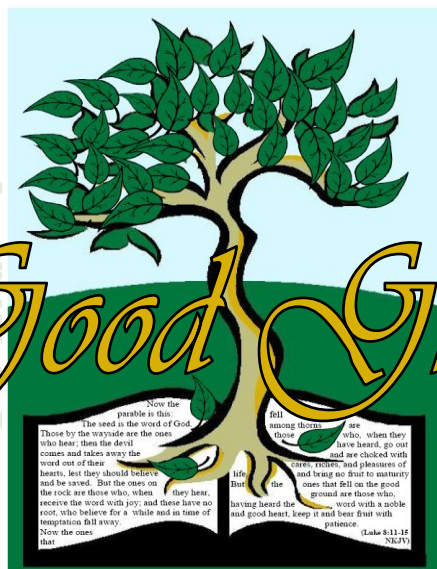


Volume 14
Issue Six

On Good Ground



PRICELESS
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Don't Believe Me Just Watch!

The Scriptures make it plain: God is true to His word. Consider Numbers 23:19 – “God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said and shall He not do it? Or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?” It’s more than God *does not* lie; the Bible tells us He *cannot lie* (Titus 1:2) and that it is *impossible for Him to lie* (Hebrews 6:12). Our doubt and unbelief have no effect on Him: “If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful: He cannot deny Himself” (2 Timothy 2:13). Yet down through the ages there have been plenty of people who have refused to believe God. To them, God has said one thing: “*Don’t believe Me, just watch!*”

Consider Sarah. One hot afternoon, three men (the pre-incarnate Christ and two angels) visited Abraham in the plains of Mamre. Abraham quickly prepared lunch for his unexpected guests. After lunch was over, the Lord spoke: “I’m coming back about this time next year. When I arrive, your wife Sarah will have a son” (Genesis 18:10 MSG). At this time Abraham was nearing 100 years old and Sarah was closing in on 90. From inside the tent Sarah overheard the Lord and laughed within herself: “An old woman like me? Get pregnant? With this old man of a husband?” (v. 12).

The Lord turned to Abraham and asked, “Why did Sarah laugh saying, ‘Me? Have a baby? An old woman like me?’ Is anything too hard for God? I’ll be back about this time next year and Sarah will have a baby” (vv. 13-14). When Sarah denied laughing, the Lord said, “Yes you did; you laughed” (v. 15). And in the heavens the angels who witnessed this exchange heard God say, “*Don’t believe me, just watch!*” A year later, Abraham and Sarah had a son, Isaac.

In Israel a severe famine had struck the land. Elisha, the man of God stood up and declared: “Listen! God’s word! The famine’s over. This time tomorrow food will be plentiful – a handful of meal for a shekel; two handfuls of grain for a shekel. The market at the city gate will be buzzing” (2 Kings 7:1). One of the king’s attendants replied: “You expect us to believe that? Trapdoors opening in the sky and food tumbling out?” At that moment, from His throne God said: “*Don’t believe me, just watch!*” By the time God’s words reached earth, Elisha simply told the attendant, “You’ll watch it with your own eyes, but you will not eat so much as a mouthful” (v. 2).

The next day four lepers wandered into the Syrian’s camp and found all the soldiers had fled; the Lord had made the Syrians hear the noise of a great army approaching with chariots and horses. Left behind was an abundance of food, clothing, silver and gold (vv. 3-8). When the lepers brought word back to the king, the people looted the camp, and food prices, which were extraordinarily high during the famine, dropped overnight! (vv. 9-16). The king then ordered the skeptical attendant to be in charge of the city gate. Let the Scriptures tell the rest: “The people, turned into a mob, poured through the gate, trampling him to death. It was exactly what the Holy Man had said when the king had come to see him” (v. 17).

Another time Israel soundly defeated the Syrians in a battle in the hills (1 Kings 20:13-21). The advisors to the king of Syria said, “Their god is a god of the mountains – we don’t stand a chance against them there. So let’s engage them on the plain where we’ll have the advantage” (v.23). Later, a man of God approached King Ahab and said, “This is God’s word: Because Aram said, ‘God is a god of the mountains and not a god of the valleys,’ I’ll hand over this huge mob of an army to you. Then you’ll know that I am God.” Translation: “*Not a god of the valleys, huh? Don’t believe Me, just watch!*” In one day, Israel killed 100,000 Syrians and God made a wall fall on 27,000 more!

Today, there are many who don’t believe in Jesus or in His second coming. Yet three times in Revelation, Jesus said He is coming quickly (22:7, 12, 22). We won’t hear Him say it again. But if you listen closely, you’ll hear the Master repeat to all the cynics and scoffers a heavenly refrain spoken to doubters down through the ages: “*Don’t believe Me, just watch!*” He who has an ear, let him hear. 🌿



Joy for the Spirit

Helping Cry

By Murray Lancaster

A little girl was late coming home for supper. Her mother made the expected irate parent's demand to know where she had been. The little girl replied that she had stopped to help Janie, whose bicycle was broken in a fall. *"But you don't know anything about fixing bicycles,"* her mother responded. *"I know that,"* the girl said. *"I just stopped to help her cry."*

Not many of us know anything about fixing bicycles, either. And when our friends have fallen and broken, not their bicycles but their lives, none of us knows how to fix that. As hard as I can try, we simply cannot "fix" someone else's life. Only God can do that. But like the little girl, we can stop to help them cry. And if that is the best we can do, we have done a lot!

"You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate." Luke 6:36 NLT

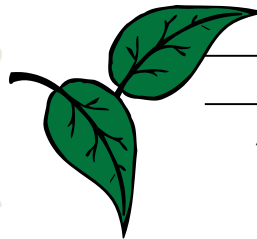


Corporate prayer at the church is held every other Monday at 7pm. Since we started we have seen God move in some mighty ways. We are praying and want to pray for you. If you have any specific prayer requests feel free to let us know. Email us at prayer@ongoodground.org.



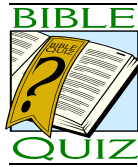
*"No one, having put his hand to the plow,
and looking back, is fit for the kingdom
of God."*

-Luke 9:62 NKJV



A MOMENT WITH GOD

"All of my help comes from You."



The Angel of the Lord. We read a lot about the Angel of the Lord and the visits He makes with people, in visions, in dreams and even face to face, greeting people with "Do not be afraid." Must be an awesome visitation! Well, let's see how much you know about the Angel of the Lord and who He happened to visit. Don't forget about the Scripture reference, Chapter and Verse, Bible Scholars! ☺

- Who did the Angel of the Lord visit "by a spring of water in the wilderness" in Genesis?
 - Abram
 - Sarah
 - Hagar
 - Elijah
- The Angel of the Lord blocked this man riding a donkey.
 - Balak
 - Balaam
 - Micah
 - Jacob
- The Angel of the Lord sat under a terebinth tree while talking to:
 - Gideon
 - Othniel
 - Abraham
 - Moses
- The Angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of an altar in view of whose parents?
 - Elijah's
 - Elisha's
 - Samson's
 - Isaac's
- The Angel of the Lord brought a plague upon Israel when _____ sinned by numbering the people.
 - Saul
 - David
 - Solomon
 - None of the above
- Zechariah saw the Angel of the Lord riding a red horse, and behind Him were _____.
 - more horses
 - angels
 - the saints
 - devils
- In Zechariah's vision of Joshua standing before the Angel of the Lord, who stood at his right?
 - Moses
 - Abraham
 - Elijah
 - satan
- Who did the Angel of the Lord appear to in a burning bush?
 - Abraham
 - Isaac
 - Jacob
 - Moses
- In the Bible, what item does the Angel of the Lord sometimes have in His hand?
 - sword
 - staff
 - both of the above
 - none of the above
- Which of these people did the Angel of the Lord NOT appear to?
 - Manoah
 - Zechariah
 - Joseph
 - king Saul

(Answers on next page)

**On Good Ground has an APP!
Download it today!**



Don't Exalt Your Comfort

Walking with God takes many things, among them is a willingness to get out of your comfort zone. Any born again believer who is not comfortable with the idea of being uncomfortable will find it difficult to follow the Lord.

David said it best: *"I delight to do thy will, O my God"* (Psalm 40:8). No matter what commandment God gave him, David declared it was his pleasure to carry it out. Can we honestly say the same?

Too many in the Body of Christ want God's best, but with minimal effort and inconvenience on their part. The church event has to be on the right day, at the right time, or else we can't make it. That project the pastor or your boss asked you to handle is not something you are familiar with, so you tell them that you have to take a pass. You don't know anyone who will be at the gathering, so you stay at home and miss the blessing God had for you there.

Far too often we place our desire to be comfortable above God's will – and we never get to "nevertheless." The Scriptures say Jesus *"was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin"* (Hebrews 4:15). In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed, *"O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me"* (Matthew 26:39). Jesus understood that by taking upon Himself the sin of mankind, He would incur the Father's wrath, which would require the Father to turn His back on His only begotten Son. The thought of that was too painful to bear.

But Jesus did not stop there. He continued, *"Nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."* Praise the Lord that Jesus got to "nevertheless," for if He hadn't we would still be lost in our sin. Despite the horrific physical pain He was about to bear and the awful anguish of being separated from the Father, Jesus exalted the Father's will over his own. This is our example.

So, when God seeks to bring us out of our comfort zone, when He looks to break our routine, when He takes us out of the familiar, it's perfectly okay to feel the uneasiness newness often brings, but let's not allow that to keep us from getting to "nevertheless." Let us remember that God couldn't bless Abram until he left his father's house and his relatives. (Genesis 12:1-3). Abram had to get away from his familiar surroundings and the people he grew up with. His destination? A place that God would show him! Talk about uncomfortable!

How many of us would have demanded to know the location of the place, the name, the climate and whether there were any malls nearby before we took one step of obedience? We need to know things, don't we? It's only natural, we say.

And therein lies the problem. We often fall back on our natural inclinations when God is calling us to a supernatural exchange. As children of God we are to walk with God by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). We often cannot see or understand what God is doing or where He is taking us, but neither is required in order for us to follow Him. Not knowing may make us uneasy, but as long as we can see our Shepherd's rod and His staff we're okay. Hear it again: *"Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me"* (Psalm 23:4).

So let us break away from our need to be comfortable, our need to "know" before we obey the Father. Let's be forever mindful that there will be things we know not now that we shall know hereafter (John 13:7). Most important of all, let us never lose sight that only God is to be exalted. Not our desires, our feelings or our comfort. The surest way to exalt God is through humility, for when we humble ourselves before the Lord, He is automatically lifted up. And when God is exalted in your life, He will exalt you.

The Scriptures declare this truth: *"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up"* (James 4:10). So let us say like David, *"I delight to do thy will, O my God,"* and let us rejoice in believing it is God's good pleasure to give us the kingdom (Luke 12:32).



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.

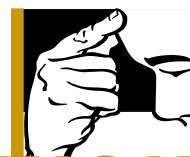
You sent Your Son that I would be saved.

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.



SELAH.

Pause and calmly think about these.



REFLECTION

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

You can't look back and go forward at the same time. You might hurt yourself.

Friends with benefits are friends with consequences.

Jesus will come to us in the middle of a funeral and tell us not to cry.

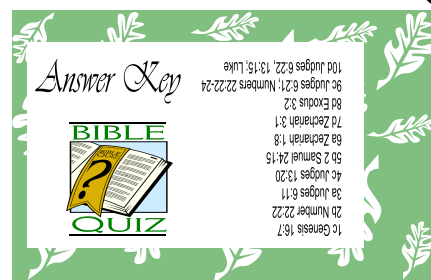
Sometimes God will put you in the midst of enemy territory.

The Spirit could be present but nothing will happen until God speaks.

We miss out on our miracles because we are hearing what God said, but not doing what He said to do.

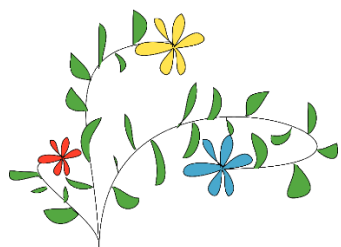
Patience is waiting with a confidence.

All we need to be concerned about when we pray is whether or not God hears us.





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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
Sis. Evelyn Farnell

By inspiration of The Holy Ghost.

We'd Love To Hear From You

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And if you're ever in the area, join us for Worship at

On Good Ground Christian Fellowship

527 Wrightstown-Sykesville Road

Wrightstown, New Jersey

Service starts at 10:45am

May the Lord God bless you in astonishing ways!

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ENDURE HARDNESS

Jesus made it plain: *"In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33). Since believers are "in Christ," we share in every one of Jesus' victories. Yet we still have to go through tough times; times that test our mettle and our faith. During such times it is wise to remember the Apostle Paul's words to Timothy: *"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ"* (2 Timothy 2:3). In other words, Paul encouraged Timothy to stand strong through the hardships of a life lived for God. Paul told Timothy that *"soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them"* (v. 4 NLT). This is familiar to the words of Jesus in the parable of the sower, where the seeds sown among the thorns *"are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection"* (Luke 8:14). To get through the tough times, we cannot set our eyes on the world and what folks are doing around us. We have to keep our eyes on God and His Word, believing that every promise He's made is Yea and Amen through Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20). We must remain steadfast in our belief in His Word, remembering that God rewards those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). If you are going through a hard time right now, be a good soldier and endure the hardness. Keep your focus on God and let Him lead you to your place of victory! 