



The Good News Messenger



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Our Service to God and Its Benefits

By: Melody Nunn

I would like for us to consider the thought of God as our Master. The Bible says we are His servants ... yet, we are willing servants. We have asked to be His servant. You might wonder why anyone would want to be a servant. Well, let's find out why God's servants enjoy serving God.

The first reason is because God is such a loving Master. The Bible says in 1 John 4:9-10. "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

It is a very amazing love that God has! He loved us even when we were in sin and unlovable! Now, it is easy to love someone who is nice, kind, friendly, honest, etc., but that isn't someone who is bound by sin. God loved us so much that He gave His Son to die in our place. God wanted mankind to have a means whereby he could be free from the sins that bind him. God still loves people just as much today. When we choose to receive God's love through His great gift of salvation, it is just a natural result that we love Him, too. How can we help but love someone who loves us so much?! There are so many other ways God shows His love and concern for His servants, as we will see as we go down the list of reasons we enjoy serving God.

Another reason God's people enjoy serving Him is because God is always faithful to His promises. The Bible says that it is impossible for God to lie! (Hebrews 6:18) Knowing this, we should be able to trust God explicitly! Everything God has said, He will do! There are so many promises in the Bible. Some might try to argue that they were just for the people in the Bible. Yet, (Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever.") Malachi 3:6 says, "I am the Lord, I change not..." Thus we know that the promises are true for us today as much as they were for the people in the Bible. Let us look at a few of the promises God has for us in His Word.

- For salvation to the penitent: "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." (Psa. 34:18)
- Unlimited blessings: "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." (Mark 9:23)
- Eternal Life to the Righteous: "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." (John 14:1-2)

We could go on and on listing God's exceeding great and precious promises (2 Peter 1:4), but these few should give you an idea of what God's servants are given. God cannot lie, so these promises are there for us if we will just ask and believe.

You see, dear friend, God is more than a Master to us. He is our Father. He does for us all a loving father would do for his children ... and then some. That is why we enjoy working for Him. We want to do all we can to please Him!

Are you a servant of God? Can you lay hold on these great promises He has given us? Have you accepted His love for you? If not, you can today! Just seek His face repenting of your sins, believe, and receive what God has for you. Then you will know for yourself what it is to enjoy serving God!

Prayer of the Month

Take My Life and Let it Be

By: Frances R. Havergal

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee;
Take my voice, and let me sing always, only for my King.

Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee;
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.

Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in endless praise;
Take my intellect, and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine;

It shall be no longer mine;

Take my heart, it is thine own;

It shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord,

I pour, at thy feet its treasure store;

Take myself, and I will be

Ever, only, all for thee.



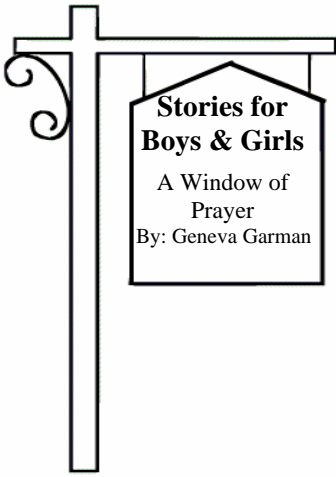
How God Protected His People (Exodus 14 – 16)

By: Eva De La Cruz

Although the people of Israel had been allowed to move out of Goshen, that did not mean that Pharaoh would let them go in peace. When they left the land of Goshen, they did not go toward the east because the Philistines, who were known to be warlike, lived there. Instead, they turned toward the southeast, in the direction of Mount Horeb. This was where Moses had seen the burning bush. Ahead of them was the Red Sea, when suddenly behind them came the chariots of Egypt. Pharaoh had realized that the people who had been his slaves were leaving the land of Egypt. Pharaoh called together six hundred chariot captains to lead the army of Egypt after the Israelites. Pharaoh wanted to bring them back. The Hebrew people were caught between Pharaoh's army and the sea, and it looked as though there was no way to escape.

God told Moses to lift up his stick over the sea. The water would divide and the Israelites would be able to pass through on dry land. The pillar of cloud moved away from its usual position and stood between the Israelites and the Egyptians. That night the pillar of cloud looked different on the two sides.

On the Israelite side it was light but on the Egyptian side it was very dark. The Israelites were hidden from the Egyptians. In the early morning the Israelites took up all their goods and marched between the two parts of the sea, which were like walls of the water on the two sides, to the other side. While the Israelites were crossing to the other side, God dealt with the Egyptians out of the pillar of fire and cloud. He caused the wheels to come off some of the chariots so that they struggled in the deep desert sand. Then as they came into the gap between the two parts of the sea, God told Moses once more to stretch out his staff over the sea. This time the water came rushing back, covering the chariots and drowning every horse and every soldier.



Stories for Boys & Girls

A Window of
Prayer
By: Geneva Garman

Hello, boys and girls. I would like to use a window as an illustration for our lesson. A window is an opening in a wall to allow light and air to come into a building. A covering is used when light or air is not wanted. In my home, all of my windows have glass panes. I enjoy the light of day all the time, and open the window for air as I desire.

Did you know that the Bible tells us about Daniel who had a window in his room? He knelt before the window three times a day and prayed to God with the window open.

Daniel was not aware that others, such as the presidents, princes, counselors, and captains were jealous of the position the king had placed upon Daniel. These enemies wanted to find a way to get Daniel in trouble with the king. They went to the king and suggested the king should make a law like this: "...make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions..." (Daniel 6:7).

The king liked the suggestion and made it into a law. The king did not know it was a wicked plan of Daniel's enemies. The king did not stop to think that praying was talking to God.

Daniel learned about the new law but was not afraid. Instead of going to another place, or praying quietly, Daniel knelt and prayed as he had always done. No doubt his enemies were just waiting to hear him pray. They did not have to wait long. Daniel prayed, they heard, and they took their report directly to the king.

The Bible tells us the king was sore displeased with himself for making such a law, and tried to find a way to save Daniel from the punishment of being thrown into a den of lions. But unable to change things, Daniel was thrown into the den of lions. The king was so grieved over making such a terrible law, that he did without food and could not sleep. Early the next morning the king hurried to the den and called out to Daniel to see if he would answer. Daniel had a wonderful answer!

Daniel 6:21-22, "Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt."

The king was so glad to hear Daniel's answer he commanded that Daniel be taken out of the den. Then the king demanded that those who accused Daniel be thrown into the den of lions. The Bible tells us that they were broken in pieces before they reached the bottom of the den.

The king made another law! Daniel 6:26-27, "I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and steadfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions."

I hope you will always remember Daniel's experience, and think of it as his window of prayer. Daniel prayed often. God loved him and delivered him from the wicked plan of his enemies. He delivered him from death in the den of lions. Daniel thanked God for his love and tender care. The king was also happy about Daniel's deliverance and how God took care of Daniel.

God cares about you just like He cared for Daniel. He wants you to pray to Him every day. Daniel took time to pray; we must take time to do that, too. You may not have a "window of prayer" but you should have a time of prayer.

I am glad I learned to pray when I was a small child. I am now past the age of 80 and still love to talk to my Heavenly Father. He listens and answers as it is best for me. He will help you all of your life, also.

Whole-Hearted Service

By: C. W. Naylor & B. E. Warren

I've turned from the world and its follies, forever forsaken all sin;
I've given myself unto Jesus to ever and only serve him.

I will not be languid or careless, or formal or cold or untrue;
But striving with earnest endeavor, the will of my Lord I will do.

Since Jesus gave all to redeem me, since only through mercy I live,
It now is my joy and my purpose a whole-hearted service to give.

Oh, help me, dear Lord, to be ready the task that thou givest to do,
Not shrinking from labor or duty, devoted and faithful and true.

I'll put my whole heart in his service, and do all he asketh of me;
I mean to live holy and blameless – a Christian indeed will I be.

Testimonies

There are many benefits to serving God. The testimonies of the saints given in this article show some of the benefits to serving God.

Sis. Zelma: I just wanted to thank God for what he has done for me. When I was helping my sister (Oleta) as she was recovering from an operation, her dog got under my feet and I fell back against the refrigerator. I thank God that I did not fall all the way and hurt myself badly, and also that I did not hurt the dog.

Sis. Wilma: I had called Sis. Zelma telling her that I had a real bad headache and that she did not need to come pick me up for church. After I hung up, I thought, "I am not going to miss service". I called her up and said, "Zelma, I'd like you to come pick me up. I am going to church." I just want to thank God for helping me to enjoy the service, as when I got to church my headache was just going away.

Bro. Ron: In November of 1979, I was saved from all sin. On one summer evening, I found the church of God, and since that very small beginning I have gained so much. Since then I have continued on 21 years as a Christian (working on making it 22 years), committing my life to Jesus who died on the cross to save me from sin. He died to save not only me but also you from your sins. Now, I never want to go back to this world of sin again.

Just as God provided for these saints, he cares for and protects all of his children. The Bible tells us in Ephesians 3:20, "...unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,...." God is able to do more than we could ever ask or think. If we ask Him, we can receive that which we asked for. His benefits are many. Are you also a recipient of His unsearchable riches?

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Spanish interpretation is available in the services.

Service Times:

Wednesday Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Young People's Service	4:45 p.m.
Sunday Children's Service	5:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.



We have literature available for those who would like to study the Word of God in the confines of their home. Let us know if you are interested by contacting us at the above telephone number, address, or website.