

Winter 2016

THE DEAF MESSENGER



“Don’t worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to him.”

Philippians 4:6

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The Deaf Messenger magazine is published by:**Three Angels Deaf Ministries**

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The purpose of this magazine is to inform the deaf reader about such topics as practical Christian living; basic Bible truths; and what the past, present, and future historical events mean to each of us. This magazine attempts to cover spiritual, mental, and physical aspects in its articles and columns.

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Monday through Thursday

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Remembering Christ's Sacrifice

By Margie English

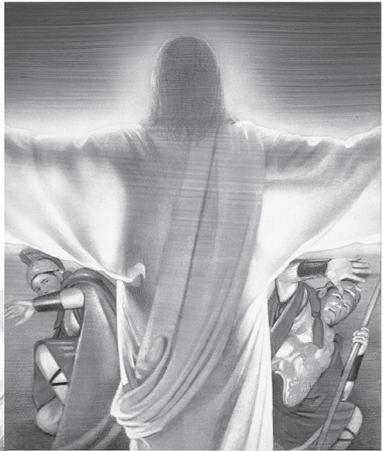
GOODSALT CLIPART COLLECTION VOL. 1



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How should we honor the death of our precious Lord, Jesus Christ? Also, how should we celebrate the promise of our eternal life with Him? When we compare what Jesus asked us to do with traditional holidays, we see a major conflict between truth and tradition (cultural behavior). Traditions are cultural behavior that we keep for our social events. Although traditions are fun, we need to make sure that we separate our appreciation for our Lord's sacrifice from our worldly ways.

A good way to honor our Redeemer Jesus Christ is to follow His instruction He taught His disciples during His

last Passover meal with them before His arrest. Jesus shared a few important lessons when He celebrated the Passover meal with His disciples before He died. The first lesson was when Jesus washed the feet of His disciple (John 13:5). Peter was so uncomfortable he almost refused to let Jesus wash his feet (John 13:8). The foot-washing service is the symbol of our need for Jesus to clean us even after we were baptized, and to humble ourselves (John 13:10, 16). "I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So you also should wash one another's feet. I have given you an example. You should do as I have done

for you” (John 13:14, 15).

The second lesson was when Jesus blessed the bread and the cup of grape juice for His disciples. “You eat the bread and drink the cup. When you do this, you are announcing the Lord’s death until he comes again” (1 Corinthians 11:26). This was what Jesus taught His disciples when He asked them to remember Him and His death. Jesus said: “Now you know these things. So you will be blessed if you do them” (John 13:17). Jesus asked his disciples to serve each other, and to always remember that Jesus died for us.

Did you notice that Jesus did not ask His disciples to celebrate His resurrection? Do we need to celebrate any other holidays to add to the Lord’s Supper? If not, then how did we begin celebrating other “Christian” holidays? It becomes very confusing when we think about the holidays that both Christians and non-Christians celebrate around the world. We like fellowship, and we think that some fun does not hurt anyone. In fact, many Christians believe that Easter, Christmas, Valentine’s Day, and St. Patrick’s Day are good ways to share Bible truths with non-Christians. We need to research the history behind the traditional holidays in order to

answer these questions.

We know that Jesus was resurrected the Sunday after Passover. But today, Passover and Easter do not always happen at the same time. When did this change? The Catholic Church during a meeting called the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. decided to separate Easter from Passover, because the Romans did not want to act like the Jews who crucified Jesus.¹ So, today, Easter always happens on the Sunday after the full moon after the first day of spring,² which is March 27th in 2016. When the Church would make this big change, we need to ask ourselves: did they also make other big changes?

Easter is an important holiday for many Christians around the world to remember the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. On this day, they say, “Christ is risen!” instead of saying “hello” to each other. Families dress up and come together to go to a Sunday church. Then after church, they eat a special Easter ham supper.³ Some Christian churches celebrate Lent, a 40-day fasting before Easter. Non-Christians also celebrate Easter, but they do not go to church. Both Christians and non-Christians give egg hunts, parades, and dress as the Easter Bunny. How did those

behaviors become connected to celebrating Easter? Let's look back into history some more.

The number of early Christians grew rapidly during the Roman Empire. The Romans often were cruel to them. Years later, the pagan Roman Empire became weak, and the Christians became a large group of people from different countries. This became a threat to Rome. Constantine, the Emperor (King) of Rome decided to become a Christian, and ordered his soldiers to become Christians.⁴ It is important to understand that the Romans grew into a big and powerful kingdom because they accepted gods and goddesses from other cultures into their own culture.^{5, 6} The Romans continued to do the same thing when they became Christians.⁷ When the Romans became Christian, they gave their temples that honored false gods and goddesses to the "Christian God."^{8, 9} Romans had accepted gods and goddesses that were once belonged to Greece, Persia, and Babylon, and gave those gods names from the Bible.⁹ For example, the god of Jupiter became Saint Peter.^{10, 11} The Church made many compromises (changes to make everyone happy) to encourage pagans to become Christians.¹²

Let us look at the pagan goddess behind the Easter holiday to understand the tradition of Easter. Pagans worshiped Ishtar, a mother goddess for pregnancy, growing, and sex.¹³ Actually, Ishtar was a human queen named Semiramis. Queen Semiramis' husband was King Nimrod. But, actually, King Nimrod was her son.¹⁴ King Nimrod was the mighty hunter who was the grandson of Noah, and the son of Cush (Genesis 10:8). After Nimrod died, Queen Semiramis said that Nimrod became the Sun-god.¹⁵ Queen Semiramis became pregnant after the death of King Nimrod, and did not want people to know that she had sex with someone else. Semiramis made up the story that she was pregnant through light from the sun (Nimrod as sun-god).^{16, 17} She said Nimrod was reincarnated (born again) when she gave birth to a son named Tammuz on December 25th.^{18, 19} Then Semiramis called herself a goddess and changed her name to Ishtar, and that her son Tammuz was also a god, and also a god-child.²⁰ The connection between Easter and Christmas becomes more clear when we understand that December 25th is 9 months after the first day of spring, and was traditionally a festival

to celebrate the sun.²¹ Ishtar has been known as a goddess of fertility (creation by making babies). Ishtar has been related to 28-day female cycles “ruled by the Moon-goddess,” and eggs and rabbits (that make babies several times a year). People have celebrated festivals to honor Ishtar each year between the first day of the winter and the first day of spring for thousands of years. So for thousands of years people have honored Ishtar as the Mother under different names, even as the Virgin Mary and Baby Jesus.²² So, this is how the worship of the mother and child started (such as the Virgin Mary and Baby Jesus).²²

In a very short time, the difference between Ishtar’s real life and myth became blurred (mixed up) like the mix-up of truth and false teaching. A story says that a wild boar killed Tammuz while Ishtar was alive. Then Ishtar ordered that people to keep a 40-day period of sorrow, and they were not allowed to eat meat until they celebrate Tammuz’s resurrection with a meal of ham.²³ Doesn’t this look like how most Christians celebrate Easter today? The Greeks and later the Romans adopted the resurrection myth of Ishtar (Persephone) entering the underworld to rescue the spirit

of Tammuz (Demeter). In this story, when Ishtar was looking for Tammuz everything on earth froze (winter), and it became spring when Ishtar came back. This complicated myth also connects Ishtar with Christmas and Valentine’s Day, because Nimrod was a mighty hunter like a Cupid having a bow and an arrow.²⁴ There is great confusion about the truth today because the stories of pagan gods have become a part of the Christian tradition today.

There are many more information that shows the mixture of truth and false teaching in the fun holidays many Christians celebrate today. I asked myself: Is it okay to have fun with the traditional holiday people such as the Easter Bunny, Santa Claus, or the Valentine Cupid? A part of me says: “Oh, it doesn’t hurt anything. It’s fun.” Another part of me remember: “Fear God and give Him glory, for the hour of His judgment has come. Worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water” (Revelation 14:7 MEV). It is important to go back to the Bible to help us make this decision, and not tradition.

Tradition is man-made and is confusing, but we know this story started with Nimrod, Semiramis/Ishtar,

and Tammuz shortly after the Flood. It continued through many languages and cultures, including Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. I learned that Babel has a direct link to the Kingdom of Babylon—in the Hebrew language, they share the same name: **בְּבֶלֶט**.²⁵ The root in both words means “Confusion.” When we understand that Babel is the same as Babylon, we begin to understand the Bible’s connection of this city with false religions (See Genesis 11:9 and Revelation 14:8, among other verses). The land of Shinar, where the Babylon first started as a city (Genesis 10:10), later became a part of Babylon the country. It is clear Ishtar was an very important Babylonian goddess, because inside the great City of Babylon was a huge gate with beautiful painted brick honoring Ishtar on a deep blue background with pictures of lions, dragons, and bulls.²⁶

There are many more stories about Nimrod, Ishtar, and Tammuz in different cultures and languages, but I could not include all of them in this article.

It is not a surprise that we are confused today by the traditions that both Christians and non-Christians enjoy, because we enjoy fellowship. Tradition without Bible truths teaches us false ideas and

makes us become confused. It is important for us to remember that our “God is not a God of confusion but of peace. . . .” (1 Corinthians 14:33 NASB). The Lord’s way is clear and simple. To honor the death of Jesus Christ, our Savior, and to rejoice in our acceptance of His wonderful gift of eternal life, we must follow the instructions Jesus gave us in the Bible, and not the ways of the world.

¹ <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05228a.htm>
² http://catholicism.about.com/od/holydaysandholidays/f/Calculate_Date.htm
³ <http://www.allaboutjesuschrist.org/origin-of-easter-ham-faq.htm>
⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_the_Great_and_Christianity
⁵ <http://www.unrv.com/culture/roman-religion.php>
⁶ <http://www.nytimes.com/2001/03/03/style/03iht-pagan.t.html>
⁷ <http://piereigion.org/pagansaints.html>
⁸ http://www.academia.edu/1789539/From_Temple_to_Church_Converting_Paganism_to_Christianity_In_Late_Antiquity_2005
⁹ <http://www.monolithic.org/domes-more/the-pantheon-rome-126-ad>
¹⁰ <http://piereigion.org/pagansaints.html>
¹¹ <http://www.markbeast.org/mark-beast-paganism.html>
¹² <http://people.opposingviews.com/catholic-saints-pagan-gods-3012.html>
¹³ <http://www.jrmi.org/who-is-semiramis/>
¹⁴ http://www.mindserpent.com/American_History/religion/babylonian_mythology/nimrod.html
¹⁵ http://www.mindserpent.com/American_History/religion/babylonian_mythology/nimrod.html
¹⁶ <http://www.jrmi.org/who-is-semiramis/>
¹⁷ <http://christiananswers.net/q-eden/edn-t020.html>
¹⁸ http://www.mindserpent.com/American_History/religion/babylonian_mythology/nimrod.html
¹⁹ <http://mystery-babylon.org/christmas.html>
²⁰ http://www.mindserpent.com/American_History/religion/babylonian_mythology/nimrod.html
²¹ <http://mystery-babylon.org/christmas.html>
²² <http://redicreations.com/article.php?id=10398>
²³ http://www.mindserpent.com/American_History/religion/babylonian_mythology/nimrod.html
²⁴ <http://www.allaboutjesuschrist.org/origin-of-easter-ham-faq.htm>
²⁵ <http://therealtemple.blogspot.com/2009/02/who-is-that-angelical-cupid-tammuz.html>
²⁶ <http://www.abarim-publications.com/Meaning/Babel.html#.VPiVAnZpm9g>
²⁷ <http://www.mazzaroth.com/ChapterThree/TowerOfBabel.htm>

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The Value of Having a Healthy, Prayerful Life

By Francisca Trexler



HIGHER CLIPS

Many people are wondering about prayer. Some people say that prayer is mysterious. It is because people do not fully understand prayer itself and do not know how to pray properly. Prayer is communicating with God at any time, any hour, any day, and any place. The prayer is wonderful, and it gives the best treatment for our souls. It relieves stress, improves blood circulation, strengthens the heart, increases our energy,

improves the physical appearance, and finally helps us to understand our own self. Even prayer does help improve relationships between spouses, family members and friends. We often do not understand how prayer works. Only God knows! Especially, when you ask God to forgive your wrongs and sins, you will experience a relief from guilt and burdens. That is a miracle that works for us. There are a few things to talk about prayer, such as

an experience of praying, positions of praying, other ways of praying, a prayer box, and praying for healing.

The Experience of Praying

We receive a wonderful experience when we stand in front of God's presence in our private prayer. Our circumstance or the surrounding area is forgotten when we pray to God. Deepest in our heart and in the spirit of concentration (think about something), we all know that it is very important to spend a moment with God in our prayerful life. Prayer actually uplifts our spiritual life, increases our faith and lastly improves our trust in God, whether or not our prayers are answered. We might wonder why our prayers were not answered. God knows the best way to answer our prayers. God does not ignore our prayers. I encourage you all to wait upon and trust God, Psalm 27:14, "Wait [trust] for the Lord's help. Be strong and brave, and wait [trust] for the Lord's help" (NCV). Some people have said to me, "God does not care

to answer my prayers." It is true that it appears that God doesn't answer our prayers. But the truth is that God does hear our prayers even though we might not receive what we expect. It is God's time, not our time. We normally expect an answer quickly, but God knows the best answer to our prayers. Our faith may be tested. We need to be patient and wait upon Lord. We often get frustrated when our prayers are not answered. We are like impatient children who demand to get what we want as answers to our prayers. We need to understand that God gives His answer in three ways: Yes, No, and Later—for the time is not right. God is too wise to make a mistake. We need to remember that God is always wise and understanding of our needs. So we need to just trust God, even if we do not like it.

For example, there was a family living in Idaho. They experienced the answer of "No" to prayer during a difficult time. It was winter with much snow on the ground. Their house was

about ¼ of a mile uphill from the main road. With much snow they couldn't drive up to the house. So, they parked their car at the entrance of the driveway, but they had a reliable used snowmobile for driving between the house on the hill and the car. The father had built a wooden sled box trailer to haul things from the parked car to the house. But Father failed to let his wife know that he hadn't the time to test it and he went to work and stayed in town 58 miles away. One day after a grocery-shopping trip the mother and her two small children walked uphill to the house to get the snowmobile with the trailer to haul the food. With the boys in the trailer Mother attempted to start the snowmobile, but it wouldn't start at all. Normally, just one pull it would start easily, but this time it didn't for thirty minutes. Mother was impatient and tired. She prayed to God to give her more strength and to make the snowmobile start. Nothing happened! It was strange that it would not start. It seemed that God

refused to help her. She was very upset and mad at God. She gave up using the snowmobile and pushed the sled trailer downhill to the parked pick-up truck. With the grocery bags, young children and their puppy in the sled trailer Mother pushed the trailer all the way up to the house. It was very difficult pushing the load of food uphill! It was dark when she finally arrived at the house. She looked up the clear night filled many lovely twinkling stars, but she wasn't happy that God didn't answer her prayer. She was completely worn out after giving her boys a warm bath.

On Friday evening before the setting of the sun the father arrived home from work. She told him about the snowmobile. He looked puzzled and wondered why it didn't start. He walked outside and tried it and it started immediately. He said, "Let us wait till Sunday morning to find out more about it." Sunday morning came and her husband walked to the snowmobile and attached the sled trailer to it. He rode on the

snowmobile with the trailer down to the other side of the road. The boys and the mother waited until he came back with his thumb down. He explained that the front part of the trailer came apart from the snowmobile. Father realized that he didn't build it correctly. He thanked God for not answering Mother's prayer because if she did use it with the grocery bags and the boys going uphill, the sled trailer would be separated from the snowmobile and slide down and fall over the shoulder hurting the boys and the puppy. Suddenly, Mother felt ashamed about blaming God who saved the family from the disaster. She went to the bedroom and apologized to God for being mad at Him. From now on she knew her prayers would be answered in different ways such as Yes, No or Wait.

Positions of Praying

You can pray in any position such as kneeling on the floor, ironing clothes, washing the dishes, walking, jogging, driving, or riding the car or the bus or the train

or the airplane, mowing the lawn, etc. Praying is the same as talking with God as your best friend. He is there for you all the time. "But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice [sign language] of my prayer. Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer, Nor His mercy from me!" (Psalm 66:19, 20, NCV). It is wonderful to know that we can pray to God at any time and anywhere, not only one place in our bedroom or closet. We can go out to a nature park and think of God in silent prayer. For some people who want to be alone without any distractions it is best to go a quiet place, or stay in a room alone.

When I wake up in the early morning, I lie on my back in my bed thinking how God has been good to me. I thank God for another day to live. Then I kneel for a long prayer. We can sing the song in prayer in sign language. "Let the teaching of Christ live in you richly. Use all wisdom to teach and instruct each other by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with thankfulness

in your hearts to God” (Colossians 3:16, NCV).

Remember it is important that you pray to God as talking to a close friend. Don't pray with the same words over and over. Jesus taught his disciples not to follow the heathen way by repeating words of prayer over and over. God is interested in what we have in our minds. God wants us to express our concerns, problems, and happiness in prayer.

Other Ways of Prayer

We can use a notebook or journal to write down your thoughts as a prayer to God. It is good to write a letter to God. Writing a journal is a powerful way of communicating with God. We can use poetry to express our thoughts and inner feelings with God like King David did, “God, examine me and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts” (Psalm 138:23, NCV) and “Lord, try me and test me; look closely into my heart and mind” Psalm 26:2, NCV).

There is no need for

you to worry about your grammar. Express your thoughts and prayers as best as you can. The Bible says, “Also, the [Holy] Spirit helps us with our weakness. We do not know how to pray as we should. But the [Holy] Spirit himself speaks to God for us, even begs God for us with deep feelings that words cannot explain. God can see what is in people's hearts. And He knows what is in the mind of the [Holy] Spirit, because the [Holy] Spirit speaks to God for his people in the way God wants” (Romans 8:26, 27, NCV). God is there to hear your prayers in your booklet or notebook or journal. Isn't God wonderful?

Prayer Box

Someone has asked, “How do we cover so many people's names in a one-day prayer?” A prayer box with index cards is the answer. Each index card has a person's name and a note about this person and what the person's needs are? Why do we pray for this person? A prayer box can have many cards. The prayer box should

have the alphabet dividers to separate the cards with the first letters of the last names. We pick five or ten names to pray for on Sunday, five or ten names for Monday and the likes. Remember the prayer box is confidential, not to be shared with anyone. It is for you only! It would be interesting to see how God answers your prayers. We put the date on the index cards of the answered prayers. And also when a person die, we put the date on the card. We pray for the family who go through the sad moment and we send a sympathy card.

Praying for Healing

The doctors and nurses couldn't figure out about my case from an automobile accident way back in 1976. My doctor, a surgeon, was surprised when I woke up from a coma to live on. He was checking my breath when I woke up. He walked away from my bed and threw up his arms saying, "I don't understand it!" Actually, he thought I would die, based on his many years of experience seeing patients

like me. He later said that it was a miracle and still didn't understand how God healed my health. Of course, no one is able to understand God's power of healing. In James 5:13-15, "Anyone who is having troubles should pray. Anyone who is happy should sing praises. Anyone who is sick should call the church's elders. They should pray for and pour oil on the person in the name of the Lord. And the prayer that is said with faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will heal that person" (NCV). My families, church members and my husband prayed and prayed according to God's will. Today I still thank God for what He had done for my life to bring blessings to other people.

Lastly, I encourage you to continue praying without stopping. Just keep on praying till God answers. "Pray continually" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Keep that in mind, as we need to follow His principles and not our own way.

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The Work and the Life

By Ellen G. White

All the light, life, and joy of the universe come from God. God's blessings go to all His creatures [animals and people]. God's blessings are compared to rays of light from the sun and streams of water from a water spring.

People who have God in their hearts will bring love and blessings to other people. Jesus' joy was in uplifting and saving sinful men and women.

Jesus accepted suffering and death to save other people. He was willing to die on the cross. Angels are always working for the happiness of people. This makes the angels happy. Angels do the work that selfish people think is humiliating, such as helping the poor, the sick, and sinful people.

Jesus loves to help people. His love fills the hearts of the angels in heaven. Everyone in heaven is very happy because they

enjoy helping one another. Jesus wants His followers on earth to love and work the same as the angels.

Jesus' love in the heart cannot be hidden. Jesus' love is the same as a sweet fragrance [smell] that cannot be hidden. Everyone who meets Jesus' followers will feel Jesus' holy influence. The Holy Spirit in our lives is compared to a spring of water in the desert. People are eager to drink the water to stop their thirst. The Holy Spirit encourages people to want salvation.

Love for Jesus will be seen in our desire to work as Jesus worked. Our work will bless and uplift people. Jesus' love will lead us to be kind and loving. We will have compassion for all the creatures [people and animals] of our heavenly Father.

Jesus did not try to make His life easy. Jesus lived an unselfish life from His

birth until He was crucified. He always worked hard to save sinners. He did not try to avoid tiring travel and exhausting work.

Jesus said, “The Son of man [Jesus] . . . did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life to redeem [save] many people” (Matthew 20:28). Jesus’ goal was to save people from sin. Nothing else was as important as saving people. Doing God’s will and finishing God’s work was the same to Jesus as food and drink. Jesus never put His own desires and needs ahead of His work to save people.

People who have the grace of Jesus will want to do the same kind of work that Jesus did. God’s people will be willing to give everything so other people may know Jesus died for them. God’s people will do all they can to make this world a better place. People who truly love God will desire to help other people.

Every person who accepts Jesus will want to tell other people that Jesus is a wonderful friend. The

truth cannot be kept quiet.

A person who has the righteousness of Jesus and is filled with the Holy Spirit cannot stop telling other people. When we have learned that the Lord is good, we will share that news with other people.

Philip accepted Jesus’ call to be one of Jesus’ disciples. Then Philip invited his friends to come and see Jesus. We will do the same as Philip. We will invite people to learn about Jesus. We will tell people about the joy of heaven. We will desire to live the life that Jesus lived. We will want people to know “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

We will receive a great blessing when we try to help other people. God gave us a part to do in the plan of salvation so we could receive His blessings. God has given us the opportunity to receive His nature and then to share our blessings with other people. Working for God is the highest honor and greatest joy God can give us. People who love God and do His work are brought nearest

to their Creator.

God could have used angels to tell people how to be saved. God could have used angels to help people who are hungry or sick. God could have used other ways to do His work. But God in His love chose us to work with Himself and with Jesus and the angels. God wanted us to enjoy the blessing of doing this unselfish work.

We become more kind and understanding when we do God's work and suffer with Jesus. Every time we give up something to help other people, we become closer to Jesus and more loving.

Jesus was "rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9, NIV). God created us to do His work of helping other people. Only when we do His work can life be a blessing to us.

When we work for Jesus and teach people about Him, we will feel the need to know more about Jesus and the Bible. We will want God's righteousness and will ask God to help us. Our faith

will become stronger as we learn more about salvation. Problems and trials will cause us to study our Bibles and pray more. Our relationship with Christ will become stronger. Then we will have a wonderful spiritual experience.

Unselfish work for people helps make us more like [same as] Jesus. Unselfish work gives us peace and happiness and a desire to help people. We will not be lazy or selfish.

Using our Christian blessings, we will work more for God. We will understand spiritual truth better. Our faith will increase, and we will have more answered prayers. The Holy Spirit will control our lives. The Holy Spirit will help us develop characters that will honor God. We will receive many blessings when we are unselfish and help other people.

The only way we can grow in grace is to do the work Jesus asks us to do. Jesus asks us to work unselfishly for people who need our help. Exercise makes a person's body

strong. In the same way, if we want to keep our Christian life strong, we must be active and work.

Receiving God's blessings and not sharing God's blessings with other people is the same as trying to eat to live but not working. A person who does not use his arms and legs will lose the power to move his arms and legs. The Christian who does not use the powers that God gives him will not become strong in Jesus. He will lose the spiritual power God has given him.

God chose His church to help save sinners. The work of the church is to tell the world the story of Jesus and His power to save. Every Christian is to tell other people the gospel. Christians are to share God's love and salvation with other people.

If the followers of Jesus were doing their duty, thousands of people would be teaching the gospel in other countries where now there is only one worker. Christians who cannot go to other countries can pray and give money for the

work. Then people would be working more for God in Christian countries.

We do not need to go to other countries or leave our homes to work for God. We can work for God in the home, the church, among our friends, and also among the people with whom we do business.

Jesus spent most of His life working patiently in a carpenter's shop in Nazareth. Angels were with Jesus as He worked and visited people. The people did not recognize that Jesus was the Son of God.

Jesus was doing His heavenly Father's work in the carpenter shop, the same as when He was healing sick people and walking on the stormy water. No matter where we are or what we are doing, we can have Jesus with us.

The apostle Paul wrote, "My brothers, each one should remain in fellowship with God in the same condition [work] that he was [doing] when he was called" (1 Corinthians 7:24). A businessman will glorify God if he is honest, courteous,

and fair.

A true follower of Jesus will keep the principles of his faith in everything he does. Then other people will see a Christian life. The mechanic can faithfully represent Jesus, who worked among the hills of Galilee. Every Christian should live and work so people who see his good work will be led to glorify Jesus. Jesus is our Creator and Redeemer.

Many people do not do God's work because they say other people have more talents. Some people think that only people with special talents need to do God's work. Some people think God chooses only special people to do His work and get the rewards. Jesus taught that God gives every person a work to do.

We should do our everyday humble work with a loving heart. We are "working for the Lord, and not for men" (Colossians 3:23). Our actions will show we have God's love in us. The joy of Jesus will surround us, and our influence will help and bless people.

We must not wait for a

special time to work for God. We must not wait to receive special talents and skills to work for God. We must not worry about what people think of us. Our daily lives must show that our faith is pure and we really want to help other people. Then our work will have good results.

The humblest and poorest of the disciples of Jesus can be a blessing to other people. They may not realize they are doing good. But their influence may start blessings they will not know about until Jesus comes.

God's people do not feel or know they are doing anything great. They just work quietly, not worrying about success. People who faithfully do God's work will have successful lives. Each day they become more and more like [same as] Jesus. As they work with God in this life, they are preparing to live and work with Jesus in heaven.

Ellen G. White was a well-known religious writer and speaker on three continents. This article is from "Steps to Christ, Easy Reading Edition." "Steps to Christ" is the most popular and widely read book.

Free Bible Course for Deaf People

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