



James and John
(Lived in the 1st Century)

It is a Splendour

For oh! it is a splendour,
A glow of majesty,
A mystery of beauty
If we will only see;
A very cloud of glory
Enfolding you and me.

A splendour that is lighted
At one transcendent flame,
The wondrous Love, the perfect Love,
Our Father's sweetest name;
For His Name and very Essence
And His Will are all the same!

-- Frances Ridley Havergal

1 JOHN 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

1 JOHN 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1 JOHN 1:4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

1 JOHN 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

John the Beloved

Come, Children. Come here to your Uncle John. I have lots of things I can tell you, you know. And I know that you are eager to hear. You know how I know that you are? Because you read my words. Well, they are more than just my words alone, but the Lord used me to pass on to others what He said and wanted them to know.

It wasn't easy. Not nearly as easy as it is now for you to be able to talk about Jesus, tell others about Him, and preach the Gospel. Well, many places now do resemble quite a bit the situation we were all in; where to speak of Jesus could mean death in many cases. And that's a real shame, and shame those places will know for having harmed and persecuted God's Children.

But where you live is a great place to let God's Word be known. I'm going to help you when you read the Word, so you can understand the deeper meaning of it all. I've had lots of time to learn from Jesus while here in the Heavenly realm. It's the thing I most enjoy. Just being around Him makes me so glad, and I hardly want to go and do anything else.

You know what it feels like when you are curled up on the lap of your loving parent and they are reading you a fun and interesting story? If someone came in to the room and said, "Time to go harvest the grain" you might feel rather hesitant, as you were having such a nice time.

So I love to be with Him, even more than you can imagine doing your favourite thing that you don't want to stop. But there is a harvest that you need to reap, and sometimes that takes work, real work and hard times too. You might get some bumps and bruises and blisters doing the job. But it will all be made up to you, paid back in full, one day.

So just keep doing the best you can to let the Gospel be preached and taught to the next generation. They need to know it all right from the start. They are new people and don't know all that your parent's generation knows. There is so much to tell them, so much they must learn.

And to have the ideas, the willingness, the joy, the strength, the power from Heaven and all that you need, you'll need to have that nice cosy time first with Jesus. That will make you feel all ready to go out

or work at home, and do what you must. You have to pour in first in order to be able to pour out. So, have tank up with Jesus time, really get to know Him and His love and what exactly His Words mean. Because then when it's time to get up and work hard for Him, you'll do it out of love, rather than duty. Duty tires you out, but love gives you energy. Duty makes you do it but without the right spirit of love filling you. But with the love of God in every part of you, you can shine and glow and do the jobs with feeling and inspiration.

Come up on Uncle John's lap. I love you so much. I'll hug you just like the children that came to Jesus wanted to be held and succoured, healed and comforted. They had a lot of troubles you know. It had been a very long and trial filled day for those little lads and girls, and their mother's of course too. They came to Him hungry for His blessing, and in need of special encouragement.

So your job now is to let them come to Jesus; to show love to the least as well as the greatest.

Want to hear a story, while you sit here on Uncle John's big lap? I think it's big enough to fit you all. Look at that. Now, the other day—you know we still learn things up in Heaven; some of our most important things we are still learning now! We always want to learn, because that means we always get to be with the One who knows it all. Anyway, the other day I was walking through a mountain forest with the Master, and He said, while thinking about His children still on Earth, "Who is the greatest, John?"

He wasn't asking because He needed to know something, but to get me to think about something He wanted to let me in on, a secret I could be shown.

I remembered the words, "The greatest of these is God's love."

So I replied, "He that is loving, the most loving to his neighbour and fellowman; his family; and he who gives up what is special so that another can experience love?"

"Well, said," the Master replied.

We walked on, until we stopped to sit under a tree, on a Heavenly rock.

"Do you think, in all you did, you were the most loving you could be, while on Earth?" He asked.

“Lord, You know. You know how I failed in this time and again. I could do nothing of the sort. But I know I loved You with all my heart. As soon as I loved You, I knew I wanted to love You forever,” I replied.

He drew Me into an embrace. He held my head gently to His bosom, then said,

“And your love for Me changed you. It worked its way into the way you were, and created within you the Godly desire to love and to be loved; and to share this love with others, teaching them how to live also with love as their priority.”

We walked on a bit more. I thought about what He said.

I had been very strong while on Earth, a bit rough and rowdy at times. I had a strong will, and great desires. But as soon as I got to know the Master, and I loved Him more than anyone else, that love started to change me. I couldn't be loving and kind and sharing and compassionate on my own. That wasn't within my nature. But when the Lord put the love for Himself within me, it was like a seed that started to grow. It began to beautify my heart and life, and I wanted to make things nice for others with the love of Jesus.

I realised through that discussion, that the first step to pleasing God and showing love to fellow mankind is to give our hearts fully to loving Jesus with a passion, with our whole heart. Then from that seed of faith and love, can grow the beauty of love for others. We can't love, really love—that is, love unselfishly—unless the love of Christ has been imbedded in our hearts first of all.

Let me pray for you now.

“Jesus, my Lord, my Master, my King, I want these children to be blessed in Your arms. I bring them to you in prayer. Please help them to know that You are there, You are holding them, and that You love them so very much. And help the love that they have for you to grow into a big, huge tree that bears wonderful fruit; the loving fruits of Your Spirit in their lives and in the lives of others that they influence.”

A big hug! Your Uncle John loves you! Please share this love with each other. I can't be there yet, but you are with each other. Please share my love with one another, okay? I love you.

PRAISE

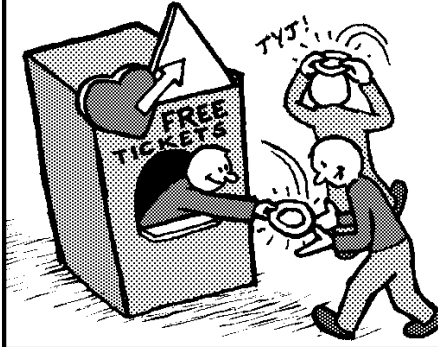
Thank You that You're so understanding and so comforting. You make me feel secure, and reassure me that everything's going to be okay because it's all in Your care, and under Your control. Everything that I give to You, You take care of. So please help me to give it all to You.

Thank You that I don't have to earn Your love. Thank You so much that it's a free gift. You love me no matter what I do or what I have done or what I will do in the future.

Circumstances, conditions and events don't mean anything when it comes to Your feelings for me. You don't base Your feelings for me on those things. Your love for me is unconditional; knowing that makes me love You all the more.

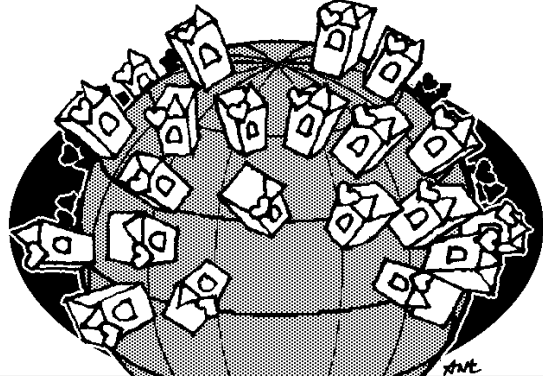
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Heaven & Cell

WE WANT TO DO MORE THAN JUST WIN THEIR SOUL AND GIVE THEM A FREE TICKET TO HEAVEN.



WE WANT TO WIN THEM IN SPIRIT, IN MIND, AND IN BODY, RIGHT HERE ON EARTH,

SO THAT THEY CAN THEN HELP OTHERS TO GET THEIR FREE TICKETS!



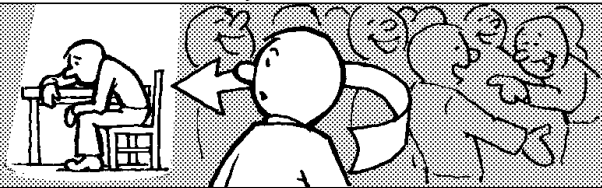
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HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED IF THERE MIGHT BE A VAST MECHANISM OR TEAM OF STAGE HANDS BEHIND THE SCENES OF EVERYDAY LIFE, WHO MOVE THINGS AROUND, LAY THE GROUNDWORK, SET THE STAGE,



AND ADJUST THE LIGHTING AND SOUND IN ORDER TO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN IN A CERTAIN WAY?



HAVEN'T YOU SOMETIMES FELT AS IF YOU WERE IN A MOVIE?



WELL, YOU ARE!

(SO TRY TO SMILE MORE OFTEN!)

From Jesus With Love

When men's hearts are empty, they are unhappy and unfulfilled; they desire to be happy and to satisfy the hunger that they have. They look around and they see that which is appealing in the world, and they try to fill their vacuum. But what they do not see or understand is that in order to receive the full benefit of My promises, they must fulfill their part.

But those who give their all in love for Me and yieldedness to My Spirit—laying down their lives in unselfishness—experience the true joys of My Spirit, which are beyond comparison with anything in this world. This satisfies the heart like nothing else can. It fills the need and satisfies the hunger. But the only way this comes is through full surrender and yieldedness unto Me.

Master's Arts

Prayer and Intercession—Rebuking and Fighting the enemy

The Master says:

You are not fighting through your life alone, there on this special planet revolving through space. I'm astonished how much people think that, because it isn't true. I am actively involved with so much more than mankind wishes to acknowledge, and also thinking that you are alone means you think you can survive without My daily providence. I give you your portions daily, of all that is needed to sustain life. It's just that My hand is invisible and not clearly seen in the your realm while you are on Earth. But My presence can be clearly see through the providence that I give, and the assistance that comes in a timely fashion to those who call to Me for help.

Call out when you have a need—spiritually or physically. I'll hear. And fight the enemy's temptation to swallow the lies that you are basically on a course that has been going on forever, and will continue to do so, completely unaided. That diabolical lie is so ludicrous. Where on Earth did all the stuff come from? On everything in nature there is stamped: "Made by God"—including you.

So tap into My speedy help support system with a faith filled prayer. You are on my list of "missions to support". I hear you. Please know that I am and will always be there with you. —Your God, Maker, and Eternal Provider, for you have chosen Me, too.

LAMBIBITS

(Lessons, anecdotes, messages, Bible-based beliefs, inspirational talks, and sayings.)

Don't try to figure it out yourself. Get down in prayer and get God's answers. It's God's programme, it's God's problem. They're God's problems. Remember that as well as His provision, His programme, His protection, and His prevision; that they're also His problems. So look to God for His solutions.--Amen? It's all His business. Praise God? Well, if you don't get any other point, and I don't say anything else, or if you don't get anything but that, it's worth the whole thing.

We ought to ask God to help us grow in spirit, power, anointing and leading of the Holy Ghost. We're going to have to ask God for his power!

What do you think the early church did with 3,000 new disciples in one day? They only had twelve disciples, real well--trained disciples, apostles of God, trained personally by Jesus, for a little over three years. They could have said: "For God's sake, what are we going to do with all these new disciples?--3,000 new converts today on account of this tremendous outpouring of the Holy Ghost at Pentecost and all of us have been speaking in tongues, all 120 of us up here in the upper room, and only 12 of us are really well-trained! We've got these 120 new ones that haven't been with us very long, and now we've got 3,000 more today. What are we going to do with them all? Boo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo ... Lord help us!" You can just imagine!

I presume they probably were wondering what to do. What did they do with them? Well, read it. Just read even the end of the fourth chapter: "They were all together, and they had great power, and with great power they gave witness, and they shared all things!" Just read it! (Ac.2:41-47; 4:32-37) Well, let's expect Him to work it out! We can't work it out. It's His plan, He's going to have to do it.

--Pastor David (1919-1994)

Inspiring True Stories from History: A Vision of Heaven

"I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. ... How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter." (2 Corinthians 12:2-4)

(From Stories from: Remarkable Answers to Prayer, Compiled by S.B. Shaw)

That heaven is real there can be no doubt. That others beside St. Paul have been allowed a view of Paradise, is evident from the testimony of the most reliable witnesses, such as Dr. Tennent, of New Jersey, Dr. Coke, and many others. One of the most interesting and touching incidents of this character is related by Rev. James B. Finley, in his "Autobiography." It occurred in 1842, when he was presiding elder of the Lebanon District, Ohio Conference.

He tells us that he was "winding up the labours of a very toilsome year. I had scarcely finished my work till I was most violently attacked with bilious fever, and it was with great difficulty I reached my home." He sank rapidly. The best medical skill failed to arrest the disease, and life was utterly despaired of.

"On the seventh night," he says, "in a state of entire insensibility to all around me, when the last ray of hope had departed, and my weeping family and friends were standing around my couch, waiting to see me breathe my last, it seemed to me that a heavenly visitant entered my room. It came to my side, and in the softest and most silvery tones, which fell like rich music on my ear, it said: 'I have come to conduct you to another state and place of existence.'

"In an instant I seemed to rise, and gently borne by my angel guide, I floated out upon the ambient air. Soon earth was lost in the distance, and around us on every side were worlds of light and glory. On, on, away, away, from world to luminous worlds afar, we sped with the velocity of thought.

At length we reached the gates of Paradise; and oh, the transporting scenes that fell upon my vision, as the emerald portals, wide and high, rolled back upon their golden hinges! Then in its fullest extent, did O realize the invocation of the poet:

"'Burst, ye emerald gates, and bring
To my raptured vision,
All the ecstatic joys that spring
Round the bright Elysian.'

"Language, however, is inadequate to describe what then, with unveiled eyes, I saw. The vision is indelibly pictured on my heart. Before me, spread out in beauty, was a broad sheet of water, clear as crystal, not a single ripple on its surface, and its purity and clearness indescribable.

"While I stood gazing with joy and rapture at the scene, a convoy of angels was seen floating in the pure ether of that world. They all had long wings, and although they went with the greatest rapidity, yet their wings were folded close to their sides. While gazing, I asked my guide who these were, and what their mission.

“To this he responded:

”They are angels, dispatched to the world from whence you came, on an errand of mercy.’

“I could hear strains of the most entrancing melodies all around me, but no one was discoverable but my guide. At length I said: "Will it be possible for me to have a sight of some of the just made perfect in glory?"

“Just then there came before us three persons; one had the appearance of a male, the other of a female and the third an infant. The appearance of the first two was somewhat similar to the angels I saw, with the exception that they had crowns upon their heads of the purest yellow, and harps in their hands. Their robes, which were full and flowing, were of the purest white. Their countenances were lighted up with heavenly radiance, and they smiled upon me with ineffable sweetness.

"There was nothing with which the blessed babe could be compared. Its wings, which were the most beautiful, were tinged with all the colours of the rainbow. Its dress seemed to be of the whitest silk, covered with the softest white down. The driven snow could not exceed it for whiteness or purity. Its face was all-radiant with glory; its very smile now plays around my heart. I gazed and gazed with wonder upon this heavenly child.

“At length I said: If I have to return to earth, from whence I came, I should love to take this child with me, and show it to the weeping mothers' of earth. Methinks when they see it, they will never shed another tear over their children when they die.’

“So anxious was I to carry out the desire of my heart, that I made a grasp at the bright and beautiful one, desiring to clasp it in my arms; but it eluded my grasp and plunged into the river of life. Soon it rose up from the water; and, as the drops fell from its expanding wings, they seemed like diamonds, so brightly did they sparkle. Directing its course to the other shore, it flew up to one of the topmost branches of one of life's fair trees.

“With a look of most seraphic sweetness it gazed upon me, and then commenced singing in heaven's own strain: To Him that hath loved me, and washed me from my sins in His own blood, to Him be glory, both now and forever. Amen.’

"At that moment, the power of the eternal God came upon me, and I began to shout; and clapping my hands, I sprang from my bed, and was healed as instantly as the lame man in the beautiful porch of the temple, who went walking, and leaping, and praising God.’ Overwhelmed with the glory I saw and felt, I could not cease praising God.

"The next Sabbath, I went to camp-meeting, filled with the love and power of God. There I told the listening thousands what I saw and felt, and what God had done for me; and loud were the shouts of glory that reverberated through the forest."

This is a most remarkable case. Father Adams, a member of the Ohio Conference, now residing at Orange, South Carolina, told us that he was present at the camp-meeting, and heard Mr. Finley relate the circumstances, when such power fell on the people that not less than five hundred sinners were crying to God for mercy, while the saints of God shouted for joy.

The healing was divine--done by the power of God.

The man was made whole in a moment, after all hope of life had fled. -- Christian Witness.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO BE YOUR FRIEND JUST SAY SO AND I'LL GLADLY ACCEPT YOUR INVITATION! YOU COULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE:

"JESUS, I'D LIKE YOU TO HANG WITH ME. PLEASE COME INTO MY HEART AND LIFE AND JOIN WITH ME IN THE THINGS I DO. I NEED A "FOREVER" FRIEND WHO WILL STICK WITH ME AND HELP ME THROUGH ANY BAD TIMES, AND WHO I CAN SHARE ALL THE GOOD TIMES WITH, BOTH HERE AND NOW, AND ALSO FOREVER IN HEAVEN! THANK YOU!"
 --THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME! I PROMISE YOU THAT I'LL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR YOU!

THERE'S A TIME TO WORK AND A TIME TO PLAY; BOTH ARE NEEDED. IF YOU INCLUDE ME IN ON WHAT YOU'RE DOING--AND YOU CAN DO THAT BY REMEMBERING I'M THERE, AND ASKING ME TO KEEP YOU COMPANY AND HELP YOU HAVE A GOOD TIME--I'LL MAKE SURE YOU REALLY ENJOY YOURSELF!

THERE'S A SPECIAL FEELING OF HAPPINESS THAT COMES YOUR WAY WHEN I'M SOMEHOW A PART OF WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING.--THINGS WILL JUST SEEM "RIGHT" AND THE WAY THEY OUGHT TO BE.



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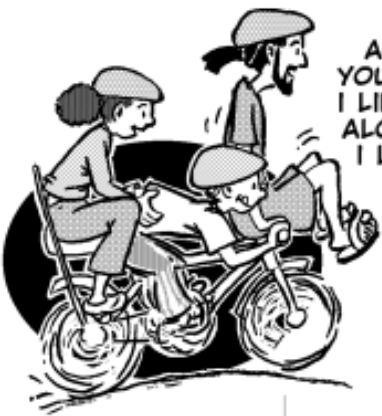


I LOVE TO SEE YOU HAVE FUN AND ENJOY YOURSELF!

I LOVE TO SEE YOU CUT LOOSE AND LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL, LAUGHING, SMILING, AND ENJOYING EVERYTHING I'VE GIVEN YOU. LIFE WASN'T MEANT TO BE DULL AND DRY AND BORING.



I CREATED EVERYTHING FOR YOUR PLEASURE: FOOD, MUSIC, GAMES AND SPORTS, DANCING AND SINGING. IN FACT, I CREATED THE WHOLE WORLD FOR YOU TO ENJOY! IT MAKES ME HAPPY WHEN I SEE THAT YOU'RE HAPPY.



I LIKE BEING WITH YOU, AND I LIKE TO BE A PART OF WHAT YOU'RE DOING. I'M FAR FROM BORING. I LIKE TO JOIN IN ON THE FUN AND GO ALONG WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO. I LIKE TO BE WITH YOU ALL THE TIME --WHILE YOU'RE WORKING, AND WHILE YOU'RE PLAYING.



BUT I'M NOT A "PUSHY" KIND OF FRIEND THAT BUTTS IN WHERE I'M NOT WANTED!--I'LL WAIT FOR YOUR INVITATION TO JOIN YOU!

Thoughts and True Stories

Henry J. Ellsworth, commissioner of the U.S. Patent Office, assured people that his resignation was really of no great concern, "Mankind," he declared, "has already achieved all of which it is capable. There would be no more inventions requiring patents."

The year was 1844--before the steamboat, the telegraph cable under the ocean, the electric light, the telephone, and a host of other inventions that came along during the next half century.

We are all earthlings, but only those who reject Christ are worldlings.

Anecdotes from Dwight L. Moody

Suppose I say to my boy, "Willie, I want you to go out and bring me a glass of water." He says he doesn't want to go. "I didn't ask you whether you wanted to go or not, Willie; I told you to go." "But I don't want to go," he says. "I tell you, you must go and get me a glass of water." He does not like to go. But he knows I am very fond of grapes, and he is very fond of them himself, so he goes out, and someone gives him a beautiful cluster of grapes. He comes in and says, "Here, papa, here is beautiful cluster of grapes for you." "But what about the water?" "Won't the grapes be acceptable, papa?" "No, my boy, the grapes are not acceptable; I won't take them; I want you to get me a glass or water." The little fellow doesn't want to get the water, but he goes out, and this time someone gives him an orange. He brings it in and places it before me. "Is that acceptable?" he asks. "No, no, no!" I say; "I want nothing but water; you cannot do anything to please me until you get the water." And so, my friends, to please God you must first obey Him.

Stories from: Remarkable Answers to Prayer (Compiled by S.B. Shaw)

Not long ago I stood by the deathbed of a little girl.

From her birth she had been afraid of death. Every fiber of her body and soul recoiled from the thought of it. "Don't let me die," she said; "don't let me die. Hold me fast."

"Oh, I can't go!"

"Jennie," I said, "you have two little brothers in the other world, and there are thousands of tender-hearted people over there, who will love you and take care of you."

But she cried out again despairingly, "Don't let me go; they are strangers over there." She was a little country girl, strong limbed, fleet of foot, tanned in the face; she was raised on the frontier, the fields were her home. In vain we tried to reconcile her to the death that was inevitable.

"Hold me fast," she cried; "don't let me go." But even as she was pleading, her little hands relaxed their clinging hold from my waist, and lifted themselves eagerly aloft; lifted themselves with such straining effort, that they lifted the wasted little body from its reclining position among the pillows. Her face was turned upward, but it was her eyes that told the story. They were filled with the light of Divine recognition. They saw something plainly that we could not see and they grew brighter and brighter, and her little hand quivered in eagerness to go, where strange portals had opened upon her astonished vision.

But even in that supreme moment she did not forget to leave a word of comfort for those who would gladly have died in her place: "Mamma," she was saying, "Mamma, they are not strangers. I'm not afraid." And every instant the light burned more gloriously in her blue eyes, till at last it seemed as if her soul leaped forth upon its radiant waves; and in that moment her trembling form relapsed among its pillows, and she was gone--Chicago Woman's World.

