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Ebb Tide by Sandy Simpson



Missionary Sandy Simpson is a missionary and editor of Pacific Waves Newsletter.

I want to take this opportunity to apologize for not putting out an edition of PW for many months. I have been very busy with a number of projects and so was unable to complete this issue. One of the project was an almost twelve hour long video series on the New Apostolic Reformation. You can find information on that DVD, VHS and book and how to order

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Newsletter

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Address Correction Requested

on page 6. I am also working on a new book on the subject of Christian maturity I hope to have finished in a few months. The web sites are very busy these days with thousands of hits per day and hundreds of emails per week. As usual we continue with our Bible study groups twice a week where many pastors and Christian leaders attend.

This edition doesn't have any theme necessarily, but it does contain some information we thought you would find helpful. The "Fruit Of The Spirit" series continues with the subject of "goodness". Juanita's bible study is an important study on the wise and foolish builders. Christians need to dig deep into the Word and lay a firm foundation for the age to come. With that in mind I also included an article by A.W. Tozer on the subject of sound doctrine,

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Fruit Of the Spirit Series—Goodness by Sandy Simpson



Biblical Examples Of Goodness

There are many examples in the Bible of people who had, because of their relationship with God, goodness as part of their character. We are not talking about people being basically good for the Bible says that men are basically wicked.

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? (NIV)

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (KJV)

Mr 10:18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No-one is good— except God alone."

But when a man has believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and been born again of the Holy Spirit, he is changed. He then begins to show the fruit of the Spirit, one attribute of which is goodness. When men

put their faith in God, His character shows through their lives in righteousness, truth and goodness.

There are two men that I want to focus on that the Bible specifically states had goodness as part of their character. The first is Abel, son of Adam. He is called a "righteous man". A righteous man is a man who is right or good.

Heb. 11:4 By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

As we see from the short life of Abel, a good man is a man of obedience and faith. Abel brought a blood sacrifice that he knew God wanted. Cain did not. An obedient son is called a good son, a disobedient son is called an evil son. God saw the faith of Abel that caused him to be obedient to God.

Adam and Eve, his mother and father, had disobeyed God. Abel was the first man to obey God fully. And by that faith his righteousness still speaks today. The story of Cain and Abel is a story of one who was obedient, and one who was disobedient. It is the story of one son who, when God commended him for his obedience, continued to walk with God; and one son who when disciplined by God further rebelled and became the first murderer in the history of mankind. So in this one story we have the knowledge of good and evil showing itself in one man who chose to follow God, and one who chose to follow sin. The blood of Abel crying out from the ground

whom are going to be speakers in this conference come under my guidance, coordination and leadership as an apostle. They each have apostles in their own networks but I mean they are under spiritually. **But I'm the one that brings them together and when I bring them together things happen.** (C. Peter Wagner, National School of the Prophets - Mobilizing the Prophetic Office, Colorado Springs, CO, May 11, 2002, Tape #1)

In Wagner's new book, **APOSTLES OF THE CITY: HOW TO**

GREATER than the original Apostles.

C. PETER WAGNER

Apostles and prophets the foundation of the Church and, um, I identify as James an horizontal apostle to bring together the people of the body of Christ not only can I do it, I love to do it. Yesterday I was the apostle with a group of about 15-20 prophets we met all day long, and these prophets many of

Fruit Of the Spirit Series—Kindness cont.

was ultimately answered in the sacrifice of God's only Son, Jesus Christ in His death on the cross to purchased pardon for all sinners who would place their faith in Him, just as Abel placed his faith in God. The second man mentioned as being good is Barnabas.

Aids 11:22-24 News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

The marks of goodness in the life of Barnabas were that he was (1) joyful (2) an encourager (3) full of the Holy Spirit (4) full of faith (5) a witness of the gospel of Jesus Christ. As we have already studied, one of the fruit of the Spirit is joy. Barnabas was glad at what he found among the believers, the Gentiles of Antioch. Barnabas was an encourager, urging them to remain true to the Lord. This is called discipleship. No man can be called good without the Holy Spirit, and Barnabas was called good because he was full of the Spirit. He was also full of faith. His faith overflowed in the sight of men, so much so that many placed their faith in Jesus Christ because of his witness.

Let's look at some other evidences of a good man which are to be found in Proverbs and Matthew.

Pr 12:2 A good man obtains favor from the LORD, but the LORD condemns a crafty man.

A good man is blessed by the Lord. A crafty or devious man, one who schemes and makes plans to help only himself, is not a good man. Men's schemes will ultimately lead to judgment from the Lord. But goodness leads to God's favor.

Pr 13:22 A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous.

When a man takes care of his

family he will be seen among men as being good. Ultimately the wealth of the crafty sinner will belong to the righteous, if not in this life then certainly in the new heaven and earth, because a good man lays up his treasure in heaven.

Pr 14:14 The faithless will be fully repaid for their ways, and the good man rewarded for his.

Those who have faith will be rewarded. Those who are faithless will be repaid, often right here and now. The Bible says that hypocrites have their reward in full here on earth. Those of faith often give up their reward now for a heavenly reward that will last for eternity.

Mt 12:35 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

A good way to recognize a good man is to see what comes out of his mouth. The mouth is a rudder that is impossible to steer without the help of the Holy Spirit. If a man does not have control of his tongue then the chances are pretty good that he is not in submission to the Spirit.

Examples Of Goodness

Sometimes when you decide to do something good for someone else, it spreads out to many more people and will effect your own life as well.

Tombstone Generosity

A tombstone cutter was busy in his shop when his friend dropped in for a visit. The friend, while looking about the shop, noticed a headstone which had been there for several years. The inscription had been cut on it, but the words were useless, for the stone had been in storage all that time.

Curious, the friend asked why. "The people who ordered it were not able to pay for it," replied the tombstone cutter. "And it stays here until they bring the money." "But what good is it doing you here?" the friend asked. "No good! No good at all!" replied the cutter with some anger. "Well, then," continued his friend, "if those folks haven't been able to pay for it yet for years -- your chances of collecting are

pretty slim. Did it ever occur to you that you might place that stone where it belongs? At least it will be doing some good. It just takes up valuable room here." "That's poor business!" was the curt comment of the stonecutter. "It's never poor business to be kind to people and to go out of your way to help people who are in trouble." Having said this, the friend walked out of the shop. A month passed before he returned to that shop. He looked around the room. The stone was gone. "Well, I see you got rid of that stone," he commented. "Did they pay you for it?" "No!" replied the stonecutter. "But I placed the stone where it belongs anyhow." "That's poor business!" reminded his friend with a smile. "I know it is," replied the stonecutter. "But after your last visit here, my conscience started to torment me about it. I got to putting myself in that family's place, for I know that they haven't had the money to pay for it. Every time I came into this shop, that white stone haunted me like a ghost until finally I took it out and put it where it really belongs. Then, afterwards, when I found out how happy it made the family, I lost my head completely." "How?" "Well, yesterday when they came in here to pay me for the stone, do you know what I did? I refused the money. That's how foolish I'm getting to be." "Foolish? I wonder?" replied his friend. (From More Sermons in Stories, by Rev. William Steiger, published by Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1944, pgs. 64 & 65, submitted by Josephine Green, Dubuque, Iowa)

Unfortunately today in our modern world being a good Samaritan is not often rewarded.

Instead people are sometimes rewarded for not helping at all.

Am I My Brother's Keeper?

In 1928, a very interesting case came before the courts in the state of Massachusetts. It concerned a man who had been walking on a boat dock when suddenly he tripped over a rope and fell into the cold, deep water of an ocean bay.

He came up spluttering and yelling for help and then sank again, obviously in trouble. His friends were too far away to get to him, but only a few yards away, on another dock, was a young man sprawled on a deck chair, sunbathing. The desperate man shouted "Help, I can't swim!" The young man, an excellent swimmer, only turned his head to watch as the man floundered in the water, sank, came up spluttering in total panic, and

then disappeared forever. The family of the drowned man was so upset by that display of callous indifference that they sued the sunbather. They lost. The court reluctantly ruled that the man on the dock had no legal responsibility whatever to try and save the other man's life. In effect, the law agrees with Cain's presupposition: I am not my brother's keeper, and I have every legal right to mind my own business and to refuse to become involved. (Gary Inrig, Quality Friendship, page 105, Submitted by Rick Mandl, Eagle Rock Baptist Church, Los Angeles, California.)

Remember how Abel is called a good and righteous man? Even in this story Cain is called an unrighteous man who did not care for his brother but killed him. These two brother's attitudes and actions live on even till today.

How do we react to those who persecute us? Sometimes returning good for evil can have amazing results.

Good For Evil

According to the Associated Press account, in September 1994, Cindy Hartman of Conway, Arkansas, walked into her house to answer the phone and was confronted by a burglar. He ripped the phone cord out of the wall and ordered her into a closet.

Hartman dropped to her knees and asked the burglar if she could pray for him. "I forgive you," she said.

The burglar was amazed and apologized for what he had done. Then he yelled out the door to a woman in a pickup truck: "We've got to unload all of this. This is a Christian home and a Christian family. We can't do this to them."

As Hartman remained on her knees, the burglar returned furniture he had taken from her home. Then he took the bullets out of his gun, handed the gun to Hartman and walked out the door.

Praying for our enemies can disarm the worst of sinners.

How we live our lives today will also have a lasting effect in the generations to come.

Kansas City Prophets, Kansas City, MO 1989, autiotype)

ROD PARSLEY

On the program, Parsley appealed to the Hicks, "prophecy" and added the mist that we are not to look to the Book of Acts, but to a far greater, future day of miracles. Parsley's claim is that there is an end-time Church coming

greater than the Church of the Apostles, which will routinely heal the sick and raise the dead. (ROD PARSLEY: THE RAGING PROPHET "BREAking THROUGH" HIS UNORTHODOX DOCTRINE AND PR-ACTICE, by G. Richard Fisher, <https://www.sp.org/parsley.htm>)

RUTH HEFLIN

"We are called for this day and this hour. Born for it. Destined for it. It is a time greater than the Day of Pentecost. Greater than the period of the first-century church. The end time. The time of the culmination of all things. The day of fulfillment. The day that the Apostles longed to see. The day that we are not only seeing, but the day we are experiencing ... Anglican hosts assist confirm us. All that has happened

through the centuries has been geared for this hour." (Ruth Heflin, Glory Harvest, p. 406)

MARK CHIRONA

Hinn started out by establishing his credentials as a prophet of God. He called upon TBN's fellow guests for help in interpreting a disturbing dream he had had. "I do not fully understand it," he lamented, "but I really believe it deals with what God is about to do in the world." He gave a long narrative of his mystical dream that he said was "more of a vision of the night" than a dream. "In this dream, I did not see his face," Hinn began. "Everything in me knew it was the prophet Elijah . . . I walked up to him and he was turning water into blood." Hinn continued, "As I came to him, he said to me, 'Take this! I took the rod from him.' When he finished, fellow guest Mark Chirona, offered the interpretation. "The formless essence of Elijah is the spirit of Elijah that God promised to pour out on the last days' company of seasoned ministry...." "And when Elijah handed you the rod, God was putting in your hand a new level of apostolic authority for the nations. . . . You are entering into a new age of the miraculous. There will be a sharpening, for the spirit of Elijah rests on you." . . . (Benny Hinn & Mark Chirona, TBN, Jan. 7,

2000)

KENNETH HAGIN

The Church will do even greater things than even the Early Church did. It will have greater power, signs, and wonders than were recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. (Word Of The Lord Through Brother Kenneth Hagin, Saint Louis, July 1997)

RICK JOYNER

Rick Joyner on the subject of the latter-day apostles and prophets who will be greater than the apostles and prophets of Biblical times: "In the near future we will not be looking back at the early church with envy because of the great exploits of those days, but all will be saying that **He certainly did save His best wine for last. The most glorious times in all of history have not come upon us. You, who have dreamed of one day being able to talk with Peter, John and Paul, are going to be surprised to find that they have all been waiting to talk to you.**" (Rick Joyner, The Harvest (Pineville, NC, MorningStar, 1990, 9)

Those who claim to be equal or greater than the true foundational

Apostles are, by biblical definition, false apostles.

2 Cor. 11:12-15 And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

This is all you need to know about the New Apostolic Reformation. Case closed!



Juanita Simpson is a retired missionary still serving the Lord in Micronesia after 42 years of ministry.

themselves, doing their own thing the fast and easy way. Some lost their lives; others lost valuable property. But far more serious is the blunder of those who build their lives on the things of the world, on false teaching or following false teachers, only to find them swept away into eternal night when Jesus says the terrible words, "I never knew you. Depart from Me." I remind you of these things because I care about you. You must also remind others to build their houses on the Rock so that they will stand to the end.

Heb. 6:9-12

The storms we experience now are light compared to the storms at the end. The final great test will be the last judgment. Jesus points forward to that and asks, "Who will survive it?" His answer points back to Himself: "Whoever hears My words and obeys them." Everything depends on our response to the words and Person of Jesus Christ. Merely hearing the word may put us on the wrong side ending up in hell. Everything depends on obedience!

My grandfather saw the foolishness of men who refused to listen and act on words of warning. They insisted on pleasing

Bible Study end

False Apostles! cont.

MOBILIZE THE TERRITORIAL APOSTLES FOR CITY TRANSFORMATION, he attempts to describe what the local role of these apostles might be. He defines

Apostles to the City as those "whom the Holy Spirit gives an anointing for extraordinary authority in spiritual matters over the other Christian leaders in the same city." While not excluding others, Wagner hypothesizes that the most extensive pool for identifying apostles of the city is among the mega churches. (The Apostles Are Coming To Your City, Ready or Not by Orell Steinkamp, The Plumblaine, Vol. 6, No. 2, March/April 2001)

In the brochure that I received, advertising C. Peter Wagner's conference in Brisbane, the following was written: "The New Apostolic Reformation is an extraordinary work of the Holy Spirit that is changing the shape of Christianity globally. It is truly a new day! The Church is changing. New names! New methods! New worship expressions! **The Lord is establishing the foundations of the Church for the new millennium. This foundation is built upon apostles and prophets. Apostles execute and establish God's plan on the earth.** The time to convene a conference of the different apostolic prophetic streams across this nation is now! **This conference will cause the Body to understand God's 'new' order for this coming era.** We look forward to having you with us in Brisbane in Feb 2000." It was signed by Peter Wagner and Ben Gray. (Brochure For Brisbane 2000, as cited in *Jumping On The Bandwagon - Australian Christian Churches Seduced by the Beat of a Different Drummer?*, Highte, Seaborn, 1999, <http://members.ozemail.com.au/~seaborn/bandwagon.html>)

BILL HAMON

A National Symposium on the Post-Denominational Church was convened by Dr. C. Peter Wagner at Fuller Seminary, May 21-23, 1996. Bill Hamon said that "this was a historical occasion in God's annals of Church history. It was prophetically orchestrated by the Holy Spirit to fulfill God's progressive purposes of bringing His church to its ultimate destiny. . . the consensus of the panelists was that **there are still apostles and prophets in the Church, and there is an emerging Apostolic Movement that will revolutionize the 21st Century Church.** (Streams, Rivers, Floods, Avalanches, cited by Jewel van der Merwe, *Discernment Ministries* Newsletter, <http://www.discernmentministries.com/Articles/streams.htm>)

PAUL CAIN

"No prophet or apostle who ever lived equaled the power of these individuals in this great army of the Lord in these last days. No one ever had it, not even Elijah or Peter or Paul, or anyone else enjoyed the power that is going to rest on this great army." (Bob Jones and Paul Cain. "Selections from the Kansas City Prophets," audiotape (tape: 155C) <http://www.deeptoninthchurch.com/quotes.html>)

"...Every time God ever planned to do anything, the devil would get wind of it and he'd go out there are try to head it off...When he knew Moses was coming what did he do to stop him...He killed all the babies. What did he do when he figured that Jesus was going to be born at a certain time? He released a decree

through the wicked ruler to kill all the babies. Don't you see? And what's he doing now?...Abortions on every hand.

So, you must know something's coming up greater than Moses', greater than...Even in Jesus' day, because the devil is trying to kill off the New Breed. He's trying to kill off the bride of Christ and the Lord has well planted this seed and the New Bride and the New Breed...He's about to open the womb and He's about to give birth to this New Thing...When the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us we beheld the glories of the only begotten of the Father and when you begin to become that Word I want you to know. The world will behold the glory of the Father and that's what we're waiting to see...I want you to know that we're going to have some channeling one of these days, but it's going to be channeled right out of the throne room of Heaven." (Paul Cain, "You Can Become the Word", 1989, Vineyard Prophetic Conference)

It was Paul Cain who was part of the Vineyard movement that some claim is the most anointed prophet in the world today. **Cain in turn said William Branham is the greatest prophet that ever lived.** Think about that, this means he is greater than Moses or Jeremiah, Isaiah who wrote about the 2nd coming more than any other prophet. **Greater than even Jesus who also was a prophet.** It was Jesus himself who said John the Baptist was the greatest prophet who ever lived. Matt. 11:11-13 **Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.** (Greater in position not as a prophet). "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John." (Paul Cain, cited in "Unity at the end of the Age - Hearing the word of the new prophets", Mike Oppenheimer, <http://www.letsreason.org/Pent32.htm>)

JACK DEERE

Jack Deere says that with the third wave would come endtime apostles and prophets who would **"do greater works than the apostles, than Jesus, or any other Old Testament prophets."** (Jack Deere, "Intimacy With God and the End Time Church," Vineyard Christian Fellowship, Denver, CO, 1989, audiotape (session 2 A))

BOB JONES

"The anointing of the endtime prophets and apostles will be ten times the anointing of Moses." (Bob Jones, "An Interview With Bob Jones by Mike Birkle,"

To The Third And Fourth Generation

Max Jukes lived in New York. He did not believe in Christ or in Christian training. He refused to take his children to church, even when they asked to go. He has had 1,026 descendants; 300 were sent to prison for an average term of thirteen years; 190 were public prostitutes; 680 were admitted alcoholics. His family, thus far, has cost the state in excess of \$420,000. They made no contribution to society.

Jonathan Edwards lived in the same state, at the same time as Jukes. He loved the Lord and saw that his children were in church every Sunday, as he served the Lord to the best of his ability. He has had 929 descendants, and of these 430 were ministers; 86 became university professors; 13 became university presidents; 75 authored good books; 7 were elected to the United States Congress. One was vice president of his nation. His family never cost the state one cent but has contributed immeasurably to the life of plenty in this land today.

So we must strive for goodness and righteousness in our lives because how we live has consequences. As Christians we should earnestly desire and seek after holiness, righteousness, goodness.

Blessed are Those Who Hunger And Thirst for Righteousness

In the Antarctic summer of 1908-1909, Sir Ernest Shackleton and three companions attempted to travel to the South Pole from their winter quarters. They set off with four ponies to help carry the load. Weeks later, their ponies died, nations all but exhausted, they turned back toward their base, their goal not accomplished. Altogether, they trekked 127 days.

On the return journey, as Shackleton records in *The Heart Of The Antarctic*, the time was spent talking about food—elaborate feasts, gourmet delights, sumptuous menus. As they staggered along, suffering from dysentery, not knowing whether they would survive, every waking hour was occupied with thoughts of eating Jesus, who also knew the ravages of food deprivation, said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for RIGHTEOUSNESS." We can understand Shackleton's obsession with food, which offers a glimpse of the passion

Jesus intends for our quest for righteousness.

We ought to have this kind of hunger for righteousness. But change also takes time. You don't get holiness in your life magically or instantly. Though we are justified instantly by faith before God the Father when we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, the Holy Spirit continues to do a lifelong work in our lives changing us into the likeness of Christ. Don't let anyone fool you into thinking that being "slain in the spirit" or some other quick solution will erase your sin nature or make you completely holy. The process of the Holy Spirit in our lives and we must be willing to follow Him and submit all along the way.

Change Takes Time

Philippians 1:6 "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

A little girl had just finished her first week of school and was ready to give up. She told her mom, "I'm wasting my time. I can't read, I can't write—and they won't let me talk!" Too often we want change to take place overnight, and on our own terms. Change...improvement...holiness is a process that God works in our lives, and sometimes it takes time.

One of the things we should be careful of is not allowing our clean clothes as Christians to be soiled by the leaven of unrighteousness. This means staying away from sin and being careful not to give into temptations of the enemy. We must continue to witness to sinners and be light and salt in this world. We also need to stay far away from false believers — especially on teachers and false prophets on TV — because "clean don't rub off" on people who are self-deceived and under God's judgment. We can pray for them and try to help them, but be careful because being in unity with and hanging out with those who do not share our beliefs in the core doctrines of the Faith can dirty our own clothes.

Clean Don't Rub Off. Leviticus 15:5; Numbers 19:22; Psalm 19:7-11; Haggai 2:12-14

Wouldn't it be great if you could clean your dirty socks by putting them in a drawer with a clean pair? Life would be a lot simpler if clean rubbed off! Imagine the time you would save, no longer having to do the laundry. Your water bill would decrease significantly, and you would live forever with God in the new heaven and new earth. The good that we think and do should be our gift to the Lord. We need to obey the Lord and do what He wants us to do. We need to think of things that are good and holy.

"Always do right. This will gratify most people and astonish the rest."
—Mark Twain

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

We should offer up our whole lives to the Lord Jesus Christ, a living sacrifice.

Ro 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

Holy, good, righteous gifts are a sacrifice pleasing to God. We worship God with our good sacrifices, those that come out of a kind and loving heart and a love for our Lord. Holy sacrifices are out of thanksgiving for the biggest sacrifice of all, that is, Jesus death on the cross for us. Righteous acts and words in obedience to Jesus Christ will not go unrewarded.

Holy, good, righteous gifts are a sacrifice pleasing to God. We worship God with our good sacrifices, those that come out of a kind and loving heart and a love for our Lord. Holy sacrifices are out of thanksgiving for the biggest sacrifice of all, that is, Jesus death on the cross for us. Righteous acts and words in obedience to Jesus Christ will not go unrewarded.

TOTAL COMMITMENT

The mother of the family was celebrating a birthday and the rest of the family was treating her to a party. When the time for the presentation of the gifts arrived, she was instructed to sit in her favorite living room chair. One by one, the father and the two older children came in from the kitchen bearing their gifts on a tray, solemnly presenting them to her as to royalty. The smallest girl, really too little to have had much of a role in the gift selection, had been left out of these joyous plans. But watching the process, she rose to the occasion. For when the others thought the party was over, she appeared from the kitchen bearing an empty tray. Approaching her mother she placed the tray on the floor, stepped upon it herself, and with a childish wiggle of joy said, "Mommy, I gave you ME!" (Charles Kings, *St. Joseph's Seminary*, Princeton, NJ)

This story is funny but it illustrates a good point. The good

The Importance Of Sound Doctrine by A.W. Tozer

into which error may seep to dilute the truth they contain. The human heart is heretical by nature and runs to error as naturally as a garden to weeds. All a man, a church or a denomination needs to guarantee deterioration of doctrine is to take everything for granted and do nothing. The unattended garden will soon be overrun with weeds; the heart that fails to cultivate truth and root out error will shortly be a theological wilderness; the church or denomination that grows careless on the highway of truth will before long find itself astray, bogged down in some mud flat from which there is no escape.

In every field of human thought and activity accuracy is considered a virtue. To err ever so slightly is to invite serious loss, if not death itself. Only in religious thought is faithfulness to truth looked upon as a fault. When men deal with things earthly and temporal they demand truth; when they come to the consideration of things heavenly and eternal they hedge and hesitate as if truth either could not be discovered or didn't matter anyway.

Montaigne said that a liar is one who is brave toward God and a coward toward men; for a liar faces God and shrinks from men. Is this not simply a proof of unbelief? Is men but is not convinced of the existence of God, and is willing to risk the displeasure of a God who may not exist rather than that of

to creep into many evangelical churches. From some previously unimpeachable sources are now coming vague statements consisting of a milky admixture of Scripture, science and human sentiment that is true to none of its ingredients because each one works to cancel the others out.

Certain of our evangelical brethren appear to be laboring under the impression that they are advanced thinkers because they are rethinking evolution and re-evaluating various Bible doctrines or even divine inspiration itself; but so far are they from being advanced thinkers that they are merely timid followers of modernism-fifty years behind the parade.

Little by little evangelical Christians these days are being brainwashed. One evidence is that increasing numbers of them are becoming ashamed to be found unequivocally on the side of truth. They say they believe but their beliefs have been so diluted as to be impossible of clear definition. Moral power has always accompanied definitive beliefs. Great saints have always been dogmatic. We need right now a return to a gentle dogmatism that smiles while it stands stubborn and firm on the Word of God that liveth and abideth forever.

How well do we listen to words of warning? Can you remember words that you wish you had listened to and followed? Is God cruel to warn us about hell? Is a mother cruel for spanking her child for running out into a busy street or walking out into the deep water?

Why did Jesus tell these parables? It's easy to call Him Lord. **Luke 6:46** It's not so easy to do what He says! But is He really Lord if we don't do what He says? In **Matt. 7:21-23** Jesus said that many people are foolish enough to think

that they are in God's kingdom when they're not. Who will enter God's kingdom? Only the one who does His will. Doing His will is doing what He says. Some will not only call Him "Lord, Lord". They will also be able to point to: prophecies they have made in His name, driving out of demons in His name, and performing miracles in His name. Satan is very deceptive. He can duplicate the real thing like counterfeiters duplicate real money. If people use the name of Jesus to do special things, does that prove that they are in His kingdom? As we get closer to the end we will hear more and more false prophecies from counterfeit prophets, and see more and more miracles performed in Jesus' name by people who don't even know Him. They may be doing things by their own power or demonic power, but not in the power of the Lord and for His glory only. We must learn to be discerning.

How can we tell that they don't know Him? Jesus will say plainly, "I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!" We might say: "Lord, Lord, I went to church. I gave money. I sang in the choir. I was kind and generous to people." Do we do it because we know and love the Lord and want to please Him? Or is there some other reason? How do we come to really know the Lord? We begin to know Him at the new birth, but we need to continue learning about Him through Bible studies, prayer and meeting together. We prove that we know Him by doing what He has taught us to do in the Bible.

Let's take a look at the wise man in **Luke 6:47-48**. Jesus tells the parable of the wise & foolish builders. How can we identify which people are wise and which are foolish? Is it enough to call Him "Lord" and sound religious? Jesus gives us the answer: "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord', and do not do what I say?" What is the definition of a wise man? 3 things: 1) He comes to Me; 2) He hears My words; 3) He puts them into practice. Sometimes we think it's enough to come. It's no good to come if we don't really listen. And it's no good to listen if we don't do anything about what we hear. The question is: Do we put His words into practice? Often hearing His words and not doing them causes our hearts to become hard and calloused.

What is the picture of the work of a wise man? 2 things: 1) He dug deep; 2) He laid the foundation on

a rock. He didn't take the easy way out. He worked hard and put all his heart into building a strong house. How do we dig deep? How do we lay the foundation on a rock? We dig deep into God's Word and lay our foundation on Jesus Christ, the Rock. What was the result of the wise man's efforts? The flood came; the torrent struck the house but could not shake it because it was well built. What kind of storms hit our houses (our lives) that we build? Floods of disappointment, evil, sorrow, abuse, hatred, financial & material needs, false doctrines!

Eph. 4:14-15 Will we stand true because we are solidly based on a real vital relationship with Christ the Rock? If we are, we will be doing what He says - doing the Father's will - in our lives.

Let's look now at the foolish man in **Luke 6:49**. How is the foolish man described? 2 things: 1) He hears My words; 2) He does not put them into practice. Many people hear the Bible on a regular basis, but just hearing will not qualify us for entrance into the kingdom of heaven. If we think that way, we are called fools by Jesus. The Pharisees were fools because although they were experts in the Law they didn't really apply it to their lives. They ended up crucifying Jesus because they didn't love the Father or His Son. Going through the motions will not be enough.

What is the picture of the work of a foolish man? 2 things: 1) He didn't dig at all; 2) He built his house on the ground (or sand) without a foundation. It was the fast and easy way to build. His house was probably built long before the other one. Some people want power from God the easy way. They want to just call out to get whatever gift God may have for them. But when we seek a quick fix, there are also demons ready to give us things. That's why these people Jesus talked about could do miracles, etc. Jesus' way is never the easy way. He expects us to diligently study our Bibles, live out what He teaches us and serve Him faithfully. He will empower us as we are willing to die to ourselves

and pay the price of true discipleship.

What was the result of the foolish man's carelessness? He got a quick house, but he also got a quick destruction of his house. "The moment the torrent struck the house!" When the rain, the flood and the tidal wave came, there was nothing to hold the house and it collapsed. "Its destruction was complete." If we build on the false teachings of men, or on our own ability or power, we will ultimately experience that complete destruction - not only for ourselves, but for everyone else who has found shelter in "our house". We cannot afford to be careless builders. We must dig deeply into God's Word and build firmly on Jesus the Rock.

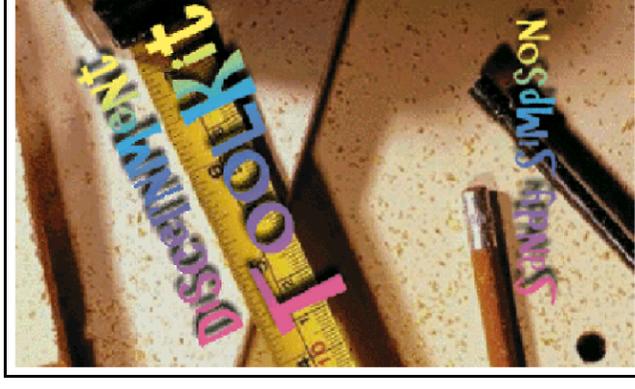
In **Jer. 17:5-8** the Lord gave Jeremiah a similar picture - not of builders, but of foolish & wise people who are like bushes and trees. The foolish: trusts in man; depends on flesh for his strength; his heart turns away from God. He is like: a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes (the Lord will say, "I never knew you"); he will dwell in dry, thirsty places - in a salt land where nobody lives. He will always be thirsty and never satisfied because he doesn't come to Jesus for the Living Water.

What about the tree? The wise: trusts in the Lord; his confidence is in Him (and he therefore obeys His Word). He is like: a tree planted by water; that sends out its roots by the stream (gets its nourishment from the Lord); does not fear when heat (trials and storms) come; its leaves are always green; it has no worries in a year of drought; and never fails to bear fruit. This tree is always productive, bringing blessing to others. As the wise man's house is built on the solid foundation of Jesus the Rock, so the wise tree gets its nourishment from the Living Water. The foolish man's house is a quick job built on sand, and he is like a bush that has no real fruit, and quickly dries up in the wasteland. The tree remains and the bush dies.

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was so much wreckage left that my grandfather built 4 cottages out of it and rented them out. Within 2 years of the devastating storm people were once again building on the sand of the shoreline. My grandfather tried to advise them not to build expensive homes in the very place where they had been swept away. But few listened. A couple of years later another hurricane hit and many of those houses were destroyed. It's amazing how foolish we people can be.

foolish weather people because no such thing had ever been experienced in the history of Connecticut. The tidal wave of 30 feet swept the shoreline clean of cottages and expensive mansions, along with quite a few people who disregarded the warning. My grandfather's house was on a hill overlooking the shore. The tidal wave came up to his back step. After the tidal wave his land was strewn with wreckage of the houses and cottages that were swept away. Some people came to claim parts of their houses. There

The Parables of Jesus – Part 10
The Wise & Foolish Builders
Luke 6:46-49, Matt. 7:21-23

In 1938 a hurricane and tidal wave struck the east coast of Connecticut on the Atlantic Ocean where I was living as a child. The Weather Bureau gave warning that a hurricane was headed our way and that it was likely to spawn a tidal wave. The resort shores of our state were crowded with houses and cottages. Some people heeded the warnings, and left the shoreline for safety. Others laughed at the