

SUMMER 2011

GRAPEVINE

BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES
by DON ANDERSON MINISTRIES



**“Yes, the Lord has done amazing things for us!
What a joy!” —Psalms 126:3 NLT**

**40th Anniversary
Survey Enclosed!**

DUTY DEMANDS IT!

"You must crave pure spiritual milk so that you can grow into the fullness of your salvation. Cry out for this nourishment as a baby cries for milk, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness"

(1 Peter 2:2-3 NLT).

One morning, as part of my devotions, I was singing Fanny Crosby's great old hymn "Rescue the Perishing." I came to verse 4: "Rescue the perishing, Duty demands it; Strength for thy labor the Lord will provide; Back to the narrow way Patiently win them; Tell the poor wanderer a Saviour has died. Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying; Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save."

The phrase "duty demands it" caught my attention. My mind immediately went back to a past ministry serving with Young Life. It was such a joy to see kids invite Jesus Christ into their lives, but we did not let things end there. We continued the discipleship process by involving them in a program called Campaigners, where they could begin to grow and mature in their faith. The Navigators had a wonderful little packet of verses called "Beginning with Christ" and then another packet called "Growing with Christ," and these were always good to use with new believers.

The birthing process brings delight. The growing up process brings duty.

Each Christian has a duty and responsibility to grow spiritually and also to invest in the lives of others.

1 Corinthians 9:27: "Instead I subdue my body and make it my slave, so that after preaching to others I myself will not be disqualified" (NET).

1 Timothy 4:7-8: "Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives' tales. Spend your time and energy in training yourself for spiritual fitness. Physical exercise has some value, but spiritual exercise is much more important, for it promises a reward in both this life and the next" (NLT).

Hebrews 5:14: "Solid food is for those who are mature, who have trained themselves to recognize the difference between right and wrong and then do what is right" (NLT).

Hebrews 12:11: "No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it is painful! But afterward there will be a quiet harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way" (NLT).

Luke 2:52: "And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (NASB).

Proverbs 8:34: "Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway" (NIV).

Acts 20: 24: "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God" (NASB).

Philippians 1:20: "According to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death" (NASB).

Our Daily Bread for April 16, 2011 offers this entry:

During summer training camp, the coaches on one football team wore T-shirts intended to urge their players to exert maximum effort. The shirts bore the motto, "Each day you must choose: The pain of discipline or the pain of regret." Discipline is tough—and something we may try to avoid. But in sports and in life, short-term pain is often the only path to long-term gain. In the heat of battle it is too late to prepare. Either you are ready for the challenges of life or you will be haunted by the "what ifs," "if onlys," and "I should'ves" that accompany the failure to be prepared. That's the pain of regret.

Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger became a hero overnight. He tells his story in the book *Highest Duty*. You will remember him as that pilot who safely landed US Airways flight 1549 on the Hudson River after both engines had ingested some Canadian geese. All 155 passengers survived. David Sanderson, one of those survivors, recalls, "Your life changes immediately... Things that used to make you angry before don't affect you much anymore. Before, I never really contributed as much as I should have. Now I'm trying to make more of a difference."

Sully's book is subtitled: "My Search for What Really Matters." He writes the following:

I did not think I was going to die. Based on my experience, I was confident that I could make an



emergency water landing that was survivable. That confidence was stronger than any fear.

Lorrie, Kate, and Kelly did not come into my head, either. I think that was for the best. It was vital that I be focused, and that I allow myself no distractions. My consciousness existed solely to control the flight path. (237)

In the book *The Checklist Manifesto*, Atul Gawande references the landing of US Airways flight 1549:

All learned occupations have a definition of professionalism, a code of conduct. It is where they spell out their ideals and duties. The codes are sometimes stated, sometimes just understood. But they all have at least three common elements.

First is an expectation of selflessness: that we who accept responsibility for others—whether we are doctors, lawyers, teachers, public authorities, soldiers, or pilots—will place the needs and concerns of those who depend on us above our own. Second is an expectation of skill: that we will aim for excellence in our knowledge and expertise. Third is an expectation of trustworthiness: that we will be responsible in our personal behavior toward our charges.

Aviators, however, add a fourth expectation, discipline: discipline in following prudent procedures and in functioning with others. (182-3)

Offering a Christian perspective about duty, Thomas Brooks writes:

Weak saints set their minds upon their blessings more than their works. Their minds are more interested in joy, peace, comfort, and assurance than their responsibilities of waiting on God, believing in God, walking with God, and acting for God. This truth is born out abundantly by experience. Strong saints are more mindful of their responsibility than of their wages. (Voices from the Past, 75)

One Saturday, Pearl and I spent the night in a Holiday Inn Express before continuing on our journey. The next morning we discovered that we had kept company with a large group of ROTC kids being introduced to the military. One of the staff sergeants, a big man without an ounce of fat on him, wore a t-shirt with these words on the back: "Pain is Weakness Leaving Your Body!"

Pursuing our Christian duty is rather like engaging in combat. 2 Timothy 2:3: "Suffer hardships with me as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one engaging in military service is allowing himself to become entangled in civilian pursuits in order that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier" (DAV). Paul likens the Christian life to that of a soldier. Life and ministry are warfare. There is danger. We know the enemy, and he knows us. The greater the knowledge of the enemy, the greater are the chances of victory. We face a war on three fronts: against the world, the flesh, and the devil. Satan has the home-field advantage. This world is his.

2 Timothy 2:4: "No one engaging in military service is

allowing himself to become entangled in civilian pursuits in order that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier" (DAV). That "one who enlisted him as a soldier" is Jesus Christ. The word "entangled" conveys the idea of a sheep with his wool caught in the thorns.

The soldier's single focus must be upon the conflict. It is single-minded devotion. There are no trivial pursuits!

Satan is the master of distraction, working against us in three areas. He causes us to (1) forget why we are here, (2) forget what we are supposed to do, and (3) forget a war is going on.

Oswald Chambers said: "If we want to maintain personal intimacy with the Lord Jesus Christ, it will mean refusing to do or even think certain things."

Ephesians 6:10-17: "Finally be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armour of God to the end that you may be able to hold your ground against the stratagems of the devil. We are not wrestling against blood and flesh, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. On this account take the whole armour of God, in order that you may be able to stand your ground. Stand, therefore, after you have girded your waists with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness and having sandaled your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace. In addition to all these, taking the shield of faith by means of which you can put out all the flaming darts of the devil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God" (DAV).

continued on page 7



**See the
40th Anniversary
Survey on pg 4.**



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

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BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES

40th Anniversary Survey

Bible Teaching Resources is about to celebrate a birthday, and we hope you'll be able to join us for the celebration. We need your help in planning the events to come. Please help us by filling out the survey below and returning it to our offices by August. We want to be good stewards of our resources. Let us know if you are interested in any of the events listed below.

Currently there are **THREE OPTIONS** on the table for our BTR celebration. We will offer just one or possible do all three, if the level of interest is sufficient. Dates and anticipated costs are listed. Selecting any options at this time does not commit you to attending. The purpose of this survey is simply to determine the level of interest.

Option #1: Lakeview Couples Conference
(Waxahachie, TX)

May 4-6, 2012

\$400 per couple

Anticipated # in party: _____

Non-refundable deposit of \$150 per couple will be required by 12/1/11. Balance due by 3/30/12.

Option #2: Alaska Cruise

July 6-12, 2012

Price TBD

Anticipated # in party: _____

Leaving Seattle and returning to Seattle. Prices range from \$1,104 to \$1,804 per person.

The cruise would be handled with Celebrity Cruise Lines. Travel to and from Seattle will need to be arranged by attendee(s). There will be an additional BTR program cost (TBD).

Option #3: Trail West Family Camp (Buena Vista, CO)

August 13-18, 2012

\$500 per person (double occupancy)

Anticipated # in party: _____

Travel to and from conference will need to be arranged by attendee(s).

Non-refundable deposit of \$150 per person will be required by 2/1/12. Balance due by 5/30/12.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone #(s): _____ (daytime)

_____ (evening)

Please return survey to us by August 1, 2011.

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Pearl's Reflections

by Pearl Anderson

Invincible



My new favorite word is invincible. Oswald Chambers, in *My Utmost For His Highest*, writes: "No power on earth or hell can conquer the Spirit of God living within the human spirit; it creates an inner invincibility."

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28 NLT).

Jesus states in Matthew 11:29, "Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you..." (NLT).

Jesus is asking us to get beside Him and take one end of the yoke, so that we can pull together. The only way to know the strength of God is to take the yoke of Jesus upon us and to learn from Him.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is asking us to get into the harness with Him. Imagine yourself trying to remove a stump by hitting it with a sledge hammer. Wouldn't that job be a lot easier if a person drives by on a John Deere tractor and offers to help? Satan often tries to stir up our old nature and tempt us into trying to do things ourselves. When this occurs, our reply should be, "No, I'm in the harness with Him (Jesus)! We have an eternal contract. He does the heavy lifting now but He is teaching me every day how to be more useful. His yoke fits me perfectly and He never gives me more than I can carry. He created me so He knows what is best for me all the time."

It's no fun to learn the hard way: always weary and burdened down, yoked to the wrong yoke-fellow. It would be foolish to go back to that crooked and perverse way of life. We are invincible when we walk in the strength, power, and identity of the One who said "Lo, I am with you (sharing your yoke) always even until the end of the world."

Charles Swindoll puts it well, "Jesus told us that the life He lived is possible to be lived day after day when we draw upon the strength of the Spirit of God who lives within us."

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14 KJV).

"Saints are immortal until their work on earth is done." (Unknown)

"But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:37-39 NASB).

RECIPE CORNER

Donna's Delights

Thanks to Donna Anderson Skorheim for a quick and delicious treat. You don't have to heat up the oven to prepare these cookies.

Cornflake Cookies

6 cups cornflakes
1 cup light Karo syrup
1 cup sugar
1 ½ cups chunky or plain peanut butter

Put cornflakes in a large bowl and set aside. Combine Karo syrup and sugar in a pan and boil 1 minute. Remove from heat and stir in peanut butter. Pour mixture over cornflakes. Stir gently with a spatula. Drop tablespoons of cornflake mixture on waxed paper, shaping into small cookies. Let set and enjoy!

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Bookshelf

Pure Pleasure: Why Do Christians Feel So Bad about Feeling Good? by Gary Thomas (Zondervan)

I have become a great fan of Gary Thomas. We have used his wonderful book *Sacred Marriage* in many of our couples conferences. This newer work is special because it focuses on the sheer joy of being believers and enjoying the pleasure of living the abundant Christian life. You will feast on every page. It is a book to pursue in your devotional time.

My God Is True!: Lessons Learned along Cancer's Dark Road by Paul D. Wolfe (Banner of Truth Trust)

This is a marvelous story of a third year seminary student who discovers that he has cancer. His full trust in the sovereignty of God is beautifully depicted. I would recommend this work to anyone who has cancer or another physical illness. Wolfe writes: "Let us be realistic about life in this world: is there much that happens in our lives—for that matter, is there anything that happens—that is not tinged by sadness (at least in measure) or related to human choices (at least indirectly)? The Lord would be left with a small kingdom indeed, if all such things were ultimately up for grabs" (22).

The Me I Want to Be: Becoming God's Best

Version of You by John Ortberg (Zondervan)

John Ortberg is a pastor at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church in Menlo Park, California. We have reviewed many of his works with joy and delight. I highly recommend this most recent book in which Ortberg claims, as stated on the book jacket, "The most important task of your life is not what you do, but who you become." Here's an excerpt: "We deceive ourselves about our appearance. A grandpa friend of mine boarded an airport tram and noticed an attractive young woman sitting nearby who smiled at him. He thought to himself, I've still got it. "Excuse me, sir," she said. "I can stand. Would you like to take my seat?" (144).

This book is a winner! Take time to read it. You will enjoy it.

Coming Back Stronger: Unleashing the Hidden Power of Adversity by Drew Brees with Chris Fabry (Tyndale House)

Drew Brees is the quarterback of the New Orleans Saints, winners of the Super Bowl in 2010. He is also a committed Christian who states with conviction: "God used all those things to work together for good in my life, and I'm grateful not just for the victories but also for the tough times that guided me and helped me become who I am" (187). He closes the book with this great statement: "The tougher the journey, the sweeter the celebration at the end" (300). This book is special. It is worth your time to read his story.

Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream by David Platt (Multnomah)

This wonderfully convicting book, written by a Baptist pastor, has provoked much response. His description of an experiment conducted at his church sets the stage for the book's premise:

At Brook Hills we decided to try to answer this question. We actually stripped away the entertainment value and invited people to come together simply to study God's Word for hours at a time. We called it Secret Church.

We set a date—one Friday night—when we would gather from six o'clock in the evening until midnight, and for six hours we would do nothing but study the Word and pray. We would interrupt the six-hour Bible study periodically to pray for our brothers and sisters around the world who are forced to gather secretly. We would also pray for ourselves, that we would learn to love the Word as they do.

We weren't sure how many would show up that first evening, but by night's end about a thousand people had gathered. Our topic of study was the Old Testament. After our first try we decided to do it again, and again, and now we have to take reservations because we cannot contain all the people who want to come. (27)

Choosing to See: A Journey of Struggle and Hope

by Mary Beth Chapman with Ellen Vaughn (Revell)

Steve and Mary Beth Chapman lost their adopted daughter in a tragic accident in their driveway. This is one of the most transparent and vulnerable inspirational stories you will read. In the author's words:

Depression became my friend, in a strange and painful way, a pushy friend I really did not want. But this strange friend made it so clear to me that I couldn't just buck up and feel better, or try harder and do better. I was helpless.

My husband could not fix me. My closest friends, who somehow loved me too, could not fix me. And Lord knows I could not fix myself. If I wanted to live in a different place than this dark cloud of fear, anger, and sadness, I had to realize that this burden was way too heavy to carry alone. God and God alone was the One who could take the depression and turn it into something teachable. All I had to do was the hardest thing possible for a person like me: I just had to be willing to give up control and give in to Him, and let Him use this cross in my life. (69)

Between a Rock and a Grace Place: Divine Surprises in the Tight Spots of Life by Carol Kent (Zondervan)

We have reviewed Carol Kent's earlier books and understand part of the painful journey she has endured in the process of letting go of all of the dreams and expectations for her son. You will treasure reading about how God has graciously ministered during the terrible pain that she and her husband, Gene, have faced during a significant ordeal.

Clipboard *continued from page 3*

Satan is a schemer and deceiver shooting fiery darts! I call them anesthetic darts. To anesthetize is to bring under the influence of an anesthetic agent, to be rendered insensible to the feeling of pain.

Countless believers fail to recognize that Satan fires these anesthetic darts that I have listed in my book *Drawing Closer, Growing Stronger*:

ARROWS IN SATAN'S QUIVER:

DOUBT...

DECEIT...

DEFENSIVENESS...

DISCOURAGEMENT...

DISTRACTION...

DIVISION...

DESTRUCTION...

DISOBEDIENCE...

DOCTRINAL ERROR...

DELAY...

DENIAL... (63)

Satan's mission statement is to anesthetize and await the inevitable.

Duty demands we resist the devil. We must not only to recognize that we are in a war with an enemy, but we must also understand from scripture that growth is required if we are to win the battle.

2 Peter 1:5-8: "So don't lose a minute in building on what you've been given, complementing your basic faith with good character, spiritual understanding, alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder, warm friendliness, and generous love, each dimension fitting into and developing the others. With these qualities active and growing in your lives, no grass will grow under your feet, no day will pass without its reward as you mature in your experience of our Master Jesus" (MSG).

Matthew 25:21: "The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'" (NLT).

Proverbs 6:10-11: "A nap here, a nap there, a day off here, a day off there, sit back, take it easy—do you know what comes next? Just this: You can look forward to a dirt-poor life, poverty your permanent houseguest!" (MSG).

Amos 8:11-12: "'Oh yes, Judgment Day is coming! These are the words of my Master God. 'I'll send a famine through the whole country. It won't be food or water that's lacking, but my Word. People will drift from one end of the country to the other, roam to the north, wander to the east. They'll go anywhere, listen to anyone, hoping to hear God's Word—but they won't hear it'" (MSG).

John Owen said: "Get acquainted with your heart. If it is deep, search it out. If it is dark, inquire into it. If your heart seeks to deceive you or to throw you off track by mislabeling its sinful tendencies, do not believe it. Some seek to justify, conceal, or excuse the evils of their own hearts instead of seeking to destroy them. How few there are who will diligently study themselves, or even put up with those who might seek to make them acquainted with them!" (*Voices from the Past*, 100)

Ephesians 2:10: "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago" (NLT).

Philippians 1:6: "And I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again" (NLT).

John Owen writes: "In every promise there are three things to be considered: the faithfulness of the Father, who gives the promise; the grace of the Son, who is the content of the promise; and the power and efficacy of the Holy Spirit, who puts the promise into execution. The faithfulness of God accompanies the promise...Thus, wherever we find a promise of God, we have this assistance: the faithfulness of the Father, the grace of the Son, and the power of the Spirit. All three are engaged for our preservation." (*Voices from the Past*, 103)

Yes, duty demands obedience; growth requires it. "When you do what I tell you," the Lord says in Isaiah 58:14: "then you will find your joy in the Lord..." (NIV).

Isaiah 60:5: "Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy..." (NIV).

Paul says later on 2 Timothy 2:15: "Make every effort to present yourself to God, approved, as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, guiding the word of truth along a straight path" (DAV).

Moses in Psalm 90:12 said: "So teach us to number our days and apply our hearts to wisdom."

I have done this personally. I have approximately 700 days left till my 80th birthday.

How am I going to be more fruitful? The key to that is obedience to His Word and total submission to His plan and purpose.

C. H. Spurgeon sums it up well: "I live in Jesus, on Jesus, with Jesus. And soon hope to be perfectly conformed to his likeness." (*Exploring the Mind & Heart of the Prince of Preachers*, 294).

**Duty
demands
obedience;
growth
requires it.**

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SILVER & JADE & BLACK ONYX

He was goin' to buy her them earrings,
if ever he got back that way . . .
Silver and jade and black onyx,
a present for her, Christmas Day.

But one thing led to another,
and work kept him out on the ranch.
He made her a frame out of barnboard,
said he'd paint it when he got the chance.

A Chinook cleared the road a month later,
as he hurried to town for some feed.
For Valentine's he got her the usual . . .
work gloves and a big sack of feed.

He spent Mother's Day under a tractor,
had to send her to town for a part.
But he slipped ten dollars in her pocket,
to get "somethin' special at K-Mart."

On her birthday he stopped by the jewelers,
happy to see them earrings still there.
But, he bought her two pair of wranglers.
She was pinin' for a new somethin' to wear.

Their anniversary always come durin' harvest,
and he could never get home until dark.
He welded her a sickle-blade lawn statue,
a cross between a duck and Noah's ark.

The holidays rolled around come December.
This time he would not let her down.
He sold that big hog at the auction
And high-tailed it back into town.

But the jeweler's case was plum empty.
The earrings sold earlier in the day.
And the trip to the ranch was a torment,
tryin' to figure the right words to say.

So you can imagine his total amazement,
when onto the front porch she came,
Decked out in silver, jade & black onyx,
With earrings exactly the same.

"I sold me some chickens and bought these.
I think that they look very nice.
The man had trouble sellin' them.
Let me buy 'em for one-half the price."

Boys, I hope that you learn your lesson.
Buy your missus her gift without fail.
But there's no reason to rush right into it,
'cause they might put them earrings on sale!

From *When the Cowboys Come to Town!*
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