ZION FAITH HOMES NEWSLETTER

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"Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee." Psalm 119: 11

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Since my eyes were fixed on Jesus,
I've lost sight of all beside;
So entranced my spirit's vision,
Looking at the Crucified.

All for Jesus, All for Jesus,
All for Jesus crucified.

THE GLORY OF THE CROSS

By Elder Eugene Brooks

Of all the wonders, of all the mysteries, there is nothing so marvelous and stupendous as the infinite wisdom and love of God in Christ, in His dying for you and for me. It rises above all the heights of human greatness. It far exceeds all demonstrations and manifestations of man-made things. It is the power of God. It is the wisdom of God. It is the infinity and boundless love of God expressed in the tragedy of a human life. How tremendously wonderful! How marvelous above all the thoughts of man; how far beyond all our imaginations is this wonderful love of God, manifested and demonstrated on Calvary, and borne out through all these two thousand years of intercession in heaven – God in the flesh, God in the Spirit interceding for us, pleading with God to be gracious. The infiniteness of it!

Beloved there is a revelation of that cross to be made to you that will make you bow as you have never bowed. You may already have had some vision of Calvary, but unless you have, then you have got something to find out that will cause you to bow at the Cross of Christ in a new way. God help us to see the tremendous price, the awful price that Christ paid at Calvary. It is an act that will stand alone in all the cycles of eternity. The cross stands in the very middle of the ages as an evidence of the all-consuming love of God. It is the great argument of heaven; the great lodestone. It is everything that is marvelous and Divine, this Cross of Christ. It reaches beyond everything that ever has been attempted on earth. It is the one great argument of Heaven to prove that God is love.

Have you touched Calvary yet? Have you ever looked upon that Cross? Have you seen the tragedy of it? Have you felt the power of it? Has the marvel of Calvary bowed your soul? Has it bent you and broken you until all earthly things have faded from your vision and you have looked into the face of Jesus and said your final eternal "Yes" to Him? That is the purpose of Calvary. That is why Calvary might reach all humanity, east and west, and north and south, to tell them of something stronger than all the armaments of men- LOVE, Infinite, Divine indescribable- LOVE, going on and on and on.

When everything else has faded, the love of God will stand like a bulwark against anything that will dare to oppose the will of God. There is a verse that will give us some small conception of it. "He was made sin for us who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Cor. 5:21. Can you explain that? Can you understand it? Can you fathom it? NO, for therein lies the mystery of the ages. There is the unspoken will of God in such manner as has been unknown to man; and in the ages to come when we have successfully fought the fight and run the race, and have overcome and are seated with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of God, these things will begin to be unraveled and explained to our wondering and astonished souls.

I trust we shall see a little deeper into the tragic life of that One that went to the Cross, into hell as it were. The marvel of it! How indescribable. That awful agony He bore in silence with only a little expression, "MY God! My God! Why hast Thou forsaken me?" Oh, the wonder that He should have

died such a tragic death for you and me, yet we are so insensible. God help us to find the Cross and die there with Him. I realize there was gathered about that Cross the great and mighty operation and manifestation of Divinity. Surely if God was ever manifest on earth it was here at Calvary, where everything pertaining to humanity seemed to be outraged, and God by the Holy Spirit in His Son gathered together all the iniquities and sins and pollutions and defilements of all the world. Everything that was ever perpetrated in the powers of evil, all marshaled themselves about Calvary.

There is something about it that makes me to know that it was the greatest of all acts ever performed on earth, and there never will be enacted again anything that will equal the tragedy of Calvary. It was Divine. Who could have thought of a thing like Calvary but God? Who could ever suppose that man who had broken from God, and fallen from the heights of celestial glory to the depths of infamy and shame, could be redeemed? But God put a thought into execution at Calvary. It is the wonder of all wonders. It is the greatest enactment that has ever been performed in heaven or on earth. It never will have to be performed again, thank God. He declares it is done, and Jesus , when He was on that cross said, "It is finished."

And so we have found at Calvary that something that has the power to break our wills, overcome our selfish desire and subdue and bring us down. It causes man to see the uselessness of his effort, and on the other hand, the boundlessness of a heart that is free from sin and life that is wholly surrendered to God- given for our justification and salvation. Calvary! Calvary! Oh, the music of that word! It is God realized, manifested, demonstrated, and in operation. Calvary! Who has ever measured it, weighed it, or seen it? Where is the one who has ever gone into the depths of the meaning of the Cross, into its boundless heights? We are too small. We cannot do it. We just have to stop, and wonder and admire, and worship that lonely sufferer. We shall never be able to fathom the intricacies and the mysteries of that tragedy.

Calvary! Calvary! There is nothing that can compare with it, and there is no way to explain it. It must come as a revelation to your own soul. God must speak it to your heart. You must hear it from the lips of heaven and you must understand it by the wisdom of God. You must be transformed before you will know all that Calvary means. Oh, child of God come to the Cross. If you have never worshipped before, then come to Calvary. Get down there at the foot of the Cross and lose yourself. Give up your will and let it be submerged in the love of God. Come to Calvary and find something that will make you love all mankind, that will make you want to suffer all men, that will make you want to die for your brethren, give you a power of resistance that no attraction on earth nor offer of the world could ever give to deter or move you from the great purpose of following Him who gave His life to deliver you from yourself, to redeem you, sanctify and qualify you: and even while on earth, to change you so that your opinions and hopes and ambitions and desires will all be consumed in the white heated love that made Calvary what it was.

This and this alone is your hope. This love of God manifested His Son. This love for you that broke his heart, that bruised His body, then lifted Him out of the body and made Him the One great figure in Calvary for a world of sinners to lift them out of their wretchedness, out of their despair and hopelessness, above the world into the glory of the Kingdom of God; filling them with the joy that God alone can give and transforming them so that they can enter into the portals of glory, to revel with the redeemed throughout the ageless eternity. Child of God, thank your Lord and worship.

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"*Ho, every one that is thirsty, come ye to the waters, and he that has no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."* Isaiah 55:1.

It was a call from God, communicated by someone in a great ardor, toward the people – a mercy ardor. Free to all who would come.

That is what Jesus was, and did. His lowliness and humility was not just a personal religious experience or achievement. His lowliness and humility was made visible to all by His mercy and compassion toward the NEED of people. And that is what you are saved for, and destined for, through Eternity: to be a mercy dispenser who gives freely what God gives to you. "FREELY." - R. Andrews

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THE ARISING & EVER-INCREASING WORD OF GOD

The importance of the Word of God and its role in our lives during this time of instability and turbulence could never be overstated. The Word of God must find a free course in our hearts and be allowed to arise and increase there. There will no doubt always be changes in the world scene and the many areas that can affect our lives. And whether the Lord's return is going to happen now or at a later date, it would be wise for us to anchor our hearts and minds on the solid foundation Jesus spoke about and not be moved from it.

Currently, dramatic changes appear to be upon us and it would seem they are moving in a direction that the scripture informed us would eventually happen. We are in a time we need to be fully persuaded of and by the Word of God. Now is not a time for ambiguity or confusion about what we believe and why we believe it. Having a mere intellectual assent to the Bible or a casual connection to it is woefully inadequate. Our faith will be tested and many times tested severely during such times of change and transition. We would be wise indeed to have our hearts and minds solidly anchored to the Word of God's promise as the challenges of change come at us. As I'm sure we can all attest to, not all change is good.

The Word of God needs to be made real and alive to us and that occurrence has much to do with the extent we give ourselves to the Word of God and how we position ourselves in relationship to it. To what degree do we open ourselves to God's thoughts and lay ourselves open to His Word? How much do we allow the Word of God to influence, mold, and shape our lives? The Word of God needs to ARISE within us and become larger than our natural

life. Not just be a part of our life, it must define or inform all "the issues of life" "the outgoings of life", "the sources of life" as mentioned in Proverbs 4:23. (KJV, YLT, The Scripture 2009)

The Word of God is full of life. Jesus said in John 6:63, "It is the spirit which gives Life. The flesh confers no benefit whatever. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and are Life." (Weymouth) Also, Isaiah 55 tells us of the working of the Word of God and its effectiveness and power and also the result of its work.

Isa 55:7 Let the wicked one abandon his way and the sinful one his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, so He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will freely forgive.
Isa 55:8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not My ways." This is the LORD's declaration.
Isa 55:9 "For as heaven is higher than earth, so My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.
Isa 55:10 For just as rain and snow fall from heaven and do not return there without saturating the earth and making it germinate and sprout, and providing seed to sow and food to eat,
Isa 55:11 so My word that comes from My mouth will not return to Me empty, but it will accomplish what I please and will prosper in what I send it to do."
Isa 55:12 You will indeed go out with joy and be peacefully guided; the mountains and the hills will break into singing before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.
Isa 55:13 Instead of the thornbush, a cypress will come up, and instead of the brier, a myrtle will come up; it will make a name for Yahweh as an everlasting sign that will not be destroyed. (HSCB)

The Word of God IS FULL of life and power. One truth of the Word of God made real and alive to us by the Holy Spirit will change us forever.

The following excerpts from notes taken of a talk given in the Faith Homes around 1970 by Rex Andrews, say it best.

Referring to "the cares of this life" mentioned in Luke 21:34-36: "They can make the Word of God of no effect Where it is NOT REAL. I urge you in your prayer time to get down to business on this point. Pray it over and over, and have this theme and purpose in your heart and mind: "make the Word of God REAL to me."

"The trouble with many Christians today is to them men's opinions are real and the Word of God is NOT. Anything you enjoy seems to be real to you, and the opposite is true too, anything that upsets you also seems very real. As compared with magazines, newspapers, books, and thoughts in our minds, the Word of God is NOT REAL." (I would add TV, phones, and computers to the list for today)

"To get beyond that, and out of that, we need to do some real praying, because it's getting very late. Make a little place in your prayer-time when you earnestly ask God to make His WORD REAL to you- earnest, humble, childlike. I mean this very earnestly."

"When God makes His Word real to you, that is God coming into your heart, and it immediately causes, "I love you, Father" to rise in your heart. And every Word of God that He makes real to you, the victories that you win in your daily life, I believe that it reverberates throughout the spiritual world, in the earth, and the universe. I don't believe that's an exaggeration. I urge you: pray it in an earnest childlike way: "God please make your Word real to Me." There is not anything else you need. I urge you to do it RIGHT AWAY. You don't know what will happen next week. You don't know. (emphasis mine) Deal with God humbly. Don't be big. Don't be a know-it-all. Humble yourself as a little child. Don't be so smart. How will you not be that way? Just get down simply before God, and pray, "Father, dear, make your Word real, i.e. let your Kingdom come. And keep it up, keep it up, keep it up. You've got a Bible full of truths, most of which you've never tried. There's a lot of things you DON'T BELIEVE, and very often that is more real to you than what you DO BELIEVE."

Yes, it must be imperative with us, that the Word of God is made real and alive to us. As the Word of God arises in our hearts and gains ascendancy, Jesus too, the Living Word will gain ascendancy, and that of course is the point of it all. Of the increase of His government, there shall be no end. May we humble ourselves before Him and with all our hearts believe Him, know Him, love Him, exalt Him.

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FAITH HOME NEWS

We are experiencing the Holy Spirit helping us in our prayer meetings and worship times. The Bible is loved and shared. People are faithful to give glory and testimony to Jesus. Our precious God truly is our EL SHADDAI, God Almighty, The Enough.

May the blessing of Jesus Christ be with you and may you find Him ever present and faithful. He is Love!