

4-1981

April 1981 (Vol. No. 8)

Cedarville College

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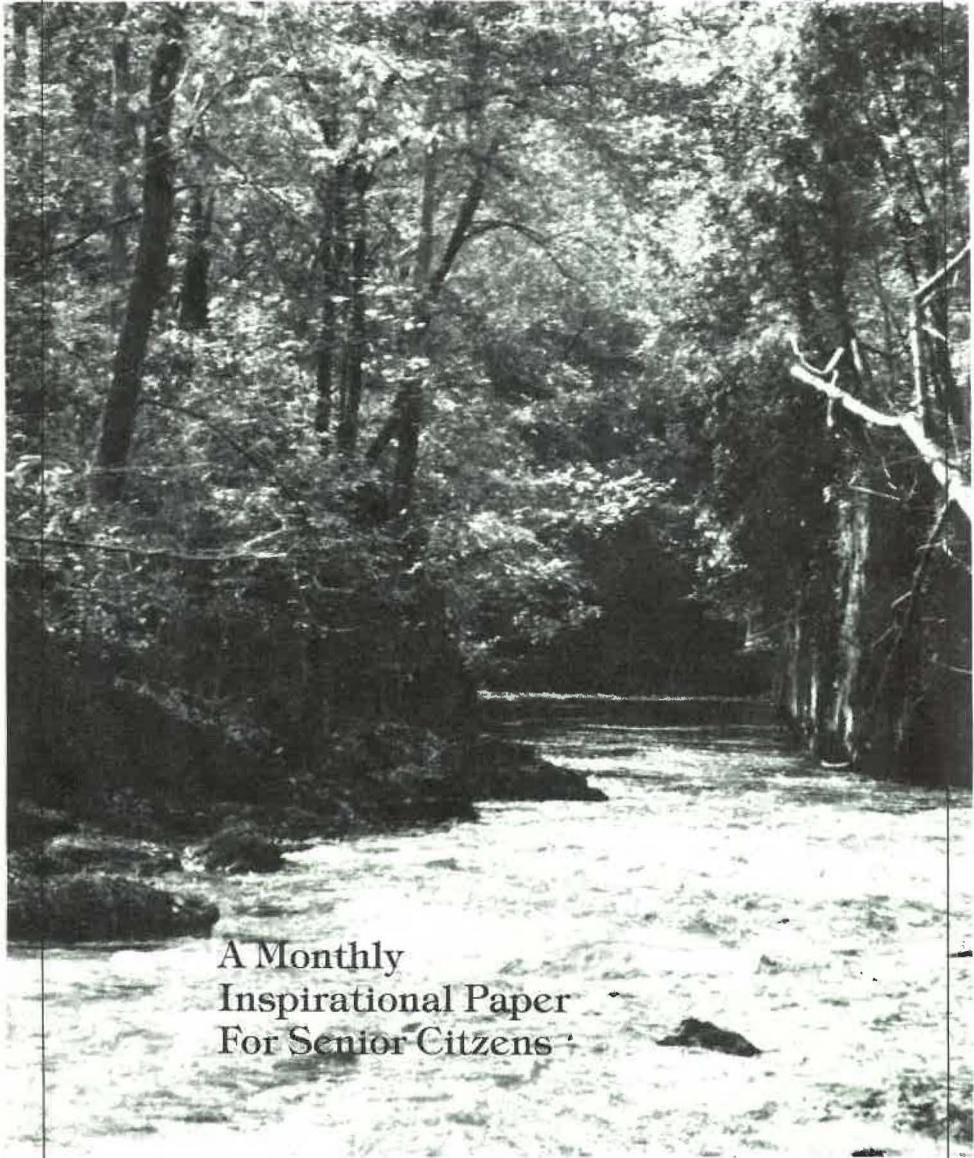
Cedarville College, "April 1981 (Vol. No. 8)" (1981). *Living Springs*. 39.
https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/living_springs/39

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Living Springs

APR. 6 1981

Vol. 4 No. 8 © 1981 by Christian Education Publications
Cedarville College Library
Cedarville, Ohio 45314



A Monthly
Inspirational Paper
For Senior Citizens

APRIL 1981

Magnitude of Inspiration

by Lehman Strauss

The magnitude of inspiration reaches the words of Scripture as well as the thoughts. How can we know God's thoughts if we do not have God's words? It is illogical reasoning for a person to expect to find inspiration in one's thoughts without the words of the person who thinks those thoughts. Surely inspiration cannot mean a collection of uninspired words supposed to convey inspired thoughts. For myself, I am forced to the conclusion that it would be just as impossible to divorce the thoughts of the Bible from its words as it would be to divorce my thoughts from my words. Why would any professing Christian consider it an incredible thing that God should speak in words? The Bible itself claims to be the Word of God, and must therefore be written in the words of God. I am not suggesting that there is no disclosure from God apart from the Bible. It is not necessary to use words to impart revelation. We know that "the heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork. Day unto

day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard" (Psalms 19:1-3). But this first or primary disclosure of God in His works falls far short of the knowledge we receive through the fuller revelation in His words. The former discloses His power, while the latter reaches beyond to the revelation of His purpose and future plans. The Bible is not merely a work of God, it is the record of His words.

The writers whom God raised up recorded His words, not their own. When we say that God revealed His word to the prophets, we are saying that He revealed His words to them. Since the Bible is God's word, it consists of God's words. Perish the thought that the sovereign, almighty God, Who created the universe and man, was indifferent about the details of His written revelation! David prayed, ". . . Thou hast magnified Thy word above Thy name" (Psalms 138:2).

REFLECTIONS of FAITH

by Kathy Jo Kirkbride

OUR HOPE

When trials come our way,
and they inevitably will,
When nothing seems to go right
and discouragement seems our lot,
Look up! Our hope is in the Lord!
He sends the trials to make us
strong,
Discouragements to show us
how much we need to depend upon Him.
Christ died to take away our sin,
He rose to give us life;
Not just more abundant life on earth
But an eternal life in the presence
of God.
He is our Blessed Hope!
Praise His Name!

Judy Smith

Faith

Have you ever had it so hard that
nothing goes your way?
And when you're down and out you
hear someone say:
Keep the faith!

Those three words enter your mind
and linger-
Faith can lift you; it can bring you
Out of despair.
You can't do it alone, however;
you're not a one-man team.
There is one who'll stand by your
side
So keep the faith!

Keep your faith in God and you'll
both walk hand in hand.
Some things may happen that you
cannot understand
But you keep the faith,

The faith that will last you through
the rough sea of life,
And lift you when you're lonely and
laden with strife.
So next time you see someone
having it hard along the way
And his skies are blue you can
say-
Keep the faith!

Sue Kulp

PROMISES

One summer afternoon, a 13-year old boy sat dreaming about the upcoming fishing trip that he and his dad were to go on that next weekend. Excitedly, he mowed neighborhood lawns, ran errands, and gave up a baseball game to watch his baby sister, so that he would have enough money to buy new fishing equipment. All week long the young fisherman could barely sleep, knowing that he and his father would spend an entire day together --just the two of them. Saturday arrived and the boy was up at 5:00, dressed and waiting for his father to awaken. Unexpectedly, the phone rang, the father answered it and immediately dressed and left without breakfast to spend the day with some boys in a Chicago ghetto that needed a father. Realizing that his father was gone, the brokenhearted boy flung himself across his bed, totally crushed. He was not hurt that the trip had fallen through. He was broken because his father had forgotten the promise and had forgotten him. It is great to see a man interested in ghetto boys but it is even more important for a father to keep his promise to his own son.

Thank God He does not break His promises and is not forgetful. We can be assured of security in Him because of this.

“. . . Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed; for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee; he will

not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord” (I Chron. 28:20).

“My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him” (Psa. 89:28).

“For the Lord will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance” (Psa. 94:14).

“Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath; for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner but my salvation shall be forever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished” (Isa. 51:6).

“Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it” (I Thess. 5:24).

“If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself. Nevertheless, the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity” (2 Tim. 2:13,19).

Earthly parents may fail to keep their promises even though they dearly love their children. Our Heavenly Father has not failed to keep His Word in any way or any time. You can trust Him implicitly since He has never failed.

Who Should I Have to Do ___?

by Charles Ross

Calvin Coolidge, the 30th president of the United States, was known as a simplistic man.

This characteristic even carried over in Mr. Coolidge's Will—it was *only one sentence long*.

Obviously, the former president wanted everything to go to his wife at his death, and his Will simply said that.

But he did not consider some very important items:

- what if Mrs. Coolidge died first.
- what if his entire family predeceased him.
- what about the savings of taxes.
- and probate savings, such as waiving the bond for the executor of the estate.

These are all important considerations that may have hindered a smooth and complete transfer of Mr. Coolidge's estate at his death.

A Will—properly written by an attorney—can ease the burdens of the family of the deceased. Have you considered your Will recently?

First of all, I would like to tell you a little bit about my Grandmother. She is presently living in South Hope, Maine, a small coastal town. She is employed by South Hope Christian School, which has an enrollment of approximately one hundred twenty-five students. She supervises kindergarten through second grade. Her son and daughter are also involved with the school. She has seen one grandchild graduate from it, and has five others enrolled.

Things have not always been easy for her. In the early sixties, her husband was hospitalized due to a series of recurring heart attacks. Though not expected to live, the Lord's grace was upon him and he recovered to serve his Almighty Father.

Today, many of my grandmother's children are in full-time service for the Lord. These services include a son who is a pastor and a daughter who was a former missionary to Scotland.

When I asked my Grandmother for a personal testimony of what the Lord had done for her, I was given the following information: She attended church and Sunday School throughout her childhood in a small rural community, but never fully realized what the Lord had done for her. At the age of sixteen, she finally accepted Christ as her personal

remember

Saviour, but found that even then she did not follow his leading the way a Christian should.

Even though she failed her Lord, He kept her in his care and never failed her at any time. Through God's grace and the prayers of fellow Christians, she was brought back to a closer walk with the Lord, and He became the center of her life.

My Grandmother, Mrs. Thera Finne-
more, rejoices in the fact that all six of her children are now saved. "For by grace are ye saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

As she grows older in years and in the Lord, she reveals that all she has to do is go to the book of John, chapter 14; verses one through five in order to receive sustenance from the Lord.

Sometimes I believe that we as Christian young people might take Christian grandparents for granted, not fully appreciating them or their stand. But as everyone knows, the way they live is instrumental in a child's life, as many children spend many hours with "Grammy and Grampa." I would like to thank the Lord for my Grandparents. They have always been there when I needed them and have never led me astray. Thanks again, Gram and Gramps; you've meant a lot to me!

Note Worthy

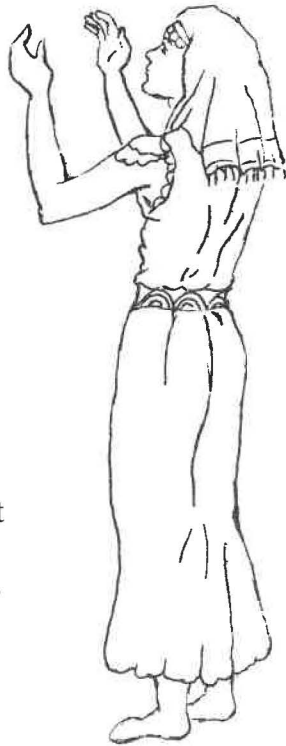
by LoAnna Hamilton

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me.
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God I come, I come.

These words express the thoughts of Charlotte Elliot upon her conversion. Charlotte, who had been brought up in a pious home, had always thought that people were responsible for their own salvation. Because of this, she had never had a real peace with God. When a well-known preacher of the day saw her unrest, he told her, "You have nothing of merit to bring to God. You must come as you are, a sinner, to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." Fourteen years later, while pondering those words, Charlotte wrote the words to the hymn, "Just As I Am." What peace she must have felt after realizing she did not need to work her way to heaven.

THOT: God looks at our willing AVAILABILITY rather than our weak ABILITY.

THOT: True faith needs no feelings to rest upon.



ESTHER

. . . The Saving Servant

Part 4 of a 4 Part Series

By Paul D. Sewell

It is often said that when God has a job to be done he looks for a man. Throughout scripture, men (such as Enoch, Samuel, and Job) have been selected for major roles of leadership and testimony. Between 478 B.C. and 473 B.C., however, God selected a woman named Esther to deliver the entire nation of Israel. She was a symbol of beauty and grace. So why did God choose a figure without mighty strength and power? This is simply answered as the story of Esther unfolds. She becomes the Saving Servant.

Esther was chosen to replace Queen Vashti because of the former's unsubmitive acts. Queens were chosen primarily because of their beauty. Esther was exclusive, however, because of her fraternal roots. She was a Jewish citizen, yet she was soon to become the Queen of Persia. Her identity was kept in secret, moreover, as commanded by her uncle Mordecai who feared for her life. The stage is now set for one of the most ironic deliverances of the Israelites.

King Ahasuerus of Persia elevated a man named Haman over all the princes in the kingdom. He was the King's right-hand man. A problem developed, though, when Haman discovered that Mordecai would not bow to the Persian King because of his Jewish ties. Therefore, Haman sought for a bill from Ahasuerus to have the Jews slain. The plot thickens as Esther learns of the

King's law. And now while Esther contemplates her seige, Haman already begins to construct gallows for Mordecai's death.

God's sovereignty unfolds at this point and Esther becomes a national heroine. Because of her royal position, Esther gained an audience with the King. There in Israel's time of distress, she uncovered her heredity and exposed the hatred that Haman had for the Jewish people (especially Mordecai). The King's love for Esther was deeper than outward beauty and his decision to honor Esther's courage and honesty saved the Jewish people. King Ahasuerus signed a second bill to defend Israel and Mordecai replaced Haman who was ironically hung on his own gallows that were constructed for Mordecai.

Esther's courage through exposing her identity kept her people from annihilation. If not for her act of patriotism the Hebrew nation could have been doomed 500 years before the coming of Christ. As one scholar wrote, "This beautiful Jewish girl, though she herself may not have known it, played the part in paving the way for the coming of the world's Saviour."

A Soft Answer

by Marla Waddle

This month's soft answer:
"WHERE THERE IS NO VISION"

Dr. Scofield tells us that the Hebrew word for "vision" indicates a revelation from God, such as the visions that the prophets saw. If this is true, then Proverbs 29:18 which states, "Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he" has grave significance.

Considering the parallel of having a vision in the first part of the verse with keeping God's law in the latter part lends to understanding. Perceiving the destruction which is brought on by disobeying God's law is the vision needed to prevent such disobedience and subsequent destruction. The admonition, then, is for Christians to make those around us aware that their godless acts are leading them to destruction, and that desired happiness is to be found in keeping God's law.

Quizzle by Bob King

To work: Fill in the missing words in the sentences, then transfer the letters in the numbered blanks (in the sentences) to the matching numbered blanks in the quote.

- In the _____ God _____ the heaven and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)
31 34 26 1 18 2 24 16 22
- And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the _____. (Genesis 1:2)
3 23 12 4
- And God said, Let there be _____. (Genesis 1:3)
33 30
- And God said, Let us make man in our _____. (Genesis 1:26)
15 32

- On the _____ day God rested. (Genesis 2:2)
19 14 7 28
- God told man to be _____ and _____ and have _____ over the whole earth. (Genesis 1:28)
9 29 25 21 5 27 8 10 11 6
- The first child of Adam and Eve was _____. (Genesis 4:1)
13 17 20

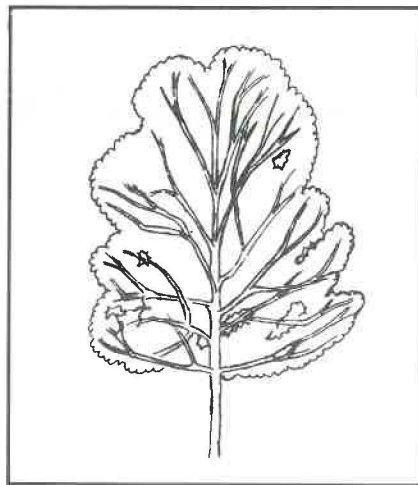
Quote: “ _____ ”
26 9 16 20 8 15 32 7 31 14 25 6
13 30 24 33 19 5 28 12 18 4 23 11 22 3
2 29 34 17 21 27 10 1

Looking at God’s Creation by Carlene Terlowe

Springtime is unfolding the beauty of God before our eyes. I love the Spring when all things have renewed life and winter coats have been shed.

Trees are a beautiful sight as they are refreshed and replenished with green leaves. The leaves are what make the food for the tree. But a tree must receive minerals and water also. This is one of the purposes of the roots. They absorb that needed nourishment and also anchor the tree so that it will be stable and strong.

Just as a tree must have all parts of its entire being, so must a church be a unified structure. The church, the body of believers, consists of different parts. Some people anchor others in the Bible, others give support, and others give the nourishment and aids to growth. For the church to grow properly, all members must work together as one. I Corinthians 12:12-27 states that we are all the body



of Christ and individual members of it.

Just as there are many varieties of trees, especially in size and growth, this is also true of the body of believers. There may be a geographic location where there are many believers fellowshiping together and other areas where only two or three are gathered together, but Christ is always among them (Matthew 18:20).

A tree is known by its fruit, according to Matthew 12:33. A good tree brings forth fruit. Likewise a good church brings forth good fruit and abundance of evidence of Christ’s dwelling and presence. A church body which does not continue to show evidence of an outreach and growth will either decrease or fade away.

Psalms 1:3 is a familiar verse which compares man to a tree planted on a riverside. Just as that tree needs to be well-rooted and firm so that the water can flow throughout, so must Christians be firmly planted on God’s truth.

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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 4:4

Living Springs is a monthly publication for senior citizens, published by Christian Educational Publications in association with the Christian Service Department of Cedarville College. For subscription or other information write: *Living Springs*, Christian Educational Publications, Box 601, Cedarville, OH 45314

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1. beginning, created; 2. waters; 3. light; 4. image; 5. seventh; 6. fruitful, multiply, dominion; 7. Cain. Quote: "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation." (II Corinthians 5:17)

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