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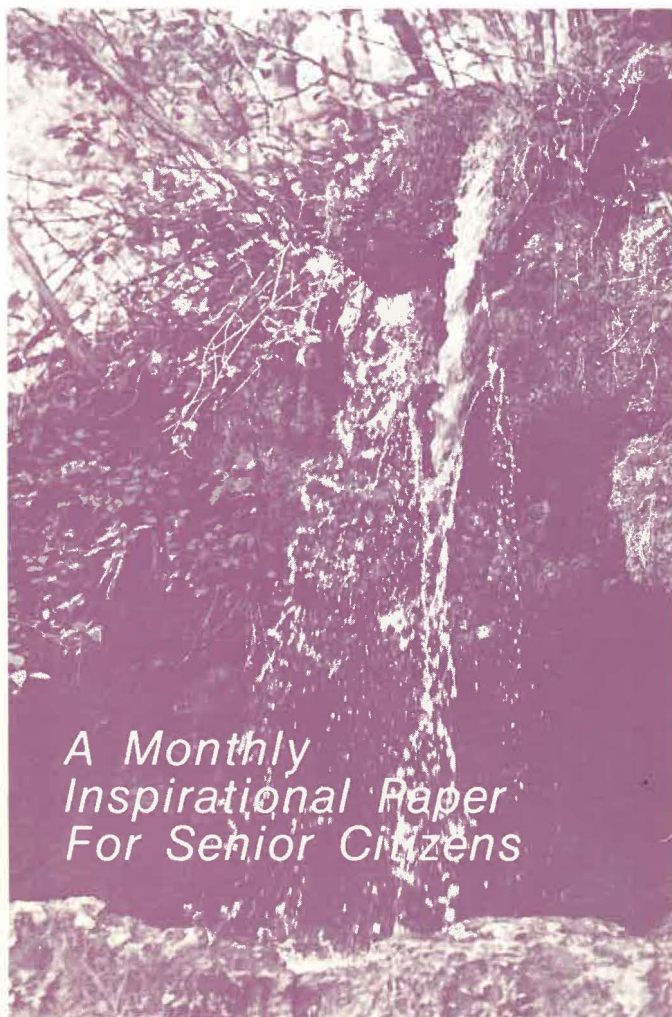
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Living Springs

Vol. 2 No. 7

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*A Monthly
Inspirational Paper
For Senior Citizens*

MARCH 1979

The Judgment Seat of Christ

by
Dr. Leman Strauss

Part I

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (II Corinthians 5:10).

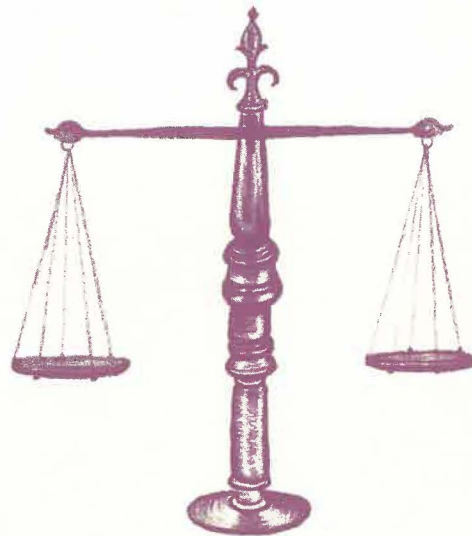
The term “judgment seat” is the translation of the Great word *Bema*. It was used for the Roman magistrate’s tribunal, a platform from which judgments were pronounced. In Romans 14:10 and II Corinthians 5:10 it is used for the tribunal before which all Christians will stand. It appears from Scripture that Paul, whom the Holy Spirit used to write about the Judgment Seat of Christ, lived daily in the expectation of that day of reckoning. Concerning that day our text teaches several important lessons.

1. It is *Inevitable* - “For we *must*...”

The Judgment Seat of Christ is certain to happen. It cannot be avoided; it is a “must”. No Christian can escape that important event. We know it is inevitable because God has decreed it to be so. This final judgment for the believer is not a matter of choice. It is not optional; it is obligatory.

2. It is *Inclusive* - “For we *must all* appear...”

The “we” in verse 10 has reference to Christians only. This is not a warning to the unsaved. The “we” in this chapter, appearing not less than twenty-six times, cannot possibly refer to unbelievers. The Epistle is addressed to “the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints...” (1:1). The conclusion then is that all who have been born again will be present at this final court. Let not any one Christian entertain the false idea that escape is possible.



3. It is *Individual* - “that *every one* may receive...”

The Judgment Seat of Christ is not a mass judgment of the whole Body of Christ. While it is inclusive taking all the redeemed into account, it will be on an individual basis. Each Christian lives his life in his own way, therefore, each is judged singly. The husband will be judged individually apart from his wife and the wife separately from her husband. Each Christian will stand alone at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

4. It is *Indisputable* - “the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

No Christian will be permitted to argue or debate the final decision of the Judge. There will be no discussion of opinion pro and con. The Lord Jesus Christ will be the Judge (John 5:22), therefore, the judgment will be in “righteousness” (Acts 17:31). “We are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth” (Romans 2:2). The decree of the Judge will be final. He has the records, and He will make the final decision as to what is acceptable and unacceptable.

REFLECTIONS of FAITH

Edited by
Pat Farmwald

I Looked

I looked upon a farm one day,
That once I used to own;
The barn had fallen to the ground,
The fields were overgrown.

The house in which my children grew,
Where we had lived for years—
I turned to see it broken down,
And brushed aside the tears.

I looked upon my soul one day,
To find it too had grown
With thorns and nettles everywhere,
The seeds neglect had sown.

The years had passed while I had cared
For things of lesser worth;
The things of Heaven I let go
While minding things of Earth.

Author Unknown

Memories of Home

Sitting by my fireside
On this cold and dreary night
Brings back memories of my childhood
And a fireside so bright.

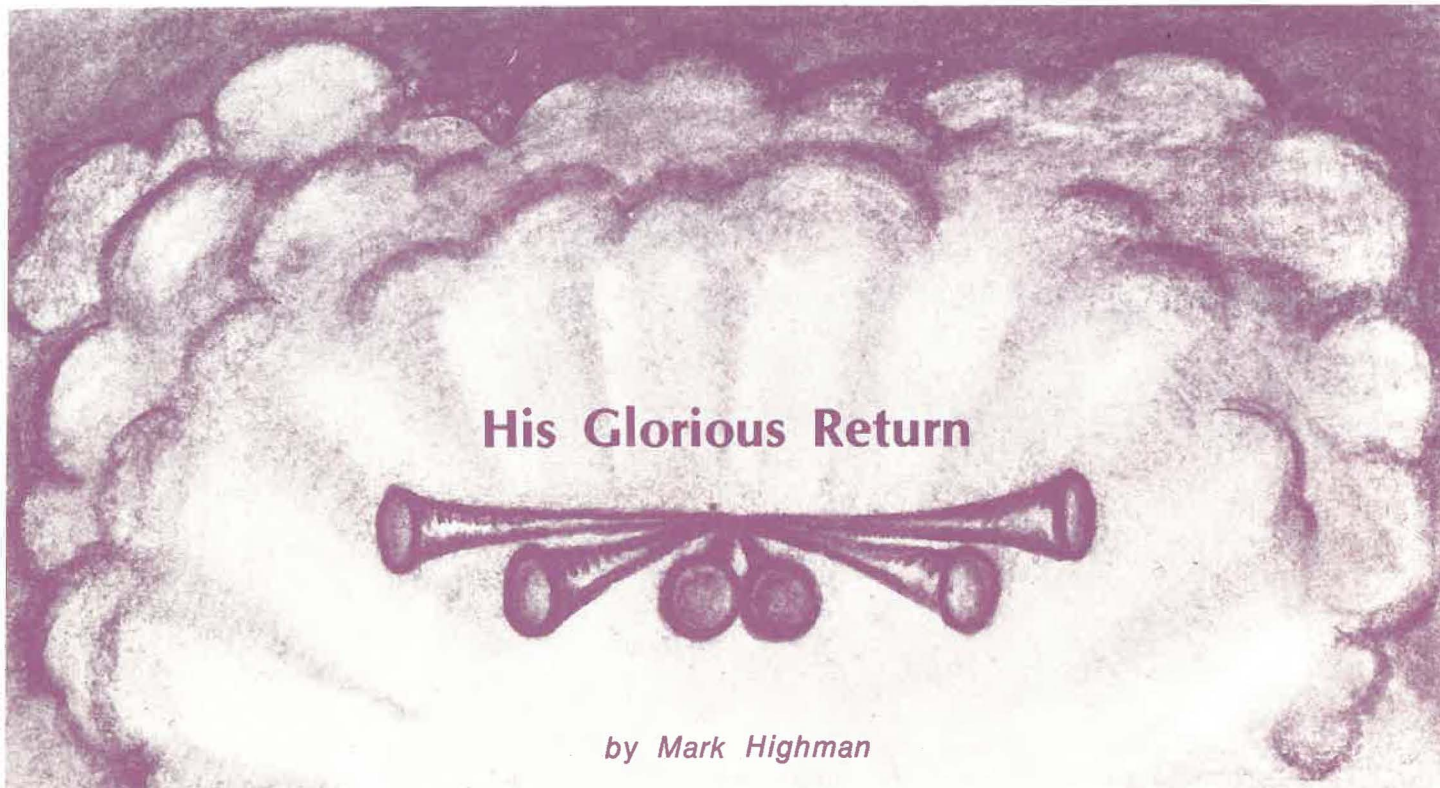
Father, Mother, Sisters, Brothers,
Gathered round its warm bright light,
Not a worry to disturb us,
Life secure on those cold nights.

Mother's busy hands at sewing,
Father watching over all;
Children at their studies
As the evening shadows fall.

Now our earthly home is broken,
Loved ones now are gone;
But the precious memories linger
And we know we are not alone.

But some day we hope to see them
Gathered round another light;
Where we'll always be together
In our Heavenly Home so bright.

Carrie F. Bartlett



by Mark Highman

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, comfort one another with these words," (1 Thess. 4:16-18).

The second coming of Jesus Christ our Lord is a wonderful blessed Hope of every born again believer. Titus 2:13 speaks of it as such, "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

When Christ ascended to Heaven these were the last words the disciples heard from heavenly beings, "...Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven," (Acts 1:11). Some day, my friend, Jesus Christ is coming back to this earth to take every born again person back to heaven with Him! As the verse says above, the dead in Christ, or those who were Christians and died, will rise first, and we who are alive and are Christians, will then rise. Together we shall all meet Christ in the air. More intriguing, all this will happen faster than a twinkling of an eye. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 says, "Behold, I show you a mystery: we shall not all sleep (die), but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be

raised incorruptible, and we shall all be changed."

What will happen once this takes place? My Christian friend, this is where your life really begins! To describe heavens glory would take more time and space than I am allowed, but in short, there will be no tears, no hunger, no hate, no sickness, no pain. In heaven you will need no glasses or hearing aids, you will be happy, free, and young again! Best, Christian, you will see Jesus. You will be able to touch His nail-pierced hands, and sword-pierced side. You will be able to behold Jesus in all His wonder and glory. Finally, you will be with your Savior!

What about those who aren't saved, who haven't asked Jesus to be their Savior? I'm sorry to report, these people will have to be punished for their sin and unbelief. They will eventually be cast into those horrible, wicked flames of their eternal destiny - Hell. If they would have only accepted Jesus before it was too late.

Right now you have this opportunity if you are not saved. In Revelation 3:20 we read that Jesus is knocking at your heart's door. In other words, He is pleading that you take Him in as your Savior. John 3:16 says that Jesus was nailed to that cruel cross, just for your sakes. John 1:12 says that if you accept Jesus (the gift) then you shall become one of His own. He's waiting with open arms, pleading with you today. If you are not saved, ask Jesus into your heart today and share with the rest of us that wonderful blessed hope—the return of our Lord and Savior to take us home with Him!

Daily Walk Through God's Word

<i>March</i>	<i>Morning Numbers</i>	<i>Evening Luke</i>
1	11,12,13	16
2	14,15	17
3	16,17	18
4	18,19,20	19
5	21,22	20
6	23,24,25	21
7	26,27	22
8	28,29	23
9	30,31	24
		John
10	32,33	1
11	34,35,36	2
	Deuteronomy	
12	1,2	3
13	3,4	4
14	5,6	5
15	7,8,9	6
16	10,11	7
17	12,13	8
18	14,15	9
19	16,17,18	10
20	19,20,21	11
21	22,23	12
22	24,25,26	13
23	27,28	14
24	29,30	15
25	31,32	16
26	33,34	17
	Joshua	
27	1,2,3	18
28	4,5,6	19
29	7,8	20
30	9,10	21
30	9,10	21
		Acts
31	11,12	1

"Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works." Psalm 119:27

In Philippians 1:20-25, Paul admits that he has some discord about death. He anticipates death because it would bring him into the presence of God. At the same time he is aware that, while alive, he is able to be of service to the Christians. Clyde and Elizabeth Culbertson agree when they say, "We're ready to go, but we're in no hurry. We have too much to do."

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Culbertson are an encouragement to the people they meet. They live in a retirement center in Franklin, Pennsylvania. Clyde, 73, and his wife Elizabeth, 61, have been active members for many years in their church in Oil City.

The best way to get an insight into their life is to listen to what they have to say. Here are just a few of their statements.

Clyde: "What I find with people is that they need somebody to talk to—somebody that is interested in what they think. You may hear it over and over, but I've always been patient to listen to it just as much as if I'd never heard it. It is a comfort to me to know that I can talk to these people, and it helps... These are the things I like to do. I really enjoy talking to senior citizens. They usually help me more than I help them."



Servants

Gary Welton

Elizabeth: "We have no desire to do anything except Christian work. Sometimes it doesn't seem like we've done anything. We just serve the Lord every day the same way. It gets better every day."

"We have had a lot of sickness, but God promised to give us more grace. Each trial brings us a little closer to Him. We learn to lean on Him that way. We have to depend on Him to get closer. It's been a good life. I wouldn't have it any other way."

Clyde: "I never questioned God, and I don't today. Sometimes things come up, and I've heard people say, 'I wonder why this happened to me?' I do believe that whatever comes upon us is what we have to go through. In every test He has given me the grace to go through it. I don't know how I'd have ever gotten through life without serving the Lord."

The Culbertsons have actively served the Lord, throughout their lives. Before their recent change of residence, they conducted weekly Sunday services for the people in the retirement center who were not able to get out to their regular church. They spend a great deal of time counseling and encouraging people who just need to know that someone cares.

Clyde and Elizabeth Culbertson would like to give this challenge: "There's thousands of things a senior citizen can do. They have the time. You don't have to have a car; you don't have to be educated. Just care. This is how people are won. You win them by caring. The Culbertsons have found this out all through life."

"You can serve the Lord if you're 101, as long as you can talk."

Note Worthy

by Carol Hippard

The great hymn "The Old Rugged Cross" has become the most popular gospel song of the twentieth century. The inspiration of Rev. George Bennard to write this great hymn in 1913, was that he could almost see John 3:16 leave the page of his Bible and act out the meaning of redemption through Christ on the cross. When he first began to see this visualization, he wanted to do something with the idea right then, but an inner voice seemed to say "Wait." Later, through some personal tribulations and revival successes, he was able to concentrate on writing the hymn. Perfection of the song came in a Methodist parsonage, where he was engaged in revival services in Pokagon, Michigan. There he got out his favorite guitar, and asked the congregation to listen while he played and sang the hymn. After hearing the hymn the Rev. L.O. Bostwick said to Rev. Bennard, "God has given you a song that will never die." On June 7, 1913, Rev. Bennard introduced the hymn in a nearby church, and then from pencilled notes a five-voiced choir sang it. "The Old Rugged Cross" is the heart of gospel songs, like John 3:16 is the heart of gospel doctrine.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the Old Rugged Cross,
And exchange it someday for a crown.*

Thought For The Month

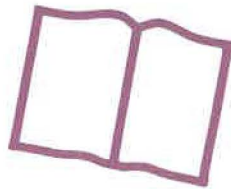
What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.

Verse For The Month:

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Philippians 4:8

Light for Living



A LOOK AT
THE BOOK

by *Dr. James T. Jeremiah*

Each year, just before hunting season begins, a farmer protects his herd by painting in high white letters on both sides of each animal: COW. Asked whether he put a different sign on the bulls, he replied, "Nope. No use confusing those city hunters with details."

The famous naturalist, John Burroughs, walking one day with a friend in New York City suddenly stopped. "Hear that?" he asked. His friend hadn't—and neither had the other passers by. When Burroughs searched about and found a cricket, the friend said, "Here is something people CAN hear." And he dropped a penny on the sidewalk. Twenty people near at hand stopped, turned, looked to see the fallen coin. Those people saw, thought and heard money everywhere while Burroughs saw, heard and thought nature. We generally hear only what our ears are tuned to hear.

Through the years, men and women have not listened to God no matter how loudly and clearly He has spoken. Sin and unbelief or the sin of unbelief has stopped their ears. Atheists of today and yesterday have boastfully said God has not been speaking, but He still speaks and they are silent.

Ingersoll held up a copy of the Bible and said, "In fifteen years I'll have this Book in the morgue." Fifteen years rolled by. Ingersoll was in the morgue, and the Bible lives on. Voltaire said that in one hundred years the Bible would be an out-moded and forgotten Book to be found only in museums. When the one hundred years were up, Voltaire's house was owned and used by the Geneva Bible Society. Recently, ninety-two volumes of Voltaire's works—a part of the Earl of Derby's library—were sold for two dollars. God is still speaking and pleads with men to hear.

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds" (Heb. 1:1,2).

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Pet. 1:21).

"For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:34-36).

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him" (Heb. 2:1-3).

God has spoken and, through His Word, is still speaking. Do we hear what He is saying? To turn His voice off in time will mean He will turn off your entrance into heaven in eternity.

Let's Chatter

About a Matter

by *LoAnna Hamilton*

Living Springs is a paper that is interested in educating its readers in Biblical values.

As many of you know, there have been some new features added to LIVING SPRINGS this year. In an interview Miss Jean Fisher, Associate Professor of Christian Education at Cedarville College, commented on the benefits of a few of these features.

Miss Fisher said the monthly articles by Dr. Lehman Strauss and Dr. James Jeremiah can be helpful because these men can guide readers to a better understanding of God's Word.

Speaking of the hymnology articles, Miss Fisher said they can be meaningful because they inform of how and why particular hymns were written. Many people have sung songs for years without knowing how these songs came to be written.

Coming up in LIVING SPRINGS will be feature articles about senior citizens who are actively involved in a Christian service. Miss Fisher brought out two ways in which these articles can help. She said they will make senior citizens aware of the many ways in which they can serve God. They will also make other people aware of the great number and possibility in senior citizens as workers for the Lord.

We hope you are letting God use these articles to richly bless your lives.

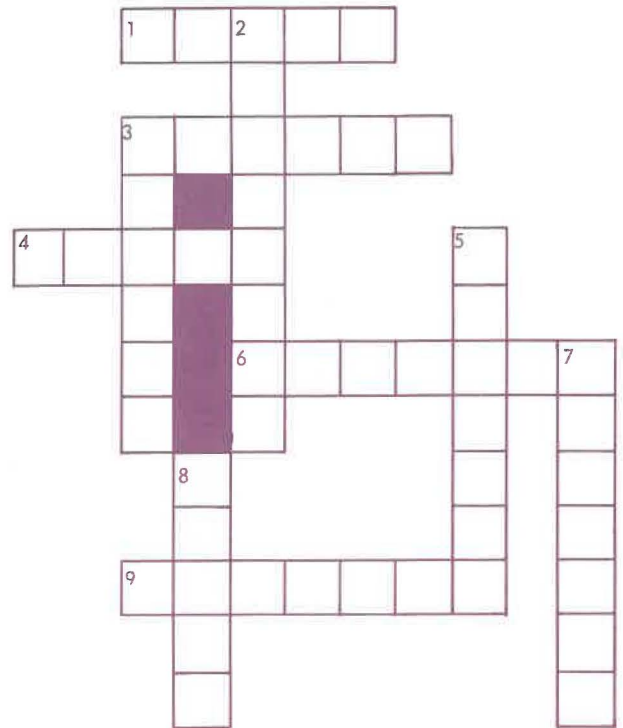
Quizzle

ACROSS

1. Put on the whole _____ of God. (Eph. 6:11)
3. _____ lawfully (II Tim. 2:5)
4. _____ Is The Victory (title of a hymn)
6. Walk in _____ of life. (Rom. 6:4)
9. I Have _____ To Follow Jesus. (title of a hymn)

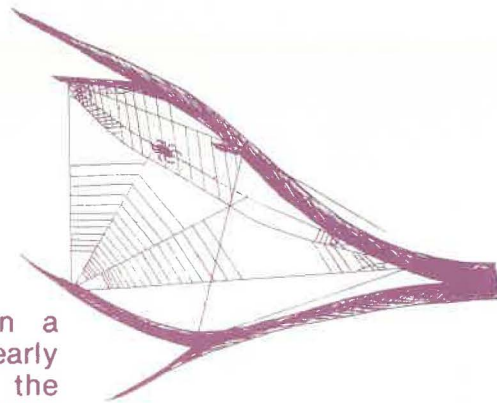
DOWN

2. _____ to Zion. (title of a hymn)
3. Walk in the _____. (Gal. 5:16)
5. _____ is he who walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly. (Psa. 1:1)
7. Am I A _____ of the Cross. (title of a hymn)
8. _____ toward the mark. (Phil. 3:14)



Looking At God's Creation

by
C. Dean Harkness



Have you ever walked in a meadow and seen in the early morning mist the sparkle of the dew upon the web of a spider? Did you ever stop to marvel at the web and intricacies of the design that the spider has spun into it? God has created the majority of the spiders with the innate ability of web-building as a primary means of survival. This web acts as a snare to capture the food, which the spider then wraps.

How does the spider build its web? Spiders are created with special organs for spinning. At the posterior end two fingers extend that contain tubes that are attached to a special sack in the spider where the silk is produced. This fluid passes out through the tubes of the fingers. When it comes in contact with the air it hardens into the silk we see in the web.

Two kinds of silk thread are produced by the spider. The inelastic thread is used to hold the

shape and structure of the web. These extend from the center and are around the edge. The elastic threads are the form that is seen extending from the center in a circular motion. How marvelous is the creation of God! The thread of the spider is stronger than steel thread of the same diameter.

Each kind of spider spins a different kind of web. Some merely place a single strand; others develop a web of beautiful

geometric patterns.

In Matthew 6:25-34 God tells us that we are not to be concerned for our needs, but that He will provide them for us. God shows us that He has provided for the fowls of the air and the lilies of the field. He also has provided for the spider. God sees our needs and meets them. Matthew 6:33 shows us the pattern for our lives: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Give God first recognition in your life, depend totally on Him, and all things you need He shall provide!

Living Springs

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Cedarville, Ohio 45314

But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 4:14

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ANSWERS

ACROSS

1. armor
3. strive
4. Faith
6. newness
9. Decided

DOWN

2. Marching
3. spirit
5. Blessed
7. Soldier
8. Press