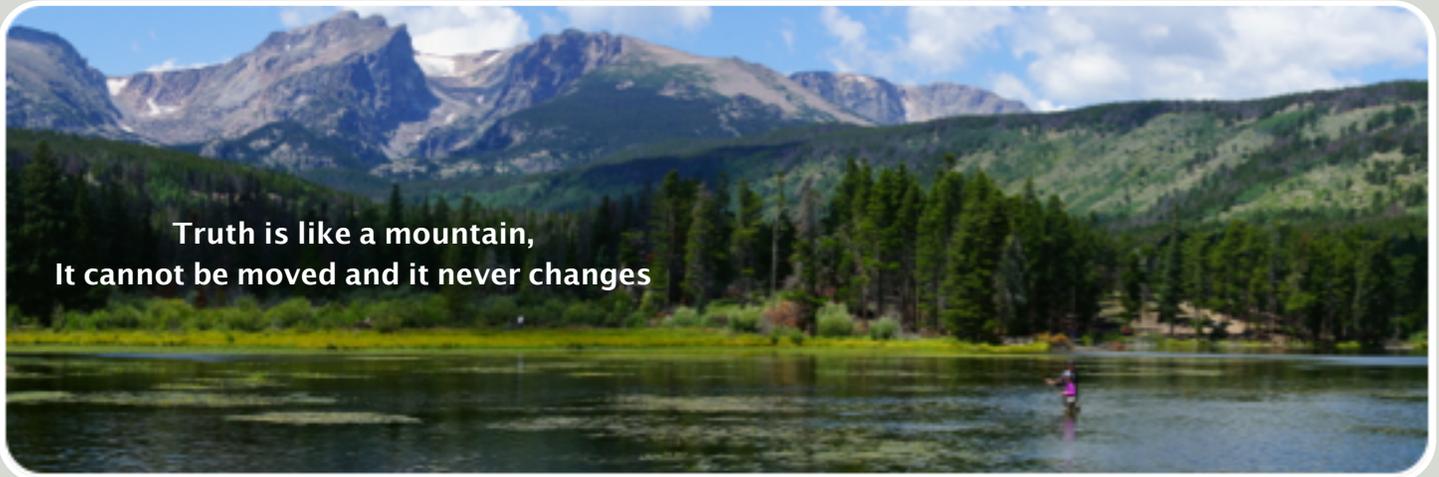


AUGUST 2022

“TRUTH”

**A SURE WORD
FOR TODAY**



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Ephesians 6:10

*Finally my brethren, Be strong in
the Lord, and in the power of his might.*

FEATURE ARTICLE: "Are You Mountain Strong?"

WARNING: You are entering the "TRUTH ZONE". You may not like what you read and at times it may make you feel uncomfortable. That is not our goal. Our goal is to speak truth that will provide spiritual guidance for you and your family in a time of great spiritual darkness. You can be sure that what you read here will be TRUTH!

Many of our neighbors have bumper stickers that read: "**Mountain Strong**". The message it communicates is that you must be strong if you want to live in the mountains. I would agree. In the short time we have lived up here we have experienced winds in excess of 100 MPH that blew down huge trees, catastrophic floods, and the largest wildfire in Colorado history.

I have been told that wildflowers and grasses are quick to recover from a fire because somehow the fire causes every seed that has laid dormant in the soil to germinate. We have observed this to be true, but with a caveat: Not only do wildflowers and grasses spring up, but weeds appear in numbers that defy human comprehension. Never in my life have I seen such a proliferation of weeds!

I should have been more diligent to spray them, but foolishly allowed them to grow until I no longer could avoid the inevitable. Towards the end of June Miss Linda and I set out to pull the weeds that threatened to completely take over our property. The first ones we targeted were noxious weeds that were relatively easy to pull because they have a shallow root system.

Most folks don't realize that the soil in the mountains is nothing like the hard clay you find in the valley. It is incredibly rich and resembles potting soil so pulling weeds with small roots is quite easy. However, after pulling hundreds of them I began to notice something very interesting; weeds growing in that dark rich mountain soil pulled easily, but if they were growing in the crack of a rock, it was impossible to pull them. The plant would brake off but the root would stay secure, and you all know what that means.

I had been struggling to find something to write for our August issue of 'TRUTH' and quickly realized that my weed-pulling escapade was not in vain; it had provided a great spiritual lesson I could share.

None of us like difficulty. We want life to be easy and if possible will always avoid anything that is uncomfortable or makes us struggle. Our prayer is, "Lord, let me grow in shade and good soil where I can bloom for your glory." Unfortunately, in America, many believe God's plan for their lives should mirror this. But, does it? Perhaps we need to take another look.

I have seen some who grew and flourished, but when the storms of life came they were easily offended and pulled up by the root. Others came to Christ during a rocky time and in that painful moment, they found a rock they could build their life upon. That rock was Jesus Christ, and now their testimony is, "He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defense; I shall not be moved." (**Psalms 62:6**)

What are you going through right now? Is it so painful that you are starting to question your faith?

Do you find it impossible to reconcile your view of God with what you are experiencing?

Trust me when I tell you, there is a faith much deeper and stronger than what you now have. This faith is based upon who God is and what He has already done for us on the cross. It does not expect a life of ease or comfort, but when the storms of life come, it surrounds you and gives you strength and peace that can only come from God.

When you have this kind of faith you can face any adversity, because your roots go deep into the rock of your salvation, and now instead of trying to hold onto your faith, the rock your faith is rooted in, holds onto you. Let the winds of adversity blow, the floods overflow, and the fires burn...

You shall not be moved!

Colossians 2:7 Contemporary English Version

7 Plant your roots in Christ and let him be the foundation for your life. Be strong in your faith, just as you were taught. And be grateful.



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



What Does God Require?

The love of God is amazing. It is so strong that it caused Him to give His Son as a sacrifice for the sin of the entire world. Paul said it best in Ephesians.

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God:**
9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Yes, our salvation is a wonderful gift from God. We did not choose Him; He chose us and even gave us the faith required for our salvation. Most amazing about all this is the fact that He did it while we were yet sinners! John Newton had it right when he penned the words, "Amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me."

Truly, God's grace is amazing, but we must be careful, because like all other great truths, if taken to the extreme it will lead to error. Our salvation is a free gift, but does that mean nothing is required of us, or are there things God does **require**? Many today have never given any thought to this and as a result, have never experienced the fulness of God's amazing grace. What are these things and

can they possibly stop God from pouring the free gift of salvation upon those He loves? This is the question I want to attempt to answer this month. The prophet Micah asked this question.

Micah 6:8 Amplified Bible

8....And what does the Lord require of you except to be just, and to love and to diligently practice kindness (compassion), And to walk humbly with your God setting aside any overblown sense of importance or self-righteousness?

I like that. It is simple, easy to understand, and describes the kind of person I strive to be. I believe if we all were Micah 6:8 kind of people the world would be a much better place. But, we must remember that being a Micah 6:8 kind of person will not get us saved.

For us to get saved, God requires repentance.

It troubles me that repentance is rarely talked about in churches today because, without a doubt, true salvation requires repentance.

Luke 24:45-48 Amplified Bible

45 Then He opened their minds to [help them] understand the Scriptures, 46 and said, "And so it is written, that the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed) would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 **and that repentance [necessary] for forgiveness of sins would be preached** in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

"What Does God Require?"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

I must help you understand why repentance is required. The word "repent" means, "to think differently" or "to change one's mind". Before a man will come to Jesus he must first see himself as lost and his sin as unacceptable. If he doesn't, he will keep on sinning and in his mind will see no reason to stop or ever come to Christ. He needs to change his mind about himself and his sin. In other words, he needs to repent.

Today this subject is almost totally avoided in "seeker-sensitive" churches because calling sinners to repent might make someone feel uncomfortable. I can't help but wonder how they will feel when they slip into eternity without hope and without God. I always admired Billy Graham because he was not afraid to call people to repentance and then invite them to come forward to receive salvation. Likewise, in every service, my husband would give people the opportunity to accept Jesus as their savior, repent of their sins, and come to the altar. The good news of the gospel needs to be preached and people need to be given the opportunity to take advantage of God's grace by fulfilling this requirement.

There is something else God requires that may affect our salvation.

Matthew 6:14-16 Amplified Bible

14 For if you forgive others their trespasses their reckless and willful sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

15 But if you do not forgive others [nurturing your hurt and anger with the result that it interferes with your relationship with God], then your Father will not forgive your trespasses.

Ouch! This is not easy, but we need to remember that God never asks us to do anything that is impossible. When you place your brother and what he has done in God's hands you will find that you now have the ability to forgive. Don't let bitterness and unforgiveness rob you of God's blessings.

I would like to conclude with a

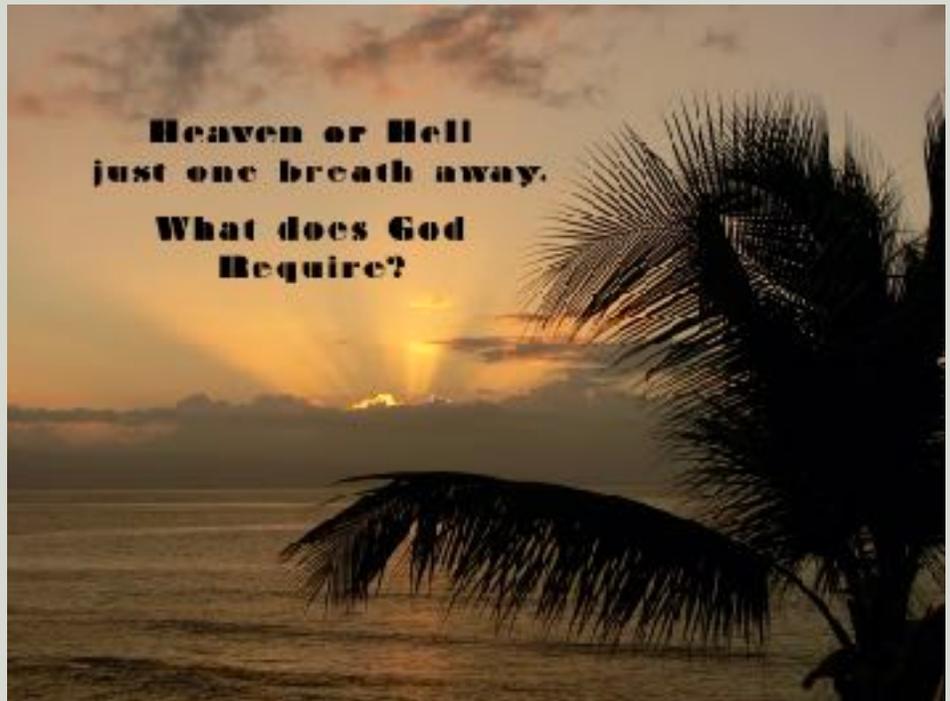
requirement that I believe does not affect our salvation but still is very important. Once again, it is simple and makes total sense.

Luke 12:48 NRSVA

....To whom much has been given, **much will be required;** and from one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.

This statement of Jesus was paraphrased in Spider-man when Uncle Ben said to Peter Parker, "With great power comes great responsibility." Even though this is simple and very logical, it appears to escape many who have been blessed with great wealth. The wealth God has entrusted to us is too often used for the pursuit of pleasure and the accumulating of worldly goods instead of being used to bless others and build the Kingdom of God. Could it be possible that the rich are poor and the poor are rich? I guess we will find out when we all stand before God.

These are just a few things the Bible tells us are required. I don't know about you, but I want God's best for myself and my family, and that is why I try to do what God requires of me. I pray these things will also become a part of how you live your life.



AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH

" Will There Be A Remnant?"

We are living in a time when all signs point to the soon return of Jesus. I personally believe He will return sometime in the next 15 years, but I would not be surprised if He returned tomorrow. No matter what any of us believe about the timing of His return, we must guard ourselves against becoming over-focused on it. While we wait for Him we should be intent on linking ourselves to whatever it is the Holy Spirit is doing now. In this article, I want to explore what that might be.

I find it curious that today so many are 'prophesying' that we are standing on the threshold of the greatest revival the world has ever seen. With all my heart I want to believe them, but I am reluctant because so many times in the past these same people have said things that proved to be untrue. Many seem to be able to overlook these failures and quickly grab hold of the very next 'prophetic' word spoken. I'm sorry, I cannot do that.

Perhaps people do this because they can't imagine God doing anything that is not good, and without question, a great outpouring of God's Spirit would be an amazing answer to prayer. After all, God is a good God; therefore, we should always expect Him to do good things. But, we must remember that what God views as good and what we view as good may not always be the same. Is there another scenario that would be amazing and yet not look anything like what the self-proclaimed prophets are saying? Let's take a look.

In 1 Kings 19 the prophet Elijah complained to God about how he was the only one left who stood for righteousness. (Sometimes I feel like that.) God answered him by saying, "I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him." (1Kings 19:18)

In Romans 11:5 Paul adds something very important to this narrative.

Romans 11:4-5 TPT

4 But what was the revelation God spoke to him in response? "You are not alone. For I have preserved a remnant for myself—seven thousand others who are faithful and have refused to worship Baal."

5 And that is but one example of what God is doing in this age of fulfillment, for God's grace empowers his chosen remnant.

Throughout history, God has always had a remnant who refused to bow to false gods. They did not fear kings or wicked rulers, and even when faced with death, refused to comply with anything that violated their beliefs. Today they stand immortalized as the great heroes of the faith and you can read their story in Hebrews 11. We must at least consider that this may be the amazing glorious future God has in store for His church. If so, it will be the finest hour the church has ever known.

Every day I pray for one last great outpouring of God's Spirit; without it, America will not survive. But, if this does not happen I am ready to join the ranks of the last days' remnant. While this thought may not seem too exciting, we need to remember that God's little is always far more glorious than man's much. If Jesus returns and all He finds is a remnant, then so be it, because it will be a glorious remnant, on fire for God, and producing much fruit.

Isa. 37:31 KJV

31 And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward...

Lord, I want to be part of that remnant!

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH!