authority that the tone of their voice even changed? Now watch this: have you ever been that brother or sister? Let's face it, at one time or another we all have gone deep, breaking down a Scripture as if we wrote it ourselves! Praise God that He knows our exuberance often does not spring from a bad place. Sometimes the Word just gets us excited. In writing to the church at Corinth, the Apostle Paul shared something that can keep us grounded, even in our excitement. In 1 Corinthians 2:2, Paul said, "For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." That's good teaching; the kind that can keep us from going too far afield. You may have graduated top in your class at seminary, but just make sure you don't lose touch with the crucified Christ. On the other hand, you may not know Greek or Hebrew, you may not know biblical history, you may even have trouble finding the book of Obadiah in your Bible. No matter. If you know Jesus Christ and Him crucified, you know all that you need. As we share with one another, whether from the pulpit or the pizza parlor, let's rein in the desire to be deep and keep it simple, that others may have faith in the power of God and not in the wisdom of men. (1 Corinthians 2:5).





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*May the Lord God bless you in astonishing ways!*  
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