

God is God; you are but one of His creatures. Your only joy is to be found in obeying Him, your true fulfillment is to be found in worshipping Him, your only wisdom is to be found in trusting and knowing Him.
Sinclair Ferguson, *A Heart for God*.

There is nothing that makes us love a man so much as praying for him. ~~William Law

GADSBY'S CATECHISM – William Gadsby about 1800

(Presented here as originally published – this does not constitute a full endorsement of the Riverside Baptist Church)

Question XXIX. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

Answer. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ who, being the Lord of life and glory, became man, and so was, and continues to be, God and Man in two distinct natures but one Person for ever.

Gen. 3.15; Matt. 1.21, 23; Jn. 1.14; 1 Tim. 2.5 & 3.16; Heb. 1.1-9 & 2.9 & 13.8.

Question XXX. How did Christ, the Lord of life and glory, become man?

Answer. Christ, the Lord of life and glory, became man by taking upon Him the nature of His people, being conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary (by the overshadowing of the Holy Ghost) and born of her, yet without sin.

Isa. 7.14; Matt. 1.20-23; Luke 1. 31-35; Jn. 1.14; Gal. 4.4; Phil. 2.6-8; Heb. 2.14-18.

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Sunday Morning 11:00 AM

Sunday Evening 6:00 PM

Prayer and Bible Study Wednesday Evening 6:30 PM

WCWV 92.9 FM – 8:00 AM Sunday Morning

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST REPORT

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

“The Pillar and ground of the Truth” -- 1 Timothy 3:15

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TRUSTING AND STAYING

Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God. Isaiah 50:10

There is no want of light in Jesus Christ. He is the light of the world. The Psalmist declared that “The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear.” From the Apostle John we read: *This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5.* These and many other passages point us to a walk in the light of the Lord. When times of darkness appear we are subject to being conflicted. Light cannot coexist with darkness. So then, how do we explain the idea of darkness in the life of one who truly fears the Lord? If it were not a possibility these words of encouragement to those who experience these seasons of darkness would not be there. From the testimony of others and personal experience we know that such experiences do come upon faithful Christians.

We are told that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of both wisdom and knowledge. These things are associated with “the light that lightens all men.” The presence of the fear of the Lord is evidence of light and revelation. The question here then is not one of salvation. It is not necessarily an issue of sin or disobedience. Rather, it may speak of divine appointments and times of proving. The fear of the Lord here is not of the craven or servile sort. It is that in which the Holiness of God is acknowledged along with His absolute power and sovereignty. Those who truly fear the Lord do so from the perspective of being saved. They know what He might have

done to them and confess that mercy belongs to Him. They delight in submitting to Him for the care they know they must have. They know that His is the power to cast into hell but rejoice that He did not. God does justly cast men into hell but them that fear Him have been eternally exempted by the blood of Christ Jesus our Lord. To the true believer the fear of the Lord is precious.

The one addressed here is also obedient to the word of God and to Him who is called the Word made flesh. The Apostle Paul confessed to the wicked King that upon being arrested on the road to Damascus and saved that he “was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.” Peter referred to those who “obey not the gospel.” There is an eternal response to the Gospel in true believers. They are suitably affected by what they believe. There are no empty professions of faith which have no observable change. The Gospel brings with it a joyous submission to God and His word. There is the revelation of one’s sin followed by repentance. There is faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ and the desire to walk with Him. This is all brought about by being “begotten by the word of truth.” We must be born again! Believing obedience has not a hint of legalism in it. It is the loving response of a believer to his precious Lord.

There are many warnings of things that might befall the child of God. Perhaps any or all of these things are in view here. James spoke of falling into “divers temptations.” Paul shared

times of personal despair. Our Lord entered into the darkness of death itself in paying for the sins of His people. Many are given the idea that a profession of Christ will insure brightness and joy all the way in this world. Such has not been the experience of men such as Moses, David, Daniel and the Apostles. We are prone to look for immediate evidences and instant confirmations. When times come that we do not sense the countenance of God upon us we tend to fall into depression and doubt. Such may come because of trial, illness, persecution or distress from any source. Or we may simply find ourselves painfully down without ability to pray or meditate on the things of the Lord in an acceptable way. It would seem that Job went through a long season of this.

The way to my home when growing up was a difficult road in the light and black as pitch at night. It was often necessary, on a dark night, to walk that path from memory and feeling my way along. I would picture what it looked like in the day and just continue until the light of my home came into view. We are encouraged in this passage to trust in the Name of the Lord

even in the darkness. Though our way has seemed to darken, He has not changed. *The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe. Proverbs 18:10.* Genuine trust in the Name of the Lord is unconditional. He has promised never to leave us or forsake us. He did not promise that we would always be conscious of His presence. Our trust must not be in sight or even because of the things done for us in the past. Our trust is to be in Him, His Name and all for which it stands. It is ever to be, "Christ in you the hope of glory" regardless of the circumstances.

The walker in darkness is further told to "stay upon his God." We are reminded of the words of Peter: *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 1 Peter 5:7.* The word implies that we support ourselves upon our God. We lean, rest, rely on Him at all times. It is the "trial of faith" that is precious. We may be assured that the direction here to trust and to stay implies that the darkness is there for a reason and will end in that which is to His glory and the good of the walker. It must be enough for us to know it is of Him. *bhs*

"Thy Servant Was Busy Here And There -- I Kings 20:40

Hugo Grotius of Holland was one of the most brilliant and influential men of the 17th century. He was a poet and a philosopher of recognition. He was a theologian, whose commentaries on the scriptures are regarded by many to be of great value. And Grotius was, perhaps, the most significant historian of his day. But when he laid dying from wounds he suffered in a shipwreck, he made this statement — "I have consumed my life in a laborious doing of nothing! I would give all my learning and honor for the plain integrity of John Urick," a poor, but godly man with whom he was acquainted. Grotius was busy here and there. But in the end he lost his soul; and everything else was vanity!

I once read of a dying nobleman who exclaimed upon his deathbed — "Good God, how have I employed myself! In what delirium has my life been passed! What have I been doing while the sun in its race and the stars in their courses have lent their beams, perhaps only to light my way to perdition! I have pursued shadows, and entertained myself with dreams. I have been treasuring up dust and sporting myself with the wind. I might have grazed with the beasts of the field, or sung with the birds of the woods, to much better purposes than any for which I have lived!" This man had

everything a man could want, but peace with God. He was busy here and there. He had gained the whole world. But he called his life a “delirium,” a vain and meaningless dream. In the end he lost his soul; and everything else was vanity!

Let us not be so foolish! Do not allow the cares of this world to destroy your soul. Do not allow the providential blessings of life to keep you from Christ. Has God given you a wife? Do not allow your wife to keep you from God. Has the Lord given you children? Do not let your children keep you from worshipping Christ. Has God given you a business? Do not allow your business to interfere with worship, prayer, and obedience to your Lord.

Let us not be busy here and there with this world to the ruin of our immortal souls. We have a Savior to honor, a kingdom to serve, a gospel to preach, and a constant sacrifice to make (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). As wise men and women, let us redeem the time God has given us and serve him well in it for Christ's sake (1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Ephesians 5:15-16). – *Don Fortner*



From “The Lord’s Touch”

Saul went to his house at Gibeah; and the valiant men whose hearts God had touched went with him. (1 Samuel 10:26)

The touch of God is an awesome thing because God is God.

Just think of what is being said here! God touched them. Not a wife. Not a child. Not a parent. Not a counselor. But God. The One with infinite power in the universe. The One with infinite authority and infinite wisdom and infinite love and infinite goodness and infinite purity and infinite justice. That One touched their heart. How does the circumference of Jupiter touch the edge of a molecule? Let alone penetrate to its nucleus?

The touch of God is awesome because it is a touch. It is a real connection. That it involves the heart is awesome. That it involves God is awesome. And that it involves an actual touch is awesome.

The valiant men were not just spoken to. They were not just swayed by a divine influence. They were not just seen and known. God, with infinite condescension, touched their heart. God was that close. And they were not consumed. I love that touch. I want it more and more. For myself and for all of you. I pray that God would touch me anew for his glory. I pray that he would touch us all.

O for the touch of God! If it comes with fire, so be it. If it comes with water so be it. If it comes with wind, let it come, O God. If it comes with thunder and lightning, let us bow before it.

O Lord, come. Come that close. Burn and soak and blow and crash. Or still and small, come. Come all the way. Touch. ``*John Piper*



If you would follow on to know the Lord, come at once to the open Bible expecting it to speak to you. Do not come with the notion that it is a thing which you may push around at your convenience. It is more than a thing, it is a voice, a word, the very Word of the living God. A. W. Tozer *The Pursuit of God*