

HELP FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

By Boyce Mouton

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” (John 14:18)

Jesus spoke these words to His disciples in the upper room the night before He was crucified. He had been with them constantly for three years, and now He was going to leave them. His primary command to them up to this point had been “follow me”. This command is found 77 times in the four Gospels. Now He was going where they could not follow. His words are explicit: **“Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.” (John 13:36)** This greatly distressed them. That’s why Jesus told them not to worry. If they believed in God, they should also believe in Him (Jn. 14:1). Just as God loved them, Jesus also loved them. Consequently, He would not abandon them or leave them like orphans. Even though Jesus was going away, He was going to come back to them. This time, however, He would not come to them in a human body. This time He would come to them as the Holy Spirit. The promise of His presence, and His guidance by the Holy Spirit, was not just for the apostles. It is for all Christians. In fact, the Scriptures teach clearly that those who are the children of God are led by the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:14). The Scriptures also teach that anyone who does not have the Holy Spirit does not even belong to Christ (Rom. 8:9). If you are a child of God, you have His promise that the Holy Spirit will lead you!

In one respect the command “follow me” was easy. It did not require money, intelligence or education. It was simple. When Jesus took a step, they took a step. When Jesus turned right, they turned right. When Jesus stopped, they stopped.

From another point of view, however, the command “follow me” was very hard. Following Jesus required leaving family and friends. It required surrendering your plans and following His plans. It meant leaving jobs and earthly security. The foxes had holes, and the birds of the air had nests, but Jesus did not have a place to lay His head (Lk. 9:58). Following Jesus required commitment and self denial. The disciples therefore had to make a very difficult decision. Would they rule their own lives, or would they submit to Jesus. Following Jesus, as you know, involved taking up a cross every day (Matt. 16:24). Obviously, most people are not willing to make the sacrifice required to follow Jesus. Remember, the road that leads to life is straight and narrow, and only a few will find it (Matt. 7:14).

Those who decide to follow Jesus, however, make the right choice. The followers of Jesus not only profit greatly in this world, but also in the world that is to come. Jesus said it succinctly: **“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Matt 16:26)**

The Scriptures are filled with examples of the many ways that the presence of Jesus helped His disciples two thousand years ago. Here are a few:

- Because Jesus was with His disciples He guided them to catch great multitudes of fish (Lk. 5:1 - 11; Jn. 21:1 - 14). Since they were fishermen, catching these fish helped them to pay their bills and feed their families.
- When Peter needed money to pay the temple tax, Jesus helped him get that money. Remember! Jesus told him to go fishing, and the first fish he caught would have just the right amount of money in its mouth (Matt. 17:27).
- When Jesus was there nobody had to go hungry. Remember! Jesus fed thousands of people with only a few fish and a few loaves of bread (Matt 15:29 - 39; Jn. 6:1 - 15). The ability of Jesus to feed hungry people caused the people to try and force Him to be their king (Jn. 6:15).
- No demon was too powerful for Jesus to cast out (Mk. 9:14 - 29).

- No storm was too great for Jesus to stop (Mk. 4:35 - 41).
- No sickness was too serious for Jesus to heal.
- No question was too difficult for Jesus to answer.
- Even a fig tree listened to and obeyed His command (Mk. 11:12 - 25).
- The dead also heard and obeyed His voice (Jn. 11:38 - 44).
- No wonder the disciples of Jesus were troubled when He told them that He was going where they could not follow Him.
- BUT REMEMBER! JESUS PROMISED THAT HE WOULD NOT LEAVE THEM LIKE ORPHANS. EVEN THOUGH HE WAS GOING AWAY, HE WOULD RETURN TO THEM. THIS TIME, HOWEVER, JESUS WOULD COME TO THEM AS THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- Since the presence of Jesus helped His disciples 2,000 years ago, we can be sure that the presence of Jesus will also help His disciples today!

THE HOLY SPIRIT

“But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.” (John 16:7)

When Jesus was in His physical body, He could only be one place at a time. When He was on the mountain, He could not be in the valley. When He was in Capernaum, He could not be in Jerusalem. When Jesus was released from His body, however, He could be everywhere at the same time. The Holy Spirit is not limited by time and space. That’s why it was necessary for Jesus to go away, so He could return as the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit makes it possible for the miracle of salvation to be immediately available to people all over the world. Once the people of God could only worship in Jerusalem (Deut. 12:13 - 14). Now it doesn’t matter where the people of God worship for true worship is not in any one place, but in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:21 - 24). Nothing could be more clear! In order to encounter Christ you do not have to ascend into the heavens to bring Him down, or descend into the deep to bring Him up from the dead (Rom. 10:6, 7). The Spirit of Jesus is always near. Even now He is knocking at the door of your heart wanting to come in (Rev. 3:20). So if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and if you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved (Rom. 10:9).

A DIFFERENT KIND OF GUIDANCE

For three years Jesus had guided His disciples like a shepherd guides his sheep. That’s why He told them “Follow me!” This is the same way God guided His people in the wilderness. God guided them by day with a pillar of a cloud, and by night by a pillar of fire (Ex. 13:21). The cloud and the fire were obviously outside of the people, just like the shepherd is outside of the sheep. More specific guidance for the Hebrew people came from following the ark of the covenant which was carried by the priests. The people were not to get too close to the ark, however, but were to keep a distance of about two thousand cubits (Josh. 3:4).

Now, however, Jesus has promised a different kind of guidance. Now Jesus is going to guide His disciples from within. He promised **“If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.” (John 14:23)** Just as Jesus is going to prepare a place for us (Jn. 14:2), we also need to prepare a place for Him (Jn. 14:23). (The Greek word the Bible uses to describe this “place” is “mone”. It is only found two times in the Bible. In Jn. 14:2 it is translated as “lugar” describing the home that Jesus

is preparing for us in heaven. The other time is in Jn. 14:23 where the same word is translated as “morada”). Just as Jesus is preparing a “place” for us, we also need to prepare a “place” for Him. Today, God’s covenant is not outside of us being carried by the priests, but God’s covenant is within us. His New Covenant is written in our hearts and in our minds (Heb. 8:10; 10:16). Today our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19).

Please consider:

- For three years Jesus had been guiding His disciples from outside of them.
- On the night before Calvary He said He was going where they could not follow Him now.
- He promised, however, not to abandon them or leave them like orphans.
- He specifically promised that He would come to them: **“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” (John 14:18)**
- Jesus kept that promise. Jesus did come to His disciples and continue to guide them. This time, however, the guidance came from inside of them. Obviously, Jesus is not inside of everyone for not everyone is a Christian. This promise is only for true believers! Jesus specifically said that the promise of His indwelling Spirit is for those who love Him and obey His teaching (Jn. 14:23.) These are the ones who prepare a place for Jesus in their hearts.
- As we have said before, this wonderful promise was not just for the apostles. It is for all believers who love Jesus and obey His teaching.
- The Scriptures also promise that **“. . . all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—” (John 1:12)** Certainly those who receive Jesus and become children of God will receive special guidance from their Heavenly Father (Matt. 7:7 - 11).

LEARNING FROM ANIMALS, BIRDS AND FISH

“But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this?” (Job 12:7-9)

Guidance from within is nothing new. It is something God has been doing since the beginning of creation. Job knew this and said that we should learn from the animals, birds, and fish. Animals, birds, and fish have amazing guidance systems that God has placed within them. Surely we can learn something from them.

Take, for example, the many different animals that possess the ability to migrate. In Africa thousands of antelopes, zebras, and wildebeests travel great distances without a guide or a compass. God guides them from within. Because of this guidance they are able to survive famine and drought that would otherwise destroy them. In North America the same guidance from within is manifest in many other animals such as caribou, elk, deer and sheep. Again, these animals do not migrate because they are guided by a leader from without. Their ability to migrate comes from information God has placed within them. God has placed an amazing guidance system in animals all over the world. Surely we can learn from them.

God has also given birds the ability to migrate thousands of miles without a leader. While many different birds have the ability to migrate, the champion of them all is the Arctic Tern. This amazing creature weighs only 2/3 of a pound and yet flies from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back every year. The round trip involves approximately 22,000 miles. This amazing journey is accomplished without a map, guide or a lesson in navigation. Not only did Job ask us to learn from the birds, Jesus also asked us to consider them. He reminded us that birds do not sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns and yet our Heavenly Father takes care of them (Matt. 6:26). Since we

are of more value than birds we have nothing to worry about. If God takes care of the birds, surely He will also take care of us. Just as Job said, we can certainly learn something from birds.

We can also learn from fish. God has given creatures of the sea an inward guidance system too. The European freshwater eel, for example, is born in the Sargasso Sea south of Bermuda. In the early stages of its life it drifts thousands of miles across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe. For the next 6 to 20 years it lives in the fresh water rivers of Europe. Before it dies, however, God guides it back across the Atlantic Ocean to the place where it was born. It will then lay it's eggs and die. This guidance system God placed in the European freshwater eel is not unique. It is also found in many different species of fish. The guidance system God places within the Christian, of course, is surely superior to the one He places in fish.

Insects also have a guidance system within. Many different species of insects possess the amazing ability to migrate. The Monarch butterfly, for example, begins its life cycle on a milkweed plant in Mexico. Several generations later, during the same year, it's descendants will be in Canada. Somehow, God places within the butterfly the ability to fly right back to Mexico so it can avoid the harsh Canadian winter and survive. As we have said before, God has placed a guidance system in thousands of different kinds of insects. Ants, for example, also have an amazing guidance system within them. Somehow thousands of ants think so much alike that they operate as one. Just as with other insects, this unity does not come from without. The Scriptures specifically state that the ants work together without the benefit of a "commander, overseer, or ruler" (Prov. 6:7). If God can guide insects from within, surely He can also guide the Christian from within. Just as Job wrote by inspiration, we need to learn from animals, birds, and fish.

We must remind you again, however, that this wonderful guidance system is not for everyone. You must be "born again" in order to receive it (Jn. 3:1 - 8).

THE BIBLE

The primary way that God guides His people, of course, is by the Bible. The Bible, however, does not provide guidance until it's message is within us. An unread Bible on the shelf does not give guidance to anyone. That's why It is important that we study the Word of God and receive it into our hearts. David said: "**Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.**" (Ps 119:11) Godly people meditate upon the Law of God day and night (Ps. 1:2). Every time Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, He quoted Scripture (Matt. 4:4, 7, 10). When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness to turn stones into bread, He quoted from Deut. 8:3: "**Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God**" (Matt. 4:4). The Word of God is not just like a light, it is also like a sword. It is our primary weapon that God gives us to defeat the devil (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12). Those who do not know the Bible are defenseless before him.

Here is the passage Jesus quoted as it is recorded in the book of Deuteronomy: "**He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.**" (Deut 8:3) Please note that God fed His people with manna to teach them about studying the Bible. The word "manna" means "what is it?" (Ex. 16:15). Nobody had ever seen anything like it before. It was white like a coriander seed and from it they were able to make bread that tasted like wafers made with honey (Ex. 16:31).

Even though the manna was free, and fell from heaven, it was not easy to gather.

- The manna obviously had to be gathered outside the camp. Since there were thousands of people gathering manna some had to walk great distances in order to find their daily rations.

- The manna did not appear until after the dew was gone (Ex. 16:14), and when the sun grew hot it melted away (Ex. 16:21). This left only a brief window of opportunity for the Israelites to gather manna.
- Moses wrote that God caused them to hunger (Deut. 8:3). Gathering manna was so difficult that they would have died of starvation if their hunger did not force them to get busy and gather their food for the day.
- Since they were in the desert with thousands of others, there was competition for the manna. Since they were in the desert, there was also competition for the water and wood necessary to prepare the manna.
- Note again the association the Scriptures make between gathering manna and studying the Bible. God caused the Israelites to hunger and fed them with manna TO TEACH THEM THAT MAN DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD!
- Gathering manna was not easy. Studying the Bible is not easy either!

THE NOBLE BEREANS

“And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” (Acts 17:10-11)

When the Apostles were alive Bibles were very rare, expensive and difficult to obtain. Since Paul preached over a thousand years before the printing press was invented all Bibles had to be copied by hand. There may have been only one Bible in all of Berea and it would have been locked up at the local synagogue. Studying the Bible for the Bereans was difficult, just like gathering manna was difficult. Their hunger for the Word of God required them to leave their homes and walk to the synagogue.

Also, like gathering manna, there would have been competition. Obviously, not everyone could read the Bible at the same time. When they arrived at the synagogue there may have been many others standing in line ahead of them.

When the noble Bereans did get to examine the Bible, it was not easy to find the references used by Paul. The Bible was not divided into chapters until 12 hundred years later, and not divided into verses for 15 hundred years. Today we can reference a passage by book, chapter, and verse. The noble Bereans could not do this.

YET THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT THESE NOBLE BEREANS RECEIVED THE MESSAGE WITH GREAT EAGERNESS AND SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES EVERY DAY TO SEE IF PAUL’S MESSAGE WAS TRUE!

- If the Hebrews could gather manna every day
- If the Bereans could study the Bible every day
- We also can receive the message of Christ with eagerness and study our Bibles every day!

WISDOM FROM ABOVE

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 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. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his

ways.” (James 1:5-8)

Even if we study the Bible every day there are still many questions not directly answered in the Bible. Even if we memorized the whole Bible there are still some questions not specifically dealt with in the Scriptures. For example, the Bible does not tell us where to live or who to marry. It does not tell us what to wear or how to earn a living. Even though the Bible is filled with principles that guide us in our daily lives, there are still many specific questions yet to be answered. That's why the Scriptures teach us to pray for wisdom.

One preacher I know lived in a community of 24,000 people. He began each day praying for wisdom. He believed that if God could guide Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch, he could also guide him to those who were ready to receive Christ (See Acts 8:26 - 40). When he lacked wisdom he prayed that he might receive it. He did not waver in his conviction, and God honored his faith by giving him the wisdom that he asked for. Consequently, this man was able to lead thousands of people to Christ.

Guidance from God is a wonderful key to success in every area of life. Remember that Peter and the other fishermen toiled all night long and caught no fish (See Luke 5: 1 - 11). When Jesus gave them guidance, however, they had great success. When these men left their nets and followed Jesus, He promised to make them fishers of men (Matt. 4:19; Mk. 1:17). The association between the guidance of God and evangelism is obvious. Just as Jesus guided them to catch fish, He would also guide them to catch men.

The guidance of God was also important in the life of the Apostle Paul. On one occasion he wanted to preach the Gospel in Asia but the Holy Spirit would not let him do so at that time (Acts 16:6). When God did guide Paul to preach there, he was so successful that everyone in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus both Jews and Greeks (Acts 19:10). Sometimes the Holy Spirit directs us to preach at just the right time to catch the most fish for Jesus.

It is exciting to realize that obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit enables us to participate in God's eternal wisdom. Jesus said it like this: **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.” (John 5:19)** Do you understand this principle? If you can see and understand what God is doing, you can participate in it! That's what Jesus did, and that's what we can do.

Take, for example, the story of how Simon Peter came to preach to the Gentiles. God decided before the foundation of the world that He wanted the Gentiles to be saved (Eph. 3:1 - 13). Peter, however, didn't understand this. Therefore God began to work with Peter so he would understand it. This wonderful story is found in Acts chapter 10. First, God sent an angel to a devout Gentile centurion named Cornelius. The angel told Cornelius to send to Joppa and get Simon Peter who would tell him what to do. Peter, however, didn't immediately see or understand what God was doing. God gave Peter a vision from heaven three different times but still Peter didn't understand. Then the Holy Spirit told Peter that there were three men waiting downstairs for him and he was to go with them, nothing doubting. When Peter arrived at the house of Cornelius he finally saw what God was doing and said: **“Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.” (Acts 10:34-35)**

Thus Peter participated in the principle stated by Jesus. Peter could do nothing by himself. When he saw what the Father was doing, however, he could participate in it. In similar ways, God can give supernatural wisdom to each of us who ask for it in faith. If you ask God for wisdom, and do not doubt, you will receive it!

GOD CAN GUIDE YOU ANY WAY HE WANTS TO

God is God! As the Sovereign of the Universe He is in total control. God can guide you any way He wants to. He can guide you with Scripture, angels, dreams, visions, the counsel of friends, or however else He chooses to do so. Usually, however, it is not necessary for God to use something supernatural. Since Jesus dwells in our hearts by faith He is able to give us guidance by the power of His Spirit within us (Eph. 3:15 - 21).

One way that God can guide us is by giving, or taking away, our “peace”. Please consider: **“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” (Col 3:15-17)**

When the Word of God dwells richly within us, we receive special wisdom from God. When we are doing what His Spirit leads us to do, we have peace. When we are doing something Jesus does not want us to do, we have no peace. In this way the peace of God helps govern our lives. When we are sensitive to this inward guidance, whatever we do in word or deed can be done in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

DON'T BE LIKE A HORSE OR A MULE

“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee” (Ps 32:8-9)

God wants to guide us with His eye. Horses and mules, however, have no understanding and must be controlled by force. Jonah, for example, was like a horse or a mule. God wanted him to preach to the people of Nineveh, but he rebelled and went in the opposite direction. Therefore God prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. After three days inside that fish with the sea weeds wrapped around his head, he decided to do what God commanded him to do (See Jonah 1:1 - 4:11). God wants us to be sensitive to His leading in our lives, not like Jonah, or horses and mules.

When Peter disobeyed Christ and denied Him three times, it wasn't necessary for God to discipline Peter with a rod and physical punishment. Just a glance from the eyes of Jesus was all that he needed. **“And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crew, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.” (Luke 22:60-62)**

As we have said before, God is Sovereign. He is all powerful. His guidance in our lives is not limited to ways that man can understand. Sometimes, when all else fails, God may choose to get our attention with something that is supernatural.

- God got the attention of Moses with a burning bush that was not consumed (Ex. 3:3).
- God got the attention of the Israelites when Mt. Sinai trembled and was covered by smoke and fire (Ex. 19:16 - 19).
- God got the attention of Balaam when his donkey talked with a human voice (Nu. 22:21 - 35).
- God spoke to Samuel in a human voice (1 Sam. 3:1 - 14).
- God got the attention of Jonah when he was swallowed by a great fish (See book of Jonah).
- God got the attention of Saul by a blinding vision (Acts 9, 22, and 26).

- Sometimes God gets our attention with unusual dreams. This He did with:
 - Jacob (Gen. 31:10 - 13).
 - Joseph (Gen. 37:5 - 11)
 - Pharaoh (Gen. 41:1 - 7).
 - Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 2:1 - 3; 4:4 - 6)
 - The wise men (Matt. 2:12)
 - Joseph and Mary (Matt. 2:13)
 - Etc.
- Sometimes God speaks to us with a still small voice (1 Ki. 19:12).
- Please be assured, however, that if you are a child of God, He actually wants to give you guidance. If Jesus is your Shepherd, you will hear His voice and follow (John 10:27).
- There are many analogies in the Bible that help us to realize that Jesus has not left us like orphans. Here are a few:
 - Shepherd - sheep (John 10:27).
 - Master - slave (Rom. 6:18).
 - Teacher - disciple (Lk. 6:40).
 - Father - children (Matt. 7:7 - 12).
 - Head - body (1 Cor 12:12 - 31; Col. 1:18).
 - Vine - branches (John 15:1 - 8).
 - King - subjects (1 Tim. 1:17; 6:15; Rev. 17:14).
 - Officer - soldiers (2 Tim. 2:3,4).
 - Etc.

DR. GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

The Scriptures teach that every child of God has help and guidance from the Holy Spirit (See Rom. 8:1 - 17). Consequently, we have an unlimited number of examples to illustrate His guidance in the lives of believers. The late Dr. George Washington Carver has been chosen because his story can be universally understood. Everyone, regardless of how rich or poor, can relate to the wonderful way that God guided George Washington Carver. The difficulties he faced, and the success he achieved, can inspire confidence in every child of God.

Dr. Carver was born a slave near Diamond, Missouri in the U.S.A. (around 1864). He had many obstacles to overcome. Not only was he born a slave, he was also kidnaped as a child and separated from his parents. He was also very sick. In fact, he was so sick that some did not think he would even live. Because he was born a slave and was black, he also had to overcome the twin evils of prejudice and poverty. He gave his heart to Jesus as a small child, but had no opportunity for any formal education until he was about 12 years old. We use the term "about 12 years old" because he had no birth certificate and no one knows exactly when he was born.

The "Good News" for Dr. Carver, is also good news for us. Like many who are reading these words he had many obstacles to overcome. The reason we can overcome these obstacles is that He that is within us is greater than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4). That's the key! Remember! If Jesus is in your heart you are an overcomer. Paul said it like this: "If God is for us, who can be against us" (Rom. 8:31). Looking back over the long life of Dr. Carver, we can see clearly that Jesus was with him every step of the way. We also have His promise that Jesus will never leave or forsake us (Heb. 13:5).

Education played an important role in what Dr. Carver was able to accomplish. So, when he was "about" twelve years old his formal education began at a small school for blacks in Neosho, Mo. (about 15 miles from his home). Remember that one time Jesus sent out His disciples without any money or provisions (Matt. 10:9, 10). God cared for Dr. Carver just like He cared for the

disciples of Jesus. So, when this little boy sat on a wood pile outside of the school, Jesus sent a Christian couple named Andrew and Mariah Watkins to take care of him. How beautiful! David said it like this: **“I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.” (Ps 37:25)**

Now little George had a place to live, and food to eat, but he didn't have a Bible. Since he had no money to buy a Bible, Jesus lead Aunt Mariah Watkins to give him her Bible. It is a large, expensive, leather bound Bible and her name is still embossed in gold upon its cover. That Bible is on display at the George Washington Carver National Monument, 5646 Carver Road, Diamond, MO 64840, U.S.A.

Dr. Carver read from the Bible every day. He placed those eternal truths in his heart. He even believed that studying the Bible was the key to his success as a scientist. That's why he took his Bible with him every day to the laboratory. When questioned about his success, he was quick to give God the glory and even called his laboratory “God's little workshop”.

Dr. Carver is one of the most famous scientists in the world. He is known as the “father of synthetics”. Until Dr. Carver there were only three kingdoms: animal, vegetable, and mineral. Dr. Carver, however, introduced us to the fourth kingdom, the kingdom of synthetics. The story of this amazing discovery is recounted by a video which can be seen at the National Monument in Diamond, Missouri. We are told that Dr. Carver prayed to understand the universe, but the Lord seemed to tell him that it was too complicated for him to understand. Next he prayed to understand mankind, but the Lord also deemed this too profound for him to understand. Then Dr. Carver prayed that God would at least reveal to him the secret of the peanut. Then, the Lord proceeded to do just that.

Understanding the secret of the peanut was a small step for man, but a giant step for mankind. Discovering the secret of the peanut opened a door to the unlimited possibilities of synthetics. God also used Dr. Carver to help feed the world. Farmers in the Southern states had been raising cotton so long that the soil was depleted of valuable nutrients. Planting peanuts, however, replaced the minerals depleted from the soil by raising only cotton. Initially, peanuts had little commercial value. That's why Dr. Carver entered into “God's little workshop” to ask for God's help. He was so focused on this project that he remained in his laboratory for the next 48 hours. Concerned students tapped on the door to make sure that he was all right. He was! At the end of this 48 hour encounter with Deity Dr. Carver had discovered the secret of synthetics.

Just as letters of the alphabet can be rearranged to write many different words, Dr. Carver discovered that the ingredients God placed in the peanut can be rearranged to create many different synthetic products. Ultimately the list would include some 300 different products. The long list would include such diverse products as Blackberry punch and axle grease, chili sauce and diesel fuel, buttermilk and gasoline. Many, if not most, of the products we use today in our modern world are synthetic. Though not all of these products come from peanuts, still it was the lowly peanut that God used to help Dr. Carver make his important discovery. Today, peanuts are a very valuable crop. Dr. Carver lived to see them planted in over five million acres. Not only did the farmers make money by selling their peanuts, they also were enriching the soil of their farm lands at the same time.

In January 1921 Dr. Carver was summoned to Washington D.C. to speak to the House Ways and Means Committee. While initially only given ten minutes to speak he held the committee spellbound for some two hours. After seeing the wide variety of synthetic products Dr. Carver was asked where he attained such wisdom. He told them that he learned it from a book. One congressman asked “what book?” Dr. Carver replied: “The Holy Bible”.

THE GREAT INVITATION

GOD WANTS TO HELP YOU, BUT YOU MUST COME TO JESUS IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THAT HELP! PLEASE CONSIDER THIS WONDERFUL INVITATION FROM JESUS!

“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matt 11:28-30)

If you are weary and heavy laden this promise is for you! Jesus knows your name and understands each and every problem that you face. Even the very hairs of your head are all numbered (Matt. 10:30). Jesus was tempted in every way that you are being tempted, that's why you can come boldly unto His throne of grace and find mercy and grace to help in any time of need (Heb. 4:15 - 16).

A yoke, of course, is for work. When you take the yoke that Jesus gives you, you will be working hard, but at the same time you will have rest unto your soul. Moreover, He has promised that you will never be tempted beyond what you are able to endure (1 Cor. 10:13). We may be confident that He Who has begun a good work in you will complete it (Phil. 1:6). When your work on earth is completed, Jesus has promised to give you an eternal inheritance (Heb. 9:15; 2 Tim. 4:8).

“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fulness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” (Eph 3:14-21)