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Between the great things we can't do and the little things we won't do, the danger is we shall do nothing.



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not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as ye see the Day approaching.



A man was asked to buy a ticket to a Church benefit. He said "Sorry, I won't be able to attend. But my spirt will be there with you." "Fine," said his friend. "I have \$2, \$3 and \$5 tickets. Where would you like your sprit to sit.

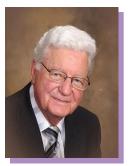
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Issue



CHRISTIANITY, CELLAR-STYLE



27: 28 over the cellars of oil was Joash"

This is one of the shortest descriptions of the life of a

man, who pleased God, that is recorded any place in the Bible.

There was an actor by the name of Charles Brookfield who was mistakenly reported dead. So, he had the unusual opportunity of reading his obituary. Among other things, it was said of him, "He was never a great actor but he was invaluable in small parts." Somewhat like Joash who would not be considered a great Bible character but he was invaluable in small parts.

Joash was one of the little known people of the Bible. He reminds us that we aren't saved by our successes, but by our faithfulness to Christ and His cause. Note the place of his labor. He worked in the cellar of the castle, which was stocked with food, beverages, oil for the lamps and all the necessary provisions for the household of the king. He worked in the cellar of King David.

Two names were often upon the lips of the people; the names of David and Joab, David's great general. Joab had been mighty in valor and victorious in many battles. When Joab walked down the street the boys and girls followed him and

Chronicles shouted his name in great joy. Joab, the general, marched with the beat of drums; but, Joash, who worked in the cellars of David, marched and worked without any beat of drums or high acclaim.

> Who spoke of Joash? A name nearly like Joab, but it is doubtful that many praises ever in a physical way. Physicians reached his ears for his faithfulness, unless it was from kindly King David. I like to think that as the evening came on, the lamps were lighted in the palace, that David said, "God bless faithful Joash, without him the palace would be in total darkness."

> nor important in the eyes of man but God said to record, "and over the cellars of oil was and women in high and low of-Joash." A person cannot put forth an effort to promote God's cause, pray a prayer or give a dollar but that God is aware of it. He still sits by the treasury (Mark 12: 41). Joash's labor was more important than some people would think. Suppose he had gone on strike. King David wouldn't be able to see his way around the palace for Joash kept the oil, filled the lamps, lighted the wicks, the palace would have been in darkness. How dark and dreary some people's lives would be were it not for the sunshine and cheer of God's people.

The name Joash means God supported.. We know nothing about his parents, but, the

fact he was given that name suggests his parents likely were religious. I believe that Joash was religious too. Not one word was recorded against him; not a word of complaint or criticism. There is no record of Joash coveting anyone's job or gift.

Mankind was also helped used this oil because of medicinal qualities. If Joash had not been faithful, he would have hindered King David. His work was important because it had to do with the furtherance of the kingdom. Our labors of love are important, small though they may be, because they have to do No, it was not prominent with the furtherance of King Jesus' kingdom.

You see, God needs men fices to prove the grace of God in every walk of life. It can be done by lip and life. Regardless of how small or large your responsibility, it is important in "furthering God's kingdom" (I Cor. 12: 14-18). I also believe it was the devotional life of Joash that kept him happy, in other words, his keeping in touch with God. We are able to tell you about Christianity cellar-style. Multiple thousands in foreign lands have had to worship in basements and cellars, and have found that Christianity works even if it is cellar-style.

Dr. Kenny Howe

THINK ABOUT IT!!!



TAKE YOUR SPIRIT TO **CHURCH**

Many people say to their Pastor, "I was not in church last Sunday, but I was with you in spirit." It is kind of them, to say the least, to give the church the benefit of the presence of their disembodied spirits!

Suppose everybody in the congregation should decide to be present in spirit but not in body. What a delightful time the minister would have preaching to spirits! No one would go to sleep. No one would arrive late. No one would interrupt the service with a coughing spell. No one would think that the service was boring, or lasted too long.

Furthermore, this would solve many of the church's problems. Disembodied spirits would need no heat in winter, no air cooling in summer, no cushioned pews, no redecorated sanctuary, no organ, choir or hymnals. All they would need would be a minister to visit them occasionally when their spirits happened to be home in their bodies rather than in church.

And what a tremendous impact a church of disembodied spirits would make on the world! Its testimony to Christ would be silent, expose no evils, give no evidence of the church in the community. And should one be seeking the answer to the deep problems of life he would be left to the empty fellowship of spirits floating about somewhere in the pews, whose bodies were at home or on the golf course, or scampering off to the beach for a swim.

The evident absurdity of all this makes it clear that disembodied spirits, at least in the order of life in which we now live, are quite unreal and without real value. Even a jelly-fish has some form and substance! Spirit must express itself in visible form before it has any reality or any contribution to make to the ongoing drama of history.

The church, therefore, is no disembodied spirit. As Christ's body, it is the concrete vehicle through which His Spirit must express itself in history.

Something was missina

The preacher was eloquent. His words were impressive. But something was missing! His well-selected words seemingly never took root in the hearts of the congregation.

Afterwards I thought much about the sermon I heard. I concluded that three things were missing: sincerity, compassion, anointing. I know the meaning of the word sincerity. However, I decided to see what definition the dictionary offers. It is this: "honest in mind: freedom from hypocrisy." To be effective a minister must be sincere. If he is not, his message will reflect it.

I shall never forget what one of my converts told me several months after he was converted. He said, "I really don't remember too much of what you preached. However, the thing God used to reach my heart was your sincerity." I have thought many times since about the young businessman's statement and have secretly and tearfully prayed, "God, help me always to be sincere in my preaching."The minister of God's Word must also be compassionate. He must be sympathetically conscious of other's distress and possess a desire to relieve that dis-

The effective minister must also be anointed by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit can beautifully bridge the gap between the pulpit and the pew. The preacher must prepare himself to minister in every way possible. A study of God's Word is a must! Academic training is important and helpful. However, a vital part of sermon preparation is prayer—the source of the Spirit's anointing.

Too often prayer is the neglected part of sermon preparation. Adequate time is not spent in prayer to bring the anointing of the Spirit, and congregations quickly detect when the anointing is missing. There must be proper balance between study and prayer. To spend time in prayer and not study will bring the minister to the pulpit without much worthwhile to say. Congregations can also sense that the minister has not prepared himself through study. Preaching the Word of God is a serious matter that demands the best preparation the minister can make. The importance of sincerity, compassion, and the anointing of the Spirit cannot be overlooked!

THINK ABOUT IT!!!!



Il Cor. 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for thee."

The important word in this sentence is the little verb, is. It is in the present tense. If His grace is sufficient now, it will be sufficient tomorrow. For tomorrow will be the "present"; and today will be in the past. We do not need tomorrow's grace until tomorrow. A person can no more take in a supply of grace for the future than he can eat enough today to last him for the rest of the week, or take enough air into his lungs to last him the balance of the day. God's grace is supplied moment by moment as we need it. Yes, His grace is sufficient for you.

Paul suffered from a thorn in the flesh, and prayed three times that it might be removed. The Lord did not take away Paul's thorn but said, I will give you grace so you may be able to bear it, and turn it into a spiritual victory in your life. If you are passing through deep waters and God has not seen fit to relieve your trouble, then remember there is grace available to you so that by faith you can receive an even greater blessing.

If you had known beforehand the trial of today, you would have despaired and felt you could never bear it, but today His grace is there. You didn't need grace for this trial until the trial came. We must draw upon God's grace as we need it, and then we find that His grace is sufficient. We do not receive grace for tomorrow's testing until tomorrow's testing comes! "Through many dangers, toils and snares we have already come; Tis grace hath brought us safe thus far, and grace will lead us home." Put more food on an infant's plate than it needs and it will play with it and waste it. The same is true of spiritual babies!

THINK ABOUT IT!!!

Seven things the Lord does for the Believer in Psalm 23

- 1. A sheep fed. "I shall not want"
- 2. A child led. "He leads me beside the still waters"
- 3. A backslider restored. "He restoreth my soul"
- 4. A friend comforted. "Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me."
- 5. A warrior feasted. "Thou prepares a table before me"
- 6. A priest anointed. "Thou anointest my head"
- 7. A pilgrim housed. "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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