



Ceresco Baptist Church
The Ceresco Messenger
MARCH 2021

A Broken Chrysalis - by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson



It's truly amazing what a girl will do for love.

My wife, Jean, and I lived next door to each other for ten years before we were married. My sophomore interest in high school biology had sparked a live caterpillar collection. Their home was a shoe box, covered with screen wire. When I went on vacation, Jean fed them faithfully with leaves from her willow tree. She hated it.

Finally the caterpillars stopped their incessant crawling and chewing, attached their tails firmly to a stick and lay still, sheathed with a shiny leather-like case. For weeks they seemed to be dead, unmoving in their tiny gray wrappings. I removed the screen and waited.

One by one, the gray cases began to twist and turn violently, and suddenly split open. A beautiful butterfly emerged. It stood for hours gently moving its wings, pumping fluids into them to extend them fully. Then the butterfly soared gracefully away on the breezes of summer, leaving nothing behind but a broken chrysalis to indicate its former bondage.

The chrysalis and butterfly suggest the empty graveclothes of our risen Lord. When Peter and John heard the news that the Lord's body was gone from the garden tomb, they ran all the way from their lodging. Peter entered the tomb and "he saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen" (John 20:6-7, NIV). The graveclothes once wrapped continuously around the body now lay collapsed, mute testimony that the corpse they had once shrouded had now emerged in life.

The bondage of death is broken. Christ is risen! We can face tomorrow with the assurance that Jesus is in fact alive to help us, to guide us, to give us hope for the future. And since He is living, our problems are not insolvable. The broken chrysalis of His graveclothes proclaims that Christ is Victor even over death. Because He lives, nothing is impossible.

St. Patrick - Who Was He?

St. Patrick was the patron Saint of Ireland who converted the Irish to Christianity in the mid-5th century A.D. He was born in 385 AD in Britain. He was actually English, not Irish.

At the age of 16 he was kidnapped by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking the home of his parents, and sold as a slave to a Celt priest in Northern Ireland. He worked there for six years as a shepherd and then escaped back to Britain. At the time he studied religion for twelve years and then returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary.

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17 which was the day of his death in 461 A.D.

"Erin Go Bragh" (Ireland Forever)

The Snake

It was passed down through legend that St. Patrick banished all snakes from Ireland, but this is not to be true since it is believed that, because of the cold weather, it would be hard for snakes to live there, and also, there were no signs of snakes in the country's fossil record. However, it is believed that the snakes represented the pagans he converted to Christianity.

The Shamrock

St. Patrick used a sprig of a 3-leaf clover (shamrock) to teach the pagans about the Holy Trinity. The 3-leaf clover was considered to be sacred by the Celts. It symbolized the arrival of spring and new birth.

The Leprechaun

The Celts believed them to be mischievous fairies which were tiny men and women who had magical powers for good or evil.

The Green

Blue was the official color of St. Patrick's day, but was officially changed to green in 1798.

Martha Circle Meetings Resume!

Martha Circle meetings resume March 10, 2021! Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month, March through December. Any ladies of the church may attend these! We meet at 6 pm and are done by 8 pm at the latest!

Scripture reading for this month's meeting is 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Children's Time Resumes in March!

We are adding Children's Time back to the weekly worship service starting on March 7, 2021. Let the little children come!

Kid's Quips"

The story of David & Goliath was being told at our church's Bible Club. Our 5-year-old son, Justin, was asked by the teacher, "What would *you* do if you were in David's shoes today?" Without hesitation, he replied, "I'd call 911!" - Bobbi McCoy, Maple Plain, Minnesota

Driving through town one morning, our 4-year-old son and I found ourselves in a traffic jam caused by a big building fire. Astounded by the flames shooting up into the sky, our son sat silent for a few minutes. Finally, he looked at me and, with great concern, remarked "Mom, I hope God's feet aren't getting burned." - Sherlynn Finch, Kingston Springs, Tennessee

While off on vacation, we were attending services in an unfamiliar church. Our young son was puzzled when a second collection basket was passed. Turning to me, he asked, "Is this one for the sales tax?" - Patricia Mair, Janesville, Wisconsin

Reflecting on a recent Sunday sermon, in point #2, the Pastor made note that we are all 'Purpose Partners' with Christ and that we should acknowledge the purpose that He has in mind for each one of us in our life.

When our moderator, Rick Frey, was giving us the report on the church roof, he stated that 'the church belongs to all of us.' It brought to my mind Point #2 that we at Ceresco Baptist Church are all "Purpose Partners" in working together to keep our church family together and the building we come to worship in.

Think about the many churches that are our size, and many of them much bigger, that have closed their doors or even changed their names to be, what they think, more appealing.

It is my desire during this Lenten season to reflect on being a more worthy "Purpose Partner" to my church and church family. ~ Sharon Hadley

Holy Week Schedule



Sunday March 28	Monday March 29	Tuesday March 30	Wednesday Mar 31	Thursday April 1	Friday April 2	Saturday April 3	Sunday April 4
PALM SUNDAY & BRUNCH! Come hungry!	Holy Monday	Holy Tuesday	Holy Wednesday	Maundy Thursday service 6:00 pm	Good Friday service 6:00 pm	Holy Saturday	Easter Son Rise Service 8 am, Easter Service



- Mar 9 Ron Chisholm
- Mar 11 Ruth St. John
- Mar 13 Lucas Finch
- Mar 15 Vi Halder
- Mar 15 Joanne Henley
- Mar 18 Pam Kirkland
- Mar 20 Deb Beltz
- Mar 22 Danny Sommers
- Mar 27 Sarah Collins
- Mar 29 Hainsley Casey

- Apr 1 Emily Biljum
- Apr 6 Zane Ivey
- Apr 10 Jenny Markos
- Apr 13 Ruth Paschen
- Apr 14 Reed Goodman
- Apr 16 Darlene Anthony
- Apr 16 Charity Gary
- Apr 19 Don St. John
- Apr 24 Stacey Goodman
- Apr 30 Katherine (Anthony) Rogers



Michael Meng

Mar 11 & Angela Sommers

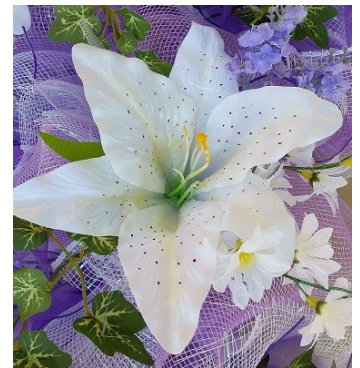
Apr 4 Rick & Dawn Frey

Apr 5 Roger & Joy Sommers #25

Find the Holy Week words. Look up, down, across, diagonally, and backwards!

a	i	f	l	m	c	y	j	o	a
p	r	a	y	e	r	l	e	r	p
c	t	s	l	y	o	o	s	n	a
r	o	t	i	m	s	h	u	o	l
u	l	i	g	o	s	l	s	i	m
c	s	n	o	i	t	a	t	s	a
i	m	g	o	r	v	o	n	s	u
f	y	u	d	e	a	t	h	a	n
y	s	a	v	i	o	r	u	p	d
l	e	n	t	d	o	n	k	e	y

alms cross crucify death
 donkey fasting Jesus good
 holy Lent Maundy palm
 passion prayer savior stations



Quiz Question . . .

What does the word "Amen" mean?

Answer next month!

If your family birthday or anniversary is missing or is incorrect, please send an email to Joy Sommers at: cerescobaptist@gmail.com

Thank you!

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb. 28	1	2	3	4	5	6
2nd Sunday of Lent "Grace"		Bible Study 10 am				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Communion Sunday, 3rd Sunday of Lent "Believing"		Bible Study 10 am	Martha Circle 6:00 pm			Administrative Council Meeting 9:00 am SET CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR TONIGHT!
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
4th Sunday of Lent "Hope" Daylight Savings Time starts at 2:00 am, SPRING FORWARD		Bible Study 10 am	Ash Wednesday, 1st Day of Lent			First Day of SPRING!
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
5th Sunday of Lent "Christian Suffering"		Bible Study 10 am				First Day of Passover
28	29	30	31	Apr 1	Apr 2	Apr 3
6th Sunday of Lent "Holy Week" PALM SUNDAY & BRUNCH!		Bible Study 10 am	Information for March Messenger due by noon	Maundy Thursday Service 6:00 pm	Good Friday Service 6:00 pm	Tomorrow is EASTER! We would like to have lots of Easter Lilies in the sanctuary!

Ceresco Baptist Church

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Pastor Mary Fair-Matthews

(313) 303-3301



Daylight Savings Time
begins at 2 am Sunday,
March 14, 2021!



We would like to have
several **Easter Lily**
plants on **Easter Sun-**
day, April 4th. Anyone
can bring a plant to
help out! If you can't
do the shopping, ask
Joy Sommers to do the
shopping for you!

NO FAITH NO FUTURE

January 31, 2021

GENESIS 15: 1-6 After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." ² But Abram said, "Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir." ⁴ Then the word of the Lord came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." ⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶ Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

God our Father has made all things dependent upon faith so that whoever has faith will have everything, and whoever does not have faith will have nothing. God does not expect us to submit our faith to him without reason, but the very limits of our ability to reason is what makes faith necessary. Because we are limited in our ability to see beyond the minute, the hour or the day, we have to rely on something and some greater than ourselves. That is where our faith comes in. Faith is the gift of God.

We do not achieve faith; we simply receive it as we read God's Word.... Many of God's children are failing to enjoy God's richest blessings in Christ because they fail to receive the gift of faith. They are looking within themselves for some quality or some feeling that will enable them to believe, instead of "looking unto Jesus" who is "the author and finisher of our faith."

In our scriptures today, Abraham has simply taken God at his word. So God called Abraham to faith with God's word of promise. God made 7 promises. Abraham began this great adventure of faith and freed himself from self-imposed boundaries that would have kept him from doing God's will. We all have a faith journey. Have you started your faith journey? Have you entrusted your future to God? The future really belongs to those who place their faith in God. Our faith impacts all areas of our lives.

POINT 1 - FAITH AFFECTS OUR FAMILY (VV 1-3)

Our faith journey affects our family. The call of Abraham has to do with families. God is interested in our families. The family structure is created by God. The evidence is overwhelming that the family is the strength and foundation of society. When God called Noah to build the ark, he told Noah, you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives will enter the ark with you. After the ark was built, God said again to Noah, "*Go into the ark, you and your whole family...*" (Gen 7:1).

God extends his loving concern to the entire family of Noah. God expects parents to be instrumental in helping children to build their faith in God from a young age. Our faith can be sufficient covering for our family. We are to lead them into the path of salvation. God has entrusted precious cargo to us: children, spouses, friends. Our job is to do our part in seeing that the cargo reaches its destination. As we make this Christian journey, we want to be careful that we don't sacrifice the cargo entrusted to us so that we can solidify our position in the kingdom. This is not about individualism in the Christian faith. It is about the royal family of God. The goal is to make sure that as many as possible reach the kingdom. God cares about family.

POINT 2 - FAITH AFFECTS OUR FUTURE (VV 4-5)

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God. What if Abraham had not embarked on his adventure of faith? He would have missed out on the promised blessings for him and his family. He would have missed out on life's greatest adventure. He would have missed out on his purpose and God's plan.

I am not saying that Abraham's decisions was an easy one. I am saying that there are times in your life where having faith is difficult because you are looking at the circumstances. But faith assured that Abraham would reach the Promised Land. He would have descendants and be a blessing. Abraham became the father, not just of one child or even one nation, but of a multitude of people across space and time, as numerous as the stars are in the sky and the sand on the seashore.

The key to growing more mature in your faith is not to focus on the failures but to focus on God's patient and enabling grace. Rather than fearing what is to come, know that our faith affects our future and that we have to watch and wait and be faithful till Christ returns. Faith is central to all of life.

POINT 3 - FAITH AFFECTS OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD (V 6)

Faith brought Abraham into a right relationship with God. He believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness. Abraham, a sinner, was justified before God by faith. Abraham fellowshiped with God.

What do we mean by fellowship? Fellowship means common participation in something either by giving what you have to the other person or receiving what he or she has. Give and take is the essence of fellowship, and give and take must be the way of fellowship in the common life of the body of Christ.

Christian fellowship is two-dimensional, and it has to be vertical before it can be horizontal. We must know the reality of fellowship with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ before we can know the reality of fellowship with each other in our common relationship to God (1 John 1:3).

Abraham was in fellowship with God. We see that fellowship in chapters 12 – 22 of Genesis. Abraham's faith affected his fellowship. He believed God and trusted Him in every aspect of his life. His faith solidified his future, and the future of his family.

TAKING GOD AT HIS WORD

February 7, 2021

Psalm 56:3 When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

Trusting is difficult in the best of circumstances but there are just some things that are more difficult to believe than others. Usually our response to someone or something we do not trust is to contradict what tell us. Remember that as you serve God, there is no situation you can get yourself into that He cannot get you out of. If you will only trust Him and the direction that He gives.

David who wrote this Psalm absolutely knew this to be true. In this scripture David encourages himself in the promises, power and providence of God. He knows that it does not matter what the outsiders say or what his enemies try to do, the divine power and protection of God trumps every situation. In order to encourage yourself as David did, there are a couple of things that you have to know.

POINT 1 - GOD LOVES YOU!

You can never hear those words enough. GOD LOVES YOU. Think about it in all capital letters. I am shouting it at you today. God loves you.

God's love is the very foundation of it all. In Jeremiah 31:3– ***The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."*** The gospel declares God's love for us all. It is simply the good news that Jesus came to provide forgiveness of sin for all who believe. The compassionate miracles of Christ prove God's love. One of the most compassionate miracles when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

When Mary went to Jesus after Lazarus' death, she was weeping and she fell at Jesus' feet. The other mourners who were comforting her were crying also. Jesus was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. He sympathized with those around him and with Mary and Martha in the midst of their grief because He loved them just as He loves.

The sufferings of Christ on the cross prove God's love (Isaiah 53) – He bore our pain and suffering. ***Greater love has no one that this; than to lay down one's life for one's friends.***

The forgiveness of Christ proves God's love. ***God places our sins in the sea of forgetfulness.*** Micah 7:19.
God's love for us is seen in His creation.

We should never doubt God's love for us. If we have God's love we have everything.

POINT 2 - HE IS THE GOD OF THE POSSIBLE.

He always does the impossible. The scripture says that with God nothing is impossible. When you encounter a situation that appears impossible, take God at His word that with Him all things are possible.

- When someone says, “you cannot be healed”, you tell them that God says, by His stripes you are healed.
- When someone says, “you cannot overcome a situation”, tell them yes, you can because Christ has overcome the entire world.
- Tell them God is your rock, your shield and your strong tower and in Him you find joy and strength.
- Tell them you are never alone because God says He will never leave you.

Tells them you are going to take God at His word. We just might discover the all-powerful God who is willing to do the impossible. So if you are in the midst of an impossible situation, ask yourself, why are you so afraid? Stop doubting and contradicting and start taking God at his word.

POINT 3 - GOD WILL NOT PUT MORE ON US THAT WE CAN BEAR

God tells us in 1 COR 10:13 that whatever we are going through, we should rest assured that He has managed a similar situation before AND HE HAS COME THROUGH.

No temptations has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will always provide a way out so that you can endure it.

- God limits our temptations to “such as is common to man.” The good news is someone else has gone through the same situation. You will never be the first to go through a situation and you will never be the last.
- God is faithful to His tempted children. Satan tempts us and then tattles on us. Satan tells us that God could not love us because we messed up. Satan say, now that you have ruined your life, you are beyond God's use. **God limits our temptation to what we can overcome. God is not setting us up to fail. Anything that comes our way, we have to know that His grace is sufficient. We can overcome.**

God is faithful and provides a way to escape from every temptation. 2 Peter 2:9 *the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials.* He will not leave us at the mercy of the wicked. *In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world”* (John 16:33).

God does the impossible in our lives. He does not fail. Where we fail He uses it for our spiritual growth and not to hurt us.

A Promise for All Seasons

February 14, 2021

Romans 8:28 - *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

God has left all of his promises in one place and that is in His Word. We never face any life-situation for which God has not supplied a specific promise that gives us mercy and grace to help us in time of need. There are 8,810 promises in the Bible and 7,487 of those promises are from God to us.

God never gives us a promise that He does not intend for us to use. He expects us to call Him on them every time.

- God's presence -- "I will never leave thee" (Heb. 13:5)
- God's protection -- "I am thy shield" (Gen. 15:1)
- God's power -- "I will strengthen thee" (Isa. 41:10)
- God's provision -- "I will help thee" (Isa. 41:10)
- God's rest -- "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28)

Today's scripture is a promise that should encourage each of us today. It is God's wise plan -- "All things work together for good to them that love God" (Rom. 8:28). It is the plan that we have to remember particularly when we are overwhelmed by difficulties and we think God has forgotten us. It is a promise of faith that we can claim and find peace and comfort.

POINT 1: IT IS A PROMISE THAT BRINGS ASSURANCE

"And we know". In those 3 words, the Apostle Paul is encouraging us to replace any uncertainty in our lives with faith. Knowing means we have the knowledge and understanding. It is not just information.

Jesus reassures us that salvation is possible. He reminds us that our decision to accept Him as Lord and Savior must be timely. We cannot wait too late. We should be reassured that if we just accept him our eternity is secure. Faith in Christ trades uncertainty for assurance.

POINT 2: IT IS A PROMISE ABOUT ALL THE EXPERIENCES OF LIFE

"All things" work together for good. Not some things but all things. Some experiences are hard for us to bear. We experience things that shake us and some things almost break us (diagnoses, losses, disappointments). We experience things we cannot understand. The promise is that God brings good out of our difficult circumstances.

I am sure that there a number of you who have your own stories about how it all worked together for good. When we say all things work together for good, let me tell you what I am saying and what I am not saying.

I am not saying that all things are good. Terrible things happen that we don't understand and we say that should never happen to anyone. But our God is sovereign. He is all-knowing, all-wise, and all-powerful. He can take those terrible things and find good in it. He is the master and it is all in his hands.

I am not saying that we will get exactly what we want in all situations.

I am saying that God's plan will not be thwarted and all that He has promised will occur.

I am saying that the good that comes out of God's handiwork is not just for your good, but for the good of God and for the benefit of His people.

POINT 3: IT IS A PROMISE ABOUT A WONDERFUL PLAN FOR BELIEVERS

God has a wonderful plan for His people. We should never be in a position where we do not know where we are going when our time here is over. God has worked out this wonderful plan for His children. You are a part of that plan. You are in that plan if you choose it receive.

You get a choice of whether you embrace or reject the promise.

- You can be like Jacob who says in Genesis 42:36 - *All these things are against me.*
- Or you can embrace the promise of all seasons and know that: *All these things are working together for good to those who love the Lord and who are called according to his purpose.* That should be you.

You Matter

February 21, 2021

Psalm 139: 1-2; 13 - 14(a). *¹You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. ²You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. ¹³For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;*

You are not an accident. You matter to God. You have always mattered to God. Even before the universe was created, God had you in mind, and he planned you for His purposes. These purposes will extend far beyond the few years you will spend on earth. You were made to last forever! Your impact was intended to be long lasting.

The search for purpose is a journey that we all take. Just know that you are never going to find what you are looking for by focusing on yourself. It is only when we look to God that we discover that we really matter to Him. He valued us above all else even His only Son. You were made by God and for God, and until you receive that, life will never make sense. It is only in God that we discover our origin, our identity, our meaning, our purpose, our significance, our wholeness, our completeness, and our destiny

Psalm 139 is one of the greatest passages in all literature about the miracle of human conception and birth. David declares that God is present at conception and birth, because we are made in the image of God and He has a special plan and purpose for each person who is born. Yes, you matter.

POINT 1 - GOD KNOWS US BECAUSE HE CREATED US

But the true God, Jehovah, understands us, and is most intimately acquainted with our person, nature, and character. It is good news that God who knows us! That means He knows the good and the bad. He is thorough in His knowledge of us.

As God begins His work in Genesis 1, the scripture paints a picture of a chaotic world. *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was without form and empty or void. There was nothing here except darkness over the surface of the deep.*

But it says that the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Then the Spirit of God moved to bring about change. Anytime the Spirit of God moves upon a situation or circumstance or life of an individual, change is inevitable. That is the purpose of the Holy Spirit in our lives and that is to bring about change.

Then God spent the next 7 days creating something out of nothing ... creating something out of the darkness. Then God created His crowning glory when He decided to "make mankind in our image, in our likeness." He created man and God gave him purpose. He created a world and then He handed it over to Adam.

He placed Adam in the most beautiful place on earth. God was also concerned about Adam's wellbeing. He fashioned Eve. He made her just for Adam. No one creates anything with that kind of excruciating detail, with that kind of thoughtfulness and specificity unless it matters.

We matter to God. We are the image of Him. We are the image of the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost. He knows, loves us and created us.

POINT 2 - HE CREATED US WITH PURPOSE IN MIND

Everyone was created with purpose -- their own individual purpose. We matter to the plan of God. We are critical to our purpose. A man without a purpose is like a ship without a rudder--a waif, a nothing, a no man. Have a purpose in life, and, having it will provide strength of mind and the needed muscle for the work God has given you.

Yes, we should have plans of our own but we should always acquiesce to the plans and purposes of God. Youth and inexperience do not disqualify you from service. When God designs and calls us to His purposes, He equips us and sustains you during the commission of that call.

Acknowledge God's purpose in your life. All of us have a role. The scripture of says the body of Christ needs every part. We are important to each other because we need each other in order to be able to do the work He has called us to. We are purpose partners in the kingdom of God.

POINT 3 - WHAT GOD MADE HE VALUES

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. We are made to endure all this life throws at us because we have a Savior who is an expert designer. He has created in us with a level of endurance that no other creatures have.

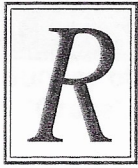
We are fearfully and wonderfully made but we need the blood designed by God flowing through our veins to keep this human vessel alive. At some point in our lives of each of us, we are in need of the blood of universal donor who offers his blood freely to sinners. It is the blood of Jesus Christ given that we might receive that eternal life through His death. It is priceless, yet is offered 'without money and without price'. And it is suited to all sinners, for Christ is the 'universal Donor'.

He did not leave anything about you and me to chance. He designed it just the way he wanted it. And when we were in jeopardy, He stepped in and shed His own blood as a ransom for us. That is how I know we matter to God.

Standing on the Promises

1886

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. 2 Corinthians 1:20



Russell Kelso Carter, author of this hymn, was an athlete, educator, rancher, preacher, and physician. Here is his condensed testimony:

From my birth in 1849, I was surrounded by Christian influences. My father stood for nearly half a century in the rank of Christian workers in Baltimore; by his side I had the example of a patient, loving mother. I cannot remember when I was not subject to deep convictions of sin; yet as a school-boy, I wandered from the truth until age fifteen, when, under the influence of the cadet prayer-meeting in the Pennsylvania Military Academy, I made a profession of faith in Jesus.

But I made a common mistake; I didn't forsake my old companions and habits, and for fourteen years I lived the up-and-down experience so familiar to the average church member. I never enjoyed myself so much as when working in Mr. Moody's meetings in Baltimore; yet even up to that time I was continually slipping and falling. My soul cried for deliverance, and God's *unlimited promises* stood out like stars above me. But I wasn't willing to pay the price.

In the summer of 1879, my heart, which had been chronically diseased for seven years, resisting the remedies of physicians, and, refusing to grow better even after three years of sheep-ranching in California, suddenly broke down so seriously as to bring me to the verge of the grave. I had heard of the "prayer of faith" for healing, but I felt persuaded it would border on blasphemy to ask God for a strength which I didn't propose to use wholly for Him.

Kneeling in my mother's room in Baltimore, I made a consecration that covered everything. All doubtful things were swept aside. I meant every word, and I have never had any doubts about it since. A quietness came over me and I found the Bible wonderfully open and marvelously satisfying, as it had never been before.

Feeling all the more impressed with God's healing promises, I concluded to go to Boston and ask prayer and anointing at the hands of Dr. Cullis. I was terribly weak, but I went. I will only add that I returned in three days, walking by faith, and not by feeling, resumed my college work in September, and at once engaged in all kinds of religious work. I was healed by the power of God alone. Praise the Lord!

A SONG WE SANG A FEW SUNDAYS
AGO TELLING ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE
SONG WRITER AND WHAT ENCOURAGED
HIM TO WRITE THE WORDS