



Hunger For Truth

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HUNGER FOR TRUTH
MINISTRIES

Proverbs 7:2 – Matthew 5:6 – John 8:32 – II Timothy 3:16-17 – Hebrews 4:2
“Let us Hunger For Truth”

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It is our desire that Hunger For Truth edifies, blesses and encourages you in your walk with the Lord. Thank you all for taking the time to read this and for your prayers for us. We greatly appreciate your comments and we praise God for each and every one of you.

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Gehazi and Simon

By: Brother Andrew Lacroix

Text: II Kings 4:12

Gehazi is mentioned by name twelve times in Scripture, and all of them are both in the same book and time period. Here in 2 Kings we see the prophet Elisha, who is a mighty man of God, the successor of the second man ever to have never tasted of death on earth. Elisha is training this man, Gehazi, who had the possibility of one day succeeding Elisha and doing something great as God's ambassador to His people. At least for now, Gehazi is a servant to Elisha.

He is first mentioned in our text, then again two verses later. This is the miracle in the

raising of a woman's child who had been sick and then died. In these early two verses, we learn the lady was originally childless. Elisha then tells her that next year she will have a son, and this came to pass. Some time later, though, he gets sick and dies. The lady remembered Elisha and sought after him, believing he could do another miracle for her. Elisha does recognize her and dispatches Gehazi to meet her. However, she shrugs off Gehazi and then confronts the prophet. Elisha commands Gehazi to take his staff and lay it upon the dead child's face. He does as is commanded, yet the boy does not stir. This reminds me of the disciples' inability to cure the possessed child in Mark 9, where the Lord has to cure him and when they asked Christ how come they couldn't do this, His response was : "This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting." (v. 29) Sometimes our greatest desires cannot be answered with a simple seeking. The Lord expects our fervent prayers, but sometimes He is looking for a little more, and this may have been one of these occasions. It is something worth considering when you haven't gotten what you want and it is the Lord's Will, like the salvation of a soul may take this extreme effort. It takes Elisha's prayer to God and some mouth to mouth resuscitation to bring the boy back to life. Gehazi then is ordered to tell the lady to pick her son off the bed and go forward.

This was perhaps the greatest event Gehazi witnessed in his lifetime. I draw a tremendous observation from this: *watch and observe*. If we just watch and observe how others in our local church(es) behave as they should by the changed life, it will make an impact in our lives.

I had a rare privilege that not many get to enjoy. When the Lord called me to the needs of Norwood, Massachusetts, I had no means of affording anything but food and gas for a while. Not only did God provide every other thing I needed, I got four good months of witnessing how a godly family operates. God is given first place in the home and is glorified. The husband takes leadership and loves his wife. The wife is submissive to her husband and at the same time instructs the children in the household. The children walk close to God, obey their parents, and do right. I also observed the inner details of what a Pastor of a local church needs to do at times to properly run one of the Lord's candlesticks, feed his flock, and remain qualified to be in this God-given position. I'd like to praise God for something only He can do in hearts and lives! The world may have its advice and devices; but the people of God have the Word of God, and it is far greater to watch and observe those who have experience in running the race (cf. Heb. 12:1-2). For years, Elisha had the opportunity to watch and observe Elijah, how he served, how he worshiped, and how he honored the Lord; and also how the Lord blessed and used him. Now Elisha was in the "driver's seat", and Gehazi got to witness possibly the next greatest type of miracle, next to salvation, in the Bible; the resurrection of a soul. While an event of this nature hasn't occurred since Eutychus (Acts 20), we can be certain that if you get real close to other godly Christians, they will make a positive impact. As the only Christian in my family, I had no one else to turn to, but God undertook for me. He blessed me with a great Christian friend at work and a solid local church to turn to for worship and close fellowship. If you're the only Christian in your family, my heart goes out to you. I would also make a petition to you to watch and observe other Christians. Get as much

fellowship as you can. Attend every time the doors of the local church are open, and make sure your pastor is teaching God's Word without error. Read and study the Bible, and watch and observe the behavior of the solid Christians in your assembly. You never know what blessings will come down the road when you have seen it done before.

Chapter 5 is the tale of a man named Naaman. He sought healing for his leprosy and for his sin-sick soul. He is told to go to Elisha, who told him to go wash in the Jordan seven times, and he would be healed. Yet Naaman was irritated at one thing. It seems that he was willing to buy his healing. He had a lot of goods with him: ten talents of silver, six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment (v.5). This has an estimated value today of somewhere around the three million dollar mark. However, he was trying to buy something even he and his \$3,000,000 couldn't buy. You can't buy what you need from God.

Time after time a person will attempt to buy their way into Heaven. The religions of the world claim they have a way in, yet God said in His Word: " (It is) not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:9). The rich men believe they will get to Heaven by giving God "their" money; but the Lord, who owns the cattle of a thousand hills, owns "their" money, it is His to begin with, and Bill Gates' pocketbook isn't going to fit through the strait gate (cf. Matt. 7:13-14). Doing things your own way only gets you into a heap of trouble. You need God to save you and you need God to get you out of your mess not only spiritually, but in every aspect of your life.

Naaman was gloriously healed for free (v.14-16). However, he still had nearly \$3,000,000 in treasures with him, and his king would be asking how come he still had the money if he went back to him with it. So he then attempts to give it away. Elisha politely refuses his money. This was for a singular purpose. Naaman would have had a reason to brag. His sales pitch would have been: "Go to Elisha and be cured of your leprosy! It takes three million bucks! Go now! Don't delay!" Three million would not have even been close to enough to buy his healing. No amount of money will buy you what you truly need from God, lost person or Christian alike. You need God to show you grace and you need Him to undertake. You can't buy your healing alone should you have a terminal illness. You need to petition the Lord if He would heal you or give you the grace to deal with whatever trial comes your way.

Yet after Naaman finally goes away, here comes the servant of Elisha, Gehazi, who gets greedy. In so doing, he cheapens what God did by healing Naaman. Gehazi was given two talents of silver and two changes of raiment, which has an estimated value of under fifty grand. He pared a tremendous miracle to something meager. This is what happens when we as Christians live for the moment and lose our testimonies. We cheapen what God has done and make it look like a fifty thousand dollar reconstruction project, when in reality there was a price tag with a number we could never afford.

Gehazi was judged and struck with the very same illness that Naaman had as a result (v.27). Greedy acts may cost us dearly, children of God. He presumably lost his opportunity to be in Elisha's shoes one day. Note chapter eight though. We see Gehazi talking to the king about all Elisha did for the Shunamite woman in the tremendous miracle that took place in

chapter four. If this indeed took place chronologically, then he would have had to have gotten right with God, gotten right with Elisha, and was still used. This is a probability at best, and not a one hundred percent certainty, but if this was the case, then God still used him despite his fall.

Let's turn our attention to Simon. Which Simon are we going to talk about? There are nine different people named Simon in Scripture. This one is one mentioned in just one chapter: Acts 8. This is Simon the sorcerer. He is mentioned four times in this passage. Simon the sorcerer is yet another character in the Bible of which there is a debate on, and that is whether or not he was a saved man. Let's go to the passage (Acts 8:9-24). In verse twelve he hears Philip preach, and consequently "believed also" (v.13). He was then scripturally baptized, and "continued with Philip." So he's saved, right? Maybe not. Consider the phrase afterwards: "... and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done." So was his trust in Jesus Christ or was his trust in the signs and wonders done by Philip the evangelist? We're not told. Salvation is evidenced in the person showing fruit. Simon showed no evidence of fruit in this passage. In fact, he showcases an old sin nature trait in asking to purchase the Holy Ghost (v.18-19). He, too, was seeking to purchase something you can't buy from God. Salvation and the Holy Spirit were purchased by Jesus Christ's death on the cross of Calvary. No man can buy these, despite all that person may own in this lifetime.

Simon Peter rebuked him, and says two things that to me are an indicator as to where the sorcerer's heart is really at: 1) "Thy heart is not right in the sight of God." (v.21) 2) Verse 23. Peter diagnoses him correctly as not only being poisoned by his bitterness, but that he was not yet saved and still dead in trespasses and sins.

Simon the sorcerer seems to repent as his answer to Peter's rebuke in v.24. The answer seems to satisfy the apostle, but I believe it wasn't a true repentance that is a part of not only saving faith, but sanctifying faith. Sanctifying faith is showing a true repentance by a Christian who has fallen out of fellowship and when he/she is shown their sin(s), they realize it and get right. That is an evidence of biblical salvation.

Some early church historians, perhaps Josephus included, as well as many Bible commentators, believe that Simon the sorcerer became known as Simon Magus. Magus was a persecutor of the true faith and was also believed to have introduced the doctrine of Gnosticism, and also rivaled with Simon Peter at times. This man was not a Christian who attempted to purchase a piece of Christianity. This man tried to trick Peter and Philip by "playing church" and having a false profession of faith.

Naaman attempted to buy his healing from God, but could not. He was willing to part with nearly \$3,000,000 that wasn't even his! Elisha couldn't take it, but seeing the willingness of Naaman to rid himself of the money, Gehazi got greedy and selfish. Despite all that he witnessed by watching and observing, he caught up with Naaman and turned what is priceless into something worth perhaps \$50,000. In so going he was smitten with the same disease that had plagued Naaman just earlier that same chapter.

Simon the sorcerer attempted to buy salvation's after effect in the Holy Ghost, but

could not. He too was willing to part with money that wasn't enough to buy it. He also attempted to deceive Peter and Philip with a false profession of faith, but they didn't "buy it", and Simon ended up becoming a major adversary of the saving faith. We can't buy what we need from God, but if we have gotten what we needed from God, it is of His grace that He bestowed it upon any of us. Furthermore, we must now live to show the real value and the Price that was paid for it. You didn't pay it, because you never could have. Only the Lord Jesus Christ could satisfy that price. -ADL

Day of Accounting: The Judgment Seat of Christ

(1 Cor. 3:11-15; 2 Cor.5:5-11) *(Author Unknown)*

Our works as God's people will be evaluated for reward or loss of reward, not based on a comparison with everyone else but according to the talent God has given us. We will either have a golden character (lasting work) or a stubble character (wasted work) to our service.

The Lord will test the **Character** of our life, the **Caliber** of our life (not the quantity but the quality) and the **Consequences** of our life (was it profitable and of eternal value).

Lost opportunities, wasted efforts, unfaithful service, selfishness and slothfulness will all bring heavy disqualification. Scripture exhorts us to be careful that no man rob us of our prize, or to take our crown (2 Jn. 8, Col. 2:18, 1 Cor. 9:27 and Rev. 3:11).

The test for each of us will be narrowed down to these twelve questions:

1. How did I use the gifts that God gave me?
2. How did I respond to the word of God?
3. How did I invest my stewardship of time?
4. How did I invest my stewardship of material things?
5. How did I react to trials and testings?
6. How did I fulfill my duties to my family?
7. How did I treat other Christians?
8. Did I use my mouth for the glory of God?
9. Did I die to self and live a disciplined life?
10. Was I faithful in witnessing for Christ?
11. Was I willing to suffer for Christ?

12. Were my priorities and values on eternal things?

“Account” (Part 9) (By: Craig Glickman)

This is the continuation of a long, yet informative study on every appearance of the word “account” in the Bible. This word appears 31 times in the King James Version (*Account, Accounted, Accounting, Accounts*). For sake of space, I will show only the reference but I encourage you to take your Bible and read the passages.

2 Peter 3:15 (*Final use of 'account'*)- 'Clarke's Commentary on the Bible' says:

And account that the long-suffering of our Lord - Conclude that God's long-suffering with the world is a proof that he designs men to be saved; even as our beloved brother Paul. "This epistle being written to those to whom the first epistle was sent, the persons to whom the Apostle Paul wrote concerning the long-suffering of God were the Jewish and Gentile Christians in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. Accordingly, we know he wrote to the Ephesians, ([Ephesians 2:3-5](#)), to the Colossians, ([Colossians 1:21](#)), and to Timothy, ([1 Timothy 2:3](#), [1 Timothy 2:4](#)), things which imply that God's bearing with sinners is intended for their salvation. The persons to whom Peter's epistles were sent were, for the most part, Paul's converts." - Macknight.

According to the wisdom given unto him - That is, according to the measure of the Divine inspiration, by which he was qualified for the Divine work, and by which he was so capable of entering into the deep things of God. It is worthy of remark that Paul's epistles are ranked among the Scriptures; a term applied to those writings which are divinely inspired, and to those only.

Deut. 2:11 (*'accounted'*)- 'Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible' says:

Which also were accounted giants, as the Anakims,.... Because of their bulky size and tall stature; or,"the Rephaim were they accounted, even they as the Anakims;"they were reckoned Rephaim, a name for giants in early times, even as the Anakims were; see [Genesis 14:5](#).

but the Moabites called them Emims; to distinguish them from the Rephaim; so that it seems this name of Emims was not originally their name, but they are called so by a prolepsis, or anticipation, in [Genesis 14:5](#) since they had it from the Moabites, a people of a later date.

Emotions in The Bible (By: Craig Glickman)

There are many verses and passages in the Bible that relate to emotions and feelings of man and our Lord Himself in trials, suffering, affliction, and of course peace and joy. The following is an ongoing study of passages that have convicted, comforted, edified, encouraged or blessed me through hearing messages, devotions and studies over the years. I hope this is a blessing and help to you and I, and that the Lord may be honored and glorified in this series of studies on emotions in the Bible. Each issue, Lord willing, will have a verse or passage in the Bible covered. I am excited and privileged to do this. Praise God! I intend to break each passage down into the following: **Passage, Emotion(s), Cause, Effect, What does the passage say?, What does the passage say to you and I?, What should you and I do about it?, How do you and I stay accountable?**

Passage: Psalm 32:11

Emotion(s): gladness, joy, rejoicing

Cause: Living in the joy of the Lord

Effect: Rejoicing in the day God has blessed you with

What does the passage say?: In Psalm 118:24 we read, “This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” As you begin your day, determine to do as the Psalmist said:

“...rejoice and be glad in it.” Don't allow the cares of the day to rob you of the blessings the Lord has for you. When the cares come up, just do as we are instructed to do: “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (1 Peter 5:7). The third instruction is to “shout for joy.” In my lifetime, I have gone to many sporting events and have heard the crowd shout because their favorite team scored or won. They shouted because they were happy. We who are “upright in heart” should “shout for joy” because we are in the family of God and therefore we are on the winning side. “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57).

What does the passage say to you and I?: In Psalm 16:11 we read, “...in thy presence is fullness of joy...” So many people are trying to find happiness and joy, but the only place you can find real joy is in the presence of the Lord! Happiness comes from the outside, and the Lord gives His children many “good things” (Matthew 7:11) to fulfill our happiness; but real joy only comes from the intimate relationship we have with the Lord Jesus Christ, who said, “These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full” (John 15:11). Notice, it is HIS joy in us, not OUR joy! OUR joy can never be true or full if HIS joy is not in us! Do you have HIS joy in you?

What should you and I do about it?: As you step out in this “day which the LORD hath made,” what is your desire? Is it only for God's “good things,” that He has to give you, or is it also for the joy of heart when you fellowship with your Lord all day causing you to “shout for joy”?

How do you and I stay accountable?: Be faithful by having your daily devotions, serving God throughout the day, praising God, being in church whenever the doors are opened, praying without ceasing, witnessing whenever He leads and having fellowship with other believers. This, dear reader, will enable you to “shout for joy” praising God and giving the LORD the glory He so richly deserves.

Only Jesus Saves! (John 14:6)

Our God Revealed – II Cor. 1:1-7

By: Pastor Cas Reeves

As the Apostle opens his second letter to the Church of Corinth, we find some great insights revealed about the character of our God. These insights give us a purpose for rejoicing in the midst of our personal difficulties.

- I. The God of Blessing (vs. 1-3)
 - A. Grace
 - B. Peace
 - C. Mercy
 - D. Comfort
- II. The God of Comfort (vs. 3-6)
 - A. Of all comfort (3)
 - B. In all tribulation (4-6)
 1. suffering for Christ, comforted by Christ (5)
 2. afflicted for you, comforted for you (6)

- III. The God of Promise (vs. 7)
 - A. The promise of suffering
 - B. The promise of comfort
 - C. The reward is hope
 - 1. a steadfast confidence for Paul
 - 2. a steadfast comfort for Paul

*For the Christian, suffering begets comfort. And the power of this comfort is in God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For us to know Christ is for us to know the God of all Comfort. **Do you Know Christ? Have you found comfort?***

:) Children For Christ :)

Courage

Memory Verse: Psalm 56:3 – What Time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.

Fill in the blanks to these Bible passages about courage. Please try it from memory and use your Bible only if needed.

1. What time I am _____, I will trust in _____. (Ps. 56:3)
2. And he answered _____ not: for they that be with us are more then they that be with them. (2 Kings 6:16)
3. Yea, though I _____ through the valley of the shadow of death, I will _____ no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they _____ me. (Ps. 23:4)
4. _____ thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. (Isa. 41:10)
5. The LORD is on _____ side; I will not _____: what can man do unto me? (Ps. 118:6)
6. But whoso hearkeneth (*listens to*) unto me shall dwell _____, and shall be quiet from _____ of evil. (Prov. 1:33)
7. A Psalm of David. The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I _____? the LORD is the _____ of my life; of whom shall I be _____? (Ps. 27:1)
8. He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.” Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler *And* from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His _____ *shall be your* shield and buckler. You shall not be _____ of the terror by night, *Nor* of the arrow *that* flies by day, *Nor* of the pestilence *that* walks in darkness, *Nor* of the destruction *that* lays waste at noonday. (Ps. 91:1-6)

“Faith doesn't make things be. It is the recognition of what is!”

“An OT Jewish man would never think that synagogue attendance is 'optional'. This should be the same for NT local church members!”

“Know your saved like you know your name! It is never, well I hope my name is 'name' ! No! You know your name!”

“Keep your sins confessed! If not, God will expose them!”

Praises

- Praise God that His grace is greater than the sin of this nation and the sin of all mankind!

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the condition of this nation following the abomination that has occurred with the DOMA decision.
- Needs of the body of Heritage Baptist Church
- Pray for salvation and needs of those affected by the tragedy in Boston, MA on April 15th.
- Salvation of Wendy and friend Ben, Jacob, Kaitlyn, Sybil and Bernice (Family of Craig Glickman)
- Lacroix family and friend Rick (Salvation)
- Rusty and family, Jose, Gary, Rudney (Salvation)
- Outreach of Heritage Baptist Church

Hunger For Truth is a bi-monthly e-newsletter publication edited by Craig Glickman and Andrew Lacroix who are members of Heritage Baptist Church of Norwood, MA where the Pastor is Steve Hathaway.

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Thank you for reading this. We praise God for all our dear brothers and sisters in Christ and we greatly appreciate your prayers. May each and every one of you be richly blessed as we serve our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

His Servants,

Craig Glickman

Andrew Lacroix

Prov. 3:5-6

1 Thes. 5:18

