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UNFEIGNED FAITH

Part 2

By Rayola Kelley

What is unfeigned faith? We know according to the Apostle Paul that it is tied into charity that comes from a pure heart and a good conscience (1 Timothy 1:5). Unfeigned faith is faith that is void of any pretense or hypocrisy. It is a faith that inspires faithfulness, commitment, and confidence. Therefore, without love walking hand in hand with faith there will be no faithfulness. Without a pure heart there will be speculation and uncertainty, and where shame is concerned there will be no confidence when approaching a matter.

The Apostle Paul also stated in Romans 5:2 that we have access into grace by faith, which allows us to stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. As believers, we know we are saved by grace through faith. Grace is the glorious door that, once it is opened by faith, will make available the storehouse of God to each believer. All blessings and promises are a matter of God's favor being shown to undeserving man. However, it is faith that allows man to receive and benefit from God's favor.

The Apostle Paul encouraged Timothy to remember the unfeigned faith that his grandmother and mother walked in (2 Timothy 1:5). He told him that he was persuaded that the faith that Timothy witnessed in these two women also operated in his life. After all, faith is about a deep persuasion that a matter will always be found to be true and real regardless of the challenges and times surrounding the individual. Paul understood such a prospect because he operated according to such persuasion. We read about this persuasion in 2 Timothy 1:12-13: "For which cause I also suffer



these things; nevertheless, I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou has heard of me in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."

The apostle's exhortation concerning his abiding faith in Christ is clearly brought out. He had suffered many things for his faith in Christ. He was not ashamed that he had suffered such affronts for he did believe what was said concerning his Lord. Once again, the Apostle Paul's words ring forth, "So, then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

Since Paul believed the words of God, he was completely persuaded that no matter what challenged his life in Christ, the Lord would keep everything intact that was committed to Him in good faith. However, Paul also recognized that in order to possess such persuasion, a person had to hold fast in faith and love the sound words that had been spoken. This pointed to unfeigned faith that could not be moved from what had been established in the heart and mind.

We know, according to the Apostle Paul, there is only one real faith according to Ephesians 4:5. In Jude 3, we are told this faith was clearly delivered to the saints for safe keeping through sound teaching and example. Hebrews 4:2 also told us what is not mixed with faith will prove to be unprofitable. The Apostle Paul stated in Romans 14:23 that what is not of faith is sin and also warned in 2 Corinthians 13:5 that we need to examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith that was first delivered to the saints. In fact, we need to prove to ourselves that we are secure in such faith to avoid being considered or deemed a reprobate in our Christian life.

The Apostle Peter reminds us in 1 Peter 1:5-8 that faith must be tested and refined in the fiery ovens of life.

He goes on to say unfeigned faith will come forth as gold when tested. It will survive the fiery process and come to the surface as pure gold as all the dross and residues of defilement and perversion will settle to the bottom to be cast aside or consumed in the fire.

All true faith will survive the test of the ovens. It will be refined to come forth in the purest manner so that it can withstand in the greatest tests or trials and tribulations. In fact, it will always come forth in greater purity in each test for it is based on what is true and everlasting.

This brings us to the real crux of the matter, that of Jesus' ominous warning in Luke 18:8. He asked whether or not He would find real faith when He returns. Clearly, the Christian faith will come under attack. Since we cannot please God without unfeigned faith, it only makes sense that it will be a major target of the enemies of the cross. It is vital that we understand what unfeigned faith looks like. We must avoid assuming we understand what constitutes faith, and make sure we are living according to it.

We know one of the great men of faith was Abraham. However, anyone who has believed God at any point reveals faith in action. We need to consider the attitude and responses of true faith and truly examine ourselves as to whether we possess an unfeigned faith or whether our idea of faith will prove to be dross that hits bottom when tested in the fiery ovens of trials and tribulation.

The first person that I want to consider is rarely ever considered in light of faith. In fact, this person is often held up as a bad example. However, she is the first one that displayed genuine faith. Her name is Eve.

When we hear the name of Eve, we think of "that woman" who was dumb enough to talk to a serpent in the garden. Her conversation opened her up to be seduced, resulting in her transgressing the covenant of God. No one will argue that Eve's failure was a great tragedy.

In spite of being a great failure, Eve was the first one to unveil unfeigned faith. What she revealed about faith is that it chooses to simply believe God. You might be saying in what way did Eve believe God? The answer might surprise you. She believed God concerning the seed of redemption. In other words, she believed that God would fulfill His promise in *Genesis 3:15* of sending forth the seed of the woman who would redeem man from the curse that came upon all mankind through her and Adam's transgression. In fact, she so believed the prophecy and promise concerning the seed that she named her oldest son with expectation that it would come forth. Who was this son? His name was Cain. The name "Cain" points to two components of faith—that of believing and expecting. Cain means to "acquire" or "possession." But, notice Eve's declaration about Cain in *Genesis 4:1*. She declared "I have gotten a man from the LORD."

According to Katharine C. Bushnell, a professor in the 1920's who was a recognized authority in the area of Biblical translation in relationship to the original transcripts, stated in her book "God's Word to Women," that the original translation of *Genesis 4:1* should read: "I have gotten a man, --even 'the Coming One.'"

Eve believed God about the "Coming One" and lived in expectation of seeing it come to fruition. Even though Cain proved to be anyone but the "Coming One," her expectation reveals she did believe that God was going to send forth the Redeemer. Even though Jesus would not enter into history until 4000 years later, it shows how faith makes every promise of God an expected reality. Even though such a reality may not happen until years or generations later, it is up to each of us to seize upon and acquire the hope of such promises in our hearts. We need to live every day in expectation of those promises coming true. Such expectation may not be realized in the age we live in, but as the writer of *Hebrews* pointed out in *Hebrews 6:11-12*, "And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end; That ye be not slothful, but fol-

lowers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

The reality of faith is that even though it may not see a fulfillment of a promise, it lives in expectation of it coming true. Such expectation soars on the wings of hope that assures those who do cling to the promise that they will ultimately possess or acquire it when the fullness of the believer's eternal inheritance is fully realized in Christ Jesus. It is for this reason that *Hebrews 11:1* gives this definition of faith, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Eve gives us insight into the expectation of faith, but Abel gives us the evidence of such faith. Faith without works is dead. In other words, faith that fails to respond in a right way does so because it is void of expectation. Faith that has no expectation is dead. Expectation always produces action. If Eve had not expected the "Coming One", she would never have given Cain the name she did. She sincerely believed God's promise. She proved this by naming her first son in expectation of God bringing it about. Granted, faith seems to be born out of season in relationship to when such events actually take place, but it is never out of season when it comes to living in expectation of what God will ultimately bring about in the end. Faith is ongoing and will perpetuate even in generations to come until a matter is brought to fruition.

Abel's faith reiterates that it is always followed by obedience or works that declare a matter is so. Keep in mind, unfeigned faith makes three definite statements. It states since I believe a matter is true, "amen." "Amen" means "so be it." Since a matter is true, "so be it," for without any doubt or wavering "it is so." Such a matter has been stated by God; therefore, in heaven it is as good as done, and in due time it will be carried out at the appointed time in relationship to man and the age he lives in.

Abel believed God as to the type of sacrifice he needed to offer to Him. In fact, his offering brought a distinct contrast between the offering his brother, Cain, made. The contrast was made evident when God accepted Abel's offering. The evidence of faith is that God counts the actions inspired by

such faith as righteousness. If God does not put His approval on that which has been done or offered as being righteous, it cannot be considered an act of genuine faith. Keep in mind, faith acts according to God's requirements, standards, or desires.

Hebrews 11:4 tells us that by faith Abel offered God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain. As a result, Abel obtained the witness or evidence that he was righteous. His act of righteousness revealed his brother's prideful motive behind his sacrifice and even reached beyond the grave after Cain killed him, and brought an indictment against his brother. The evidence of faith will always bring a contrast, and ultimately, its very evidence will serve as a witness against those who refuse to believe what God and His Word have declared as being so.

This brings us to a very important subject: the coming of Jesus. Eve believed it, each age has brought us closer to it, and the evidence that it is at hand is all around us. However, Jesus asked if He would find unfeigned faith that lives in expectation of His coming. He wondered if there would be an active faith that would be counted as righteousness that would ultimately bring an indictment against those of the present age who refuse to believe.

We need to accept the challenge put forth in Scripture. First, we must make sure we are in the true faith that was first delivered to the saints. From the right premise we need to recognize the days we live in, heed Jesus' warnings, and take to heart His concerns about the matters in regard to His kingdom. Like Eve, we need to live in expectation of the blessed hope, and like Abel we need, by faith, offer that which is excellent to our Lord. Such excellence will ensure that the evidence of our faith will not only be approved and accepted by God, but it will reach beyond the grave as an example, as well as serve as a living witness and indictment to those who refuse to believe. ✠

RAYOLA'S HEALTH

Rayola, for those who do not know, is unable to assimilate any nutrients, has food allergies (especially to glutens), is anemic, some internal bleeding, and has other glandular challenges. Thank you for your prayers, and heartfelt thanks to those who have sacrificially donated towards her medical bills. God bless you! - 1 Jn. 3:17 -

THE LEAST By Jeannette Haley

“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, Ye have done it unto me.” – Matthew 25:40

You know, there are those times in your life when you feel a lot like what’s left over after a buffalo stampede. There’s just not much to be found, and what bits and pieces you can manage to find and scrape up and put back together don’t seem to be very important in the scheme of things. You find yourself gazing into the limitless reaches of space, and with King David asking, *“What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?” Psalm 8:4?* Then, if you’re like me, you might consider for awhile the invisible realm, and the worlds within worlds that are still being discovered under powerful microscopes. You think about the deep and wide oceans filled with all kinds of life. You then consider living on a relatively small planet, as planets go, with roughly 7 billion other people, and suddenly, you don’t feel so important. It’s all very humbling, or at least, it should be.

I think one of the wisest things my mother ever said to me when I was growing up was, “You are not the only duck in the pond, you know!” I was stunned. I thought the entire Universe revolved around me. *Isaiah 40:22*, concerning God, puts it into this perspective, *“It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity.”* You know, if God sees us as “grasshoppers,” then perhaps we should re-examine our exalted opinions of ourselves in light of His Word. *James 4:6b* says, *“Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”* How we need that grace! Notice, God doesn’t just pour His grace (unmerited favor) out upon everybody, but upon

the humble.

Human nature being what it is, however, our natural tendency is to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think (*Romans 12:3*.) After all, the world views humility as a weakness. “To the strong goes the spoil” and “I am the captain of my fate,” is the philosophy of the world, along with the “self-esteem movement” that has been rammed down our throats. Self-esteem is nothing but pride and love of self, which has nearly shoved “self-respect” and “love for God and others” out of the “picture” all together. Bottom line, we cannot serve two masters—we cannot walk in truth and be politically correct at the same time. Therefore, we have a choice to make: are we willing to become a “nobody” before the Lord, at the foot of His cross, in order to become a “somebody” that He can use in His kingdom?

You see, God does not value what we humans naturally value when it comes to people. We value the biggest, the best and the brightest. We value the strongest, the best looking, and the most successful. We value our heroes, whether they are sports figures, war heroes, movie stars, politicians, or preachers, and we also value what we consider to be the “good” things about ourselves. Now, let’s consider what God values: *“The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit” Psalm 34:18. “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise” Psalm 51:17. “For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones” Isaiah 57:15. “For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word” Isaiah 66:2.*

Ah, but we so long to be important in the scheme of things, to be admired by others and smiled upon by God. We want to be significant in our sphere of influence, to be noticed, appreciated, complimented and chief. We crave feeling special, and of great conse-

quence. Let’s face it, given the right opportunity, we humans would love being a “god” of our little worlds, exalted and adored by others who—well—were all somehow “beneath” us.

Jesus’ disciples possessed the same human feelings, problems and objectives that plague each one of us. We read in Scripture where immediately following Jesus’ announcement to His disciples that He would be *“delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: And they shall mock him and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again” Mark 10:33-34*, that these then insensitive and self-serving disciples argued about which one of them would be greatest in the Kingdom of God. We read how, among other things, Jesus told them, *“. . . whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister [servant]: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many Mark 10:43b-45.”* We read in the Gospel of John how Jesus washed the disciples’ feet, and told them, *“If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another” John 13:14, 15, 34.* This is what God values, and what is precious and acceptable in His sight.

So, having said all that to hopefully lay the foundation for a right perspective, the question is, who do you think God chooses to use? Do you think He looks for the wisest among us? Perhaps He picks the best-educated, or the “most likely to succeed” person, or maybe the most popular, or good looking. What about you? What is there about you that would cause Jesus to call you to follow Him and be His disciple? Have you ever even thought about that?

Years ago I used to think that God chose me to follow Him and serve Him because I was so special, and besides, I had read the entire Bi-

ble through, along with all the annotations, at least once. I had memorized hundreds of Bible verses, and I was in church every time the doors opened. I even went with a friend to people's homes who had been visitors at our church. I was learning a lot about operating in the gifts, discerning spirits, and deliverance, and prided myself in my gift of hospitality. I was young, energetic, and ready to roll.

Then, one day when reading my Bible, this verse hit me right between the eyes, *"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called" 1 Corinthians 1:26.* WHAAAAAAT? How could God ever use me since I considered myself as being "wise?" Go ahead and laugh, but that is where I was at that time. Of course, we know that those who think of themselves as being wise are fools. Thus, there is hope as we shall see. Continuing to the next verse, thankfully we read, *"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are; That no flesh should glory in his presence" (vss. 27-29.)*

The closer you get to the Lord, the more you begin to wonder how God could use any of us, or why He would even want to. The other thing you realize is that ministry is not something anyone should pursue, but rather, Jesus is the One we should seek after. If we pursue ministry as the ultimate goal, then surely we are fueled by our own agendas and self-serving motivations. The end result will be a man-centered, fleshly bunch of malarkey that gets on well with the world and denies the very Christ it purports to serve. Communism declares that the "end justifies the means," but this is never true in Christianity. *"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord" 1 Corinthians 1:30, 31.*

Thus, if you feel like the least of the least, and you love Jesus, then God can use you for His glory. Consider John the Baptist of whom Jesus said, *"For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he" Luke 7:28.* I wonder how many people who are stuck in their religious box have been thrown for a loop because of the fact that John did no mighty miracles as did the other prophets. And, yet, here we have Jesus stating the fact that John was the greatest of the prophets. Why? Because while the Old Testament prophets looked forward to Christ, John stood in the light of Christ, and his goal was two-fold: to prepare the way for the Kingdom of God, and to decrease so that Jesus might increase. Greatness in the Kingdom of God is always about decreasing so that Christ can increase. In other words, God's servants are not called to positions of such prominence that people look to them instead of to Christ. Therefore, when Jesus said that *"he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he"* He was establishing this principle for His followers.

If one were to travel through the Word of God, much like an archaeologist searching for precious fragments on a dig site, seeking for those people who were "the least of the least" whom God chose to use, it might prove to be a most worthwhile journey. Consider Abraham's faithful servant whose obedience, courage and faith played such an important role in finding and bringing God's chosen bride, Rebekah, to Isaac. This servant serves as a type of the Holy Spirit who searches for, and woos the Bride of Christ to her heavenly Bridegroom. Another person who would be thought of as one of the least in any society was Rahab the harlot, who hid the Israeli spies, thus saving not only their lives, but her own life and the lives of her family as well. We know that Rahab is in the lineage of Jesus.

Ruth, the Moabite, is another least likely person. Born into paganism, she married a Hebrew man, but then became a widow. As we follow her story in the Book of Ruth, we discover how God's mercy lifted this faithful woman, with a heart for Him,

out of a life of poverty into a place of protection and plenty for not only her, but her mother-in-law as well. She, too, is in the lineage of both King David and Jesus.

Speaking of David, he was the least, being the youngest, of many brothers, an unknown youth who tended sheep in obscurity. While he was an obedient son, full of courage and good character, he had great personal ambitions to be a national hero. However, God saw his heart, and what a heart it was—a heart after God that God can use.

One of the least of the least that we read about in the Gospels is the poor widow who cast all of her living into the treasury. This story always grips my heart because I have to ask myself if I was in her situation, would I love and trust God enough to give everything I had to Him? The beautiful thing is, Jesus saw her sacrifice, and if He saw the sacrifice of this poor widow, does He not see our plight, whatever it is, and our faithfulness to Him in the midst of it?

We read in Hebrews 11 of the suffering, torture and martyrdom of those nameless souls *"of whom the world was not worthy."* We might think to ourselves that surely there should be some monuments or record of them for posterity, but the Lord who sees the sparrow fall, knows them well, just like He knows you and me.

It may surprise some to know that the disciples were considered to be "the least" and beneath the status of the men of notoriety. *Acts 4:13* says, *"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."* What other credentials did they need? Wouldn't you rather be taught by the Holy Spirit, and known to walk with Jesus, than to have all the "credentials" and "titles" that man can give you? The Apostle Paul was a highly educated man, yet he confessed, *"Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" Philipians 3:4.*

These are just a few examples of the “least” in Scripture. I am sure that there must be hundreds, if one were to do a serious study. God even used Ravens to feed Elijah, and I must admit that one of my favorite “least’s” is Balaam’s ass. After all (as I often tell people) if God can use an ass, He can certainly use a woman!

It is my sincere hope and prayer that this short article has been an encouragement to your heart today. Jesus knows you. He knows where you are, and He knows the burdens of your heart. He knows all about the disappointments you have faced, as well as the times you were disappointed in yourself. He wants you to draw near to Him, and He will draw near to you, and touch your life, and make it whole, so that you can serve Him in the faith and simplicity of a child, full of joy, with the hope of glory. Won't you come to Him now?

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



A Thanksgiving Prayer

Oh, God, when I have food,
 Help me to remember the hungry;
 When I have work, help me
 to remember the jobless;
 When I have a warm home,
 help me to remember the homeless;
 When I am without pain,
 help me to remember those
 who suffer;
 And remembering, help me to
 destroy my complacency and bestir
 my compassion.
 Make me concerned enough
 to help, by word and deed,
 those who cry out
 for what we take for granted.
 --Samuel F. Pugh



RAYOLA'S Q & A CORNER

CALLING AND COMMISSION

Q: *You talk about the difference between a Christian's calling and their commission. Can you explain the difference? I've never heard that in any church I've attended. Thanks.*

A: I can understand why many Christians are confused about this matter. As Christians, we all have the same commission which is two-fold. Commission has to do with our mission to go forth and preach the Gospel and teach others to be disciples of Jesus.

However, our personal calling will determine how we are to carry out the commission. Jesus stated that many are called but few are chosen. The reason for this is because there are three types of calls that go out among mankind. For example, the first call is what I call the general call that goes out to everyone. It comes in the form of an invitation for those who will hear to come to the well of salvation and partake of the Waters that possess eternal life. People must be saved unto the life God is calling them to before they will ever realize what their true calling is in regard to His kingdom.

Next is what I refer to as the initial call that goes out to all who are saved. This call is for believers to follow Jesus into the life they can have in Him. It is a call to discipleship. Believers must learn who God is before they understand who they can be in His kingdom.

This brings us to our personal calling as Christians. This calling points to the position from which each of us as believers will execute or fulfill our two-fold commission. Positions can include being a missionary, teacher, pastor, minister, or servant of God, but such positions clearly point to our form or means of service in His kingdom. Needless to say, such positions will often identify, reveal, and refine the gifts or abilities that will enable us to carry out our calling. As you can see, your position will give you the boundaries or consensus as to your responsibilities in relationship to your calling or service to others on behalf of God.

Position is also associated with authority. If you do not have the authority, you cannot effectively carry out your commission. There will be no real

credence or power in which to be effective in your calling.

The problem is that many people put the cart before the horse. They get caught up with the idea of personal calling without being prepared to carry it out. They are often impressed with the title of a calling, while failing to understand the responsibilities that it carries to maintain the integrity of it.

As you study the concept of calling, you can see why many are called, but few are chosen. Each call will bring a separation between those who are sincere, consecrated, and devoted to the high calling they have in Christ. Eventually the “pretender” and “wannabe” will be separated from those who are willing to pay the necessary price for the fullness of their calling to be realized in their life for the sole purpose of bringing glory to God.

I hope this answers your question.

COMMENTS & EMAILS

[Concerning October article, *Unfeigned Faith, Part 1*] “Rayola, you've done such a fine job in detailing all of this! As I read about the three types of believers, I couldn't help but also realize that most of it, if not all, is due to the 'pulpit pimps' refusing to preach the pure Word of God. May God have mercy on them and their followers, on that day!!”

[Concerning October article, *Leaving*] “Jeannette, as I read through this, my spirit just resonated within me! Like almost everyone, I've had many 'leavings' in my life, and, as you so astutely said, they were either for good or bad. Regardless, just the thought of 'leaving' leaves a grieving within me, sometimes even when it's leaving the bad FOR the good. Basically we are all creatures of habit, and 'change' takes us out of our comfort zone. Nice job again, Gals! I so appreciate your ministry because it's bathed in humility and honesty. May God reward you abundantly for such a labor of love!” - FL

“Wow. you read my mind and heart on this [from Rayola's daily devotions] *“People fail to realize that the greatest discontentment in their life is caused by that which enslaves them to partake of that which has no meaning or eternal substance.”* I began to realize just how enslaved to the world's snares

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we have become, and I see more and more every day. I think that's why my wife and I are yearning for that leanness, where we depend on God for what we need, and stop chasing after the useless things we want. It is hard to be patient for that blessing though. Although at times we catch glimpses of it, they are quick glimpses, and easy to miss. Too often I think of rest as sleep, or 'not working' - but it's SO much more! Thank you!!!" - VA

OPPOSITION
By Charles Finney

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.—2 Timothy 3:12

"If you have much of the Spirit of God, you must be prepared to have much opposition both in the church and the world. It is likely that leaders in the church will oppose you. There has always been opposition in the church. So it was when Christ was on earth. I see spiritual believers often ostracized and opposed by church elders and even ministers.

"You must expect very frequent and agonizing conflicts with Satan. Satan has very little trouble with believers who are lukewarm and carnal-minded, who do not understand what is said about spiritual conflicts. They smile when such things are mentioned, and so the devil lets them alone. They don't disturb him, nor he them. But Satan understands that spiritual Christians are doing him a vast injury, and, therefore, he sets himself against them. Spiritual believers often have terrible conflicts. They have temptations they never thought of before, blasphemous thoughts, suggestions to do deeds of wickedness, to destroy their own lives, and the like. If you are spiritual, you may expect these conflicts.

"You will have greater conflicts within yourself. You will sometimes find your own corruptions making strange headway against the Spirit. 'The flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh' (Gal. 5:17). I have known spiritual believers to groan a great part of the night in conflict with inner corruption, crying to God in agony that the power of the

temptation will be broken.

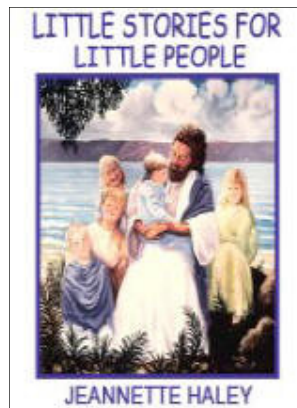
"But you will have peace with God. If the church, and sinners, and the devil oppose you, there will be One with whom you have peace. Let those of you who are called to these trials, conflicts, and temptations, and who groan, pray, weep, and break your hearts, remember this consideration: your peace, so far as your feelings toward God are concerned, will flow like a river. And you will have peace of conscience if you are led by the Spirit. You will not be constantly goaded and kept on the rack by a guilty conscience. Your conscience will be calm and quiet, unruffled as the summer's lake."

QUOTABLES

"To pretend to describe the excellence, the greatness or duration of the happiness of heaven by the most artful composition of words would be but to darken and cloud it; to talk of raptures and ecstasies, joy and singing, is but to set forth very low" --Jonathan Edwards

"If revival is being withheld from us it is because some idol remains still enthroned; because we still insist in placing our reliance in human schemes; because we still refuse to face the unchangeable truth that, 'It is not by might, but by My Spirit.'"--Jonathan Goforth

UPDATE! NOW AVAILABLE...



In this beautifully illustrated book, parents will introduce their young children to some very special characters. They will meet Oscar the clam who has a very special secret he needs to share with others. There is also Red, the sparrow who learns a very important lesson that is not easily forgotten. Then there is Finbar, the frog, who finds out that it is important to make the right choices. These three characters give parents the means to teach their children lessons and impressions that can be carried throughout their life.

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AT LAST! Finally, Rayola's long-awaited for extensive DISCIPLESHIP COURSE has been translated into Spanish. We are all rejoicing with Maria Animas, whose labor of love over the past three years on this project is completed. English-speaking Christians are abundantly blessed with Bibles and study helps, while our Hispanic brothers and sisters languish in a quagmire of unbiblical opinions and teachings founded on culture, superstition, dead religion and ignorance. This Spanish Discipleship Course is a powerful weapon against the works of darkness in the Hispanic culture and community, which will set the captives free so that they can walk in the light of truth, and grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and His plan for their lives. Contact GSM for further information on how to acquire this course for the Hispanic community in your area, Hispanic pastors and teachers, or for missionaries among the Spanish-speaking people. The harvest is great, the laborers few, and time is short.

