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*“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)*

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## GOD IS ABLE

*And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. (Matthew 3:9; also Luke 3:7-8)*

*Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be graffed in: for God is able to graff them in again. (Romans 11:22-23)*

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THE HARVESTER

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*Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work (2 Cor. 9:7-8).*

There is great consolation in the fact that “God is able.” But the fact that God is able does not mean that God will always release us from an undesirable situation.

It is not that God CANNOT, but it may be best that God DOES NOT!

The advantage of PATIENCE:

*In your patience possess ye your souls (Luke 21:19).*

*But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing (James 1:4).*

*Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy (James 5:10-11).*

Closely related is the advantage of ENDURANCE. The eleventh verse of the passage above also states, “*Behold, we count them happy which ENDURE.*”

Note Paul's insight about his own personal difficulties and the Lord's presence -

*And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly there-*

*fore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. (2 Cor. 12:7-10)*

This is seemingly a contradiction - but rather an evident truth. Paul spoke of his unwavering faith which vividly demonstrated itself under such trying circumstances.

Difficulties which God allows to come our way may be used by Him to develop in us PATIENCE and ENDURANCE.

Although God may not remove our obstacles, we are assured that he stands with us through the situation.

Note Daniel's calm explanation of his difficulty:

*Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. (Dan. 6:19-22)*

There is abundant evidence in Hebrews 11 of other Old Testament examples of trust and reliance: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Sara.

*These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from*

*whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. (Heb. 11:13-16)*

Hebrews 11 continues to mention Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, the Red Sea passage, the conquest of Jericho, Rahab, and numerous others (v.32-40).

Paul was pulled for his own safety into the castle by the soldiers at Jerusalem. Acts 23:11 informs us,

*And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of GOOD CHEER, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.*

About to be shipwrecked at Melita (Malta), Paul encouraged his shipmates in Acts 27:22-24,

*And now I exhort you to be of GOOD CHEER: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.*

In the next verse (25), Paul again exhorts, “*Wherefore, sirs, be of GOOD CHEER: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.*”

For other examples, consider Peter's dramatic prison release (Acts 12). And note the release of Paul and Silas from prison:

*And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would*

*have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house. (Acts 16:25-34)*

Every one of these had insurmountable odds, yet they relied upon God, and he pulled them through.

*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. (1 Cor. 10:13)*

Paul expresses that assurance so well.

*What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? (Rom. 8:31-32)*

In view of these observations, we should have unwavering faith.

*For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is*

*the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. 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, (Eph. 3:14-20)*

*Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: (Isaiah 59:1)*

Our only reason for hesitancy is found in the next verse,

*But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear (Isaiah 59:2).*

Based on a sermon by HARRY COBB  
(Deceased)

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## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Who claimed that the golden calf simply came out of the fire?
2. On which mountain were the Israelites given the Ten Commandments?
3. To which city did God ask Jonah to take his message?
4. What method did the Romans use to kill Jesus?
5. Which plant is “the least of all seeds, but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs”?

*(continued on page 8)*

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, address changes and all correspondence to:

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## AFRAID TO DIE?

Afraid to die?

Of what?

To fear the spirit's sweet release,  
To pass from pain to perfect peace,  
The strife and strain of life to cease.

Afraid of that?!

Afraid to die?

Of what?

Afraid to see the Savior's face,  
To feel with sweetness His embrace,  
To know no sorrow, no not a trace.

Afraid of that?!

Afraid to die?

Of what?

Afraid to sing with angels, then  
To praise and love and honor Him,  
With life the fullest to the brim.

Afraid of that?!

Afraid to die?

Of what?

Afraid to gain this glad release,  
To never fear again decease,  
To live with God in perfect peace.

Afraid of that?!

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN



This poem was read in the sermon “After Death” by J. D. McDonald. You can find this sermon by scanning the QR code or by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5msHAExGfY4>

# GOSPEL MEETINGS

<b>DATES</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>
August 12 - 14	Oak Grove Eubank, KY	Joe Hill (Hager Hill, KY)
August 21 - 26	Fairview Eubank, KY	Hunter Bulger (Prattville, AL)

*(cont. from page 6)*

...and remember last month's questions?

1. In whose image was man created? GOD'S (Genesis 1:27)
2. What golden animal did the Israelites make as an idol? CALF (Exodus 32:4)
3. Which musical instrument did David play for Saul? HARP/LYRE (1 Samuel 16:23)
4. What does the name Emmanuel mean? GOD WITH US (Matthew 1:23)
5. In what was Jesus wrapped before he was buried? LINEN CLOTHES (John 19:40)

## WORD SEARCH

Can you find sixteen (16) books of the Bible in this paragraph?

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the name of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now. There really are sixteen names of books in this story.

Answers next month...

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