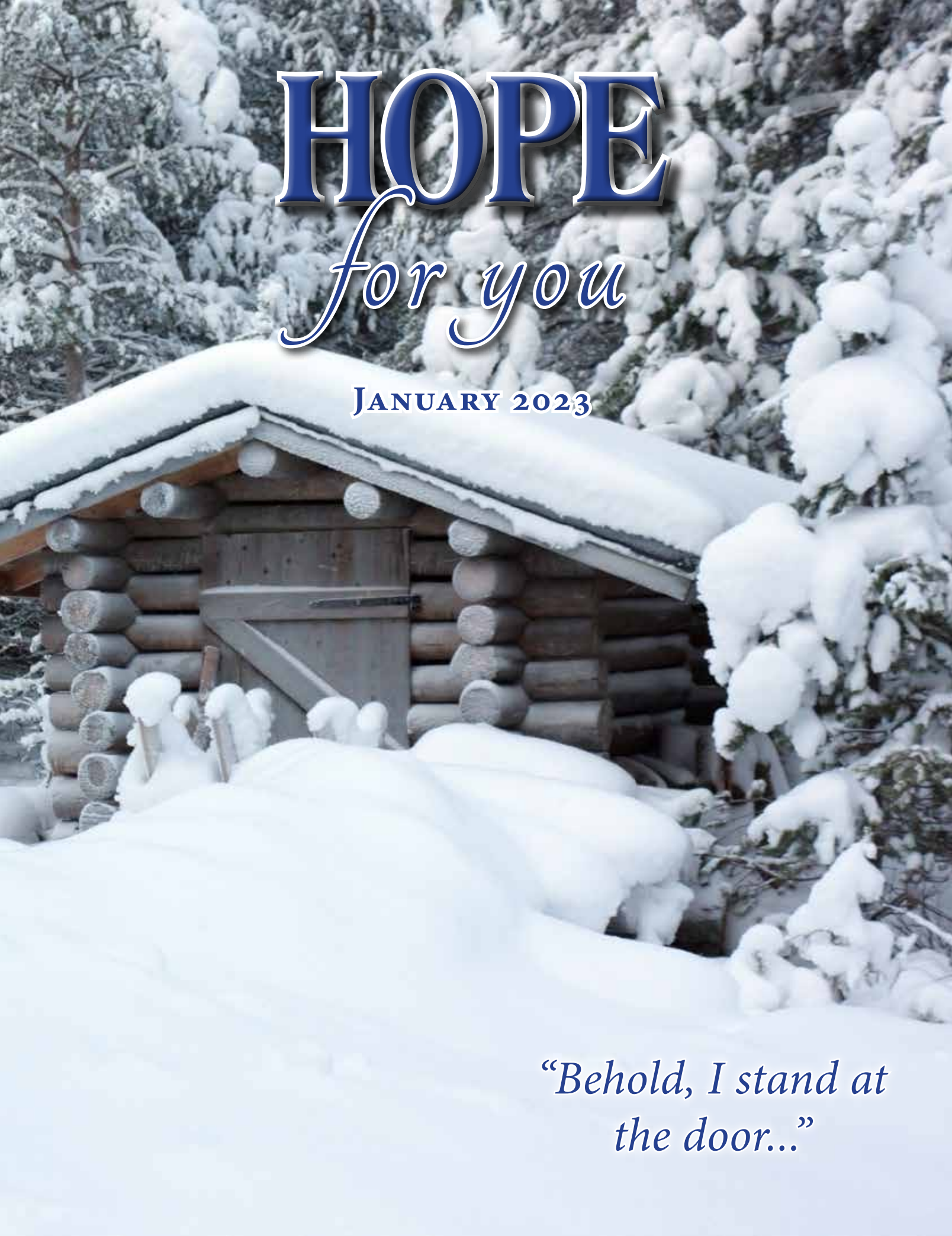

HOPE *for you*

January 2023

"Behold, I stand at the door..."

Thoughts from Hope...

THE IMMUTABLE LAW OF GOD • CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS • THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH
THE THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES • THE NON-IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL • THE SANCTUARY

Greetings, Friends!

We pray this finds you doing well. We are starting 2023 off with thankfulness for how God blesses us each and every day. When we list our blessings, you, our faithful readers, are on our list, and in our prayers.

This year, we begin an exciting journey through several of the parables of Jesus. The stories He told while on earth have vital lessons for us today. We look forward to exploring them and to sharing a different parable with you each month.

In this issue of HOPE *for you*, we are exploring the parable of the Prodigal Son. In the story Jesus told, a young man chooses not only to abandon his family, but to take the family wealth along with him. As he spends his wealth, he thinks little of home and of the pain he has caused his family. However, when circumstances change, he begins to remember the warmth and love of his home and his father. He journeys home with the goal of being a servant in his father's house. What a surprise awaits him! His father has looked for him every day since his departure. His father sees him while he is still "a great way off" (Luke 15:20), and they meet each other in a warm embrace. His father rejoices that he is home, and reinstates him as his beloved son.

What a picture of God, our Father, and us. God provides the wealth of life, of health, of talents. We may choose to ignore His love, yet He sustains us still. Our choices may lead to dire consequences, yet the slightest turning of our heart to Him brings to us His love and His sustaining mercy. May we rejoice in God's "unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15), and thank Him for His tender care. We pray that this issue will bring you ever closer to our God, our Father, our King.

Blessings! *The Hope International Team*

About Hope for You...

HOPE *for you* is a monthly publication of Hope International. We are a non-profit ministry, seeking to share the love of God through active ministry in our community and beyond.

We believe that God has a plan and purpose for His people in these tumultuous times, and we seek to spread an encouraging word to uplift Christ and His truth. We have an extensive health ministry, and believe that God's will is for all His children to "Prosper and be in health," (3 John 2) even as our souls prosper in following His will and guidance.

We joyfully accept tax-deductible donations to advance the cause of Christ.

HOPE *for you* is free of charge for all who donate or order products.

We would be delighted to send your friends or family a complimentary three-issue trial subscription. Just email or send us their names and addresses.

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Dr. Kaye Olson and the Hope for Health staff are ready and willing to answer any product or health questions you may have. We are also happy to consult with you regarding any diet or lifestyle changes.
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"Arise and go to your Father. He will meet you a great way off. If you take even one step toward Him in repentance, He will hasten to enfold you in His arms of infinite love. His ear is open to the cry of the contrite soul. The first reaching out of the heart after God is known to Him. Never a prayer is offered, however faltering, never a tear shed, however secret, never a sincere desire after God is cherished, however feeble, but the Spirit of God goes forth to meet it."

—*E. G. White* (*Christ's Object Lessons, page 206*)

The Prodigal Son

by Ellen G. White

The parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son, bring out in distinct lines God's pitying love for those who are straying from Him. Although they have turned away from God, He does not leave them in their misery. He is full of kindness and tender pity toward all who are exposed to the temptations of the artful foe.

In the parable of the prodigal son is presented the Lord's dealing with those who have once known the Father's love, but who have allowed the tempter to lead them captive at his will.

"A certain man had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country."

This younger son had become weary of the restraint of his father's house. He thought that his liberty was restricted. His father's love and care for him were misinterpreted, and he determined to follow the dictates of his own inclination.

The youth acknowledges no obligation to his father, and expresses no gratitude; yet he claims the privilege of a child in sharing his father's goods. The inheritance that would fall to him at his father's death he desires to receive now. He is bent on present enjoyment, and cares not for the future.

Having obtained his patrimony, he goes into "a far country," away from his father's home. With money in plenty, and liberty to do as he likes, he flatters himself that the desire of his heart is reached. There is no one to say, Do not do this, for it will be an injury to yourself; or, Do this, because it is right. Evil companions help him to plunge ever deeper into sin, and he wastes his "substance with riotous living."

The Bible tells of men who "professing themselves to be wise" "became fools" (Romans 1:22); and this is the history of the young man of the parable. The wealth which he has selfishly claimed from his father he squanders upon harlots. The treasure of his young manhood is wasted. The precious years of life, the strength of intellect, the bright visions of youth, the spiritual aspirations—all are consumed in the fires of lust.

A great famine arises, he begins to be in want, and he joins himself to a citizen of the country, who sends him into the field to feed swine. To a Jew this was the most menial and degrading of employments. The youth who has boasted of his liberty, now finds himself a slave. He is in the worst of bondage—"holden with the cords of his sins." (Proverbs 5:22.) The glitter and tinsel that enticed him have disappeared, and he feels the burden of his chain. Sitting upon the ground in that desolate and famine-stricken land, with no companions but the swine, he is fain to fill himself with the husks on which the beasts are fed. Of the gay companions who flocked about him in his prosperous days and ate and drank at his expense, there is not one left to befriend him. Where now is his riotous joy? Stilling his conscience, benumbing his sensibilities, he thought himself happy; but now, with money spent, with hunger unsatisfied, with pride humbled, with his moral nature dwarfed, with his will weak and untrustworthy, with his finer feelings seemingly dead, he is the most wretched of mortals.

What a picture here of the sinner's state! Although surrounded with the blessings of His love, there is nothing that the sinner, bent on self-indulgence and

sinful pleasure, desires so much as separation from God. Like the ungrateful son, he claims the good things of God as his by right. He takes them as a matter of course, and makes no return of gratitude, renders no service of love. As Cain went out from the presence of the Lord to seek his home; as the prodigal wandered into the "far country," so do sinners seek happiness in forgetfulness of God. (Romans 1:28.)

Whatever the appearance may be, every life centered in self is squandered. Whoever attempts to live apart from God is wasting his substance. He is squandering the precious years, squandering the powers of mind and heart and soul, and working to make himself bankrupt for eternity. The man who separates from God that he may serve himself, is the slave of mammon. The mind that God created for the companionship of angels has become degraded to the service of that which is earthly and bestial. This is the end to which self-serving tends.

If you have chosen such a life, you know that you are spending money for that which is not bread, and labor for that which satisfieth not. There come to you hours when you realize your degradation. Alone in the far country you feel your misery, and in despair you cry, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" Romans 7:24. It is the statement of a universal truth which is contained in the prophet's words, "Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited." Jeremiah 17:5, 6. God "maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:45); but men have the power to shut themselves away from sunshine and shower. So while the Sun of Righteousness shines, and the showers of grace fall freely for all, we may by separating ourselves from God still "inhabit the parched places in the wilderness."

The love of God still yearns over the one who has chosen to separate from Him, and He sets in operation influences to bring him back to the Father's house. The prodigal son in his wretchedness "came to himself." The deceptive power that Satan had exercised over him was broken. He saw that his suffering was the result of his own folly, and he said, "How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father." Miserable as he was, the prodigal found hope in the conviction of his father's love. It was that love which was drawing him toward home. So it is the assurance of God's love that constrains the sinner to return to God. "The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance." Romans 2:4. A golden chain, the mercy and compassion of divine love, is passed around every imperiled soul. The Lord declares, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee." Jeremiah 31:3.

The son determines to confess his guilt. He will go to his father, saying, "I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." But he adds, showing how stinted is his conception of his father's love, "Make me as one of thy hired servants."

The young man turns from the swine herds and the husks, and sets his face toward home. Trembling with weakness and faint from hunger, he presses eagerly on his way. He has no covering to conceal his rags; but his misery has conquered pride, and he hurries on to beg a servant's place where he was once a child.

Little did the gay, thoughtless youth, as he went out from his father's gate, dream of the ache and longing left in that father's heart. When he danced and feasted with his wild companions, little did he think of the shadow that had fallen on his home. And now as with weary and painful steps he pursues the homeward way, he knows not that one is watching for his return. But while he is yet "a great way off" the father discerns his form. Love is of quick sight. Not even the degradation of the years of sin can conceal the son from the father's eyes. He "had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck" in a long, clinging, tender embrace.

The father will permit no contemptuous eye to mock at his son's misery and tatters. He takes from his own shoulders the broad, rich mantle, and wraps it around the son's wasted form, and the youth sobs out his repentance, saying, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." The father holds him close to his side, and brings him home. No opportunity is given him to ask a servant's place. He is a son, who shall be honored with the best the house affords, and whom the waiting men and women shall respect and serve.

The father said to his servants, "Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and

shoes on his feet; and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry."

In his restless youth the prodigal looked upon his father as stern and severe. How different his conception of him now! So those who are deceived by Satan look upon God as hard and exacting. They regard Him as watching to denounce and condemn, as unwilling to receive the sinner so long as there is a legal excuse for not helping him. His law they regard as a restriction upon men's happiness, a burdensome yoke from which they are glad to escape. But he whose eyes have been opened by the love of Christ will behold God as full of compassion. He does not appear as a tyrannical, relentless being, but as a father longing to embrace his repenting son. The sinner will exclaim with the Psalmist, "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him." Psalm 103:13.

In the parable there is no taunting, no casting up to the prodigal of his evil course. The son feels that the past is forgiven and forgotten, blotted out forever. And so God says to the sinner, "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins." Isaiah 44:22. "I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." Jeremiah 31:34. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:7. "In those days, and in that time, saith the Lord, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found." Jeremiah 50:20.

What assurance here, of God's willingness to receive the repenting sinner! Have you, reader, chosen your own way? Have you wandered far from God? Have you sought to feast upon the fruits of transgression, only to find them turn to ashes upon your lips? And now, your substance spent, your life-plans thwarted, and your hopes dead, do you sit alone and desolate? Now that voice which has long been speaking to your heart but to which you would not listen comes to you distinct and clear, "Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your rest; because it is polluted, it shall destroy you, even with a sore destruction." Micah 2:10. Return to your Father's house. He invites you, saying, "Return unto Me; for I have redeemed thee." Isaiah 44:22.

Do not listen to the enemy's suggestion to stay away from Christ until you have made yourself better; until you are good enough to come to God. If you wait until then, you will never come. When Satan points to your filthy garments, repeat the promise of Jesus, "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37. Tell the enemy that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin. Make the prayer of David your own, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Psalm 51:7.

Arise and go to your Father. He will meet you a great way off. If you take even one step toward Him in repentance, He will hasten to enfold you in His arms of infinite love. His ear is open to the cry of the contrite soul. The very first reaching out of the heart after God is known to Him. Never a prayer is offered, however faltering, never a tear is shed, however secret, never a sincere desire after God is cherished, however feeble, but the Spirit of God goes forth to meet it. Even before the prayer is uttered or the yearning of the heart made known, grace from Christ goes forth to meet the grace that is working upon the human soul.

—Taken from the book, *Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 198-206

Ultra Fighter

CAPSULES	PRICE
90	$17.99
180	$29.99

Suggested Adult Usage:
If you feel like you might be coming down with something: Take 2 capsules, 2-4 times per day on an empty stomach (otherwise with food if not tolerated well).

If you are currently under the weather: Take 2-4 capsules every 4 hours on an empty stomach (otherwise with food if not tolerated well) until the symptoms subside (no longer than 10 days at a time).

Ingredients:

Echinacea Extract - A powerful herb that helps to balance and strengthen the immune system, decrease inflammation, and reduce symptoms.

Garlic Extract (odorless) - Boosts and supports the immune system, aids circulation.

Burdock Root Powder - Used as a blood purifier to cleanse the bloodstream of toxins. Promotes healthy cell growth.

Ganoderma Mycelium - Acts as a regulator that fine tunes the immune system and is very high in antioxidants.

Molkosan - May help control the spread of germs on the skin and the digestive tract.

Red Clover Blossom Powder - Improves circulation which helps purify the body and speed recovery.

Turmeric Extract - It's anti-inflammatory benefits aid the immune system and ease discomfort.

Olive Leaf Extract - Eliminates free radicals in the system, also helps reduce the production of micro-toxins in the body that can cause discomfort.

Astragalus Root - Helps to support and maintain a strong and healthy immune system.

Barberry - Helps decrease swelling, inflammation, and has a cooling effect on the body.

Grapefruit Seed Extract - It naturally detoxifies, enhances, and supports the immune system.

Neem Oil - Strengthens the immune system.

Pau D' Arco - Provides nutritional support for the immune system.

Goldenseal Powder - It dramatically boosts the immune system. Encourages healthy cell growth and destroys microtoxins.

Caprylic Acid - A fatty acid derived from coconut oil that increases energy levels, encourages healthy cell growth, and strengthens the immune system.

Feel sick? Immune system down? Sensing sickness coming on? Fight back today! Ultra Fighter is our one-two punch for taking down the bugs trying to take YOU down! There is nothing like not feeling good and not being able to do anything about it. That is where our all-natural Ultra Fighter comes in! We have the answer for those times when you feel you are coming down with a bug! Knock out the scratchy throat, the aches and discomfort, the chills, and congestion with Ultra Fighter before the bug has time to knock YOU down! Throw the first punch with Ultra Fighter!

Ultra Fighter:

- Supports the immune system
- Does not disrupt the healthy flora balance
- Is safe and mild on the system - no risky side effects
- Increases the activity of white blood cells, raising the level of interferon and stimulating blood cells to engulf invading microbes
- Is a powerful antioxidant that can diminish bacteria that may cause skin eruptions
- Has been shown to ease inflammation and infections, particularly of the respiratory system, the bladder, and urinary tract

Customer Testimonials:

"We use these when we feel like we're coming down with something and they usually help." ~C.S.

"Taking 1-2 of these a day over the winter & haven't been sick since!" ~A.P.

Ultra Fighter is a must - have herbal defender - it will strengthen and protect your body in times of stress and seasonal change!

SUPPLEMENT FACTS

Serving Size: 2 capsules
Servings Per Container: 45

Amount Per Serving		%DV
Echinacea Extract	300 mg	*
Garlic Extract (odorless)	200 mg	*
Burdock Root Powder	150 mg	*
Ganoderma Mycelium	100 mg	*
Molkosan	100 mg	*
Red Clover Blossoms Powder	100 mg	*
Turmeric Extract	100 mg	*
Olive Leaf Extract	75 mg	*
Astragalus Root	50 mg	*
Barberry	50 mg	*
Grapefruit Seed Oil Extract	50 mg	*
Neem Oil	50 mg	*
Pau D'Arco	40 mg	*
Goldenseal Powder	25 mg	*
Caprylic Acid	20 mg	*

*Daily Value not established.

Veggie Capsule Ingredient: Pine Tree Pulp

Ultra-Fighter

by Dr. Kaye Olson, ND

This month we would like to direct your attention to the **Ultra Fighter.** If you have never heard about the **Ultra Fighter**, prepare to be amazed!

This unique blend of herbs has made a believer out of even the biggest skeptics. If you are already a believer in natural remedies and herbal supplements, you may have tried to reach out to friends and family members concerning the benefits of natural health solutions. You may have found this to be a frustrating experience! We share your pain! Our staff has always felt a burden to have family members or friends try our Hope for Health products because we know how effective they are. And yet, even with all the testimonies we receive from customers, even with all the scientific evidence we have, we are often met with resistance.

However, the one exception is Ultra Fighter. This is one product that most people are willing to try. When you are down with a bug, missing work or school, you are usually willing to try anything. We have had a 99.5% success rate with these usual "non-herbal believers."

Ultra Fighter is a unique blend that Hope for Health has developed to give the immune system the extra punch it needs. This is particularly helpful during the winter months when sickness is more prevalent.

Why is Hope for Health always talking about boosting, supporting, and improving the immune system? The immune system is *THE* system in our body that keeps us safe from infection and sickness. Our immune system plays a crucial role in maintaining proper health, actually keeping us alive!

Any harmful bacteria or other agent that enters our body is prevented from causing damage to the body because the immune system deals with it. The immune system is like a bouncer at the door of our body keeping out the bad guys. We live in a world filled with billions and billions of germs. Every time we inhale a breath of air, every drop of water we drink, every bite of food we eat, every surface we touch, has the potential to expose us to billions of germs. If our bodies are not protected, we are vulnerable to attack by this army of germs! A strong immune system will be able to fight against all these germs and keep us protected.

This is going to be a little gross, but it is an excellent illustration. When someone dies, their immune system *(along with everything else)* shuts down. In a matter of hours, all sorts of bacteria, microbes, and parasites invade the body. None of these things are able to get in when your immune system is working, but the moment your immune system stops, the door is wide open. Once you die, it only takes a few weeks for these organisms to completely dismantle your body and carry it away, leaving only a skeleton. Obviously, your immune system is doing something amazing to keep all of that dismantling from happening while you are alive!

Long story short, it is very important to be kind to your immune system. If you give it a boost and lots of support, it will protect you!

You may be familiar with some of the herbs present in Ultra Fighter; perhaps you have taken them as individual herbs. However, as good as the individual herbs are, when combined with each other they are a force to be reckoned with! You won't find any nasty germs that can withstand the one-two punch of Ultra Fighter!

Here is a brief look at some of Ultra Fighter ingredients (see the full list on page 8):

Echinacea

If you suffer from recurring infections, such as ear infections, the echinacea in Ultra Fighter may be the answer for you. Echinacea will help your body understand the infection better; it will acquaint your body with this type of infection so it is ready to stop it from happening again. Isn't that an amazing concept? The immune system has a memory. It keeps a record of the infections that want to harm you, and it builds up a defense for these known invaders.

Burdock Root

Burdock root contains powerful antioxidants, substances that help protect your body from free radicals, which are the unstable molecules that damage healthy cells.

Traditionally, burdock root has been used as a blood purifier, clearing toxins from the bloodstream.

Astragalus Root

This root is often combined with other herbs, such as in Ultra Fighter, to strengthen the body against illness. Astragalus is called an adaptogen, meaning that it helps to protect the body against various stresses, including physical, mental, or emotional stress. Astragalus has antibacterial, antiviral, and anti-inflammatory properties.

Pau d'Arco

Pau d'Arco is considered to be an analgesic, antioxidant, anti-parasitic, antimicrobial, antiviral, astringent, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, anti-fungal, and laxative. It has a long tradition of helping with respiratory conditions, coughs, fevers, and various infectious health problems.

Goldenseal

Goldenseal has numerous uses that are attributed to its antibiotic, anti-inflammatory, and astringent properties. It soothes irritated mucous membranes, supporting the health of the eyes, ears, nose, and throat. Taken at the first signs of respiratory problems, goldenseal in Ultra Fighter may help to keep further symptoms from developing. It has also been used to help reduce fevers, and to relieve congestion and excess mucus.

We told you to be prepared to be amazed! Are you convinced that you need to support your immune system? We hope that you will seriously consider this all-natural, thoroughly-proven, easy-to-take, immune-strengthening, must-have tough fighter for you and your family!

Ultra Fighter is safe for your unique system—no risky side effects!

Dr. Kaye Olson and the Hope for Health staff are ready and willing to answer any product or health questions you may have. We are also happy to consult with you regarding any diet or lifestyle changes. Please call 828-649-0278.

If you wish to order or would like a free copy of our informative catalog, please call, visit our website or fill out the order sheet at the back of this publication.

Odorless Garlic

CAPSULES	PRICE
120	$14.99

Suggested Adult Usage:
Take 2 capsules twice a day with food.

Garlic may help calm the stomach, improve circulation, and support healthy cardiovascular function! In fact, more than 250 publications have shown that garlic supports and strengthens the cardiovascular system! This odorless formula is designed to give you the amazing health benefits of garlic without the offensive odor associated with it!

Amazing Garlic Facts:

- Garlic is considered both a vegetable and an herb and is a member of the lily family.
- Garlic has been used medicinally for thousands of years since ancient Greek and Roman times.
- Garlic contains 17 amino acids. Amino acids are essential to nearly every bodily function, and make up 75% of the human body. Every chemical reaction that takes place in your body depends on amino acids and the proteins that they build.
- Fresh garlic is an excellent source of allicin, a compound that causes blood vessels to open up so they can carry greater amounts of blood and oxygen to the heart.
- There are over 300 varieties of garlic grown worldwide. One of the most common varieties is American garlic, with white, papery skin and strong flavor. Italian and Mexican garlic have a pinkish-purple skins and slightly milder-flavored varieties.
- Compounds found in garlic also help to prevent platelet clumping. In this way, garlic acts as a natural blood thinner. This is why garlic compounds should be used with caution in people who are taking prescription blood thinners or aspirin.
- April 19th is National Garlic Day.
- Hippocrates, Aristotle and Pliny cited numerous therapeutic uses for garlic.
- Builders of the ancient pyramids were said to eat garlic daily for enhanced endurance and strength.
- Garlic provides sulfur compounds that are beneficial to the circulatory system and help maintain healthy cholesterol levels.
- Roman emperors couldn't eat enough garlic, as it was considered an antidote to poisons which were very popular in certain political circles of the time.
- If your rose garden is being attacked by aphids, an excellent home remedy to get rid of them is to spritz the leaves and blooms with a mixture of crushed garlic and water.

Our **Odorless Garlic** Can Help:

- Support healthy blood pressure & cholesterol levels
- Fight infections
- Maintain a healthy body weight
- Purify the blood
- Fight various illnesses
- Boost energy levels
- Regulate and improve intestinal health
- Fight and expel parasites and worms
- Maintain a healthy blood sugar level
- Reduce sensitivity to allergens and strengthen the body's defenses against allergies
- Boost the immune system by supporting the body's "natural killer" cells
- Garlic also promotes increased bile production to help reduce levels of fat in the liver

SUPPLEMENT FACTS

Serving Size: 2 capsules
Servings Per Container: 60

Amount Per Serving		% DV*
100% Garlic (Odorless)	1400 mg	†

*Percent Daily Value based on a 2,000 calorie diet.
†Percent Daily Value not established.

Vegetarian Capsule Ingredient: Pine Tree Pulp

Garlic & Weight Loss

Allicin is the most potent substance found in garlic and this has been shown to prevent weight gain in laboratory animals fed a sugar rich diet. A study published in the American Journal of Hypertension reported that animals were given either allicin or served as a control.

Although all of the animals consumed the same amount of food, weight rose only in the control group whereas the animals who were being supplemented with allicin maintained stable weight or a slight decrease was actually noticed.

Garlic & The Immune System

Research has proven that garlic can suppress the growth of unhealthy cells. Recently, researchers have published summaries of some of the positive data on garlic. They found that garlic is able to stimulate T-lymphocyte and macrophage action, promote interleukin-1 levels, and support natural killer cells. Strong activity of these key cells promotes healthy immune system function, and strengthens the body's defenses.

Garlic & The Heart

Garlic is regarded as one of the most effective remedies to help maintain a normal blood pressure. The positive effect of garlic on your circulatory system is extremely well documented and it has shown to calm the pulse, support normal heart rhythm, and relieve symptoms such as: dizziness, shortness of breath, and chest pain.

Natural Antibacterial

The Spanish have long used garlic as a preservative which helps to add credence to it's anti-bacterial properties and whole books have been devoted to the health benefits of this herb!

Jesus Knows

"Now Jesus knew what they
were desirous to ask Him."
—John 16:19.

"Now Jesus knew" and when they fain would speak,
Yet wavered, while their hearts
with fear were fraught,
And hung back, timid, sorrowful, and weak,
Behold! The Saviour had read all their thought;
And questionings awaiting not, He told
Freely the mystery His saying did enfold.

And knows He not when sad and faint we come,
While dark afflictions in our path betide,
Feeling on earth no refuge and no home,
Yet fear to question wherefore we are tried?
Will He not raise the mysteries scattered o'er,
And teach us as He taught
those anxious ones before?

Come fearlessly to Him, nor deem His ear
Too heavy, or His will too weak to save;
Let us still trust the Love that deigns to hear,
Let us recall these words—let us be brave.
Though our lips falter and our faith is dim,
"Now Jesus knows what we would ask of Him."

The Father's Love

by Joe Crews

Jesus had the ability to tell a beautiful story and this is one of the most beautiful that He told. A certain man had two sons, and the younger of them (the more inexperienced) said to the father, "give me the portion of goods that falleth to me." Luke 15:12. The father knew that it wasn't best for him. The young man shouldn't have gotten the inheritance until the old man died.

The father didn't have to give it to him, but if he refused the young man would complain, "My father is not sympathetic, he is hard, he is unkind, he doesn't understand the problems that a young man faces these days." So the father divided to the son the inheritance that he would normally have received when the father died.

The young man began to plan what he was going to do with his money. "And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country." Luke 15:13.

I want you to notice that little expression, "into a far country." He wanted to get away from his father. As long as he was in his father's house, there was still a tug on his heart strings to do that which was right. He couldn't bear to hurt his old dad. He didn't enjoy slipping out to the dances on Saturday night and out to the show houses, because he saw

that look of sadness register on the old man's face. So he decided that the thing to do was to get away from the father's house, go into a far country where no one would know him. He could have a good time, he could let down and see what the world was like.

He had always wanted to do that. He had read about the world in the novels that he had hidden away in his bedroom under the mattress. He was so excited about it.

He thought, "I will go into a far country and no one will know me. I will not hurt father's reputation. No one will know what I am doing. They can just take my name off the church books and I will live exactly as I please."

I think of the father and how it affected him as the son was enthusiastically laying his plans to go into the far country. I will tell you friends, while the boy was excited and enthusiastic about going to the far country, it brought untold anguish to the old father's heart just thinking of that hour when the son would be leaving him, and he might never see his boy again.

The day finally came. I have tried many times to picture in my imagination the hour of separation. The father tried everything he could to kindly, persuasively, dissuade him from the course of action that he had decided to take.

He tried to get the boy to stay, but he did not try to force him. The son was of age and the father knew that he could not do that. Still, the poor old father is hoping in anguish that someway, somehow, the boy will decide to stay at home.

The boy is to leave with the caravan in the late afternoon. I suppose we can never understand fully what a parent goes through until we have experienced separation ourselves. Nothing is quite so sad as when the children leave.

The old man's voice is choked with tears as he throws his arms around the boy, perhaps for the last time.

I can hear him say, "Remember, son, if things go bad, if things go wrong, remember, son, if I am still alive and you want to come home, there will always be a welcome for you here. The door will always be open."

The son pulls away. There is a strange tug at his heart strings and he knows that he ought to stay. He knows that this may kill the old man, but youth has to have its own way. A young man has to have a good time. So he makes his way up the little trail, over the hill, and then down and is lost—perhaps forever.

I can see that father as he turns toward the home. He tries to putter around with a few things, but nothing seems the same. At last, the supper hour comes, but he just toys with his food. Nothing tastes good. The worship hour comes. They have always gathered the servants with the family. The father reads from the scrolls of the prophets. He keeps looking over there at the empty chair. Even worship doesn't seem right. They kneel and the father prays for his boy.

I have also tried to live over, in my imagination, the journey the son was making to the far country. I can imagine that first night, the caravan stops out there in the clear desert air. The stars are coming out now. They have had their supper and it is time for him to go to bed. He throws a little pallet on the sand. He looks up into the sky and the stars are so close they seem like diamonds.

He says to himself, "This is the freest that I have ever felt, it is wonderful—even better than I thought."

He thinks, "I wonder if I ought to kneel and pray before I go to bed tonight?" But then, "Why should I do that?" It is to get away from his father's prayers that he is going to the far country. He throws himself down on his pallet and soon is fast asleep. Day after day they travel.

At last the boy reaches the far country, and the record says, he wasted "his substance with riotous living." He led a fast, fast life, that prodigal. I suppose he had the fastest hot-rod chariot in town. He spent his money freely and had a host of friends.

It is surprising how many friends you can have when you have a lot of money. He was surprised how friendly the young people of the town were. Why, just after they have been introduced, they are calling him by his first name. They are wonderful.

"I never realized that it was this way. I never realized that the girls would be so friendly and easy," he says to himself. "It is even better than I expected."

I am not going to stand here and tell you that there isn't pleasure in sin. You know it, and I know it. The Bible says there is pleasure in sin. But it hastens to add that it is short-lived, it only lasts for a season.

So it was with this boy. Before he could realize it, faster and faster down the toboggan slide of sin he went. At last, he began to be in want, the record says. As soon as his money is gone, his friends leave. He discovers that they weren't his friends at all. All those young men whom he thought were so wonderful—their love isn't like the father's love. Those girls that used to flirt with him and he thought were so beautiful and wonderful—their love doesn't last like a father's love. This world that he thought so wonderful seems to collapse—it bursts like a balloon.

Out of money, he begins to look for a job. He tramps the streets. His shoes are worn, his clothes dirty, he is hungry, but he can't find anything to do to make a little money. There are signs up in all the little shops, "No help wanted."

There is a famine in the country, the Bible reveals. He says to himself, "I think I will go out into the country. I am just a country boy. Perhaps I can get a job on a farm somewhere."

At last, he tramps down a dusty road and sees a sign, "Hog tender wanted." The Bible says, "And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine." He never realized that he would sink that low. In my imagination, I see him sitting out there all by himself, with no one but the hogs. His eyes are sunken, his cheeks are hollow, his lips parched. He is hungry, but all he can see are those smelly hogs crunching away on the husks.

As he sits there thinking, he sees his father's face. He thinks of his father's home, his mother and her good home cooking. How wonderful it would be to be home. He thinks of the open door and the thought startles him. Why hadn't he thought of it before? His father had said, "If things get hard, if things go wrong, just come home. As long as I am living, there will always be a welcome. The door will always be open."

He thinks of how he has wronged his old dad. The sense of his sin sweeps over his soul and he begins to weep. He thinks to himself, "Oh, how different home was." He thinks of the servants. Dad was always so kind to the servants. He thinks how wonderful it would be even to be a servant for his father.

"Say, why not do this! Dad used to have hired servants. Some of them worked by the day and others stayed on year after year—they were permanently employed. Why don't I do this: Why don't I go home to my father and say, 'Dad, I know that I don't deserve anything, I have no right to be called your son. I flubbed my chance, I squandered my living, I have ruined my reputation. I don't deserve anything, but Dad, can't I be one of your servants? Better yet, Dad, can't I be one of your permanent employees? I don't ever expect to eat at your table, but can't I take my place with the servants? I will never expect to be your son again!'" He begins to think of what he is going to say when he goes home to see his dad.

I often wish that I had a moving picture of the moment he came to that decision—when he decided, "I will arise and go to my father."

That's a wonderful decision to make. No greater decision could ever be made in this world than that. I am so glad that he made it, aren't you? Another thing for which I am glad is that he didn't decide to

stay there on the job a little longer to eke out a living in order to get fixed up before going home. It would have been a disgrace for him to go home to his father like that, but I am glad that he didn't decide to stick on the same old job until he got things straightened around and could clean himself up before going home to the father. Just as he was, he started home.

He is in a hurry. He takes the shortest, most direct route across the desert, wondering, of course, if father will still be living. Finally he comes to the fork of the hill, from the top of which he will be able to look down and see the father's house. He just plans to go around the back to the servants' quarters. He never expects to eat from the father's table again. Just as the sun is setting in the west, he makes his way up over the hill and looks down toward the father's house.

I would like to have us think for a few moments of the father. Years have passed by and, oh, what a toll they have taken on this poor old frame. Night after night he goes out, after the chores are over, after supper, after worship has ended. He makes his way, slowly, quietly on his staff as he goes out to the old stone bench under the tree—there where he had last said good-bye to his son. All the neighbors around are saying, "The old man won't last long. He is just grieving his heart out after the boy. It isn't worth it. Why doesn't he forget it."

But, oh, friends, a father's love can never forget. So out there he goes each evening. He turns and looks up over the ridge just hoping against hope that someway, somehow, his boy will return—that he will see him coming back over that ridge where he last saw him. But as the sun sets he has to make his way back. One evening when supper is over, chores are done, worship is over, he makes his way out there to the stone bench. He sits there, leaning his head against his staff and communes with God. He is praying for his boy, and oh, how he longs in his heart to see his son again.

Dusk is coming on and the only thing that he can do is just to go back to the house. He must go to bed and try to get a little rest while he waits for another day. This evening he stands out there just ready to go back to the house, but before he goes, he can't help from looking back up over the trail. He says to himself, "Oh, if my boy, my boy would only come back."

But there ... as he is looking ... he sees something coming up over the trail, up over the little ridge. Why, it looks just like his son—it is his son! Those eyes that cannot see like they used to see can still see the son. He lets out a shout of joy, drops his staff, and the Bible says that while the son was yet a great way off he ran. He began to run and the boy heard the shout and he began to run. They meet in a loving embrace.

The son realizes that he has no right to be called a son and begins that little speech through tear-dimmed eyes, "Dad, I am no more worthy to be called thy son, I've squandered my living. ..."

He tries to get it out, but the father won't let him. The father cries out, "Oh, this my boy that was lost is found." And what is more wonderful still, he takes his own outer cloak and wraps it around those filthy rags so that no one can see what his son is wearing.

Together they start towards the house. The father is so anxious to share the good news with everyone. "Oh, this my boy was lost and is found."

Oh, dear friends, such is the Father's love for you and me.

—From *Joe Crews's Radio Sermons*, used by permission

Power in the Word

1. Through what agency did God create the heavens?

"*By the word of the Lord* were the heavens made; and all the host of them *by the breath* of His mouth." "For *He spake*, and it was done; *He commanded*, and it stood fast." Psalm 33:6,9.

2. By what does Christ uphold all things?

"Upholding all things *by the word of His power.*" Hebrews 1:3.

3. Of what are some willingly ignorant?

"For this they willingly are ignorant of, that *by the word of God the heavens were of old*, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: *whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished.*" 2 Peter 3:5,6.

4. By what are the present heavens and earth reserved for a similar fate?

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now, *by the same word* are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." 2 Peter 3:7.

5. In what other scripture is it shown that creative power is exercised through the word of God?

"Let them praise the name of the Lord: for *He commanded, and they were created.*" Psalm 148:5.

6. What change is wrought in one who is in Christ?

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, *he is a new creature* [there is *a new creation*, R. V., margin]: old things are passed away; behold, *all things are become new.*" 2 Corinthians 5:17.

7. What is this new creation also called?

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be *born again*, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3.

8. Through what agency is this new creation, or new birth, accomplished?

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, *by the word of God*, which liveth and abideth forever." 1 Peter 1:23.

9. What is the first creative commandment recorded in the Bible? and what was the result of it?

"And God said, *Let there be light*: and *there was light.*" Genesis 1:3.

10. What connection is there between the creation of light in the beginning, and the light of the gospel?

"For God, Who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, *hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*" 2 Corinthians 4:6.

11. Why were the people astonished at Christ's teaching?

"And they were astonished at His doctrine: for *His word was with power.*" Luke 4:32.

12. What testified to the power of the word of Christ?

"And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for *with authority and power He commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.*" Luke 4:36.

13. What did Christ say is the seed of the kingdom of God?

"The seed is *the word of God*." Luke 8:11.

14. Where should the word of Christ dwell?

"Let the word of Christ *dwell in you* richly in all wisdom." Col. 3:16.

15. What did Christ say of the unbelieving Jews respecting the word of God?

"*Ye have not His word abiding in you*: for whom He hath sent, Him ye believe not." John 5:38.

16. How does the word of God work in the believer?

"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, *which effectually worketh also in you that believe*." 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

17. What nature is imparted through the promises of God?

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: *that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature*, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Peter 1:4.

18. By what are believers made clean?

"Now ye are clean *through the word which I have spoken unto you*." John 15:3.

19. How may a young man cleanse his way?

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? *by taking heed thereto according to Thy word*." Psalm 119:9.

20. How did God heal His people anciently?

"*He sent His word, and healed them,* and delivered them from their destructions." Psalm 107:20.

21. How did the centurion show his faith in the power of Christ's word to heal?

"The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that Thou shouldest come under my roof: but *speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed*." Matthew 8:8.

22. What power has the word when hidden in the heart?

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, *that I might not sin against Thee*." Psalm 119:11. *See also Psalm 17:4.*

23. Why did God humble Israel, and suffer them to hunger?

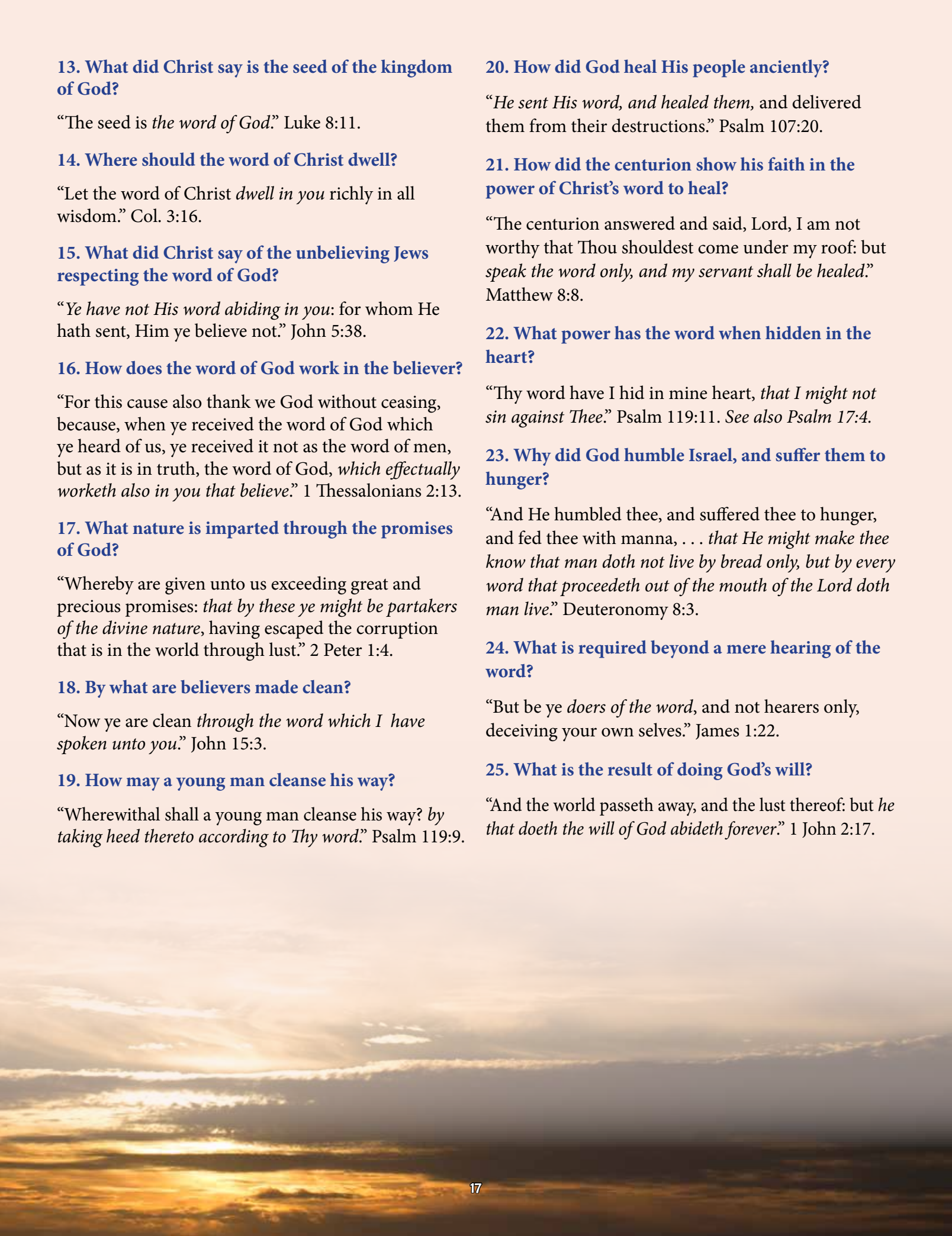
"And He humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, . . . *that He might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live*." Deuteronomy 8:3.

24. What is required beyond a mere hearing of the word?

"But be ye *doers of the word*, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." James 1:22.

25. What is the result of doing God's will?

"And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but *he that doeth the will of God abideth forever*." 1 John 2:17.



John Wesley: "Be Thou My Never-Failing Friend"

by Micah Zummach

It is August 22, 1773. In the mining town of Gwennap, England, as evening approaches, the town is astir. Word has spread that John Wesley will once again be visiting the town to impart the Word of God. A large portion of the town is making their way to the "amphitheater."

The "amphitheater" was actually an old mineshaft that had fallen in some years before, and had happened to form a nearly perfect bowl shape, around fifty feet deep. Wesley recalls, in his journal, that it was also about fourscore yards square, or about 240 square feet.

As the people arrive, the crowd begins to swell to unbelievable proportions! The seventy-year-old Wesley, using his rough calculation of the area of the place, estimated that his listeners must number upwards of 32,000—the largest group to which he had ever preached.

Soon, Wesley began. Afterwards, while visiting with those who had come to hear him, he inquired about whether they had been able to hear him or not. To his surprise, all those he asked, including those who had been at the utmost fringe of the crowd, had heard his every word!

John Wesley continued his work across England, Scotland, and Ireland throughout the 1740's. He could be found preaching to large crowds, facing malicious mobs, and walking or riding mile upon mile to deliver the Word to those dying to hear it.

In 1749, a short interruption to all this happened when Charles Wesley married Sarah Gwynne. John officiated in the wedding, and all were pleased with it. John Wesley had another reason to be happy at this special event. He was reminded that he too was to be married soon. Both parties were anxious for the day!

The young woman John had fixed his attention upon was Grace Murray, a 32-year-old widow in Newcastle. She had moved to London from her native Newcastle, and soon married a Scotch sailor. After the loss of their first child, the mourning mother went to a Methodist meeting, searching for comfort. Soon she was attending their meetings regularly, even against her husband's wishes. Eventually however, she convinced him to accompany her, and he too became a Methodist.

Then, tragically, in 1742, her husband was lost at sea. She returned to Newcastle, and there was given charge of the orphan house.

Wesley met her in August of 1748, when he came to Newcastle and fell ill during his time there. She took care of him, and nursed him back to health. It was during this time that he had a perfect opportunity to observe her. It didn't take long for interest to arise. Wesley later wrote in his journal:

> *"I observed her narrowly both as to her temper, sense, and behaviour, and loved her more and more."*

Within the same month, he proposed to her. She was so surprised and overjoyed that she said:

> *"This is too great a blessing for me; I can't tell how to believe it. This is all I could have wished for under heaven."*[1]

With their engagement settled, Wesley journeyed on to the next towns on his route. Grace did not wish to be separated from him, so she chose to accompany him. At each stop, she was a great help to him and to the different Methodist societies with whom they met.

Then, while John went on to other towns, he left Grace in Bolton. Bolton was in the circuit of another Methodist preacher named John Bennet. Here the trouble started for John Wesley's relationship. Bennet also was interested Grace, and so much so that she

wrote Wesley, saying that she felt it might be her duty to marry Bennet.

However, she was soon traveling with Wesley again, and Bennet seemed to be forgotten. As they labored together, the love that they had for each other grew by the day. While in Dublin, Ireland, they began making plans for their marriage.

They returned to England. While there, Bennet made his interest quite known to Wesley. Wesley, with a heavy heart, wrote to Grace that he was convinced she should marry Bennet. She soon wrote back that Wesley was the one she truly loved. Reassured, Wesley decided he must figure out how to satisfy Bennet, and also get the approval of Charles. Unfortunately, he did neither.

Charles was perturbed with the thought of John marrying some one of such low birth. He still had the mindset of a class society, and couldn't bear the thought of John stooping so low. He also was afraid that the marriage might distract John. If John wasn't focused on the work, the Methodist cause could fall into shambles. So strong was his aversion to the prospect, that he decided to personally stop it from happening.

Meeting Grace at a pre-arranged location, he remonstrated with her to the point that she agreed to have him take her straight to Bennet. When she arrived, she fell at his feet and begged his forgiveness for how she had treated him. This being done, they were married in a week.

John Wesley was crushed. Not only had he lost his love to another, but his brother had been the instrument to bring about this calamity! In his sorrow, Wesley penned a poem summarizing the events in his relationship with Grace. In the last three verses, we see him reaching out to grasp the faith needed to bring him through:

29. Unsearchable Thy judgments are,
O Lord, a bottomless abyss!
Yet sure Thy love, Thy guardian care,
O're all Thy works extended is.
O why didst Thou the blessing send?
Or why thus snatch away my friend?

30. What Thou hast done I know not now!
Suffice I shall hereafter know!
Beneath Thy chastening hand I bow:
That still I live to Thee I owe.
O teach Thy deeply humble son
To say, 'Father, Thy will be done!'

31. Teach me, from every pleasing snare
To keep the issues of my heart:
Be Thou my love, my joy, my fear!
Thou my eternal portion art.
Be Thou my never-failing Friend,
And love, O love me to the end!

Despite this terrible disappointment, Wesley pushed on. Wesley continued crisscrossing the countryside of England, without much of a care for himself. In June of 1750, he took his longest day's journey ever, going a distance of ninety miles in one day! With this in mind, it's easy to see why some say he, more than once, had a horse die under him.

Then, in 1751, Wesley finally married. "At last!" you might say, "after all his bad luck, he finally could settle down and enjoy his companion." To the contrary. Instead of being the woman of his dreams, she became the center of his worst nightmare!

Next month, in our final installment, we will learn about Wesley's trials in marriage, and his commitment to spreading God's word despite all obstacles.

—To be continued

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1. ***The Journal of John Wesley pg. 28***

Micah Zummach writes from Asheboro, North Carolina. He enjoys woodworking, gardening, and writing. He is the owner of Parable Gardens, a small gardening operation serving the community with organic produce and plants. (www.parablegardens.com).

A Father's Love

by G. Teasdale

A touching story is told of a sheep herder of France, whose only son, early in life, committed some wrong against his fellows, and was compelled therefore to flee from his native hills, and seek refuge in a distant country.

Many years passed, and in course of time the lad's mother died. It was then that the father set forth, old, poor, and alone, but with strong love in his heart, to seek his son. He knew that the boy had gone to the United States; beyond this, he had no clue, save the knowledge that one whose early years are spent in caring for the sheep in the free air of the hills, is very likely, in course of time, to find his way back to them again.

In his quest, the old man sought the shepherd world of the far West. Here he found work to do; and here, as he watched his flock, or led it to new pastures, he asked unceasingly of those whom he met for news of his son.

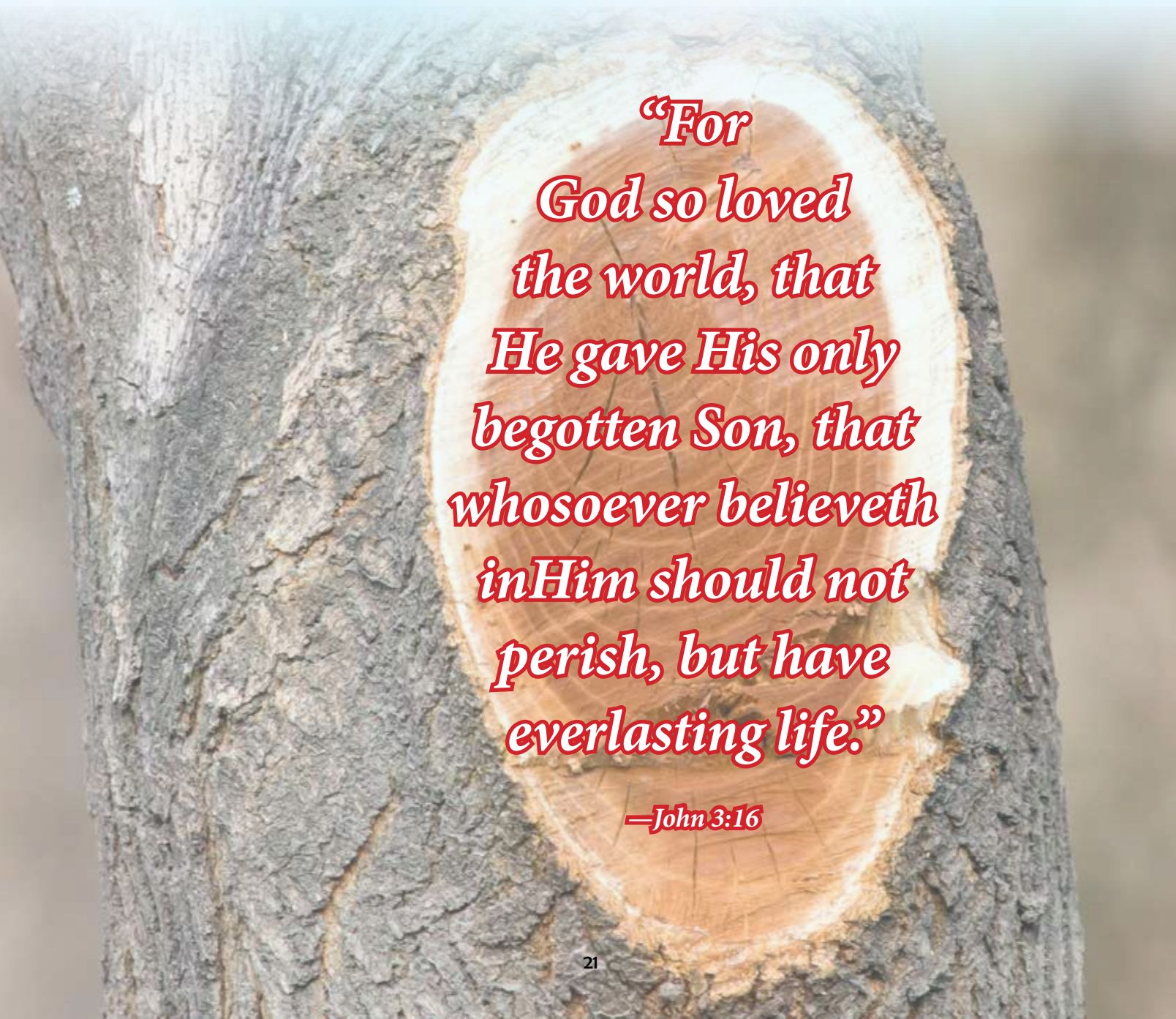
He knew that very likely if his son was to be found among those hills, he would not be known by his true name; so he did not stop with asking. Again and again he wrote upon the rocks the message, *"Jean Baptiste, your father loves you."*

And with care he cut the same loving words upon the trunks of the pines, — *"Jean Baptiste, your father loves you."*

Seasons passed, months lengthened into years, and no response came to these messages of love. But still the father sought his son. At last, after many days of wandering and longing, he found him; and, like the father in the parable, ran to meet him, fell upon his neck, and kissed him. Henceforth they dwelt together.

As this father wrote his message of love on rock and tree, that his erring son might see, so has our heavenly Father written the same word on the face of all nature. Every leaf and bud and flower, every lake and river and laughing brook, repeats the words:

"My son, my daughter, your Father loves you." And again, in the innocent faces of little children, in the peaceful countenance of serene old age, in a thousand ways and places, is the tender message written, that all may read who will.



The Word of God

Quick, Powerful, Sharp, Discerning

by Ernest Lloyd

Strange as it may seem to those who have witnessed the power of a single sentence of the Word of God to melt the hardest heart and to bring the most stubborn and rebellious will into captivity to the obedience of Christ, there are those who are very unwilling to admit the sufficiency of God's Word for the conversion of a sinner apart from the teaching of the ordained minister.

They seem to forget that both the written and the spoken word are powerless unless accompanied by the Holy Spirit's teaching; and with His gracious influence, each is effectual to produce a change of heart, to build up the believer, and to comfort the mourner in Zion.

The following experience, related by Robert Maguire, is strikingly illustrative of the efficacy of the Word of God, irrespective of human teaching.

He says: —

A few years ago, while visiting at a beautiful English watering-place, I met an earnest Christian merchant of the town, whose labors in the cause of religion were many and great. Although his occupation was not selling books, yet he had, in a prominent place in his store window, an assortment of Bibles, with an illuminated card containing the announcement, "Luther's sword sold here!"

With one of these "swords," that Christian soldier, whom I shall call by the name of Mr. Carr, fought and won the following battle: —

A band, or "troupe," of young men, dressed in very strange costumes, arranged themselves before this merchant's door one day for an exhibition of their peculiar performances.

After they had sung some melodies, with gestures and grimaces, one of the party, a tall and interesting young man, who had the look of one who was beneath his proper station, stepped up to the door, tambourine in hand, to ask for a few "dropping pennies" of the people.

Mr. Carr, taking one of the Bibles out of his window, thus addressed the youth: "See here, young man, I will give you a shilling, and this book besides, if you will read a portion of it among your comrades there, and in the hearing of the bystanders."

"Here's a shilling for an easy job!" he chuckled to his mates; "I am going to give you a public reading."

Mr. Carr opened at the fifteenth chapter of Luke, and, pointing to the eleventh verse, requested the young man to begin reading at that verse.

"Now, Jim, speak up!" said one of the party, "and earn your shilling like a man!"

Jim took the book and read:

"A certain man had two sons: and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me.' And he divided unto them his living."

There was something in the voice of the reader, as well as in the strangeness of the circumstances, that lulled all to silence, while an air of seriousness took possession of the youth, and still further commanded the rapt attention of the crowd.

He read on: "And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living."

"That's you, Jim," exclaimed one of his comrades; "it's just like what you told me of yourself and your father!"

The reader continued: "And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want."

"Why, that's you again, Jim!" said the voice. "Go on."

"And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him."

"That's like us all!" said the voice, once more interrupting; "we are all beggars, and might be better than we are. Go on; let's hear what came of it!"

The young man read on; and as he read, his voice trembled: "And when he came to himself, he said, 'How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father.'"

At this point he fairly broke down, and could read no more. All were impressed and moved. The past rose before him, and in the clear story of the gospel, a ray of hope dawned upon him.

His father, his father's house, and his mother, too; and the plenty and the love ever bestowed upon him there. The hired help, all having enough; and then himself, his father's son, and his present state, his companionships, his habits, his sins, his poverty, his outcast condition, his absurd mode of living,— all these came climbing, like an invading force of thoughts and reflections, into the citadel of his mind, and fairly overcame him.

That day — that scene — proved the turning-point of that young prodigal's life. He sought the advice of the Christian friend who had thus providentially interposed for his deliverance.

Correspondence with his parents resulted in a long-lost and dearly loved child returning to his familiar earthly home, and, still better, in his return to his Heavenly Father.

He found, as each of us may find, how true are the promises of the parable of the "prodigal son," for both time and eternity.

Surely the "fatted calf " of the Father's house is a most gainful exchange for the "husks" of the "far country."

Yes, there is One who will not chide nor scoff,
But beckons us to homes of heavenly bliss;
Beholds the prodigal a great way off,
And flies to meet him with a Father's kiss.

The Birthday Party

by Mrs. L. Flora Plummer

"O Mama!" cried little Ruth Lee, "next Thursday is my birthday! I'll be ten years old. May I have a party, and a nice supper, and lots of presents, as Mabel Murray did?"

Mrs. Lee looked thoughtful for a moment, then said, "How would my little daughter like to have a Good Samaritan party?"

"What kind is that, Mama?"

But without waiting for a reply, Ruth clapped her hands, saying, "O, I know I shall like it! May I have one? When may I invite the girls?"

Mrs. Lee explained that this kind of party was different from any that Ruth had ever attended, and said she would make all the arrangements for it. A part of the plan was that Ruth should say nothing about it to anyone else.

Ruth found it pretty hard to keep from talking about it, as it was in her mind almost all the time. But she was happy in thinking how she would enjoy the company, and supper, and presents, when the time came.

On Thursday, Mrs. Lee made some nice scones, and some of Ruth's favorite biscuits cut in squares and diamond shapes, each with a little hollow in the center filled with bright-colored jelly.

Then there were apples, oranges, and nuts, and a few pretty flowers.

”And here are the presents, Ruth,” said Mrs. Lee, uncovering the basket.

Ruth took out a pair of warm mittens, a beautiful little shawl, a pair of warm house slippers, and a few other articles of clothing. In the bottom of the basket was a picture-book that Ruth had grown tired of.

“Why, mama, what do you mean?” and Ruth’s eyes filled with tears. “Where are the girls and my new presents? I do not need these things, and some of them are old.”

“Never mind, dear, we are not at the party yet. Get your hat, while I pack the supper and presents in baskets, and then we will go.”

“O, it’s at some other house!” Ruth said. She brightened up, and they soon started. She said nothing when her mother turned down a narrow street, but walked close by her side.

When they stopped at a poor-looking house, she whispered, “Why, mama, the party isn’t here, is it?”

The door was opened by a pleasant-faced woman, who seemed very glad to see them. Lying on a cot was a little girl about Ruth’s age. Mrs. Lee went up to her and took her hand.

“How is Mary today?” she asked.

Mary’s mother said she thought her little girl was better, and added, “She gets so tired lying there with nothing to do.”

Ruth thought of the picture-book, and in a moment, it was in Mary’s hands. In a little while the beautiful shawl was around her shoulders, and some of the fruit, cakes, and flowers were on a low table near her. You could not have told which looked the happier, Mary or Ruth.

When Mrs. Lee and Ruth were again in the street, Ruth said, “This is a splendid party, Mama. Where shall we go next?”

At the next place they stopped, there was a poor woman sitting alone by the fire. Mrs. Lee called her “auntie,” and talked a little while with her. Ruth was wondering what she had in her basket that would be nice for her, when a little boy came in and held his hands, blue with cold, over the fire to warm them.

Auntie said: “Johnnie is a good boy. He does all the cleaning up for me. It’s pretty cold for his hands sometimes, but he is really brave.”

Ruth began at once to hunt for something in the basket of presents. She soon found what she was looking for, and with a bright smile she said, “Will these fit you?” Johnnie put the mittens on, and they did fit him just as if they had been knit for him.

“Do you suffer much with the cold, auntie?” said Mrs. Lee. “Only my feet. The floor is so cold I can hardly keep them warm.”

Ruth knelt at her feet and in a moment the thin shoes were off and the warm house slippers on. Then she took a plate from the table, and piled it high with some of the dainties she had brought. The thanks of poor auntie and the smiles on Johnnie’s face made Ruth feel very happy.

They made several other calls, Ruth finding a place for all the things she had brought.

When they got home, Ruth threw her arms around her mother’s neck, saying, “You are the dearest Mama, and this is the best kind of party that ever was.”

“My daughter, when Jesus was here on earth, He said something about giving and receiving presents. You can read about it in the last part of the twentieth chapter of Acts. See if you can find the verse.”

“Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

—Acts 20:35

Behold Your God

by E. J. Waggoner

We are studying God, the power of God. What words in the second chapter of Hebrews have brought this subject before our minds? *"We see Jesus."* That covers the whole thing. And in what capacity is He presented there for us to see? *"A little lower than the angels."* He is as man. Under what circumstances are we directed to look at Him? under what circumstances is He set forth? *"Crowned with glory and honor."*

But before that, what? In death, crucified. The suffering of death is first. He tasted death for every man, so that in these words, "We see Jesus," we are to see Him in the capacity of man. But under what circumstances are we to see Jesus tasting death for every man? When we preach Christ, as Paul says, "We preach Christ crucified." But that expression, "Christ crucified," embraces the resurrection as well; and the resurrection embraces "crowned with glory and honor."

Yesterday we went to the fortieth chapter of Isaiah, and in that chapter we found the message which says, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord," "All flesh is grass." But that is not all, because if that were all, it would leave us nowhere. There is another part of it—The Word of the Lord endures forever. And the message then is summed up thus: "Say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God." And thus: "We see Jesus;" "Say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God."

The lesson therefore that we are to learn now - and I do not see any use of our going further along in this book at present until we can grasp that lesson, or until we can learn to obey this injunction - is, "Behold your God." Let us look at the fortieth chapter of Isaiah a few moments further:-

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: the grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the Spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand forever. O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord will come with strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him: behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him.

Here is a message that the one who proclaims it need not be afraid to declare: "Lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God." This last message, then, is to point out God to the people so that they can see Him.

It will not be necessary for anybody to point out the Lord when He comes, and tell people to see Him. They will see Him without His being pointed out. "Every eye shall see Him." It will not be necessary then for you to call someone's attention, and say, Behold your God, because they who know the Lord will be looking for Him, and they will know Him. It will not be of any use then to say to sinners, "Behold your God," for it will be too late. Therefore

this message, "Behold your God," is to be proclaimed before the Lord comes; so that when He does come, His people will know Him, and they will say, "Lo, this is our God, we have waited for Him." It would not be right to say to those who knew not God, "Behold your God," for He is not then their God. Every man in the world has made gods to himself, has served gods of his own, but the Lord knows that we are ignorant, and He has compassion upon us even though we have said in our hearts, We do not want the Lord. We have said by our actions, We do not care to have Him over us. Our works have denied Him, but God does not take us at our word. He says, They are poor, ignorant children. They do not know what they are talking about. The Son says, I will go and declare Thy name unto My brethren. "And they that know Thy name will put their trust in Thee; for Thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek Thee." Psalm 9:10. Every one who knows the Lord must trust Him, must love Him, because He is trustworthy and lovable.

Now as the message to be proclaimed for these last days is to prepare a people for the Lord when He shall be revealed, and every eye shall see Him, we know it will be right to say, Behold the Lord. The work of those who profess to give the message or accept the message is to say to the world, Behold your God, and to give the message to all. Has the Lord cast off all the poor, ignorant weak people in the world—the heathen—whether in this or some other country? No, He loves them and counts them still His children. You know the story in the fifteenth chapter of Luke. The prodigal son took his father's goods, and went off and wasted them. The father did not cast him off. That he loved him and longed for his return is shown by the fact that when he saw him afar off he ran to meet him, and said, "This my son was dead, and is alive again. He was lost and is found." So all the time he was gone he had never forgotten him; he still regarded him as one of his children, and longed for him to come back. Now this is the way the Lord looks at all the people on the earth. He calls them His children, and He longs for them to return and to learn of Him.

The devil has deceived the world. He has borne false witness against God, and he has made all, to a greater or less extent, believe that God is unjust and overbearing, and that He does not concern Himself particularly with the affairs of men. Now we are to go to the world and say to them, Behold your God. But before we can do that, it will be necessary that we ourselves know Him. Suppose I go out with that message, and say, Behold your God, and someone asks, Where is He? but I do not see Him, what shall I do? We must be able to show God. Where can we see and learn of God? In the things that He has made. His eternal power and divinity are seen in the works of His hands. So when we learn to see Him in His works, then we can say to the people, Behold your God.

But God is revealed in Christ. Because all these things that were made, were made by Christ the Word. Very well, but Christ as He is presented before the world, is presented as Christ crucified and raised again. He is the One of whom we are to say, This is our God. We must cause the people to see Him crucified for them, and risen again for their justification. Just as we have read in Romans 10:6-9. It does not say, Who shall go up into the heavens, to bring Christ down to us that we may see Him; it does not say, Who shall go into the deep to bring Christ up from the deep, that we may have the benefit of His sacrifice; but, The Word, Christ, the Word of faith which we preach, is nigh thee.

Have we not an illustration of that in the sermon of Paul before the Athenians? They were groping after God, feeling after Him in their ignorance. He said, God is not worshiped with man's hands. He is not far from every one of us. Did he mean by that that He was a little way off? No; in Him we live, and move, and have our being. Then He is so near that He is

identified with us. God, the Lord, the Word that was made flesh for us, has identified Himself with man so closely that the bonds can never be broken, never be dissolved; He is one with human flesh, and will be through all eternity.

Now I say that when we can see that this is a living reality to us, there is courage and strength for us. Why, here I am, a sinner myself. I want to put my sins on the Lord, I want to be led of Him; not only the sins that I have committed, but this sinful disposition. How am I going to do it? "Cast all your care upon Him." How are we going to cast upon Him all our care? This is a practical question.

How many actually know how to cast their cares upon the Lord? Shall I try to gather them all up in a bundle, and throw it on the Lord? No, we cannot do that. If we remember the first words that we learned in the book of Hebrews, we have it - "upholding all things by the word of His power." He bears all things. All things are included. Sin is included; yes, He bears our sins; He bears all the sorrow and infirmities of the world. But suppose I do not believe that fact, and there are many who do not, does that make any difference? Now, there is the statement: He bears all things by the word of His power. But if I do not believe that, will that make any difference with the fact? God is true, though every man is a liar. Who is the liar? - He is a liar who does not believe the Word of God. That is the liar always, because whosoever does not believe God, makes Him a liar; that is, whosoever does not believe the Word of God, virtually says, God is a liar. When anyone says, God is a liar, what is he doing? He himself is lying. And who is it that says, God is a liar? Every one that does not believe.

Let us see. There is a word here in the first epistle of John, second chapter, and twenty-first verse. It will come right in here very well: "Who is a liar, but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ?" Well, now, it is easy enough to say that Jesus Christ is the Son of God; but it is one thing to say it, and another thing to know it, to believe it. What is meant by that, that He is the Christ? The Anointed, the Saviour. What is His work as the Christ? It is to save, to come into personal touch with the individual, to bear sins; yes, to bear our sins. How many sins does Christ bear? - The sins of all. You have that in the first part of the second chapter: "He is the propitiation for our sins," and then we forget the rest of the verse, very likely, "and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." John said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world," literally, "that beareth the sins [plural] of the world." What brought death? Sin. He tasted death for every man. Therefore, how many sins did He Have upon him? The sins of every man.

—Excerpted from *The General Conference Daily Bulletin*, February 22, 1897

Beet Powder (organic)

Our Organic Beet Powder is a wonderful cleansing and nourishing tonic that builds the blood, particularly improving the blood quality for menstruating women. It also normalizes the pH balance of the blood (reducing acidity) and purifies the blood by flushing away fatty deposits and improving circulation. Further supporting its role as a blood purifier, Beet Powder has been used to detoxify and strengthen the liver and spleen.

POWDER	PRICE
10 OZ.	$22.99

Suggested Usage:
Adult: Take 1-2 scoops in water or juice once or twice a day with meals.
Child: Take ¼ - ½ scoop in water or juice once or twice a day with meals.

Beet Powder- provides a wide range of important vitamins, minerals and micronutrients including: iron, postassium, calcium, magnesium, A, C, B1, B2, B3, B6, copper, phosphorous, sodium, iodine, boron, carbohydrates, protein, and both soluble and insoluable fiber.

Betalains, Betanin, Betaine & SAM-e

In addition to the variety of nutrients above, beet root is a unique source of phytonutrients called betalains which give beets their dark red color. Betanin and vulgaxanthin are the two best studied betalains (or pigments) from beets, and both have been shown to provide antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and detoxification support.

Organic Beet Powder also contains another extremely valuable phytochemical called betaine which performs various functions in the body. Among other things, betaine helps the liver process fats (which prevents the accumulation of fatty tissues in the liver, especially in heavy drinkers), and also stimulates the production and preservation of the amino acid SAM-e, that is found naturally in the body. SAM-e is best known for boosting certain hormones like dopamine and serotonin. These hormones are responsible for the feelings of relaxation and well-being. Adding our **Organic Beet Powder** to your diet naturally increases the production of SAM-e in the body and may lead to reduced stress, anxiety, and worry. In addition, proper levels of SAM-e may also protect joints and reduce painful joint inflammation.

Beet Powder & Bone Health

Magnesium is an important mineral in healthy bone production and maintenance. Without appropriate levels of magnesium, calcium cannot be utilized effectively. Our **Organic Beet Powder** is high in magnesium, making it a good vegetable for women concerned with bone health.

Beet Fiber

Beet fiber seems to be particularly health-promoting. Pectin, a soluble fiber in beets, binds toxins, heavy metals, and excess hormones that have been dumped into the gut from the liver. The toxins are passed out instead of being reabsorbed. In this way, it naturally cleans the kidneys and gall bladder.

Scientific Study

A 2001 study showed that the antioxidant nutrients in **Beet Powder** may prevent oxidative processes that contribute to the onset of certain degenerative disorders, says John Cuomo, PhD, of Usana Health Sciences. The study states that, "red beet products used regularly in the diet may provide protection against certain oxidative stress-related disorders in humans."

Benefits Of Our **Beet Powder** May Include:

- Purifying the blood
- Cleansing the liver, spleen, and intestines
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- Flushing the kidneys
- Helping build healthy red blood cells
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One teaspoon of powder provides the nutrition of one beet!

NUTRITION FACTS

Serving Size: 1 scoop (7 g)
Servings Per Container: 40

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Total Fat	0	0%
Saturated Fat	0	0%
Trans Fat	0	0%
Cholesterol	0 mg	0%
Sodium	38 mg	1%
Total Carbohydrate	5 g	1%
Dietary Fiber	0 g	0%
Sugars	3 g	†
Other Carbohydrates	2 g	<1%
Protein	1 g	2%
Vitamin A	11 IU	0%
Vitamin C	6 mg	10%
Vitamin E	0 IU	0%
Calcium	9 mg	1%
Folate	49 mcg	12%
Magnesium	11 mg	3%
Phosphorus	26 mg	3%
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*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.
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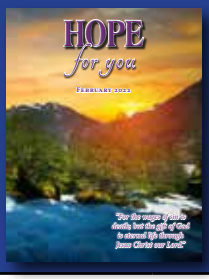

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Word Search

Find the following words in the puzzle. Words are hidden ↑ ↓ → ← and ↘ .

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