



## *Waldo Avenue*

### *Restoration Branch*

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## **What Must Zion do to be Saved?**

We have said that unless we are humble and full of love we cannot do this work; but brethren to be humble and full of love is simply to be in a condition not to do anything and a second part of that quotation has in almost every instance been left out, having Faith, and Hope, and Charity.

**For what is being humble and full of love unless it is vitalized by faith, faith that looks to God as the partner in and as the director of our activities, who shows us our task and gives us the courage and strength to accomplish it?**

And what is faith unless it also is to have it's handmaiden Hope? Hope that gives us the assurance of things not seen? And Charity, which is the fruitage of the Spirit of God...

We cannot be humble and full of love and be saved in Zion, unless we have vitalized that condition by also having faith, hope and charity. To be humble and full of love is but a start. With our eyes fixed on God with the goal in sight, although the whole road may be unknown, let us work together, and not fight one with another. Zion is to be redeemed. This people must accomplish it...We must become such

that the world will say: verily let us not go up against Zion for her armies are terrible in the might of the Lord.

(OGRB May, 2025 Zion Flash Card taken from: F.M. Smith, Saints Herald, Oct. 1932, Vol.70 #41).

## **Counting My Blessings**

A friend sent us via email Seph Schlueter's song Counting My Blessings.

It's a very moving song written and preformed by him. Have you ever counted your blessings? We have often sung the hymn *Count your blessings, name them one by one. Count your many blessings, see what God has done.*

In his song he says;

*God, I'm still counting my blessings  
All that You've done in my life  
The more that I look in the details  
The more of Your goodness I'll find  
Father, on this side of Heaven  
I know that I'll run out of time  
But I'll keep counting my blessings  
Knowing I can't count that high  
Oh, I can't count that high!*

Isn't that true for all of us?#

# Practicing His Presence

Published by Seedsowers Press

This rewritten book originally came from two books: one written by Brother Lawrence (Nicholas Herman) of France who died in 1691 and Frank Laubach who died in 1970. Both tell of their journey to be in continual communication with God. What I received from reading this book follows.

Often we have heard “just 10 minutes a day” sit down with the Lord and spend “just 10 minutes” with him, give him that time. Have you ever thought of how much time the disciples spent with Jesus? They had to absorb his teachings in three years. That is 168 hours a week!

If we desire communion with the Lord surely it deserves more than 10 minutes a day.

We are admonished in scripture to “*pray without ceasing*”. That’s more than 10 minutes, it’s constant, continual communication throughout our day. For me it’s hymns I sing as I take my morning walk, as I stand in the checkout line, as I wait at the post office, as I shop at the grocery.

If one isn’t used to this, here’s a way that might help:

Begin with a desire to be closer to the Lord, as a friend is close. We have friends we talk to often. He is the best one. So set apart a specific time of the day to spend with him.

Talk to Him through out the day, wherever you are. Often when I am shopping I’ll ask the Lord, is this really good for me? Should I buy this? Of course when we eat

we stop and offer prayer over our food. When we face a decision do we ask his help? When we begin our day, even before getting out of the bed I talk to the Lord about the day and thank him for his protection over night. When we go to sleep at night the last thing on our minds should be to thank him for the day and go over the days blessings.

I have found that my attitude, mental thinking, and emotional well being are much more positive when I seek to continually be in communication with the Lord.

The positives outweigh any negatives. I believe this is a beginning to Absolute Surrender. I encourage you to read [Practicing His Presence](#) if you desire a closer communion with the Lord.#

## Julie’s Testimony

One afternoon recently I was shopping for groceries and two other women were there discussing what foods were healthy. I stopped and talked with them. As they were leaving I handed one of them a scripture card. A few minutes later she returned and asked if she could ask me a question. I said she could. She told me she is looking for a church and asked where I attend. I wrote down the information for her, as well as, my name and phone number. God led me to her as I seldom shop at that store or in the afternoon. Julie Schroeder.#

***Minds are a lot like parachutes ... they function well only when open.***

# Science and Christianity

Recently Jim watched on U-Tube a debate between two scientists on the topic of Evolution. One was an evolutionist and the other a Christian. One might ask: can a scientist believe in creation? Can they believe God created by His word, all that we see around us?

Over the past month we've been reading a book published by Guidepost. Actually it's two books in one, entitled:

**A Scientific Approach to Biblical Mysteries** and **A Scientific Approach to More Biblical Mysteries** by Robert W. Fain, 1993-4.

The answer to the above question appears to be yes.

"I (R. Fain) writes: *I am convinced that what the Bible tells us is true. This book is an attempt to answer some of the questions which biblical critics have raised and to give possible scientific explanations for events which scoffers call "impossible".*

Here are some of the topics covered in these two books:

- \* Circumcision on the eighth day, why?
- \* The Jordan parted, myth or miracle?
- \* Did the walls of Jericho really fall down?
- \* The tower of Babel, what was the original language?
- \* The parting of the Exodus sea, how many were in the Exodus?
- \* Who was the eavesdropper in Gethsemane?, what were a jot and a tittle?

This is a good read.#

*I say unto you, listen to me.  
...one, As the five wise virgins did in the  
parable of the last days, Gather  
and sanctify your oil,  
before the cry at midnight.  
Prepare yourself through scripture,  
prayer, fasting,  
and humble service.*

***You must take the Holy Spirit as a guide  
in all things that you do in your life.***

## Seven Characteristics of God

Jesus said: if you know Me you know My Father (John 14:7&9), Luke 10L23)

1. Bread of life
2. Light of the world
3. Door to the sheepfold
4. Good shepherd
5. Resurrection and the life
6. The way, the truth and the life
7. Vine #

## The Sequence for the Endowment

The Communion Promise DC17:22.

1. Witness unto Thee O God, the Eternal Father that...
2. Willing to take upon them the name of Thy Son.
3. Willing to always remember Him.
4. Willing to keep His commandments...
5. That they may always have His Spirit to be with them.#

***Show me what you do with your time  
and what you do with your money  
and I'll show you who you worship.***

# Absolute Surrender

The following is taken from Doug Smith's sermon on April 27, 2025 at Outreach R.B. The sermon in its entirety may be viewed on their website. Below is a testimony which I found most inline with our topic for this year: Absolute Surrender.

***God gives us His church so we can be part of a group who are experiencing Him. From their responses, their testimonies and we come to a greater understanding of the closeness that we can never do on our own.*** Doug Smith

Nicolas was a business man, successful, had money, a shop but, he also had a problem with alcohol. He was an alcoholic. Because of the alcohol and because of other things, he and his family were estranged from each other and fighting. He felt he was disrespected and had no relationship with them. It got to the point, because of the conflict and things that were going on, Nicolas decided he was going to end his life.

He had a creative way of doing that. He decided he was going to get 10 liters of gasoline and pour it all over himself and all over his shop. He was going to burn up his business and himself at the same time. He was drunk at the time also.

He got the gasoline poured on himself and was sitting there ready to light the fire when he realized *"It's mid-afternoon, if I burn this place down it's going to burn down a lot of people around me, so I'm going to wait until night time to burn myself."*

As he waited and sat there something told him *"Don't do this, go visit your nephew, Elijah"*.

It was night time, he really felt he should go visit his nephew—who happens to be a member of the church. And so he started on his walk to Elijah's house who lived a long way away. It took Nicolas 5 days to get there. As he walked he was just sleeping wherever he could find a place to sleep. One night he fell asleep among a pile of garbage. In the morning when he woke up the garbage had been set on fire. It was burning close to his face. Fortunately he wasn't burned. After 3 days he hadn't had any food or water and he was very hungry. He saw a lady standing by a bus stop looking all around as though she might have lost something. When the bus came and took her away, he walked over to the bus stop and, sure enough, he found some shillings and was able to have some food that day.

He finally arrived at Elijah's house. Elijah's wife called Elijah and informed him his uncle was there and *"something is wrong with him"*. Elijah said *"well, go ahead and let him in, I'll be home later and we'll talk about it."* So she invited him in and he stayed there. Three days later, on Sunday, she said to him *"well, it's Sunday, you are coming to church with us today"*. That was the last place Nicolas wanted to go but, he was a guest in their home and he decided he'd go to church with them.

He went and the sermon preached touched him. Nicolas said during that sermon something happened to him.

## **Absolute Surrender** continued

He was given hope. His life was hopeless and through the words he heard that day, as he said: *"Maybe there's hope!"*

The church where he was is a little different. They don't go to church only on Sundays, they go every day. They get up early before sunrise, and go to church before they start the day. In fact, during COVID it was illegal to meet. They would go and meet at 4:30 a.m. in the morning because the police didn't wake up until 6 a.m.

So as he began to go and be a part of that body he began to see some of the love of God, the love that God had for him, despite his being a hopeless alcoholic. He realized that God loved him. He knew he needed to change and he decided that he would do this *"baptism thing"*. He would go and be baptized and he would see that God could make a new creature out of him.

And you know what? God did!

From the time he arrived at Elijah's home, he was able to be off the alcohol, and hasn't had a drink since. The Lord healed him of that addiction.

He was able to be baptized, he was attending church and the Lord began to work on his heart. He had left his family without any word. He didn't tell them where he was going, he didn't let them know he was alive, they just knew he disappeared that night. They had no idea where he was.

So, he got a job at his new place and decided to start sending his wife some

money. His wife started getting money from him. She didn't know he was alive, she didn't know where he was but he was sending some money at times.

After about 3 months we held a retreat. During the retreat we were talking about forgiveness, repentance, and reconciliation. The Lord worked on Nicolas's heart. He said: *"I've got to see if there's any chance that my wife would take me back"* We were having a communion service and Nicolas took the communion. Of course, the Lord says we are supposed to reconcile before we partake of communion. But, Nicolas told the Lord, *"Lord I'm going to do it Monday, let me take the communion today"*. So He did.

Monday came and Nicolas gave his wife a call. To his surprise and wonderment she didn't reject him. She said, *"Well, maybe"*. They began to talk. A couple of months later I (Doug) got a call from Wilson, the pastor, who said *"Doug, can you bring the land cruiser (we use it as an ambulance in the clinic) we need to take Nicolas home to his family? This is the first time he will be going back and we would like to accompany him there."* I said sure.

When we got there they asked if some of the congregation could come with us. Seventeen members of the congregation all crammed into the land cruiser and we drove to Nicolas's home and met his wife.

She was very skeptical about Nicolas. She thought she knew him pretty well. He had talked to her about meeting this Christian group and had become a follower of Christ. She didn't believe it. She didn't know about this group, what kind of weird organization is this anyway?

## **Absolute Surrender** continued

But after we had visited for the day she said, *"I didn't know what kind of people Nicolas had gotten wrapped up in. But, today when all of you came to support him as he came home I knew it was real."*

And so, Nicolas began the visit. It wasn't immediate. He visited on weekends. He came and shared with his wife and children the good news of who this God was that he had found.

As time went by he was finally able to return home, found another job, and an amazing thing happened. Because of Nicolas's testimony, because people could see what God had done in Nicolas's life, people said *"We want to be a part of that too"*. So Nicolas's neighbors began attending services. People would come in and share with them. Pretty soon there was 10 baptisms, then a month later 12 baptisms, a month later 8 baptisms. Finally Nicolas's wife asked for baptism.

She shared her testimony: *"You know I've been a liar all my life. Because, I've been a Christian and everyone kept asking me 'are you baptized?' and I was so desperately afraid of water that I said 'yes'. But I never was. Because I am afraid of going in the water."*

Even on the day of her baptism she was still afraid. As she got up (she is not a young woman, she has arthritis and has trouble with her knees and hips) she said to herself: *you know that water's going to be cold today. I'm going to go down in the water, my arthritis is going to act up. And besides that I'm so afraid of water.*

But as she came down to the water the

elder, James, greeted her and said *"Relax, it's going to be fine"*. The next thing she knew she was looking at James and said *"Is it over?"* *"Yes, you're baptized!"* As she came out of the water, far from her arthritis acting up, her arthritis was healed. She had no pain as she come up out of the water and has had no pain since.

Nicolas's family was destroyed. There was no hope. Suicide was the only answer. God healed Nicolas and God healed his family relationship and brought not only Nicolas in communion with Him but the whole family, neighbors, the whole community.#

**It's the power of Absolute Surrender!**

## **Recipes for a Healthy Church**

Published by Zion Bound Press

### **Repentance**

1. Separate yourself from sin.
2. Know that God can forgive.
3. Mix with self-forgiveness.
4. Be willing to repeat the procedure often.

### **Baptism**

1. Find one person with the desire to take upon them the name of Christ.
2. Combine with the minister with proper authority.
3. Completely immerse first ingredient.
4. Lay hands on and allow the Holy Spirit in.#