



Grace and Repentance

By Nathaniel Swaan

Grace, the Greek word “charis,” means: “that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness” according to the KJV New Testament Greek lexicon based on Thayer's and Smith's Bible Dictionary. There are multitudes of theological dissertations on Grace. It is interpreted as God's unmerited favour to us through Jesus Christ, in the theological sense. Grace, “God's unmerited favour,” is a door, but it is also the foundation of our faith. God's grace is what we are to walk in, so it is the abiding state of every believer.

Through the work of the devil, we have a nature that is very open to his influences. Through Jesus Christ, we have extended to us the Grace of God, “that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness.” We know that Jesus does not just give us presents or gifts. He gives us Himself. Grace is not a thing. It is the New Man, “Christ in us the hope of Glory.” The Holy Spirit has come to transform us into sons and daughters of God.

Scripture tells us in John 1:14-17, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, this was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” God said through the prophet, Isaiah 55:11: “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” The Word was made flesh for a

purpose. The grace and truth of God by Jesus Christ and remission of sin through his blood was for a purpose. God's purpose is to have us as his sons and daughters, to make us in his own image by the Holy Spirit. Grace is not a limbo that we drift along in. Grace is action. The Spirit of Grace is transforming power. Grace brings us to repentance.

Romans 2:4: "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" Repentance, the Greek word “metanoia,” means a change of mind. The meaning is deeper than feeling sorry about having done or purposed to do something. It conveys a new direction, a lifestyle change. The beauty of God's being, his grace, seeks to woo us to repentance. God reaches out to set us on the path of life and light.

A Christian father and mother, usually, look to have their child walk in a path of integrity, growing into a Godly person, and good citizen. This process of growth involves instruction and at times correction. Nothing is easier than having a child that is teachable, who responds to correction willingly. It is rare to have a child like this. Well, it was not my

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parent's experience as I was growing up. A person who is teachable is a person who is repentant. This involves a recognition there is always before us an opportunity to receive direction or instruction. A teachable person is a person with a repentant spirit, who is honest about their weakness, but can see hope for change. All who accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour have access to this Spirit. It is God's Holy Spirit, available to those who will drop their defences and humble themselves before God.

God is a father who never gives up on his children. King David was a man whose weaknesses manifested themselves many times in his life. When God corrected him, he responded quickly to repent and change his mind and direction. We can read God's testimony of David, by the Holy Spirit, through Stephen, before he was martyred. Acts 13:22 says: "And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will." David is his own testimony of the value of God's correction. Psalms 19:9-10: "The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More

to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."

God speaks to us in 2Peter 3:9: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." His purpose is that we might not only accept His grace, but he wants us to allow Him to envelop us and possess us by His Holy Spirit. He desires us to be one with Him, transformed by the renewal He brings in his essence. We experience dramatic repentance with our salvation. We also can experience this strong repentance when we return to God after wandering from His paths. Let us long for the dramatic to give way to a gentle spirit of continual repentance as we look to the grace of our Father in heaven. Spend time in communion with your Father. Let His love for you and His hope envelop you, steady you, and change you. Look upon His glory and grace that is yours through Jesus Christ. 2Corinthians 3:18: "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

Apostle Peter's Final Admonition

By Markus Hansen

According to the New Testament, Simon Peter was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ. Peter was the son of John (or Jonah or Jona) and came from the village of Bethsaida in the province of Galilee, a town on Lake Genesareth. His brother Andrew was also an apostle. New Testament accounts state that Peter (then Simon) was a fisherman along with his brother Andrew, as were the sons of Zebedee, James and John.

The Gospels indicate that Peter was a married man living with his mother-in-law who was healed by Jesus when He visited their home in Capernaum. The writings of Clement of Alexandria tell us that Peter and his wife had children.

Jesus actually gave Simon the name of Cephas (Petrus, meaning 'little rock or a small detachment of the massive ledge'). He was usually called Peter, especially by Christ, on the solemn occasion after Peter's profession of faith recorded in Matthew 16:18. The other apostles often combined the two names, while Paul used the name Cephas.

Reading through the Gospels, the characteristics that Peter portrayed in his early life were dynamic: impulsive, impetuous, hotheaded, emotional, boasting, passionate, quick to speak, and he was known for putting his foot in his mouth. He is often depicted as being a big, burly, rough man whose education came from years of making his living as a fisherman, a self-reliant man, a leader rather than a follower.

But Jesus saw through Peter's human traits. Even after denying Christ three times before His crucifixion, Jesus didn't give up on Peter. After Jesus rose from the dead He met with His disciples three times and commissioned them to go out and preach the gospel and specifically to Peter Jesus said, "Feed my lambs, tend my sheep and feed my sheep" (John 21:15-17). Peter, a changed man from within, an energized man, a bold man ready to proclaim the saving power of Christ, went on to give the first powerful evangelical message recorded in Acts 2:14-39.

There are two books attributed to the Apostle

Peter. Some biblical scholars dispute whether II Peter was written with his own hand or possibly penned by his assistant, John Mark, who after Peter was martyred, recorded Peter's last message to the Church. Regardless and without question, both books are inspired and anointed words written for our benefit.

Let us turn our attention to the first chapter of II Peter and read what Peter said not only to the Church at the end of his ministry but still speaks to us today: "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (II Peter 1:2-4, NKJ).

Praise the Lord, hallelujah! Truly, in this hour, God has imparted into our hearts by His Holy Spirit everything we need to know pertaining to this life and how we are to achieve a Christ-like life. Amen? Yes, God has opened our hearts and planted within it the seed of the Kingdom of God. That seed is growing day by day as we endeavour to walk and live by the leading of the Holy Spirit. But even more wonderful is that He has given us great and precious promises; a bright future to look forward to, a future to press into, a future to inherit and share in something glorious. Does not that cause us to shout Amen, Hallelujah? The whole world is running to and fro, seeking pleasure, happiness and fulfillment and not finding it. It cannot be found outside of knowing Christ as our personal Saviour. But we not only know Christ as our personal redeemer. He has enlarged our hearts to understand that as we live our lives according to His pattern, under the covering of His Church, He will lead us into greater experiences enabling us to partake of His very nature, His divine nature, that nature that death can have no part of. Oh, Glory to God. Hallelujah!

In verses 5, 6 and 7, Apostle Peter outlines seven attributes to add to our faith, to help us complete our journey in becoming mature sons and daughters of God. When used as a noun the Oxford dictionary describes 'attribute' as "a quality or feature as characteristic of or possessed by someone." "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to

brotherly kindness love" (II Peter 1:5-7, NKJV). These are qualities that all Christians should strive to possess.

In these seven attributes Apostle Peter lays out a course of action that will help to ensure that we will inherit the promise of entering into the fullness of our calling, into the realization of the kingdom of God being fully established in our lives.

How many times have we read these verses without stopping to consider their true intent and meaning and how they are to be applied to our lives? Let us consider the seven attributes that Apostle Peter puts forth for our consideration:

VIRTUE: A behavioural quality, a manner of conduct that shows high moral standards or a quality considered morally excellent and desirable in a person.

God expects us as His people to show forth the highest ethical behaviour in all social interactions: the home, the church, towards our neighbour, at school, at work, in business and to our government.

"Dishonest scales are an abomination to the Lord, But a just weight is His delight" (Proverbs 11:1, NKJV).

"Better is a little with righteousness, than vast revenues without justice" (Proverbs 16:8, NKJV).

"Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need" (Ephesians 4:28, NIV).

"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself" (Philippians 2:3, NIV).

When we commit our life to Christ, He expects us to change our way of living and our manner of conduct just like Zacchaeus did when he recognized Jesus as being the Messiah. "Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham" (Luke 19:8-9, NKJV). Zacchaeus, by his actions, showed that he really had faith in Jesus. He demonstrated virtue in response to having been granted faith to believe that Jesus was the Saviour and Redeemer of his soul.

KNOWLEDGE: What is known in a particular field, theoretical or practical understanding of a subject, a true justified belief as opposed to opinion.

The apostle Paul wrote, in I Corinthians 15:34, the following: "Awake to righteousness, and do not

sin; for some do not have KNOWLEDGE of God, I speak this to their shame.” Paul is saying that it is shameful to not have knowledge of the grace of God and what He has offered us. The message of salvation and the kingdom of God has been spread across the whole earth and yet there are millions who, even though they have heard the message, have not had ears to hear or a heart to understand.

Since the beginning of this present move of the Spirit, God has been revealing the secrets of the kingdom of God, line upon line, precept upon precept. Much has been ministered in camp meetings and in our local church meetings about the truths of the kingdom of God; the coming together of the Body of Christ, the five fold ministry to the Church, receiving and operation of spiritual gifts, the order and pattern for the church and the home. These subjects have also been covered in numerous Sharon Star articles. It is vital that we become knowledgeable in all of these areas so that we can walk and live in these truths so we can: “always be ready to give a defence to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear” (I Peter 3:15, NKJV).

Our FAITH must not be only mind deep. You may say, “Oh I know what I believe,” but do you know WHY you believe what you believe? Is your belief built on a solid foundation, or is it fragile? Has it been tested intellectually or experimentally? “But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles” (Matthew 13:20-21, NKJV).

Paul wrote to Timothy advising him to: “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Timothy 2:15, NKJV).

We need to add to our FAITH, knowledge about the kingdom of God, about this WAY that God is leading us so that we can: “teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up” (Deuteronomy 6:7, NKJV), and so we can bring up our children: “in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4, NKJV).

At the beginning of this present move of the Holy Spirit, the Lord revealed that the responsibility of instructing our children in the ways of the Lord belongs to the parents, rather than to Sunday school

teachers. Father, you are the elder of your home and together with your wife, the deaconess of your home, you are responsible to see that you have family devotions. Set aside time together with your children where you sing a few choruses, read God’s word, talk about the church, provide instruction about conduct in the church and pray together as a family. That is how your children will grow up to be knowledgeable about the kingdom of God and become functioning members of the Body of Christ.

Gaining knowledge about the kingdom is like pouring concrete into foundation walls built to hold the concrete until it sets. Once the concrete is set, the walls built to hold the concrete are removed; and the foundation stands firm, and the rest of the house can be safely built on it.

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock” (Matthew 7:24-25, NKJV).

SELF CONTROL (or temperance), the ability to control oneself, in particular one’s emotions, desires, actions and expressions of them in one’s behaviour.

“Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize” (I Corinthians 9:26-27, NIV).

Having regular personal and if married, family devotions, takes self-discipline and self-control. We need to set time aside to do the things that help us to be strong in our FAITH. Here are additional practical areas where self-control and discipline will help us to become strong faithful Christians:

a) getting up early so that we can have devotions, be on time for church, school and or work: “do not love sleep lest you come to poverty” (Proverbs 20:13, NKJV).

b) controlling our tongue: “He who guards his tongue preserves his life: (Proverbs 13:3, KJV).

c) being prudent managers of the money we earn: “and the Lord shall make you the head, not the tail” (Deuteronomy 28:13, NKJV), if we are responsible with what God has blessed us with. Avoid debt as much as possible by controlling credit card spending and bank loans.

d) turning OFF the TV, radio, computer, cell phone when WORLDLY inappropriate programs, scenes, and music are being offered or displayed: “do not be

conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2 NKJV).

e) abstaining from all substance abuse (illicit drugs), fornication, adultery, pornography: “Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s” (I Corinthians 6:18-20, NKJV).

f) moderate dress code: “Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel - rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God” (I Peter 3:3-4).

g) care of our bodies: Taking proper care of our bodies is also an aspect of spirituality. God’s Word provides direction for us in this area too. “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s (I Cor. 6:19-20). Proper care of our bodies includes making an effort to eat a healthy diet, avoiding overeating, which often results in serious health problems, getting a proper amount of rest, and if we are able doing some regular physical exercise. “For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come (I Tim. 4:8, NIV).”

PATIENCE: The Greek word used in this scripture is ‘hupomoe’, which means, ‘under-remaining-endurance.’ Other Bible translations use words such as; steadfastness, perseverance and persistence. It infers continuing on despite difficulties, troubles and tribulations. “not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer” (Romans 12:11-12, NKJV).

“Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’ And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do

not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me’” (Luke 18:1-5, NKJV).

No matter how difficult our journey through life may be, we do not give up, we do not throw up our hands and say, “I quit.” No, we keep moving forward, step by step, ever moving towards the goal that God has set before us. We put our trust in Jesus who promised, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5, NKJV).

GODLINESS: meaning devoutly God-Like. This requirement to be God-like parallels the scripture: “Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the Lord your God” (Leviticus 20:7, NKJV). God expects us to add “HOLY LIVING” to our faith in Christ.

This may seem impossible until we read what God told Moses: “See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh” (Exodus 7:1, NIV). Paul wrote: “Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him” (Colossians 3:10, NKJV).

BROTHERLY KINDNESS: The Greek word used in this scripture is ‘philadelphian,’ which means fond brotherliness. It is the quality of being friendly, warm hearted, generous and considerate. It describes how we should behave towards not only our loved ones but to all we come in contact with. “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another” (Romans 12:10, KJV). “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32, NKJV).

Jesus provided us with a practical example of what it means to show brotherly kindness in the parable of the good Samaritan. According to the story, a traveler is robbed, beaten and left half dead by the road side. Both a Priest and a Levite pass by without offering to help. Then a Samaritan passing by rescues the traveler, puts him on his own beast and takes him to an inn. The Samaritan cleans and binds the injured man’s wounds and leaves him in the care of the inn keeper with money to pay for any further expenses (Luke 10: 23-27).

After the death of King Solomon, the twelve tribes of Israel separated into two nations, Israel and Judah. Judah was the home of the Samaritans while the people in Israel considered themselves to be the true Jews, God’s chosen people. As a result of this separation Jews and Samaritans despised each other and were forbidden to talk to each other or cross over into each other’s territory. Jesus demonstrated

the true meaning of showing brotherly kindness when He broke with tradition and told the story of the good Samaritan to a group of Jewish leaders and also travelled into Samaria and met with and talked to a Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well.

LOVE: The word ‘love’ in this scripture is translated from the Greek word ‘agape.’ The essence of agape love is self-sacrifice, love without conditions attached. This is a perfect description of God Himself. “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8, NKJV). As Christ loved us, even before we accepted His offer of redemption, we likewise are admonished by Peter to show the love of Christ to our fellow man even though he/she may dislike us. “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love” (I John 4:7-8, NIV). If God is love, which is true, can we not also say that love is God? Watch an agnostic man or women cuddle a child or care for an aging parent and what you will witness is God being shown through the expression of love.

In what is commonly known as the ‘Love Chapter,’ I Corinthians 13 provides clear word illustrations of what love is. It is: “slow to lose patience - looks for a way of being constructive - has good manners - glad with all men when truth prevails - knows no limit to its endurance - no end to its trust - no fading of its hope - can outlast anything - the one thing that stands when all else has fallen.” Paul also describes what love is not: “it is not possessive - it is neither anxious to impress nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance - does not pursue selfish advantage - it is not touchy - it does not keep account of evil and gloat over the wickedness of other people” (excerpts from the J.P. Phillips translation of I Corinthians 13). May God help us to demonstrate the true love of God through our words and actions.

Though Bible scholars do not agree as to the date when II Peter was written, most estimate it was at least 33 years after the ascension of Christ. Thirty-three years would have passed since the last words of Jesus were heard. Many to whom Peter was ministering were not witnesses of the times when Christ walked upon this earth. Many members of the Church would likely have been born after Jesus ascended to be with His Heavenly Father. The book of II Peter deals with the conditions within the Church, and it is clear that the author was concerned about their spiritual welfare. He saw signs of immaturity and regression. He strongly urges the saints to remember the things they have heard and be “established in the present truth” (I Peter 1:12). This exhortation is balanced by the sober note of grave warning about false teachers creeping into the Church spreading heresy. It is one thing to warn the Church. It is another to suggest a remedy. Peter did both. Peter’s antidote for this condition in the Church was to urge growth in Christian conduct as the most successful method of withstanding false teachings and apostasy. If we do, the result will be as outlined in II Peter 1:8-11, NKJ). “For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

With a sincere heart, let us seek more and more help from the Holy Spirit to add to our lives these seven vital attributes as outlined by the Apostle Peter.

CALLED HOME	
<p>Fred Hunter Las Vegas, NV Dec. 12, 2014</p>	<p>Jerry Cornell Elburn, IL Jan. 8, 2015</p>

IMPORTANT DATES	
NC Winter Camp	Feb.13-15, 2015
Feast.....	April 2-5, 2015
Henry, IL Meetings.....	May 1-3, 2015
May Long Young Peoples.....	May 15-18, 2015
North Battleford Summer Camp	July 5-12, 2015
North Carolina Summer Camp	July 19-25, 2015
Pinelow (Spokane)	
Summer Camp	July 27-Aug. 1, 2015
Caribbean Summer Camp (Grenada)	Aug. 2-8, 2015
<p>For more information on these dates visit www.globalmissionsinc.org/upcoming-events.html</p>	

Touching Jesus Is All That Matters!

By Robert Persaud

The words of a song resonated in my heart, as I experienced a renewal of faith among the saints:

*Touching Jesus is all that matters,
And your life will never be the same.
There is only one way to touch him,
Just believe when you call on his name.*

The biblical account in the Gospel of St. Mark 5: 24 – 34 cited the incident of a woman who was very ill. She spent her life's savings on doctors, but she did not recover. However, the moment came when she pressed through the crowd and touched the hem of Jesus' garment. Immediately she experienced the flow of an anointing from the Master which resulted in her healing. The occurrence of such a miracle stunned the people who were nearby.

We often sing the words of the song which invite us to extend our faith to touch the Lord:

*Reach out and touch the Lord as he passes by,
You'll find He's not too busy to hear your heart's cry.
He's passing by this moment your needs to supply
Reach out and touch the Lord as he passes by.*

In touching the Lord, we must believe that his sovereignty exists in every sphere of our existence. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11: 6). Our trust and obedience to the Lord will always lead us to a deeper experience in our connection with the Master.

In touching the Lord, we are encouraged to believe in order to see. The account of St. John 20: 28 – 31 outlined a physical touch, which resulted in a life changing and spiritual effect for Thomas. Thomas touched the Lord's wounds and, subsequently, he believed and was fully convinced of the resurrected Messiah. Seeing is believing (in this case, touching is believing) is a man-made approach in having the tangible evidence. On the contrary, believing or touching Jesus in faith results in seeing the miracles, healings, and deliverances. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11: 1).

The touch of the Master's hand

My mind reflects on another song that we sing:

*At the touch of Jesus, blinded eyes can see,
Broken hearts are mended, captives are set free.
When he speaks the mountains move at his command,
At the touch of Jesus fallen lives can stand.*

Whether we are touching the Lord in believing Him for the victory, or whether he is touching us in our circumstances, it is reflective of a "point of contact." It is an experience of moving away from the realms of the natural and into the spiritual. A paradigm shift occurs from doubts, logical assumptions and fears, to that of childlike faith and reassurance in God.

Another songwriter penned such encouraging words as:

*He is touching me now; He is touching me now,
I can feel His presence, I can feel His power.
Oh praise His name; He's forever the same,
He is touching me now; He is touching me now.*

Consider when two things touch, or if something touches something else, there is no space between them. Anything that comes between our God and us is an idol. Jesus admonished us to "seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things will be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

The Lord is more willing to be "in touch" with us than we can ever imagine. When we give God the first preference in our lives via our choices, we are living in his divine will and purpose. The apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth directly in his reproof. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (2 Corinthians 6: 17 – 18).

Touching others through our gifts and ministries indicates that we are His hand extended.

Being in contact with our fellow believers through the channels of fellowship in the form of gatherings, prayer meetings, communion services, and such like, enrich our ministries in the Lord. In touching others for the Lord, we are simply standing in the gap. "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land ..." (Ezekiel 22: 30).

In conclusion, our responsibility lies in the realization of touching the Lord through faith, then, the yielding of ourselves to the Lord's guiding hand upon our lives.

This connection between God and us will result in the outflow of our ministries in touching others beyond our borders.

Jerry Cornell: A Good & Faithful Servant

Our dear brother Jerry Cornell went to be with the Lord on January 8, 2014, in Elburn, Illinois, at the age of 85. Brother Cornell served the Lord and His Church faithfully and enthusiastically for many years both as a traveling deacon and traveling elder. For many years he was the only full-time traveling ministry living in the United States and traveled extensively visiting and encouraging the local churches along with his dear wife Cindy.

Jerry loved music, people, the church, and most of all, the Lord. He was most comfortable leading a song service. Because he knew so many songs and hymns, he could always bring to mind a song that fit with the moving of the Spirit. Jerry never met a stranger. He could talk to anyone. During camp meetings and scripture studies, you could always find Jerry after meals or in the evenings late into the night talking with someone. He would seek out the ones on the fringes and spend time with them sharing the things of the Lord in the joy of the Lord that was unquestionably his.

No one who met Jerry would likely ever forget him; I know the church will not. We will miss you, brother Jerry. Enjoy your rest.



For a listing of dates and contact information visit www.globalmissionsinc.org

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