

He came to my desk with a quivering lip, he said, "I'm done" he said, "Dear Teacher, I want a new leaf, and I've spoiled the old one." I took the old leaf, stained and blotted and gave him a new one all unspotted. And into his sad eyes, I smiled, "Do better now, my child."

I came to the throne of grace, the year was done. I said, "Dear Father, I want a new year, I've spoiled the old one." He took the old year, stained and blotted, and gave me a new one all unspotted and into my tired eyes he smiled, "Do better now, my child." *Author unknown to me*

THE PRAYER OF A SICK MAN Isaiah Thirty-nine

Isaiah the prophet was sent to King Hezekiah with a message. It was an electrifying message. He said to the King, "THUS SAITH THE LORD." Whenever the Lord has something to say it ought to be enough to grab our attention. God speaks to us today, not by prophets and dreams, but now in these last days through His Son in and through the Bible.

God's message to Hezekiah was, SET THINE HOUSE IN ORDER FOR THOU SHALT DIE AND NOT LIVE. Isaiah did not have anything else to say. He delivered his message and left. The message was plain enough that it did not need to be explained. God Himself had made the diagnoses that the disease was terminal. Hezekiah did not say to Isaiah, "Are you sure that is a good translation? Isn't God too good to say a thing like that?" Nor did he say to Isaiah, "You are a narrow minded bigot." He took the statement of God at face value. He accepted it as the truth. Just as soon as Isaiah was gone, King Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed. He aimed his prayer at the wall. He prayed and he prayed a hole in the wall. He reminded the Lord what a good servant he had been how much he had done which was considerable, and complained that he was being deprived of his old age. His prayer went right through the granite, the cement, the mortar, the insulation and the bricks. That prayer made a perpendicular right hand turn and went straight up to God, and before Isaiah, the prophet, could get off the premises the Lord said, "Whoa Isaiah, go back and tell Hezekiah that I have changed my mind. I will let him live for fifteen more years. Tell him to put a lump of figs on that boil and he will be healed."

Hezekiah recovered from a terminal disease by the power of prayer. This is one of many cases when we learn that we as Christians are justified in asking for deliverance in times of sickness including terminal diseases. The power of prayer should never be minimized. We have a prayer chain in this ministry with over 3,000 names where they can all be alerted to the prayer needs of the servants of God. We truly believe that, God Is Just A Prayer Away. Jesus said in Mark 11:24, "What things so ever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye shall receive them, and ye shall have them." Every prayer we pray should be prayed in faith that God hears and God will answer according to His will.

Jesus also said, "Ask and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you." That is the prayer we prayed over forty years ago that resulted in this radio broadcast. We asked for a nation wide radio ministry and in the process of time it is now heard world wide on radio and the Internet. Paul was right when he said, "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him by the glory in the Church and Christ Jesus unto all generations forever and ever, Amen."

There is a bridge whereof the span-is rooted in the heart of man-It reaches without pile or rod unto the Great White Throne of God-It's traffic is in human sighs-fervently lifted to the skies-It is the one pathway from despair-and it is called the bridge of prayer. Hear it again, Set thine house in order for thou shalt die and not live. A thousand voices proclaim that message to us every day. Graveyards, hospitals, funeral homes, diseases, pain, birthdays, calendars, these and many others remind us every day of our mortality. Set thine house in order for thou shalt die and not live.

If it could come to Hezekiah it could come to all of us. Remember the message that was sent to Jesus about Lazarus? "Lord, he whom thou lovest is sick." Closeness to the Lord does not rule out the message: Set thine house in order for thou shalt die and not live.

In the prayer of Hezekiah he told the Lord that his old age was being cut off. He said that he was being deprived of his years. He said, "My old age is departed." He knew that he would never know the joy of wearing bifocals. He would not live long enough to receive his Social Security checks-all that money down the drain for nothing. My age is departed. All because of the decree of the Lord, "Set thine house in order for thou shalt die and not live." Hezekiah wanted some assurance that he would in truth be healed. He asked Isaiah, the prophet, "What sign will there be that I am healed?" Isaiah said, "Take your pick. Shall the shadow on the sundial go forward or backwards ten degrees?" Hezekiah said it would be a greater miracle for the shadow to do back ten degrees than forward. "Let's set it back," So Isaiah, the prophet, cried unto the Lord, and it was done. The shadow on the sundial of Ahaz went back ten degrees.

For the sundial to go back ten degrees would be five hours. If it was twelve midday and it went back to seven in the morning, then by the time it caught up again that would mean that day was ten hours longer. I checked the time on a sundial one time. My watch said it was one o'clock. The sundial said it was twelve o'clock. I knew my watch could not be that far off and I wondered how the sundial could be that far off. It came to me in a flash-my watch was set for daylight saving time and evidently God had not run His celestial clock forward. No matter how we fiddle with time, there is no way we can extend our time any more than it really is. God did in fact run the clock back for Hezekiah,

but He is not in the habit of doing it for everybody. However it is an interesting question. I wish Almighty God would run my clock back about fifty years, there are a lot of things that I would do differently. Backward turn backward, time in thy flight, make me a child again just for tonight. The healing of Hezekiah presents a theological problem. Hezekiah believed he would be healed when the lump of figs was applied to the boil. Was Hezekiah healed when he believed and before he was figtized, or was he healed after he believed and then figtized as an outward sign of an inward faith? Here is another question on figtism that has troubled many: Was it necessary to apply the whole lump of figs to the boils? Would it not have been just as good if Isaiah had sprinkled a little fig juice on him. This question has confounded the scholars for many years, but actually any High School dropout can easily figure it out.(Note: Over the past four months I've personally been on the email prayer chain numerous times; I felt like Hezekiah pleading with the Lord for my life-I never thought about putting figs on my blisters. Nevertheless, my new skin is soft and pink but my strength and energy is lacking.

Keep praying for me! Thanks Ed



Paul told Timothy that God dwells in light unapproachable: whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power eternal. Amen.

Although man cannot see God and live; in Exodus thirty-three, Moses made a request to God: "I beseech Thee, show me Thy glory."

God said, "Thou canst not see My face: for there shall no man see My face and live." Then the Almighty said, "Behold there is a place by Me, and thou shalt stand upon a Rock: And it shall come to pass, while My glory passeth by, that I will put thee in the cleft of the rock, and cover thee with My Hand, while I pass by. And I shall take away mine hand, and thou shalt see My back parts: but My face shall not be seen." As God passed by Moses saw the departing glory of God.

According to the Apostle John the chief Priests asked of Pilate that the legs of the three on the crosses might be broken to hasten their death. "The soldiers came and brake the legs of the first that were crucified with Him, but when they came to Jesus they saw that He was dead already, and they brake not His legs. Howbeit, one soldier pierced His side and straightway there ran out blood and water."

It is no stretch of the imagination to say that Jesus is the rock that was cleft for us. Paul referred this in First Corinthians ten: there was a Rock that followed Israel in the wilderness and that Rock was Christ.

Then again Peter referred to Jesus: "A living stone rejected indeed of men, but with God elect and precious." He also called him a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, for they stumble at the word being disobedient.

Jesus referred to Himself as the rock when He said,

"He that falleth on this stone shall be broken in pieces: and on whomsoever it shall fall, it will scatter him as dust." Then again: "Upon this rock I will build My Church and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

Standing in the cleft of that Rock was the only place where Moses could see the departing glory of God. The Christian who accepts the biblical terms of pardon is standing in the cleft of the rock; and as they visualize the opening of the side of Jesus at the communion table; at that time is looking upon the glory of God as much as anyone can see it this side of the Jordan.

Fanny Crosby expressed it well in her well known gospel song:

"A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord, A wonderful Savior to me-He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock where rivers of pleasure I see-He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock that shadows a dry thirsty land-He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock and covers me there with His hand."

As we eat of the loaf and drink of the cup we look upon Him whom they have pierced.

Letters From Our Listeners

Ed & Naomi,

Warm greetings from Union Christian College after a long silence. I do not know how to begin and what to say. But all the while you were at the back of my mind though I didn't drop a line. Still laying with me under spatched a couple of answer scripts. The academic works almost submerged me. I leave home for office at 9:00 am and get back home after 5:00 p.m. exhausted and tired.

Hope both of you do well. I did remember Bro. Ed on October 1. Please write a line to let me know of your well being. Sometimes I felt very bad about my silence and the break of communication with dear evangelical friends. Please pray for me and the college.

With warmest regards, Edward K. from Union Christian College, Meghalaya India

Dear brother Ed and brethren at GIJAPA,

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and your entire ministry. It is true that I have taken a long time to communicate with you. I have been off the computer for all this time doing the Lord's work. I apologize to you in the name of God, for delaying to send our report about the church and the parcel you sent us, containing printed matters with biblical teachings and Bibless in them. I appreciate it much and I thank you for the good work you have been doing and continue doing. May the Lord richly be with you and bless you more. The CDs you sent are with me and I am listening to each and every message. I distributed all the stickers with the plan of salvation at the bus station, where some of the drivers for the taxis and mini buses received them and stick them on their cars. Concerning the books entitled Angels, Do them Exist Today? And Lord Teach Me to Pray, please send us more. For the correspondence courses, Pilgrimage to the Promised Land, I am happy to inform you that all the 49 books I received have been given to the students. Also we earnestly request more Bibles in our local language, if possible about 100 to 150 Bibles. Recently I had the privilege of visiting a community in Chafukuma area where a brother in the Lord, Kaindu, from Messenger congregation has shifted with his family. Chafukuma area is located in the North of Solwezi, some 17 to 20 kilometers away from the town center. A small work however has been started with few people meeting for Bible studies and prayers. The Lord is helping our small group to labour faithfully. As of now, the church, Messenger Church of Christ, is doing very well. I pray that your ministry will go on, on, and on.

Thank you. John Maseka (Evangelist - Messenger Church of Christ, Zambia, Central Africa)

Ed Bousman:

I'm So Sorry! I've just opened today my email. I'm really in terrible difficulties that my regular visit at the net would be impossible. However, we are doing OK here with the Lord's work. We've baptized some people recently. These are the result we've worked out hard at our neighboring towns. We've started now two NEW CHURCHES of the LORD, including the one at the other side of the river in which it can be reached via a bamboo RAFT. I will send you photos of this baptism soon at an internet cafe. Kindly pray also our brethren here. We've gone through several catastrophes. Their livelihood & meager properties are so much affected by the flood & strong wind we've never heard in the history of our region. The recent storm is quite terrible that deluded & covered mud soil on my people's farm. At the Southside of my village, there's now a river that flows, bigger than what we have on the northern side. Houses on that site were swiftly drifted. Pray you are all doing fine at GIJAPA. Relay our thanks to all people who are working with you in your ministry. Ed please keep on praying for us, especially with this newly set up local churches. We have to help them for communion trays & chairs.

Sir Ed Domingo Sunset Beach Church of Christ in Philippines

Dear Ed,

Dorothy and I are sorry to hear of your ongoing health problems. I looked on the internet at EBA and learned that it is a nasty disease. Hopefully the Mayo Clinic (we didn't go) will be able to give you much needed relief. We first became acquainted back in the early 50's thru "Breakfast at Sauer's". He was a special friend of our and even employed me for a time during my teaching years at Leesburg. I well remember your radio program, your crowing and of course your spiritual message. It was then and continues to be a guide to millions of people world wide. Thank you for touching so many people with that life message. You are on the top of my desk prayer list for recovery and return to being such an influence on people's lives YOU ARE SPECIAL!

With warm regards, Bob & Dorothy from Hillsboro, OH

Ed,

Keep up the awesome sermons the Lord our savior Jesus Christ sends thru you. I cannot get enough. Amen!

Your brother in Christ, Mike from Cincinnati, OH Thanks & blessings.

Dear Ed & Naomi

Keep the faith, press on, fight the good fight, keep on keppin' on, preach the word, preach it brother and sister, preach it. Stand strong, be immovable you are a rock, a strong rock you are a fortress, unmovable you are a mentor to countless souls, you have changed the lives of countless souls. Keep on, Ed and Naomi, keep on. Thanks for the updates on you Ed and thank you Naomi for your faithfulness in sticking by Ed and the GIJAPA ministry. What a team the two of you have been. I will be in prayer for both of you and I pray your health will return 100% Ed. I am praying for your health and strength also Naomi. Here are a few bucks for the ministry in whatever/wherever it is needed. Looking forward to hearing you Ed, at 6:30 AM on 700 WLW (8:00 AM also) on the GIJAPA broadcast. Keep up the great and wonderful work. Both of you are a blessing and then some. Because our Saviour lives, loves and forgives us.

Art from Columbus, OH

How are you two doing today, especially, Ed? Hope he is doing better than the past few weeks? We are still praying for him and you. I am heading towards a village today till tomorrow evening upon invitation to study the Bible with denominational church over a controversy on baptism. Please, pray for me as I am going to go alone. All is well here but keep praying for Lee and Bobby as Lee complains of heart palpitations and dizziness these days and Bobby has to undergo a surgery to remove a lump in her breast. We love you all will call if I could get through from the village tomorrow.

God bless you. IKE AND LEE

Dear Ed,

I read your Old Testament Sermons Volume 1 and

"First Things First" I wanna say "ATTABOY, ED ATTABOY." Its good real good. I really enjoyed it and its getting passed around right now through out the prison. I just started the other book of sermons you sent me New Testament Sermons Volume 3, and it started off real good too. I do bring up in every Bible study that the only way to get to heaven is obedience to Acts 2:38-repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of since and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Baptized by being immersed no other way Bible says so. And keep God's commandments and repent when you slip. Thank you for giving your life to God, Mr. Bousman. Thank you for always helping your brothers and sisters. Thank you for my King James Bible and Bible studies. I've put them to go use. God bless you.

Your brother in Church of Christ Alex from Fayetteville, AR prison

Dear Sister Naomi,

We have just received a box of used clothing and we really do appreciate. This week, we have been praying fervently for our dear brother Bousman. This is a serious concern for us here. He loves us here so much, our Great God will do it in Jesus name, Amen. We are praying for a very successful operation. To God alone be the glory through Christ. One thing we are pleading to you dear sister is that you must not be thinking too much, Sister Naomi, for our Loving and caring Father will do it through Christ, Amen. Also, we are please asking for Bibles, we are short of Bibles now. We extend our work to The Cassamance region of Senegal and also Sierra Leone. Any time we visit those areas we send them some of the Bibles you have sending to us. We are praying for you. We thank you so much for your love and concern towards the Lord's work on this hard soil. This year much souls have been baptized and we thank God The Almighty so much. It is our prayer here that God keeps on abiding with you through Christ our Savior, Amen. Thanks. Nice family, we salute you in the Lord.

Alexander Ofori, a servant of The Most High God in London Corner Church of Christ in The Gambia, W. Africa



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