

# THE LEVITE

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**Blessings of the Believer**  
May be time for a checkup



**Trust**  
Flying with Holy instruments



**Four Inches From Hell**  
Somebody needs to pray

*Iron  
Sharpeneth  
Iron*

*Proverbs 27:17*





## EXCEPTIONAL MEN

Brother David Webb

Senior Pastor - Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

*(This article has been adapted from a series of memos written from Pastor Webb to his leaders. May these words encourage the hearts of our men who strive daily to be EXCEPTIONAL MEN!)*

It becomes more apparent to me on a daily basis how rare good men are. Men who love the Lord, love their families and love their neighbors as themselves are surely on the endangered list. May I commend you, my brothers in Christ, on how valuable you are. In my time with the Lord, I am often reminded of how blessed I am to know such great Christian men! My heart is grateful to the Lord, not for what you do for the church but for who you are in the Lord. In the words following, you will find the things that it takes to make EXCEPTIONAL MEN!

### Men of the Word!

The older I get the more I realize the value of men who absolutely and unequivocally believe the Bible is inerrant truth. I believe it goes without saying that the Adamic nature in all of us is always whispering in the quiet corners the same questions whispered to Eve in Genesis 3:1, "Yea, Hath God said?" Does He really mean that? Without apology, He absolutely does. It amazes me to watch you brothers stand in the face of skeptics, doubters, and an excuse-making world for what thus saith the Lord! Opinions are not what we stand on. One man said, "Opinions are like noses... everybody has one." Brothers, thank God we do not base what we live on our opinions. We base what we live on the word of God.

A certain young man came to his dad and began to complain about something his boss had dictated to his employees do. The young man began to justify and be defensive because one point of company policy was just "too much!" He justified his activities by saying, "I do everything else so well... is that not enough?" The father stopped his child right there and said, "Your boss has the greater good in mind. Do what he said! End of discussion!"

Thank God for men like you who stand firm without waver, keeping the young and contrary between the lines. No, I honestly don't understand everything in those blessed pages of the wonderful book, but I do trust that everything written is for our good. Thank you, men, for not just reading, but, more importantly, living it!

### Men of Prayer

The older I get the more I realize that the greatest attribute of a church leader is not talent, friendliness, prowess, looks, or financial stability. It is being a man of prayer. One cannot become any greater by natural means compared to "bent knee time" when he is in the presence of the Almighty! E. M. Bounds said, "The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods but through men. He does not come in machinery but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men ... men of prayer."

We must know that the motor that propels the church is not witty words nor cute comments but the demonstration and power that only comes through men of prayer. Men of prayer are powerful, purposeful, and predictable. They cannot be swayed from the vision set forth. Prayer is the stabilizing factor of every flourishing congregation. Recently one of my deacons offered one of the greatest suggestions made in my entire pastorate ... that the pastors and their wives, trustees and their wives meet at the altar and bind together in corporate prayer 20 minutes before every service. It has revolutionized our services! I pray this never dies out as long as I have the privilege to pastor my wonderful people. It is making a difference. I have come to know that prayerlessness breeds pettiness, pessimism, and peremptory actions. Thank you, brothers, for being given to prayer. You are changing the atmosphere of your church, your home, and your person by your time with Him. May heaven open up and His presence come down as we do the most important thing we can do...Pray!!

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## TRUST

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Trust is a word commonly used by Christians, but is it a deeply understood word? We know we are always supposed to trust the Lord. We know God is in control, yet we often find ourselves asking questions when circumstances around us seem so out of (our) control. I'm not here to boast that I understand all the reasons for things that take place in the lives of those that truly love the Lord, but I can tell you no matter what the circumstance you can fully trust the Lord. *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise,..."* (II Peter 3:9)

We live in a time that is overrun with "trust" issues. Today in our society a promise is no longer enough. It has become necessary to put everything in writing/contracts in order to enforce a promise. It has become necessary for us to put locks on our doors and security systems in our churches, our businesses, as well as our homes to protect us from those overcome with greed and violence. (In our society, doing this is using wisdom.) Our schools place security throughout their buildings to do what they can to protect children from predators. It is sometimes difficult to know who we can trust. It would seem that "trust" is something of the past.

Unfortunately, this lack of "trust" can become a great hindrance within the church. When we allow past disappointments or situations to cause doubt and to create questions toward authority and even toward God and His word, we are allowing the devil to take advantage of us. This will never lead to victory. Faith and trust are closely related. They always work together.

**James 1:6**, *"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed."*

So, what is "trust"? The Webster's Dictionary gives this definition: *assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something*

We must "trust" God's character! We must "trust" God's ability! We must "trust" that He is our strength! **Psalm 46:1**, *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."* We must "trust" that His truth endureth to all generations. **Psalm 100:5**, *"For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."* It does not matter what the media says! We can trust and believe that God's truth stands forever!

Some time ago I read a true account of a pilot in Desert Storm. This story

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**Exceptional Men** - continued from page 2**Men that are Real!**

Brothers, the older I get the more I realize the rarity of people who are real. As Sister Avenell Wathen (an 85 year old saint) always said, "They are true blue."

When one is young we tend to believe all is good and everyone's motives are pure. How quickly we are taken back and disappointed by getting to know some better. However, there are some, the more you are around them, the more you realize how real they are. It's not that they have no idiosyncrasies but that they are what they are. They are... at church, at home, at work, on vacation, in a board meeting, or in a difficult situation...the same! I, by trade, am a trim carpenter. We have options of veneers, finger joint, chip fiberboard, polystyrene, and PVC. These products are only as good as their finish. Then there is the pure, good old #1 wood that is the same all the way through. We must be the same all the way through. When we are scratched, cut, gouged, or broken, it is again confirmed to those looking that there is no variance under the surface. Thank you all for being that kind of man. Exceptional Men, Men that are Real, Men you

can Count On, and Men of Prayer. May the fire of trial only prove the purity of our experience with the Lord.

**Men You Can Count On!**

It becomes more apparent the older I get the need for men "you can count on." We live in a time of "many excuses," some legitimate and some manufactured. Thank you for not being part of what is eating our families, churches, and country up from the inside out! There is always another phone call to make, another service call to run, another yard to mow, another email to send, and another deadline to beat. It's one of God's great gifts to have people in your life you can count on. Convenience is not their song nor neglect their pattern, but being there in their place no matter what. There has always been a shortage of men like you brethren. Or could it have been there were additional capable men if they would have "inconvenienced" themselves to do not "what's good" but more importantly "what's right." We understand when we say "yes" to something we are saying "no" to another. Thank you for saying "yes" to the will of God in your lives. If we will continue to let go of good to obtain great, if we will pray instead of play, if we will refuse to crumble to the demands of a compromising society... we will experience the power of God like never before. Average cannot occupy the life of a "man you can count on." He will not stand for it! One should do what he must to live

comfortable; however, he should be driven to fully invest in things eternal without reserve. There were only 12 disciples willing to "sell out" for the cause of Christ and one of them defected when needed most.

**Rare is the man "you can count on!"**

Through the snow and rain,

Through setbacks and pain,

One thing remains

A Man you can count on!

When the rumors fly,

and the ground is dry,

When some walk on by

There are men you can count on!

There are those who have your back,

Follow closely and never slack

Always warding off attacks

These are men you can count on!

They bring a word of cheer,

They pray for you with tears,

They are full of faith not fear,

Men you can count on!

When some chose to walk away

They always chose to stay

They walk in the truth and way

Men you can count on!

They rise up from the dust,

Fight in them a must,

These soldiers you can trust,

Men you can count on!



**Trust** - continued from page 3

helped me truly grasp the deep meaning of full trust. I would like to share it with you.

### Trust Your Instruments

Inside every airplane are instruments that are critical to flying the aircraft. The instruments will give a true reading of how the aircraft is flying, even if a pilot's mind may tell him differently. On a clear, sunny day a pilot may not need some of these instruments, but at night or in poor visibility, these instruments become vital to his survival. Many planes have crashed because the pilot became disoriented and failed to trust his instruments.

While attending Texas A&M, Jeff Patton and I became friends as members of the Corps of Cadets. He is now Lt. Col. Jeff Patton and flew as an F-15 fighter pilot in Desert Storm. On the first night of the war, his mission was to escort a large formation of fighters in bombing a chemical weapons plant in northern Iraq. The date for Desert Storm was chosen because the absence of moonlight and the high clouds helped the attacking allied fighters from being detected by enemy defenses. Flying in total darkness, the pilots became completely dependent upon their instruments.

Shortly after crossing into Iraq, Col. Patton's jet was "locked on" to by an Iraqi surface-to-air missile radar. He violently maneuvered his aircraft to break the radar's lock on him. His maneuver successfully broke the lock, but it created a new problem. Those radical movements in the dark threw off the balance in his inner ear (which is what happens when a person gets dizzy), causing him to become disoriented.

His mind was telling him his plane was in a climbing right turn, but when he checked his instruments, they indicated he was in a 60-degree dive towards the ground! He was sure he was in a climb instead of a dive, and his mind was screaming at him to lower the nose of his F-15 to halt the climb. While his mind commanded him to correct the plane in one direction, his instruments instructed him to do just the opposite. Because he was flying in total darkness, he had to decide quickly whether to trust his mind or his instruments. His life depended on making the cor-

rect choice.

Even though it took everything within him to overcome what his mind was telling him, he decided to trust his instruments. He rolled his wings level and pulled his F-15 upward, which drew seven times the force of gravity, pulling the aircraft out of its dive. It only took a few moments to realize he had made the right decision. If he had lowered the nose of his jet like his mind had been telling him, he would have crashed the plane. Trusting his instruments saved his life!

Immediately he looked at his altimeter, which told him the elevation of his aircraft. He had narrowly escaped colliding into the mountains of Iraq by just 2,000 feet. Although he had made the correct decision by trusting his instruments, he realized if he had delayed just three more seconds his plane would have crashed into the mountains. Even right decisions can be wrong ones if they are made too late.

God will guide the "instruments" inside our hearts through his Spirit, even though our minds may tell us to do just the opposite. "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." (Prov. 3:5)

(The 911 Handbook, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003)

I believe we can all agree that we live in a very dark time. It is essential to fully trust the Lord. If we focus on the spiritual darkness that hovers over our world, we may become spiritually disoriented and make wrong choices. Any time we put our trust in self or human abilities we will no doubt fall short of the mark every time.

We must saturate our hearts with God's word so we can stand tall in the Lord no matter how bad the storm gets around us. We must use the Word against the threats of the devil.

When the enemy brings "doubt":

**Proverbs 16:3, "Commit thy works unto the LORD,**

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## FOUR INCHES FROM HELL

Brother Troy Reed  
Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

The following transcript is from a testimony given by Bro. Troy Reed on Homecoming Sunday, 2019 at the Hodgenville Pen-

tecostal Church. The testimony was very anointed and passionate. As Bro. Reed came to the front of the church, he went straight to the altar and knelt weeping before the Lord with deep emotion. Tears flowed as he obeyed the Lord.

### **Trust** - continued from page 5

**and thy thoughts shall be established."**

When the enemy brings "fear":

**Psalm 112:7** "He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD."

When the enemy brings "sickness":

**Isaiah 53:5** "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

It is comforting to know we can "trust" the Lord no matter what comes our way.

**Romans 8:37-39** "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 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."

This scripture reassures us we will never face anything in this life the Lord cannot handle. If we have put our "trust" in the Lord, there is nothing we cannot overcome. **Philippians 4:13**, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

In the book of Mark we find a father struggling to "trust" yet knowing that Jesus was more than able. Here are his words to the Lord: "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." (**Mark 9:24b**) I have prayed these words many times, and Jesus always answered my prayer.

I am so thankful we can fully put our trust in the Lord knowing "that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (**Romans 8:28**)

### **Introduction by Bro. David Webb, Senior Pastor, HPC**

Do you all remember what happened five years ago? Does anybody remember? Bro. Troy, you remember it really well don't you. Won't you come and tell us what happened five years ago? Come on, Bro. Troy.

### **Bro. Troy Reed:**

I was in my mid-20s and there were some problems. Life happened, and it messed me up for a while. I got out of church.

I'll fast-forward several years. I had started coming back to church. Debbie and I had been dating, then got married and decided to come back to church.

There was a revival, I think it was with Sis. Lester, and one night I was here during that revival, and I was standing back here. (*pointing toward the back of the church*) The service had gone really great that night and there were groups of people praying throughout the congregation. Debbie (*his wife*) was standing back in the corner with a bunch of other ladies. Bro. Suits came up to me and he said, "You finally got you a holy roller now, don't ya?" I said, "Yeah, that's the way it was supposed to be."

What happened was (nobody knew it because I didn't tell anybody) the Devil started throwing things at me. He started throwing up the past, and I got away from church again. I quit coming. 15 years or so went by and, during that time, I missed the church. I didn't go anywhere else. This was always my church. If anybody asked me, I'd say, "This is where I come, but I just don't go there right now."

God had been dealing with me throughout those years. Off and on He would deal with me, but He never got my attention. There is a difference, I think, when God deals

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## THE HOLY GHOST OF HOPE

Brother Danny Compton  
Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

Proverbs 4:23 “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”

There are many things that take place in life. Those things are essentially what make up our lives. Good things, bad things, even those things that are seemingly inconsequential make up what we call “our life”; combined they make us who we are. This is why we must guard our hearts with all diligence just as scripture instructs. For if we are not careful, the negativity WILL DOMINATE US.

It's human nature to dwell on bad news. The bombarding of negativity, gloom, doom, and fear is a spirit of antichrist that is unleashed on unbelievers and believers alike. Unbelievers are relentlessly attacked to keep them seeking different forms of sedation whether it be drugs, alcohol, or other forms of perverted entertainment. As a matter of fact, they are so inundated with things to feed their own lust they appear happy to everyone around them while privately they sink deeper and deeper into depression and while the only empty hope they have is in a pill or a drink or a lie on Facebook or Instagram to gain acceptance from people who are under the same attack as they are that they don't even know.

Many have been deceived into believing that either there is no God or that God is a teddy bear type figure

that does not judge because all men are good and going to heaven. The lost have been separated from God and His Spirit, and the spirit of antichrist is deceiving through false hope. Any real hope that mankind has is under attack in an attempt to destroy man's faith in God.

Hebrews 11:1 says: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Without hope, there is no power in faith.

I submit to you that believers are under the same relentless attack as unbelievers. Bad news, hard times, trouble at work, trouble at home, trouble at church are all an effort to chip away at your hope. The attack on believers is not an effort to destroy earthly man. The attack is meant to simply chip away at your hope to render our mountain moving faith useless. No hope...no faith.

But I have good news! There is Hope! And His name is Holy Ghost! Romans 15:3 says: “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.” The enemy's success depends on our ability to keep a right attitude. So how do we keep a right attitude? How do we hold on to hope?

Romans 5:3-5 says: “<sup>3</sup>And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; <sup>4</sup>And patience, experience; and experience,

hope: <sup>5</sup>And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.” We need to be full of the Holy Ghost and Power. Acts 1:8 says: “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” The power of the Holy Ghost unlocks right attitudes within us. It gives us hope that causes faith to rise up in us. It is the very power of God unto salvation for our children, extended family, friends, and coworkers.

Without the Spirit of God on earth, society would erode into complete lawless chaos; all hope would be lost. That's what happens to a man or woman without God in their life, without the Holy Ghost to give them power, to give them hope. The Holy Ghost filled church is what's holding things together. That's why it's imperative that every man, woman, boy, and girl continue to seek after and be filled with the Holy Ghost of hope.





## THE BLESSING OF THE BELIEVER

Brother David Whelan  
Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

Has anyone else ever grown weary of the perceived demands of life in general to a degree that you become weary of everything in your life, including church? When I find myself in that state, I sometimes feel that transparency is helpful and I just want to commiserate with someone else who is worn out as well, the proverbial “misery loves company”. It is times like these that the believer must take stock of what he has and realize how blessed he really is. To fail in this is to risk backsliding. There is no amount of affliction and adversity I can think of that would make me want to go back to the “old life” out in the world, no amount. I want no part of it, I don’t long for it, I don’t think about it. Old things have passed away; behold, all things are new, but that does not keep one from being tired and frustrated.

I recall not long ago speaking with my wife about how many horrible situations that are close to us either in our natural families, church families, or close acquaintances, we cannot remember them all to pray for them the way we would like, there are so many. I certainly don’t want to provoke the devil into making a project out of me by my boasting, but if that is the best he has, he is a long way from changing my mind. Come to think of it, he is making a project out of me already.

There is no need to despair, one could say that we will never be happier, more content, or more fulfilled than we are when we are in the will of God. We all know this, but often lose sight of it. We often take out our frustration on church and look for molehills to make into mountains. However, whatever upset or aggravation we experience is often our own doing. Even if you were to have a legitimate grievance, I would admonish anyone that there is nothing in the world that is going to make you happier than your Christian life, not that liquor store or it’s contents, not those so called “buddies”, not that old girlfriend, not a nicer car, a bigger house, a boat, a vacation home, a promotion at work, all the money you can use, none of it. You don’t have to take my word for it, you can read a firsthand account from Solomon himself in Ecclesiastes, where we all are familiar with his lengthy discourse on the vanity or uselessness of all these things. If our life in Christ is not perfect, it is not Him.

It is so crucial when you feel this way to use your prayer time and the altar. I quit caring a long time ago about what people think if I go to the altar constantly. When the Holy Ghost moves on me, I shed tears. I am not naturally a crier and I figure it is The Lord’s way to touch me in a way that tears always flow. It is critical to have this time for The Holy Ghost to refresh you and lift those burdens. I always feel better. I urge you to avail yourself of every opportunity.

Your prayer life also keeps you up to date with The Holy Ghost. That becomes your battery and only with His help can we bear the trials that are bound to come our way. In that way you will become a conduit to relief for yourself, but also others that come into your sphere of influence. There is nothing wrong with witnessing to the attendant at the drive thru, but the power of God in your life is a magnet to people, more than likely your lost family when their world is circling the drain. I marvel at the amount of burden that prayer warriors can handle with His help. The lost run to substance abuse, self abuse, etc.. with just a fraction of what most Children of God carry.

The first law of thermodynamics, the law of entropy, basically states that there is an increasing amount of disorder in the world or any system. By extension, it implies that it requires investment of energy to maintain a highly ordered state. This can be applied to many things in principle, your closet for example: If you do not invest time and energy into hanging up and folding clothes, straightening up, etc... your closet will go to pieces in a hurry. EVEN if you never open the door for 50 years, when you finally do, it will need work to get back to where it was when you closed the

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***Blessing of the Believer*** - continued from page 8

door. In order to be the kind of Christian that our Lord and Savior need in this hour, it is going to require energy to maintain ourselves in the kind of spiritual condition that is necessary in this last hour. That means a lot of church attendance, going to those church dinners you hate because you are not a social bug, putting up with someone rubbing you the wrong way, giving the Pastor the benefit of the doubt when he doesn't handle something the way you would like to have it handled, and a million other things. We are going to have to purpose to see the forest and not the trees on a lot of occasions. We are going to have to force ourselves to look around and realize how great we have it.

You don't seriously think you will be happier if you had that devotion time back? You don't really believe that you would be more satisfied with another pastor?...I promise you the next one is just as much human as the one you have. The next church will not be to your satisfaction either, unless you determine to "lie down in green pastures".

Life does not have to be a bed of roses for us to be content or happy. I was just reflecting on the loss of one of our dear elder saints that went on to be with the Lord just recently. He and his wife have been through a lot of trials, the last of which was his recent battle with dementia. He slipped out of this world due to an infection, by all accounts he passed peacefully. While I am sure his wife is deeply grieving the loss of her husband of 60+ years, I also think I know her well enough that she might just cut loose and shout a little in a few weeks because she knows where he is and she knows where she is going. You can't top that. God has been good to her!

As Christians, we must learn to handle feelings of dissatisfaction and feeling that we have it bad when we really do not. It is not enough to just tough it out. We must learn how to back off and get some perspective. Here are some things that may help gain that perspective:

1. If you are fed up, first do a self check. Are you reading and feeding on the Word? If not, purpose to set aside some time to do it. Make it uninterrupted. Do it in a

part of the day that you will not be disturbed. I hate to say it, but you may have to give something up, maybe sleep.

2. Following close on #1. Set aside dedicated time for reflection and prayer. I know we feel inadequate as Pentecostal folks if we are not saying something profound to God every moment we are praying, but honestly, you need to listen as well. Contemplate, mull over, allow the Lord to work with you about whatever you are praying about. He doesn't need you to tell him a solution, you need to hear it from him. Empty your mind so he can drop something in it.

3. Be willing to give up something. Sometimes the most spiritual thing you can do is take a break. Everyone soldier needs to come offline occasionally. The more intense the battle is, the more often and prolonged your rest must be. Brother and Sister, we are afraid someone is going to take our place aren't we? Come on! Surely we aren't motivated by position are we?

4. Talk to those you are sick of dealing with. That is Biblical. Folks, we cannot afford for one glimmer of daylight to get between us and allow the enemy space to drive a wedge, because he WILL. Many a good work has died on the beach while invading enemy territory because we disagreed on something that did not matter or just simply got on each other's nerves.

5. Pray about and make clear the boundaries in your life. People need to know what you have going on. A lack of resolution and clarity on this point is a sure fire way to become bitter. It is the quintessential management truth that 20% of the people do 80% of the work. There is nothing wrong with being part of that 20% as long as you don't become the antithesis of that axiom: 20% of the people cause 80% of the problems. I once had a man come alongside me and confess to me how he had neglected to recognize and deal with problems directly related to him being superman too late to save his marriage and how that caused him to be bitter. You can-

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**Four Inches** - continued from page 6

with you and He gets your attention. He will get your attention one way or the other at some point in time.

I think it was several weeks before Sis. Diana's father had passed away, I was on my way to work one morning, and I drove by the road here. As I turned off 210 onto the parkway I looked up and saw the lights in the parking lot and the steeple light, and I told myself, and I'm ashamed to say it, but I told myself, "I'll never set foot in that church again."

If I'm not mistaken, several weeks later, when Bro. Harold passed away, I felt really compelled to come to the funeral. I thought very highly of Bro. Harold and Sis. Wanda. She used to call me all the time when I was out of church. She would send me letters. She sent me a big 8 x 10 picture of her and Bro. Harold in a frame. I still have it, Sis. Diana. Anyway, I came to the service that morning, and the whole time I was here I wasn't worried; I wasn't unhappy because he had passed away. I knew where he was. I just didn't know where I was.

I'll fast-forward some time. God started dealing with me, really dealing with me, and again, He never got my attention. Months went by, and I knew He would talk to me at times. There were things He said or did, but again, He never really grabbed my attention.

Fast forward to a week before homecoming five years ago on a Sunday. I had an aunt to pass away. They had the service and arrangements scheduled for that Wednesday. That Monday, I went to where I always go, to my happy place at that time - the gym - where I could forget about everything and just let it all out.

On this particular day, as I had done so many times and nothing had ever happened, nothing had ever gone wrong, but on this particular day I was bench pressing, and I had a lot of weight on the bar, and I went to put the bar back on the rack, and when I did I missed it, and 330+ pounds came dropping across my chest. After the initial physical shock of it, I recovered in about 15 minutes or so. I left the gym that day and I began to realize (*short pause here*) I began to realize I was going into what I call spiritual shock. For those of you who've heard this story

before, just pray for me. That's all I ask.

All that week I didn't hardly eat, I wouldn't hardly talk. If Debbie remembers, I didn't hardly say anything.

That Wednesday was the arrangements for my aunt's funeral. So, we went there and during the service I was sitting there and just trying my best not to burst, not to blow up, not to cry. That's just who I am. I can't help it, but this particular day was different. It was then that I realized the reason I was in shock. I realized when that bar came dropping across my chest, it missed my neck by 4 inches. It only takes 8 pounds to snap a neck. I would have broken my neck, and I would've died. (*short pause here*) Pastor, **I was 4 inches away from Hell!** (*short pause here*) I knew I wasn't ready to go.

The rest of that week God was really dealing with me. He got my attention. He grabbed my attention. He grabbed me by the shoulders and turned me around and looked me square in the eyes and said, "You need to listen to me!"

That Friday I was cutting the grass at the house. That's usually time for just me, and the whole time I was on the tractor, God was dealing with me, speaking to me, talking to me. That Saturday, the next day, my brother, his Debbie, and my Debbie, as we always did, spent the day together. We were out and about, and my brother asked me if we were coming to the church homecoming service the next day. I think my answer was, "Yeah, I'll probably be there." But what he didn't know was, the day before I had already made my mind up that I was coming to church on Sunday morning. I didn't know how it was going to happen, I didn't know when it was going to happen, but I knew I was going to come right here in this altar somewhere in here (*pointing to an area of the altar*), and I was going to pray. So that Sunday morning when the preacher got up to come to this pulpit to preach, the only thing he said was, "Somebody needs to pray." I don't remember his name. That's all I remember; somebody needs to pray.

Brother Webb, I apologize. What you all don't realize is

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**Blessing of the Believer** - continued from page 9

not allow yourself to become that.

6. Have an accountability partner/confidant, Not a gossip buddy, but someone you can unload on regularly and be transparent and honest with. This is not carrying tales or pouring poison in the well, it is blowing off steam and getting stuff off your chest and asking that person to be honest with you.

What is in the well is going to come up in the bucket. If your well is poisonous, you are going to shed that abroad. If your well is sweet and alive, that is what you will give forth. The Lord most assuredly will meet you more than halfway here, but it is going to take work on your part as well.

I know this is different than what you are accustomed to reading in The Levite. I just feel that this is going to fall

under someone's attention that is ready to call it quits because they think they have it bad. I implore you to not do that. I urge you in the Name of Jesus to re evaluate and get a fresh look at how truly blessed you are. If you cannot see that, please find someone soon, maybe your Pastor, and ask them to recount with you the blessings in your life. I know you will find a lengthy list.

Many of you are ministers and Pastors, you are not immune. Every one of you can call to mind a colleague that has failed or given up. I urge you not to internalize these feelings and figure that you can tough it out. Perhaps you hate to say anything because you feel it will compromise you or people will lose respect. "Physician, heal thyself", the saying says. People will have more respect for you when they see you are real and see you demonstrate the right way to work through a crisis.

**Four Inches** - continued from page 6

several weeks ago God dealt with me about doing this and I fought Him, and I fought Him, and I fought Him, and I resisted it. Then, last Sunday when Sis. Diana got up and gave her testimony, God dealt with me again, and then I wrestled with it all afternoon Sunday and Monday. Early Monday morning when I woke up, I'd already decided, NO. That's not me. That's not me. I don't get up here and do this in front of people in church. I just don't. You all know me. I don't do this.

But Monday morning I was painting an apartment and one of the maintenance guys came in and we had talked before, we talked about different things. But this particular morning, he said some things about us on a spiritual level that really struck me, it really bothered me. What it did, it

really gave me the opportunity to speak to him and tell him my story. He listened but he never said a word. He just stood there and listened to me. For 10 or 15 minutes I told him what had happened and how it happened with me. He walked out - not angry, not upset. He said, "That's a great story." And he listened and I could tell he heard something. But after he walked out, it was quiet in there and I was by myself and I heard a voice as if somebody was standing beside me and they said, "This is what I want you to do this homecoming Sunday." So, this is why I'm here.

I called Bro. Webb immediately afterwards, and I asked him if it would be all right. So, nobody else has asked me to do this. Nobody has made me do this. I'm obeying what I feel that God is wanting me to do. (short

pause)

Maybe this isn't for anybody else in here. Maybe it's a test from Him to me. I don't know, but I dare say that there's somebody here; there's somebody here right now that might have experienced something similar to me. The question I have for you is how close are you to hell today? **I was 4 inches away.** How close are you?

Has God been dealing with you? Has He been speaking to you? Has He got your attention yet? If He hasn't, He's going to. He's going to get your attention and you'd better be ready to make your decision.

I'd just like to extend to you the same words that were extended to me on homecoming Sunday five years ago. **Somebody needs to pray.**





# ***“Win the Lost”***

*Matthew 18:11-12*

*“<sup>11</sup> For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. <sup>12</sup> How think ye? If a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?”*



## **Services and Times**

Sunday School	10:00 am
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 am
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wednesday Night Worship	7:30 pm