

Integrity Communications presents

Magazine

October 1984

# New Wine<sup>®</sup>



## TAKING THE HEAD OFF YOUR GIANT

How to gain spiritual victory

also featuring:  
**The Deliverer**  
by Charles Simpson



We all face problems that are giants in our way

# The Secret of Victory

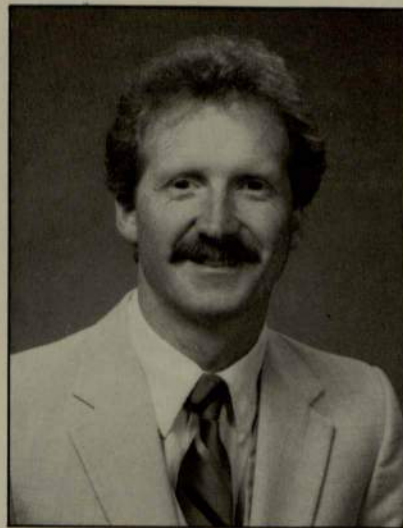
BY DICK LEGGATT

**R**alph Waldo Emerson said, "Traveling is a fool's paradise.... My giant goes with me wherever I go." There's a great deal of spiritual truth in that statement, especially if we insert the word *problems* in place of Emerson's term *giant*. Very simply it means we can't run from our problems—so we might as well deal with them head-on, no matter how gigantic they seem.

Let's face it. Every day you and I face some tailor-made personal problems that seem to tower over us like spiritual giants. Even our smaller hassles can be blown up by our adversary to appear immense and insurmountable. But the good news is that by the grace of God we can take the head off those "giants" that follow us wherever we go.

Our victory, however, doesn't come without a fight. The first step is recognizing that God's power—not our own—enables us to win. That one factor will make the difference between reacting like the fearful children of Israel, who suffered defeat, or like the courageous young David, who took the head off the giant he faced.

In the case of the children of Israel, when the spies brought back their scouting report about the land of promise that Israel was about to enter, one particular word struck terror in their hearts—*Anak*. That meant there were giants in the land! According to Scripture, the mere mention of giants caused their



hearts to melt with fear (see Deuteronomy 1:28). Some problems can do that to us too. Just the reminder that they are there—especially those "tailor-made" giants—can set off an emotional chain reaction in us of immobilizing fear or failure. The result for the children of Israel was that they totally abandoned their trust in God's power, and reaped His wrath and judgment because of their unbelief.

Years later, after they had wandered in the wilderness of defeat, the time again came for them to face the giants. It's somewhat ironic that just before they were to cross the Jordan into Canaan, Moses made a point of mentioning the name *Anak* again. I'm sure some of the Israelites would have preferred that he not bring up the rather painful topic of giants—he really didn't have to, but he did.

This time, however, the Israelites didn't interrupt Moses with a hysterical reaction, but gave him the opportunity to make the most important point of all: "He [God] will destroy them and He will subdue them before you" (Deut. 9:3 NAS).

Unquestionably, we face personal problems that are like giants standing in our way at every turn. But what is the secret of our victory? We can overcome them by the power of the Lord of hosts.

That was David's secret too. And that's why we examine his victory in this issue of *New Wine*. It's all summed up in David's response to Goliath in 1 Samuel 17:45:

"You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts" (NAS).

This month Terry Law caps his three-part series with a note of spiritual victory, examining how God prepared David to confront Goliath. Other articles, by John Stanko and Diana Scimone, and a testimony by Janice Hoyer, focus on different aspects of the warfare we must inevitably face, and the spiritual victory that is ours when we do. Concluding the issue is Charles Simpson's uplifting perspective on Jesus' confrontation with the Gadarene demoniac and His power to conquer even the severest of problems that we might ever encounter.

Maybe right now you're staring in the face of a giant in your own life. Maybe it's the one that you have tried again and again to conquer, but it just continues to mock you and taunt you, bragging that even God isn't powerful enough to help. The time has come for you to take the head off that giant, and God is going to help you do it. Read on, and find out how. □



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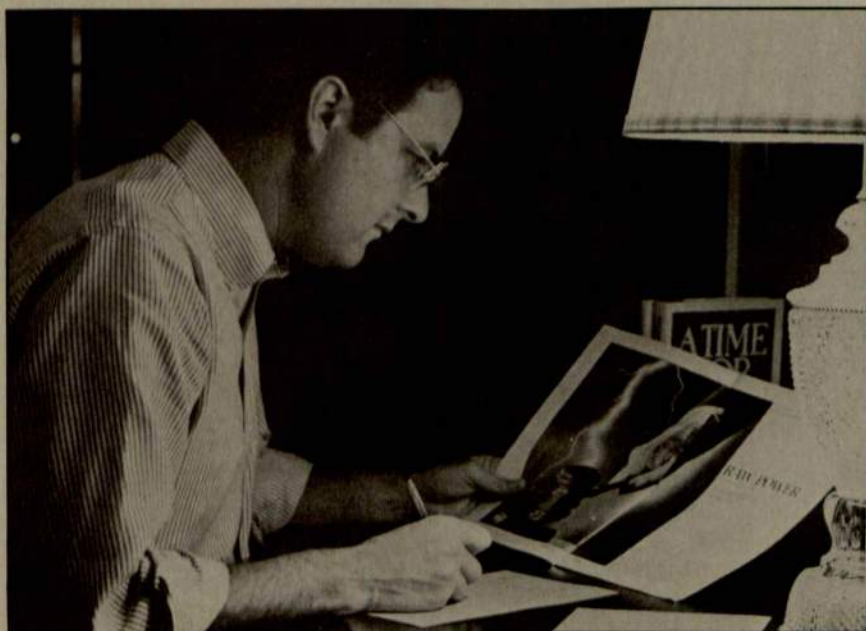
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



# Dear New Wine

### *Appreciates Open Letter*

I read with great interest the open letter from Charles Simpson (June). Having been involved to some degree with the controversies of the past years, I must say that I viewed with great admiration the openness and honesty with which Mr. Simpson has written us. I appreciate his courage in being a pioneer, his humility in handling controversy, his broad vision of who the Church really is, and also his unwillingness to box himself into a movement, a teaching, or some sort of a religious system. The fact that we all "know only in part" should be a rallying point where all Christians can get together.

I have been torn, and have undergone much of the confusion regarding many of these controversial issues that have been mentioned, but I would like you to know that I have come out of this whole experience with

my faith intact, enjoying the liberty one feels when one begins to understand just a little bit about how God sees this world and the place of the Church in it.

My wife and I are now in Spain, pioneering both inside and outside the Church. The experiences of the past are serving us greatly. Our desire, our hope, our dream, and our prayer is that these revelations will become a reality in this country too.

Jerome Tjerkstra  
Jaen, Spain

### *A Good Overview*

I especially appreciated Charles Simpson's message in the anniversary issue. He gave a good overview of the challenges and misunderstandings of the "Kingdom" teaching. This helped my understanding greatly.

Jack Booth  
Port Coquitlam, BC

### *Wilkerson Welcomed*

Thank you for publishing the interview with David Wilkerson. What a blessing!

When I was a teenager, his ministry had a major influence on my walk with the Lord, encouraging me to speak up to my non-Christian high school friends about drug dependency and how Jesus could help. My copy of the *Jesus Person Maturity Manual* was well-worn from frequent use during those difficult adolescent years.

Now, as the wife of a full-time college student and the mother of four active children, it's exciting to see that the Lord is still at work in David Wilkerson's life, even as He is in mine. I have been hearing the same word from the Lord, compelling me to give all of myself to Him—to really know Him. In the rush of everyday life it's too easy to work for God and even live for Him without abiding in Him.

Lani Bogart  
Tucson, AZ

### *Seeing God's Will*

I invariably find your magazine to be a timely source of inspiration, information, and challenge. The July issue was no exception.

God is speaking to me concerning my zeal as a minister of the gospel and my faith in His daily provision, both material and otherwise. Billy Graham's "Magnificent Obsession," and Bob Mumford's and Don Basham's articles spoke directly to these areas and have helped me see more clearly God's will for my situation.

William Deese  
Fortson, GA

### *Christians and Creatures*

I thank God for men like Don Basham who have that God-given ability to recognize the many similarities there are be-



tween us Christians and the creatures of the earth. His column, "The Way I See It," really excites me every time I read it. His June one, "The Harrowed Sparrow," really hit the spot. When I read the article, it occurred to me that I was very much like the stubborn mockingbird. Thank you, Mr. Basham, for enlightening my eyes and blessing me with this most valuable word of encouragement.

Tony Tyler  
U.S. Air Force  
Hahn Airbase  
West Germany

### *Deliver Us From Evil*

The Lord is blessing us here with Don Basham's book *Deliver Us From Evil*. It started at the beginning of the year when one of us read your book and started to try deliverance—and it worked. He shared it at one of our leaders' meetings and then we began to see results. We then had a three-day retreat and explained deliverance to our people, and many went to their towns and villages released.

This is the new truth we think the Lord is giving us. And it is yielding results.

Recently we had the opportunity to share this truth at a University of Ghana Christian Fellowship prayer meeting. About half of the congregation (about 150 people) waited to be prayed for. What happened after we entered in the deliverance session made many put away their ivory tower theology—how can a demon be in a Christian? Many experienced deliverance. There is joy in the heart of the people who have been delivered!

Kofi Pepira  
Ghana, West Africa

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## About New Wine

*New Wine Magazine*, published monthly by Integrity Communications, seeks to promote the maturity of the Church and the individual Christian by publishing scripturally sound content that is personal, action-oriented, and timely. We implement this purpose by including a wide diversity of Christian authors to communicate the message of the kingdom of God to all men.

As a reflection of our desire to be open to all that God is saying and doing, we at *New Wine* regularly feature material from Christian leaders and groups of diverse points of view. Their appearance in *New Wine* does not mean they totally agree with us on every issue, nor we with them. It does mean we recognize them as Christians who are saying something that we all need to hear. We recognize that virtually every ministry has its controversial aspects. We deliberately choose, however, not to highlight those areas of controversy but rather, in the interest of Christian unity, to present their views in the context of a more primary issue: the lordship of Jesus Christ. Our desire is to emphasize the common commitment to Him we share with the Christians featured in *New Wine*, and their contribution to the purposes of God.

All Scripture quotations are from the King James or New King James versions of the Bible unless otherwise noted. *New Wine* will carefully consider all unsolicited manuscripts, although we cannot return them unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (Please note we do not publish poetry.)



Part three of a three-part series

# Taking the Head Off Your Giant

BY TERRY LAW

Just as David slew Goliath, we too can conquer the "giants" we have to face.

**T**his article is the last in a three-part series by Terry Law on the role of praise and worship in spiritual warfare. In the first article, we began to understand the role of the three spiritual weapons God has given to His children (the word of God, the name of Jesus, and the blood of Jesus) and the four "rockets" designed to launch them (prayer, testimony, preaching, and praise and worship). In the second article, we saw that when we launch those weapons, we can actually tap into the heavens and get supernatural assistance to fight our spiritual battles. In this third article, we will see how to put these principles of spiritual warfare to use in overcoming the personal "giants" each of us has to face on a daily basis.

The battle of David and Goliath in 1 Samuel chapter 17 has always been one of my favorite messages. It's a thrill to describe how the faith in the heart of this young man helped him take on the greatest military champion of his day. But one small question about this message always stuck in the back of my mind: Where did a teenage boy get that kind of faith? And if he did it in Old Testament times, can we do it today? Can

we discover principles in his life and apply them to ours to bring us the same kind of victory as we face the giants in our lives?

I believe we can, and I further believe that one reason God arranged to have David's story put in the Old Testament was so that we could learn principles of spiritual warfare to fight our battles in 1984.

## Prepared by God

One day, when I went back and read the chapter just preceding the story of David and Goliath, I found the answer to that nagging little question. I finally understood where David's faith had come from. The answer hinged upon *where David was* when God raised him up. When Samuel came to anoint David as king, he was out taking care of sheep—not exactly the place most people would expect to find a king. But what was taking place during the time David was with the sheep? He was *being prepared by God* for what lay ahead of him.

I think I know how he must have felt. As a young preacher in Canada, I traveled fifty miles every week to pastor a small church of twenty-five people. I spent time fasting and praying, seeking the face of God, telling Him I yearned to bring His mes-

sage to crowds of people, to see them delivered and set free by His great power. But I had to be faithful where God had placed me, and I continued serving Him in that tiny church. It was God's way of preparing me.

In the same way, David, whom Samuel had just anointed as the future king of Israel, was still out there taking care of sheep, trying to be obedient to the Lord, waiting to become the next king of Israel. It must have been awfully difficult for him to get excited about his kingly anointing, because nothing is more exasperating than taking care of a bunch of dumb sheep. Yet David was doing something while he was there; he was preparing himself to be used by God.

## David's Commitment to Praise

As David was out there in the pasture, he passed time by playing the harp. I believe it's possible he wrote some of his greatest Psalms as a boy while herding sheep. I believe that more than anything else during this time of preparation God was revealing to the heart of that boy the principles of praise and worship and the priority they should hold in his heart.

To discover the substance of a man, look at what he writes, be-







cause there are the principles that make him what he is. In Psalm 61:8, David recorded the key to his great faith and courage: "So will I sing praise unto thy name forever, that I may daily perform my vows." David was discovering the principles of spiritual warfare we covered in the two earlier articles in this series: The weapon David used was the name of God. He launched it with song, or praise. When he says, "perform my vows," it indicates he committed himself to praise God every day of his life and to make praise a spiritual discipline.

There is a point when we must make a commitment of praise. Praise is as important as Bible study, Scripture memory, and prayer. In fact, we can't really move in prayer until we understand praise first. When we're praising God, we enter His presence—where He wants us to be. And that's when miracles will inevitably take place. The key to great miracle faith such as David's rests in praise, because praise is the ultimate act of faith.

The greatest faith I ever exercised was just following my wife's death—when I was angry with God, hurt, and heartbroken. In the midst of that pain, I forced myself to say, "I will bless the Lord. I will praise Him." I know of no other moment in my life when such pure faith brought me to a point of being obedient even though there were no feelings involved. That is faith. And it was only after reaching that point that the Lord would bring me into a worldwide ministry.

#### **Goliath Challenges Israel**

David had been preparing himself while he was still in the field by praising God, and he reached the point of being finally ready for action right when

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Israel was in an all-out war with the Philistines. David's oldest brothers, Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah, had been away from home for forty days fighting with King Saul's armies, so their father, Jesse, sent young David to bring them some cheese and other provisions. At the very moment that he found one of his brothers on the battlefield, suddenly they were both frozen in their tracks by one of the most ungodly noises they had ever heard in their lives.

The man making the deafening battle cry was the pride of the Philistine camp, Goliath of Gath, a giant of a man who was no ordinary warrior. When Goliath spoke, Israel listened:

Choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants; but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. . . . I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight

together (1 Sam. 17:8-10).

#### **A Surprising Response**

Because Saul and his men were looking at Goliath's mammoth size with their physical eyes, they were understandably "dismayed," as the Bible explains (v. 11). But remember the message of the last two articles—the principles of spiritual warfare laid out in 2 Corinthians 10:4: "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds."

David understood that principle of spiritual warfare. When he and his brother were standing on the hilltop looking down at this great hulk Goliath, David responded in a way that surprised his brother: "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (1 Sam. 17:26).

David could talk this way because something had taken place in his spirit. He had made a vow of praise that drew him into a close relationship with his Lord. He had built praise into his spirit by being with God while taking care of the sheep, and praise had done something in his spirit. When a person draws close to God like that, he's going to talk differently.

Eliab, however, was embarrassed! No one can prick our faith bubble faster than someone from our own family. They'll say, "Who do you think you are, youngster? We know how you fouled up last week. Don't pull this faith thing on us!"

#### **David Doesn't Back Down**

But despite Eliab's reproof, David didn't let down. He turned to the next man and repeated his question. "Who does this uncircumcised Philistine think he is?"

The commotion finally reached Saul, who called David to his



tent. There, in front of the entire military leadership of the nation, David spoke: "Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine" (v. 32). The faith of the boy came out in everything he said.

But Saul was not impressed. He laughed and told David he was just a kid and couldn't fight a giant who had been a warrior since he was young.

Even so, David still didn't back down, and because Saul didn't have any other choice, he reluctantly sent David off to fight Goliath. I can imagine the scene as the Israelites waited to see the valiant warrior chosen to fight their most evil enemy. Expectantly, they watched as the flap of the tent opened to reveal his identity. Imagine their disappointment when out stepped David in all of his glory—a five and a half foot tall, curly-haired kid, saying, "Where's that giant? Let me at him!"

They must have been even further dismayed when on the way to the battlefield, David stopped at a brook to pick up his weapons: five smooth stones. Then he started to move across the battlefield. He didn't wait for the enemy to come to him; he ran at him. That shows where the initiative is. When we've got faith, when we're flowing in praise and worship, we don't wait for adversity to attack; we attack adversity.

David ran toward Goliath, who was filled with anger and was shouting, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" (v. 43 NAS).

David's response was the key to his whole battle strategy: "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the *name of the Lord*" (v. 45 NAS, italics mine). That was David's weapon—the *name of the Lord*.

Goliath, with the finest military hardware, came to destroy the youngster, but David had learned he had access to a much more powerful weapon, the name of God. Praise had taught him how to deal with strongholds and demons so that when the giant came, he confronted him with the name.

He put his hand in the bag, pulled out a smooth stone, and began to whirl the sling around his head. Goliath went down immediately, and David chopped off his head and triumphantly dragged it to Saul's tent. David, a mere shepherd boy who arrived on the battlefield to bring provisions to his elder brothers, ended up slaying the most fearsome enemy of all Israel.

### Speaking Our Faith

In the beginning of this article, I posed a question that had puzzled me for many years: Where did David get his faith; and if he used it to bring down strongholds in Old Testament times, why couldn't we do it today? God has shown me that David got his faith from praise, and that it is something available to us. I firmly believe—because I've seen it in my own life—that applying David's prin-

**David didn't wait for the enemy to come to him; he attacked his enemy.**

ciples of spiritual warfare to our battles can lead us to victory over the giants we face.

The first step David took in conquering the giant in his life was to *say it*. Even when Goliath roared, David responded in faith, saying, "Who does this uncircumcised Philistine think he is?" And when Saul said, "Thou art but a youth," David again responded with faith: "Let not your heart fail you; I'll go and fight him." Yet again, when Goliath said, "Am I a dog that you come with sticks?" David replied in faith, "You come to me with sword and spear, but I come in the name." The boy talked that way because he had spent time with God in praise, and he understood how God's spiritual warfare works.

Oftentimes we say we don't have faith for something. But if we would make praise a priority in our lives, faith would just spring up in us naturally. That's the way it worked for David, and it can work for us too.

### Doing Our Faith

The second step is to *do it*. It's not enough just to say it; David went a step further and did it. It's only when we act on our faith that we receive what we need. That's the way faith operates. A lot of people, for example, wait for God to make them witnesses for Jesus, but Acts 1:8 says, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses" (NAS).

In the natural world, power comes before the act, but in the supernatural world, it comes with the act. We'll never get a reservoir of power tanked up to make us witnesses; but if we go out to witness, we'll have the power to do it. The power happens while we're doing it.

When I am sharing the gospel behind the iron curtain, I simply



open my mouth and begin to speak forth. If I'm under interrogation by the KGB, I don't have a great power come on me. In my weakness I begin to talk, and in that weakness the power of the Holy Spirit rises up within me and God makes me a wit-

ness. That's Acts 1:8. The reason for the Holy Spirit is not just for us to get blessed ourselves, but so that we'll be witnesses.

over the Israelites. With God's help you can chop the head off your giant and be as effective as David was when he slew Goliath. The key is to follow his basic principle of spiritual warfare: a commitment to praise God on a daily basis. You must

**With God's help you can take the head off your giant. The key is to follow David's basic principle of spiritual warfare: a commitment to praise God on a daily basis.**

ness. That's Acts 1:8. The reason for the Holy Spirit is not just for us to get blessed ourselves, but so that we'll be witnesses.

The third step David took was to *tell it*. He dragged Goliath's head back to Saul to show his nation what God had done for them. A lot of churches today lack a testimony service, but this can be one of the most necessary meetings in the life of the church. A church ought to be a place where people can come after the week's battles of wrestling with giants, where our battle can inspire someone else to get excited about tackling his giant. Something about a thanksgiving testimony service gets faith moving.

#### **A Commitment to Praise**

Each of us has a giant in our life that has our name written on it—be it sickness, an unsaved family member, financial difficulties, or some other problem that looms as large as Goliath must have seemed as he towered

over the Israelites. With God's help you can chop the head off your giant and be as effective as David was when he slew Goliath. The key is to follow his basic principle of spiritual warfare: a commitment to praise God on a daily basis. You must

be diligent in the use of this powerful weapon. If you are like David, you will be able to step out onto the field of battle and boldly march right up to your giant, and defeat him.

Will you make a commitment before God to daily praise His name? Will you commit yourself to wait on God, to find a quiet place, a place of exuberance, or whatever place in which His Spirit can move you to praise? Will you commit yourself to praise the name of Almighty God each day, and through that praise to enter into spiritual warfare and move against strongholds? If you are willing to make that commitment to the Lord, I want to ask you to please say this prayer as you conclude this article:

Dear Heavenly Father, I come to You in Jesus' name. I come with the frailties of my flesh, with my problems, and with my sins, and I ask Your forgiveness. I claim the cleansing of the blood of Jesus, and I commit my life to You this mo-

ment. I will be a man or woman of praise. My desire will be to praise You daily. Your name shall be upon my lips. I will lift up Your name among the heathen. I will give glory to You, my God. And I will do it in Jesus' name.

I thank You for the grace and strength of Your Holy Spirit to remind me and to help me fulfill my commitment to praise You. I believe that I shall see with my eyes the manifestation of the power of God in my family and my church. I believe that I shall impact my city, state, and country, and that ripples will go out that will affect the world because of my praise, because of my commitment to lift up Your name. Bring to me Your power and Your blessing so that I may overcome the giants that I face each day. I praise You. In Jesus' name. Amen. □



*Terry Law, head of Terry Law Ministries, has evangelized in dozens of nations around the world, including Poland, the Soviet Union, and other Communist countries. A graduate of Oral Roberts University, Law is currently a member of the school's board of regents. He and his family live in Tulsa, Oklahoma.*





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# The Most Dangerous Game

BY DIANA SCIMONE

How even innocent explorations into the occult can affect our lives

NEW WINE

**D**uring a recent planning session for *New Wine Magazine*, the editorial staff was discussing plans for an article condensing portions of *The Most Dangerous Game*, a book on spiritual warfare and deliverance written by Don Basham and Dick Leggatt. Although the book was published in 1974 and is now out of print and no longer available, we felt it provided invaluable information for today's Christian on the subjects of deliverance and release from occult bondage.

Deliverance, the process of being set free from the oppression of demonic torment, had always been to me a fascinating



spiritual topic, so I immediately volunteered for the assignment. I had no idea that God had something more in mind for me than condensing the book, but He had planned for me to receive a measure of deliverance myself.

The book's first chapter, "Satan's Snare and How It's Baited," explains that the lure of the occult is its appearance of innocence and harmlessness.

But the Bible warns against any form of the occult (see Deuteronomy 18:9-14 and Isaiah 47:9-14). Dabbling in the occult can result in deception and confusion (see 2 Timothy 3:13), blindness (see Acts 13:6-12), banishment from the kingdom of heaven (see Galatians 5:19-21), and eternal damnation (see Revelation 21:8). In many cases, the penalties suffered are not just examples of God's direct judgment and punishment but also the inevitable result of trespassing into Satan's realm. It is dangerous ground to be treading upon.

### **Innocent Explorations**

Even before taking on the assignment for this article, I knew that it was an abomination to the Lord for a Christian to be involved in the occult. But it was a complete surprise to me to find that my albeit innocent explorations into the occult as a curious youngster could still affect me today—even though I'm a Christian. By opening myself up to these forbidden realms long before I became a Christian, I had unknowingly invited Satan to have influence over me today. And being the legalist he is, Satan is not about to surrender the territory we give him without resistance.

As I continued reading the book, I asked God to show me those areas where I needed the cleansing power of His blood. Slowly at first and then in a rapid flood, the Holy Spirit be-

gan to remind me of all the occult practices I had innocently been involved in as a youngster. I started writing them down and was amazed as the list grew to twenty-seven items, including using an Ouija board, looking at tea leaves, practicing levitation at pajama parties, consulting a black ball that "answered" my

desire to be free. Occult involvement can become an addiction, and some people might find it difficult to forsake it entirely. We want to be a good Christian and do the right thing, but . . .

Third, I acknowledged that Jesus Christ was the only one who could deliver me. There is no real or lasting deliverance

## **REMEMBER:** **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, IS A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING.**

questions, reading horoscope books, and trying to read others' minds to see if I had ESP.

### **Steps to Freedom**

I now read the book with more than just a spectator's interest. Not wanting my innocent curiosity of fifteen or twenty years ago to affect my walk with Christ today, I eagerly turned to the chapter "The Steps to Freedom" and made sure I met the three conditions for deliverance:

First, I recognized the satanic nature of occultism, admitting that my delving into the occult was wrong, against the Word of God, and satanic in nature—even if I didn't know any better at the time. Many people rationalize, "But I was just a kid!" or "My horoscopes have been such a comfort to me," or "But the fortune-teller told me the truth." Unless we acknowledge the deception and confess that we have been deceived, we might as well forget about deliverance.

Second, I expressed a deep

from occultism apart from Him, the Deliverer: "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (1 Jn. 3:8). This step, like the others, is vital. Many people seek help from a medium or psychic "healer," but only Jesus Christ has authority over Satan: "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

### **Ready to Resist**

Because I was obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, the Lord immediately opened the door for me to deliverance. As I read on about casting out demons, I was ready to resist the enemy.

The book explains that one of Satan's many deceptions is trying to convince us that only an expert can successfully deal with demonic forces. True, some pastors, churches, and prayer groups are experienced in deliverance, and if possible, those seeking



help may want to contact them. But if such assistance is not available, contrary to what the Devil would tell us, God has given *each* of us the authority, in His name, to set ourselves free. The book outlines seven steps, which I followed exactly:

1. *Personal commitment to Jesus Christ.* Freedom from demonic oppression comes by the authority of Jesus Christ, but it is released based on our personal commitment. Even though I had accepted Jesus almost four years ago, I reaffirmed my commitment out loud, acknowledging that I was a sinner and deserving of judgment without Him.

2. *Forgiveness.* Scriptures make it plain that to be forgiven we must forgive others. To be delivered, we must also forgive others. Many times deliverance is denied because those seeking help refuse to let go of bitterness against another. Such resentment is "legal ground" for Satan to remain. Forgiveness is a decision, not a feeling. Even though I might not have "felt" like forgiving different people who hurt me, I made a *decision* to do so and simply said, "In the name of Jesus, I forgive..." naming the people I needed to forgive.

3. *Renunciation of every involvement in occultism.* The next step I had to follow was to openly and completely break all association with each form of the occult I had been involved with. I simply said aloud, "In Jesus' name I renounce fortune-telling," repeating this for each occult practice I had identified. Like Manasseh, who cleared pagan idols from Jerusalem (see 2 Chronicles 33:1-20), I also removed "foreign gods and idols" from my home—in my case, a few books and paintings—and reestablished it as a dwelling place of the Lord.

4. *Identify the spirit troubling*

*you by name.* Although I had cast out all the demons I was aware of, I wanted to make sure I had a "clean house," so I followed the next step: Command the demon to identify itself. The book suggests saying, "You spirit tormenting me, I command you in the name of Jesus to reveal who you are." The names of two other spirits came to mind immediately. Although it did not happen to me, the book says that often the demon will blurt its name out through the person's lips. Satan might try to embarrass us by this or other physical reactions, but we hold the authority.

5. *Renounce the spirit by name.* I had already renounced my involvement with all forms of occultism. Now I had to renounce the specific spirits that came to the surface. Speaking firmly and aloud, I said: "In the name of Jesus I renounce the spirit of..." naming the spirit.

6. *Command the demon to leave.* Once I had identified the spirit and renounced it, I had to command it to leave: "You spirit of... I command you in the name of Jesus to come out!" The book again cautioned that Satan could resist attempts but that we must be firm. He will bow to the name of Jesus.

7. *Expel the demon.* The book suggests expelling the demon by exhaling sharply. This step does not have to be a dramatic event, but often there will be a sharp cry, a moan, or even gagging. The

demon's ugly antics shouldn't intimidate us; we should rather stay calm and rejoice that it's on the way out.

### Keeping Our Deliverance

After I followed those steps, I immediately felt an indescribable sense of relief. The joy that flooded me is something that Satan will never be able to take away, though he will certainly try.

In Matthew chapter 12, Jesus describes how a spirit that had been cast out returns to its victim and—conditions permitting—brings reinforcements and re-enters with even greater torment. It sobers me to realize that the Devil isn't playing parlor games; he is out to steal, kill, and destroy. The book concludes by warning against any involvement in the occult, saying that the best way to resist the Devil is to live by the Scriptures, maintain a prayerful, grateful attitude toward God, guard our thought life, cultivate right relationships, and submit to spiritual authority and covering.

The past holds no temptation for me because I have seen the omnipotent power and glory of God. Even Satan and all his agents must bow to the authority of the name of Jesus. The Lord has set me free and is truly my Deliverer. □

*Diana Scimone is an editorial assistant for New Wine.*

### For Further Study on Spiritual Warfare

**We recommend the special package of three tapes and two books offered on page 32. The package includes Don Basham's spiritual warfare classic, *Deliver Us From Evil*.**



## THE WORLD AROUND US

**E**very October 31, Christian parents face a number of questions about Halloween, such as, "Should we allow our children to go out trick or treating?" and "Should we answer the door and give out candy? or tracts?"

Without a sufficient knowledge of Halloween's history and what the Bible says, it is dif-

ficult for a Christian to adequately answer these and other questions about participation in Halloween.

The celebration of what we know as Halloween dates back to before the time of Christ. In the Celtic countries of Britain, Germany, and France, the Druids, the priests and teachers of the Celts, set aside October 31 to honor Samhain, the lord of the

dead. At this time of year the crops were harvested and it was a time of general decay. The day honoring Samhain highlighted the gloom and cold of the coming season.

The Celts believed that Samhain assembled all the souls of the dead on October 31, the eve of the Celtic new year, freeing them to return to their homes, where their families were to en-

# Unmasking Halloween

BY JOHN STANKO

The holiday's history reveals the tricks behind the treat.





tertain them. If they didn't find an acceptable welcome, the spirits would cast spells or cause other problems for the living—thus the first form of trick or treat.

So to prepare for the arrival of these spirits, the Druids built huge bonfires, sacrificing animals, crops, and even humans. The fire was also used for divinations, as they studied the remains of the sacrificed animals. During this ritual, many people wore costumes made of animal heads and skins. When the Romans conquered the Celts, they combined the festival to Samhain with their own festival honoring Pomona, the goddess of fruit and trees, making apples and nuts an important part of the rituals.

### Popular Throughout History

As time passed, despite the prevalence of Christianity, this pagan rite continued. The Irish, for example, held parades to honor Muck Olla, one of their gods. At the head of the parade marched a leader wearing a white robe and an animal head. Those following him asked for food to help celebrate the October 31 festival, punishing farmers who refused to cooperate—another form of trick or treat. Bonfires raged throughout Wales, Scotland, England, and the rest of Europe on October 31.

To counter this growing pagan rite, in the year 834, Pope Boniface IV moved the church feast of All Saints' Day (also known as All Hallows' Day) from May to November 1. October 31 naturally was called All Hallows' Evening—eventually abbreviated Halloween.

In medieval times, satanic witches took Halloween as an opportunity to mock the saints of the church commemorated on All Saints' Day. The witches supposedly flew on broomsticks

and were accompanied by black cats (also believed to be a type of witch). And in later years, the poor in England went door to door for food on November 2, All Souls' Day. Beggars received "soulcakes" in return for their promise to pray for the dead of that household.

In America, however, because of the strong religious convictions of the early settlers, Halloween celebrations were banned. But in the early 1800's as more immigrants of Celtic origin arrived, Halloween celebrations were instituted, complete with bonfires and death-related symbolism, as well as door-to-door trick or treating.

### Dealing With the Questions

Despite the contemporary decline in trick or treating, because of dangers such as poisoned candy, Halloween lives on. School parties, the media, and peer pressure all serve to make Halloween a fun and necessary time in children's eyes. Christian parents face extreme difficulty in deciding what their family should do about the annual celebration.

But considering Halloween's origins, it should not be difficult to establish a scriptural position on the holiday. Deuteronomy 18:9-12 states:

"When you enter the land which the Lord your God gives you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For whoever does these things is detestable to the Lord" (NAS).

### Scriptural Guidelines

As Christians seek to make a firm decision regarding participation in Halloween, it is important to keep in mind that believers are called to

1. *Be separate from the world.* "For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries" (1 Pet. 4:3 NAS).

2. *Be transformed.* "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom. 12:2 NAS).

3. *Be obedient and holy.* "As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior" (1 Pet. 1:14-15 NAS).

4. *Be "God pleasers."* "You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (Jas. 4:4 NAS).

5. *Be leaders.* "Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them" (Eph. 5:11 NAS).

Answering questions about distributing candy on Halloween or allowing children to trick-or-treat is something each individual Christian must do for himself. But as we look at the roots of Halloween and what the Bible says, we now have the firm foundation we need to base our decisions upon. □

*John Stanko is a pastor in Mobile, Alabama, where he lives with his wife, Kathy, and their two children.*



**N**ot long after I received Jesus Christ as my Savior, I came across a little brown booklet of basic Bible studies written by an author unfamiliar to me at that time—Francis Schaeffer. As I delved into that booklet, I realized that the writer had more than a casual interest in Christian growth; he was addressing the most vital issues of life itself.

That was nearly twenty years ago, and since then, at significant junctures in my life, Schaeffer's books have come along, making a dramatic impact upon my life and faith. As a young Christian, I did not always grasp the scope of the truths he shared in some of his earlier works, such as *The God Who Is There* and *Escape From Reason*, and later works, like *The Church at the End of the Twentieth Century*. Even so, something beyond the content of those books—perhaps the deep commitment I sensed in the spirit of the author—struck a resonant chord, challenging me in my own commitment to the Lord.

In more recent years, after the publication of the books *How Should We Then Live?* and *Whatever Happened to the Human Race?* I had the privilege of meeting with Schaeffer, hearing from his own lips the convictions for which he was even then pouring out the last measure of his life's energies to communicate. Although he was at that time significantly weakened by the lymphoma that would eventually end his life, there was an intensity and vitality in him as he talked, springing from his deep love for the Lord and his tremendous concern for the integrity of modern Christians.

#### The Final Challenge

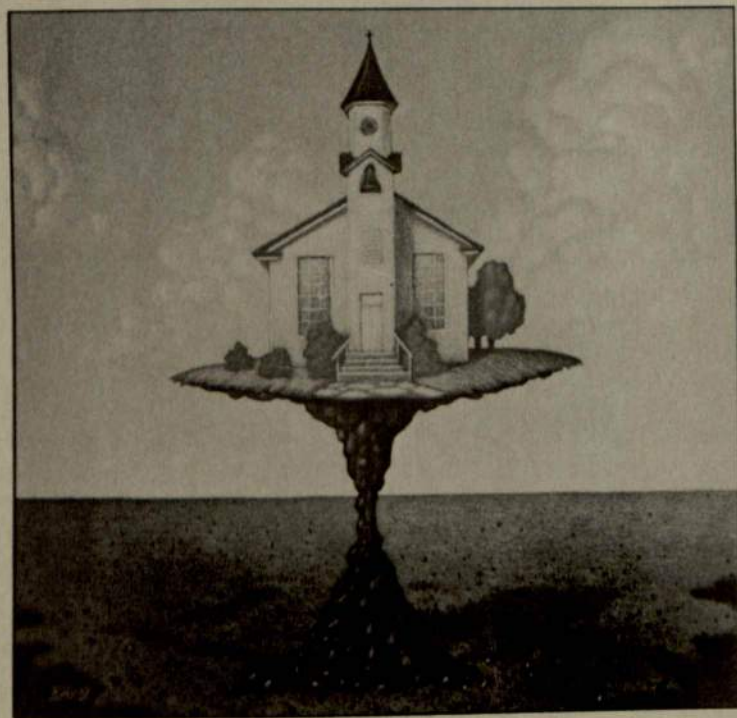
Even though he is gone from

# Destiny or Disaster?

BY DICK LEGGATT

A review of Francis Schaeffer's final written challenge to the Church

## THE GREAT EVANGELICAL DISASTER BY FRANCIS A. SCHAEFFER





us now, Schaeffer's voice has not been stilled by death. What he has written continues to challenge us and call God's people to excellence, vigilance, and integrity in our walk with God. His last published work, *The Great Evangelical Disaster*, is no exception. It contains a vital challenge directed not just to the segment of the Christian audience indicated by the title, but to every individual Christian.

This book, the last written installment of Schaeffer's legacy to God's people, is a very valuable work, communicating his deepest longings and admonitions for the Church he loved. Schaeffer himself states in the preface that it represents "perhaps the most important statement I have ever written." It also addresses "the greatest problem we who are Christians face in our generation"—the potential disaster Christians face if we do not stand boldly in the integrity of the Word of God to lovingly confront the world around us rather than acquiescing to it. Such a final statement from a man of God with his stature demands our attention.

The tone of the book as a final exhortation is set by the title of its first chapter, "What Really Matters?" Schaeffer's answer, in perfect keeping with the direction of his entire ministry, is a deep devotion to the Word of God. Not only does he challenge each of us to settle once and for all the issue of the Bible's primacy and authority in our lives, but to touch the world around us with "the absolutes found in the Bible." Our devotion to the Word, according to Schaeffer, will inevitably bring us into a direct confrontation with the world spirit of our age, and it is at that point that we will have to resist the pressures facing Christians to compromise ourselves and accommodate ourselves to

the spirit of the age. That decision concerning the Word of God is a pivotal one for all Christians:

Evangelicals today are facing a watershed concerning the nature of biblical inspiration and authority... Within evangelicalism [also charismatic, fundamentalist, and mainstream churches] there is a growing number who are modifying their views on the inerrancy of the Bible so that the full authority of Scripture is completely undercut. But it is happening in very subtle ways.

#### Where Have We Been?

Standing firm on one's beliefs is not an easy posture to maintain in a world riddled with tolerance and watered down standards. In his last hours, Schaeffer saw the battle lines clearly drawn—and he pointedly asks each of us to choose sides:

And now we must ask where we as evangelicals have been in the battle for truth and morality in our culture. Have we as evangelicals been on the front lines contending for the faith and confronting the moral breakdown over the last forty to sixty years? Have we even been aware that there is a battle going on—not just a heavenly battle, but a life-and-death struggle over what will happen to men and women and children in both this life and the next?

Once we have made the decision to stand on the side of truth, we immediately have an obligation. Schaeffer writes:

Making Christ Lord in our lives means taking a stand in very direct and practical ways against the world spirit of our age.... *Truth carries with it*

*confrontation*. Truth demands confrontation; loving confrontation, but confrontation nevertheless. If our reflex action is always accommodation regardless of the centrality of the truth involved, there is something wrong.

#### A Call to Confrontation

In his last written words to the Church, Schaeffer is calling us as Christians to lovingly confront the world, to address the crucial issues that he examines in the book with real clarity, and to respond as Christians with actions that speak of integrity and a total commitment to unchanging biblical standards. He is asking us to do no more than he himself did, and the attitude he calls for in our stand is the very one he displayed in his life—love and confrontation without compromise or accommodation. It is a word each of us as Christians needs to hear—not only in our outreach to the world, but also in our obligation to walk in unity with other Christians—another major emphasis of his book.

Twenty years ago my life was deeply influenced by questions Schaeffer posed in a little brown booklet. Once again, he is challenging me—and each of us—with questions that we must address: Do we have the proper attitude toward the Word of God and all its practical implications? Are we accommodating ourselves to the world around us, or are we lovingly confronting others with the truth of God's love? Are we "radicals for truth," providing honest answers with observable love?

As with that first booklet of his I ever read, Schaeffer's final written word to God's people confronts each of us with the vital issues of life. Our response to the challenges he presents will mean the difference between divine destiny and disaster. □



## TESTIMONY

**A**ll I could do was bang my head against the wall. It wasn't the typical way to spend a Sunday afternoon, particularly for someone who had just returned from a glorious Sunday morning worship service.

But that's where I was at 1 p.m. as I faced a sink piled high with breakfast dishes and a houseful of unmade beds. The mess seemed to taunt me, saying no matter how hard I tried I was never going to be good enough at housework—or at anything I did.

Although most Christian women could have probably handled this harmless situation in stride, my response was to panic. A sense of hopelessness and pressure completely overwhelmed me.

Such a response seemed out of character for me, because on the outside I looked fine. I had just lost thirty pounds, had a wonderful husband and three sons, and was excited to be editing our church's monthly newsletter.

But my peaceful demeanor was in stark contrast to the terror going on inside my head. My feeling of being a complete failure had led me to a desire to hurt myself, even in such small ways as consciously biting on the inside of my lower lip.

This uncontrollable pressure came from a constant dissatisfaction with myself. Instead of looking at what I did right, I focused on my flaws. I had lost thirty pounds, but condemned myself for not losing the last five. No matter how hard I cleaned, there was always something I missed. My husband learned not to mention housework, because he knew from experience my reaction would be panic. When I finished an issue of the newsletter, the church members congratulated me, but I told myself there must have been a mistake I missed.

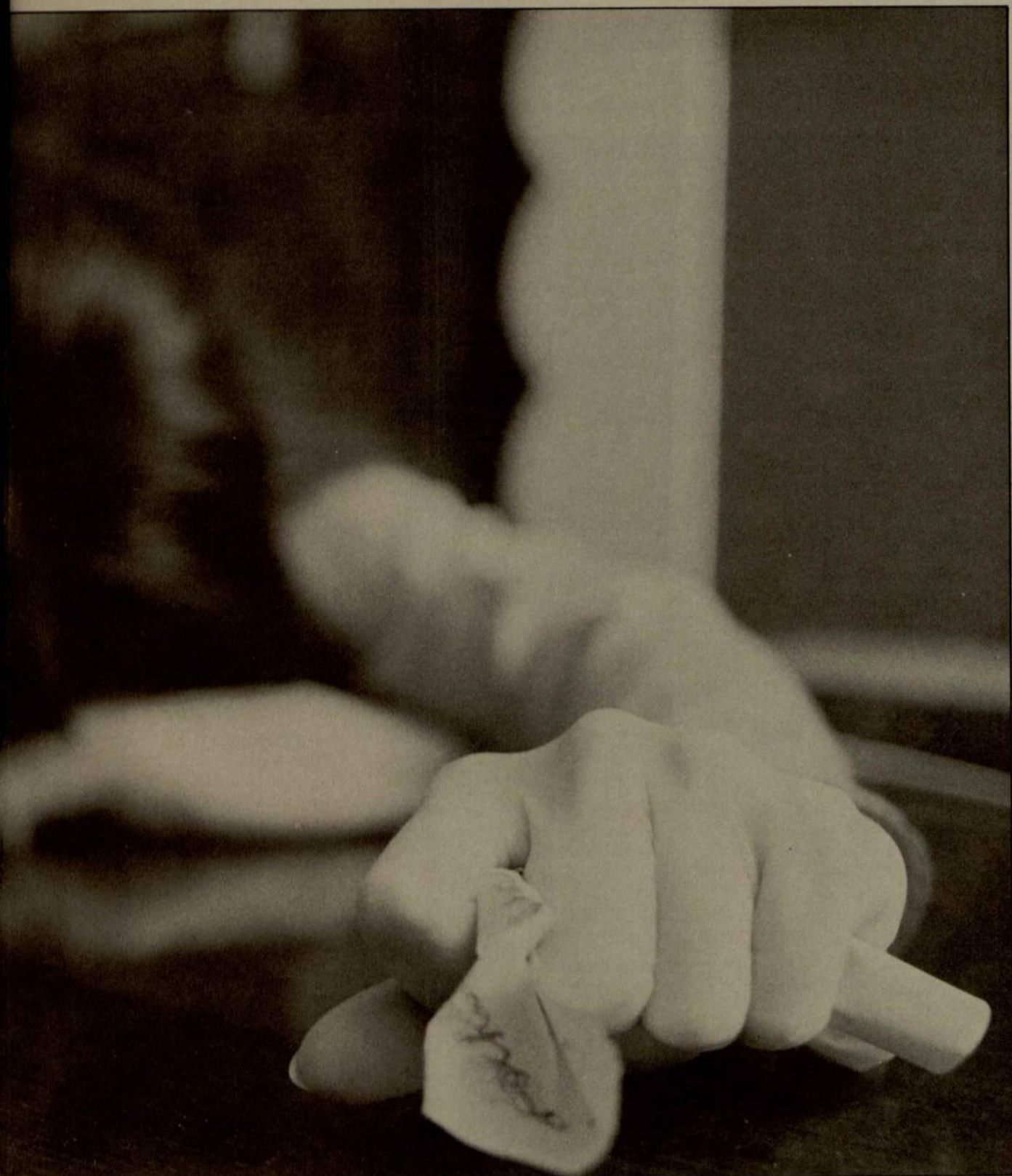


# "Somebody Help Me!"

BY JANICE HOYER

Battered by hopelessness and despair, only God could set her free.







### Falling Apart

The pressure I put on myself to be perfect grew worse and worse. At a time when I had never tried harder to accomplish

so much, I was feeling like a failure—discouraged and defeated. I knew I was coming close to falling apart.

I thought that if I repented

enough God would forgive whatever it was I had done wrong and heal me. For two years I was constantly walking around in "sackcloth and ashes," but my perpetual repentance did nothing to ease the pressure building up inside me.

One day I caught a glimpse of the title of a James Robison television special: "Somebody Help Me." I glued myself to the set, hoping he had the answer. Suddenly it seemed as if he were talking directly to me. Robison said that at one time he had felt as if there were a claw in his head; I knew just what he meant, only for me it felt more like a vise squeezing my skull until I thought it would explode.

Then Robison told where he found the answer to his torment; he had to be delivered from demonic oppression. Although I could see the results in his life, I didn't know if I could apply his solution to my problem. It was true that the leaders of my church were well versed in deliverance and ministered it on a regular basis. I had even thought of it for my situation but didn't know if it was the answer for me. I was afraid my problem was much "deeper" than that. Deliverance just seemed too easy.

### The Way to Freedom

But before I had a chance to dismiss it completely, Robison shared about the joy and relief he experienced once he was set free. When I heard what deliverance did for him, I was convinced that it was the answer for me. I decided that no matter where I had to go, what I had to face, or who I had to talk to, I was going to do anything necessary to be set free.

When I called my pastor and told him I wanted deliverance, he immediately set up a time to meet with my husband and me.

# Did You Know?

Did you know that New Wine's focus is designed with you in mind?

Many of our readers tell us that New Wine provides the only solid Bible teaching they consistently receive. We don't know all the reasons why this is the case. What we do know is that these readers rely on New Wine to publish in-depth articles that will help them grow into the kind of mature Christians described in Hebrews chapter 5:

For every one who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil (vv. 13-14 NAS).

Becoming a mature Christian is not something that automatically happens when we're born again; rather it comes with "practice" and a regular diet of "solid food" that includes Bible-based teaching. As our statement in "About New Wine," on page five, says, we're here to be a tool of the Holy Spirit to promote the maturity of the Church and of you, the individual Christian. We're grateful for the opportunity to serve you in this way, and we thought you'd like to know. □



Satan continued to torment me until the very last moment. The day before the appointment, while I was driving I heard voices telling me I wasn't good enough to get deliverance, that I'd fail at that too, that I should just get on the highway and drive away from everyone. The voices were so loud that I almost had to pull off the road and hold my ears.

When my husband and I met with our pastor, he and his wife were loving and encouraging. As we prayed, I was delivered from spirits of perfection, guilt, stubbornness, and others. As the chains that had me in bondage were cut, I felt elated, free, and—for the first time in years—at peace. My God delivered me from the heavy oppression that had tormented me for so long.

Since then, the relief I've felt is as if I've been released after being trapped in a trunk. The circumstances haven't changed, but the pressure is gone and I've had very little problem dealing with stress. I've even been delivered of nail biting—a habit since I was five years old.

#### The Real Battleground

Looking back, I realize now that my battle was not so much with my problem itself as it was with thoughts. I was not a failure, but subjecting myself to perfectionism and believing I was a failure gave the enemy a foothold in my life that allowed him to bully and torment me far too long. When he convinced me I would never be perfect, I despaired and completely fell into hopelessness. Satan had put me right where he wanted me: in an unapproachable place. Although I had prayed for help for two years, he had me convinced I could never receive it—so much so that I didn't even want to discuss my problems with my own pastor.

But when I finally did, he

said, "I've been waiting two years for you to ask." As I opened up the lines of communication and talked to him about it, my freedom was in sight.

During the months since my deliverance, I've been enjoying the blessing of a free mind, and

I'm experiencing a new joy and peace. Because God has delivered me, my life is wonderfully new. □

*Janice Hoyer is a New Wine reader who lives in Mobile, Alabama.*



*Robert Schuller on faith*

## NEXT MONTH IN NEW WINE

**Robert Schuller**, sometimes criticized in Christian circles for his emphasis on positive thinking and self-acceptance, shares candidly about his concerns, his ministry, and his faith.

**Should a Christian concern himself with civil and world affairs?** Charles Simpson addresses the issue with an inspired, scriptural approach.

**Vietnam veterans** came home to rejection in its truest sense. For a unique perspective on rejection and acceptance, **New Wine** interviews some veterans and hears how these men of God dealt with the cool reception given them at their homecoming and after.

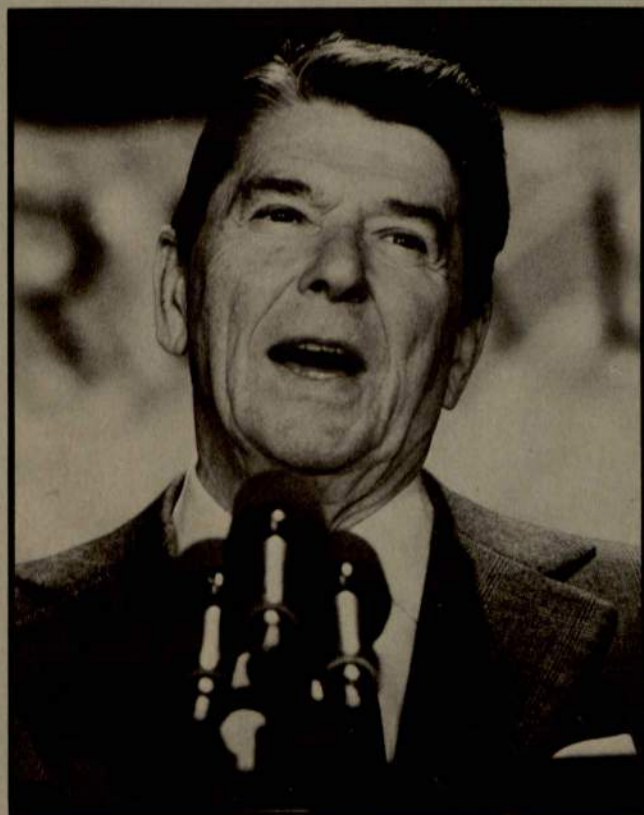
All in the November **New Wine**



# The Candidates

Reagan and Mondale on issues of concern to Christians

**O**n November 6, voters will elect a president as well as other top governmental leaders. As Christians, we do not take lightly our responsibility to vote intelligently. As a result, we have reprinted here a portion of a recent *Intercessors for America* newsletter, which presents statements made by the presidential candidates, Ronald Reagan and Walter Mondale, on key issues. We hope this information will help you as you consider whom the Lord would have you support, and as you exercise your God-given responsibilities in government, especially your responsibility to vote.

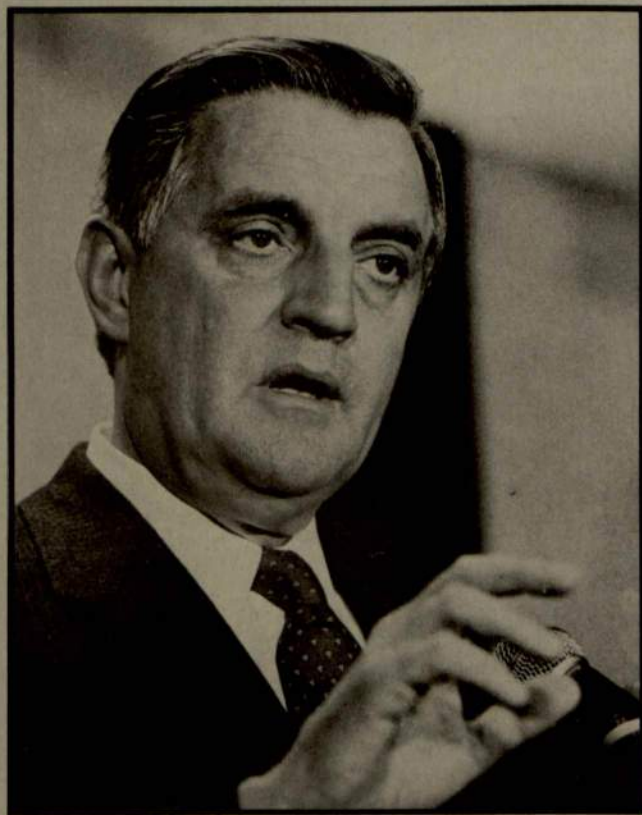


*Ronald Reagan*

## ABORTION

"Abortion violates the first and most basic of human rights. I will continue to support every effort to restore that protection, including the Hyde-Jepsen Respect Life bill."

*Presidential Biblical Scoreboard*  
Magazine  
July 12, 1984



*Walter Mondale*

## ABORTION

"I oppose any constitutional amendment or legislation that would allow others to restrict or limit a woman's right to choose to have an abortion. The restriction denying use of Medicaid funds for abortion clearly discriminates against the poor. I voted against it consistently during my years in the Senate. I continue to support the use of Medicaid funds for abortion."

Campaign literature  
October 1, 1983



*Ronald Reagan:*

## **VOLUNTARY SCHOOL PRAYER**

"Permission for such exercises for those who want them is necessary if the schools are truly to be neutral in the matter of religion. And a refusal to permit them is seen not as the realization of state neutrality, but rather as the establishment of a religion of secularism."

Radio address  
February 25, 1984

## **DEFENSE**

"America's deterrence is more credible, and it is making the world a safer place—safer because now there is less danger that the Soviet leadership will underestimate our strength or question our resolve."

Address to the nation  
January 16, 1984

## **EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT**

"I am opposed to ERA because I believe existing constitutional and legal guarantees, properly enforced, can assure equal rights for women, whereas the vague wording of the ERA could be interpreted by federal courts in such a way as to force unanticipated and undesirable consequences."

"Our efforts to increase opportunities for women have centered on improving their economic position, ridding our laws of provisions which discriminate against women, and attacking illegal and invidious discrimination against them."

*Presidential Biblical Scoreboard*  
Magazine  
July 12, 1984

## **HOMOSEXUALITY**

"In part, the erosion of these values [Judeo-Christian tradition] has given way to a celebration of forms of sexual expression most reject. We will resist the efforts of some to obtain government endorsement of homosexuality."

*Presidential Biblical Scoreboard*  
Magazine  
July 12, 1984

*Walter Mondale:*

## **VOLUNTARY SCHOOL PRAYER**

"Mondale also said he was in support of the Supreme Court's ruling keeping prayer out of public schools. 'I don't talk about prayer in public life,' he said. He said such a government action would violate the principles of the separation between Church and state."

United Press International  
August 19, 1983

## **DEFENSE**

"I'm going to cut defense below the Reagan budget by about \$35 [billion] to \$40 billion."

*USA Today*  
February 24, 1984

## **EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT**

"When the ERA failed to win ratification in June of 1982, I was one of the first national public figures to call for reproposing and repassing it in the Congress. I have since spoken for repassage throughout the nation, and in virtually every major public appearance. As President, I would use the full power and moral authority of that office to assure ratification of the ERA in the states."

American Civil Liberties Union news  
release  
April 1, 1984

## **HOMOSEXUALITY**

"We are including and recruiting openly gay and lesbian candidates on our delegate slates . . . [My campaign has] open gay and lesbian staff . . ."

*Human Events*  
February 25, 1984

"Walter Mondale is the only viable candidate left in this race who has endorsed the Lesbian/Gay Civil Rights Act—S.430."

National Organization for Women/Judy  
Goldsmith correspondence  
March 6, 1984

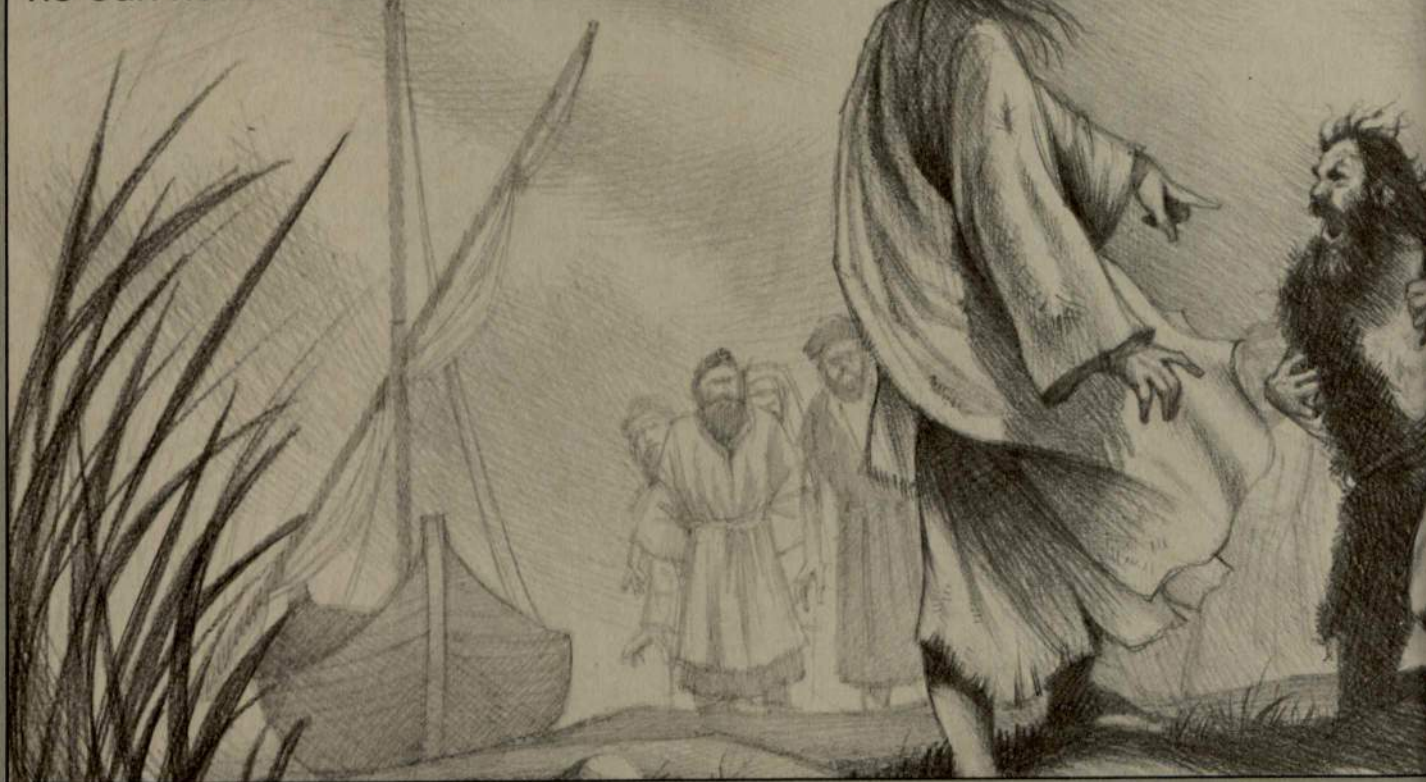
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# The Deliverer

BY CHARLES SIMPSON

Jesus handled the severest case of torment—  
He can handle ours as well.



**W**hen I was in seminary, I was taught that believing in unclean spirits was superstitious—that when Jesus dealt with unclean spirits, He was simply catering to the ignorance of His day. Some people are embarrassed by the fact that Jesus cast out demons—it doesn't fit their notion that everything should be logical and understandable. But the fact is that Jesus dealt with unclean spirits, and I'm personally glad He did. One of the most powerful accounts of Jesus' demonstrating His authority over evil

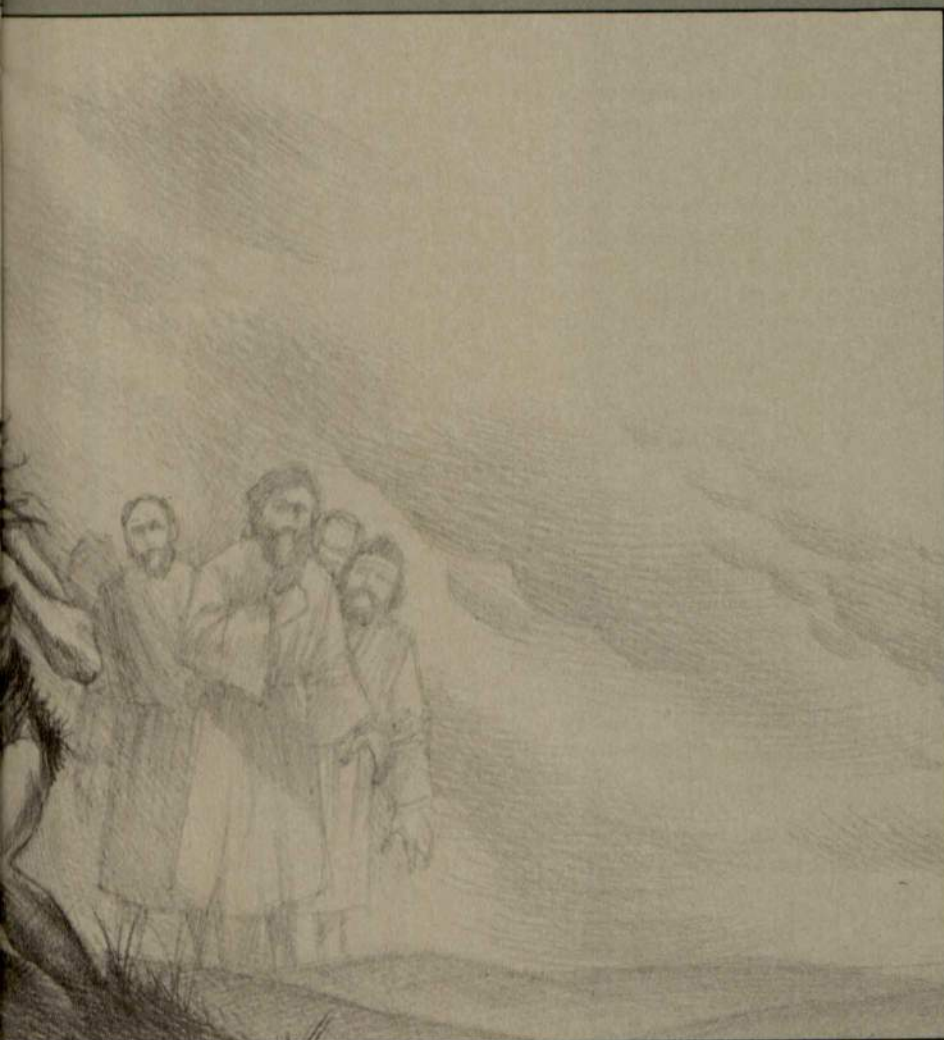
spirits is the story of the Gadarene demoniac in Mark chapter 5. It is one of the clearest examples of the kind of victory God wants us to have over the things that torment us.

And they came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gerasenes. And when He had come out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him. . . . And seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him; and crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What do I have to do with You,

Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!" For He had been saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" And He was asking him, "What is your name?" And he said to Him, "My name is Legion; for we are many."

. . . Now there was a big herd of swine feeding there on the mountainside. And they [the demons] entreated Him, saying, "Send us into the swine so that we may enter them." And He gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the





swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea (Mk. 5:1-2, 6-9, 11-13 NAS).

#### Releasing the Captives

To fully appreciate the significance of this event we need to look at another passage of Scripture:

And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him [Jesus]. And He opened the book, and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,

because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are downtrodden, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord" (Lk. 4:17-19 NAS).

I want to focus on the fact that Jesus said the Spirit was upon Him to release the captives. That's what He did for the Gadarene demoniac, and that's what He wants to do for us.

A demoniac is a person who is possessed and controlled by unclean spirits, which are ethically

evil, destructive in nature, and serve the satanic purpose of destruction. A demoniac is utterly controlled by something other than himself and other than God. We don't see many such people today. Usually they are institutionalized because they present a danger to society and to themselves.

Most of us never have been or never will be demoniacs, but I dare say that most of us have at one time or another been influenced by evil spirits. Therefore, it behooves us to understand something about the Lord's victory over them.

#### How the Enemy Works

To be influenced by an evil spirit is simply to be motivated by something that is outside of ourselves, something not of God, which would influence us with an evil result in mind. Ultimately that kind of influence is destructive. Thankfully, it doesn't permeate or dominate our lives, but even if it does, we need to know that the same Jesus who dealt with the Gadarene's situation is certainly able to deal with ours.

The Gadarene demoniac is a good example of how the enemy works—how he seizes control of a man's life—and how Jesus triumphs over the enemy, setting the captive free. Because of the unclean spirits within him, the Gadarene demoniac was a man driven to destruction. The enemy is not a leader; he is a driver. He compels. God, however, does not take over our will and drive us beyond our control. He may give us motivation, but that is much different than compulsion. God calls us to exercise our own will to do His will.

I have heard the testimonies of many people who were trapped in something destructive, such as drug addiction. They say, "I knew it was killing me and I wished I had never touched



it, but I couldn't quit it." They were compelled to do something that intellectually they knew was wrong and was hurting them. But the mind has no power over a compulsion. Demons cannot be dealt with intellectually. They seize the reins of a person's will; he becomes a captive and is driven relentlessly toward an abyss of some kind.

Although we may not have been drug addicts, many of us can identify with the problem of dealing with something in our lives that is at times out of control and seemingly outside of our control. And we must realize that we have a spiritual enemy who has no qualms about taking advantage of our weaknesses. The name *Satan* means "adversary." Satan is our adversary and he is adverse to our best interests. He is called the enemy in Scripture because that is exactly what he is—our enemy. He is intensely committed to destroying us—not just hurting us, but actually bringing our lives and God's purposes for us to ruin.

#### **An Unrestrainable Power**

Until Jesus came on the scene, the enemy had accom-

plished great destruction in the Gadarene man: He had his dwelling among the tombs. And no one was able to bind him any more, even with a chain; because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces, and no one was strong enough to subdue him. And constantly night and day, among the tombs and in the mountains, he was crying out and gashing himself with stones (Mk. 5:3-5 NAS).

We're not told how long the man had been like this or how he came to be this way. He probably began to manifest uncontrollable attitudes as a child, acting wild and disruptive. Whenever adults tried to correct him, he probably rebelled. His behavior became what we nicely call today antisocial. He leered and sneered and snarled his way through life until his problem came to the attention of the greater authorities. They tried to tame him, but finally realized the only thing to do was forcibly restrain him. But a power would come on him that would make him unrestrainable. He finally reached such a devastating point

self-destructive frenzy.

#### **Raised in Apostasy**

I don't know exactly how this demoniac got like that, but I do believe it is feasible that he was raised in a religious culture that had denied and set aside the will of God. I believe he was the epitome of what can finally become of people who depart from God's will and choose to remain in that apostate condition.

Some writers suggest that Decapolis, the demoniac's hometown, was a convenient place for apostates to go. It was across the Sea of Galilee, away from the religious centers. Perhaps his parents were apostate. Many Jews there were not practicing Jews; in fact, a lot of pig farming was going on there. And because we know that Jews weren't big on pig farming, it gives us some indication that they weren't exactly where they should have been spiritually.

Romans chapter 1 speaks of the apostate condition:

Just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness...they are...haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents...and, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them (vv. 28-30, 32 NAS).

We need to realize that this condition is not unique to the first century. Today major churches endorse the practices described in this scripture. Some

Many of us can identify with the problem of dealing with something in our lives that is at times out of control and seemingly outside of our control.

plished great destruction in the Gadarene man:

in his degeneration that he would cut and tear at his own flesh in a



religious leaders are endorsing homosexuality and ordaining people openly who profess involvement in such practices. Romans chapter 1 also says, "Professing to be wise, they became fools" (v. 22 NAS). They not only do such things themselves, but also give hearty approval to others who do the same.

People fall into an apostate condition through preoccupation with who they are. Basically, they ignore God, bringing forth a pride that leads to separation from God. When we remove God from our minds and fill our minds with selfishness, we begin to degenerate and open ourselves up to evil influences. Eventually God gives a person who rejects Him over to evil desires. And a person in an apostate condition can become the habitation of all kinds of evil. There is a vacuum there. To turn from God deliberately after having known the truth leaves a spiritual vacuum that becomes a receptacle for the enemy. The Gadarene demoniac had somehow become open to the enemy, who overtook him completely.

#### A Spiritual Encounter

When Jesus got out of the boat and began walking toward Decapolis, he saw the man in the distance running wildly toward him. Immediately Jesus knew what was coming. The man ran up to Jesus, bowed before Him, and said, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear by God that You won't torment me."

Now this man had never seen Jesus before, but something in him told him who Jesus was. And here he was on his knees, shaking uncontrollably, tormented by the presence of God.

It is important for us to realize that Jesus did not attempt to deal with the man's problems on an intellectual basis. Debating

with or "counseling" a demon is as foolish as trying to fend off a lion with a peashooter.

When Jesus asked the spirit,

and quiet. Churches where the Holy Spirit isn't moving and where the presence of God is lacking are nice, safe places for them,

**Jesus did not attempt to deal with the man's problems on an intellectual basis. Debating with or "counseling" a demon is as foolish as trying to fend off a lion with a peashooter.**

"What is your name?" He could have easily discerned the spirit's name. But this was a spiritual encounter—the demons were face-to-face with the Son of God. It was important for that spirit to come under the authority of the Lord and acknowledge its own name.

Then the man screamed in an inhuman voice, "My name is Legion; for we are many." The word *legion* is a Roman army term referring to a group of at least six thousand men.

That's a lot of spirits! To have six thousand motivations twitching and jerking inside of him, saying, "Do this" or "Do that," must have been incredible misery. But that legion troubling the man made an unusual request: "Don't send us away," they cried. "Please don't send us out of this country."

I'm not sure why they said that. But perhaps it was because they were comfortable in Decapolis, because demons like apostasy. They enjoy being around people who have a religious veneer without real spiritual content. Demons even like to go to church. Many churches are much like cemeteries, nice and peaceful

because they remain undetected. No one is likely to think these people have demons. It's as if they're on a game preserve, where they won't be shot.

Religion without the Holy Spirit is dangerous. It can be a cover for deep spiritual problems. Only the Spirit of God, and not mere religion, can keep us fulfilled and free from evil influence.

#### Destructive Force of Demons

When the demons said, "Don't send us away," Jesus decided He would visibly demonstrate the power of evil spirits and His power over them. So the scripture says He gave permission for them to go into a herd of swine.

As they came out of this man, I can imagine they tore him—no doubt he went through convulsions and contortions. But when those spirits hit the herd of pigs, it was with such force that they were driven instantly insane and rushed over the edge of a cliff to the rocky beaches below, and they were drowned in the sea.

This was a dramatic demonstration of the destructive force of unclean spirits and of how to deal with them. Demons are not



to be controlled, suppressed, or ignored; they are to be cast out! Oftentimes a person acts well

He didn't want to hurt anyone, even himself. He was able to sit down and be still. It was a

**If something is tormenting us, the answer is not to jam it deeper into our spirit, pretending it isn't there. Get it out in Jesus' name!**

behaved, but inside he is torn. Perhaps *he wants* to serve God, but something inside doesn't, and resists his efforts to please God. It's unfortunate, but many of the people who could be classified as "religious" look miserable most of the time. If one is miserable serving God, something is wrong.

That miserable look reminds me of a story a woman in Jamaica once told me about the time some people from a church were waiting for a visiting preacher to arrive by train at the railroad station. No one knew for sure what he looked like, but a man in a black three-piece suit and a little bowler hat got off the train and they thought for sure it was him. He looked so serious. They said, "You must be the Reverend Smith."

"No, I'm not," he replied.

"Oh, we're sorry," they said. "You just look like a minister."

"I have stomach trouble," he said.

If something is tormenting us, the answer is not to jam it deeper into our spirit, pretending it isn't there. Get it out in Jesus' name! We need to be free to serve God with joy.

#### **Back to Decapolis**

The demoniac got free. For the first time in a long time, he didn't want to snarl or shriek.

tremendous miracle. The demons were gone. And as Jesus started to get into the boat to leave, the man said to Him, "Lord, let me go with You. I don't want to go back to Decapolis. You saved my life. I've never known such peace. Please let me go with You."

The issue became his will versus God's at this point, because Jesus said, "No, that's not what I want. I want you to go home and tell how God had mercy upon you. They need you in Decapolis."

So he went back. For the first time, the people of Decapolis saw him as a real person. Before, the men would close the doors when he went by, the women would hide, and the children would cower in fear. But now they saw him walking down the street in humility, in righteousness, in self-control. Just seeing him, they knew that Jesus was the Son of God.

In the Gadarene demoniac, Jesus handled the most extreme case of the enemy's oppression that I've ever read about. If He can do that, He can handle our situation as well. As the old hymn says:

Come, *every soul* by sin oppressed, there's mercy with the Lord; and He will surely give you rest by trusting in

His word. Only trust Him, only trust Him, Only trust Him now; He will save you, He will save you, He will save you now.

How many of you reading this article would say, "You're right. There is something that keeps me from serving God with joy. There are things that drive me to do things I don't want to do, and I want God to free me. I want to be free to serve the Lord with gladness"?

God will help you to be free. He will give you the power to deal with the spirits that corrupt your life, your family, your church. I pray in Jesus' name that you will be free from the influence of every unclean spirit so that you will be able to serve God with all the peace and joy that is rightfully yours through the liberating power of Jesus Christ. □



*Charles Simpson is the senior pastor of Gulf Coast Covenant Church in Mobile, Alabama, and ministers extensively in the United States and abroad. He also serves as the chairman of the Integrity Communications Board of Directors. Charles resides in Mobile with his wife, Carolyn, and their three children.*



Obedience to the Lord often comes with a measure of difficulty

# A Music Lesson

BY JACKIE CONN



**W**hen I graduated from college, I moved about two hundred miles from home to launch my career as a young, ambitious newspaper reporter. A friend there arranged for me to live with a young couple, Ken and Trish, who were committed Christians. Even so, I didn't know them, and they didn't know me.

It didn't take long for me to settle into my routine, which included working on the weekdays, visiting friends in the evenings, and staying gone most of the weekends, meaning, of course, I was rarely home.

One Saturday, however, I took off early in the day as usual, but returned home just a short while later. Having a nose for news, I immediately noticed the small fire in our backyard. I put on my reporter's cap and investigated the scene.

I found Chief Ken on the job. Most folks burn leaves or garbage, but I observed that he was burning his bedspread. *Bedspread?* I wondered.

"Hi, Ken. What are you doing?" I cautiously asked.

"Burning. Gee, you're home early aren't you?"

"Yeah. Nice day for a fire, isn't it?" I was trying to remain nonchalant, fighting the temptation to ask the obvious. But finally I couldn't stand it any longer. "Ken, why are you burning your bedspread?"

He poured more gas on the blaze. I think he was trying to hurry up and get it all over with. But then he answered my question, "It's demonic."

*I've heard about these types of people, I thought. Fanatics! My mind began to race. How long will it take me to pack up and get out of here? How long a drive is it back home? After all, I did have a good job offer there.*

I kept my thoughts to myself and just smiled and tried to act unsurprised as I waited for further information. My repertoire of interview questions didn't cover this topic. After a few moments of silence, Ken finally offered the explanation that he had discovered the design on their new, expensive bedspread had its origins in the occult. Because he wanted to keep his home clean of anything that might be spiritually questionable, the bedspread had to go. "Your room is next," he added.

I knew he was only joking, but

I also knew the validity of what he was talking about. I knew, for example, that a lot of the music I listened to was obviously ungodly, but I wasn't about to make any drastic changes in my listening habits. After all, I grew up surrounding myself with music as much as possible, usually even sleeping with my radio going. God certainly wouldn't want me to get rid of my music, especially because I had invested so much of my time and money in it, I reasoned. So for months I hung on tight, determined not to give in to what I branded fanaticism.

But one day as a friend of mine and I were headed to my house, I heard that undeniable voice of the Lord saying, "Jackie, get rid of your music." When we got home, I went straight to my room and shut the door. I had the feeling that God was not in the mood to argue—I had waited long enough. I swallowed hard and began a parade of numerous trips to the garbage can outside. Finally, my strange behavior caught someone's attention. "What are you doing?"

"Throwing away my music." I began to feel a relief inside. When I told Ken he could get his matches and gasoline out, I knew I was free. Not that all secular music is bad—good doesn't necessarily mean "religious." But my music was just one of those things right at that point in my life that I wanted to hang on to and the Lord wanted me to let go of.

Thinking back, I don't remember actually having a "disc inferno" in which we burned all my albums. But what I do remember is the wonderful sense of freshness and freedom that comes when we take another step—especially a difficult one—in obeying the Lord. □

*Jackie Conn is an editorial assistant for New Wine.*



Our family can be weakened or strengthened by our insights

# To Tell the Truth

BY BRUCE LONGSTRETH

**E**arly one morning two friends discussed the events of the coming day over a fresh cup of coffee. A noisy flock of crows flew overhead, reminding one of the men of an interesting fact about crows.

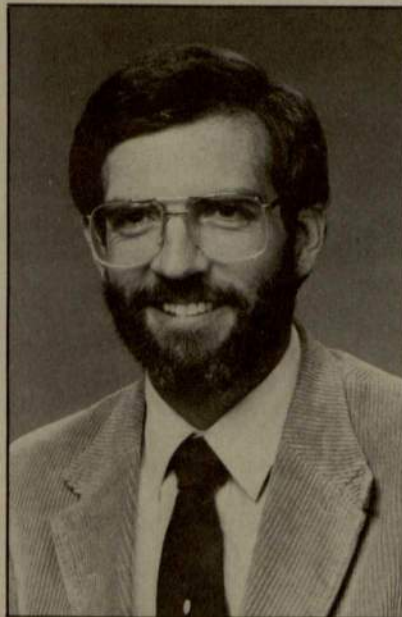
"Crows watch out for each other," he said. "When a flock feeds in a cornfield, two sentinels stand guard at each end of the field. They warn the others in special 'crow language' of any approaching danger. If something should happen because the two guards got careless and failed to warn the flock, the rest will attack and kill the two who didn't do their job."

"I've never heard that before," said the other man, "but it reminds me of an unusual trait that chickens have.

"Chickens are perfectionists. A man who raises them told me that if one chicken is smaller than the rest or has an open sore anywhere on its body, the others will attack it and peck it to death. They can't accept the different, the sick, or the wounded."

What in the world do these two stories have to do with tips for fathers? Before you conclude that this article is totally for the birds, let me hasten to make the point. This article is not about birds at all but about people and how they give and receive truth to each other.

The crow story describes truths about faithfulness, commitment, doing our job, and keeping watch over our responsibilities. The chicken story is



about attitudes toward the weak, the poor, the needy, and the rejected.

More interesting than the stories, however, are the men who told them and how they gave and received truth. The man with something to crow about is a strong overachiever and workaholic, whose words usually provoke, stimulate, and encourage people to reach higher, stretch further, and "go for it." The second man had at one time worked for the first man, but had burned out with the pace of their mutual endeavor. It was a real tribute to him that he had maintained their friendship even though they no longer worked together, because most of the time he felt as if he were a wounded chicken, pecked to death with a sense of failure.

Crow stories didn't excite him anymore.

Truth is important and necessary, but it matters how and when we communicate it. Our family can either be beaten to death or strengthened by the way we share our insights with them. Here are three principles that may be helpful in this regard:

1. *Be careful.* A wounded chicken listening to you crow about the cure for his sore could be pecked to death by your untimely revelation.

2. *Be sensitive.* Does your wife or child need a challenge or a break, discipline or grace? The good Samaritan didn't rebuke the wounded man for traveling alone and unarmed on a thief-infested highway.

3. *Be humble.* The scripture says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (Jas. 4:6 NAS). Fathers need all the grace God will give for the job of leading their family. Grace and truth live side by side in the humble man.

The God who made the crow and the chicken gives us insights from His creation. How we share those insights with those we love and lead will cause them either to be grounded by an increased sense of their weakness and failure or to soar with grace to new and beautiful heights, and that's something to crow about. □

*Bruce Longstreth is editor of Fathergram, a monthly newsletter that helps fathers build strong families. For a sample copy of Fathergram and subscription information, write to Fathergram, P.O. Box Z, Mobile, AL 36616.*



# THE WORD

October 1984

## *I Believe in the Holiness of the Church Because...*

I. Jesus Prayed for a Holy Church.....	Jn. 17:13-19.....	Oct. 1
II. The Saints Are Called to a Holy Life		
A. Abraham—a blameless walk.....	Gen. 17:1-14.....	Oct. 2
B. Moses—a holy ground.....	Ex. 3:1-12.....	Oct. 3
C. Israel—a holy nation.....	Ex. 19:1-6.....	Oct. 4
D. Israel—a people set apart.....	Lev. 20:22-27.....	Oct. 5
E. Israel—a treasured possession.....	Dt. 26:16-19.....	Oct. 6
F. David—a pure heart.....	Ps. 24:1-6.....	Oct. 7
G. Isaiah—a cleansed prophet.....	Is. 6:1-13.....	Oct. 8
H. Saints—a destined people.....	Eph. 1:1-14.....	Oct. 9
III. God Blesses a Holy People		
A. The prosperity of the righteous.....	Ps. 1:1-6.....	Oct. 10
B. The rule of the righteous.....	Dt. 28:1-14.....	Oct. 11
C. The effective prayer of the righteous.....	Ps. 34:1-22.....	Oct. 12
D. The inheritance of the righteous.....	Ps. 37:1-40.....	Oct. 13
E. The rewards of the righteous.....	Pr. 10:1-32.....	Oct. 14
F. The success of the righteous.....	Pr. 11:1-31.....	Oct. 15
G. The blessings of the righteous.....	Pr. 12:1-28.....	Oct. 16
IV. Jesus Taught Holy Living to His Disciples		
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E. Holiness and prayer.....	Mt. 6:1-15.....	Oct. 21
F. Holiness and service.....	Mt. 6:16-34.....	Oct. 22
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V. The Apostles' Doctrine Taught Holiness		
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E. Conformed to a holy likeness.....	1 Pet. 1:1-25.....	Oct. 29
F. Partakers of a holy nature.....	2 Pet. 1:1-11.....	Oct. 30
G. Contenders for a holy faith.....	Jude 1-25.....	Oct. 31

*"The Word," a monthly Bible study by Bruce Longstreth, is a seasonal study of basic teachings about the creation and fall of man, the person and work of Christ, and the nature and destiny of the Church. Next month, we will study the universal nature of the Church. We encourage our readers to use this feature daily, both for personal Scripture study and family reading.*



# **COULD YOUR P DEMONIC IN**

## **Answer these ten quest can and then read on.**

1. Do you constantly make excuses for not praying?
2. Do you find yourself too tired or unable to cope?
3. Do you have problems with depression, anxiety, or fear?
4. Do you have some unexplained physical malady that just won't go away?
5. Is there arguing, tension, and disunity between you and your spouse or children?
6. Do you have trouble concentrating or remembering things?
7. Do you find yourself constantly struggling against unclean thoughts?
8. Do you have trouble controlling your weight?
9. Do you harbor harmful thoughts about other people?
10. Do you think your family would be better off if you were to die?

**All Christians face problems like these at one time or another. But, if after you have prayed, fasted, and applied self-discipline, they still "just won't go away"—evil spirits may be affecting your life.**

Until you rid yourself

of demonic oppression, you can never find complete happiness and fulfillment. This oppression reflects itself in various ways. Relationships with friends and business associates may become strained. You may discover an ever-increasing gap between you and those you love. Your body may never completely heal. You may be constantly nagged by being overweight or your financial position may

seem to be deteriorating before your very eyes. Your spiritual energy may be sapped by just "keeping things under control."

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# PROBLEMS BE NATURE? ions as honestly as you

from your life and the lives of those around you.

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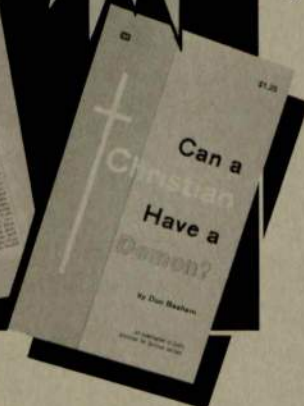
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In choosing His followers, Jesus sometimes picks

# Unlikely Disciples

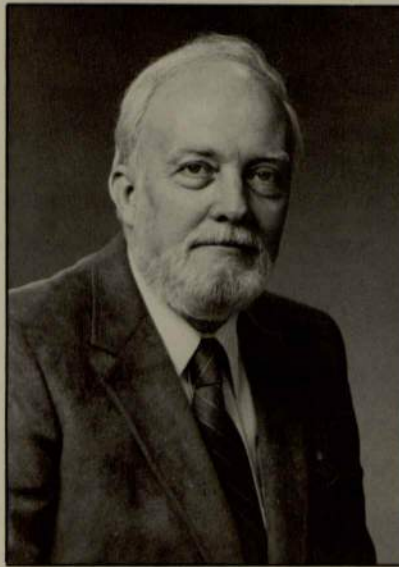
BY DON BASHAM

**H**ave you ever wondered why Jesus didn't choose a more suitable group of men than the original twelve? There was no shortage of trained religious professionals to choose from—priests, scribes, lawyers, Pharisees, and Sadducees—but Jesus bypassed them all for a band of nobodies. Even with the exception of Judas Iscariot, the other eleven seemed singularly unqualified: fishermen, a tax collector . . .

What's more, the head of the twelve, Simon Peter, seemed the unlikeliest disciple of them all: arrogant, blustery, unstable, and double minded. He blew hot and cold. I wonder if Jesus ever knew which direction Peter was coming from. One minute he was soaring on heights of revelation, faith, and confidence; the next minute reverting to arrogance, violence, faithlessness, and despair.

In Matthew chapter 14, however, Peter's impetuous faith produced a miracle that he alone shared with the Lord. While the other disciples clung to the sides of their storm-tossed boat and watched in wonder, Peter "walked on the water to Jesus" (vs. 29 NIV). And it was Peter's openness and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit that led him to be first to declare, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mt. 16:16 NIV). And Jesus blessed him for his revelation.

Yet only a few verses later that same Peter arrogantly began to rebuke Jesus for His willingness to face the cross: "Never, Lord! This shall never happen to you" (v. 22 NIV).



Imagine having the gall to rebuke Jesus! Jesus looked Peter in the eye and rebuked the spirit of Satan speaking through him: "Out of my sight, Satan . . ." (v. 23 NIV).

Talk about instability! One minute Peter was the mouthpiece for the Holy Spirit, proclaiming Jesus as the Christ, the next minute the mouthpiece for Satan, rebuking Jesus in an attempt to turn Him from the purpose of His Father. One minute he was so violently loyal that he would kill to protect Jesus (see John 18:10-11); only the next minute so fearful that he swore three times he never knew the Lord (see Mark 14:66-72).

Yet Jesus never lost confidence in Peter. He looked beyond the fear and the humiliating denial and knew Peter would make it through.

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.

But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers" (Lk. 22:31-32 NIV).

Jesus' prayer was answered. It was Simon Peter who on the day of Pentecost preached in the power of the Holy Spirit and saw three thousand souls saved. Peter made it through!

I can identify with Peter, and I believe that because Jesus saw Peter through, He'll see me through. Like Peter, I know what it is at times to have enough faith to walk on water, to proclaim the lordship of Christ, and to teach and preach to crowds with signs following.

But I also know what it is to act and speak as if I never knew the Lord, then to weep the bitter tears of repentance. At times I've been prideful and arrogant enough to rebuke the Lord when I disagreed with His plan and purpose. And at times I've been angry enough to slice off the heads of those who seemed opposed to what I wanted to do for God.

Then afterward, with penitent heart and ear, I think I've heard the Lord say, "Satan has sought to sift you as wheat, but I have prayed for you, Don, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brethren."

No, Jesus didn't pick extraordinary men to be His disciples. He chose weak, quarrelsome, prideful, fearful men and taught them and trained them and entrusted to them the gospel, knowing His grace alone would make the difference. That's the only basis on which I can qualify as a disciple, and I suspect that's the only way you qualify as well.

At least, that's the way I see it. □

*Don Basham is chief editorial consultant for New Wine.*

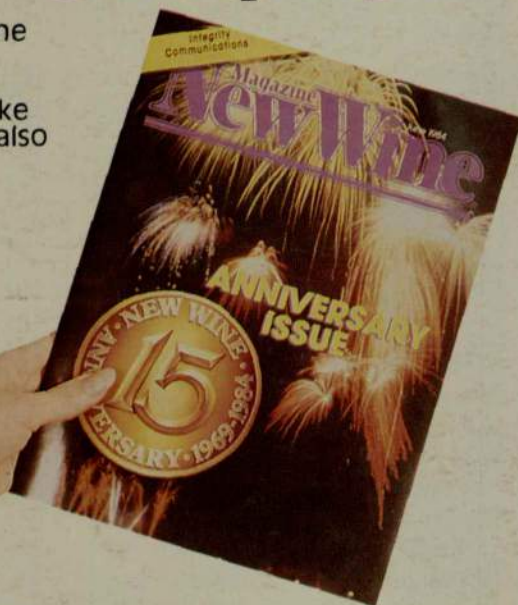


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