



Deliverance in Christ

by Mervin Sundbo

The songwriter penned the lines:

“Christ has set me free! Glorious liberty!
Sin and sickness, death and hell,
Hath no longer power over me.”

This is a song of victory even though we have not completely entered into it. God wants to lead us into complete freedom and deliverance, which is our inheritance in Christ. David said in his confrontation with Goliath, “The battle is the Lord’s, and He will give you into our hands” (1Sam. 17: 47). Similarly, the Spirit of the Lord speaking to king Jehosaphat through Jahaziel, the prophet, said: “Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God’s (2Chron. 20: 15). He was then instructed to send singers “out before the army, and to say, ‘Praise the Lord; for His mercy endures forever’” (2Chron. 20: 21). There are lessons to be learned in these two accounts as well as many others throughout scripture. It is through battles that we learn to trust in God. We learn that our own strength is meager compared to God’s strength. We learn that our way is not the Lord’s way and our thinking is not the Lord’s thinking. Is. 55: 8 & 9, “‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts’” (NKJV).

How do we appropriate our liberty? How do we possess the deliverance that Christ died for? Is there a formula to follow? Is there a manual to read and steps to take? The manual is the word of God. We know that God’s word is true and that it is His purpose to

transform us into the nature and image of Jesus Christ. There will come a day when, as the songwriter says, “Sin and sickness, death and hell will no longer have power over His people.” In the meantime, His work goes on in us progressively, imperceptibly, and steadily until we attain, in Christ, full deliverance. The temple not made with hands is in the process of construction without noise or fanfare, not unlike the building of Solomon’s temple, which is a type of God’s ultimate purpose. “And the temple, when it was being built, was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built” (1Kings 6: 7, NKJV). That was a temple made with hands, but the temple He is building today is “where we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17: 28, NKJV). “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you” (1Cor. 3: 16, NKJV)?

The Nelson Study Bible has this to say about the word ‘transform,’ as follows: “Metamorphoo is a Greek word meaning ‘to change form,’ as does the English derivative metamorphosis. In the New Testament, the word is used to describe an inward renewal of our

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mind through which our inner spirit is changed into the likeness of Christ. Paul told the Roman believers: “Be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Rom. 12: 2). As our Christian life progresses, we should gradually notice that our thought life is being changed into Christ’s likeness. Transformation does not happen overnight. Our regeneration (salvation) is instantaneous, but our transformation is continuous. We are conformed to Christ’s image gradually as we spend time in intimate fellowship with Him” (p. 1903, Nelson Study Bible).

What God begins, God completes. He began the work in us with our salvation experience. By His transforming power and by our willingness and obedience to Him, He will complete the work in maturity. “Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1: 6, NKJV). “For it was fitting for Him (Jesus), for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings (Heb. 2: 10, NKJV). If the captain of our salvation was made perfect through sufferings and if “He learned obedience by the things which He suffered” (Heb. 5: 8), will it not be the same for us? Paul said in Rom. 8: 18, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed in us” (NKJV).

What does God expect of us? It is interesting to note that the deliverance plan for Israel was set in motion when they began to cry out to God by reason of their bondage. They really meant business with God. This was after over 400 years of oppression from their Egyptian taskmasters. “Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them (Ex. 2: 23 -25, NKJV). This is what God expects of us. Our bondage is different than Israel’s, but it is still bondage. Sickness is bondage. We need to cry out to God as Israel did. “The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5: 16, NKJV). God hears fervent, earnest, sincere prayers. We can become comfortable in our bondage, accepting of the way things are rather than seeking God for the way things should be. “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear” (Is. 59: 1, NKJV).

We are admonished in Rom. 12: 2 to “not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (NKJV). Only the transforming power of the Holy Spirit can renew the mind of man. In our own strength and striving we can change nothing. The renewed mind is the mind of Christ. In Christ, by the moving of the Holy Spirit, there is no limit to what God can do.

Paul said in 2Cor. 10: 3 – 5, “The truth is that, although we lead normal human lives, the battle we are fighting is on a spiritual level. The very weapons we use are not those of human warfare, but powerful in God’s warfare for the destruction of the enemy’s strongholds. Our battle is to bring down every deceptive fantasy and every imposing defence that men erect against the true knowledge of God. We even fight to capture every thought until it acknowledges the authority of Christ” (Phillips).

Allow me to use a sports illustration. In major league baseball each team plays 162 games in a season. I doubt that there has ever been a team that won every game. The fact that a team loses some games does not mean that the season is lost. The team keeps striving to reach the World Series in order to capture the ultimate prize and be recognized as the best baseball team in the world. The team may have lost some battles (games) along the way but persevered to win the war (the World Series). This might be a poor analogy, but don’t let anyone tell you that because you have been overwhelmed at times with the strongholds of the enemy’s formidable defense, the false accusations and fantasies of this wicked and perverse age, and the fiery darts of deception, that the war is lost. The battle is not ours; it is the Lord’s. There is no defeat in God. There is only victory. It does not matter about the size of the enemy. Numbers mean nothing to God. All God needed to rout the Midianites and Amalekites, who were like grasshoppers in multitude, were Gideon and 300 men. The army was reduced from 32,000 to 300 and there was a reason why God pared the numbers down. “And the Lord said to Gideon, ‘The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me’ saying, ‘My own hand has saved me’” (Judges 7: 2, NKJV). All God needed were committed and faithful men who would execute the plan of the Almighty. They could not fail because God was in charge of the action plan. Paul said, “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3: 14, KJV). The mark or the goal is the finish line, and Paul focused on it and ran with all of his might to reach the goal and to finish the race. This

is a picture of determination and perseverance. God wants us to possess the same never-give-up attitude that Paul describes in this scripture.

In our everyday lives, we tend to want to measure things, usually against some sort of standard. We go to school and the teacher measures by examination how much has been learned by his/her students. Sometimes, if it is a national exam, marks are evaluated against percentiles of national norms. In other words, if a mark falls in the 50th percentile, it is just a good solid average. It gives evaluators a standard against which to judge where their students are on a national level. A business will want to see a financial statement every once in awhile to see if money is being made or lost. That's a rather important measure for a business owner. And so in many aspects of our lives we want to know whether there is progress, regression or standing still. Some things are rather easy to measure and other things not so easy. For example, are you more compassionate today than you were 5 years ago? Does your life reveal that you are less critical now than you once were? Are you more forgiving today than you were when you were younger? Is your marriage relationship stronger today than when you were first married? The list of questions could go on endlessly. These are questions that require self-evaluation and that is the most difficult kind of test and perhaps the hardest to measure.

I am reading a book titled, "Practical Truths from Israel's Wanderings" by George Wagner. It was written in 1862. I will quote from it because of its application to the topic that I am presenting. "Do you ever ask yourselves, 'What progress is my soul making?' Perhaps you find it difficult to answer the question. There are many signs and some of them include: (1) If you are living near to God, you will be growing more and more dead to the world. (2) In tribulation you will be more resigned to the will of God. (3) You will be more self-denying in your life. (4) You will be more clothed with humility. (5) You will feel a deeper concern for the advancement of Christ's kingdom. (6) You will join the soldiers of Christ in their aggressive movements on Satan's kingdom" (p. 296).

There is a scripture found in Matt. 11: 12 that says, "The kingdom of God suffers violence and the violent take it by force" (KJV). What does this mean? The NIV says, "The kingdom of God has been forcefully advancing and forceful men lay hold of it." The Phillips says, "The kingdom of heaven has been taken by storm and eager men are forcing their way into it." What do the words force, violence, take by storm and lay hold mean in the context of this scripture? Matt.

5: 5 says, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." Matt. 5: 9 says, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Are these scriptures in contradiction to Matt. 11:12? I think not. Meekness does not mean weakness. Meekness, humbleness and contrition are spiritual strengths. Violence in Matt. 11: 12 means "spiritual striving" or "importunity" – to press, to persist, to persevere, to be determined. This is spiritual warfare, which is fought by crying out to God, engaging in fervent (intercessory) prayer, exercising faith and believing God for His promises. There is much violence in the world. We see it on every hand, not unlike the days of Noah, but it is "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts" (Zach. 4: 6, NKJV).

The Lord's instruction to Solomon in 2Chron. 7:14 has application to us today for our walk parallels Israel's journey in many ways. This is what He said, "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (NKJV). What a wonderful promise of deliverance to those who walk in humility, who pray and seek the Lord and who turn from their own (wicked) ways. It is the willing and obedient who will possess the spiritual land that is before us.

PAMPHLETS AVAILABLE

- **The Present Move Of God**
- **The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit**
- **You Are Loved • Growing In Christ**
- **Born From Above**
- **Honor The Lord With Thy Substance**
- **A Word To The Wise • Sexual Intimacy**
- **A Testimony - M. Sundbo**

BOOKS AVAILABLE:

MESSAGES TO THE CHURCH

- *The writings of Herrick Holt*

BORN FROM ABOVE

- *The writings of W. Douglas Whitter*

BUILDING GOD'S HOUSE

- *The writings of Allen M. Hinchliff*

Don't be Conformed to the World

By Andy Snoke

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12: 1-2, ESV). This classic piece of scripture seems to be an important truth for us all at this time. We are admonished to “not be conformed to the world.” The literal meaning for this choice of words is: do not live according to the style, manner, or philosophy of the age. There are many scriptures that admonish us to not fall in love with the deceptions of the world. I will list a few:

John 15:19 (NKJV) “If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” Colossians 3:2 (NKJV)

“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” James 4:4 (NKJV) “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” 1 John 2:15-17 (NKJV) “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

There have been many interpretations regarding what it means to “not be conformed to this world.” Some have condemned certain clothing fashions because it is seen as worldly. Some have resisted driving automobiles because in their minds, an automobile represents worldliness. I think this scripture means far more than we can fully understand. It means more than just putting off things that visibly appear worldly. It literally means that we must be careful to not be pulled into the “philosophy” of the age. Permit me to list a few truths that we need to be on guard against:

The philosophy of this age teaches that there is no

absolute right or absolute wrong.

Moral relativism is the norm of society. We often hear, “*It is true, if it is true for you.*”

The Bible tells us that there are moral absolutes independent of what we think is right. Exodus 20:1-17 is a list of the Ten Commandments, which are moral absolutes. The Bible teaches us there is **absolute right and wrong**. Without moral absolutes, no one can say anything is right or wrong. The Bible gives us 10 COMMANDMENTS, NOT 10 SUGGESTIONS. The Bible speaks prophetically of the day in which we now live when mankind would neglect the truth in the Scriptures, and actually declare that evil and sin are good, and truth and goodness are evil. Isaiah 5:20 (KJV) “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” Exodus 20-1-17 (NIV), Ten Commandments. “You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery (All sex outside of

marriage is equally wrong).

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

If we reject what is contained in the Word of God, we have rejected God Himself.

We must not allow the philosophy of the world to influence God's design for marriage.

Mankind has taken bold steps to change the definition of marriage, to suit the sinfulness of the world. It does not matter what your position is in life. You may be a president of a large nation, a prime minister, a famous talk show host with a network named after you, or a popular philosopher. You may have many letters behind your university credentials, but NO human being has the authority to change what God has decreed from the beginning. To understand the definition of marriage, we can go straight to the lips of the Lord Jesus Christ. Mark 10: 6 **"But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.'** 7 **'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 8 and the two shall become one flesh;'** so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 **Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."**

Any union, outside of this clear definition given directly from Jesus, is wrong.

1. Living together outside of marriage is wrong.
2. Same sex unions are wrong.
3. Plural marriages are wrong.

These are not my words or opinions. These are the words taken directly from the sacred Scriptures spoken by Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Let us not be conformed to the world in our worship.

Phil 3:3 "For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh (achievements of the flesh)." Our music should inspire worship and adoration of God. It should not become a performance. Those that lead in worship have one of the most important, and difficult ministries, a duty to bring the congregation into the presence of God through worship, without bringing any glory to themselves. I often marvel at our camp meetings, as I watch our musicians. I see them waiting carefully on the Lord, as they endeavor to help lift the praises of the congregation without becoming overpowering or becoming a performer of talent. If you

have a ministry in worship as a singer or a musician, you have a very special gift and responsibility in the sight of God. Be careful with it. Ephesians 5:18-21 (NKJV "And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord**, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God."

Don't be conformed to the language of the world.

Psa 34:13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Eph 5: 4 "neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks." Col 4:6 "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." What should our speech be like? What should be our usual way of talking? Colossians 4:6, NIV, "Let your conversation be always full of grace, . . . so that you may know how to answer everyone." God asks us to rid ourselves of foul language. Colossians 3:8, NIV, "But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips."

Ephesians 5:4, TLB "Dirty stories, foul talk and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, remind each other of God's goodness and be thankful!"

The Ten Commandments forbid the misuse of God's name. Exodus 20:7, TLB, "You shall not use the name of your God irreverently, nor use it to swear to a falsehood. You will not escape punishment if you do." Our words affect our lives. Proverbs 13:3, NIV, "He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin." What we believe is reflected in what we say. Matthew 12:34, 35, NIV, "How can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him."

God will hold us responsible for the words we speak. Matthew 12:36, 37, NIV, "Men will have to give account on the Day of Judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." The words we use influence others. 1Timothy 4:12, NIV, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."

We should honor the Lord in our work habits.

A man or a woman can be a great witness of

God's grace simply by showing good work habits. A Christian should be the best person on the job site, regardless of the competency of the boss, or who is watching. God is always watching. We should do our earthly work as working for the Lord. I read a statement that went something like this: "No matter how you feel, get up, show up, and never give up." This statement can apply to our jobs, as well as many other things. Col 3:23 "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men." Ephesians 6:5-9(NKJV) "Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free. And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him."

"Nothing in the world can take the place of per-

sistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education alone will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent."

Calvin Coolidge

April 9, 1967, Martin Luther King Jr, in Chicago Illinois said:

"What I'm saying to you this morning, my friends, even if it falls your lot to be a street sweeper, go on out and sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures; sweep streets like Handel and Beethoven composed music; sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry; sweep streets so well that all the host of heaven and earth will have to pause and say, "Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his job well." There are many issues that we could include on this subject regarding not being conformed to the world. But I challenge myself, and you as a reader, to not fall prey to the ever-changing philosophy of this age.

As it has been said before. "If God said it, I believe it, and that settles it."

Encouragement from the Psalms

By David Cotcher

We can find a lot of encouragement in the Psalms as we do throughout the Scriptures. The Psalmist, David, had times when he was discouraged, or fearful, or feeling overwhelmed, and we can see in the Psalms how he found encouragement. We can have the same feelings at times, and the Psalms are a wonderful source of encouragement.

David cried unto the Lord in prayer at a time when he was feeling overwhelmed. "Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto Thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For Thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. I will abide in Thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of Thy wings" (Psalm 61:1 - 4). David prayed that God would lead him to that stability in the solid rock, and know the calm assurance of His protection.

He was reminded that God has been a shelter, and a strong tower to protect him the enemy. When David was feeling overwhelmed, he reminded himself to fully put his trust in God and abide under His covering. As David does in many of the Psalms, he first confesses his own weakness and then declares His trust in God's protection and strength.

Many times David was under attack from his enemies, and he learned to trust in God's protection. This is expressed in Psalm 91 in wonderful promises that we can claim for ourselves. "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust. Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt

thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler” (Psalm 91: 1 - 4). Praise God! We can dwell in the secret place of the Most High, and fully trust Him under His covering.

David asked his own soul, “Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance” (Psalm 42:5). David was feeling unrest or turmoil in his soul, and later in the psalm he repeats this again “Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God” (v11). He asked himself, “Why are you feeling down and in turmoil?” He reminded himself to put his hope in God, and to keep praising Him for His help and strength. Again, he repeats this in the next Psalm, as well, (Psalm 43:5) to really get the message into his heart and soul. We are the same as David, and we often need to be reminded again to really receive the truth deep in our hearts. David encouraged himself, and wrote this in the Psalms as a testimony to encourage others. If we feel disquieted or experience unrest in our souls, let us say as David did, “I am still going to keep praising the Lord, and putting my hope and trust in Him, for He is my help and my strength.” Then, as we testify this to others, we can be an encouragement to them as well. Praise God!

David admitted that he had fear at times. “What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee. In God I will praise His word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me” (Psalm 56: 3 - 4). We know the accounts from the Bible of how David as a young boy protected the sheep from the wild animals. He learned to put his trust in God, and he came against Goliath in the name of the Lord. It does not seem like he would have fear, but David was honest and admitted that at times he did. If fear started to come, he immediately reminded himself of his trust in God. He said, “I will keep praising God and putting my trust in Him,” and as he did this he declared, “I will not fear.” Again later in this Psalm David says, “In God will I praise His word: in the LORD will I praise His word. In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me. Thy vows are upon me, O God: I will render praises unto Thee. For Thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not Thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?” (verses 10 -13). Then, in Psalm 27 David writes, “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid” (Psalm 27:1)? If

fear comes, we can praise God for He is the strength of our life. We can remind ourselves of how God had protected us in the past, and how others have testified of God’s protection, and praise Him for it. We have the Psalms for our example and encouragement. We can say, “I will not fear for I have put my trust in God.”

Several of the Psalms were written while Saul was pursuing David and trying to kill him. The heading for Psalm 57 says it was written while he was hiding in a cave from Saul, “To the chief Musician, Altaschith, Michtam of David, when he fled from Saul in the cave.” He begins the Psalm by calling on God’s mercy, and declares his trust in God’s protection, “Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in Thee: yea, in the shadow of Thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast” (Psalm 57:1). Then as he is encouraged he begins to praise the Lord, “Be Thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Thy glory be above all the earth” (v5). He becomes firm in his confidence in God, and builds up in praise with his singing and musical instruments, “My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise. Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and

CALLED HOME

Herb Wagar Sturgis, SK June 5, 2014	Helen Wolski Victoria, BC March 2, 2015	Reuben Amundson Edmonton, AB March 11, 2015
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IMPORTANT DATES

Feast.....	April 2-5, 2015
Henry, IL Meetings.....	May 1-3, 2015
May Long Young Peoples.....	May 15-18, 2015
North Battleford Summer Camp	July 5-12, 2015
North Carolina Summer Camp	July 19-25, 2015
Pinelow (Spokane)	
Summer Camp	July 27-Aug. 1, 2015
Caribbean Summer Camp (Grenada)	Aug. 2-8, 2015

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harp: I myself will awake early. I will praise Thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto Thee among the nations. For Thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and Thy truth unto the clouds. Be Thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: let Thy glory be above all the earth” (verses 7 - 11). I can picture David hiding in the cave, singing praise unto the Lord, “Be Thou exalted O God” as he declared his trust in God.

David found encouragement in singing praises and playing his musical instruments. We would refer to David as having gifts and ministry in music, and he was able to use this at a time when he needed encouragement. When he was hiding from Saul, as we read in Psalms 57, he sang praises to God and played his psaltry and harp. I am sure he not only encouraged himself but also those who were with him. We appreciate those who have this gift in music and who can encourage us when we need it. We may not have that gift in music as David did but at a time when we feel under attack from the enemy and need encouragement, the Lord can put a song in our hearts, and we can declare our praise to God and our trust in Him. Also, if we will look at our own gifts and ministries, we will see that the Lord has made provision that if we will be faithful to operate what the Lord has provided, we can receive encouragement in the time of need and also be a blessing to others.

There are many examples in the Psalms of David receiving encouragement in the times when he had fear or anxiety, or was feeling overwhelmed. There were times he was under attack from his enemies and in danger. He reminded himself of his trust in God and how God had been his help and protection in the past. David praised the Lord and declared his trust and confidence in God through his songs. We can see these examples in the Psalms of how he received encouragement, and he wrote them as a testimony to encourage

others. We can receive that same encouragement in our times of need by remembering that God is our strength and our protection, and continuing to praise Him. As we do this, we will also be an encouragement to others. Praise God!

A CHRISTIAN

Could I be called a Christian If everybody knew
My secret thoughts and feelings And everything I do?
Oh, could they see the likeness Of Christ in me each day?
Oh, could they hear Him speaking In every word I say?

Could I be called a Christian If everyone could know
That I am found in places Where Jesus would not go?
Oh, could they hear His echo In every song I sing?
In eating, drinking, dressing Could they see Christ in me?

Could I be called a Christian If judged by what I read,
By all my recreations And every thought and deed?
Could I be counted Christlike As I now work and pray
Unselfish, kind, forgiving To others every day?

Author Unknown



*For a listing of dates and
contact information visit
www.globalmissionsinc.org*

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