



The Bible Banner

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BIBLE PICTURE PATHWAYS.COM

Though No one Join me, still I will Follow

A lighthouse along a bleak coast was tended by a keeper who was given enough oil for one month and told to keep the light burning every night. One day a woman asked for oil so that her children could stay warm. Then a farmer came. His son needed oil for a lamp so he could read. Still another needed some for an engine. The keeper saw each as a worthy request and measured out just enough oil to satisfy all. Near the end of the month, the tank in the lighthouse ran dry. That night the beacon was dark and three ships crashed on the rocks. More than 100 lives were lost.

When a government official investigated, the man explained what he had done and why. *"You were given one task alone,"* insisted the official. *"It was to keep the light burning. Everything else was secondary. There is no defense."* Likewise, when we become Christians and choose to follow God, everything else in life is to be secondary to following Him. *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* Matt. 6:33

Peanut Butter Cookies

½ cup peanut butter ½ cup honey
¼ cup olive oil ¼ tsp salt
½ tsp powdered vanilla, optional

1 ¼ cup whole wheat pastry flour or spelt flour

Cream all ingredients except flour together first. Add flour and knead until a you have a formable dough, adding more flour if necessary. Form into balls. Place on a cookie sheet and flatten with a fork (a plastic fork works best for this). Bake at 350°F ((180 °C) for 10 minutes.

Let cool on cookie sheet before removing.



PROFITABLE TRADITIONS

Cultivate love for the Sabbath—Try a Bible Scavenger Hunt

This is done like a normal scavenger hunt except it has a biblical theme. Each person participating in the hunt is given a list of items to hunt for and a bag to store them in. After everyone has found their items, everybody comes back together and tells about each of the items they found and the Bible story that they go with. Below is shown a list for an example. You can use this list or make one yourself.

TO FIND: Two items used to describe Jesus in the Bible

One item told about in a miracle of Jesus

Two items Jesus talked about in his parables

One item representing a biblical occupation

One item representing something in heaven (mentioned in the Bible)

One item from the story of an Old Testament prophet

One item representing something from the Children of Israel in the wilderness

One item from the story of one of the twelve disciples

Quotable Quotes

*"A religion
that
gives nothing,
costs nothing,
and suffers
nothing,
is worth nothing."
Martin Luther*



A Soldier's Dilemma

The story is told of how, during WWI, the son of a prominent American family was led to the Lord. He was in the service, but he showed the reality of his conversion by immediately professing Christ before the soldiers of his military company.

The war ended. The day came when he was to return to his pre-war life in the wealthy suburb of a large American city. He talked to the man who had witnessed to him about life with his family and expressed fear that he might soon slip back into his old habits. He was afraid that love for parents, brothers, sisters, and friends might turn him from following after Jesus Christ. The man told him that if he was careful to make public confession of his faith in Christ, he would not have to worry. He would not have to give improper friends up. They would give him up. As a result of this conversation the young man agreed to tell the first ten people of his old set whom he encountered that he had become a Christian. The soldier went home.

Almost immediately--in fact, while he was still on the platform of the suburban station at the end of his return trip--he met a girl whom he had known socially. She was delighted to see him and asked how he was

doing. He told her, *"The greatest thing that could possibly happen to me has happened."* *"You're engaged to be married,"* she exclaimed. *"No,"* he told her. *"It's even better than that. I've taken the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior."* The girls' expression froze.

She mumbled a few polite words and went on her way. A short time later the new Christian met a young man whom he had known before going into the service. *"It's good to see you back,"* he declared. *"We'll have some great parties now that you've returned."* *"I've just become a Christian,"* the soldier said. He was thinking, That's two! Again it was a case of a frozen smile and a quick change of conversation. After this the same circumstances were repeated with a young couple and with two more old friends. By this time word had got around, and soon some of his friends stopped seeing him. He had become peculiar, religious, and -- who knows! -- they may even have called him crazy! What had he done? Nothing but confess Christ. The same confession that had aligned him with Christ had separated him from those who did not want Jesus Christ as Savior and who, in fact, did not even want to hear about Him.

No doubt, Jesus recognized this fact when He said, *"Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God: But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God."*

Luke 12:8,9 In the Bible, we see a distinct contrast between those who confessed Christ and those who did not. Abraham built an altar to God everywhere he went. Peter tried to hide his identity and ended up denying Christ.

If you desire to avoid compromise with the world, why not confess Jesus Christ and truth today? Compromise with error is deadly.

For it is written, *"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."* James 4:4



Prophetic News Notes

CHINA PLANS TO RANK ALL ITS CITIZENS BASED ON THEIR "SOCIAL CREDIT" BY 2020

The Chinese state is setting up a vast ranking system that will monitor the behavior of its enormous population, and rank them all based on their "social credit." The program is due to be fully operational nationwide by 2020, but is being piloted for millions of people across the country already. The scheme will be mandatory.

Like private financial credit scores, a person's social scores can move up and down according to their behavior.

The exact methodology is a secret — but examples of infractions include bad driving, smoking in non-smoking zones, walking your dog without a leash, jaywalking, paying taxes or bills late, posting fake news online, and various personal shopping or online habits such as buying too many video games.

People can be rewarded or punished according to their scores. China has already started punishing people by restricting their travel. Nine million people with low scores have been blocked from buying tickets for domestic flights, Channel News Asia reported in March [2018], citing official statistics.

According to "Business Insider" other potential punishments include: throttling your internet speeds, banning you — or your kids — from the best schools, stopping you from getting the best jobs, keeping you out of the best hotels, getting your dog taken away, being publicly named as a bad citizen, and not being able to apply for credit cards. ¹

The system will be enforced by the latest in high-tech surveillance systems as China pushes to become the world leader in artificial intelligence.



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*"A vast network of 200 million CCTV cameras across China ensures there's no dark corner in which to hide."² China plans to have more than 600 million [cameras] installed by 2020.⁴ Surveillance cameras will be equipped with facial recognition, body scanning and geo-tracking to cast a constant gaze over every citizen. Smartphone apps will also be used to collect data and monitor online behavior on a day-to-day basis. Also big data from more traditional sources like government records, including educational and medical, state security assessments and financial records, will be fed into individual scores. Wikipedia states that *"Website operators can mine the traces of data that users exchange with websites and derive a full social profile, including location, friends, health records, insurance, private messages, financial position, gaming duration, smart home statistics, preferred newspapers, shopping history, and dating behaviour."*⁴*

Within years, an official Party outline claims, this system will "allow the trustworthy to roam freely under heaven while making it hard for the discredited to take a single step". Prophetically speaking, this is a warning of technology that can easily enable a time when *"no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."* Rev. 13:17

The complete lack of privacy and the ability of the government to put those blacklisted (whether rightly or mistakenly) under "virtual house arrest" should cause Christians to wake up and take notice. But as always the Biblical counsel is up to date, saying *"Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter."* Eccl. 10:20

1-- www.businessinsider.com/china-social-credit-system-punishments-and-rewards-explained-2018-4 2 -- <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-18/china-social-credit-a-model-citizen-in-a-digital-dictatorship/10200278> 3-- www.cbsnews.com/news/china-social-credit-system-surveillance-cameras/ 4-- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_Credit_System



PERSECUTED—BUT NOT FORSAKEN

Jesus says, *"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me."* Matt. 10:37,38

Many years ago, a young Christian bride was immured [enclosed or confined against her will] in a heathen family. Often in China, a baby girl, while her parents were yet heathen, would be betrothed to a heathen family. Even after becoming Christians "her parents dare not break the contract", and she is tied for life to a coarse, unsympathetic and brutal husband. "The young wife is supposed to have swallowed a 'magic Jesus-doctrine pill' and the only way to get it out is to pound it out. This, the family set themselves, through drudgery, abuse and violence to do."

The particular Chinese Christian bride in our story was no different, for "her husband soon informed her that he was going to whip her once a week until she renounced '*foreign doctrines*'. Each week as he lashed her, she wept for pain, and prayed in an agony of spirit for him.

"At the end of two years, he approached her for the weekly beating, and in a terrible voice announced: '*Now this time if you don't recant, I'm going to kill you!*'"

"With ferocity he rained the blows; then suddenly threw down the whip, and laughed a strange, hard laugh, exclaiming, '*It's no use; I've been trying all these weeks to make you "seng ta ki" (literally, "beget a great anger"), just as the other women I know do. But I can't make you!*'"



"And in that instant the Holy Spirit, honoring her faithful witness and real prayer-life, convicted and converted him; and he and his wife, helped by the Holy Spirit, began forthwith the winning of their clan to Jesus Christ."

The source of her endurance was later learned. It was Psalm 50:15, repeated and prayed many times, claiming the faithfulness of God: *"Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."*

(Story compiled from Youthful Witnesses by W. A. Spicer, ©1921, pg. 235,236)



24 Carrot Eyesight?

Truthfully, I can never remember being able, as a young child, to see the leaves on the trees. I'm nearsighted, which means I can only see things up close. When I was in third grade I got my first pair of glasses. It was a long time ago, but I remember two things. I was told that basically without my glasses I was legally blind and that I had something called astigmatism. According to the American Foundation for the Blind, being legally blind *"in the United States... refers to a medically diagnosed central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with the best possible correction, and/or a visual field of 20 degrees or less."*¹ I figured I was destined to wear glasses for the rest of my life, until about 14 years ago when I noticed my eyesight was better every time I had to get a new pair of glasses. (This story I reported in the December 2015 Bible Banner.)

When one of my friends had eye surgery and described the process to me, I told him I thought I would wait for God to heal my eyes, naturally. I suspected better nutrition as well as exercise and plenty of water might be what was healing my eyes. Even the World Health Organization admits that, ***"Vitamin A deficiency (VAD) is the leading cause of preventable blindness in children and increases the risk of disease and death from severe infections....An estimated 250,000 to 500,000 vitamin A-deficient children become blind every year, half of them dying within 12 months of losing their sight."***²



Since carrots contribute vitamin A, and a friend of ours had corrected a vision problem by adding a carrot a day to his meals, I wasn't too skeptical when I heard the story of the Air Force Pilot who was turned down for bad eyesight, and then later, after drinking a gallon of carrot juice 6 days a week for three months, was accepted after passing the same eye test. (This story detailed in August 2018 Bible Banner) I always thought I would try juicing carrots one day. But for years, that day never came. Either it was summer, and we were rationing water so I didn't think I could clean up the juicer, or we didn't have power to run the juicer, or we didn't have money to buy the carrots.

Then one day, my Great Physician sent me a free 20-lb. bag of carrots* when I had water to wash the juicer. I decided that this was His prescription. Now, I always like to use good Biblical scientific method – ***"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."*** (1 Thess. 5:21) So we proceeded to download an eyechart and test my eyes before I began. My left eye was the worst, it was still a 20/200. My right eye had already improved to a 20/80 reading. And both of them together were 20/40, vastly different from how bad they were in 3rd grade.

That particular bag of carrots had huge carrots. I set about to juice about 14 a day, yielding about a pint (≈ 473 ml). I also began doing simple eye exercises to increase the blood flow to my eye. One was simply ***"look left, look right, look up, look down—repeat several times."*** Another one was ***"focus on something, like your finger or a pencil, close to you and then look at something about 20 feet (≈6.5 meters) away—repeat several times."*** I also followed a prescription from the Great Physician's Desk Reference (my Bible) found in Ecclesiastes 11:7, ***"Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun."*** A study cited in JAMA actually backs this fact, stating, ***"This study, while not designed to determine cause and effect relationships, suggests that increased ultraviolet B exposure, a marker of sunlight exposure, is associated with reduced myopia....or short-sightedness....The protective effect of time outdoors on myopia has been identified in studies of school-aged children and young adults, with replication in different climates. A meta-analysis of 7 cross-sectional studies concluded that there was a 2% reduced odds of myopia per additional hour of time spent outdoors per week."***³ Of course, you don't want to look directly at the sun with your eyes open, but if you turn your face towards the sun and close your eyes (utilizing the Great Physician's amazing natural filter) some of the light comes through your eyelids. This "sunning" is said to be beneficial for healing the eyes too. Unfortunately, here in the Pacific Northwest in the winter, this exercise is a little harder to get regularly.

But one week later after six days of juicing and 1 rest day I measured my eyesight again. My right eye had improved from a 20/80 reading to a 20/63. Both eyes had improved from a 20/40 to a 20/32 reading, but my left eye had improved the most. It went from barely being able to read the large letters at the top of the chart 20/200 to 20/80.

Currently, I've been juicing for about a month switching instead (due to smaller carrots) to a 24 carrot juicing session. Most weeks I've had some improvement, but at least once I actually retrograded slightly. (This I attribute to several late nights, overwork snow shoveling—since nutrients went to repair tired muscles, and possibly a bad batch of carrots that were too old.)

Although my glasses are now too strong for my "24 carrot eyesight" (and I had to quit wearing them because they make my eyes hurt) I am currently focusing on an eye massage for correcting the astigmatism, which may or may not be possible. Astigmatism is defined as ***"a defect in the eye or in a lens caused by a deviation from spherical curvature. This results in distorted images, as light rays are prevented from meeting at one common focus."*** In other words, my eyeball may be football-shaped instead of round, and this can be a genetic problem.

Ultimately, both my right and my left eye, have improved by about ½ in a month of carrot juicing and exercises. The right eye has progressed from 20/80 to 20/40 and my left eye has progressed from 20/200 to 20/63. (cont.)



(Continued from page 4)

Whether or not God sees fit to heal my eyes completely here on earth, I thank Him for His kindness in letting me at least experience seeing the needles on the evergreens at a distance without my glasses. In addition, the healing process has let me better understand the "glasses-in-the-Bible-verse" 1 Cor. 13:12. *"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."* I thank God that one day He will fully heal me and I will be able to see Him face to face. Ultimately, twenty-four karat gold eyesight is only a heaven away!

*Note: Only use organic or no-pesticide carrots for juicing. Juicing not only concentrates nutrients, it can also concentrate pesticide poisons.

1-- www.afb.org/info/blindness-statistics/key-definitions-of-statistical-terms/25

2-- <https://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/vad/en/>

3-- <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaophthalmology/fullarticle/2588252>

Kids' Corner

God's Amazing Creatures

The California quail is a plump, short legged ground bird. California quails have a curving crest or plume that is made up of 6 feathers. Although they are native to the United States, they still might live near you because



Photo: S. Jensen www.beyourownbird.com

California quails have been introduced to British Columbia, Hawaii, Chile, Uruguay, Brazil, Argentina, Peru, South Africa, New Zealand, Norfolk Island and King Island in Australia. These cute birds are very sociable and gather in groups call coveys. After young quail hatch from their eggs they follow their parents around in a little group. The little quail will run and hide at the first sign of danger. One of the adults is always on the lookout for any danger.

Even if one baby quail doesn't follow its mother, the others need to obey anyway. Like the obedient quail follow their mother, boys and girls should follow Jesus all the time too.

"But Jesus said, Suffer [the] little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."
Matt. 19:14



Patience gave each of her friends a picture of Jesus with the children. She told them all, *"Jesus loves children. Jesus is my friend."* Her friends smiled and wanted to learn more about Jesus.

Patience made Jesus happy.



Passion was afraid to tell her friends about Jesus. But Passion was even more unhappy when her friends started trying to get her to do naughty things because they didn't know about Jesus. It made Jesus sad too when Passion didn't want to tell her friends about Him.



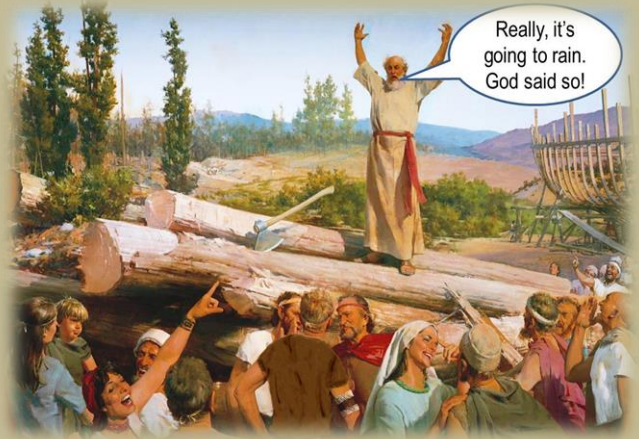
Study to Show Thyself Approved — Will You Still Follow?

To test His people's sincerity and to build their faith in God, God sometimes asks His people to do some strange and seemingly difficult things. Sometimes they even looked a little crazy or fanatical by worldly standards. Consider the Biblical record.

God asked Noah to build a boat on dry land and preach of a coming flood that would destroy the earth when it had never before even rained. Heb. 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

Genesis 2:5,6 for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, ... But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.

God asked Abraham to pick up everything and move---except God didn't tell Abraham exactly to where he was moving. Gen. 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: Heb. 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.



God asked Moses to pick up a poisonous snake by the tail. Exodus 4:2-5 And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee.

Twice, God had Gideon send men home instead of keeping them for soldiers, when the Israelites were already outnumbered. Judges 7:12 And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude.

Judges 7:2,3,7 And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me. Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand...And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.

Jesus had his disciples tell five thousand men [not to mention women and children] to sit down for supper, when all they had to feed them was a lunch big enough for one small child. John 6:8-10 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

God's ways are different than our ways.

Isaiah 55:8,9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

1 Corinthians 1:25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

If God has worked contrary to man's thinking in the past, how might we expect God to work in these last days?

1 Cor. 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Will you still follow, though others mock? Consider this statement.

"Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning...God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness."

{Last Day Events 203.3}



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