

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED

I AM PART OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED. I AM FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST. THE DIE HAS BEEN CAST. I'VE STEPPED OVER THE LINE. THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE. I'M A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST. I WON'T LOOK BACK, LET UP, SLOW DOWN, BACK AWAY, OR BE STILL. MY PAST IS REDEEMED, MY PRESENT MAKES SENSE, AND MY FUTURE IS SECURE. I AM FINISHED AND DONE WITH LOW LIVING, SIGHT WALKING, SMALL PLANNING, SMOOTH KNEES, COLORLESS DREAMS, TAMED VISIONS, MUNDANE TALKING, CHINTZY GIVING AND DWARFED GOALS.

I NO LONGER NEED PREEMINENCE, PROSPERITY, POSITION, PROMOTIONS, PLAUDITS, OR POPULARITY. I DON'T HAVE TO BE RIGHT, TOPS, RECOGNIZED, PRAISED, REGARDED OR REWARDED. I LIVE BY HIS PRESENCE, LEARN BY FAITH, LIFT BY PRAYER, LABOUR BY POWER.

MY PACE IS SET, MY GAIT IS FAST, MY HOME HEAVEN, MY ROAD NARROW, MY WAY IS ROUGH, COMPANIONS FEW, MY GOD IS RELIABLE, MY MISSION CLEAR. I CANNOT BE BOUGHT, COMPROMISED, DETOURED, LURED AWAY, TURNED BACK, DELUDED OR DELAYED. I WILL NOT FLINCH IN THE FACE OF SACRIFICE, HESITATE IN THE PRESENCE OF ADVERSITY, NEGOTIATE AT THE TABLE OF THE ENEMY, PONDER AT THE POOL OF POPULARITY, OR MEANDER IN THE MAZE OF MEDIOCRITY.

I WON'T GIVE UP, SHUT UP, BACK UP OR LET UP UNTIL I'VE PREACHED UP, PRAYED UP, PAID UP, STORED UP AND STAYED UP FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST. I'M A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST. I MUST GO UNTIL HE COMES, GIVE TILL I DROP, PREACH TILL ALL KNOW.

AND WHEN HE COMES, HE'LL HAVE NO PROBLEM RECOGNIZING US FOR OUR BANNER WILL BE PLAIN!

1980: BY A MARTYRED ZIMBABWEAN PASTOR

"A man is no fool to give up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." James Elliot and 4 friends, missionaries to the Auca Indians of Ecuador, were martyred January 8, 1956. Their widows continued to make peaceful contact with the Indians and eventually won the tribe to the Lord. They died that others might live.

But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Then delivered he (Pilate) him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and

led him away. And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst [John 19:15 pt., 16-18].

As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men [Isaiah 52:14]. Jesus' appearance was not 'human,' so brutal was the treatment He received prior to, and at His crucifixion described in Mt. 26:67-68; 27:26-30. **Jesus set the Example!**

"No church or movement can survive unless it is ready to be crucified." *Bishop of Winchester*

Listen to Ignatius shouting as the lion's teeth tear his flesh, "Now I begin to be a Christian!"

And they overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death [Revelation 12:11].

Go to the early grave of David Brainerd, of whose work nothing remained but the dear memory, and a few score of swarthy American Indian converts. Jonathan Edwards, who had hoped to call him his son in law, gathered up the memorials of his life in a little book, and the little book took wings and flew beyond the sea, and alighted on the table of a Cambridge student, Henry Martyn. Poor Martyn! Why should he throw himself away, with all his scholarship, his genius, his opportunities! What had he accomplished when he turned homeward from "India's coral strand," broken in health, and dragged himself northward as far as that dreary khan (Asiatic state) at Tocat by the Black Sea, where he crouched under the piled-up saddles, to cool his burning fever against the earth, and died there alone?

To what purpose was this waste? Out of that grave of 29-year-old Brainerd, and the lonely grave of Martyn far away by the splashing of the Euxine Sea, has sprung the noble army of modern missionaries.

And Jesus saith unto him, the foxes have holes, and The birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head [Matthew 8:20].

And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me, And he arose, and followed him [Matthew 9:9]. Now as he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him [Mark 1:16-18].

The men who have done the most for God in this world have been early upon their knees. John Wesley came out from his seclusion to change the face of England. Adoniram Judson won Burma for Christ through unwearied prayer. John Welsh spent 8 hours daily in prayer equipping and arming himself to suffer.

Men have had visions of God from Bible times. William Carey saw God, and left his shoemaker's bench and went to India to become "the father of modern missions." Dr. David Livingstone saw God, and left all to follow Him through the jungles of dark Africa, after his missionary course was run to die of fever in the centre of that unexplored continent.

Dr. Hudson Taylor heard the "still small voice," as he walked by the seashore one Sunday morning. He evangelized, for the first time, all of the provinces of Inland China between 1860 and 1905. He died in that country of 400 million souls and was buried beside his wife and several of his children, offered there upon the sacrifice and service of His blessed Saviour. He used his medical expertise, but only to further the gospel which was his priority and passion. He said, "Every major work of God is always, IMPOSSIBLE – DIFFICULT – DONE!" General William Booth said, "God loves with a special love the man who has a passion for the impossible."

But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he

will send forth labourers into his harvest [Matthew 9:36-38]. He added, "The Lord is my shepherd, on Sunday, on Monday, and through every day of the week; in January, in December, and every month of the year; at home, and in China; in peace, and in war; in abundance, and in poverty."

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before me Father which is in heaven [Matthew 10:32-33].

"In fierce storms," said an old seaman, "we must do one thing; there is only one way: we must put the ship in a certain position and keep her there." In the storms of life, Christian, you must stay upon the Lord; and come what may – winds, waves, cross-seas, thunder, lightning, frowning rocks, roaring breakers – no matter what, you must lash yourself to the helm, and hold fast your confidence in God's faithfulness, His promises and His everlasting love in Christ Jesus [Romans 8:34-39]. God spoke to George Mueller, and he became the modern apostle of faith. "The only way," replied the patriarch of faith, "to learn strong faith is to endure great trials. I have learned my faith by standing firm amid severe testings (George Mueller)". *The time to trust is when all else fails.*

Looking back over the Welsh Revival about 1904, Seth Joshua wrote: "The secret of the Lord was with many before the blessing came. I know a man, who, for five years was carried out by the Spirit, and made to weep and pray along the banks of a Welsh river. At last the travail ceased, and calm expectation followed the soul pangs. *He lived to see the answer of his heart cries to the Lord.* He was in the services where the historical events took place.

The old man told Dr. Stone of Robert Murray McCheyne, "Sit there..Now put your elbows on the table..Now bow your head upon your hands..Now let the tears flow." He took him to the pulpit and did exactly the same and said with tearful eyes in conclusion; "He called down the power of God upon Scotland, and it is with us still." Where are the

McCheynes today? God does not change but men have changed.

Luther preached the doctrine of Atoning Blood to slumbering Europe, and Europe awoke from the dead. Cowper sang of it among the water-lilies of the Ouse...*There is a Fountain Filled with Blood*. John Bunyan made the Cross the starting-point to the Celestial City. Napoleon, after conquering almost the whole of Europe, put his finger on the red spot on the map representing the British Isles, and said, "Were it not for that red spot, I'd conquer the world!" *Thank God for the King James Bible!*

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God [I Corinthians 1:18].

A Moravian missionary told the following story: "When you and your wife came here we determined to kill you as we did the missionaries twenty years ago. Night after night we came, but *there always stood around your house a double row of watchmen with glittering weapons, and we dared not come near*. At last we hired a professional assassin, who said he feared neither God nor the devil. Last night he came to your home, brandishing his spear. *There stood the shining watchmen*, and the killer fled in terror. So we have given up our purpose to kill you, but tell us, *who are these watchmen?* The missionary opened his Bible and read to him, *The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them* [Psalm 34:7].

God cannot help us until we stop running away. We must be willing to stand somewhere and trust Him. He has reinforcements to send, but somebody must be there to meet them when they come. Deep indeed is the world's debt to people who would not quit.

"Felt much turmoil of spirit in prospect of having all my plans for the welfare of this great region (central Africa) and this teeming population, knocked on the head by savages tomorrow. Should such a man as I flee? Nay, verily, I shall take observations for latitude and longitude tonight, though they may be

my last. I feel quite calm now" (David Livingstone's diary).

During the terrible days of the Boxer uprising in China, as one report followed another of mission stations destroyed and missionaries massacred, Hudson Taylor sat quietly at his desk singing softly the hymn he loved so dearly;

*"Jesus, I am resting, resting,
In the joy of what thou art."*

An American Consul General in China once said to Matthew Culbertson, "You might have been a Major-General if you had stayed at home." "No, he said, *I do not regret it. The privilege of preaching the Gospel to four hundred millions of one's fellow creatures is the greatest privilege any man can have on earth.*" He had found his life!

*"From the desire of being great, Lord deliver us!"
(A Moravian prayer)*

An old woman praying with tears and worn hands over a wash-board in a room of poverty – for her son John. Praying always, that her son might be of service for God. She believed in the power of prayer and in the salvation of her wicked son, John Newton, profligate mariner and slave-trader. Drunken John became the sailor-preacher through "Amazing Grace." He led Thomas Scott to Christ-who, in turn, through his voice and pen brought thousands to the Saviour. One of those was William Cowper, a dyspeptic, melancholy young man. He wrote, "*There is a Fountain filled with Blood,*" through which countless thousands were touched and saved. This hymn brought William Wilberforce to Christ. He became the great statesman who brought an end to slavery in Britain. He led Legh Richmond, an Anglican clergyman in the Channel Islands, to the Lord. Richmond's book, "*The Dairyman's Daughter,*" was translated into 40 languages, and thousands more were saved. All because of a poor, grey-haired praying mother!

In the summer of 1853, the land was scorched and dry. The sky was clear. Finney was praying for rain at the Oberlin church. He spoke of the suffering of man and beast, and crops that were in dire

condition. He concluded, "O Lord, *send us rain, and send it now!* This is an easy thing for Thee to do. *Send it now*, Lord, for Christ's sake." In a few minutes he had to cease preaching; his voice could not be heard for the roar and rattle of the rain (*Life of Finney*).

The Swedish Nightingale, Jenny Lind, gave up her lucrative career in opera at the height of her success. A friend found her at the sea side sitting and asked her, "Madame Goldschmidt, how is it that you abandoned the stage at the very height of your success?" "When every day," was the quiet answer, "it made me think less of this (laying her finger on her Bible) and nothing at all of that (pointing to the sunset), what else could I do?"

May I not covet the world's greatness! It will cost me the crown of life!

At least a thousand of God's saints served as living torches to illuminate the darkness of Nero's gardens, wrapped in garments steeped in pitch. "Every finger was a candle." Pointed heavenward! Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you [I Peter 4:12]:

When Samuel Rutherford lay in Aberdeen prison, he used to write at the top of his letters, "*God's Palace, Aberdeen.*" Madam Guyon, imprisoned, wrote, "*It seems as though I were a little bird whom the Lord has placed in a cage, and that I have nothing now to do but sing.*" John Bunyan, in Bedford Jail for 11 years writes "*The Pilgrim's Progress.*" "Here Jesus Christ also was never more real and apparent than now; here I have seen and felt him indeed."

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. [II Timothy 3:12]. *For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day* [II Timothy 1:12].

*Your church info here
"The church that cares for your soul"*

THE CHRISTIAN



Lions and Christian martyrs in Imperial Rome

And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch (Syria) [Acts 11:26 pt.]. There is a modern misconception of what it means to be a Christian, even among those who consider themselves to be Bible-believing Christians. This tract is written to encourage those of us who profess to be Christians to examine our lives more closely.

And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul [Luke 9:23; Mark 8:34pt.-37]?

The condition of the church before the Lord's return is as follows: *Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh shall he find faith on the earth* [Luke 18:8b]? *I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;* [Revelation 3:17b-d]. How the professing church has departed from the divine reality of ministry! Where are the Pauls, the Gideons, and the Joshuas? Where are the deep heart-searchings and profound soul exercises which have characterized Christ's servants in other days? *Flippant (superficial), worldly, shallow, empty, self-sufficient and self-indulgent are we!*

Thank God there are still exceptions as you will read in the following testimony. Will you be one???

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both body and soul in hell [Mat. 10:28].

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain [Philippians 1:21]. "It is GOOD to be saved!"