

APPLES OF GOLD

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APRIL SHOWERS OF BLESSING

Are you fearful, anxious about the future of our country and the world, worried and weighted down with care?



As children of God, we are blessed beyond measure. We are secure in Him regardless of the world situation, and we have a wondrous hope.

Let the rains come as blessings!

What though wars may come, with marching feet and beat of the drum,
For I have Christ in my heart.

What though nations rage, as we approach the end of the age,
For I have Christ in my heart.

God is still on the throne, Almighty God is He; And He cares for His own,
Through all eternity,

So let come what may, whatever it is, I only say That I have Christ in my heart.
I have Christ in my heart. (*Wendell P. Loveless)



("Radio Songs & Choruses" words & music – [written with a regimented sound as an infantry marching] by Wendell P. Loveless* Copyright, 1940, Singspiration Series)

*Manager for 25 years of the "Pioneer Voice of Christian Radio," Moody Bible Institute's WMBI; a gifted songwriter, soloist, pianist, Bible teacher, and our pastor in Wheaton, Illinois in the early 1950s. He married Clarence and me in 1954.

When Noah built the ark he asked some of his friends if they'd like a ride. They said no but would take a rain check.



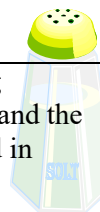
DOES YOUR LIFE CREATE IN OTHERS A THIRST FOR WATER – THE WATER OF LIFE – JESUS?

Jesus calls us “salt” in Matthew 5:13. Salt creates a thirst.

“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.” Matthew 5:6

We are “salt” in this dark world. When our influence is a godly one, we can make a positive difference in the lives of others for eternity.

<p>1. SALT during Bible times was precious and valued.</p>	<p>4. SALT appears unimpressive, but oh, the power of it!</p>
<p>2. SALT enhances flavor. It brings the best in others. It helps others to find the spiritual gifts God has designed for them and their special place of service.</p>	<p>5. SALT preserves. Its influence is felt in the preserving of great institutions such as the church, marriage, and the family.</p>
<p>3. SALT creates a thirst for the things of God. As we have an influence and set an example of godliness, others will become thirsty for what we have – God Himself.</p>	<p>6. SALT stings. When we present an unwavering example, and speak the truth in love, the worldly and the lukewarm Christian may feel offended or rebuked in contrast.</p>



In creating a thirst for God in others, we are to be *“like a watered garden, a spring of water, whose waters fail not”* (Isaiah 58:11c).

A WATERED GARDEN IS:

Full of life and growth

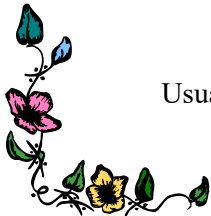
A place of peace and shelter under lush shade trees

Usually fed by a moving stream or abundant supply of water; Jesus is the Water of Life

A beautiful home to many of God’s small creatures and birds

Pleasant and tranquil

A place of nourishment and provision



ARE YOU LIKE A “WATERED GARDEN” AND A “CUP OF COLD WATER” TO SOMEONE IN NEED?

<p>Providing a meal for a family with illness</p> <p>Caring for a child when the mother is sick</p> <p>Cleaning up after someone else’s mess</p> <p>Visiting a shut-in or going out on church visitation</p> <p>Working behind the scenes for VBS</p> <p>Bringing them to Sunday school</p> <p>Giving clothing and/or household items to a family in need</p> <p>Inviting a new friend or new couple over from church</p> <p>Volunteering to do clerical work at church (folding, stuffing, counting, cutting, assembling, etc.)</p>	<p>Writing a note of encouragement to someone</p> <p>Sitting with someone who is ill; caring for an elderly parent</p> <p>Praying for missionaries; <u>you will share in their rewards.</u></p> <p>Changing diapers and whispering lullabies to the little ones in the church nursery</p> <p>Running errands for the staff at church or for a shut-in</p> <p>Shopping or chauffeuring for a family in need</p> <p>Speaking a word of encouragement to someone who is hurting, lonely, or who may be overlooked</p> <p>Buying for or loaning books and/or videos to a shut-in</p>
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Witnessing to friends and strangers and/or giving out Gospel tracts.

Small faith, or GREAT FAITH?

On BBN Radio **David Jeremiah** gave an unusual illustration concerning faith. We sometimes believe our faith is just too small, and we don't have enough faith. He spoke of ice fishing when he was a boy. Then he asked a question in a survey concerning this.

"As you walk onto the ice, would you rather have great faith in thin ice, or small faith in thick ice." Amazingly, well over 90% of his respondents said "great faith in thin ice." His conclusion – we are mistaken about faith. To have small faith in our great God is the real answer.

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).



Gems From Pastor Rob

WHEN THINGS ARE NOT ENOUGH

John 6

The Feeding of the Five Thousand



There's **no problem** too big for Jesus to solve.
Faith must go beyond logic.



There's no **person** too small for Jesus to use.

He takes us, touches us, and transforms us.

Don't insult God's grace by saying He can't use me.

There's no hunger too deep for Jesus to satisfy.

Jesus is the *spiritual* bread for our soul. Our church doesn't exist to feed the poor, but to preach the Gospel. We do feed them, but if that's all we do, they will only multiply and populate hell.

Jesus is the *supernatural* bread. Miracles are a poor vehicle for evangelism because people are never satisfied.

Jesus is the *satisfying* bread. We will never hunger for miracles or things again.

Get the Bread out to people.

Don't just reach out to take their hand; reach out to rescue them.

Some of us have favorites in pets; dogs or cats. I'm allergic to cats, but love dogs. Here's some cat stuff:

Don't order Siamese cats on the internet. They just send you one cat, and it doesn't even have two heads.

What happened when the cat swallowed a coin?
There was some money in the kitty.

What is the only kind of work a weak cat can do?
Light mouse work

What kind of cars do cats drive? Catillacs

What does a cat get from watching too many Mickey Mouse films?
Disney Spells

*What do you get if you cross a parakeet with a cat?
A peeping Tom*



HIDDEN TREASURES

1. **Last month's question:** Name a chapter in the book of Psalms, written 1000 BC in which the crucifixion of Christ is vividly portrayed in prophecy. **ANSWER:** Psalm 22
2. **This month's question:** Name 4 outstanding romances in the book of Genesis.

FOR and ABOUT SENIORS



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * I'm the life of the party..... even if it lasts until 8 p.m. * I'm very good at opening childproof caps... with a hammer. * I'm awake many hours before my body allows me to get up. * I'm very good at telling stories; over and over and over... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * I'm aware that other people's grandchildren are not nearly as handsome, or smart as mine. * I'm so cared for --- long term care, eye care, private care, dental care. * I'm wrinkled, saggy, lumpy, and that's just my left leg. * I'm sure they are making adults much younger these days, but when did they let kids become policemen? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * I'm wondering, if you're only as old as you feel, how could I be alive at 150? * But sometimes I wonder, how can my kids be older than I feel? * I'm a walking storeroom of facts..... I've just lost the key to the storeroom door. * Yes, I'm a SENIOR CITIZEN and I think I am having a wonderful time.
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More goodies for the seniors who read this newsletter:

Be nice to your kids; they will choose your nursing home.	Old age brings experience & it's so wonderful. It helps us recognize the mistakes we make again.	One good thing about Alzheimer's. You get to meet new people daily.	Retirement: Twice as much husband; half as much money.
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Alone vs. Loneliness

Is there a difference? Webster's Dictionary defines these two words:

ALONE – solitary, unique, singular, sole, without company

LONELY – lonesome, desolate, forlorn, deserted, sad from lack of companionship

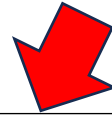
The main difference here is emotional. Stated another way – it's a matter of the heart. You can be with others and feel lonely. You can be ALONE and feel fine. Why? Because LONELINESS is an emotion involving the need for companionship & a human touch, but it's also a focus on oneself. It is the way we respond to our present situation, whether we are ALONE or with others. It's our choice.

When you are ALONE and focused on others – God, your family, your work, your ministry.....even when thinking and praying about those you miss who are far away, or gone forever (till Jesus comes) you can choose God's peace without allowing the emotion of LONELINESS to overwhelm, neutralize, and defeat you.

Even though we have a nice-sized family (4 girls, 2 boys) & many grandchildren, I live alone. Many of our family live out of state, but I have a few children close by who are treasures. **I'm alone, but not lonely.**



Alone or lonely?



Being unmarried or a single mother
 Newly separated or divorced
 Just starting a new school
 Moved to a new town where no one knows you
 Husband away in the military
 New job, new co-workers
 Husband in jail

Mate passed away
 No close friends
 New church, know very few people
 A recent widow or having suffered the death of a child
 Being rejected by a lover, friend, or family member
 Being the only believer among unbelievers
 Taking a stand against the majority
 Living with a non-supportive husband



Over 100 years ago George Matheson went blind shortly after becoming engaged to be married. His fiancée broke the engagement. This was a bitter LONELINESS. Instead of turning to resentment against the lady who had caused it, he turned to God and was transformed. He wrote this great hymn:

<i>O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give Thee back the life I owe, That in Thine ocean depths its flow May richer, fuller be.</i>	<i>O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, And feel the promise is not vain That morn shall tearless be.</i>	<i>O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from Thee; I lay in dust life's glory dead, And from the ground there blossoms red Life that shall endless be.</i>
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When we offer back to God our LONELINESS, it becomes a pathway to holiness, to glory, and to God Himself. The emotion of LONELINESS, if turned inward, may be a form of selfishness. We can reject friendship when it is not offered to us on our terms. We can even reject the grace of God. We can magnify our LONELINESS all out of proportion and sink into self-pity and isolation. We can have our own agenda, and not God's, for ending our LONELINESS.

OR

We can accept God's agenda for us.
 We can turn our solitude and ALONENESS into the solitude of prayer. This is release.
 And we can wait. This does not mean doing nothing. Psalm 37 makes it very clear. While we wait we:

*TRUST in the Lord and do good.
 DWELL in the land and live contentedly at peace where God puts us.
 DELIGHT in the Lord, making Him our only joy.
 COMMIT our life to the Lord.
 TRUST in Him and know He will act.
 REMAIN QUIET before the Lord.
 WAIT patiently for Him without worrying.*

Being ALONE is a stated fact. Being LONELY is a sad emotion.
 Being ALONE may be necessary.
 Succumbing to and wallowing in LONELINESS is a choice.

TRUST JESUS TO BE YOUR SAVIOUR. LIFE'S JOURNEY IS COMPLETE WITH SOMEONE WHO KNOWS AND IS THE WAY. YOU WILL NEVER BE LONELY WITH HIM.

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