

The Bible Banner

July 2022



And this is Love...

Aleida Huissen, 78, of Rotterdam, Netherlands, had been smoking 50 years. And for 50 years she had been trying to give up her harmful habit. But she had never been successful—that is, until her turning point. She then gave up cigarettes, cigars, and pipes. The secret? Leo Jansen, 79, proposed marriage the year before, but refused to go through with the wedding until Aleida gave up smoking.

Said Aleida: "Will power never was enough to get me off the tobacco habit. Love did it."

"And this is love, that we walk after his commandments.

This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it." 2 John 1:6

CORN GRITS

1 can coconut milk
3 cans soymilk, organic (just refill coconut milk can)
2 cans water
2 cups cornmeal, non-GMO
1 tsp salt, or to taste

Cook on stovetop until thickened.



PROFITABLE TRADITIONS

Cultivate Heavenly Mindedness – Do you start your day with God? I thought I did since I have morning worship every day. Then I realized, the biblical day doesn't begin in the morning. "And the evening and the morning were the first day." Genesis 1:5b So I began to take a few minutes for Evensong at sunset to sing, pray and watch God's master artwork in the sunset. "I once had the pleasure of beholding one of Colorado's most beautiful sunsets. The great Master Artist had hung out on the shifting canvas of the heavens, for the benefit of all, both rich and poor, one of his finest paintings. It almost seemed that the gates of heaven were ajar that we might see the beauty there was within. Oh! thought I, as one after another passed without noticing the scene, if it had been painted by human hands, how many would have been ready to fall down and worship it!"

{RH, October 27, 1885 par. 6}

Since Creation, "Evensong" has been a special time for God to spend with His people. Consider Genesis 3:8 "And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day..." Today, God still remembers His people and shows His love with a beautiful sunset. Indeed, the Psalmist states, "thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice." Psalm 65:8b Won't you take time to notice?

Quotable Quotes

"True love is a high and holy principle, altogether different in character from that love which is awakened by impulse, and which suddenly dies when severely tested."

(The Faith I Live By, pg. 277)



Editor's Note and Study to Show - Reflections on Love

A great theologian of another century tells a story of a prince who wanted to find a maiden suitable to be his queen. One day while running an errand in the local village for his father he passed through a poor section. As he glanced out the windows of the carriage his eyes fell upon a beautiful peasant maiden. During the ensuing days he often passed by the young lady and soon fell in love. But he had a problem. How would he seek her hand?



He could order her to marry him. But even a prince wants his bride to marry him freely and voluntarily and not through coercion. He could put on his most splendid uniform and drive up to her front door in a carriage drawn by six horses. But if he did this he would never be certain that the maiden loved him or was simply overwhelmed with all of the splendor. The prince came up with another solution. He would give up his kingly robe. He moved into the village, entering not with a crown but in the garb of a peasant. He lived among the people, shared their interests and concerns, and talked their language. In time the maiden grew to love him for who he was and because he had first loved her.

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him... We love him, because he first loved us." 1 John 4:9,19

Sadly, despite God's great love for us, many today (even many of those professing to be Christians) are estranged from the Father's house where love is ever on display. "He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love." Song of Solomon 2:4 However, even those straying ones are never forgotten by the Father's heart. But indeed, many are not experiencing true joy, faith, and peace because they are not accepting and reflecting God's love. 1 Corinthians 13 makes clear that though I have faith to move mountains and can expound all the prophecies, without love "I am nothing." And 1 Corithians 13:3 further states, "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity [love], it profiteth me nothing." Indeed, we are told "And now abideth faith, hope and love, even these three: but the chiefest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 13:13 (1587 Geneva Bible--spelling modernized)

Why? Recently, as I was working with a picture language composed of symbols, I was struck by the symbol for peace. It was made up of the symbol for rest over the symbol for love. To have peace, we must learn to rest in God's love. Thus, without love there is no peace. The same is true of joy. Psalm 16:11 says, "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." Since 1 John 4:8 informs us that "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love" it stands to reason that there is no fulness of joy without love either. And the same is true of faith. For Galatians 5:6 states, "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love." The Greek word for "worketh" transliterated is "energeō." In other words, love fuels or gives faith its energy. So love is a necessary piece of faith, joy, and peace.

We have seen that love is the principle of action and the foundation of Christian character. But what is true love? Although 1 Peter 4:8 does say "charity [love] shall cover the multitude of sins," this love is not the lovesick sentimentalism that allows people to go along in their sins, as some would have you think. Because James 5:20 defines how love "covers" a multitude of sins, "... he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."

The Bible contains many defining statements about love. Let's look at a few. 1 John 4:8,16 both declare that "God is love." So we see that love is the underlying principle of God's government as characterized in His person. John 15:12,13 draws a picture of what this love looks like. God says, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." True love reflects God's character, in that, it is a self-sacrificing love, a love that serves. For it is written, "by love serve one another." Galatians 5:13

We find that love is simply reflecting God's character as defined in His commandments. Jesus says, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." John 15:10 We do this by demonstrating love to God and love to man. "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt <u>love the Lord thy God</u> with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt <u>love thy neighbour</u> as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Matthew 22:37-40

But true love is not just doing right, it is doing right happily. It is service with a smile. "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." 1 John 5:3 True love and God's word are inseparable, because if you "keep" God's word the love of God will be perfected in you. "But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him." 1 John 2:5 Therefore, "Let love be without dissimulation [pretending]. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good." Romans 12:9 May Christ help us all to reflect His love, today.

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Prophetic News Notes -- Implanted Microchips?

"Patrick Paumen causes a stir whenever he pays for something in a shop or restaurant. This is because the 37-year-old doesn't need to use a bank card or his mobile phone to pay. Instead, he simply places his left hand near the contactless card reader, and the payment goes through. He is able to pay using his hand because back in 2019 he had a contactless payment microchip injected under his skin...

"And when it comes to implantable payment chips, British-Polish firm, Walletmor, says that last year it became the first company to offer them for sale.

"The implant can be used to pay for a drink on the beach in Rio, a coffee in New York, a haircut in Paris - or at your local grocery store,' says founder and chief executive Wojtek Paprota. "It can be used wherever contactless payments are accepted."





"Walletmor's chip, which weighs less than a gram and is little bigger than a grain of rice, is comprised of a tiny microchip and an antenna encased in a biopolymer - a naturally sourced material, similar to plastic... The firm says it has now sold more than 500 of the chips.

"For many of us, the idea of having such a chip implanted in our body is an appalling one, but a 2021 survey of more than 4,000 people across the UK and the European Union found that 51% would consider it."

Even if I were in Europe, I wouldn't be found among those willfully getting a chip implanted and here's why... In Matthew 22, Mark 12 and Luke 20 we find the story of "spies" trying to trick Jesus. They asked Him, "Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or no?

But he perceived their craftiness, and said unto them, Why tempt ye me? Shew me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it?

They answered and said, Caesar's.

And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's."

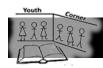
Luke 20:22-25

Money has Caesar's image and superscription on it while we were made in the image of God. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Genesis 1:27 Placing a microchip (money) in your body blurs the lines between what belongs to God and what belongs to Caesar. That which belongs to God and the things of this world are not to be mixed. For it is written, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon [riches]." Matthew 6:24

Most people probably wouldn't consider combining a church and a bank, but remember our body is the temple of God. In fact, it is written, "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 (Also 1 Cor. 6:19) Thus, we should heed the counsel, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols [images]? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:14 -18

1- https://www.bbc.com/news/business-61008730

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Or visit us at: www.swiftrunnerministries.com



ALWAYS

"...lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matt. 28:19,20

It's a fascinating story that comes out of the 1989 earthquake which almost flattened Armenia. This deadly tremor killed over 30,000 people in less than four minutes. In the midst of all the confusion of the earthquake, a father rushed to his son's school. When he arrived there he discovered the building was flat as a pancake.

Standing there looking at what was left of the school, the father remembered a promise he made to his son, "No matter what, I'll always be there for you!" Tears began to fill his eyes. It looked like a hopeless situation, but he

could not take his mind off his promise. Remembering that his son's classroom was in the back right corner of the building, the father rushed there and started digging through the rubble. As he was digging, other grieving parents arrived, clutching their hearts, saying: "My son!" "My daughter!" They tried to pull him off of what was left of the school saying: "It's too late!" "They're dead!" "You can't help!" "Go home!" Even a police officer and a fire-fighter told him he should go home. To everyone who tried to stop him he said, "Are you going to help me now?"



They did not answer him and he continued digging for his son stone by stone. He needed to know for himself: "Is my boy alive or is he dead?" This man dug for eight hours and then twelve and then twenty-four and then thirty-six. Finally in the thirty-eighth hour, as he pulled back a boulder, he heard his son's voice. He screamed his son's name, "ARMAND!" and a voice answered him, "Dad? It's me, Dad!" Then the boy added these priceless words, "I told the other kids not to worry. I told 'em that if you were alive, you'd save me and when you saved me, they'd be saved. You promised that, Dad. 'No matter what,' you said, 'I'll always be there for you!' And here you are Dad. You kept your promise!"

Likewise God will keep His promise. No matter where you are, or what your circumstance is, He is looking for you. "For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day." Ezekiel 34:11,12



Go-To Remedies for Fever

Probably every one of us has been faced with the decision of what to do for a high fever. Many people turn to their chosen pharmaceutical, but not only is this not the best idea, recent happenings have made it not an option for some. For example,

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Hospital Asks Staff to Prove Religious Exemption for COVID Vaccine by Refusing Tylenol

BY **JENNI FINK** ON 9/14/21 AT 1:10 PM EDT

"A hospital system in Arkansas is requiring employees to confirm that they won't use common medications — such as Tylenol, Tums, and Preparation H — to receive a religious exemption for the COVID-19 vaccine, according to Becker's Hospital Review... The hospital's form includes a list of 30 common medications that used fetal cell lines during research and development. The list includes acetaminophen, albuterol, aspirin, ibuprofen, Tylenol, Pepto Bismol, Tums, Lipitor, Senokot, Motrin,

Maalox, Ex-Lax, Benadryl, Sudafed, Preparation H, Claritin, Prilosec, and Zoloft...

"Employees are asked to attest that they 'truthfully acknowledge and affirm that my sincerely held religious belief is consistent and true' and that they won't use the medications listed. Health system administrators [say they] want to 'educate staff who might have requested an exemption without understanding the full scope of how fetal cells are used in testing and development in common medicines..." 2

Obviously, the time has come to find better, and more natural ways to deal with the symtoms of sickness, such as fever. First of all, consider that fever is a symptom, not the disease. The body is simply raising its temperature to effectively "cook" and kill the germs much like cooking bread kills the "germs" of yeast. Therefore, fever is not the enemy, and one must direct his energy at the root cause of what is making the patient run a fever. "Brain damage from a fever generally will not occur unless the fever is over 107.6°F (42°C). Untreated fevers caused by infection will seldom go over 105°F (40.6°C) unless the child is overdressed or in a hot place."



This brings us to the first treatment for fever. Make sure the patient is not overdressed. "It is recommended to wear light breathable clothes such that the temperature from the body escapes in the surrounding environment and provides some relief."4

Also make sure to **keep the patient well-hydrated**. One would not venture to fight a fire without water, and a fever is no different. "Increased temperature in the body results in dehydration... For children, a few tablespoons of water every 10 minutes should ensure that they have adequate liquids in their bodies...Drinking lemon juice with lukewarm water is an effective natural cure for fever, as well as colds, flu, and other diseases." Sometimes when you are

sick, water is not very appetizing. When I was younger, my mother remedied this by keeping me hydrated with the treat of a glass of grape juice.

Another good remedy is a tepid or lukewarm bath. "This temperature will feel plenty cool when you have a fever, and the bath should help bring your body temperature down. Don't try to bring a fever down rapidly by plunging yourself into cold water; that tactic sends blood rushing to internal organs, which is how your body defends itself from cold. Your interior actually warms up instead of cooling down." In other words, too much cold can actually cause your body to overreact; use lukewarm water, not cold.

In between baths, **sponging** can be helpful. "Sponging is a very good technique that reduces high body temperature in children and adults, who are confined to bed due to the illness. A sponge or a towel is immersed in cold water, partially squeezed, and placed on or used to clean [wipe] the body's surface. This is repeated multiple times to bring down the body temperature." ⁴ Placing a cold, damp washcloth on the forehead and the back of your neck, or even the armpits, not only reduces the fever but also improves the comfort of the patient.

Several herbal remedies are also helpful for fever: yarrow, peppermint, lemon balm, and ginger, to name a few. My go-to is ginger. I generally warm a little rice milk (maybe a cup or so), add a ½ tsp-1 tsp of powdered ginger, and sometimes a little raw honey. Then I drink it down. Ginger also may be used to ease a sore throat and some other cold symptoms. You can feel it make you sweat, and it is, I believe, probably the secret ingredient in the traditional "chicken soup." Since ginger is also antiviral as well as being "a strong antioxidant and germ killer," it likely will also strike at the root cause of the fever in addition to treating symptoms.

All this help and more, God has placed in humble natural remedies "That [His] way may be known upon earth, [His] saving health among all nations. Psalm 67:2

^{1—}Screenshot https://www.newsweek.com/hospital-asks-staff-prove-religious-exemption-covid-vaccine-refusing-tylenol-1629037

²⁻ https://www.webmd.com/vaccines/covid-19-vaccine/news/20210918/some-medications-also-tied-to-religious-vaccine-exemption

³⁻⁻ https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003090.htm#:~:text=Brain%20damage%20from%20a%20fever.do%20occur%20in%20some%20children.

^{4- &}lt;a href="https://www.medicinenet.com/how_do_you_break_a_fever_naturally/article.htm">https://www.medicinenet.com/how_do_you_break_a_fever_naturally/article.htm
5-- https://www.besthealthmag.ca/article/natural-home-remedies-for-fevers/6-Natural Remedies Encyclopedia,6th edition, pg. 131



God's Amazing Creatures

Ovenbirds are a species of warbler that live mainly in the central and eastern part of North America. Their song sounds like they are singing, "teacher-teacher-teacher." Ovenbirds forage on the ground in dead

leaves, but sometimes hover or catch insects in flight. These birds mainly eat forest insects and other invertebrates, such as adult beetles and larvae, ants, caterpillars, and flies.





The Ovenbird is named for its nest that resembles an old-fashioned outdoor oven. The female also drops leaves and twigs on the roof of the nest to hide it and the babies. Isn't it wonderful how God taught the Ovenbird how to hide the nest from predators?

Hey kids, the verses below are written in a picture language called "Symbolic Universal Notation" or SUN, for short. It was made for people who are blind,* deaf, and/or cannot read. Using the hints below, can you (and your parents) figure out which Bible verses these are? *uses 3D printing or a tactile tablet reader (Note: One symbol we have added to the "language.")

