

EMMANUEL
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The Christian Informer

Getting Rid Of FEAR

MOST MEN are afraid of fear. They will admit to almost anything rather than to a lack of courage; they will go to almost any lengths to keep others from knowing they are scared; they will put up fantastic bluffs to create the illusion of their own bravery. By turns they will give the impression of being strong and silent, loud and dictatorial, stubborn and abusive, profane and tough, hard-drinking and two-fisted—but this is nothing but male showmanship, a false front put up to camouflage the fear that is within.

What are results of fear?

In the process of hiding his fears from his fellows, a man all too often practices his bravery and bullying tactics on underlings, lesser associates, and members of his own family. When someone stronger or more powerful than he is the oppressor, he fumes inside, hides his feelings, and remains silent. Then when he gets home he explodes and abuses his wife and children.

Fear itself leads to hate and its by-products of jealousy, resentment, anger, revenge, and self-pity. These unwholesome emotional states cause the body's machinery to break down and since the origin of the trouble is beyond the reach of medication and surgery, hospital treatments give only temporary relief. Before long the same old fear is back again at work, poisoning and destroying the whole organism.

On a national scale, fear prepares the way for industrial strife and war, for fear is contagious, capable of plunging a whole country into panic and disaster. It is not too much to say that most of our personal and collective troubles originate in our fears.

Man's fear, together with his fear of fear itself, is rooted in his pride. In this he has much in common with the peacock, for he loves to strut and spread himself lest any one suspect that he might be a timid, scrawny bird underneath. But let a man realize how weak and frail he really is—let him realize that all the human strength and self-confidence in the world are not enough to see him through situations that arise every day—and in his growing humility his fears will gradually diminish.

This is because to be humble is to recognize that all strength comes not from the self, but from God. Man of himself cannot live for a split second without God's sustaining energy within his body and throughout the universe. Man himself soon comes to the end of his own resources of energy, reason, and instinct; but God has the power to deal with anything. When, therefore,



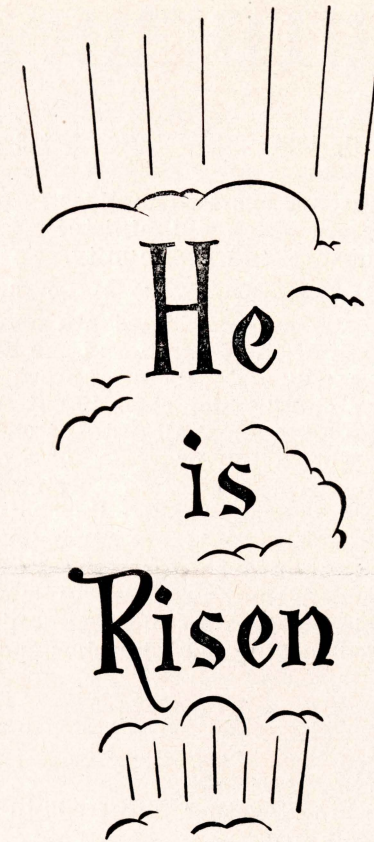
a man realizes that apart from God he is nothing, when he knows that "in Him we live, and move, and have our being," and when he is confident that God can do all things, fear has begun to loosen its grip upon him.

Fear is not only diminished, it is completely destroyed as long as we stay close to God. "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear." (I John 4:18). This means that when we believe enough in God we experience the love that frees us from fear. All other techniques, such as psychological or psychiatric treatments, do not finally rid us of fear because they do not attack it at the source. They merely try to build up our self-confidence when what we actually need is to be put in contact with the divine Generating Plant of all power, that is, the boundless love of God.

People usually hate and attack because they are afraid. Remove the fear and you dispel the tendency to fight.

A member of the faculty of the University of Minnesota believed that snakes struck only through fear, and that if fear were removed they would become gentle. With unheard of patience she worked with snakes through long months in order to prove her theory. Finally she was successful.

The phrase "perfect love casteth out fear" does not mean that we must be perfect and flawless before we can know the love of God. On the contrary, we are all sinners, weak and stumbling, and God knows our imperfections even better than we do. However, God's love—not ours—is perfect, capable of accomplishing all things. No matter how sinful we have been, we need only to repent, to desire to do better, and to reach toward that divine love. And by doing that, we come to discover that perfect love of God that casts out fear.



What a glorious day that was when Jesus stepped forth from the tomb - a risen Christ, a living Saviour! "Because I live," He said, "ye shall live also." John 14:19. He went into the grave to overcome death for us and to make certain to us the gift of eternal life.

He fulfilled the many prophecies in the Old Testament, as well as His own, regarding His earthly life, and when the moment came for Him to step out of the tomb, He did so as the mighty Conqueror of death. The grave could not detain Him longer than the predicted time, and no other grave can now remain closed forever. "Behold, I am alive for evermore; . . . and have the keys . . . of death." Revelation 1:18.

Only the risen and living Christ can give us a complete gospel. The teaching of the entire New Testament is based upon these facts - that Jesus Christ was the Son of God; that He took upon Himself the form of humanity; that He died on the cross for our sins; that He rose again and ascended into heaven; that He is now acting as our Mediator and Interces-

sor before the Father; that by the Holy Spirit He comes into believing hearts; and that He will come again to gather His people out of every land and race, and establish His kingdom of everlasting peace and righteousness in the earth made new, which is described in the book of Revelation, chapters 21 and 22.

Only when we recognize Christ as the risen Lord, the ever-living One, has our faith anything to which it can anchor. We must have more than a mere system of belief, more than doctrine and ceremony; we must have contact with the living Christ if we are to receive everlasting life.

Only the risen and living Christ can give us hope for a future life. We may look forward with assurance to a glorious resurrection because of His wonderful promise: "Because I live, ye shall live also." His own resurrection is the infallible proof that we shall have a resurrection.

When Christ came forth from the grave, His reappearance in the flesh as a man was nothing less than God's pledge that a similar resurrection will

take place for all who shall be found united to Him who suffered in their stead. "Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept." 1 Corinthians 15:20.

The Christian hope of eternal life in the earth made new is the most certain of all human hopes. In the not-distant future it will be fully realized. It is the teaching of the word of God, and that word can never fail. The utterances of the living Christ are not meaningless and empty platitudes such as sinful men employ. His words are life-giving words. When He gives the word for the graves to open at His second coming, they will open! Because Christ arose from the grave, His people shall also arise.

There may still be for each of us many anxieties, sorrows, and disappointments in the days ahead; for God does not promise tranquility here. Yet our days may be brightened by His comforting presence and by the glad hope of the resurrection which will usher in everlasting joy. "I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you."

Easter is a triumph of life over death, of spirit over matter, of love over hate, of service over greed, of joy over sorrow. The Easter season reminds us anew of our religious duty. It means New Life for Jesus, for nature, for the departed. It should mean New Life within your heart,

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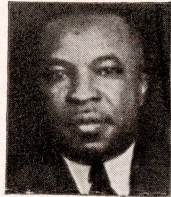
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THE CHRISTIAN INFORMER

Baltimore, Maryland

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Ye should earnestly contend for the faith - Jude verse 3.

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W. H. (Baltimore) Taylor, Editor
Office - Emmanuel Building, 1702 Madison Ave.,
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A NATIONAL JOURNAL
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If you saw it in the Christian Informer it must be true.

Editorial

Keep The Church of Christ Open

The Church of Christ finds itself in increasing competition with the world on the one day of the week on which it was born, and the one day which it has uniquely nurtured as a day for physical rest and spiritual worship and service. Commercialized amusements, sports, and even business, are continuously seeking to make further inroads on the domain of the Lord's Day. We need not be horrified by the fact that the unbelieving world uses the day for other than religious purposes. We cannot expect godless people to live by the principles and standards of Christians. But we do need to be disturbed and concerned by the fact that members in our Churches, who have committed their lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, fall so far short of using the day to His glory.

Very few things are more heartbreaking to the earnest Christian than the practice of sharply curtailing the public worship of the Church during the summer season. Some Churches, instead of insisting on claiming the day for the Lord, have given up this fortress and citadel of Christian faith and worship, almost without protest. Another religious magazine remarked cynically in a recent issue that perhaps some ministers are not too disappointed to be relieved of the spiritual responsibilities of the summer season. Certain it is that

far too few Churches exert themselves to present a religious program which will minister effectively to their membership and community.

But it is not necessary to close our Churches on Sunday, in any season. If we are concerned with the strength of the Church and the advance of the faith we will seriously disapprove of the miserable "week-ends" which cleverly cut God out of the weekly round. Against all of this the Church should protest with a full program. The curtailment of worship services by the Church will only decrease its self-respect, weaken its own power, and feed the appetite for less worthwhile activities. Let our Churches be conscious of Christ's claims on them as Saviour and Lord, and constantly confront their membership and community with those claims. Let us keep our Churches open! Let us fill them!

Partnership

"We are working together with God" in a great eternal partnership.

Working with Christ is a great cooperative fellowship. He bids us, "Preach the good news, heal the sick, bring in the Kingdom of God." He promises that if we do our part we shall receive power from on high. He bids us carry the good news to all nations. He promises, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." What an enterprise! What a partnership is this!

But what sort of a partner am I? Honestly, in God's sight, what sort of a partner am I? Do I really do my part in this partnership, or do I leave that to others? Just what is a good partner?

Is a good partner one who spends \$2 or \$3 a week for a hair-do or for cigarettes and tobacco and is content to give 25 cents a week to the cause of Christ. What do you think?

Is a good partner one who spend \$4 or \$5 a week for movies and football and other entertainment, and puts 50c in the plate on Sunday? Is a good partner one who buys a new car every other year, and pledges \$50 or \$100 a year to the

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whole program of the Church? What do you think?

Let us face up to the implications of this partnership both in terms of service and in terms of the money that we give to the Lord's work. Christ says, "Let Me see your income. If you are My partner in the most glorious enterprise the world has ever known, your love and loyalty will be shown in the percentage dedicated to Me."

The Editor's Visit To New York and New Jersey

On the third Lord's Day in January at 11:00 a. m. we preached at the great Williamsburg Christian Church of Brooklyn, N. Y., to a packed house. The pastor Elder R. W. Williams is doing a big job. They have the largest congregation of any Christian Church I know of, and you feel like you have been to church when you go there.

Thanks to them for the big offering, and to Elder Terry and wife for their kindness.

New Brunswick, New Jersey

At 3:30 we preached at the Friendship Christian Church of New Brunswick, N. J. This is a growing congregation with a growing Pastor, Elder Z. D. Johnson. They have some faithful members and will be in their new building soon. I enjoyed being with them and they will visit Baltimore soon.

We were happy to see Elder Albert Thompson and Elder S. E. Tillman of Antioch Christian Church.

The Little Girl Who Knew Too Much Bible

A little girl, being asked by a priest to attend religious instruction refused saying it was against her father's wishes.

The priest said she should obey him, not her father. "Oh! Sir! we are taught in the Bible to honor thy father and thy mother" she replied. "But you are to call me 'Father,'" was his reply. To which she replied, "No, for the Bible says, 'Call no man father upon the earth for One is your Father, which is in Heaven.'" (Matt. 23:9) The priest was not anxious to lose a religious discussion to one so young and he said, "You have no business reading the Bible." "Then why did Jesus tell me to 'Search the scriptures?'" (John 5:39) He replied by saying, "But that is only for the clergy. You understand that a little child cannot know the scriptures." "Then why," she asked, "did Paul write to Timothy: 'From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures?'"

Surely there was some way to get the best of this young upstart. Said the priest: "Timothy was being trained for a bishop and he was taught by church authorities."

"No sir," said the girl, "He was taught by his mother and grandmother. At least that's what Paul wrote". (2 Tim. 1:15) The priest turned away mumbling, "She knew enough Bible to poison a whole parish."

Thanks to Mrs. Tura T. Theobald, Ohio.

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MESSAGE

As I reminisce before Christmas this year, I ask myself of all my Christian family so dear - Is the candle of faith burning bright in our hearts tonight - And the Star of hope guiding us aright?

Have we resolved to continue following this light - As the wise men did on that eventful night? Is there love in our hearts for our brother, regardless to race, creed or color.

Can we lift up our voices and sing - Praise God for these holy things - - Christ born each day in the cradle of our hearts - Never more to depart. Did each of us ask ourself these questions. Did we search ourself in every direction, saying: Is Bethlehem Star still shining in me - Reflecting the rays of liberty and peace - - Into a world of dire despair - - With hearts too proud to offer a prayer - - Or join in with the song of sweet refrain - - As the celestial hosts did, on the night that He came.

Do the chimes of the Christ-mind ring out anew - - God's love is for all, not just a few. But - if in our hearts we do not find. - These attributes of God's love - - divine - - Let us go into our secret closet, and pray - - Asking God to show us the way. As we come out we are sure to say - "THANK GOD FOR THIS NEW-BORN DAY".

Lovingly,

(Rev.) EULAH M. SMITH
Los Angeles, California

One day in the school of adversity will teach a man more than a full term in the deceit of fortune.

Let's Co-operate

SOME PEOPLE'S religion is little more than escapism. Christ is the world's light, but there are those for whom He has become a light leading them away from social obligations. Truly to follow Him is to move right into the vortex of human sinfulness and human need.

John Milton's words should be our constant challenge: "I cannot praise a fugitive and cloistered virtue, unexercised and unbreathed, that never sallies out and seeks her adversary."

Life is a commitment; and one of the things for which we should pray for forgiveness is our lack of it. Many Christians seem to be afraid of being a disturbing influence, even though the early Church was charged with "turning the world upside down."

In His manifesto, Jesus said He was called to preach and heal and deliver. Yet, what do some of His followers do? By a false humility they excuse their own physical laziness and mental inertia, leaving the world fundamentally unchanged.

We are here to recognize deceit and denounce it, to see evil and attack it, to perceive wrongs and help remedy them. And we each have an area of influence where we can do these things, if only we would allow Christ to quicken our conscience and fill us with compassion. He said we are "salt" in vital contact with what would go rotten without it. He said we are "light" shining to dispel the darkness of evil.

Alas! We are tempted to desire to live constantly in the comfort of Christian fellowship, minimizing as much as possible our points of contact with the pagans who need the very truth we possess.

This world needs committed Christians, in business, in trade unionism, in local council affairs. Salt is no good in a barrel, and light is no good under a bushel. The world will be redeemed only by sacrificial service, and we must play our part.

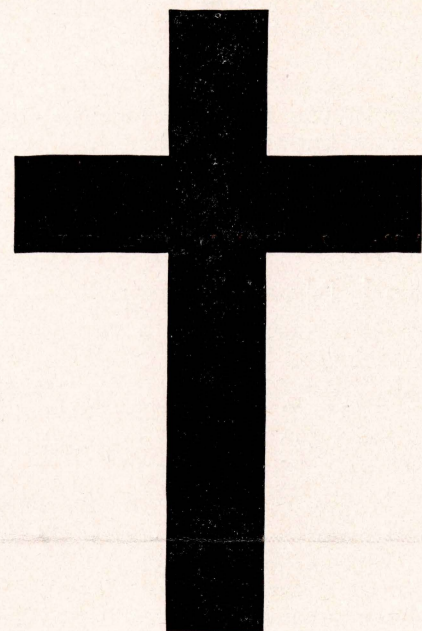
A. B. Phillips tells how he tested a group of young people by asking them to give a quick answer to the question, "Do you think God understands radar?" The answer at first was, "No!" though it seems that after a little thought they changed it to "Yes!"

Let us strengthen our faith in the God of the here and now. God has not aged. He is our contemporary. There is no modern situation that can put us beyond His help if we will but trust Him.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble," says the Psalmist. The taunts with which Elijah provoked the prophets of Baal cannot be related to our God. He is not engrossed in talking nor pursuing. Nor is our God away on a journey. Neither is He sleeping, that He needs to be wakened.

Our God is a very present help. He is willing to guide and strengthen us today. Do you need courage or deliverance? Have you any tempers that are not controlled, or are you spoiled by an unforgiving spirit? Our God is able to deliver us—if we will let Him do it.

Occasions do not make a man either strong or weak, but they show what he is.



Gifts of the Risen Christ

Difficulties and uncertainties press hard upon us all. For in addition to the inevitable sundry and manifold changes of the world, we are faced with such problems as the possibility of war, civilization in relation to atomic power, Christianity and the present state of affairs.

Everywhere in the presence of human frustration and failure, there is a longing for God's gifts of strength, peace and spiritual power.

Easter with the notes of Victory, of Joy of Eternity, meets an especially poignant need today.

But as we welcome the Risen Christ we must not forget certain values. He cannot be used for our purposes; we are to serve Him. The Resurrection demands much of us. If we be risen with Christ, we are to seek those things which are above.

Every promise of this joyous season should teach us so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Easter Day brought to the first disciples joy, but also courage, insight, vision and purpose. God grant that this Easter may bring to us these gifts of the Risen Christ.

There are two kinds of discontent in this world—the discontent that works, and the discontent that wrings its hands. The first gets what it wants, and the second loses what it has. There's no cure for the first but success; and there's no cure at all for the second.



THE WORLD IN HIS HAND

Got the world in your hand young man? You have the best part of it. Your hand is on the church door—it will open a world of love and hope and fulfillment for you, a world of goodness that you can hold on to.

There will be other doors that open on other things, plenty of them, things that won't seem fair, that will hurt, that will let you down. Hold on to the world you have. Enter it often.

Some of us have tried other doors. When we did we lost the look that is in your eyes.

Some of us have found your door and your look again after years of searching.

Hold on to the world you have young fellow. Someone who loves you put that door within your reach, someone with wisdom enough to know that you can never find a world worth clinging to outside the Church.

Come and Worship

This is a Church with open doors, open hearts, and welcoming hands. . . . A Church where fresh young lives may be won for the Master. A Church where men and women may discover meaning, where tempted souls may gain strength, and where wandering feet may be led to the Father's Home. Make your faith an active, daily part of your personal life. Go to Church regularly. Support your local Church. Find a way to give it more of your time and strength.

You Are Welcome!

Dayton, Ohio

Dear Christian Friend:

I am sending two dollars for "The Christian Informer." I don't remember when my time is out, for I sure don't want to miss The Christian Informer.

Hope everything is going fine in every way. My prayers will always be with you.

Sincerely,
Tura Theobald

—o—

Eld. W. H. (Baltimore) Taylor, Ed.

Dear Sir and Sister Taylor:

I'd certainly appreciate a good meal of trout fish. Accept this subscription. I have been sick for nearly six months. I am better now. Best wishes to Sister Taylor.

Respectfully,
T. W. Pratt

—o—

Chugiak, Alaska

Jan. 24, 1959

Dear Bro. Taylor:

In these days of religious confusion, we thank God for the few courageous leaders who continue to walk in the "Old Paths".

I always enjoy the short, pointed paragraphs you write in the "Informer".

May God continue to bless you as you stand for Him in that area.

Sincerely,
Ali B. Jarman

—o—

Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Brother Taylor:

Greetings to you and Mrs. Taylor. All of us here in the State of Kentucky are well at this time. We do hope that you are likewise.

The Christian Informer is an excellent paper. You deserve lots of credit for this fine work. Please forgive me for letting our paper date run out. Do you mind putting me back on the list and billing me for same?

Also please send me the dates of the Preaching Convention. Hope to be up that way real soon. Remember all of us in your prayers.

Yours in Christ,
Cornelius Daniels

—o—

Concord, North Carolina

Dear Bro. Taylor:

Hope this will find you all in the best of health, this leaves us well and doing fine. Glad to hear from you, and to read The Informer. You will find my subscription to the Christian Informer. I will have more time to read, since I am the Evangelist for the Tri-State Evangelistic Association for the year.

Yours in Christ,
Elder B. A. Douglass

—o—

Friendship Christian Church
New Brunswick, N. J.

Dear Elder Taylor:

In behalf of the Pastor, Elder Zelmon D. Johnson, officers and members of the Friendship Christian Church, 19 Richmond Street, New Brunswick,

N. J., I'd like to express how grateful we are to you for the wonderful sermon you delivered to us on our "Dedication Services".

It was a sermon that we will never forget, and it shall forever linger in our hearts and minds. "Highway Number 1959." You explained it in such a way that even a child could grasp it.

I can truly say that we at Friendship have certainly benefited by this great sermon.

The "parkers" have stopped parking and have made a start to stay on the right side, and that could only be on the side of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I could go on and on and yet never be able to express to you, Elder Taylor, how much we have been strengthened by that wonderful message.

We are looking forward to have you visit us again, and we visit with you and your congregation.

May God ever bless you and may you continue to carry God's Gospel wherever you may go.

In Christian Fellowship,
Lillian H. Foat, Chairman
Program Committee

—o—

IS THIS YOU?

There are many people who hold their church membership elsewhere. They give various reasons why they will not unite with the Church of Christ in the city where they live. Here are some of the reasons:

He clings to the "Old Church" because father and mother belonged there. Exactly so! Father and mother belonged there because they lived there. Why not be as sensible as they were and belong to the Church of Christ in your city? We honor father and mother by doing as they did in this respect.

He says "the old church needs me." Perhaps it does; but it does not get you. In spite of your spasmodic efforts to go back to the old church for special services and a few other times during the church year, you are not giving the old church an honest support. Pulling a church is like pulling a wagon: the farther you get away from the load, the less you pull.

He says "We have a burial lot there." It is good for you to think of the resting place of your dead. Earth holds no more sacred spots for any of us than the places where our beloved ones lie, but these departed saints will be even more sacred to those of us who enter wholeheartedly into the work of the Church of Christ in the city where you live.

He says "It costs too much." It will never cost you a penny more than you are willing to give. Your pledge to your church here or elsewhere is a matter between your own conscience and your Lord. Nobody sets any amount for you to give. Enter the church of your choice, and give what you can. The church is seeking your good, not your goods.