

# Christ is Victor

MAY/JUN 2002

## Small in Your Own Eyes!

*"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." (Genesis 1:1 & 2)*

And the earth was without form, and void; and the Spirit of God was moving on the face of the deep. When the earth was without form and void the Spirit of God was able to create form, beauty and fullness. God commanded that the world should come into being. How exactly it came to be, we do not know. But God said it and it was done.

Before meeting Jesus, a man thinks he is a great person and wants to become still greater. God came into the void! Until a man becomes void and knows that he is without form in his heart, God cannot work on him. You must know that you are nothing and worthless. Prayer helps you to come to this knowledge.

It is good to come to Jesus to know you are nothing. A man who prays, very soon comes to know that he can do nothing by himself. Jesus came to this position. *"I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent*

... "SMALL" CON'T ON PAGE 2

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## "Overcoming — With God's Help"

*"And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God." (1 Samuel 30:6)*

A very distressing situation indeed had arisen. David could not live safely in Israel, as king Saul hunted him up and down the land with unrelenting bitterness. Hence, David had sought refuge in the land of the Philistines and Achish their king had given him the city of Ziklag to abide in.

Soon after David and his men had settled with their wives in Ziklag, the Amalekites invaded Ziklag and carried away captive all the wives and children of David and his men. Then when David returned to Ziklag he found that the city had been burnt and all that belong to his men were carried away captive.

So severe was the effect of the desolation wrought by the Amalekites upon David's men that some even spoke of stoning him. It was indeed a dark hour. How demoralized men become when their homes are invaded and their children

taken captive. On every hand David was attacked, and even his trusted men seemed to turn against him, David went to God. At such an hour when most people panic and seek refuge in self-pity, David encouraged himself in the Lord his God.

A religion, which does not support a man in the hour of trial and the time of testing, is no religion at all. It is just a fad or family tradition; it is a superstition or a sentimental concession to the belief of one's ancestors. But to sum it up in a word, such religion is worthless. But such is not the religion of the one who seeks the Saviour for the forgiveness of his sins and the salvation of his soul.

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**No doubt, the first step in faith is learning to be still, so that God can speak to you. Very few people learn this stillness. When your own thoughts and your own plans and the voices of those around you are set aside, then God begins to reveal His will to you. "Be still, and know that I am God..."**

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By saying that 'David encouraged himself in the Lord his God,' is not meant that he sat down in noble resignation and allowed the events to run their course.

When one knows the living God, there is enough grace and strength with God to help a man to recover all his loss.

Faith is nothing but a God-directed action. Faith is never static. No doubt, the first step in faith is learning to be still, so that God can speak to you. Very few

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me." (John 5:30) By yourself you can do nothing.

Prayer teaches us to be as nothing before God. Moses said, "Who am I, that you should send me to Pharaoh?" If you think you can do something for God, God can do nothing with you. "Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5: 17). Formed as a new creation from something, which is without form and void! A true Christian comes to the place of saying, "Lord I know nothing, and I can do nothing. All that I have attempted for Thee before is nothing."

A devout lady who was serving God was praying that God should use her. She saw a white hand holding dirty rags and a voice said, "All your work is like filthy rags. Your righteousness and your service are like filthy rags." If you are aware of this truth God can take hold of you and use you. God came when all was void and created the world. He created man in His own likeness. He wants to give man all the nature of God. The world is yet to see the spiritual energy that can come out of one man.

We belong to the broken Christ, whose body was wounded, whose hands and legs were pierced. The cross will make us feel we are nothing. As we pray we become smaller and smaller in our own eyes and Jesus becomes bigger and bigger till He fills the universe. He says 'I in you and you in me.' He can come into you because He was broken for you. The 'nothing' that you are can blend with Him who is everything. People will see Christ in you. Your touch, words and life will be

just like Christ's.

Into the void came God and created the world. More wonderful than the world is man whom He created. Prayer makes us 'nothing' before God. Into this 'nothing' comes God and makes one a new creature in the likeness of Jesus Christ.

— N. Daniel

## Giving is Living

A man was crossing by foot a barren area in the western part of the United States and was nearly dead from thirst. Unexpectedly, he stumbled across an old, deserted shack with a hand pump. At the base of the pump someone had left a tightly sealed jug of water with a note attached. The note read, "Don't drink this water. Use it to prime the pump. Refill it for the next person."

The man hesitated. He was terribly thirsty and, if by chance the well was dry, he would be pouring out his only opportunity for survival. Finally he decided to take a chance. Slowly he poured the water down the pump and worked the handle. As the last of the life-giving liquid was going down the pipe, up gushed a plentiful supply of fresh water. When the man departed, he left a full jug of water and reattached the note. But he added the words, "Try it. It worked for me."

Solomon offered the same pearl

of wisdom: if you want to drink from the well, you first must prime the pump. This passage is about sowing and investing, giving out and having the faith that God will give back to you in return- someday, if not immediately. The Turks have a similar proverb: "Do good, throw it into the water. If the fish doesn't know it, God does." The idea is that giving is living- living in a way that's honoring to God. Here's how it's done.

Casting your bread upon the waters is not a give-to-get scheme. Frequently in God's Word the Lord promises that when we give, He will respond by blessing us. But why we give is just as important as what we give, and often even more so.

We do not give in order to get. The statement in Luke 6:38, "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over," is a promise of blessing, not the purpose for giving. We don't give to get in return; we give because it's good to give. When we exercise responsible giving, God exercises bountiful blessing.

The word give appears more than 1,000 times in the Bible. Obviously, God considers giving very important. Proverbs 13:7 warns, "There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; and one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches." In other words, the person who focuses on getting ends up ultimately with nothing. While the one who majors on giving will have abundance. The Bible says that when we give, God may make us wealthy, but it may be in ways we could never dream.

A well-known German preacher

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of the 17th century named August Francke founded an orphanage and took in homeless children right off the streets in Halle, Germany. One day when he was desperately in need of funds to carry on his work, a destitute Christian widow came to his door begging for money. All she wanted was one gold *duckte*. Because of his own financial situation, he politely but regretfully had to refuse. He just didn't have it to give to her. Disheartened, this woman sat down and began to weep.

Francke was so moved by her tears he said, "Wait a minute. Let me go in and talk to the Lord about this." He went into the orphanage, closed the door to his office and began to pray, seeking God's guidance. As he prayed, he felt the Spirit of God wanted him to give that woman his last gold coin. Trusting the Lord to meet his own needs, he gave her the money. He had no anticipation of anything in response; he just did what was right.

Two mornings later he received a very warm letter of thanks from this widow. She wrote that because of his generosity she had asked the Lord to shower the orphanage with gifts. That same day he received twelve gold coins from a rich woman, and two from a friend in Sweden. He thought that he had been amply rewarded for his good deed to this woman, but shortly after that he was informed that Prince Ludwig von Vertenberg had died, and in his will he had directed that 500 gold pieces be given to the orphanage.

This is the attitude that God looks for among His people. He wants us to cast our bread upon the waters, to give without regard to rewards. That pearl of wisdom teaches us simply to do what is right and let God take care of the rest. I'm sure August Francke would say, "Try it. It worked for me."

Most people apportion their giving according to their earnings. If the process is reversed and the Giver of All were to apportion our earnings according to our

giving, some of us would be very poor indeed.

God has given us two hands, one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing. If we fail to fulfill this divine duty and privilege we have missed the meaning of Christianity.

*All I kept I lost.  
All I spent I had.  
All I gave I have.*

— Selected

## David Brainerd

### *Wrestling in Agony for Souls*

David Brainerd lived a life of holiness and prayer. His diary is full of the record of his seasons of fasting, meditation, and retirement. The time he spent in private prayer amounted to many hours daily. It was prayer that gave marvellous power to his life and ministry.

"When I return home," he said, "and give myself to meditation, prayer, and fasting, my soul longs for mortification, self-denial, humility and divorcement from all things of the world. I have nothing to do with earth, but only labour in it honestly for God. I do not desire to live one minute for anything that earth can afford.

*Feeling somewhat of the sweetness of communion with God and the constraining force of His love and how admirably it captivates the soul and makes all the desires and affections to centre in God, I set apart this day for secret fasting and prayer to God, to di-*

*rect and bless me with regard to the great work that I have in view of preaching the Gospel and to ask that the Lord would return to me and show me the light of His countenance.*

*I had little life and power in the forenoon. Near the middle of the afternoon, God enabled me to wrestle ardently in intercession for my absent friends, but just at night the Lord visited me marvellously in prayer. I think my soul was never in such agony before. I felt no restraint, for the treasures of divine grace were opened to me. I wrestled for absent friends, for the ingathering of souls, for multitudes of poor souls, and for many that I thought were the children of God, personally in many distant places. I was in such agony from sun half an hour high until near dark that I was wet all over with sweat, but yet it seemed to me I had done nothing. Oh, my dear Savior did sweat blood for poor souls! I longed for more compassion toward them. I felt still in a sweet frame, under a sense of divine love and grace, and went to bed in such a frame, with my heart set on God."*

The men of mighty prayer are men of spiritual strength. Prayers never die. Brainerd's whole life was a life of prayer. By day and by night he prayed. Before preaching and after preaching he prayed. Riding through the interminable solitudes of the forest he prayed.

... "BRAINERD" CON'T ON PAGE 4

**REALITY CHECK!**

"HUMBLE YOURSELVES THEREFORE UNDER THE MIGHTY HAND OF GOD, THAT HE MAY EXALT YOU IN DUE TIME:

— 1 PETER 5:6

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people learn this stillness. When your own thoughts and your own plans and the voices of those around you are set aside, then God begins to reveal His will to you. *"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."* (Psalm 46:10)

Next, David sought God's will. *"And David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? Shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all."* (1 Samuel 30:8)

And David obeyed and pursued the Amalekites. God gave him complete victory. He was able to recover all that the Amalekites had carried away. When we are led of God's Spirit, there is total recovery for us in every situation. We should not faint at the odds that seem to be arrayed against us; we should encourage ourselves in the living God who is our Lord and Saviour.

More than ever, after the attack on the twin towers of the WTC, New York, we are surrounded today by gloomy statistics, distressing forecasts, war clouds and news of all sorts. While companies collapse and fortunes tumble, the lines of the jobless grow longer. In many small homes the pinch is felt and unhappy parents have to painfully witness the sad sight of their children going hungry. The knowledgeable cry, *"No one knows where we are drifting."* Surely, this is an hour of great darkness. Yet, to those who know the Lord Jesus, the darkest hour can be turned into the brightest hour, by faith and prayer that prevails. The Lord is able to lift us out of any seemingly impossible situation. Hence whatever happens around us, we dare not allow the gloom and fear of the mass media to enter into us!

A brother whose house was burgled told me the following: *"I wondered what the Lord had to teach me through the loss of so many articles which were in constant use in my house."* This brother always tithed his money and this loss seemed strange and inexplicable. The police called on him one day

and said, *"Sir, the thief has been caught and all the things you lost have been recovered. It is very uncommon for us to recover all the stolen things. But in your case everything has been recovered."*

While a Christian knows how to share his goods with others and his money, I don't believe that he should have grievous losses without cause. We must ask ourselves, *"What is the Lord teaching me through these experiences?"* When we have learnt our lesson, the Lord will grant us to see a complete recovery. *"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."* (Psalm 1:3)

When we obey God and walk humbly before Him, there is a great blessing upon all the work of our hands. Now this blessing is for the spread of His Gospel. We should not deal with these extra blessings as though they are just meant for ourselves. They are meant for the spread of the Gospel.

When John Wesley went to Newcastle, he was so shocked at what he saw, he wrote thus; *"So much drunkenness, cursing, and swearing even from the mouths of little children I never remember to have seen and heard before, in so small a compass of time."* John Wesley's conclusion at this shocking sight was, *"Surely, this place is ripe for Him, 'Who came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance'."* So he preached there. People first came to gaze at him and then a great revival broke out!

God is granting us to see scenes of revival at several of our meetings. This is the hour for revival. This is the hour for fearless onslaught upon the devil's domain. A Christian can never be a lazy fatalist. A revival is the church remembering, the church repenting, the church repeating. *"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works."* (Revelation 2:5) Let us encourage ourselves in the Lord our God and advance fearlessly.

— Joshua Daniel

On his bed of straw he prayed. Retiring to the dense and lonely forest he prayed. Hour by hour, day after day, early morn and late at night, he was praying and fasting, pouring out his soul, interceding, communing with God. He was with God mightily in prayer; God was with him mightily, and because of this, he who is dead yet speaks and works and will continue to do so until the end comes.

Jonathan Edwards said of David Brainerd, *"Brainerd's life shows the right way to success in the ministry. He sought it as the soldier seeks victory in a siege or battle; or as a man that runs a race for a great prize. Animated with love to Christ and souls, how did he labour? Always fervently, not only in word and doctrine, in public and in private, but in prayers by day and night, wrestling with God in secret and travelling in birth with unutterable groans and agonies, until Christ was formed in the hearts of the people to whom he was sent. Like a true son of Jacob, he persevered in wrestling through all the darkness of the night, until the breaking of the day!"*

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**South Bend, IN:** 103 FM (WHME) Sun. 4:00 pm  
**Buffalo, NY:** 99.5 FM (WDCX) Sat. 9:00 am  
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**Shortwave** (Sundays 2:15 pm, EST)  
WHRI 19 Metre band 15.355 MHz  
**Des Moines, IA:** 1460 (KDMI)  
Sat. 7:30 am, Sun. 11:00 pm  
**Fort Wayne, IN:** 1090 AM (WFCV) Sat. 4:00 pm  
**Council Bluffs, IA:** 1560 AM (KLNG) Sun. 8:00 am  
**Atlanta, GA:** 86 AM (LOVE 86) Sun. 2:00 pm  
**Guyana:** GBC - Sundays at 6:30 pm  
**Trinidad:** 610AM (NBS) Mon. 9:30pm

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