

Challenge

THE GOOD NEWS PAPER

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PRAYER LETTER OF CHALLENGE LITERATURE FELLOWSHIP (AUST.) INC.

The more I look at Psalm 23 the more I see in its profound words. I think this is what makes the Word of God living. As the Spirit of God takes the Word of God, He can apply it to exactly where we need it in our lives. Last month we looked at the first half of verse 3 of this well known psalm. This month I want us to look at the second part of this verse.

Sometimes I meet people who are in a quandary as to why God is not using them in some form of ministry. Invariably as they pursue God, the reason is that their spiritual condition was not quite what they had assumed. They were in need of restoration. Notice then what happens when a Christian is restored to a right relationship. The next line says; "He leads me in the paths of righteousness." Did you see that progression? First we need to be right with God then He is pleased to lead us in the path He wants to take us down.

Probably the most common thing I get asked about is how one can know the will of God for his/her life? D.L. Moody the great American evangelist of the 19th century gave five basic pointers to knowing the will of God.

1. We need to be right with God. Psalm 66 verse 18 states; "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." If we are not right with God it does not matter how long we try to seek God's will He will not respond until we get right with Him. Psalm 4 verse 3 says this; "But know that the Lord has set apart for Himself him who is godly; the Lord will hear when I call to Him."
2. We need to come to God with the right motives. Basically we need to recognize that the number one reason that we are seeking God's will is that God will be glorified in it.
3. We need to look to the Word of God. I was talking to the head of one of the state Bible Societies about the struggle to get Christians to read their Bibles. He confirmed to me that regular reading of the Word of God had declined to 15% of the Christian church. I mentioned this to a leader in a church recently and he felt that the figure was probably 10% if not lower. The Bible Society in Australia became so concerned about this that they launched the Faith comes by Hearing, and Hearing by the Word of God project. This was designed to encourage Christians to listen to the Bible on tape. Obviously it becomes very difficult to discern the will of God if you are not reading your Bible.
4. We need to be sensitive to the work of the Holy Spirit. This can be through other, older Christians, circumstances in our lives and through prayer.
5. We need to be sensitive to the providential working of God. What is meant here is that God has so sovereignly ordered events that it is inescapable that God is speaking to us. When I first was invited to come into Challenge in 1982 my wife and I were planning to get married in January 1983. Being a faith mission work that had no guaranteed income it meant that I had to be sure that God was calling us into the work. So we prayed that God would provide a rental home for us near to the Challenge office. We had been told that getting a rental home at that time would be very difficult indeed, and to get a fully furnished one would be all but impossible. Soon after we had prayed, the head cleaner of the school where I worked came up to me and asked if I needed a home to rent. I indicated yes and inquired where it was. It was in the same suburb as the Challenge office and only 1.5kms away. We had also been told that we would be paying a minimum of \$80 per week for an unfurnished home. We got this place fully furnished for \$55 per week. We knew without a doubt that God was calling us into the work of Challenge.

There are a few other things that we can be blessed by as we seek to honour God, because that is the reason that you want to know and do His will. The biblical shepherd led his flock from the front. He had built such a close relationship with his flock that they gladly followed him because they realised that he had their best interests at heart. We need to recognize that when we seek to know God's path for us He has our best in mind. Sometimes we are fearful that God is going to ask us to do something that we won't like or even want to do. We can have confidence that as God leads us out front he goes before us preparing the way.

We need to also see that in doing God's will that He is with us and that He enables us to do it by the power of His Holy Spirit. However, we need to also understand that God can only lead *Christians that are (Please turn over)*

submissive to Him and His will. These attitudes spawn out of the reality that we are first worshippers then workers. First we recognize the vital importance of relationship, and out of that we have a desire to be willing to serve God.

Why do we want to do all this? Simply because we want to see God honoured and glorified.

— Carl Carmody, Editor of Challenge



Praise

1. Praise the Lord for His incredible faithfulness to the work of Challenge over nearly 25 years.
2. Praise the Lord for His provision of much needed financial gifts. Like most mission organizations finance is a constant struggle and we are enormously grateful at Challenge for these wonderful gifts that are much needed. We are also very thankful to all those farmers who put wheat in the silos for Challenge, and for the on-going blessing that is for both our Australian and African work.
3. We continue to be blessed with some excellent second-hand books for South Africa. They are proving to be a real blessing to pastors who would not be able to obtain such books normally. Please keep them coming!
4. We are so thankful to the Lord for two new board members for our Challenge Board.
5. We continue to praise the Lord for the continued flow of commitments coming from our African edition of Challenge. We are seeing approximately 1000 per month.

Prayer

1. Our Impact Africa mission trip is getting closer. Please pray for Carolyn Carmody as she oversees the preparations, that all will go well. Please pray for the team as they prepare for the event. Pray that they will knit together and have a servant heart as they head off to reach out to the children in squatter camps with VBS material, in tenements, orphanages, hospitals etc. Pray to, for the men who will be preaching.
2. Pray for us as we endeavour to have Challenge representatives in other states. It has not been possible to do the promotion work as we would like with all that is happening here and the extra editions to prepare. A representative in each state would be most helpful so that churches would have someone close to aid them with their use of the paper.
3. We are thankful for our regular writers. Please pray for inspiration from God as they prepare their articles each month.
4. We are still in need of finances to cover the cost of the air conditioning here at the factory, and for the running of the Australian and African work. Please pray with us for this provision.

If anyone would like to receive an on-line copy of these prayer notes each month, let us know your email address and we would be happy to send them to you.



*Send your testimony to **Challenge** – Your conversion to Jesus Christ is a miracle, and is a wonderful means of witnessing to a lost world – Ring or write to Challenge for a testimony outline sheet.*

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