

DAVID AND THE KEY TO REAL REPENTANCE

Welcome to Bible study. This is the last day of the Hebrew civil calendar and a weekly Sabbath day. We are headed into the fall holy day season. Tomorrow is the first day of Tishri and Yom Teruah or Feast of Trumpets (a Day of blowing). There are many ways of translating the meaning of the Hebrew words “Yom Teruah”. In the Bible (KJV) the “Yom Teruah” is translated as the Feast of Trumpets and the word “trumpets” is generally written in italics. When a word in the Bible is written in italics, it usually means “supplied by the translator”. Technically, “trumpets” is not in the original Hebrew. The original Hebrew words are “Yom Teruah.” *Yom* is day and *teruah* means shouting or much noise and commotion (crying out), so it was translated the “blowing of trumpets”.

Technically, on the feast days the Jews blow what is called a “shofar” or ram’s horn. What is a ram’s horn? It might be likened to a bugle which is a brass wind instrument used in the military for the cavalry for communication and morale. The shofar is a powerful instrument (much like a horn). However, it does not have keys or valves like a musical instrument. It requires a compression of the lips that is difficult to perform in achieving the right sound. However, it is not as simple as blowing a horn. It is blown as many as a hundred times in the Jewish synagogue on Rosh Hashana. Historically in ancient times, the shofar has been used in calling Israel to assemble together, a call to repentance, as a warning and a sound of battle. When “*Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho*” (a famous ballad), Israelite troops marched around the city once each day for six successive days then on the seventh day they encircled it seven times, led by priests blowing ram’s horns. At that point “the Israelites raised a mighty shout and the wall collapsed.”

Rosh Hashanah marks the first day of the **Ten Days of Awe** called the *Yamim Nora'im* in Hebrew. In English they are commonly referred to as the High Holy days. During these ten days we are to inspect ourselves in an intense way and preparing for **Yom Kippur** (or **Day of Atonement**) which is a day of fasting, repentance and forgiveness. We are to examine our hearts not only for acts such as robbery. One must also examine his iniquitous (sinful) thoughts and turn away from anger, hatred, jealousy, derision, and pursuit of lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh and pride of life. We are to focus our efforts on repenting from those sins or negative character traits that have become an intrinsic (habitual) part of our being and uprooting those habits and totally abandon them. The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) prepares us for the **Feast of Tabernacles** which follows five days later where we sit and dwell in the sukkah (a temporary dwelling/portable) for seven days and fellowship together remembering our forefathers who lived in temporary dwellings when God brought them out of the land of Egypt through the wilderness and protected them by his hand.

Often is the case during the feast seasons of Passover in the spring and the Yom Kippur and Tabernacles in the fall, it appears trouble begins to brew around us. **2 Samuel 11:1-27**—“It came

to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle (go to war)..." This was when winter was over and travel became possible again. "David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army." They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a very beautiful woman bathing and sent someone to find out about her, and he was told she is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite. Uriah was away fighting in the army. David sent for her and when she came, he lay with her; and she returned to her house. The woman conceived and sent word to David saying, 'I am pregnant'."

King David was mortified, but thought he had figured a way out of his transgression. So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." When Uriah arrived, David asked him how Joab and the army were getting along and how the war was progressing. Then David told Uriah, "Go to your house and wash your feet (relax)." So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house. When David was told, he asked Uriah, "Did you not just come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?" Uriah replied, "The Ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and Joab and his officers are camped in the open fields. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and lie with my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!" David said, "Wait here today, and tomorrow I will send you back to the army." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. Then David invited him to dinner and got him drunk, but even then Uriah did not go home, but slept with his master's servants.

The next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and gave it to Uriah to deliver. The letter instructed, "Station Uriah on the front lines where the battle is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be killed." So Joab assigned Uriah to a spot close to the city wall where he knew there were valiant men. When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, several of the men in David's army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died. Joab then sent a full report to David. He instructed the messenger, "after you have finished giving the king this account of the battle, the king's anger may flare up, and he may ask you: 'Why did you go near the wall?' Then you shall say, 'Your servant, Uriah the Hittite is dead, also'." The messenger went to Jerusalem and gave a complete report to David saying everything that Joab had sent him to say. When David heard Uriah was dead, he told the messenger to tell Joab, "Don't let this upset you, the sword devours one as well as another. Press the attack against the city and destroy it. Say this to encourage Joab."

God was upset and angry with David. God had called David "a man after his own heart". David had loved and worshiped God, wrote beautiful music and psalms praising God, was a brilliant warrior, a faithful and remarkable man throughout his youth seeking God's will and inquiring of the Lord how he was to handle things and God answered him. David tried to cover up his sin which makes the original sin worse. Remember President Nixon and Watergate? The cover-up debacle got so bad, that he had to resign the Presidency in disgrace. King David did not want to be embarrassed by what was a capital crime according to God's word, the Torah so he planned a cover-up. He not only slept with and impregnated another man's wife, he arranged to have her

husband killed and caused the death of several other soldiers in the process of battle near the city wall and made things much worse.

God sent Nathan the prophet to confront David. **2 Samuel 12: 1-24**—Nathan used wisdom in obliquely rebuking David with a story. “There were two men in one city, one rich and one poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this deserves to die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.” Then Nathan said, “You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel. “I anointed you king over Israel and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave your master’s house to you and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. “Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now, therefore the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.” “Out of your own household, I will raise up adversity (calamity) against you from your own house. Before your very own eyes, I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad day light. You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.” So David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has put away your sin: you shall not die. However, because by **this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme (show utter contempt)**, the child also who is born to you shall surely die.”

“After Nathan had gone home, the Lord struck the child that Uriah’s wife had borne to David, and he became ill. David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and went into his house and spent the nights lying on the ground. David refused to eat any food with the elders of his household who stood beside him to get him up from the ground. On the seventh day the child died. David’s servants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought “While the child was still living, we spoke to David but he would not listen to us. How can we tell him the child is dead? He may do something desperate.” David noticed that his servants were whispering among themselves and he realized the child was dead. He asked, “Is the child dead?” When the servants answered yes, David got up from the ground, washed, put on lotion and changed his clothes. Then he went to the tabernacle and worshiped the Lord; then returned to the palace and ate. When his servants asked, “Why are you now acting this way?” He answered, “When the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, I thought, “Who knows? The Lord may be gracious to me and let the child live. But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”

David had allowed his human nature (lust of the flesh) to run away with him. He was not as close to God like he had been and was not worshipping God as he should have been. He drifted away somehow after he became king. Before he became king, he was hunted and his life was in constant jeopardy and God protected and directed him as he inquired of God to direct him. Who knows why David couldn't sleep that fateful evening and took a walk on the roof? David was a king and he made a mistake by just giving in to his own desire.

At the time a person may just give in one time, but reap the results a life time. Just once, a woman decided to fulfill her desire to do something interesting that she had never done and walked into a bar to have a drink. While there she met up with a stranger who propositioned her to spend the night with him. The man did not tell her he had aids. She knew better, but she did it anyway. That one act of poor judgment resulted in a life of aids misery, illness and death. The father of Winston Churchill, Britain's Secretary of Treasury, Randolph Churchill and a very promising young politician was given a "last-thing" bachelor's party the night before his wedding day to an American woman. During the party he allowed himself one act of indiscretion and contracted syphilis (STD) which destroyed his health, mind and career. Sexually transmitted diseases are rampant today because there is so much promiscuity and sexual license in society. Moral standards in America have disintegrated to lower levels than ever seen before in our country.

David confessed his sin against God and repented with his whole heart and mind. His prayer of repentance (Hebrew word for repentance is *teshuva*) can be read in **Psalm 51**. He acknowledged his transgression in horror of what he had done. He did not minimize his sin or the cover-up, but admitted he was worthy of death and not worthy to be God's son or fit to be his king. In *The Book of Our Heritage*, vol. 3, by Eliyahu Kitov, it explains that David was the descendent of Boaz (tribe of Judah) who married Ruth (a Moabitess). The children of Israel were commanded not to marry an Ammonite or Moabite because Ammon and Moab (men) did not welcome Israel with bread and water, forbade them to pass through their land coming out of Egypt and attacked them. So the question of whether Boaz a leading prince from the tribe of Judah would be prohibited from marrying Ruth (a Moabitess) was brought before the court who ruled that Ruth be permitted to enter the Assembly of God and he acted in accordance with Torah."

A son was born to Ruth, but it says in **Ruth 4:17**— "*A son has been born to Naomi; and the women and her neighbors gave him a name and they called him Oved. He is the father of Jessie, the father of David.*" This final phrase was prophecy which God placed in their mouths. This child is not to be seen as being the son of a Moabite. He is the seed of Naomi, herself a scion of the most noble family in Judah, and granddaughter of the prince of the tribe of Judah. His name was an acronym for *od ben David –another son, and then David.*" "In all of Bethlehem there were none as righteous as Jesse and his entire family. "Jesse had great trepidation (fear) of committing even the slightest sin and in his old age he said, "Perhaps my grandfather Boaz and his court ruled erroneously (wrong) and I am unfit to be a part of the Assembly of God? How can I go on living with my wife, who is a legitimate daughter of Israel, when I—I may well be a Moabite?" Jessie already had six sons and two daughters when this dreadful doubt arose in his heart. How was he to rectify the past? Because of his fears that he might be unfit, Jesse left his

wife for a number of years and his sons knew why he had done so.” Some years later after having separated himself from his wife he took one of the Canaanite maidservants as a wife.

Jesse’s wife, an exceedingly righteous woman, suffered great anguish over her husband’s separation from her, for she wanted to bear more of his children. The maidservant saw her anguish and arranged a plan. The maidservant would give Jesse enough wine until he was drunk, then Jesse’s wife would take the maidservant’s place and slip into bed with him. It worked. Jesse remained unaware that his wife had switched places with the maidservant that night. Three months later, his sons noticed that their mother had become pregnant and suspected her of infidelity and told their father. Jesse, greatly troubled, replied: “Allow her to give birth and do not give cause for slander to be levied against you. The child that will be born shall be abhorred and will be your servant.” Jesse thought to prevent the child, David, from being accepted into the community by establishing the child as an “abhorred servant” without publicizing the fact that he was illegitimate.

David said of himself in **Psalm 69:2, 5-6, 9**: *“I have become a stranger (alien) to my brothers for they considered me to be illegitimate.”* David’s mother did not tell what had happened. His brothers never accepted David and held him in contempt. They loved their mother yet suspected her of infidelity. His mother encouraged David from childhood to love and trust in God and as a child he was aware and understood his destiny. David’s brothers and the members of his father’s household knew no respite when David was in their midst, so they sent him off to tend their father’s flocks in the wilderness. It was only then that they knew peace, as did David himself. From then on he spent most of his time alone in the wilderness and his visits home were infrequent. Because none of the community knew the real reason why Jesse’s sons kept their distance from David, they began to imagine all kinds of things that were not true of David, and heaped accusations upon him. *“Those who hate me for no reason are more numerous than the hairs of my head. Even that which I did not steal, I returned.”* But when no one came forward to deny them, the doubtful accusations in time were accepted as being truthful and everyone in Israel “knew” that David was “evil”. There was no one who hesitated in wounding David’s pride, and blamed him for things that he never did. Not every person has the ability to accept suffering with love. *“Let those who place their trust in you not be embarrassed by me...for your sake I have borne shame.”* David withstood suffering and understood and accepted it with love as he grew up. He would tell himself, “It is not me that they hate, but rather sin, and indeed, I detest sin no less than they.”—*The Book of Our Heritage, vol. 3, pages 849-852.*

David conception was an act of deception, but guided by God’s hand (will) and David was destined to be the eighth son of Jesse and king of Israel. David was the one chosen to honor God most of all Jesse’s children. He was strong and a valiant good shepherd, a talented musician (written and instrumental), feared God and loved Torah. He wrote in **Psalm 119:9**—*“O how love I thy law. It is my meditation all the day.”*

The following is the story of a well-known, powerful speaker on radio and later on television. He was a man of great words and had lot of understanding and truth. But he was also human. According to him his wife was frigid and did not like sex, and he would tell small audiences the graphic details of this unsatisfactory relationship, yet she bore him four children – two sons and two daughters. At one point he wrote a book entitled *God Speaks Out on “The New Morality*

which was used for some years as a college textbook that lays down amazingly clear guidelines on the subject of sex. At a certain point in his life when dealing with one his young teenage daughters, he wound up in a sexual relationship with her which lasted about ten years. After his daughter got married, somehow her husband who had been given a job high up in the church organization became aware of this and stormed into her father's office with a gun threatening to kill him. Things were smoothed over after some specific negotiations and a profuse apology from her father.

Later on, this subject came up again when the organization was going through a lot of trials and his younger son wound up getting put out of the church and began his own competitive ministry. The media quizzed the son whether he knew of his father's incestuous relationship. He confronted his father about this. His father's comment was: "There were times in my life when I was not close to God". This story illustrates how people can go astray, impervious to correction and forgetting the fact that we have to become over-comers of our carnal nature in order to be in God's kingdom. **Revelation 21:7**—"He that overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." The over-comers will be in the kingdom of God.

Romans 3:10, 23—"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." "There is none righteous, no not one." In one way or another, we have all broken the law of God. John says, "hatred" of your brother is equal to "murder." We are to love one another. There many ways to commit adultery in the heart. For example, Christ said in **Matthew 5:27-28**—"You have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shall not commit adultery: But I say to you, That whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart." Sins can sneak up and catch you unprepared. Eve was tempted by the devil to eat the fruit of the "forbidden tree" in the Garden of Eden. People do not mean to deliberately fall into sin. But getting too far from God makes an easy mark, if you are letting up in prayer and Bible study. It is easy for the devil to pick off those who are on the fringes. Satan is a predator of humans much like the lions, wolves or crocodiles that attack animals who separate from their flock. Those who are slow and careless get picked off.

George Mueller said that he was just a poor, unworthy servant of the Lord. He was a man of tremendous faith, a Christian evangelist and Director of the Ashley Down orphanage in Bristol, England, who cared for 10,024 orphans in his life and established 117 schools which offered Christian education to over 120,000 children. Through all this he never made requests for financial support even though the five homes built cost over 100,000 pounds to build; nor did he go into debt or ask any person (only God) for anything. Many times he received unsolicited food donations only hours before they were needed to feed the children. Mueller's faith in God was strengthened day by day and he spent hours in daily prayer and Bible reading—indeed, it was his practice to read through the entire Bible four times a year. When it was laid upon George Mueller's heart to pray for anything, he would search the Scriptures to find if there was some promise that covered the case. Sometimes he would search the scriptures for days before he presented his petition to God. And then when he found the promise, with his open Bible before him, and his finger upon that promise, he would plead that promise, and so he received what he asked. He always prayed with an open Bible before him. "If we desire our faith to be strengthened, we should not shrink from opportunities where our faith may be tried, and

therefore, through trial, be strengthened. To learn strong faith is to endure great trials. I have learned my faith by standing firm amid severe testings” —*George Mueller*. He also wrote in his autobiography that if you neglect prayer, your faith disappears. If you neglect Bible study, your faith disappears and the less inclination you have to study the Bible. Once that neglect occurs, it leads to negligence.

I must confess that I have gotten out of the daily habit of walking a mile a day since this past winter. Then I didn't feel like walking that far, so I walked about a quarter mile and back. Now, I am out of the daily habit. Bottom line, I have to say that there is no excuse for my not continuing my daily walk. Exercising on the rebounder and lifting a few weights is good, but daily walking is important to maintaining strength and energy. Physical walking and spiritual walking are important to each of us. I need to renew my physical strength and get back in the habit of my outdoor daily walks. The Bible says that Abraham walked with God, Noah walked with God, and Enoch walked with God. How can we walk with God if we don't WALK? **Isaiah 40:31**—“**they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.**” We all need to daily renew our strength, physically and spiritually.

David's life was spared after his sin with Bathsheba. God accepted his repentance and let him live because he really did repent. **Psalm 51** is a masterpiece of repentance. Because of the example of David's repentance, the Jewish Rabbis call him the *bal teshuva*. The Hebrew word “bal” means a master of and “teshuvah” means repentance and turning back to God. David repented and returned to God. He didn't just make amends for his sin just by admitting it. He did not transgress like that again, but he overcame that temptation. **Verses 6 –12**—“You desire truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part you shall make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness; that the bones which you have broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. **Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.** Cast me not away from your presence; and take not your holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation; and uphold me with your free spirit.”

Have you ever prayed to God for a generous supply of his Holy Spirit, a double portion or an abundant portion of his Holy Spirit? Our God is the God of miracles—all things are possible with God. There is nothing impossible with God. **Philippians 4:13**—Paul said, “**I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.**” Believe — have the faith! To have faith, we have to show it. To show it, we have to take action—exercise and take the first step. The trip of a thousand miles begins with the first step. In college, all the men students had to rise early before breakfast and go down to the athletic field track at 6 a.m. and do calisthenics for 15 – 20 minutes and then run track for a mile (8 laps). Since the students were in varying conditions of fitness, some students had no trouble completing a mile and others had trouble making it even a quarter mile. Just philosophizing does not get the job done.

In the days of Moses when Israel came out of Egypt and came to the edge of the Red Sea, God said to Israel, *go forward*. But how could they go forward facing the edge of the Red Sea in front of them? No one wanted to be the first to step into that vast body of water. Finally, Nason, the leader of the tribe of Judah, took action and leaped into the sea. After he leaped into the water,

the sea began to retreat, making two walls of water with one to his left side and one to his right. God says ask him if you have need. He is the God of miracles, so take the first step without worry—just DO it! God is merciful and generous in Spirit to all those who repent and obey his commands. David’s story is written for our example that we may learn about repentance and forgiveness and so that we may all learn that God will forgive us when we repent of our sins against him. **Psalm 51:17**—“*The sacrifices that God desires and that delight him, are a broken and contrite spirit, a broken and contrite heart. These, O God you will not despise.*” These, David had. He sought God in fervent prayer and said, “**O, How I love your law!** It is my meditation all the day long.” (**Psalm 119:97**). David loved God’s law.

When Christ returns the walls of the city of Jerusalem are going to be rebuilt. God is pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness. *What are the sacrifices of righteousness?* The sacrifices of righteousness are the sacrifices of our lips—prayer, obedience to God’s commandments. “My tongue shall speak your word, for **all your commandments** are righteousness” (Ps. 119:172). **Psalms 119:176**—“I have gone astray like a lost sheep. Seek your servant for I do not forget your commandments.” After his terrible earth-shattering, soul-shaking sin of his adultery with Bathsheba and the cover-up and the murder, it rocked David not that he had been discovered but that he had allowed this to happen. He repented with all his heart and soul. God did seek and answer David.

Get God centered. “The very center of God’s word reminds us to trust in God over trusting in ourselves or other people. *Before* Psalm 118 there are 594 chapters and *after* Psalm 118 there are 594 chapters. **Psalm 118:8** (NIV)—“It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man (NIV). Psalm 119 (Greek numbering 118) is the longest psalm as well as the longest chapter in the Bible. It is referred to in Hebrew by its opening words, “*Ashrei temimei derech*” (“happy are those whose way is perfect”). It is the prayer of one who delights in and lives by the Torah, the sacred law. Its 176 verses are divided into twenty-two stanzas, one stanza for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet; within each stanza, each of the eight verses begins (in Hebrew) with that letter with two verses each. In **Psalm 119:105**, David says, “your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Meditate on God’s laws, statutes, judgments and testimony of Christ in the Old Testament and New Testament. We need to keep repeating this habit daily.

Developing a system of study is a valuable aid. My daily system is to go through the Old Testament, beginning in Genesis and read a chapter or several a day and then turn to the New Testament and read one to several chapters, placing a marker flag where I left off, so I would know where to begin the next day. I find information for further study, for articles, for overcoming and weekly Bible studies. God has put me in a position as a teacher and communicator of his word, his prophecies and his coming kingdom. This requires a great deal of study of the Bible laws, statutes, and judgments and learning and teaching from his word from Genesis through Revelation and meditating on them. This also involves history, current events and prophecy in the light of God’s word.

People get mixed up and confused when they neglect study of the Torah. It is dangerous to assume anything. At times my wife gets a bit exasperated with my frequent questioning — “what’s in it?” regarding what ingredients she has used in the various recipes served at mealtime. I am a questioner. I question everything. When God first called me to his word, I was a teenager.

I knew little to nothing about God, even though one summer I attended a Boy Scout Troop sponsored by one of the Protestant churches. When I turned fourteen, my Dad who was in the U.S. Navy was shipped to Kaohsiung, Formosa (Taiwan) and my brother and I were living with my stepmother on her dad's farm in Strong, Arkansas. Some friends in my eighth grade found out I could pitch and asked me I would be the pitcher for their team so I happily accepted. However, I found out I would have to attend Sunday school at the local church that sponsored the team in order to play on their team. Until God began to call me in Strong, Arkansas, I was not interested in "going to church". I did not know what a Christian was. However, I thought I had better find out what a Christian was, and determine if I wanted to be one or not. About that time, my brother and I sailed to join our dad in Formosa. A missionary lady who held a weekly Bible class we attended gave me my first Bible New Testament. I began to read five chapters in it a day. Given a Psalms and Proverbs, I took it to school and began reading this after finishing my home work. Then I attended a two to three week seminar on the book of Daniel, taught by an Air Force Major who was Chinese, and was baptized again. Before leaving Kaohsiung I was surprised with a gift of a complete Bible. I read the books of the Old Testament every evening beginning with Genesis while traveling back home on the troop transport ship. By the time we reached San Francisco, I had finished all the five books of the Law (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy--Torah)

Upon returning to the U.S. and Seattle, I began listening to radio evangelists' programs at night and was adsorbing what they had to say. One program was broadcast every night called *The World Tomorrow*. I sent for and received literature from all of these ministers and eagerly read, studied and compared the information received. So I began to question, "Where is the truth? Who has the truth?" At the time I was working on my Eagle Scout badge and went on a weekend backpacking trip to the Olympic Peninsula with a troop of Explorer Scouts. While camping out, this question was uppermost on my mind and I was asking God to lead me to his truth. . My learning curve took a sharp upturn. Outstanding to my mind as I studied, was good advice from Herbert Armstrong of The World Tomorrow, "Don't follow me (a man), follow what the Bible says." I learned about the true weekly 7th day Sabbath (Saturday), God's holy days instead of the world's pagan holidays, the truth about the trinity and Law and Grace from Armstrong and I could prove it and back it up in the Bible myself—proof after proof and scripture after scripture.

After graduation from high school, four years later I graduated from Ambassador College and went to work in the Letter Answering Department. Then I wrote articles for The Plain Truth and Good News magazines, developed and produced Bible Correspondence lessons and spent six months as a ministerial assistant in the San Francisco Bay area. In 1963 I became a full-time writer-minister of God. Brethren, I have been in the ministry of God full-time for fifty years as of June this year teaching God's word. We continue to ask God for more of his Spirit as we work for him, so that we can overcome and endure to the end filled with faith and be profitable servants to his honor and glory. God has been revealing his truth to us and how great and thankful I am to be serving him. O that more people would open their minds and hearts to the truth and prove all things as the apostle Paul instructed. Those who do so will be blessed beyond measure of their ability to receive it. Praise God!