

The Gospel Beat

Volume II

July 2014

BEHOLD I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK



“If Anyone Hears My Voice And Opens The Door, I Will Come In To Him And Dine With Him, And He With Me.”

Rev. 3:20

INSIDE THE GOSPEL BEAT

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(Believing in Jesus)



“Do you believe in *Jesus*?” It seems like a strange question. It sounds like the same question as “Do you believe in Santa Claus?” or “Do you believe in aliens?” But the question “Do you believe in *Jesus*” is asking far more than “Do you believe that *Jesus Christ* existed/ exists?”

The true meaning of the question is ‘do you believe *Jesus Christ* is who the **Bible** says *He* is, and are you trusting *Him* as your **Savior**?’

Do you believe that *Jesus* is **God** in the human form (**John 1:1, 14**)? Do you believe that *Jesus* died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins (**1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21**), for which you deserve eternal separation from **god** (**Romans 6:23**)? Do you believe that the sacrifice of *Jesus, God* in the flesh, is the only satisfactory payment for your sins (**1 John 2:2; John 14:6; Acts 4:12**)?

Do you believe these things? If so, great, but believing the facts about *Jesus* is only part of the equation. Biblical faith/ belief is far more than believing certain things to be true. Biblical saving faith is also trusting or relying on those facts.

A chair is a good illustration. You can look at a chair and believe it is made of materials strong enough to support your weight, and you can believe that it was assembled correctly. But that is not biblical faith. Biblical faith is sitting on the chair. It is actually relying on the chair to hold your weight and keep you from falling.

Are you trusting that **Jesus** is your savior? Are you relying on *His* death as the full payment for your sin debt? Are you depending on *His* resurrection as the guarantee that you, too, will be raised to eternal life after death?

Not that it could happen, but if the “chair” of *Jesus Christ* were pulled out from beneath you, spiritually speaking, would you hit the ground, or are you also relying on things in addition to the chair?

If you understand and believe what the **Bible** says about *Jesus*, and if you are trusting in those truths as a basis for salvation, you are saved! You “believe in Jesus” in the biblical sense.

If you are uncertain if you truly believe in *Jesus* but you desire to, or if you feel *God* drawing you to faith in *Jesus*, the next step is simple. **Believe! Trust in *Jesus*!** Rely on *Him* for salvation. Allow *God* to turn you from sin to forgiveness and salvation.

If you would like to verbally express your new faith to *God*, here is a sample of what you can say: “*God*, I know that I have sinned. I know that my sin separates me from you. I know that if left unforgiven, my sin will separate me from you for eternity.

I believe and trust that *Jesus Christ* is my savior, that *He* died to pay the full penalty for my sins. I am relying on *His* sacrifice alone to bring me into a right relationship with you. Thank you for forgiving me. Thank you for saving me. Help me to grow closer to you each and every day for the rest of my life.

Thank you *Jesus* for being our *Lord* and *savior*, as well as our *hope* and our *Salvation*.

The Deacon

Purpose

The most basic question everyone faces in life is Why am I here? What is my purpose? God's training is for now, not later. His purpose is for this very minute, not for sometime in the future. What is my vision of God's purpose for me? Whatever it may be, His purpose is for me to depend on Him and on His power now. If I can stay calm, faithful, and unconfused while in the middle of the turmoil.

Have you stopped lately to consider what the true purpose for your life is? Only as you understand and embrace your life's purpose, you become the best you can be. Then you will have the greatest positive impact on the people in your atmosphere of influence.

When you know your purpose, it gives meaning to your life every day. John Maxwell, international leadership coach, explains that you find yourself when you discover your purpose. On the other hand, he points out that based on Mark 8:34, you lose yourselves when your purpose becomes bigger than yourselves.

In seeking to find and achieve your God-given purpose, consider the need not just to dedicate yourself to what will give the greatest fulfillment in your life, but also to something that is greater than yourself. Of course, the greatest course is to understand and follow God's plan for your life.

In my research I found that we all should take this seven day journey that could help us to align our lives to the great plan God has for us.

Day 1: Finding God's Purpose for Your Life (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV).

God has the purpose for your life and the road-map to reach it. In fact, the plan that God has for your life is greater than you can ever imagine! You would want to pursue it because you want all that your loving Father has in store for you.

Day 2: Pursuing a Life of Meaning (Proverbs 19: 21, NIV).

A thousand things thoughts might be flashing through your mind regarding what you want for your life. However, you can achieve the highest degree of meaning in your life only by embracing God's purpose for your life.

Day 3: Cultivating a Wise and Discerning Heart(1 Kings 3:9, NIV)

Solomon, at the start of his reign as king, knew he needed God's wisdom to effectively lead his people. Note that he points out specifically what he needed and why. You too need to ask God for a discerning heart to find and pursue your purpose.

Day 4: Walking by Faith in God's Promises (Mark 11:24, NIV)

Pursuing your purpose requires faith in God. This means knowing his promises that you can appropriate them for your life and the situations you face. You can NEVER fulfil your God-given purpose in your own strength or based only on your natural gifts and abilities. To achieve God's purpose you need to stay connected to him.

Day 5: Choosing a Life of Obedience (Ephesians 5: 15, 16. AMP)

Walking by faith involves believing and responding to God's Word. So obedience must flow from your walk of faith. Set your heart to respond to God, make the right choices, and obey his instructions.

Day 6: Experiencing God's Kind of Love (1 John 4:10, 11, NIV)

This is not based on your performance but solely on God's love and grace. As you embrace God's kind of love in your own life, you then act as a conduit to pass on the love that God freely gives you.

Day 7: Finding Strength and Courage (Hebrews 10:35, 36, NIV)

Throughout your purpose journey, there will be resistance. For the devil takes no pleasure in your pursuing and achieving your God-given purpose. So your commitment to God's plan for your life must be under-girded by faith in him.

My prayer is that you will continue to allow God to lead you as you press forward in your purpose. He knows the way. So listen to God's voice saying, "This is the way, walk in it

(From Rags to Riches)

When the trader who bought Joseph reached Egypt, he put him up for sale in the marketplace. Immediately Joseph was bought by Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh. Potiphar was rich, with a big household.

Gradually Joseph made himself more and more useful in Potiphar's mansion. Soon Potiphar saw that Joseph was capable of running the mansion and put him in charge of all the servants and all the household money.

Joseph spent wisely and managed very well. Soon the only decision Potiphar had to make at home was what he felt like eating that day. The days in the mansion also became more interesting for Potiphar's wife because she was attracted to young Joseph.

Joseph avoided his employer's wife as much as possible. More than once he had to say, 'No, I will not betray my master.' But the woman was determined to have Joseph make love to her.

Finally, one fateful day, Potiphar's wife cornered Joseph. She grabbed at him. He pushed her roughly away. But she held on to his loincloth and it came off. Joseph ran.

When Potiphar returned home, his wife met him and held out Joseph's loincloth. Do you recognize this garment? She yelled. It belongs to this Hebrew you keep praising. Oh, yes he runs your household well, but now he tries to run your wife too!

Horrified, Potiphar ordered Joseph into prison. But there Joseph impressed the head of the prison with his ability to organize everything and everybody around him just as he had impressed Potiphar. Soon Joseph was in charge of the other prisoners, and they depended on him, too. He even interpreted their dreams when they had a troubled sleep.

Meanwhile there was trouble at the palace of Pharaoh. Pharaoh had dreams that bothered him, and no one could tell him what they meant. One dream had seven fat cows eaten by seven thin ones. Someone told Pharaoh about Joseph's ability to interpret dreams and he was sent for right away.

When Joseph heard Pharaoh's dream, he said, 'Egypt is about to have seven years of good harvests followed by seven years of famine.' By this time in his life, Joseph was in the habit of advising everyone. So he continued, "It is clear what to do: store grain from the good years so Egypt will not starve in the years with no harvest."

Convinced and impressed by Joseph, Pharaoh selected him to follow the advice he had just given. Everyone in the palace agreed with Pharaoh's decision, even though Joseph was only thirty years old and had just come from prison. Pharaoh was so convinced of Joseph's worth that he gave him clothes fit for a prince, a special ring, a gold chain, and a lovely, well-born wife, Asenath.

Joseph put his powers of organization to work. He went all over Egypt, selecting capable men to be in charge in each area. Large storehouses were built and the grain from the good years started to fill them. Pharaoh had ordered that one-fifth of all the grain grown in Egypt for seven years be put in the care of Joseph's men, and so it was.

With the eighth year, the grain stopped coming into the storehouses. There was either no grain from a field or some tiny, mostly diseased kernels. Farmers had nothing to market. Soon they had eaten even their own storage. Egyptians everywhere were beginning to starve.

Now Joseph opened the immense storehouses and distributed their grain carefully to the hungry people. People in other countries were also starving. In Joseph's home of Canaan, his father and brothers, along with their wives and children, were starving.

But Jacob had heard the Egyptians had grain. Keeping his new favorite, Benjamin, at home, he sent his other sons to Egypt to buy grain from Pharaoh's assistant, whom everyone had heard about.

Admitted to Joseph's presence, his brothers did not recognize him. But Joseph knew them! He then began to play a little game with his brothers. He treated them roughly and questioned them about their home in Canaan. He pretended to doubt everything they said. Finally, he said, "Let this youngest brother Benjamin come here to Egypt as assign of good faith."

The brothers were upset because their father kept Benjamin close beside him always. Jacob remembered he had lost Joseph by letting him go with his older sons. But Joseph settled the matter by selling them grain and ordering Simeon, one of his older brothers, held as hostage until his other brothers returned with Benjamin. He also had the money paid him by each brother put back in their grain sacks, without their knowledge.

Jacob was very upset when he heard what had happened to Simeon in Egypt. And he was confused, along with his sons as to how their money got back into their sacks. He refused to let Benjamin go. Instead Jacob parceled out the Egyptian grain carefully to the many members of his family so it would last as long as possible.

But after some time, all the grain was eaten. Jacob then faced his problem: part from Benjamin or seeing his children and their families starve, including himself and Benjamin. He did the only thing he could do: he sent Benjamin with his other sons to Egypt to buy more grain and redeem the hostage, Simeon.

He sent gifts and money for the new grain as well as the returned money from the first trip. Jacob said, "Getting the money back was an error some steward happened to make. It must go back."

Again on this visit Joseph played with his brothers. To their amazement he not only sold them grain but also gave a fine dinner for them. As they journeyed toward Canaan, however, the steward of Joseph's house followed and stopped them. He said, "My lord is missing his silver goblet. It is the one he drinks from and uses in making prophecies. Which of you has stolen it?"

All the men denied the theft, but the steward searched each pack and found the goblet in Benjamin's pack. All returned to Egypt. All were desperately frightened. Joseph received them sternly, but said they all might leave except the one who had stolen his goblet. "That one," ordered Joseph, "will become my slave here in Egypt."

But Joseph could not keep his pretense going. He suddenly sent everyone from the room except his brothers. Then he stood and spread his arms wide and said, "I am your brother Joseph. How is my father?"

It took some time before the men from Canaan could believe this miracle, but they knew it was Joseph when they saw the love with which he embraced Benjamin.

Now Joseph the Organizer took over. He sent his brothers home again, with wagons and orders to bring the entire family to Egypt. Almost seventy people moved to Canaan and were settled in an area near to Joseph. It was almost too much for Jacob for by now he was 130 years old.

But when Jacob saw his most beloved son, Joseph, returned to him, life flowed through his old veins. Jacob lived for 17 more years, a happy man. Joseph himself lived to be 110 and was much honored in his family.

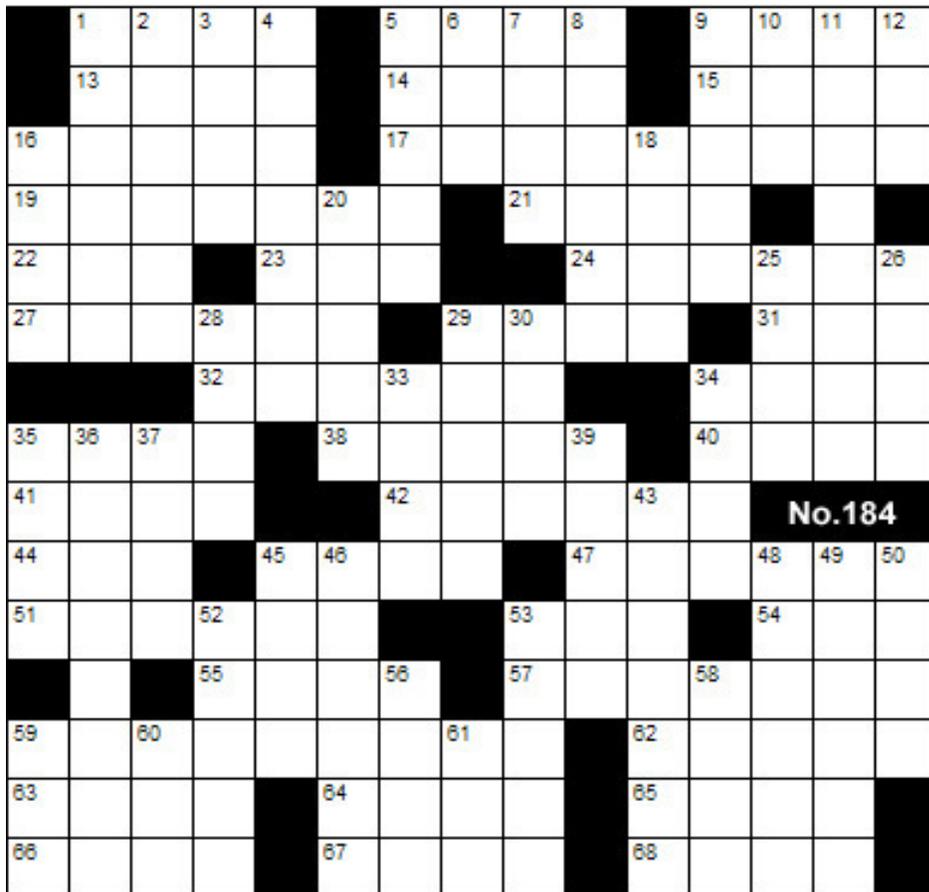
The next story will be "Baby in a Basket"

The Deacon

Biblical Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. ___ put forth his left hand, and took the dagger (Judges 3:21) KJV
5. sold your people for a pittanc gaining nothing from their ___ (Ps 44:12)
9. Let her be as the loving ___ and pleasant roe (Prov 5:19) KJV
13. Of them which thou gavest me have I lost ___ (John 18:9) KJV
14. to have their plowshares, mattocks, ___ and sickles sharpened (1 Sam 13:20)
15. dead man, "by this time there is a bad ___ (John 11:39)
16. but like locusts they ___ the land and then fly away (Nah 3:16)
17. You shall not give false ___ against your neighbor (Ex 20:16)
19. this city has a long ___ of revolt against (Ezra 4:19)
21. weed (Matt 13:40) (KJV)
22. an expanse, sparkling like ___, and awesome (Ezek 1:22)
23. ___, didn't you sow good seed in your field? (Matt 13:27)
24. Moses ___ it into the air, and festering boils broke out (Ex 9:10)
27. All the birds of the air ___ in its boughs (Ezek 31:6)
29. and his ears are ___ unto their prayers (1 Pet 3:12)
31. Eber, Misham, Shemed who built ___ and Lod (1 Chron 8:12)



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32. Scripture is God-breathed and is ___ for teaching (2 Tim 3:16)
34. Know ___ that wisdom is sweet to your soul (Prov 24:14)
35. John's clothes were made of camel's ___ (Matt 3:4)
38. that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or ___ (Rev 20:2)
40. I have not been drinking wine or ___ (1 Sam 1:15)
41. A sword is ___ the liars; and they shall (Jer 50:36) KJV
42. you see oppression of the poor and ___ of justice (NAS) (Eccl 5:8)

44. and drew the ___ to land full of great fishes (John 21:11)
45. King David himself walked behind the ___ (2 Sam 3:31-32)
47. Their heart is as fat as ___; but I delight in thy law (Ps 119:70) KJV
51. and gather the clusters of ___ from the earth's vine (Rev 14:18)
53. the LORD appointed a ___ time, saying, To morrow (Exodus 9:5)
54. Babylon is taken, ___ is confounded, Merodach is broken (Jer 50:2)

55. _____ for that day is great (Jer 30:7)

57. all of them trapped in pits or hidden away in _____ (Isa 42:22)

59. you despise the church of God and _____ those who have nothing (1 Cor 11:22)

62. and a hundred of you will _____ ten thousand (Lev 26:8)

63. Take a pot, and put an _____ full of manna there in (Exodus 16:33)

64. I will destroy the king who is in the Valley of _____ (Amos 1:5)

65. See if you can _____ him into showing you the secret (Judg 16:5)

66. Then the beasts go into _____, and remain (Job 37:8)

67. Its rider _____ a bow, and he was given a crown (Rev 6:2)

68. From the _____ of the earth I call to you (Ps 61:2)

DOWN

1. My son, if sinners _____ you, do not give in to them (Prov 1:10)

2. rising as high as the _____ bridles (Rev 14:20)

3. The body is a _____, though it is made up of many parts (1 Cor 12:12)

4. He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and _____ them (Dan 2:21)

5. and the _____ shall cry to his fellow (Isa 34:14) (KJV)

6. a stroke with the _____ to cut down the tree (Deut 19:5) KJV

7. _____ there be debates, envyings (2 Cor 12:20) KJV

8. an _____ nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official (Acts 28:7)

9. They broke bread in their _____ and ate together (Acts 2:46)

10. _____ not forget your precepts (1,2) (Ps 119:141)

11. because their words seemed to them like _____ (Luke 24:11)

12. children of Israel went on _____ land in the midst of the sea (Exod 15:19)

16. a letter of the Hebrew Alphabet _____

18. I will make your heaven as _____ and your earth as brass (Lev 26:19)

20. the LORD _____ on a swift cloud (Isa 19:1)

25. From the _____ of your foot to the top of your head (Isa 1:6)

26. behold, I have set before thee an open _____ (Rev 3:8) KJV

28. I will _____ their mourning into joy (Jer 31:13)

29. Afterward he rebuilt the _____ wall of the City of David (2 Chron 33:14)

30. Woe to those who _____ iniquity, to those who plot evil (Mic 2:1)

33. the crown of glory that will never _____ away (1 Peter 5:4)

34. God is _____ to make all grace abound to you (2 Cor 9:8)

35. Cursed is everyone who is _____ on a tree (Gal 3:13)

36. thou shalt make it _____, a confection after the art of (1,7) (Ex 30:35) KJV

37. tenth letter of Greek alphabet _____

39. Barnabas, and Simeon that was called _____ (Acts 13:1)

43. material of wool or linen, or any leather _____ (Lev 13:52)

45. a _____ and a pomegranate, round about the hem of the robe (Ex 39:26) KJV

46. the twenty third book of the Old Testament—

48. Peter climbed _____ and dragged the net ashore (John 21:11)

49. Come back to your _____ as you ought, and stop sinning (1 Cor 15:34)

Open Door Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship

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Gail Roberts - House, Pastor

Sunday Worship Service 9:30AM

Monday II Samuel 6:14 Liturgical Dance Ministry 6:00pm

1st & 3rd Tuesday Leadership Council Meeting 7:00pm

Wednesday Intercessory Prayer 6:00pm
Hour of Power Word Study 6:30pm
Music Ministry Rehearsal 7:30pm

Thursday TGIF Prayer 5:45am
Call 712-432-3066 Access Code 665579

2nd Saturday Food Ministry Meeting 12:30pm

2nd & 4th Saturday Food Distribution 11:00am

3rd Saturday Men Ministry 9:00am

3rd Saturday Women Ministry 10:00am

3rd Sunday Men Ministry Meeting 11:30am

1st Saturday Shepherd's Care Ministry 12:00pm

4th Thursday Youth and Adult Ministry 7:00pm

4th Saturday Ushers Ministry Meeting 12:30pm

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