

A Gift of Faith Book 11

Part 3 (of 3)



**Object
Observation**

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A Gift of Faith Book

11

Part 3 (of 3)

Object Observation

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Cover photo: Robin Yamaguchi

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5. Tidy and Clean Clothes
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Photos by Chariane Quille

38-Personal Grooming Tools

We can use some tools and items to keep ourselves looking nice, and smelling fresh. We might use a hairbrush or comb, a toothbrush, and a towel, for example.

If we neglect to care for our body, it may not work well. If we are smelly and dirty it might make us unwelcome around others.

Just like we have to care for our body and keep it looking nice, we need to care for the part of us that others can't see very well. Our spirit, the real us that is housed in our body, though invisible, also needs to be cleaned and cared for.



Photo by Chariane Quille

We need to keep our mind and heart fresh with the water of God's word. We need to not hold on to the dirt of angry and sad feelings, or ugly thoughts.

We need to give our spirit good exercise by praying and trusting God to help us and others. We need to give our spirit rest by reading or listening to inspiring things and talking about the wonderful things Jesus does for us, and has done in the lives of others.

These things will help keep us in good shape and looking our best—in heart, mind and spirit—so we can serve the Lord and be a great help to Him and others.

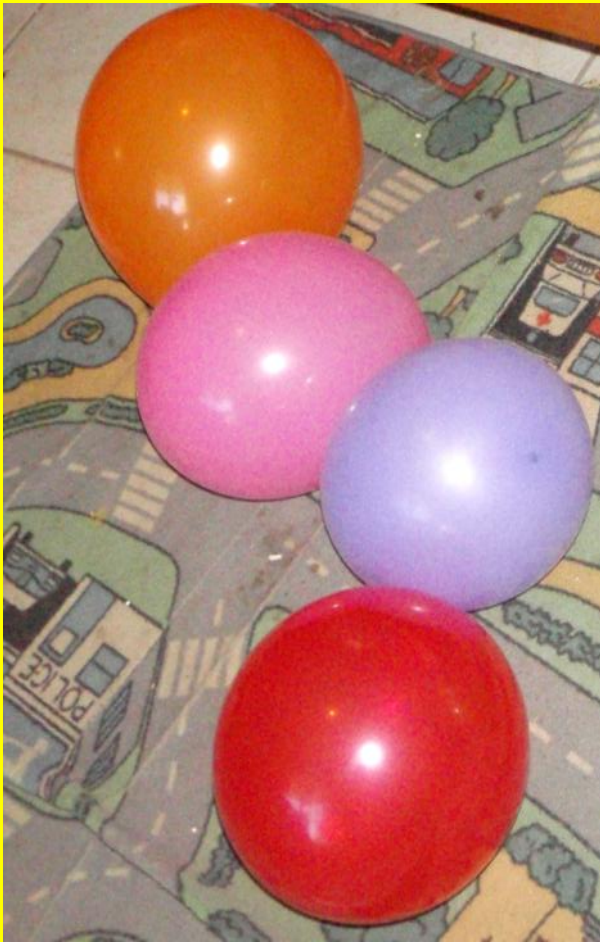


Photo by Chariane Quille

39 - Balloon

A balloon can look so big and colourful and attract attention. When you look at the small piece of rubber or plastic—the real size of a balloon before it has been blow up —it's hard to imagine that it could get so big. But it's only filled with air of some type. And as soon as the air is gone, it's just a small, thin, little thing.

The Lord can take us little ones, very little compared to Him, and can make us do something big and great. People look at us and think we are amazing. What we have done is attracts interest.



However, we need to remember that only with the power of God's Spirit in us can we do these great things.

As soon as we allow the thorn of pride to come near to us, and we start to think we are so wonderful on our own, then our balloon of good works goes "pop".

Pride makes us pop and flop, and everyone then sees how small and broken we really are.

We need to stay filled with the Holy Spirit, and stay thin and flexible, so God can fill us and stretch us to do the great things He wants us to.

Humility is helpful. With pride you'll pop.



Photo by Chariane Quille

40-Gardening Tools

Gardening tools can remind us of taking care of things. If we want to have a nice garden, we need to put time and effort into caring for it. If we want to have the Earth look nice and grow beautifully, we need to do our part to take care of it.

Even more important, however, than caring for the plants and trees, the farms and gardens, the land and nature, is taking care of the people that are living and growing and learning on Earth.

Each one of our hearts can be like a garden—either a lovely place filled with beauty, or and unkempt filled with weeds, in a way.



Photo by Chariane Quille

Unkindness that can grow in our heart like weeds, from the seeds of hurtful words and ugly pictures that others have sown or we have taken in.

We need to help take care of God's big garden, called Earth, and the most important aspect of it is caring for each other—for each and every person in the World. We can help supply the needs of others, and we can also make sure we are sowing kindness and truth, beauty and inspiration into the lives of others.

Taking care of people is a good way to keep the world like a lovely garden for God. It might take work and effort, but the good fruits or results of our service to God will be worth it.



Photo by Chariane Quille

41 - Orange Juice Squeezer

What helps the juice come out of the orange, as it is pressed and twisted on the juice squeezer? The ridges and bumpy edges, and the pointed top part is needed to help release the juice. Once the orange goes through the bumpy pressure and squeezing, then a refreshing glass of juice can be enjoyed.

Sometimes we go through things in our lives that might feel tough. We might be under pressure, and feel squeezed in a tight spot, or lacking freedom we wish we had. But God can help us in those hard times to learn things that can help others. We can bring words of understanding and comfort to others. With God's Spirit helping us, the hard times can help us do something wonderful as a result. He can use us to bring joy and inspiration to those who feel weary.



Photos by Jon Berg (l) & Chariane Quille (r)

42-Steering Wheel

A vehicle's steering mechanism—for example the steering wheel of a car—is what is used to reach a chosen destination. What if the steering wheel couldn't turn? It would cause an accident at least, and you certainly couldn't travel far.

If all you wanted to do was to move the car a few feet forward, perhaps you could do that without needing to turn the wheel. But if you want to go on a longer trip, you need to control your car's direction, every bit of the way. Maybe there is a hole in the road you want to swerve to miss; or perhaps you are driving on a windy mountain road and have to be careful to not fall off the edge; or when you reach an intersection you have to turn to the left road or the right road in order to get to your destination.

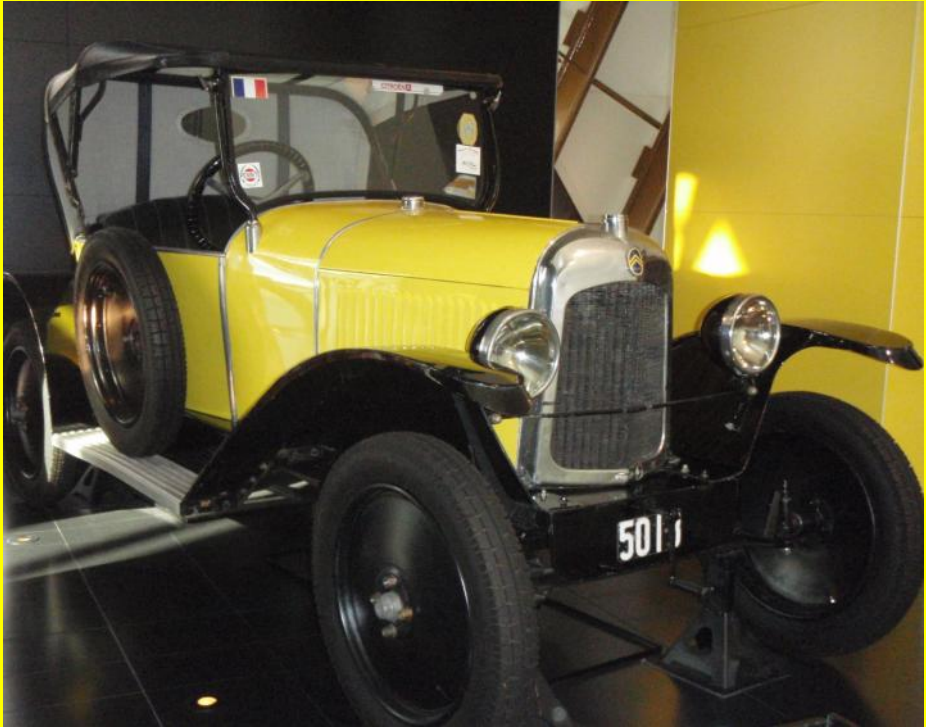


Photo by Chariane Quille

To have a safe and successful journey, you have to be able to guide the car.

To have a safe and successful journey through our life, we need to let God take control of the steering and guiding. He knows where he wants us to be, and knows how to get us there in the best time and way.

Let God take the driver's seat and have a good hold on the direction the car of your life goes. You can trust Him to really take you places and give you the best ride of your life. Even if it seems He's taking you on the long way around, or on a detour, trust Him.

If You ask Him what to do and when to do it, His words to you can be like the steering wheel in your life and guide you in all the right ways, through all the rough roads, and then into the best places.



43-Empty Containers

Some things are the most useful when they are empty. If you are thirsty and need a drink, you look for an empty cup to fill. When you take down clothes off the laundry line, you appreciate having an empty basket to fill. When a cook goes prepare dinner, they need an empty pot to place the food in. What makes these items useful is that they are able to be used because they are empty. If they were filled and couldn't be reused, they would be put to the side.

Jesus has so many neat things he wishes for people to help Him with. So He looks around in the world to see who is eager to be of service for Him. He needs people whose schedules aren't filled with doing their own time-wasting things.



Photos by Chariane Quille

Jesus can best use those whose minds and eyes and ears aren't filled only with the world's thoughts and ways. He needs those whose hearts are ready to be filled with God's Words, and their minds ready to be filled with God's ideas.

He is so thrilled when someone says, "Jesus, I'm available for You. Please tell me what Your plans are, and I'll do them. Fill me with your thoughts and ideas. Then I'll be empty and ready again for You, Jesus, to use me further."

When we listen to Jesus and do what He has planned for us, this pleases God. He's glad then when after doing one thing for Him, that we don't get too busy with our own plans, but come back empty again for Him to give us new things to do. He can keep filling us with new ideas and thoughts and inspiration.

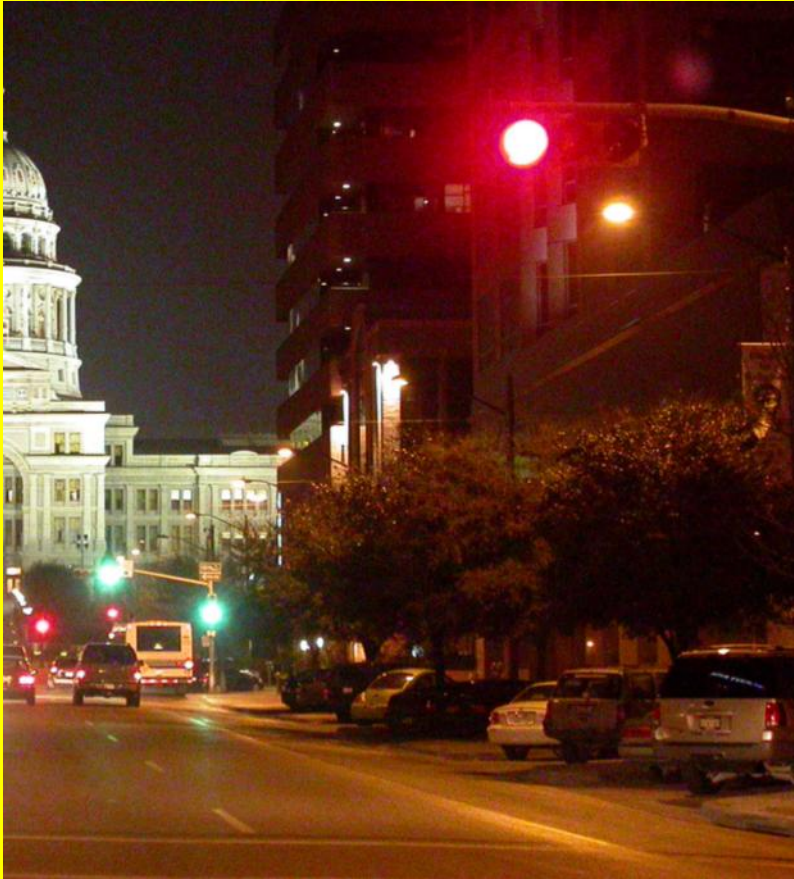


Photo by Jon Berg

44-Traffic Light

Just like a traffic light is a warning signal that must be obeyed, so does God give each of us special messages and signals to keep us safe. We each have angels around us that know more than we do about what could happen, or could not happen, if we do this or that.

If we pray each day for safe keeping, and then we pray as we go along our day, this can help us to miss out on troubles, and gain great blessings.

God uses His angels to give messages to us, warning us or instructing us to do this or that. We would do well to pause, to pray, to listen and to swiftly take action on what God and His angels want to instruct us in.



Photos by Chariane Quille (t) & Jon Berg (b)

The angles are like invisible guides or teachers or coaches in our life. Thank God for His angels of light that help us in so many ways.

I wonder what they want to tell you today?

If you pause to think about the Lord before you do something, rather than just speeding off, you might be spared an accident, or you might notice something special that that Lord has for you.



45-Lemon and Honey

Lemons are sour, but good for you. If you put some lemon juice in a cup and add some water, it's a great healthy drink. If it's a bit too strong you could add some raw honey to soften the taste.

The lemon helps the sweet honey not be too sweet; and honey helps the lemon not be too sour. They go together.

Just like when someone has made you feel bad through sour or unkind words, you need the sweet words and encouragement of others to cheer you up, as well as the sweetness in your heart to forgive them. If something sour happens to you, it might help you to learn a tough lesson, but you can ask Jesus to send the sweetening to your heart to make things better for you.



Photo by S.d.B.

46-Bouncy Balls

Balls are fun and useful for so many games and activities. But if balls couldn't bounce, it would take much of the fun away.

Imagine if you went outside to bounce a ball and after you dropped it down, it just stayed on the ground and never bounced up again?

Or if tennis players tried to play, but as soon as they dropped the ball and prepared to hit it, it just stayed on the ground of the tennis court and couldn't be hit over the net? What fun would that be?

When things can bounce up, or rise up, and don't just sink down and stay down, we say they are buoyant.



Photo by Chariane Quille

We can learn to be buoyant about things that happen to us. If something gets us down, we don't have to stay feeling low and useless. We can choose to rise up again and try to do something good anyway.

If we try to say something nice to someone, and rather than kind words coming back to us, our ears are met with sharp words, don't let that take the bounce out of you. Just pick up the ball of your joy and keep it bouncing! It's more fun to live that way!



Photo by

47-Baby Backpack or Carrier

There are lots of things we'd like to do, but sometimes we need help to reach our goal. And everyone has something in their life that they would really like to achieve, but there are too many hindrances stopping them. If we lend a hand to help others, or say a prayer for someone struggling, this may be just what was needed to help them reach their goal. It's good when we see that we all need each other.

It's nice to be a dependable, trustworthy person that others call on to help them. Then when you need help to reach your goal, they may remember the good you did for them, and might want to help you.



Photo by Chariane Quille

When people are real young, like babies and little children, or when they are very old and elderly, these are times when they especially need help.

It's nice to remember how you were helped and cared for when you were a young child. When you are grown it's a good time to repay the kindness by helping other people that are very young or very old, or who have physical handicaps.

One day you may need lots of help, and others who have received your help may return the kindness to you.



Photo by Chariane Quille

48-Wheel's Hub

All the spokes of a wheel are attached to the hub in the centre. This hub centre needs to good and strong, or the wheel would collapse.

All the aspects of our life—our friends and family, our desires and activities, our possessions, our jobs, the things we want to learn about—are like the spokes on a wheel.

Our life will keep moving and going well if we make Jesus be in the centre of our life. If He is what we are attached to and we move forward as He moves us along, then we'll make good progress and be strong.



Photos by Chariane Quille (t & b-l) & Curtis Peter van Gorder (b-r)

If the spokes just pointed some other odd way and got detached from the centre, though part of the wheel might look somewhat round, it could no longer move the vehicle forward.

We need Jesus to be the most important One to us, and our decisions to be based on what He knows is best. Then we can make the right kind of progress and stay strong and in shape.



Photos by Chariane Quille

49-Bellows and Fire

Fire needs fuel, but it also must have air to keep it going. If you cover a candle with a glass jar or a metal can, the lack of oxygen will make the flame stop burning.

Sometimes a blacksmith might use bellows to blow extra air on his fire to keep it going and getting hotter. He needs it to be very hot to soften the metal he is working with.

Bellows have a nozzle at the end that sprays out lots of air. First the bellows are opened and this sucks in the air into the sack, then when they are pushed shut, the air is forced out quickly out of the nozzle at the tip.

Jesus said to let our light shine for Him, and show people the light of God's love and truth.



Photo by Chariane Quille

When we ask for His Holy Spirit to help us, that is like getting a breeze of wind or boost of air on a fire. God's Holy Spirit can keep us letting our light shine, and the keep the hot fire of our love for Jesus glowing and burning, to bring warmth to the sad and cold hearts of others.

Our life is like the fuel that we let Jesus use. And just like fuel lasts only a certain amount of time, so will our time on Earth only be for awhile. Let's let our life be a blessing and lit with our love for Jesus, and infused with the power of God's Spirit, so we can really glow.

What good is an old log in a campfire, without being of use to the cold and hungry campers that needed something to cook their dinner on, or to stay warm by, or to help scare away the wild animals and bothersome insects? If it just sits there unused, it will get wet from the rain, decay, be nibbled on by bugs, and then turn in to dirt again.

Let's not let our life—like the wood—get dampened by the world's ideas and pressure to do nothing great for God.



Photo by Jon Berg

Instead stay nice and ready and eager for use by Jesus to help warm and feed those who are hungry for the truth that God wants them to know.

When the disciples received the Holy Spirit, they heard a sound like wind. God's wind came—God's bellows were blowing!--And then there appeared as if it was fire above each of their heads. They must have looked a bit like candles with a little flame at the top.

Perhaps through that happening Jesus was demonstrating, what He had said to them earlier, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." (Matthew 5: 16) He related it to a candle also, saying the flame should be put on a candlestick to be seen, and not covered over. Jesus also said to those following Him and telling others about Him: "Ye are the light of the world," (Matthew 5:14)

Let's pray for God's Holy Spirit to keep us going and going and let the light of our love for Jesus attract many to Him.



Photo by Chariane Quille

50-Piano or Musical Instrument

When the keys of a piano are played in the right order, the way that a composer has planned and arranged, then it can make a lovely melody. All sorts of feelings and moods can be expressed when different notes are played in certain ways and in a planned or composed order.

If a person was to come and bang with their hands and fingers randomly here and there all over the keyboard, it would make no song, and would sound very discordant.

God's world is like His instrument to tell us lovely messages, or teach us things. He's always trying to give wonderful messages to us through the things He has made in nature.



Photo by Chariane Quille

If we listen to what the Great Composer of the world and the people on it, is trying to say and sing to us, we'll be amazed and inspired, and filled with wonder and joy.

But if we just bang around in the world, ignoring the music sheets and order that the Creator wants us to discover, we may think there isn't any rhyme or reason or pattern to this world.

We might think things are all discordant and confusing. But if things look this way, it's because we and others have missed our music lessons with God and we need to stop each day to learn how to play His instrument—the world—and learn to play the pieces of music that He wants to teach each person. God has something special for each one to learn to play.



Photo by Jon Berg

If we all learn the song of our life well, through working with God as our teacher, then the world will be filled with new and lovely melodies and will be in harmony again.

Did you listen to God today, as you looked at nature? Maybe He has a new melody to put in your heart. And if it sounds difficult to play, don't worry. He'll also be right there with you as you make time daily to learn from Him, and He'll teach you how to play your personal life's melody—the things He has for you to learn and do, things that will beautify your life and the world around you.

