





# **Hold On**

**By: Sandy Haga  
(c) 2022**



## **Table of Contents**

<b>Page</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Your Valuables</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Who God Is</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>God's Word</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>The Truth</b>
<b>39</b>	<b>Be Who God Made You</b>
<b>54</b>	<b>A Sound Mind and No Fear</b>
<b>61</b>	<b>A Good Future</b>
<b>69</b>	<b>Closing</b>



## **Introduction**

There are thieves all around you. They are trying to steal your valuables. Now you may think that you don't have any valuable things. But you do. You just may not realize it. Now before you get all panicked and fearful about the thieves that are all around you, let me explain. I'll use this as an example. Fear is one of those thieves that is stealing from you. It can steal who you are right out from under you. It can steal your freedom. It can put bars around you just like you are in a prison where you are afraid to come out of your room. It can steal your relationships with your friends and family. It can steal your life away if you let it. I have watched it do that to bunches of young people. Fear is one of the thieves that can steal your valuables. Do you see what I mean? What other kind of thieves are around you to steal who you are and your freedom as a person? And what kinds of valuables do you have?

These thieves may be other people who are trying to steal who you are. It may be ideas, things that you hear that try to steal away who you are and what you believe. It may be feelings like fear that come in to mess you all up. The biggest thief that can steal away things from you is yourself. You can be your own worst enemy. You can even steal your future away from yourself. Sound nuts but it is true and if you have experienced this you know it is true.

In this book we'll talk about your valuables, the things that you have that are precious. I mean by that those things in you that are a part of you that is precious. You may not think that you are very special at all. You may think that there is nothing valuable about who you are, but that is not true. We'll talk about how you are special, and you are valuable. We'll talk about who you are and how you can change your world. You can do that because if you are saved you have Christ inside of you. When you get saved, you ask Him to come into your heart and mind and He does. He lives in you changing you making you to be a light to light up this dark world we are in. If you have Jesus inside of you through the Spirit of God that comes inside of us, then you are something very valuable. You are valuable to God who becomes your Father. You are valuable to the people around you, to your family and friends because you have something in you that can change their lives and change their world. We'll talk about this and more valuable things that you have. You are not worthless. You are worth a lot. We'll talk about how valuable you are.

Then after we talk about your valuables, we'll talk about the people and the things that are trying to steal your valuables. For example, if you have a low self-esteem, if you think that there is nothing special in you, then that can be a thief that steals away who you are and what you can do in God. The thieves may be people that are around you that keep you beat down and feeling worthless. It may be people who are



trying to get you to become like them instead of you being the person that God created you to be. The thieves may be ideas about certain things that can just put you in jail, the kind of jail that may not have real iron bars, but it has bars that lock you up all the same. They lock up your heart and mind and steal your freedom.

Just what valuables do you have? And who is trying to steal them? And what can you do about it? Stay tuned.

## **Chapter 1**

### **Your Valuables**

### **Your Riches**

Now I have been blessed. I can say that there have been some times in my life that God blessed me with a lot of money. I can also say that there have been times when we didn't know where our next meal was coming from. This may sound weird but I can really say that the times when I was the richest was the times when we had nothing. Because during those times when I had nothing, I realized that the things that were making me rich wasn't money. I realized that it wasn't the physical things that I had that made me rich. I could see that the most important things I owned weren't even things that I could hold in my hands. But even though I couldn't see them, they shaped my life. I learned that the most valuable things that I owned were those things that were inside of me. And it was there in those hard times when I learned that the things around me that really counted were the things that could keep me going even when the going got rough.

I want to share with you what I found my valuables to be. My valuables were things like my knowledge about God, who He is and how He loves us so much that He sent His son to die for us. That is a lot of love. That is the kind of love that will stand you up to be a light in the darkness of this world. I found out how the Word of God is valuable. It gives me

something to hold onto when it seems like the world is sinking. It gives me a compass to help set the direction of my life where I am headed in a direction that leads to victory and winning. That is something that is very valuable to me. Those things are more valuable than money and that kind of riches.

One of the most valuable things that you can have is the knowledge of God's Word, the Bible. God's Word can change your life. When life kicks me down and I am laying on the bottom, if I can get hold of God's Word it gives me the strength I need to grab hold and pull up. On every side you have people and voices that tell you that there is nothing to God's Word. They tell you that it is wrong to be a Christian. They tell you that it is wrong to believe in God's Word. They tell you that there is good in every religion and how do we know which one is true. We know which one is true because of God's Word. When you study it out, you know it is true. There have been so many people who studied the Bible with the purpose of proving that it was wrong saying that it was a lie. But while they studied it, they discovered that in every part of it they could plainly see the miracle that it is and the miracles that are in it. While they were trying to prove it to be a lie, they proved it out to be true.

The truth and being able to know the truth is a valuable thing to have. When we don't know the truth, that leaves us wandering around in the darkness without a light to light our way. In today's world, it is

scary because we can't find out the truth. There are so many lies all around. There are people who are turning the truth into lies, and lies into truth. God's Spirit is the best lie detector you can have. He will show you what is true, and He'll shout out what things are lies. He'll let you know.

Your identity, who you are and what you are like, is something that is valuable. If we aren't careful we let thieves steal away who we are. We can let bullies steal away who we are. I know a lot of kids who come to our school because they were bullied in the public school. They come in with their heads down. They just shrink down in their chairs because they feel so worthless. They have let those bullies steal who they are. They have let those bullies steal their identity. After getting away from those influences, they begin to find again the truly unique people that God made them to be. They get their identity back and they find out once again who they are and how precious that they are.

One of the things that the bullies in school seem to attack is your right to make a stand for what is wrong or right. That seems to be something that they target. Have you ever wondered why? When you stand up for what is wrong or right, when you stand up for the morals and standards in God's Word, why do they hate you for it? You show them what they need to do and how they need to be and they don't want to hear it. They want to do what they want to do no matter

how it destroys their heart and mind. They want to do it no matter how much it destroys their lives. They don't want to hear anyone tell them that what they do is wrong so they actually cut themselves off from help. No one can help them. They are on a one way track to hell and a one way track to destruction and no one can help them to turn around. So when you look at it that way, how valuable is your right to know what is wrong and right and how valuable is your right to stand up for what is right? It is very valuable indeed.

People are acting so crazy. I remember I heard somebody make this statement not long after covid started. They said, "The crazies are coming out. They are coming out all over." And he was absolutely right. People lost their minds. They lost any common sense that they had. And it has gotten worse from then. One example is how everybody started hoarding toilet paper. Why couldn't we get toilet paper? Because people were buying it up. I heard about people who bought whole closets full and whole truckloads full. What sense did that make? We all had to have it rationed out to us because the crazies came out. Sometimes I will hear what people are doing and how they are thinking and it just makes me want to shake my head and roll my eyes. It is just craziness. It seems like people no longer have common sense. A sound mind is a very valuable thing. I think that fear is what has brought about this craziness. The Bible says this in 2 Timothy 1:7, "For

God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." It is fear that messes with our minds. When we are all panicked, it stops us from thinking right. It stops us from having a sound mind. We have a right to have a sound mind. It is a very valuable thing to have. Without it, we just act crazy with all the rest of the crazies.

One of the most valuable things that we have is the right not to be afraid. When you study God's Word you see that as God's children we have the right not to be afraid. In Luke 12:32 Jesus said, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." The Bible says in 366 places the words "FEAR NOT". Our right not to be afraid and our right to have peace and hope is very valuable especially in today's mixed up world.

Another valuable thing is our right to have a good future. If you aren't careful, there are thieves that will try to steal your future. It may be people that are trying to get you involved in things that can wreck your life and steal your future. It may be a way of thinking that leads you to feel that things are so bad in your world that there is no hope for your future. I am here to tell you that as children of God we not only can find a good future here on earth with promises of better to come, but we also have promises that will last for eternity. We have promises of a wonderful future that will last forever. There is no truth in the thought that your future stinks so why should you get

excited about it. We'll talk more about that in chapters ahead.

I have just briefly shared with you here in this first chapter some of the valuable things that you have that thieves, bullies, are trying to steal from you. I am going to talk more about each one of these in the chapters coming up. And we'll talk about how you can hold onto your valuables in a world that seems determined to steal them away from you. We'll also talk more about how you are very valuable to God. All this is coming up.

## **Chapter 2**

### **Who God Is**

I mentioned earlier how one of the most valuable things that I have is knowing who God is and knowing that I know Him and knowing that He knows me and walks with me. I can truly honestly say that if I didn't know that I would have died long ago probably by taking my own life. That sounds like a bold thing to say, but listen and I'll tell you the story of how I came to know Him and you'll see why I say that.

I grew up in church. I knew a lot about God and His Word. I thought that I knew Him, but it turned out that I didn't know Him as close as I thought. I went to Radford University to college right out of high school. I wasn't ready for that at all. The first time I got drunk was the first time that I smoked pot. I jumped into that life style head first. I thought it was fun and exciting. At least I thought so until I totally wrecked my life. It just took a couple of years to do that.

Your decisions that you make every day may not seem important, but they can start you on a road that either leads to destruction, or they can start you on a road that leads to victory. Mine led to destruction. I wrecked my life, my mind, my body, my health, my well being. I wrecked it all. It really didn't take long either. That road led me to a moment in time when I



gave up. I tried to kill myself. I tried to drive my car off of a cliff over the river. I prayed and said, "God, if you aren't real I have no hope. I am such a mess. If you are real then you are my hope. Please stop me." When I went around that curve I was going so fast that I didn't even squall tires. I wasn't even on the road. But I made it around that curve. That is when I finally jumped into God's arms for real. I knew that He was my only hope and I knew that He could and would help me and keep me. That was the beginning of lifetime of hope, a lifetime of peace, a lifetime of new beginnings and a love that will last forever.

I found a relationship with God that is real. I know who Jesus is. I know what He is like. Why? Because He has been my best friend for over 40 years. He has kept me through the storms and I know that I can trust Him to keep me and guide me forever. John 15:13 tells you that Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." What kind of a friend is Jesus? He loves you enough that He died for you so that He could be your friend and walk with you. Do you know any friends that will be your best friend for eternity? That is the coolest thing about walking with the Lord. Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." He'll be your best friend forever and He won't change. He will be the same for eternity. You can count Him to be there for you.

It hasn't all been easy and it hasn't all been wonderful, but when the storms came I wasn't walking alone. I had my hand in the hand of my Father and He guided me through the rough places keeping me safe through it all. Isaiah 41:10 says, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." In the middle of the battles of life, I found victory. In 1 Corinthians 15:57 we read, "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." We are winners when we walk in Him. In the middle of the times when I felt all alone, I would feel His wonderful love wrapping me up.

In 1 John 4:16, 19 we read, "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us." We don't have to be afraid. When you know God's love, you know that He will keep you safe. When things were so confusing in the world that I didn't know which way to go, He guided me. Psalms 119:105 says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

So you can see why I am saying that the most valuable thing that I have is to know God and to know His love for me. You can know this too. How can you find out about Him, and how can you find a relationship with Him when you know His love? You find it all through His Word, the Bible.

### **Chapter 3**

### **God's Word**

You have been given a road map to direct your life. There are few things that you can possess that are more valuable than that. If you walk in the direction that it points you to, you will have a victorious life. You will be winner. That road map is God's Word, the Bible. How do you know that the Bible is God's Word? After all, the Moslems have the Koran that is their sacred book. The Buddhists have the Tripitaka. Every religion has its own book. How do we know that the Bible is the one true book that points us to the one true God? How do we know that all of this is true?

I want to talk to you a little bit about how we know that the Bible is God's Word. Here are some general truths about the Bible that prove that it is God's Word. In just a minute we will go to the source to find out. We will go to God's Word directly. The Bible was written over a 1,500 year span for over 40 generations by over 40 authors from every walk of life. It was written in many different places, and at many different times. It was written on three continents, Asia, Africa, and Europe. It was written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

The Bible talks about thousands of subjects. Subjects that in today's world can't be agreed on when discussed. Yet there is an agreement between the

writers that could only exist because God's Spirit inspired them. They agree as if one author had written what they wrote. Now remember that most of them only had their own part of the Bible that they were writing. Or they only had a part of the Bible when they wrote their part. But even though that was how it was, every part of it agrees just like one person wrote it. One person did. God inspired them what to write.

Think of this for just a minute. How many times have you heard a group of Christians, or a group of ministers, or even just family or friends, and a discussion of God's Word broke out into an argument because they couldn't agree on an understanding of the scriptures. When you look at the facts that we mentioned about the different writers, how could they all agree unless God led them what to write? Throughout the Bible, the people who wrote their part of it made the statement that the Word of the Lord came to them. These people didn't just write their part of the scriptures by coming up with it in their own fleshly mind. There is no way that could have happened. The Spirit of God moved on them, or in them, and they wrote what the Spirit directed.

Another fact that proves the Bible is the Word of God is this. No other book has been attacked like the Bible, yet through time it has stood every test and still stands as the Word of God today. Countless generations of people for thousands of years have

tried to prove it wrong. Many of these people have started out to claim that the Bible was wrong, and only succeeded in proving it to be right, and later accepting it as God's Word. These are only a few of the reasons why we know that the Bible is God's Word.

The number one place to go to prove that God's Word is true is by looking in God's Word. There are historic proofs as well. There are many proofs, historical and Biblical, that prove that God Himself inspired the writers of the Bible. One example that proves God inspired the Bible is the prophecies found in the scripture. There are hundreds of prophecies in the Bible. These were things that were written detailing events that happened hundreds of years later. How else could these have come to pass just as they were spoken if they weren't given by inspiration of the Spirit of God? There are historical proofs that prove that the prophecies in the Bible were written before the prophecies were fulfilled.

There is no other book that has prophecies that are proven countless times over like the Bible. There are many prophecies, but the most remarkable example is over 300 prophecies about Jesus. There are historical proofs from sources outside the Bible to prove Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled these prophecies. There is also historical proof from Jewish writings, the Jewish Talmud, that Jesus lived and fulfilled the prophecies

regarding Him. Here are only a few of the prophecies found in the Bible.

Isaiah 52:13-53 talks about several of the prophecies. The prophet Isaiah wrote this around 700 years before Jesus was born. Please read this section of scripture. In it we see that Jesus would be beaten beyond recognition. We read that He would be beaten with stripes. In Psalm 22:14-19 David wrote around 1000 years before Jesus was born that they would pierce Jesus' hands and His feet. It was written that they would divide His garments among them, and cast lots (gamble) for them at the foot of the cross. I am sure that the Roman soldiers who cast lots for Jesus' robe that day had not read the scriptures. They weren't doing this to obey the scriptures. But they did it. Just like it had been written of all those many years before. Remember, there are 300 such things that were written in the Bible. I want to ask you how could all those things that were written so many many years before come about if God hadn't led the people what to write. If he hadn't told them what to write how could 300 things that were written come to pass.

There are countless other prophecies that are recorded in the scriptures. Some of them prophesied the rise and fall of whole civilizations and countries. Always they happened to the detail of what God's prophets had written in the Bible. There are many events that are happening today that have been prophesied in the

Bible. I have seen more Bible prophecies being fulfilled in the last couple of years, than I have seen my whole life as this world is drawing to a close. Just a note here: I was studying prophecies in Daniel concerning Persia. I had out my encyclopedia and was looking at Persian history. I had the Bible on one side, and the encyclopedia on the other. I was amazed at how events that happened long after they were written about matched the scriptures that foretold them. God set in motion things that have happened throughout history even through today by the Words that He spoke.

The greatest proof that the Bible is God's Word is Jesus' death and resurrection. It is the greatest proof of the Bible as being God's inspired Word. What other religion claims to have a risen Savior? If the Buddhists could get by with claiming that Buddha rose from the dead, they would. Why haven't they? Because he didn't. If the Moslems could get by with claiming that Mohammed rose from the dead they would. Why haven't they? Because he didn't. It was proven in history by many, many eyewitness accounts that Jesus rose from the dead. If that wouldn't have been so, then we couldn't claim it today. You can't just go around saying that somebody came back from the dead and have everybody believe it the way they believed that Jesus came back from the dead if it hadn't been proven to be true. He was hung on the cross in front of many many witnesses who watched Him die. He was buried in a sealed tomb for three



days. The tomb was sealed with a huge rock. This was done because the people who had Him hung on the cross wanted to keep His disciples from stealing His body and saying that He came back from the dead. They put that huge rock there that was so huge no one could have moved it. They didn't realize when they did so that an angel would move the stone away. After Jesus raised up from the dead, He was seen by hundreds of people and He was on earth for 40 days after He came back from the dead. Where do we find the account of this miracle? In the inspired Word of God.

Psalms 29:4 says, "The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty." Remember, God's voice is heard through the scriptures, through Godly anointed preaching, through faithful witnessing, preaching, and singing. We also need to remember that still small voice that speaks in our hearts and minds, and even though it is a still small voice, it is a really powerful voice. His Word created it all. We read in the book of Genesis that all He had to do to create everything that exists was to say "Let there be" and it appeared. One day God's Word will speak judgment on this world. It will destroy everything, and make it all new and perfect, undoing all the mess that we have made of it. That is how powerful His Word is.

So when you look at it that way when you take His Word in the Bible into your heart and mind, can it

change you, strengthen you, make you bold to stand up for what is right, make you to be like a light in the darkness? Yes it can. But the only way that all this can happen is if you read it, hear it, apply it to your life, and live by it. It can even give you the strength to be able to live by it. That plus the fact that when you are saved, God's Spirit comes in you to make a change in you. That change takes place every day. God's Word and His Spirit will change you.

We are also reminded of this in John 5:28, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice." Talk about power. God's voice will raise the dead one day. All the dead. How much more powerful can something be than to be able to raise the dead? That is a true creative force, to make life where there is death. I know about that. I have told you my testimony about how I was before God found me. You might say that I was one of the walking dead (and I don't mean zombies). I had read the Bible but most of it didn't really make sense. When I got saved and committed my life to God, His Spirit started explaining His Word to me. I could see what it was saying. And it came alive in my mind and in my heart. How? I mentioned before about how the Bible is the only book that the author is inside of our heart and mind explaining His Word to us.

I was dead but His Word raised me up out of the deadness that I was in. I found life and I found it

abundantly through His Word. Jesus said this in John 10:10, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Jesus gives us a life that is abundant, that is full of good things. Also, I found a direction and a purpose through His Word. I found life in His Word.

Here is another example of God's Word raising the dead. The story of Lazarus is found in John chapter 11. For a real blessing read His story. I'll sum it up in short form. Lazarus was Jesus' friend. He died. Jesus got there after he had been in his tomb for 4 days. John 11:43 says that He went to Lazarus' tomb and " ... he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth". And Lazarus walked out of His tomb.

When we read in the Gospels about Jesus we see that He had power to recreate. He recreated lives. He raised Lazarus from the dead, but He also raised the spiritually dead, and gave them a new life. One example is the woman at the well. Read her story in John chapter 4. Her whole life was nothing but a mess. Jesus told her about her life. In the past she had 5 husbands and the man she was with now wasn't her husband. She came to the well to get water. Jesus was there. He talked to her. His Words changed her life. Verse 10 gives us a glimpse of living water. "Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he

would have given thee living water." His Words changed her and her life. His Words were like living water and that living water changed her life. When she told the others about that living water, her words changed them. His Words created new life in her, and her words about Him carried new life to others. There is power in the Word of God to recreate lives. What things can you find in God's Word that will help you? You have to read it to find out.

## **Chapter 4.**

### **Your Right to Know the Truth and to Have the Truth**

One of your valuables that you possess is your right to know the truth and to have the truth in your life. Jesus told this parable. A parable is little stories that Jesus told to explain things. He told this parable about the truth. It is found in Matthew 7:24-27. "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it." Your right to know the truth is very valuable. It is the rock that you can build your life on. If you don't have the truth as the foundation of your life, then your house of your life won't stand when the storms come and there are storms out there that will come. When you know the truth, your life will stand.

John 8:31-32 says this about the truth, "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The truth can set you free from those things that can destroy you. The truth can set you free from the lies that are all around you. God's truth is the real thing. When you are bound up in fear and confusion, when you are so weak you can't stand, when you are going through the fire and the storms, the truth will lift you up out of all that and let you stand and help you to be strong enough to reach out to others and lift them up. Only the truth, the full truth, can set you free.

What or who is trying to steal your valuables, the truth? I guess that the number one enemy who is trying to keep you from the truth is the devil. We read this about the devil in John 8:24, "When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." Lies can steal the truth out of your heart. What are some of the lies that the devil uses to steal the truth from you? Here are some common lies that he uses. See if any of these sound familiar. Before you come to the Lord, here are some lies that he tells you. He will say, "There is nothing to that God stuff. You don't need that, Nothing is really true. All religions have a little of the truth. You need to find out about all the religions before you choose one. Nobody can say for real what is wrong and what is right. You don't really need God. All God does is mess up your life with a bunch of rules." If something bad happens he'll say, "If God loves you why did that happen?" Does any of that sound familiar?

Here are some more lies that the devil tells. He'll say, "You have no hope. Things won't get any better. You might as well just give up." He'll say, "You are nothing. You will never amount to anything. Why try?" He'll say, "Don't study your Bible. You don't have time. Don't pray. God doesn't hear you. Don't stand up for what is right. You'll just get in trouble. Don't witness to others. Don't tell anyone about God. You'll just get embarrassed. Who wants to hear that junk anyway." His is the voice that puts fear against you and fear is a lie. He will say, "You can't face anyone and talk to anyone because you are too afraid. If you come out of your house, covid will get you. There is too much to be afraid of to come out of your house. You can't go to church because covid will get you. There is so much to fear that you need to crawl into the bed and cover your head up and stay there." The devil will tell you these things. See if any of these are familiar. He'll also tell you these lies. "You are so stupid. Why do you think that you can do anything for God. You are such a failure and a loser. Why do you think that you can do anything for God."

How do we keep the devil from stealing our valuables? When the devil tries to steal from me, I remind him of what God's Word says. When he tells me I can't do what God tells me to do I remind him of this verse in 1 Corinthians 15:57. It says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." When he tells me I am a loser I remind him of this verse in Philippians 4:13, "But thanks be to God,

which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." God can make you a winner. When the devil tells you that no one cares about you, no one loves you, you can remind him of this verse in Romans 8:35,37,38,and 39, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? ...Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." When the devil tries to bind you up with fear you can tell him this verse that is found in Isaiah 41:13-14, "For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. Fear not...I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel." You get the idea now on how to keep the devil from stealing your valuables.

For you to be able to stand against the lies that the devil tells you, you have to know God's Word, the Bible. I have written a book called *Promises In God's Word*. You can find it on my website [www.freechristianonlinebooks.com](http://www.freechristianonlinebooks.com). Scroll down to the bottom of the page to click on it. It is full of promises that God makes us, things that you can stand on when the devil is lying to you. You have a right to know the truth of God's Word and it is very valuable. And you can stand against the devil who is the thief trying to steal it from you.



There are many other things that try to steal your truth. You may have people around you who are trying to discourage you from following the Lord. They will make fun of you. They will call you a loser. You can get this especially when you are a young Christian just starting out. Especially if you are trying to pull away from the loser crowd and change to God's crowd. When you decide to make that commitment to God, old friends will come out of the woodwork to get you back into doing things that you are letting go of like drinking, drugs, partying, etc. When the Lord is telling you to do something, people will come out of the woodwork to tell you all the reasons why it can't be done. When you are sick, people will come out of the woodwork to tell you how that sickness is surely going to kill you because God doesn't heal people any more.

The devil will use other people around you to steal the truth, to steal this most valuable thing. How do you keep this from happening? God can help you to see this when it is happening. If you aren't careful, you can get taken in and fooled by these people. God gives us something called discernment. Discernment means being able to see the truth and the ability to see the truth apart from lies. God will give you the ability to see when people are trying to steal the truth from you. Then you can make a stand against it. He can make you bold to stand up for what is right. Deuteronomy 31:6 says, "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not,

nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. " When you stand up for the truth, God will stand up in you making you bold, giving you courage to stand. Remember this old saying. If you don't stand for something you will fall for anything. There is a lot of truth in that. Why do we need to stand up for the truth? Because if you don't then a lie will come along and you will fall for it, and it will destroy you.

When you were in the public school, you had things that you faced every day that were stealing the truth from you. You had teachers telling you that the Bible is bad, and that it is bad to be a Christian. They would tell you that it is OK to have the Koran, OK to have any book from any religion except Christianity. They would tell you that you can't even have your Bible out to read in study hall. Things that you would study, like evolution, tried to steal the truth from you. One of the things that kids tell me when they come to school at New Life is that our history and math and science is so different from what they learned at public school. I hate to break this to you, but a lot of what you learned in public school isn't the truth. Do you know that they actually rewrote History to make it politically correct. They changed the facts so much that when you study History there, you are just reading good stories that aren't even true. When you study Science you are learning about how the big bang theory was a process that created everything.

When you study Math, they have purposefully changed how to work out problems. They have made math so hard and confusing to do. In other words, when you are in the public school, you aren't learning much truth.

Another example is this new stuff called Critical Race Theory, It is a lie that is trying to divide the races and cause conflict. You also have learned that there are no moral absolutes, that there is no right and wrong. You have a right to learn the truth. It is valuable. Aren't you glad that you are at a school where you can learn the truth? How can you stand against the lies that tried to steal the truth from your mind. Fill up on the truth of God's Word and that truth will erase the lies. Learn the truth and it will chase away the lies.

Then there were the bullies that tried not only to steal the truth from you but they also tried to steal your right to stand up for the truth. The bullies and the school system tried to steal from you your right to stand up for what is right. Your right to stand up for the truth is a very valuable treasure. When you stood up for what is right, you were punished, when those that were trying to stop you from standing up for what is right weren't even punished. It is a mixed up world when it comes to standing up for the truth, standing for the things that are right. Why do these things happen to us? Because there is an enemy to the truth who is trying to steal the truth away from you. The

devil doesn't want you to be a light in the darkness, and that is what standing up for the truth does. He can manipulate people to come against you.

I just want to add a thought in here. In the public school you were put down and bullied when you stood up for what was right. Everywhere you went there were people around you who tried to steal the good that was in you. Why did they do that? Was it because you are worthless as they made you feel. Or was it because you have something in you that scared them. You have the Word of God in you and the Spirit of God. You have those in you if you have been saved. As time goes on we can clearly see that there are two sides. One is the devil's side that is against everything that God stands for. The other side is God's side. When you stood up for God's side, the devil's side got worried. It doesn't matter if they have made you feel like a loser, you are no loser. You are a winner. You have God in you. You have a light that lights up the darkness even lighting up the darkness in those who don't want to see the light.

There are a lot of people in the world right now who do not want to see the truth about God and His Word because they don't want to do what is right. They want to continue in the mess that they are doing even if that mess is wrecking their lives. They don't want to see a way out of it. John 3:18-21 says, "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath

not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.” The bullies that came against you when you stood up for what is right did that because they don’t want to see the light you have in you. Why? Because they don’t want to hear that they are doing wrong.

You also have a right to hear the truth about what is going on in the world. That is very valuable. We have a right to be informed about what is going on. The media has stopped reporting the truth. The internet definitely isn't the place to find out the truth about what is happening in the world around us. People have started censoring the truth changing it to be lies. That is what happens in communism. Why do they change the truth to be lies? They hide the truth from us because if we don't know the truth, then we won't make a stand against the things that are happening. If we are blind to what is going on then we won't try to change things. Your right to hear the truth about what is going on in the world is a very very very valuable thing. How do you fight against this? There are sources of news that is not perverted with lies. If you want to learn more about this, let me know. I will be glad to direct you to places where you

can find out the truth about what is going on in the world.

So you have learned how truth is valuable and you have learned how to stop the thieves who are trying to steal truth away from you. You learned how important it is to never let people steal your right to have the truth. In the next chapter we are going to talk about one thing that is very valuable. That is your right to be the person that God made you to be. Your right to know who you are in God and your right to become that treasure that you can be in Him is very valuable.

## **Chapter 5.**

### **Your Right To Be the Person That God Made You to Be**

Have you ever noticed that when someone is bullying you that they more often than not try to steal from you your right to be your own individual person. In this chapter, we are going to talk about who you are in God and how special that makes you. We will talk about how bullies try to steal that away from you and why. And we will talk about how to keep from letting them steal from you.

First we are going to talk about who you are in God. Now when we talk about this it is only true if you have been saved. What does it mean when I say to be saved? How do you get saved? Let's talk first about what it means to be saved. When you get saved, you ask God to come inside of you to live. He can and He does. And that makes you very special indeed. How does He do this? God made us with a soul and a spirit. We have the body part of us which is our flesh. It is the outside part of us. It isn't very good most of the time. Most of the time it is easier for us to do bad than good because of the flesh part of us. God made us with a spirit that is part of us that will live forever either in heaven with Him, or in hell, separate from Him. We also have our soul which is connected with our spirit. That is the part where God can come in with His Spirit and live inside of us. God made us so that He can come inside of us to live so that He can

help us to be the best that we can be. So when you are saved, you have God's Spirit inside of you. If we yield to God's Spirit in us, and we let Him control us, then we will be people who have victory, people who are different than most others. We will be people who will shine out because God is shining out through us. This won't be because we are anything special on our own, but because we have the Spirit of God inside of us. And that will make us very special indeed.

We read about this in Colossians 1:27, "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Gentiles are the people who aren't Jews. You are a Gentile. Riches are your valuable things. One of your great riches is to understand that Christ is in you. Why did God create us that way so that He could come inside of us to live? He knew that on our own we aren't much. He knew that we couldn't live a Christian live on our own. He knew that we needed all the help we could get. He didn't just condemn us because of that but He made a way that we could become great in Him. John 3:16-17 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." He sent His son to die for you to be saved. That was the price that had to be paid for you to be able to be saved.



We read in Romans 5:6-8, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Jesus died for us knowing that we were sinners, knowing that we were a mess. Still He died for us so that we could be saved. Why did He do that? I'll let Jesus tell you why in His own words.

Just before He was crucified, He prayed this prayer. In it He talks about you. This is found in John 17:21-26 minus a few verses. "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, are in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare *it*: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them." He loved you enough to die for you so that you could be one with Him and one with His Father. What is the thing that makes us

one with each other and with them? Love. Love pure and simple. Love God's style. When you read that section of scripture, how precious are you to God? Very precious indeed.

How do you get saved? You ask Jesus to come into your heart. You ask Him to forgive you of your sins. You believe that He will do these things. You make a choice to serve Him. You make a commitment to Him. The Bible says in Romans 10:8-11, "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."

If you aren't saved, then you can pray and Jesus will come into your heart. It is good to do this at church, but you can get saved anywhere. Just pray a prayer like this prayer: Jesus, please forgive me of all that I have done wrong. I want to live for you. I want you to help me to do this. Come into my heart. I give my life to you. When you say this prayer, it can't be just words. You have to mean it in your heart. It isn't something that you do half-heartedly. You have to do it with all of your heart. You have to purpose in your heart that you love God, and that you want His love.

It is the beginning of a relationship with Him that is real.

When you are saved, then you have the Spirit of God in you and that makes you very special indeed. You can't find out how special you are by looking in the mirror and noticing all the things that are wrong with you. The place that you can go to find out who you are is in the mirror of God's Word. John 14:23 tells us something that Jesus said, "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." If you are saved Jesus and God is in you through the Holy Spirit which is God's Spirit. If God is in you, doesn't that make you very special?

Here is one of my favorite scriptures in Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." What is that saying? Remember we talked about the flesh part of you, the part of you that is yucky, that can't do anything right or good, the part of you that you look in the mirror and see. Jesus is in you. If you let Him be, He can be stronger in you than that yucky part of you. How can you do that? If we take more of His Spirit in to us by praying, by reading the Bible, by praising Him, by going to church, by listening to

Gospel music, we will let God shine out through us. Our life will be so much better.

If we crowd out the places where he can be in our lives with sin, wrong attitudes, wrong ideas, fear, rebellion, and all those kinds of things, then God won't shine out through us. We will just be a mess. We can't serve God halfway and be happy. We can't crowd Him out of our lives and have a peaceful good life. If we don't have room for Him in our lives because we are too busy with our friends that aren't saved, too busy with gaming, too busy with the drama of Facebook, too busy with music that isn't Gospel, too busy with the things that everyone who isn't saved is doing, then we won't have a peaceful, good life, with God shining out of us. We will be full of all kinds of junk instead of full of His Spirit with not much room left for Him. If we hold onto other things in our life, then He can't make things work out for us. If we don't yield to Him, then He can't help us. If we let Him rise up and fill us up, we can be wonderful because we have Him in us and He is stronger than the flesh part of us.

If we are hungry to have a life that is full of God, dedicated to serving Him, and we fill our lives with His things, and we yield to His Spirit, then we will have a wonderful life, and when others look at us they will see Jesus in us. And we will be able to do all kinds of things. Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." I do a

lot of things. Why am I able to do those things? It isn't because I am special. It isn't because I am very gifted and talented. It is because many years ago, I learned how yucky I am without God. I learned that I was a loser without Him. But then I learned how if I yield to Him and ask Him to help me, He can enable me to do all kinds of things. Not because I am special but because He is special in me.

Let's talk about the bullies that try to steal who you are. The main bully (matter of fact he is the head of all the other bullies, you might call him the General leading the bully army) is the devil. He hates all of God's people. He does not want you to learn about the truth of who you are and who you can be because he is afraid of you. He is afraid of you rising up and letting Christ shine through you and in you. He is afraid of what you can do when you reach out to others and lead them to the Lord. He is afraid of the influence that you can be on the world around you. He is afraid of the light that can shine out through you to reach the darkness around you. He is afraid that light will shine in the lives of those you love.

Jesus said in John 12:46, "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness." When we have Jesus inside of us we can light up the darkness. Matthew 5:14-16 says something that Jesus said. "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a

bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Face it. This crazy mixed up world needs a light. They need hope and joy and peace. People are losing their lives because they can't find these things. When you have Jesus in you, you can bring His light to them. You can help them to find hope, joy, and peace, and you can help them find light in the middle of the darkness. That light is what the devil hates and he will be a bully that tries to steal that light away from you.

One of the things that the devil does to bully you is to get in your head and tell you that you are nothing, that you aren't anything special, that you can't do anything to make a difference. We have mentioned before how when that happens you need to quote God's Word to him. You need to have a little Bible lesson with him. You have learned a lot of verses in just this chapter that you can tell him. Shoot him with the Gospel gun. Another thing that he will do is that he will try to keep you blinded from seeing these things in the first place. God will take care of that one. If you want to hear the whole truth and nothing but the truth, God will make sure that you hear it. Luke 11:9 says, "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

Something else that the devil and his bullies try to steal from you is your right to stand up for what is right. It is made to seem that it is wrong to stand up for what is right. You are made to feel that if you do that there is something wrong with you. I remember one of the first students who came to New Life after what the public school was doing with the transgenders and the bathrooms and locker rooms. She refused to use the bathroom with a guy in the bathroom. She made her stand. The homosexual bullies really came out strong against her. They told her that the world would be much better if she were dead and they told her that she should kill herself. The school staff kicked her out because of the stand that she made and they did nothing to the bullies that told her to kill herself. There is something wrong with that. She was made to feel that she had done something wrong because she stood up for what was right.

When students come to New Life, I always ask if they have done anything to get in trouble. When she enrolled, she and her parents explained to me what happened. I think that they were a little afraid to tell me about it. They were amazed when I told them how proud I was that she had made a stand. I told them that the reason why we are losing our rights as Christians was because too few people for far too long have refused to make a stand. Too few people have made a stand for what is right. There is an old saying that says, if you don't make a stand for

something you will fall for anything. That is a picture of how the church has been for too long. We are losing our freedom because we have not stood up for our rights including our right to stand up for what is right.

I want to talk to you a little bit about the bullies that are in the public schools. We have 200 kids in school this year. That is a little more than usual. We usually have about 150 kids in school every year and we have had the school for the last 33 years. In other words, you could say that I have definitely worked with a lot of kids. There have been bunches of kids that came to school at New Life to get away from bullies in the public schools. Sometimes it was because other students were bullying them. What is even sadder is that sometimes it has been teachers and staff that were bullying them. These kids come into New Life with all kinds of baggage, with all kinds of damage that has been done by those bullies. I think that the worst thing that the bullies do is to steal away your identity, steal away who you are to the place that you lose your identity. When that happens, you can find who you are in God and in His Word. You can find out how special you are by looking in the mirror of God's Word. Get out the verses I mentioned. I am going to close the chapter out with verses about God's love for you. Read those. Let God's Spirit love on you. God can love you. He can put His love around you and you will feel it like a warm blanket wrapping you up



shielding you from the hurtful things caused by the bullies.

One of the best testimonies that I can think of is this. There was a kid that came to school in the middle school. He had really been through it with bullies. The damage he went through was done by a teacher that ridiculed him openly and publicly. When that happens the bullies in the classroom start up, because they follow the teacher's lead. I have heard of this happening so much. Anyways, this went on until he came to New Life. When he first came, he was a mess. He had all kinds of anxieties. They were so extreme that he couldn't function. He couldn't go out in public. It was a real struggle for him just to come to school the brief time that he was here. His self-esteem was shot to the point that he couldn't do his work even though he is a very bright kid. His anxiety had gotten to the point that it caused him to have severe stomach issues so it caused physical problems. He couldn't go anywhere if he wanted to because of stomach pains. He couldn't eat. It caused him bad health problems.

I remember one day that he came in and he started just stomping around in desperation saying, "I can't take this any more. I can't stand it." I knew that he couldn't. Sometimes we have to come to the place where we say, "NO MORE." Then we have to come to the place where we know we can't do anything about it. And we then look to God knowing that He

can. That is what he did. We talked that day about all this. God led me what to say and it really made a difference in his life. You might say that it changed his life. I didn't know what to say to help him even though I knew that it was very important at that time that I say the right thing. I just prayed and yielded to God's Spirit and listened. I said what God told me to say. I wasn't the one making the difference. God was. He used me. That is how we can be a light.

To make a long story short, he has graduated and is working with his Dad's business traveling around doing construction work. He found God's light. He found God's Word and he let it work in his life. God's Spirit and His word undid all the damage that the bullies caused. He found out that he was a winner not a loser. He found the love of God and it changed him and set him free.

So you don't have to let the bullies win. Especially those bullies that are trying to steal your identity away from you. That includes the devil who is the prince of the bullies. Matter of fact, I think when bullies target Christians and those who are living for God, they do that because of the devil. Jesus was really bullied. Matter of fact, his bullies hung him on the cross. (You think you had problems with bullies.) It was God's plan though that Jesus die so that we could be saved. In John 8:44 we read something that Jesus said talking to those who were bullying him. "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye

will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." In other words the bullies who bully you are doing that because they are letting the devil lead them. That is happening whether they realize that is what they are doing or not. The devil can use people. Just like God can lead you what to do, the devil can lead those who aren't serving God.

The reason why the devil targeted you using bullies isn't because you were a loser. That is what they made you feel like. He did that because he saw something in you that he was afraid of. He saw Christ in you. He saw the Spirit of God in you. He saw something in you that he wanted to stop and he tried to stop you. When I see Christians who have been bullied, I know that they are very special to God. I know that it is highly likely that they will do something very special for God. I know that He will use them in a special way and that is what the devil is trying to stop. When you go through a battle, it isn't because you are a loser, but it is because you are special. And you can know that God will help you and He will raise you up just like He did the boy that I talked about earlier.

God will even turn everything bad that has happened to you out for your good. Where do I get that idea from? From God's Word. Romans 8:28, "And we

know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." I have had really terrible things happen to me. After God turned them out for good. Actually they turned out to be so good that I thanked God that they had happened to me. God will turn all this out for good in your life. He will use it to make you stronger, to lead you to a closer relationship with Him, you will realize that you are special to God because of the battle that you went through. You will have a heart to help those who are hurting. You will want to be a light. You might not even have realized all of this if you hadn't gone through the battle of the bullies.

I want to close this chapter with verses about God's love for you. I want to do that because I want to pour oil on your wounds. The Bible talks about oil bringing healing. The Bible relates oil to God's Spirit. God's Spirit can come with His Word and heal the hurts that you have inside of you. God can heal our bodies, but He can also heal our hearts and minds. Psalms 147:3 says, "He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds." He can make us whole again. God's love can bring healing to our hearts and minds too. Here is what the Bible says about God's love. Jeremiah 31:3 says, "The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." We read in 1 John 4:19, "We love him, because he first loved us." We read in 1 John 3:1,

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not." Lamentations 3:22 says "It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions (His love) fail not." In 1 Peter 5:7 we read, "Casting all your care (your worries) upon him; for he careth for you." Romans 8:37-39 tell us this about God's love. "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

I want to close this chapter with a prayer that Paul prayed and it is a prayer that I pray for you. It is found in Ephesians 3:17-19 and it says, "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." No wonder the devil and all his bullies don't like you. No wonder they try to stop you. They don't like the light that you have inside of you, the light of God's Word and His Spirit. They don't like what you will one day do.

## **Chapter 6**

### **Your Right to Have a Good Sound Mind and Your Right to Be Free From Fear**

There is a lot of craziness that is going on in the world right now. Whoever thought that one day we would be hoarding toilet paper. That the world would be wearing masks to protect themselves from a virus. That the virus would change our whole world as much as it has. Whoever thought that you would be afraid to go to school, or to go to the store. Whoever thought that you would be afraid to go eat in a restaurant. Whoever thought that you would have anxiety attacks that would cripple you because of what is going on. Whoever thought that you would be afraid of your own government and what it would do in the future. Whoever thought that you would be afraid of fear itself.

From March two years ago the world has turned upside down. Nobody knew how to deal with all the changes. Everybody got very afraid. One thing that fear does is to keep you from having a good sound mind with common sense. Proverbs 3:21 says, "My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion." It is important to keep a sound mind-common sense. Have you heard such crazy ideas as the ones that are going around. The problem with it is that things are so crazy as a whole that you aren't even able to tell the craziness from the sane. I do know this though. People lack good

common sense even more now than ever before. Sometimes we don't know how to think about the situations that we face and that makes it all worse. One thing we know is that we can't allow fear to control us because it will cripple us, it will steal our freedom, it will steal our sound mind away. You can definitely say that a sound mind and being free from fear is 2 very precious valuables. And you can definitely say that they are under attack by those who are trying to steal them away.

We read in 2 Timothy 1:7, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." As children of God we don't have to be afraid. Why? Because of the love of God. He will take care of us. He will keep us safe. And when we know His love, and when we have His guidance leading us in the right direction, when we have His Word that helps us to think right, and when you have no fear, then you have a right and a sound mind. God's people are not following the rest of the world as they jump down the toilet. If you don't have God, then you are letting the devil lead you whether you realize it or not. And you are headed to hell and you will have a lot of heartache on the way there. When you have the Spirit of God inside of you, you have Him guiding you. He can think in you and lead you in the right direction and you will be doing the right things at the right time. You will have a sound mind.

We read in 1 Corinthians 2:16, "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." What is that saying? It is saying that when you are saved and Christ is living in you, He will help you to think right. Also, the Bible is a powerful thing to help you have a sound mind. It is good sound teaching and thinking and it can teach you how to think right. It will help you have a sound mind. Proverbs 9:10 says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." What does that mean? The Bible talks about the fear of the Lord as being extreme awareness of Him. Knowing who He is and respecting that with a great respect. When we have that kind of respect for God and His Word, then that is the beginning of wisdom. Another way to look at it is that when you don't respect God's things then you lack wisdom and you lack the knowledge of the truth. You lack common sense. Your mind is a mess. The decisions that you make will lead you to destruction.

We have a right to have a sound mind. That is very valuable. What are the bullies that try to steal away our sound mind? When I first had this thought when planning this chapter, the first thing that I thought of was how people got when covid first came out. Remember how it was. I mentioned the toilet paper thing. It got to the place where people couldn't find toilet paper. Who would have thought that would ever happen. What made it happen? Somebody on



Facebook mentioned that there was going to be a shortage and it went from there to becoming a shortage. Facebook is not reality. But it surely shapes our reality when we all follow each other down the rabbit trail. It reminds me of the blind following the blind. What the crowd is doing is never the best thing to do. The Bible says in Matthew 7:13-14, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." So when you look at it that way, should we follow the crowd? Are they going in the right direction? Are they going in the way that children of God should go in? The crowd can steal from you your common sense, your sound thinking.

I want to add something here about the bullies in school. If you are a Christian and you have been bullied, I am sure that the bullies (and the devil that motivated them) made you feel like you were stupid. They made you feel like you had no sense and that you were nothing. That is one of the first things that bullies tell you is that you are stupid. When you look at the scripture that I shared with you that tells you that most of the people around you are going to hell, why should you let those people tell you that you don't know how to think.

We have already talked about how fear can steal your sound mind. It not only steals away your sound mind,

but it can also steal away your health. Luke 21:26 tells about something that will happen in the last days. "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." Young people are dying with heart attacks because of fear. It can steal your mind, your health and even your life. What are some ways that we can stop fear from stealing your valuables?

One of the things that can help you to stand against fear is God's Word. The Bible says 366 times that we are not to fear. That is one for every day of the year plus an extra. Here are only a few of those verses. I may have already used some of them but they are worth hearing again. We read in 1 John 4:18, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." Joshua 1:9 says, "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Psalms 34:4 says that He will set us free from all our fears. "I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." Philippians 4:6-7 says, "Be careful (full of worry) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Instead of worrying we are to

pray and we are to have faith that the Lord will answer our prayers. Jesus tells us why we can do that in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." We don't have to be afraid because we have the peace that Jesus gives us in our hearts. We can have that special peace that comes from Him that passes all understanding.

I know that everyone is afraid of what is happening now, but I also know that another worry is what is coming in the future. We are scared to death about what is coming in the future. The Bible has something to say about that. Matthew 6:34 says "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." That is saying that we just need to deal with today. Worrying about tomorrow does us no good. You are worrying over the 1,000 things that might happen. If you just wait and see then you can worry about the 1 thing that is happening. And when you get there you will see how God will take care of you through it all.

So God's love and His peace and His Word will help you keep the bullies away who are trying to steal away your sound mind with fear. His Word can keep your mind clear. His Spirit can help you. His Spirit inside of you can help you know what to think. Not only can your mind stay clear, but God's Spirit in you

can give you the mind of Christ. It can help your mind to stay sound. It can give you even a better understanding than common sense.

## **Chapter 7.**

### **Your Right to Have a Good Future**

Right now everybody is worried about the future. They are worried about what is coming next. We have talked about how we can't worry about tomorrow. We talked about how you can worry about 1,000 possible things that can happen or wait until it happens and deal with it then. We have talked a lot about how we aren't to be afraid over what is happening now or what is happening tomorrow. God's Word tells us not to be afraid. I guess you could say that there are more verses that deal with not being afraid than there are verses about any other topic. I guess you can definitely say that it is important to God to get the thought out about not having fear whether it is for now or for the future. As children of God we have the right to have a good future. Where do I get that idea? I guess by now you know the answer to that. I get it from God's Word, from the Bible.

We know that we are on the winning side. All the way through the Bible you can read stories about God's side winning even if they were outnumbered by thousands, even if they were not trained and the faced a mighty army, even if the enemy was a mighty warrior and there was just a little boy on God's side, even when there was a mighty army on one side and only 4 lepers on God's side. In all those cases God's side won. We are definitely on the winning side.

How do I know that? I have read the book, the Bible. I know how it all turns out. We win. (For the account of how 4 lepers saved Samaria when the enemy surrounded it and they were starving the people there read 2 Kings chapter 7.)

We read in 1 Corinthians 15:57, "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Corinthians 2:14 says, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ...." 1 John 5:4 says, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world even our faith.." Psalms 98:1 says, "O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvelous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory." Romans 8:37 says we are winners and in God we will win. "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." We are on the winning side and because of that we have a future that is held in God's own hand. Jeremiah 29:11 tells us of the plans that God has for our future. "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

If we walk with the Lord and let Him lead us, He will lead us in pastures green beside still waters. King David wrote about God's plan for His future in Psalms 23. "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my

soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever." I

f we walk with the Lord He will keep us, He will protect us, He will shield us, He will provide for us, He take care of us and that care will be enough to keep us even if things in this world get bad. We can't look at the things that are going on in the world, but we have to look at Him. We have to keep our eyes on the one that will keep us through the storms. Through all this we can see that we have promises of a great future with Him no matter what happens in the world.

Then after it is all over here on earth we have the promises of a great future coming up for eternity. Here are some things that we have to look forward to. What is the rapture? The Bible talks about things that will happen in the end time. The rapture is one of those things. God is going to take His people out of the world by just catching them up to be with Him. There are many prophecies in the Bible that talk about when this will happen. Every day we see these prophecies being fulfilled, coming to pass. We know

that it won't be long. I tell this to some people, and they say, "I don't believe that will happen. People have been saying that for years. That isn't true." I am ready for it to happen. I have studied too much of God's Word for them to convince me that it isn't going to happen, and I have seen too much to take a chance on it not happening. I guess you could say I am convinced it will. I can say this, the smart people will get ready.

Then there is going to come a terrible time on the earth for those left behind. I am writing this chapter after watching the movie *Left Behind*. In the movie, there were many people who knew where their loved ones had gone when they disappeared. They knew the truth. They knew that they had been left behind. Can you imagine the fear and horror that you would have if you realized one day that the Lord had come back, the church was raptured, and you were left behind. There will be people from all walks of life who will be in that position. Some may even be pastors, Sunday School teachers, people who grew up in the church. How could that be so? They possessed this thing in their heads, but not in their hearts. They did all the outward motions, but lacked a relationship with God.

What is the most important thing that you can do to get ready to be in the rapture? We know that there is no way that we can be good enough, or do anything to deserve this. We just have to know Jesus. We have to establish a relationship with Him. We have to get



to know His love. We have to walk everyday with Him. We can't really get to know Him and His love and have a relationship with Him and not spend every day with Him. Then we know that we will be ready when He comes because we are walking every day with our hand in His most precious hand. The hands that have the nail scars where He hung and died because He loved us that much.

He can get us ready. He hides us in the palm of His hand. His love is faithful. We can trust in His love. He will present us wrinkle free and without blemish before His Father if we allow His Spirit to work in us, and we keep His Word. We don't have to be afraid that we won't go to heaven when we walk with the Lord. We don't have to be afraid that we will miss the rapture when we walk with the Lord.

When we get to know the Savior, He knows us. He will stand before His Father and declare that we are His. John 17:24 and 26, "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them." How can we escape such a hand? How can we escape such a love? When we know the Lord, He will keep us.

So what about all those people who will miss out? Those who will get left behind even though they know the truth? If God has such a great love for us,

then how will that happen? It will happen because they didn't know Jesus. They didn't know His love. They had unrepented sin in their lives that they didn't fix. They didn't get their priorities in line to take care of their soul's business. They knew, but they did nothing with what they knew. Jesus will return for those who walk in an obedient relationship with Him. For those who have let the Spirit get out their wrinkles. For those who have let Him clean up their spots. Those who have been cleansed by His blood. Those who have not swept the sin under the rug. Those who have let His precious blood wash away their sin. There will be a lot of people who know the truth but who did nothing with it. Those are the ones who will have to face whatever will come here after God's children are gone.

Is there a more timely message today than the coming again of Jesus? I can remember when I was younger every once in a while something would happen that would make me think that the Lord was coming soon. I would just ever so often see a sign of the times, as people would put it. Now, today, it seems that every day I see a sign of His coming. We turn on the news and hear things that point to His coming soon. We expect any day to see the clouds open, to see Jesus step out, and to hear that trumpet that declares His coming. Jesus is coming soon. So keep your priorities in line. Love Jesus. Let Him love you. Hear the voice of your Shepherd. Nothing is as important as Jesus.

He can't come second or third in your life and still be the Lord of your life.

Then what is coming next after the rapture? Everyone left behind will go through terrible times, worse times than has ever been. Revelations 21:1-7 tells us of some things that will happen after that. "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

Revelations 21:22-26 goes on to tell us about the city New Jerusalem that will come out of heaven to the earth. "And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God

Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. and the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it."

Heaven will be wonderful. It is God's best and it will last forever. I knew a man who died and went to heaven and then he came back to life. His wife kept pestering him to tell her about what heaven was like. He wouldn't. Finally she got all frustrated with him and said, "Tell me." he answered her. "But I can't. There are no words to describe it. The Bible doesn't tell a whole lot about heaven. I think that it is because our human words just can't describe it because it is so wonderful.

At a time when you think the future is going to be really bad. At a time when you think that there is no hope for the future. I hope that when you read this chapter that you realize that the future is looking good both here and after here. You have promises ahead that are coming for you.

## **Closing**

I hope that this book has shown you that you have many valuable things that you need to hold on to. I hope that it has shown you that there are bullies that are trying to steal your valuable. I hope also that it has taught you how to hold on to them.

You are valuable to God. You are far more valuable to Him than you realize. You are beloved and longed for. God says this about His children in Philippians 4:1, "Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved." We are very dear to God. Don't let the devil or other bullies steal His love away from you. Don't let them steal any of your valuables. With God's help you can hold on to them. You can hold on to them for forever.

