

The Narrow Way

Catch the little foxes!

Bethany Turner

Does God care about the little things we do? We often talk about wanting to know what God's will is for us. But we usually only think of this question in reference to career choices or who we should marry.

We may seek to know God's will for big decisions, but we make decisions every day of our lives. Little decisions repeated over and over form habits, and habits form character.

But does God really care about whether or not you sweep the corners? Does He have an opinion about what you wear today? Aren't these things too small for His notice?

Just spider webs

During our January Bible school, all the students got a turn at cleaning the toilet blocks. This was my day.

Our breaks weren't long, and I hoped for a chance for some time alone with God before class resumed. So I wanted to get that block cleaned and get out of there quicktime! But I heard the quiet insistent voice of my conscience reminding me to do my job well. Half running, I rounded up the wonder cloth, broom and mop.

When I first noticed the scant spider webs in the corner behind the door, I quickly reasoned that I could leave them. *No-one would notice them.*



Am I doing my job for what people will see or to please my heavenly Master?

“Eyeservice”

Then, flashed into my mind the words of the apostle Paul, “Not with eyeservice... but as to the Lord.” and the question, Am I doing my job for what people will see or to please my heavenly Master?

A look in my wardrobe

The realization hit me that this question touches every area of life. Picking out an outfit to wear to church, for example.

I have sometimes thought, “I know this dress is a bit snug, but it really suits me and I’m leading the song service - it will look perfect for up the front.”

Other times, I have remembered my solemn and grand responsibility as Christ's ambassador (all who claim to be Christ's are His ambassadors) and have whispered, “Lord, what would it please you to have me wear? How can I best represent You?”

Do we make our decisions based on

what others will think of us, or what God thinks? What is our real motive?

“Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, *doing the will of God from the heart*, With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men.” Ephesians 6:6, 7

How do you choose your groceries? “as menpleasers” – this is what I feel like eating or “as to the Lord” - to preserve my body, which is the temple of God?

~Inside~

New Year Resolutions	2
The Conversion of a Farmer	3
New Book Review	5
Simple Impact	6
New Book Review	7
How to get your book	8
The sweetest type of heaven	8
The Strongest Argument	8

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” 1 Corinthians 6:19

“If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.” 1 Corinthians 3:17

Does God really care?

But does God really care about the little details, such as which outfit I wear, what I eat, when I go to bed, who I talk to and what I think about and say?

The answer is twofold – twice yes! Firstly yes, because God really cares about me *that much* and wants to be that involved in my life.

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5, 6

From this verse we see both that God wants to and that if we let Him, He *will* direct us. Notice that the promise is dependant on our acknowledging Him “in *all* thy ways” - that 'all' includes every single detail of your life.

And the promise is:

“And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.” Isaiah 30:21

Often, though, we don't need God's explicit direction to know which choice would please Him. We know how He would have us choose, and it will never be contrary to the guidelines He has already given us.

Little foxes

The second yes is because every little thing we do and decision we make, has a direct effect on who we become – children of God or children of this world; “menpleasers.”

Every little thing is a step in one direction or the other. Just because that step doesn't land us immediately

at our destination, doesn't mean it's not taking us there.

“Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.” Song of Solomon 2:15

What *did* Jesus do?

Christ is our example, and He testified:

“I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.” John 5:30

“Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And *be that sent me is with me*: the Father hath not left me alone; *for I do always those things that please him*.” John 8:28, 29

In His life here on earth, Jesus sought not to please Himself, or those around Him, but He said, “I do always those things that please Him.” Notice the 'always' – this included every detail of His life.

Answered prayer

The apostle John speaks of the assurance the early Christian church had of answers to prayer and God's favour. He also tells us how they gained this.

“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.” 1 John 3:22

I have concluded both from personal experience and from God's word, that the God we serve is a personal God. He is a person, not an essence or merely spirit. He made us in His image (Genesis 1:26), and He wants to be intimately involved in our lives. He longs to walk with us day to day as He did with Enoch, Abraham and John the beloved.

So let us determine that:

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians

10:31 ✍

New year's resolutions

I know January 1st is long behind us, but here is my New Year's note to you all:

A happy new year to all of you, our dear friends! I am shocked again that another year is *already* over!

I'm not into making new year's resolutions, but I'm sure I want to spend more time studying God's Word and “hiding it in my heart” this year. I fear to waste a spare minute on things that are worthless. I have started memorizing Scripture, and I can highly recommend it! How is it that we are freed from sin? David said, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against Thee.” (Psalms 119:9)

Memorizing is not as hard as many of you might think, but it does take

determination and effort. But is it worth the effort? You bet!

One easy way to memorize Scripture is through music. I have a five disc set of Bible verses put to music that I love to listen to, and as a result I have often noticed that the words of the texts are singing in my head. Try it - you are sure to be enriched!

And if you are in the habit of forming new year resolutions, resolve to spend at least half an hour in God's Word *before your day starts*. Make it a habit and **don't miss a day**. If you find it hard to fit the time in, get up an hour earlier. This will be hard to start, but I have found that with time, habit makes it easy. God will bless! ✍

~ Editor

The Conversion of a

FARMER

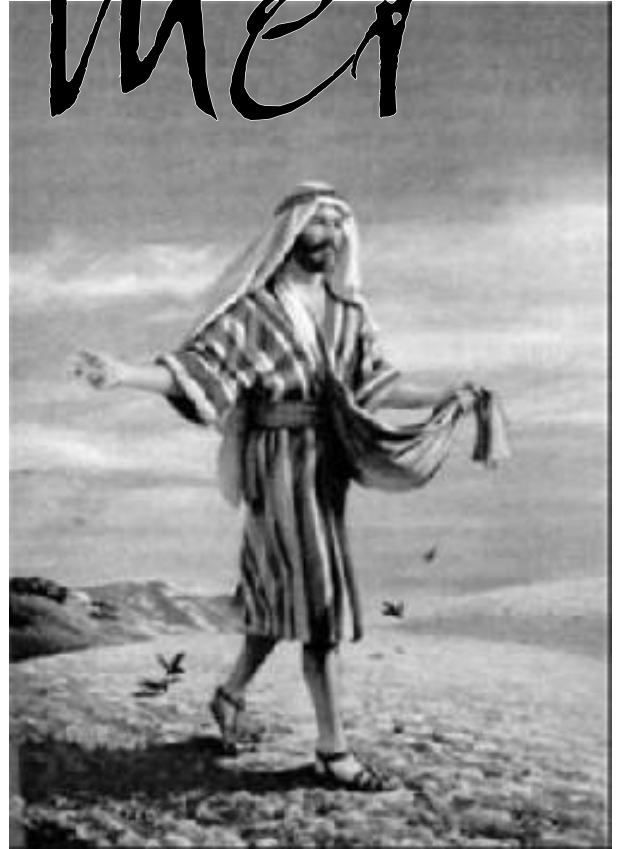
David Sims

*You know Lizy, I went to church today.
The preacher said, "no need to work just pray."
And he said "God will do it all for you."
"Believe" he said as I sat in the pew.*

*I was truly amazed you see Lizy,
He made it seem so simple and easy,
One day I am a sinner so dirty,
and the next day I am a saint so pirty,
Just be in Christ and that's all that matters,
All things else are just given on a platter,
You think it can be that easy dear wife?
A sinner can be a saint with no strife,
The kingdom of heaven is like a field,
In which the harvest of the crop did yield.
And many other illustrations like.*

He showed the farm and the Christian just like.

*Now my dear wife just what I'll do I know,
I will no more work and sweat, dig and hoe,
no I shall never more the field to plow,
Plant the seed nor even water the cow,
And come harvest time my beautiful crop,
I'll not with sickle even need to chop,
For God will do all from start to finish,
I'll rest in Christ, He'll all the work finish.*



The will of God has been made plain. "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification." (1Thessalonians 4:3) This is to involve our entire being. "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your *whole spirit and soul and body* be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1Thessalonians 5:23)

But the question is how is this accomplished. The Bible is clear on one point, that "without Me ye can do nothing." But that doesn't mean that **with Him we do nothing also**. Only God can put life in the seed and make it germinate and grow. It is an utter impossibility for man to accomplish this. But that doesn't mean that man has nothing to do. The farmer must plow the soil, fertilize, plant, water, weed, and harvest. If the farmer did not do this, the power of God alone would not produce a crop for him.

So in spiritual things. A transformed life, a character like Christ, a sanctified, holy mind, will never come if we wait on God to do what He expects us to do.

The roots of the plants hidden from view illustrate the invisible communion of the soul with Christ. The ground can be full of nutrients and water. The plant can be drenched with the rain from heaven, but if it doesn't use its roots and absorb the life-giving dew, it will not benefit. It will die.

So with our spiritual life.

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:” 1 Peter 2:2

Growth is constantly going on in the natural world. If a plant stops growing, it dies. So with us. We must have that communion



with Christ through His word and prayer, and be constantly growing, or we will die.

A plant receives its nourishment on an ongoing basis. It is not enough to receive it one time. So we must receive life from God's word continually to sustain our spiritual lives.

There is a law of cause and effect.

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”(Galatians 6:7)

It is the same in spiritual things.

“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of

God, which liveth and abideth for ever.” (1 Peter 1:23)

If we want a mind sanctified and holy, we must first plant the good seed - the thoughts, or the mind of Christ, expressed in His word.

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:” (Philippians 2:5)

The seed we sow, the food we give our mind, and the vigilance we exercise in guarding the mind, will determine our character.

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...” (Romans 12:2)

Our minds are made up of everything that we have ever put in them, just as a computer is the sum total of all that you have put into it.

There is no such thing as a plant that grows to maturity instantaneously. Neither is there any such thing as instantaneous sanctification. Sanctification is an on-going growth, which will continue as long as life shall last.

Just as the plant grows stronger as it endures the blast of the storm, the cold wind, and the hot sun, so God allows us to be placed in circumstances that will strengthen the character and make us strong.

“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.” (Romans 8:38-39)

“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of

Jesus Christ:” (1 Peter 1:7)

If the farmer finds his soil to be poor, he does not remove all his soil and start over. No! He plants crops intended to send their roots deep and bring up the good soil. He amends the soil with nutrients. Gradually, the soil is enriched and ready to produce a wonderful harvest. So, we are to develop righteous characters in the nature which we now possess.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” (Romans 12:1)

What shall we do!? Let us not waste any more precious time in developing evil characters, but

“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.” (Colossians 3:1-2) ✍



New Book!

Bible Studies to do at home

Have a relationship with God that you never thought was possible



with David Sims

BIBLE STUDIES to do at home

Have a relationship with God



that you never thought was possible.

David Sims

Review

This book fills a need. Finally something simple and heart warming to read about the most important aspect of life - our relationship with God. On the top of page 5, David writes, "Before it is possible to have that deeper, personal experience with God, we must start with a knowledge of God. In John 17 verse 3, Jesus calls this knowledge, life eternal."

The reader will indeed find that this book presents this most important subject in a way that is not going to be over your head or even vague. You will learn about the personality of God, His great gift and the Holy Spirit. The role of the angels is explained, as is the relationship between the Father and Christ.

I enjoy this little book of 40 pages every time I read it and I love sharing it. Its easy to read with lots of Scripture references so you know it isn't just someone's opinion. Through it the author shares his own heart through personal stories that illustrate his points and also his own struggles to understand this subject. Praise God that David stuck at it and now shares what he found. -

-Angela Zujic

The Story Behind the Book:

My memories of our trip around Australia are very fond. It was the spiritual highlight of my life. The simple Bible thoughts that David shared took my walk with God to a new level.

But the thought of putting together a book of these studies didn't even enter my mind. We had endured the goodbyes and sad ache from missing David and were back in the swing of busy life.

Then one day all of a sudden, I felt overwhelmed by the sense that this material needed to be put into print. I had some of David's study notes on Ben's laptop, so I immediately began the work of laying these out in book format.

Several days into the job, I realised that I really needed David's permission to go ahead. So I sent off an email and waited for several days. Later David shared his side to the story.

He had been driving on his way home from a campmeeting. The trip was several days long, but while he was driving, he was convicted that the Lord wanted him to get the material put in print.

He got home, and without even waiting to unpack, checked for new email messages. My email was there waiting and he wrote back:

"Your e-mail is an answer to prayer. On my journey home I was

impressed I needed to get this material available, and I was overwhelmed knowing that I could not do it alone. I prayed to know what to do."

Since then, David and I have shared many precious hours working together on converting sermon notes into an easy to read at-home Bible study.

We've cheated a bit, too. Even though the final proofread has only just been done, we have already printed off a handful and shared them out with a few of you. We've gotten some thrilling responses, but I suspect that as editor I have been the most blessed of all. I have felt like I was working in heaven! Truth is beautiful. :-)

Simple *Impact*

Bethany Turner

There were only three times that God the Father spoke directly to humanity. In the first two instances, His words were "This is My beloved Son." In this truth, I have gained a painfully touching realization of God's love for us and how great His sacrifice really was.

"The night my little boy, Samuel died, I thought of the Father at Calvary."

This changed my heart and my relationship with God. I grew up hearing that God gave His Son for me, but it wasn't until after my precious and painful experience of having a son and losing him, that this fact became a reality to me.

If you are a parent, you know what I mean when I say that the love you have for your child is unlike any other. They are more precious than anything else in the world. You would give your life for your child without thinking twice. Seeing them suffer hurts you more than anything else and possibly even more than it hurts them. And the imperfect love we feel for our children is surely much lesser in intensity compared to the love God has for His Son, who had always been very close to Him and had always been His delight.

The night my little boy, Samuel died, I thought of the Father at Calvary. A huge comfort to me had been knowing it hadn't hurt Samuel to die. And then I realized - God had to watch His Son suffer and He knew He was causing much of that suffering. And He endured that agony for me?! He loves me that much? I still cannot comprehend the idea that God could love me that much, but it broke my heart. This is the power of the gospel.

I happened upon this verse and its force struck me:

"Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" 1 John 5:5

Is it too amazing that truths so simple can have such impact? But Jesus told us, "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3 Bible truth is simple enough for a child to understand, but has power to change your life.

"The Lord God of heaven collected all the riches of the universe, and laid them down in order to purchase the pearl of lost humanity. The Father gave all his divine resources into the hands of Christ in order that the richest blessings of heaven might be poured out upon a fallen race. God could not express greater love than he has expressed in giving the Son of his bosom to this world." Youths Instructor, October 17, 1895 par. 2

New Book!

Enrich Your Prayer Life

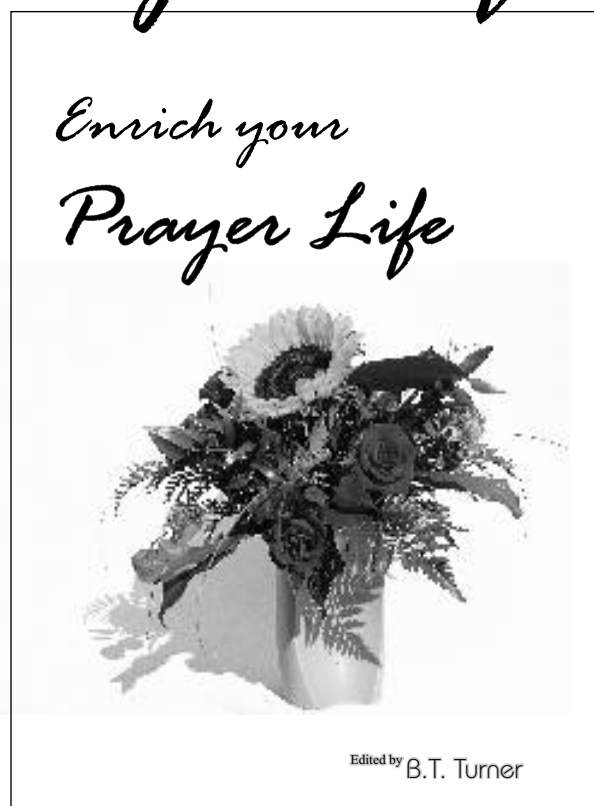
Review

Who hasn't read amazing prayer stories and wished they could have those kinds of answers to prayer? Enrich your Prayer Life is the book you will appreciate. It has the prayer stories but it also explains as simply as 'a,b,c' the how of a meaningful prayer life. In fact your prayer questions answered is the title of page 2. These answers are in a point by point readable style with an abundance of Biblical references.

The second section is where Bethany placed answers to prayer experienced by herself and people that she knows personally. Included in this section is some very personal sharing from the heart. Bethany shares her own story of the death of her son and how she was able to deal with this tragedy.

Next is a wonderful selection of devotional readings related to prayer. These include The Privilege of Prayer, The Lord's Prayer, In the Garden of Gethsemane, The secret in Secret Prayer and How to Become a Child of God. Through these your soul will be enriched with deep and profound thoughts that you will want to savor and come back and re-read.

And there is more still to 'Enrich your Prayer Life'. This is the kind of book you will enjoy and want to share with those you love too. -Angela Zujic



Story from the Book:

miracle water

We had run out of water. The level in the tanks had dropped to below the outlet. Peering inside, only a muddy sludge was visible on the bottom. I was getting 20 litres a day from a generous non-Christian neighbor, who teased me, "You mustn't be praying enough." For our household of 13 (we had visitors besides our large family) the amount was minimalist.

We tried banana leaves instead of plates to save the washing up. The children swam in the dam instead of bathing. And at a time like this, I was about to go overseas. My husband had given his full support to my trip,

but that was before the water ran out. The widow and her oil of second kings chapter four, the water that flowed from the rock for the Israelites in the desert and modern miracles came to mind. The evening before I was to leave concluded two full days of water rationing.

We had had our usual evening worship of sacred song, prayer and Bible reading. We'd just got off our knees and I said, "This is not a good time for me to leave. Let's all get down again and pray specifically about the water." Children and grown ups all got back on their knees. Each one prayed. In my prayer, I thanked God that we had run out of water. I felt a personal thrill of anticipation: what would

God do?

The pump had been switched off so that it wouldn't burn out when the water had run out. After our season of prayer, I asked one of the boys to put the pump back on. Immediately, water came gushing out of the tap in the bathroom. It had been left in the on position. Someone had a shower. We washed the dishes. In the morning, I left as planned.

When I phoned from Brisbane international airport, Bethany, my married daughter who was minding the children while I was gone, answered. She said, "Mum, this is amazing! The tanks are still empty. Cherith and I both looked inside. The tanks are hot and there is still only sludge on the bottom. But we are getting clean, cold water out of the tap." ~ Angela Zujic

How to get your book

Dear friends, we'd like to invite you to contact us if you are interested in any of our new books. We are excited about sharing them with you, so we are offering them free.

They are also available on the internet. Visit our website to read either of the books or even the newsletters online.

Email: bethanytt@gmail.com
Phone: 04 1464 2504
Web: www.historyinfo.net

The sweetest type of heaven

If we are doers of the word, we shall daily bear the cross after Jesus, subdue self, and thus bring harmony into the home life. **The sweetest type of heaven is a home where the Spirit of the Lord presides.**

If the will of God is fulfilled, the husband and wife will respect each other, and cultivate love and confidence. Anything that would mar the peace and unity of the family should be firmly repressed, and kindness and love should be cherished.

Where the Spirit of God reigns, there will be no talk of unsuitability in the marriage relation... Christ abiding in the heart of the wife, will be at agreement with Christ abiding in the heart of the husband. They will be striving together for the mansions Christ has gone to prepare for those who love him."

Signs of the Times, 11/14 1892



The Strongest Argument

There is an eloquence far more powerful than the eloquence of words in the quiet, consistent life of a pure, true Christian. **What a man is has more influence than what he says.**

The officers who were sent to Jesus came back with the report that never man spoke as He spoke. But the reason for this was that never man lived as He lived. Had His life been other than it was, He could not have spoken as He did. His words bore with them a convincing power, because they came from a heart pure and holy, full of love and sympathy, benevolence and truth.

It is our own character and experience that determines our influence upon others. In order to convince others of the power of Christ's grace, we must know its power in our own hearts and lives. The gospel we present for the saving of souls must be the gospel by which our own souls are saved. Only through a living faith in Christ as a personal Saviour is it possible to make

our influence felt in a skeptical world. If we would draw sinners out of the swift-running current, our own feet must be firmly set upon the Rock, Christ Jesus.

The badge of Christianity is not an outward sign, not the wearing of a cross or a crown, but it is that which reveals the union of man with God. By the power of His grace manifested in the transformation of character the world is to be convinced that God has sent His Son as its Redeemer. No other influence that can surround the human soul has such power as the influence of an unselfish life. **The strongest argument in favor of the gospel is a loving and lovable Christian.**

~ Ministry of Healing, White

Bible Truth

Editor: Bethany Turner
Associate Editors:
David Sims & Benjamin Turner
email: bethanytt@gmail.com
OR david@simstech.net