



# THE GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

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## What To Do With The Devil

Talk Twenty-One from Heart Talks by C. W. Naylor

Some people say there is no devil, but I am convinced that he is very real. In fact, I have had some personal experiences with him that leave no room for doubt. He is right here in this world. Like a lion he “goeth about seeking whom he may devour.” What to do with him is the biggest problem that faces some Christians. They spend so much time thinking about the devil, fearing him, and trying to combat him, that they have little time for God. Their testimony is a testimony of the devil’s doings and their conflict with him. Their religion is a negative, not a positive thing. It consists in *not* doing and *not* being, *not* thinking and *not* feeling or in trying not. They are working on the problem from the wrong end. Our problem is to do and be, to live a positive life. Life is for accomplishment and for character-building. The overcoming of the obstacles that we meet is only incidental; it is not the main purpose of our lives. A great many persons think that they could accomplish great things and be wonderful Christians if it were not for the devil. What to do with him is their problem. I shall tell you what to do.

*First, do not be afraid of him.* Have you not read these words, “Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world”? If you will just believe that, you will have no cause to fear the devil. Do you not know that God is in you? and if he is in you, is he not more than a match for your adversary? “If God be for us, who can be against us?” Satan may oppose us, but he can not prevail against us. His opposition and his schemes will be brought to naught. Just add a little boldness to faith, and you will overcome him. Do not be frightened at his roaring. He can not touch you unless God permits, and if God permits him, it will only be to give you the greater victory in the end. Are you God’s child? Will he permit anything that will do you permanent ill? Do not fear the devil; trust God. Give your attention and strength to pleasing him. If you will keep busy doing this, you will not have so much trouble with Satan. God does not want you to be shivering with fear. He wants you to “be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.”



Satan is like a lion; but when a lion roared against Samson, that man slew the beast with his naked hands because the Spirit of the Lord was upon him. If, instead of fearing, you will trust in the Lord to put his Spirit upon you when there is need of it, you may overcome Satan as easily as Samson did the lion. Daniel was thrown into the lions’ den, but they did not eat him. God put a muzzle on them, not a literal muzzle, but something still more effectual, and they could not touch Daniel.

Being afraid of the devil is much like being afraid of the darkness. When I was a boy, I was bold enough to go where I wanted to in the darkness; but when I started for the house again, I could imagine that dogs and bears and all sorts of frightful things might be anywhere about, so I would run at full speed. There might have been something, but if so, I never really knew it; but I would get panic-stricken just the same. If you become frightened this way in spiritual things, you may look upon it as only a childish habit. You will never be a “really and truly” grown up man or woman for God until

you get over your foolish fear of the devil. We are told to “resist him steadfast in the faith.” It is faith that counts. If you have a gun, a crow will not fly near you. If you have faith, the devil will be more afraid of you than you are of him. Try using this weapon on him. You will find it very effectual.

*Second, do not run from him.* A man from the East was once riding over a Western prairie with a party of friends, when he saw an Indian walking along. While he was looking at the Indian, an angry bull, which had been bellowing and pawing up the ground, suddenly charged the Indian. Instead of his running, as the Easterner expected him to do, he simply turned about, folded his arms, stood stock-still, and faced the angry animal. It came charging down till it was almost upon him, then suddenly stopped, looked at him, and ran around him. The Indian stood motionless. The animal bellowed and pawed and ran round and round him. He did not move, and the animal did not touch him, but presently went off and left him alone, after which the Indian went on his way as though nothing had happened. There is a good lesson in that for us. There is no use to run from the devil, for he can run faster than we can. Our victory is often won by our standing still to see the salvation of God.

*Third, watch.* That is what our Lord commanded, but he did not say, “Watch the devil.” The thing that we need to watch most is where our own feet are going. If we allow ourselves to be oc-

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### Building Blocks of Faith—Part I

Excerpt from "The Secret of a Singing Heart—By: C. W. Naylor

Faith is one of the most powerful elements in human life. The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is a picture gallery of the heroes of faith. It begins with a definition of faith. We always need a definition that we may know what we are talking about. Paul's definition is an accurate one when properly understood. "Now faith is the substance [ground or confidence, margin] of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." The American Standard Version renders it thus, "Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen." In the margin it reads, "Now faith is the giving substance to things hoped for, a test of things not seen."

This is a practical rather than a definitive picture of faith. Faith is accepting a thing as true and acting upon that thing as truth with all confidence. As it relates to God, it is taking God at his word. It is believing his promises. It is personal acceptance of his promises, relying on those promises, and making them the basis of life.

One phase of faith is confident trust: the other is confident action. We read of the "full assurance of faith." Such full assurance in the old time worthies resulted in great accomplishments. In the eleventh chapter of Hebrews and elsewhere we read of what was done through faith. We look upon those who accomplished such things as, in some way, superhuman. We are inclined to believe, as the doubters of this world believe, that the day of faith in religion has largely passed. In reality that is not true. There are mighty works of faith being accomplished today. Faith is just as effective today as in any former age. There are people now who have faith and the might of that faith is manifested in mighty deeds and accomplishments.

Many wonderful things are accomplished by faith today, though the world goes on its way in ignorance of them. Most people think there is little faith today. They overlook the fact that when these worthies of the eleventh chapter of Hebrews were living the people did not consider their faith as amounting to very much. They were probably entirely unaware of the great accomplishments of faith that were going on around them. In like manner, many people, in fact most people, are ignorant of the wonderful accomplishments of faith that are so prevalent today.

When we read of the accomplishments of faith in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews it is natural for us to say, "I am not like those; I cannot have faith such as they had." I am not so sure of that. They were only common folk with perhaps little more than average faith. It may be that we shall accomplish a little less than they accomplished, but faith in us will produce real results just the same.

The day in which they lived was no more favorable for faith than today. In fact there was not so much faith then as today. Christian knowledge and Christian experience have laid a broader ground for faith, a surer foundation than they had in former ages. Faith is just as mighty today and will accomplish as much as in the ancient day. Perhaps we shall not duplicate the things they did. That may not be necessary; or perhaps it would not serve any good purpose if we should do

so. But faith is the gift of God and he is willing to impart it to each of us.

We already have much natural faith. The faith we have is the basis of our lives. Without faith the business world could not operate. Home life would not be possible. Religion could not exist. Government would be powerless. No great undertakings would ever be begun. Accomplishments, of whatsoever sort, are based on faith. No wonder we are urged in the Scriptures to "have faith in God."

Faith in God is believing him. We can have no satisfactory relations with him, except through faith. We are saved by faith; we are kept by faith. We are justified by faith. We stand by faith. We rejoice by faith. Assurance of immortality is a matter of faith. Faith is the victory that overcometh the world.

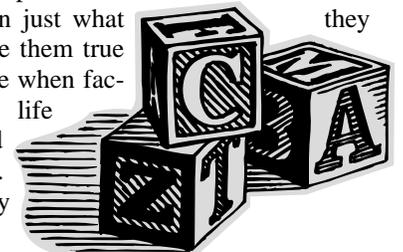
The apostles had faith. Jesus said to them, "Ye believe in God." Faith brings certainty. Without faith there can be no certainty. It brought certainty to Paul. He said, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

God is worthy to be believed. He cannot lie because his whole nature is truth and righteousness. He never changes. He never forgets his promises. He never turns away from those who trust him. Therefore, have faith in God. We should hold the attitude toward the Word of God that was held by an old saint who was nearing the sunset of life. A minister quoted to her, "Lo I am with you always," and said, "What a blessed promise that is." "Ah," said she, "that is not a promise, it is just a fact."

God's promises are facts. They are actual facts, or potential facts. They are either facts to us or may become facts to us by trusting them. The greatest fact in the lives of God's people is that they believe in God and they act upon that belief in a way that produces definite results in Christian living—holiness of heart and life, and true happiness. In fact, there can be no other basis of true happiness save faith. It is the foundation of all. To believe in God as the New Testament pictures him, and to accept him as he is represented to be, and to submit to him as such faith would lead us to do, is to be happy.

One needful thing is that we believe in God as he reveals himself to be. We must do this *quite apart from any inner feelings we may have about him or any fears we may have about him*. He is what he reveals himself to be. If we feel he may be other than what he represents himself to be it is because we do not definitely believe that representation of himself is true. We read God's promises and often we cannot feel that they mean just what they say, or that God will make them true to us. We fear and tremble when facing various things in life through God has promised to be with us and help us. He has promised us victory

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### Jesus Teaches Peter a Lesson on Forgiveness

Taken from Egermeier's Bible Story Book—Story 36—Matt 18:21-35

One day Simon Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how often shall I forgive my brother if he sins against me and then asks my pardon? Shall I forgive him seven times?"

Perhaps Peter did not have much patience with a man who would sin against him often and always ask to be forgiven. Perhaps he thought no person could be truly sorry for his wrongdoing if he should have to ask so many times to be forgiven.

But Jesus replied, "I do not say that you shall forgive him seven times only, but seventy times seven." How surprised Peter must have been when he heard this answer! He may have wondered whether he could ever truly forgive a man so many times as that.

Then Jesus told Peter a story about a king whose servant owed him a great amount of money. Finally the king called this servant and asked him to pay the debt. But the servant had nothing with which to pay, for he had spent all the money. Then the king said, "Because you cannot pay me the money you borrowed, I shall command that you and your wife and your children be sold, and that all of your property be taken away from you. In this way I can regain some of the money you borrowed and have lost."

The servant felt very sad when he heard these words, and he fell on his face before the king crying, "O King, have patience with me and I will pay every penny I owe!" And because the king had a kind heart he felt sorry for the man. He told him to rise up and go away to his own house. He said, "I will forgive all the debt, and you need not try to pay it back."

After this servant went out from the king's presence he met a



very poor man who had borrowed only a few dollars from him. He asked the man to pay it back, but the man could not. Then the servant became very angry, and seizing the poor man by the throat, he cried, "Pay back what you borrowed or I shall throw you into the prison house and keep you there until you do." Then the poor man fell down at his feet and cried out, "Have patience with me, and I will pay every penny I owe." But the king's servant would not listen, and because the poor man had no money, he threw him into the prison.

Other servants of the king were standing by and they saw how unkindly his poor man had been treated. They knew how the king had just forgiven the unkind man of a very great debt, and they felt sad because he was unwilling to forgive the small debt of his poor neighbor. So they came to the king and told him how unmercifully the servant had treated his poor neighbor.

The king was surprised to hear that his servant whom he had treated so kindly should dare to be so unkind to another. So he quickly sent for him. Now the king, too, was angry, and when the unkind servant came in he said, "O wicked man, I forgave all your debt because you could not pay, and now should you not have been willing to forgive the small debt your

poor neighbor owed? Because you have dared to be so wicked after I had pity on you, now I shall cast you into the prison house until you pay all you owed me in the first place."

When Jesus finished the story he said to Peter, "My heavenly Father has forgiven your great debt of sin; but if you refuse from your heart to forgive the wrong-doings of those who sin against you, neither will my heavenly Father forgive your great sins against him."

### What To Do With The Devil

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occupied in watching Satan, we may get out of the path and not know it. The Bible also says, "looking unto Jesus," not, "looking unto Satan." It is from God that our help comes. When we look at Satan, he appears great and terrible. When we look to God, we see his greatness and realize how much greater he is than Satan, and our courage rises, our strength is increased, our fears vanish, and we become confident. Look to God and where your own feet are going, and let God manage the devil.

*Fourth, ignore him.* There is nothing Satan hates so much as to be ignored. For us to calmly go upon our way unafraid and trustful, not dismayed by his roaring, is not at all to his liking. If we will keep our hearts and minds occupied with good things and pay no attention to his threats, we shall find that he will go off and leave us. He may soon return, but if you meet him in the same way, he will not linger around you as he will if he can hold your attention upon himself.

You have better use for your time than to let the enemy occupy it. Use it in active service for God. Jesus said he would give us "rest unto our souls." Do you have that rest? God means for you to have it, but you can not have it if you keep your attention on Satan all the time. He will tantalize you if you will let him. While you are looking unto Jesus, you will not see the faces that Satan makes at you, and so will not be troubled. If you will listen to God, you will not have time to listen to Satan. If he is constantly troubling you, it is because you are giving him opportunity. He is a conquered foe. The victory is yours, if you will have it so.

### Building Blocks of Faith—Part I

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through Jesus Christ all along the Christian way. Yet how many times we shrink and tremble and walk in uncertainty.

Unbelief is the source of this. Abraham believed God; therefore he did not stumble at God's promise. He took God at his word, then acted upon his word just as through there could be no such thing as questioning it. God's word is true. His promises were meant to be fulfilled. They are "yea and amen" to everyone who believeth. God has no desire to avoid fulfilling that which he has promised to do. He is under no compulsion. He promised because he *wanted* to do the things he promised to do.

He will do what he has promised. Do you believe it? It is true, whether or not you believe it. You will get the benefit of it only by believing it. You can believe it. You have the power to believe it. All fears that God will not do what he has promised are foolish fears. If you will believe, God will do the rest. If you will trust there will be no failure. If you will go ahead in faith, doubting nothing, your way will be prepared before you. The victory will ever be yours. You will be able to stand in the evil day. Whatever comes cannot overwhelm you. Your strength will be equal to your need. "Have faith in God." (*To Be Continued in the May/June 2005 edition.*)

## The Petition of the Outcast

Excerpt from "The Secret of Prayer"—By: E. E. Byrum

"No one cares for me, and nobody loves me," is a common expression of the one who is an outcast, being forsaken by friends and society. Such persons feel that they are forsaken by both God and man, and their feelings can scarcely be described. In many cases there seems to be nothing for which to live, while death means only to step into deeper darkness and eternal despair.

King Manasseh turned aside from the way of righteousness and did evil in the sight of the Lord. His wickedness was of the deepest dye. The Lord warned him and the people, but they did not hearken.

For a time the Lord permitted their enemies to prevail over them. Manasseh was bound with fetters and carried into captivity. While in exile, or banished from his kingdom, suffering pain and humiliation, he became awakened to his condition. He then began to humble his heart in prayer. The Lord heard his petition and answered.

"And now when he was in affliction, he besought the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, and prayed unto him: and he was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord he was God." 2 Chronicles 33:12-13.

Another one who had the experience of being an outcast, was Hagar, who fled from the face of her mistress, and the Lord sent an angel after her. It was recorded that "the angel of the Lord found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way of Shur. And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress, Sarai. And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands."

After her child was born, she again became an outcast and wandered away into the wilderness, with only the portion of a bond servant, which was some bread and a bottle of water. Soon "the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs. And she went, and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bowshot: for she said, Let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against him, and lift up her voice, and wept. And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven and said unto

her, What aileth thee, Hagar? Fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is. Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation. And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink. And God was with the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer. And he dwelt in the wilderness of Paran: and his mother took him a wife out of the land of Egypt."

These instances should be encouragement to those who are friendless, penniless, and to whom the future seems dark and dreary. It was because of their prayer, penitent plea, or anguish of soul that the Lord was constrained to lend a helping hand in time of great distress.

Another very striking illustration of the mercy of God is shown in the instance of the prodigal son. (Luke 15:11-24) Jesus said, "I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Luke 10:10

It often happens that those in such deplorable condition as to have become outcasts are so desperately discouraged as to believe that they are forsaken by God and man, sometimes even doubting the existence of God, but many in such a condition have ventured to pray, "Oh, God, if there be a God." Their state of wretchedness caused them to think there could scarcely be a God of mercy. However, there is hope for such, if they come in humility of heart, and penitence, no matter how great their desperation and despair. There is a way by which they may find favor in the sight of God, and that is through earnest, humble prayer.

### Softly and Tenderly

Will L. Thompson

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
Calling for you and for me,  
See on the portals he's waiting and watching,  
Watching for you and for me.

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,  
Pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,  
Mercies for you and for me?

Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,  
Passing from you and from me;  
Shadows are gathering, death's night is coming,  
Coming for you and for me.

O for the wonderful love he has promised,  
Promised for you and for me!  
Tho' we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
Pardon for you and for me.

Come home, come home,  
Ye who are weary, come home;  
Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling,  
Calling, O sinner, come home!

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Spanish interpretation is available in the services.

#### Service Times:

Wednesday Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Young People's Service (Sunday)	4:45 p.m.
Children's Service (Sunday)	5:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Service	6:00 p.m.

We have literature available for those who would like to study the Word of God in the confines of their home. Let us know if you are interested by contacting us at the above telephone number, address, or website.