

Chapel Flock



# ~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

"come just as you are"

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing

[www.chapel-flock.com](http://www.chapel-flock.com)



Vol. 41 Issue 797

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## Worship Music

[Help Me Find It-  
Sidewalk Prophets](#)

[The Words I Would  
Say-Sidewalk Prophets](#)

[Lead Me-  
Sidewalk Prophets](#)

## Prayer

Lord, help me to always keep in mind that eternity lies before me. Too often I get so consumed in the affairs of this life that I forget to think about my eternal existence. I don't want to be so focused on making myself comfortable in this life that I forget to do what I must to make myself comfortable in the next life. Help me lay up a good foundation for the eternity that lies in my future. Holy Spirit, I ask You to teach me not only how to cause my personal wealth (through time, encouragement to someone, blessing someone, praying for someone, helping someone, or seeding into a ministry; thusly personal wealth in Love) to grow here and now, but also how to sow financial seed into the Gospel that will benefit many, and to do always as You would have me to do and where. Fill me with whom to bless and how, whom to pray for and how in Jesus' name. Amen.....

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

## Video's / New Information/ Prayer Requests

Matthew 24:36 (AMP)

36 But of that [exact] day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

["The Cross"](#)

Billy Graham

[" The Cure "](#)

Pastor Chuck Smith

## Radio Stations

[KWVE ...Calvary Chapel](#)

[KLOVE](#)

## Bible Study Sites

[Chuck Smith  
Through The Bible](#)

[Bob Coy/Teachings](#)

[Mike MacIntosh](#)

[Jon Courson](#)

[Biblos.com](#)

[Billy Graham](#)

[Charles Stanley](#)

[David Wilkerson](#)

[Greg Laurie](#)

[Virtue for Women-  
Cathe Laurie](#)

Chapel Flock.....text a prayer..... request telephone number.....

(316) 247-3623

Or----

If you have a prayer request...please e-mail it to us so we can pray for you...or a person.....

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## Psalm 41:1-42:1 (AMP)

1 BLESSED (HAPPY, fortunate, to be envied) is he who considers the weak and the poor; the Lord will deliver him in the time of evil and trouble. 2 The Lord will protect him and keep him alive; he shall be called blessed in the land; and You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies. 3 The Lord will sustain, refresh, and strengthen him on his bed of languishing; all his bed You [O Lord] will turn, change, and transform in his illness. 4 I said, Lord, be merciful and gracious to me; heal my inner self, for I have sinned against You. 5 My enemies speak evil of me, [saying], When will he die and his name perish? 6 And when one comes to see me, he speaks falsehood and empty words, while his heart gathers mischievous gossip [against me]; when he goes away, he tells it abroad. 7 All who hate me whisper together about me; against me do they devise my hurt [imagining the worst for me]. 8 An evil disease, say they, is poured out upon him and cleaves fast to him; and now that he is bedfast, he will not rise up again. 9 Even my own familiar friend, in whom I trusted (relied on and was confident), who ate of my bread, has lifted up his heel against me. 10 But You, O Lord, be merciful and gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may requite them. 11 By this I know that You favor and delight in me, because my enemy does not triumph over me. 12 And as for me, You have upheld me in my integrity and set me in Your presence forever. 13 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting and to everlasting [from this age to the next, and forever]! Amen and Amen (so be it).

Let us turn at this time in our Bibles to Psalm 41. This is another one of the psalms that begins with a beatitude. The very first psalm begins with a beatitude, "Blessed is the man." Here again,

Blessed is he that considereth the poor, the LORD will deliver him in the time of trouble (Psa 41:1).

Now the Bible has much to say about God's concern and God's interest with the poor. And God is constantly exhorting us in His Word that we should be concerned for the poor. That we should seek to help the poor. It is biblical that our concern should be for the poor. In fact, there is a scripture that says, "He that lendeth to the poor, lendeth to the Lord" (Proverbs 19:17). So if ever you want to loan the Lord anything, go out and find a poor person and lend them some money. Not looking, really, for a return from them, but just looking to the Lord to return it to you. Because really you are lending to the Lord, and He actually pays fantastic interest. "Blessed is he who considers the poor." One of the blessings, "The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble."

Secondly,

The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all of his bed in his sickness (Psa 41:2-3).

Now, it is an interesting thing that the psalmist speaks of God in such a personal kind of a way. If you have been generous towards the poor, if you have been interested in giving to the poor, among other things, God will take care of you when you are sick in bed. Now, this is an interesting concept concerning God, and is certainly far from the pagan concepts of their gods. Can you imagine this being said of Jove? Or of Jupiter or of Buddha or whatever? That he will take care of you when you're sick in bed. And yet, we think of God in these beautiful, intimate kind of relationships, of even watching over us when we are sick. When we are languishing on our bed, taking care of us. Now, this is the first part of the psalm. The first three verses declaring, really, the interest, the concern, and the blessedness if we will just take care of the poor. The interest we should have, the concern for the poor.

Now he turns to his own case and he said, I said, LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee. Mine enemies speak evil of me, When shall he die, and his name perish? (Psa 41:4-5). This is what his enemies were saying, "When is he going to die, when is he going to perish?" And if he comes to see me he, speaks emptiness: his heart gathereth iniquity to himself; and when he goeth abroad, he tells it (Psa 41:6). He comes and he sort of, you know, interrogates me. Or he acts in very friendly, gets me to confide in him, and then he goes out and tells everything that I have confided. And, All that hate me whisper together against me: and they seek to devise my hurt. They say an evil disease cleaves fast to him: and now he is lying down, he is not going to rise again (Psa 41:7-8). As the psalmist is crying out his woe, in the next verse, actually, he utters a prophecy concerning Jesus Christ and His betrayal by Judas Iscariot. Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me (Psa 41:9). In the thirteenth chapter of the gospel of John, verse 18, Jesus quotes this verse as referring to Judas Iscariot and the betrayal of one of His own followers. So it is interesting that as the psalmist is speaking of his own position, that suddenly he lapses over into prophecy and speaks to the Lord. But thou, LORD, be merciful unto me, raise me up, that I may requite them. By this I know that thou favorest me, because mine enemy doth not triumph over me. And as for me, you uphold me in mine integrity, and you set me before thy face for ever (Psa 41:10-12). And the psalm closes with a benediction. Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen (Psa 41:13).

Now this is the end of the first book of psalms. There are actually five books of psalms. Some of the old Bible scholars see in the five books of psalms sort of a sequel to the five books of Moses, the five books of the Pentateuch. In the five books of the Pentateuch you find God speaking unto man, giving the laws, and establishing the covenant with man. In the Psalms, they see in the five psalms the sequel to the Pentateuch, only it is now man expressing himself to God in his worship and his praise and all. Whether or not they can actually be tied together, the five books of the psalms with the five books of the Pentateuch, is a thing for theologians to worry about. We don't need to concern ourselves with it. However, each of the books of the psalms do end with a benediction, similar to what we have here, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting. Amen, and amen."

**Psalm 42:1-11 (AMP)**

1 As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. 2 My inner self thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? 3 My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, Where is your God? 4 These things I [earnestly] remember and pour myself out within me: how I went slowly before the throng and led them in procession to the house of God [like a bandmaster before his band, timing the steps to the sound of music and the chant of song], with the voice of shouting and praise, a throng keeping festival. 5 Why are you cast down, O my inner self? And why should you moan over me and be disquieted within me? Hope in God and wait expectantly for Him, for I shall yet praise Him, my Help and my God. 6 O my God, my life is cast down upon me [and I find the burden more than I can bear]; therefore will I [earnestly] remember You from the land of the Jordan [River] and the [summits of Mount] Hermon, from the little mountain Mizar. 7 [Roaring] deep calls to [roaring] deep at the thunder of Your waterspouts; all Your breakers and Your rolling waves have gone over me. 8 Yet the Lord will command His loving-kindness in the daytime, and in the night His song shall be with me, a prayer to the God of my life. 9 I will say to God my Rock, Why have You forgotten me? Why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? 10 As with a sword [crushing] in my bones, my enemies taunt and reproach me, while they say continually to me, Where is your God? 11 Why are you cast down, O my inner self? And why should you moan over me and be disquieted within me? Hope in God and wait expectantly for Him, for I shall yet praise Him, Who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

So we enter now into Psalm 42 into the second book of the psalms.

And as a hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God (Psa 42:1).

Jesus said, "Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6). Here the psalmist is expressing his desire for God, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so pants my soul after thee, O God." Jesus cried out, "If any man thirsts, let him come unto Me and drink. And he who drinks of the water that I give out of his innermost being, there shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:37-38).

There is within every man a thirst for God. Down deep inside of every man there is that thirsting after a meaningful relationship with God. Now this thirst is like being hungry sometimes and not knowing exactly what you are hungry for. Your body chemistry is trying to tell you that it is needing some particular chemical. Maybe it is in enchiladas, or maybe it is in ravioli, but you are hungry for something and you can't quite pinpoint what you are hungry for. And so as a result, you are eating everything, trying to find out, "What am I hungry for?" And nothing seems to satisfy; nothing seems to fit my particular hunger. Sometimes the hunger is a little indistinguishable. Even as the thirst often is indistinguishable, in that I know that I am lacking, I know that I need something more, I know that life must have something more than what I have yet experienced. There must be more to life than this. In reality, way down deep inside my spirit is thirsting after God and a meaningful relationship with God. Now it is amazing the many things by which people seek to satisfy this thirst. Look at the world around you in which we live and you see people trying to satisfy this spiritual thirst by all kinds of experiences; physical experiences, emotional experiences. And so often, as they are pursuing after one of their immediate goals, their idea is if I can just attain, if I can just achieve, it is going to satisfy. And oh, they become evangelists for this particular little deal that they are in right now, cause, "Oh, this is it. This is going to satisfy. This is going to bring to me all that I am looking for in life." And they are running down the trail. But when they get to the end of the trail, they find that it is empty, just like everything else. And so they are looking for another path to follow. They are running here; they are running there. They've got a thirst. They are trying to satisfy that thirst, but they don't know where. They don't know how. Jesus, when He talked to the woman of Samaria there at the well, He said to her, "If you drink of this water you are going to thirst again" (John 4:13). Now you should inscribe that verse over every earthly ambition that you have, over every worldly pursuit. Go ahead, drink of it, but you are going to thirst again. You are not going to find the real satisfaction that your heart is yearning for, until you find God, and a meaningful relationship with God. Now it is a wise man and it is a blessed man who is able to define the thirst and know that it is a thirst for God and comes then into a meaningful relationship with God. God is the one that planted the thirst there. And only God can satisfy that thirst. And so the psalmist identifying, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so my soul panteth after Thee, O God."

My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they [that is, my enemies] continually say unto me, Where is your God? When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them into the house of God, with a voice of joy and praise, with the multitude that kept holyday. Why art thou cast down, O my soul? why art thou disquieted in me? (Psa 42:2-5)

Now here the psalmist is talking to himself. And sometimes talking to yourself can be a very healthy thing. There is a form of talking to yourself that is not healthy. But here the psalmist is saying, "Hey, soul, why are you cast down? Why are you disquieted in me? Why am I depressed? Why am I discouraged? Why do I feel so miserable?" Now a lot of people just get depressed and they just think, "Well, I am just depressed today." And they go on in their depression, rather than talking to themselves and talking yourself out of it. You can actually talk yourself out of depression, out of discouragement, out of defeat. So many times we are talking ourselves into it. "Oh, nobody has ever had it as bad as I have it. This is the worst that ever happened to anybody in the whole world. No one's ever faced anything like this." And we just, you know, languish in our own sorrows. But the psalmist said, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted in me?" And then he gave his soul some advice. hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance (Psa 42:5). Now, he is saying, "All right, now don't get discouraged. Hope in God. God's on the throne." And that is when we get discouraged, when we forget that fact. You must not forget that God is ruling. God is on the throne. When I forget that and I look at the world, I think, "It's no use."

When our little girl was in first grade, just learning to write, we came home one day and there was a note that said, "There is no use. I've run away." And sometimes we feel that way. It's no use; we want to run. It is because we have forgotten that God is on the

is ruling over all. Oh, I will be the first to admit that things are beyond man's control. I mean, the ship is sinking fast. It is out of man's hands, but God still reigns, God still rules. He is still on the throne, and that is my only hope today. And thus, when I start looking at the whole world scene, when I start reading what is going on and I start getting all disquieted and upset, I have to say, "Hey, what is the matter soul? Why are you so disquieted?" "Well, you fool, can't you read the papers? Don't you know what's happening?" Yea, but hope thou in God, for He is yet going to deliver. God is yet going to work. God is in control. I am glad about that, I'll tell ya!

O my God (Psa 42:6),

And here is an honest confession.

my soul is cast down within me (Psa 42:6):

It is important that you be honest with God. You are never going to deceive Him. You are never going to fool Him. And if you are upset, confess it. Be honest with God. "Oh God, my soul is disquieted within me." There are some people who say, "How is everything going?" "Oh great, just great, great, great." You know. But in reality they are just covering, because things are going horribly and they are really upset. They are at their wits' end. They don't know what to do. And yet, they put up a good front. And we sometimes carry this over with God. But it is best to be honest with God. "God, I am so upset. My soul is disquieted. It is cast down."

therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and from the Hermonites, and from the small hills. Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me. Yet the LORD will command his loving-kindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life (Psa 42:6-8).

And so, though it seems like I am being overwhelmed, the billows of grief and sorrow, and trouble are just overflowing me, yet the Lord will command His loving-kindness in the daytime and in the night His song shall be with me.

There are many references in the scripture to songs in the night. Couple of years ago I was back in Pennsylvania speaking in some special services back there, and I got hold of some bad tuna that they served for dinner and I got food poisoning. And after the service that night when I came back to my room, I was sick! Oh, I was sick. I couldn't sleep. My stomach was just churning, burning, crazy food poisoning. And as I lay there in misery, a beautiful chorus, worship chorus came to me. I never heard it before, just inspiration, just a song of worship and praise to the Lord. And I started to sing it, and I sang it over and over and over again. A song in the night, of worship, of praise, of thanksgiving to the Lord. And I thought, "Oh, that is a beautiful chorus. I better get up and write it down. I can maybe slip downstairs and pick out the tune on the piano and write it down, because I don't want to forget this. I want to teach this to everybody. Oh, such a neat chorus to worship the Lord, you know." And I thought, "Well, if I were plunking on the piano at this hour of the morning and I should awaken my host, they will think that I was crazy or something. Maybe I better not go downstairs." But, really, I was too sick to get out of bed and just turn on the light and write the thing down. So I just kept singing it over and over. And I thought, "Oh, no, I will never forget this. This is just beautiful." And I finally sang myself to sleep. In the morning when I awakened, I was healed; the Lord had touched me. I was feeling fine, except that I couldn't remember the chorus. It's sort of like the lost chord, you know. I've searched. Done my best to try and remember it. And I said, "Oh Lord, please help me to remember it." And He said, "No, that was just the song for the night. My song to get you through that rough night."

"In the night His song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life."

I will say unto God my rock, Why have you forgotten me? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? As with a sword in my bones, my enemies reproach me; while they daily say unto me, Where is your God? (Psa 42:9-10)

That's one of the things that people quite often cast at the Christian when something goes wrong. "Where was your God when that tragedy happened? Where was your God?" As though God is supposed to deliver us from every problem in our lives. God doesn't promise to deliver you from every problem. In fact, there is a promise that you don't really like that says, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous" (Psalm 34:19). I hate that promise. I don't like afflictions. And in afflictions people are always saying, "Well, where was your God then? Where is your God when children are starving to death in Cambodia? Where is your God when earthquakes happen in Algeria? Where is your God when Mount St. Helens blows its top? Where is your God?" It does get discouraging sometimes when we don't have answers. Why art thou cast down, O my soul? why are thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God (Psa 42:11). Hey, I am going to come through. One of these days I will be praising God even for this trial that I am presently enduring. I will yet praise Him.



Psalm 43:1-5 (AMP)

1 JUDGE and vindicate me, O God; plead and defend my cause against an ungodly nation. O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man! 2 For You are the God of my strength [my Stronghold—in Whom I take refuge]; why have You cast me off? Why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? 3 O send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling. 4 Then will I go to the altar of God, to God, my exceeding joy; yes, with the lyre will I praise You, O God, my God! 5 Why are you cast down, O my inner self? And why should you moan over me and be disquieted within me? Hope in God and wait expectantly for Him, for I shall yet praise Him, Who is the help of my [sad] countenance, and my God.

Psalm 43 seems to be similar to Psalm 42. There are some who believe that it actually belonged to Psalm 42, and in some of the manuscripts they were even put together as one psalm.

Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man. For thou art the God of my strength: why dost thou cast me off? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles (Psa 43:1-3).

How many times we have cried out to God, "Oh God, send out Your light and Your truth. Let them lead me. God, I want to do the right thing. God, I want to follow Your will in this matter. God, I don't know which way to turn. I don't know what way to go. God, send out Your light. Let Your truth lead me."

Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God my God (Psa 43:4).

And then the phrase that we had in the last psalm.

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God (Psa 43:5). (Through The Bible c 2000 Series; Chuck Smith; Bible commentaries,1979-1986)

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9. Divine Requirement ;What Does God Require of Me?; "Answers For Today" Chuck Smith

David said in Psalm 19:

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. (v. 1-3)

God has made Himself known in nature. I have become conscious and aware of the fact of God's existence. All around me there is a witness. The voice of God is speaking to me and telling me of the fact of God - and it cannot be denied.

Recently, as I was looking through volume "E" of the encyclopedia, I started reading about the eye. I became fascinated with the facets of the human eye the muscles that control the movements, the methods by which the pictures are taken at 18 impulses per second and impressed upon this vitreous jelly substance, vibrating the message into the brain so that I get the images and the color distinguishing. I was amazed at the intricate nature and the complexities of the human eye. I was just overwhelmed!

The description of the human eye spoke to me about the wisdom and creative genius God has exercised in creating this human body. For me to think that the eye "just happened" is impossible. It's incredible design and function gave me a very powerful testimony of the fact that God does exist - the fact that God made me, using infinite wisdom in the creation of the human body.

Man becomes conscious of God through the universe about him because "Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard" (Psalm 19:2). The universe speaks to us of the fact of God's existence. But once I become conscious of the fact that God does exist, make that acknowledgment, and realize that God has created me as the highest order of His created beings that I can observe - then I begin to wonder about the purpose of creation.

"God, if You have created me above the animal kingdom, if You have created me with these capacities and these abilities that I possess, why did You create me?" What is God's purpose in creation? More specifically, what is the purpose for my life? Do I die like a dog to rot as a log? Or did God have a real reason when He formed man out of the dust of the earth, breathed into him the breath of God, and man became a living soul?

**What Does God Require of Me?**

Why did He create me? These questions become of primary concern and interest. Does life have a meaning or not? Is there a purpose for being or not? Is there a reason behind it all? Why does life seem to be so empty and unfulfilled?

Psychologists tell us that the neurotic problems of man begin with a basic frustration - that awareness, that inner consciousness that there must be something more to life than what he has yet experienced. Every man is conscious of an emptiness within his life. There must be a reason for living beyond what he has already discovered. There must be something more than just this! Like the song, "Is that all there is?" - or is there more?

In searching for the answer, I turn to the Word of God. It declares that God definitely does have a plan and a purpose for my life. God created me with a design and with a purpose in His mind. I'm not here by accident. My life isn't a "fortuitous concurrence of accidental circumstances." God has His hand on it all the way along. God has a reason, a plan, and a purpose for not only my life but for your life as an individual, for not only the overall population and mankind in general but for individuals as well. God has a plan and a purpose for you, and He created you with that plan and purpose in mind.

The greatest and the busiest life apart from God is empty. To try to live apart from God's plan is utter futility. King Solomon lived a satiated life. He describes it in Ecclesiastes 2:10, "Whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them." He did absolutely everything that came into his heart and mind. He glutted himself, looking for something that would be fulfilling, that would meet that deep, inner need.

Solomon indulged himself with life. He sought for wisdom and applied himself until he became the wisest man who ever lived. But fulfillment didn't lie there. So he indulged himself with pleasure - but it wasn't there either. Then he began to pursue great works and possessions. He began to build monuments after his name - but fulfillment wasn't there. Then he sought it in wealth, but it wasn't there. He sought it in sex, but it wasn't there. After satiating himself with all these things - no fulfillment! He finally came to the conclusion, "Emptiness, emptiness, always emptiness, and vexation of spirit." He said, "I hate life." It was empty!

For my own good, for my own well being, for my own sake of sanity, I must discover God's plan and purpose for my life.

If you leave God out of your life, you're destined to end up with an emptiness within that cannot be filled by anything. You can try to fulfill yourself with other things, but they'll never fill the real need within your life. For my own good, for my own well-being, for my own sake of sanity, I must discover God's plan and God's purpose for my life. What does God want of me? Why did God make me? What does God require of me?

Ideal Requirement. . . . . In Deuteronomy 18:13 we find that God requires this of me: Moses, in making a summation of the law, the commandments and the judgments of God, declared, "Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God." What does God require of you? Perfection. Jesus said the same thing, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48).

What does it mean to be "perfect"? Let me ask you this: "What does it mean to be imperfect?" I understand that much better. The root word of "sin" means "missing the mark." The root word of "perfection" comes from "hitting the mark." To be perfect means to absolutely hit the mark, to be exactly what God wants you to be.

When I read in the Scriptures that God requires me to be "perfect" with the Lord my God. I immediately realize that I have failed. Standing in the consciousness of the ideal of Jesus Christ, I'm aware of the fact that I'm a sinner. I've missed the mark!

God requires that I be "perfect." Immediately, I realize that I've missed the mark. I'm a sinner. What do I do now?

When I stand with my fellowman, I get a different consciousness. I say, "I know I'm not perfect, but at least I'm not like they are!" I can always find someone whose face is a little dirtier than mine, and I take comfort in that fact. "I know mine isn't clean, but did you see how dirty his is!" We look at our lives the same way. "I know I'm not totally clean, but at least I'm not as dirty as someone else!"

Jesus said that in measuring yourself by men you do err (Luke 18:9-14). I must measure myself by the ideal in Jesus Christ - because if I want to know why God created man, if I want to know the purpose of the creation of man, I cannot look around and find it. I must look to Jesus Christ, for in Him I find God's ideal fulfilled. In Christ I find what God intended when He made man and placed him on the earth.

So, as I look at Jesus Christ and stand in His presence, the presence of this ideal, I realize and must confess that I'm a sinner. I've missed the mark. Even when I wanted to hit it and did all in my power to hit it, I still missed. I've failed God. I'm a sinner. I realize that immediately. I've failed in fulfilling the purpose of God for man. Is there any hope for me? Is there any chance for me - a sinful, failing man?

The word "gospel" means "good news." The Scripture says that the disciples went everywhere preaching the good news. What "good news"? The good news that there is help, there is hope - the good news of God's love for sinning, failing, rebellious man who is missing the mark. The "good news" is that "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

God's ideal requirement for me is that I be perfect. I've failed. What about me now? What does God require of me now?

A man came to Jesus one day and asked, "What must we do to do the works of God?" (John 6:28). This is a question of perennial interest.

God's good news is that He has provided for our failure. God has accepted the responsibility of the guilt of my sin and my weaknesses. Jesus Christ took upon Himself my penalty - all my sin and all my missing of the mark. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6). Jesus, taking my sin upon Himself, died in my place. God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. God provided for my failure, for my sin.

What must I do to do the works of God?

Jesus said, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent" (John 6:29). That's simple enough, isn't it? God required perfection - I missed. What does He now require of me, the imperfect creature that I am? He requires that I just believe on His provision of love in Jesus Christ and that I accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. This is the work of God: that you believe on Him whom He has sent. It's so easy that anyone can do it. "You mean I can do it right now?" You bet you can!

When I believe in Jesus Christ - accepting Him as my personal Lord and Saviour, realizing that He took my sin and my failures upon Himself and died for me, that redemption covers me as a personal individual, and I say, "O Jesus, I believe and accept and take You now as my Lord and Saviour" - what happens? Jesus comes into my life with a vital power. The Scripture says,

As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name (John 1:12).

Jesus comes into my life with power - a new dynamic, a new force. This new power begins to change me. He takes away my old nature bent toward sin and constantly missing the mark, and He gives me, instead, His new nature. He declared of Himself, "I do always those things that please Him [the Father]" (John 8:29).

Jesus Christ gives me the nature that helps me do those things that are pleasing to the Father - those things I couldn't do because of the weakness of my flesh, as I'm just a miserable failure. Christ now begins to give me the power to make those necessary changes so I can start hitting the mark even as God desires that I do.

God requires that I just believe on His provision of love in Jesus Christ - accepting Him as my personal Lord and Saviour!

If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new (II Corinthians 5:17).

Jesus imparts to me that new nature by which I can now become perfect and hit the mark!

Now, I have no intention of giving you the false concept that I'm saying, "I'm perfect." Far from it! Every time I say, "Lord, there's nothing to this one. Let me show You I can hit the mark," I miss it. Every time I try in myself and I'm not yielding to those forces of His Spirit within, I still miss the mark - and I'm still stupid enough to keep trying in my own self. But I've found that every time I yield to the power and dynamic of His Spirit within my life, He puts me right on target. I can hit it with His power and help as He dwells within me. His nature is fulfilled within me and I become more and more like Jesus Christ.

Paul the apostle, writing 30 years after his conversion on the Damascus Road, said, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect" (Philippians 3:12). This great saint is saying, "I'm not yet perfect. I'm still missing. Not as much - praise God for that!" There are those glorious times when I yield and I'm hitting the bulls-eye. God is teaching me the lessons day by day of my absolute need for Him and the absolute necessity of turning everything over to Him. God's ideal is being fulfilled in me through the power of Jesus Christ. My failures are now taken care of. I'm on the right path. By holding on to the hand of Jesus and receiving His power and strength, He is guiding me. Along with Paul, I'm pressing towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God which is in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14).

"Be ye therefore perfect." Don't let that discourage you. Of course you can't be perfect! But yield yourself to those forces which will give you that new nature in Jesus Christ, enabling you to fulfill God's ideal requirement. God hasn't given up on His ideal requirement. As I hold on to the hand of Jesus Christ, one of these days I'll be standing right in the presence of God, the One who created the whole universe.

As God looks at me with His searching eyes from which nothing is hidden, I'll stand there in the bare nakedness of my being - but, praise God, He's going to see me in Christ absolutely perfect!

Why? Not because Chuck Smith is perfect, but because Jesus is able to keep me from falling and to present me faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy (Jude 24). If you believe on Jesus Christ and yield to the power of his Spirit within your life, one day He'll present you faultless before the throne of God.

If you believe and trust in Him, the work of God is already at work in your life helping you to hit the mark that He has set. If not, salvation is very simple. All you have to do is say, "Lord, I know I've failed, but take over and help me. Lord I turn it over to You." If you within your heart at this moment will do that, then He'll take over. He's just waiting. Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in" (Revelation 3:20). He's standing at your heart's door right now. He's knocking. He's waiting. Will you open it? As the Spirit of God is speaking to your heart, will you say, "Okay, Lord, I give up. Take over. Make me what You want me to be." It's just that easy. Won't you do it now? You don't have to go forward at an altar call. You don't have to be singing. All you have to do is decide within your heart, "Lord, I turn it over to You." And He will give you that power to become a child of God.

Secret of Strength; Years ago, I taught my two boys how to use a bow. When I first taught them I bought 25-pound bows - bigger than they were actually capable of handling in the beginning, but I wanted them to learn with a powerful bow. So, as I took each boy out to teach him how to use a bow and arrow, I'd first show him the proper grip. I said, "Take hold of the bow with your left hand," and I'd stand behind him. As he held the bow, I took a firm hold of his left wrist. Then I reached around him and said, "Take the draw string with your two fingers, notch the arrow, and begin to draw it back." I took hold of his right wrist and began to draw back, holding both his wrists with my hands so that, when the bow had been drawn, we were able to hold it there and sight the target. Then I said, "Release!" - and he'd release his fingers. Actually, my boys were able to draw that bow only because I had hold of their wrists. Their hands were made strong, really, by the fact that their father was holding on to their wrists and drawing for them. When God's hand is upon you, you are strong. When God's hand is upon you, you're able to face any situation. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). With God's help I am sufficient - no matter what the trial or the testing or the problem may be. When God's hand is upon my life, I am strengthened and strong enough to meet any obstacle. That is always the secret of strength!

( Amplified Bible; Joyce Meyers; 2006; Faith Words; Scripture; Commentaries; pages 838-839)

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### Love's commendation

Charles Spurgeon

**"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8**

**Suggested Further Reading: Hebrews 2:5-9**

I could almost conceive a parliament in heaven. The angels are assembled; the question is proposed to them: "Cherubim and seraphim, cohorts of the glorified, ye spirits that like flames of fire, at my bidding fly, ye happy beings, whom I have created for my honour! Here is a question which I condescend to offer for your consideration: Man has sinned; there is no way for his pardon but by someone suffering and paying blood for blood. Who shall it be?" I can conceive that there was silence throughout the great assembly. Gabriel spoke not: he would have stretched his wings and flapped the heavens in a moment, if the deed had been possible; but he felt that he could never bear the guilt of a world upon his shoulders, and, therefore, still he sat. And there the mightiest of the mighty, those who could shake a world if God should will it, sat still, because they felt all powerless to accomplish redemption. I do not conceive that one of them would have ventured to hope that God himself would assume flesh and die. I do not think it could have entered even into angelic thought to conceive that the mighty Maker of the skies should bow his awful head and sink into a grave. I cannot imagine that the brightest and most seraphic of these glorified ones would for an instant have suffered such a thought to abide with him. And when the Son of God, rising from his throne, spoke to them and said, "Principalities and powers! I will become flesh, I will veil this Godhead of mine in robes of mortal clay, I will die!" I think I see the angels for once astonished.

**For meditation: Man had sinned; man must suffer. Only a real, yet sinless man could take his place; God the Son alone qualified for the task (Romans 8:3).**

**Sermon no. 104**

