



*Waldo Avenue*  
*Restoration Branch*

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## **I Have Many Forces at Work**

Selected Writings of Elbert A. Smith  
pg. 74-75, OGRB Flashcard #159)

The Spirit has opened my vision to an extent and indicates to me that forces are at work in the world. One is the *spirit of hate*. That is the spirit which entered into Cain when he slew his brother. And many men today desire to slay their fellow men. This spirit of hate increases as it is gratified. The more it is glutted with vengeance, the greater becomes its inordinate desires for vengeance.

The other force is the *spirit of love*. It too, increases as it is gratified and becomes bigger and better upon the deeds of kindness and mercy. The apostle John most fully entered upon this spirit. He wrote these words: *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God.* (1John 4:7).

The *Spirit of God*, which bridges time, and to whom yesterday is as today, brings that injunction also to us. And it is laid upon this people: *Yea, saith the Lord, I desire many evangelists of love to preach the gospel of love not only in word but also in deed. If there is any here who have not been baptized with the Spirit of love, he*

*has not been baptized of Me, saith the Lord.* (an evangelizer is one who instructs in the gospel - Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 1936)#

## **Women's Meeting Notes From July 11th**

The women met at Freddie and Erin Fitch's home for our meeting. We took prayer requests and discussed chapter six about Mary in the book Twelve Extraordinary Women of the Bible.

There will be a memorial service for John Ely on July 20 at 2 p.m. held at Waldo but there will not be a dinner.

Don't forget: we are continually collecting non-perishable food items - snacks, canned veggies, etc. for Graceland University's Nurses Pantry. There is a donation box in the foyer. Bring your unexpired food items for this worthy cause.

Donations are also welcome for the Unity Center. Desperately needed are men's jeans/slacks sizes 36 and under and men's summer short sleeved Tee-Shirts in all sizes.

No August women's meeting.#

***We don't have to know and understand  
God to experience Him.***

## Want to Have More Gratitude in Your Attitude? Here are 30 Ways in 30 Days

1. Reset your mind-set. Wake and remind yourself: *This is the day the Lord hath made; I will rejoice and be glad in it.*
2. How great it is that we live in a country of free speech where we can stand up and be counted, do it.
3. Pretend you are a two-year-old. Look, there's a ladybug! Hey, I have toes! Roll on the rug. *To be awake, aware, and alert are the beginning, middle and end of gratitude* says Benedictine monk David Steindl-Rast.
4. Gratitude Positioning System - set up your own reference points for spiritual navigation, those "wow" moments. Stick reminders on your fridge, your dashboard, your computer monitor. I carry a small rock that's engraved **REJOICE**.
5. Walk swinging your arms, notice how wondrously you are made, how when you move your energy changes. Exult in exercise.
6. Rake leaves into big piles so kids can dive in. savor a crisp apple and let the juice run down your chin.
7. Gratitude isn't an escape from reality and tough times. Give thanks for the strength and wisdom you have gained through struggle and challenge.
8. If the only prayer you ever say in your life is *Thank you*, that would be sufficient.
9. Don't stop changing. Sign up for a class, rearrange the living room, try new foods. Thank God for the chance to do something new. Change is good.
10. Be graceful. Say a prayer before you shop for groceries, pick up the children from practice, or any activity. Your urge to praise will surge.
11. Take note of people who deserve recognition, the cashier for being on her feet all day, the customer service rep. for helping you with a bill. Let them know you appreciate them.
12. Seek son-light. The spiritual kind. Take in the view, talk to someone inspiring, read a poem that makes your heart sing. Live!
13. Be a drama queen. Just for a day make melodramatic statements. Turn little things into a big deal. Psychologists call this *paradoxical intention*: - deliberately overdoing annoying behavior you would like to get rid of.
14. Short and sweet. Send a thank-you postcard - a word of kindness.
15. Get it write. Keep a *grateful journal*.
16. Whee! Do something out of the ordinary that brings joy into your life.
17. Pray for others. Pray for everyone you can think of by name. lifting up others is in itself uplifting.
18. Laugh. Clip a story or headline or photo that makes you giggle. Humor is the great equalizer.
19. Bless you! Look into your own eyes in the mirror and say: *you are trying hard at (fill in the blank). Thank you.* Or sit down and write a list of what you appreciate about yourself. It's not being conceited to give yourself a compliment.
20. It's contagious. Spread your positive attitude. Today don't do, say or even think anything negative.
21. Bloom: take flowers or plants to work, a nursing home, school bus, any place you've found support.

***Have you experienced love, justice, peace?  
If you have you've experienced God.***

Continued

# The Great Distraction



The adversary has done a great job of distracting us, the church and world wide.

People are glued to their phones, screens, technology; completely absorbed in things that do not matter - are not of eternal value. Families sit together but do not talk to one another. Friends are more concerned with social media “likes” than with each other. Even believers are caught up in this - losing sight of what truly matters. This is how the enemy works, he keeps us distracted, focused on the temporary so we forget the eternal.

**WAKE UP!**

**REFOCUS ON JESUS**

**WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND MIND.#**

## 30 Days of Gratitude continued

22. Go with God. Send folks off on their travels with a prayer - *Love the journey, God is with you, come home safe and sound.*
23. Put ‘em in their place. Help your children or grandchildren make place-cards for an upcoming special dinner. Write a few words about why you’re grateful for each guest.
24. Thank God for energy to hang out with friends and family.
25. Rejoice and be glad.
26. Define abundance: what are you thankful for?

27. Collect pictures of people, places and things you love, then make a collage. As it grows, so will your sense of gratefulness.
28. Give your brain a break. Take a time-out from TV, radio, phone, computer, etc. all the stuff that overloads your brain and your spirit, let gratitude fill the silence.
29. Practice thanksgiving by praying for everyone and everything you come across today. No exceptions. Turn on the light and bless those who discovered electricity. Bless the farmers who grow the food you eat. When you get in the car, bless the automotive engineers who invented seat belts. Bless the person in the office elevator who’s talking top volume on her cell phone - for reminding you what not to do.
30. A new tradition: have a get together to celebrate blessings received, make it a regular event every month or season, call it *Blessings Day.#*

## When Challenges Come

Sometimes we go through difficult times for a special reason. Often there is an eventual higher good to come from the experience, an important lesson to be learned. It could be something even more important than getting healed.

Don’t take yourself so seriously. Is your faith in God or is your faith in faith? Trusting the situation to God and allowing Him to lead instead of wanting what we think is best.#

*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.***

## **A New Spiritual Order**

Selected Writings of Elbert A. Smith pg. 15-16.

*The church today needs Christ to be with it in the desperate situation confronting the world, as greatly as He was needed by the early church. The spiritual power that was with those men of old will not come lightly today to a people who seek a shortcut to Zion or who think that it can be built first of brick and stone. The new spiritual order must be developed first, and it must have in it faith and repentance and righteousness - some of the elements of Gethsemane and Golgotha - before it can have the elements of Pentecost and all that came after the principles of the gospel are still foundational. Only as they are obeyed in all particulars can the Church go on to perfection.*

This reminds us that although small in number and disorganized, we must not be discouraged. Let us, individually and as a people, prepare through faith, repentance and righteousness, inviting Christ to come fully into our hearts, homes and church activities. (Oak Grove R.B. Women's June, 2025 Zion Flash Card).#

The following is taken from Recipes for a Healthy Church published by Zion Bound Press.

## **Deacon Surprise**

1. Find one early riser.
2. Mix with concern for the physical well being of the church.
3. Find one who is respected and will inspire proper decorum.
4. Season with knowledge of God's financial law.

## **Sunday Morning Feast**

1. First and foremost prepare enough that all can be fed for an entire week.
2. Be creative with the mixture of ingredients.
3. Add repentance in great measure.
4. Spice up with the promise of forgiveness.
5. It is best to burn with desire.#

## **RWC Fall Retreat**

Sept. 6-7, 2025 at Odessa Hills Campground. Saturday registration is at 8:30 a.m. The theme is: We will make a new covenant and be God's people. Scripture references are: Heb. 8:6-13, DC 85:18b, and Jacob 2:50-56. Sunday closing is after the Sacrament service. Registration is requested by Aug. 31. Contact Jennifer Schrunk at either 816-674-2192 or [jenniferschrunk@yahoo.com](mailto:jenniferschrunk@yahoo.com). Cost: \$45.00 for entire retreat, Saturday only \$30.00 and Sunday \$15.00#

***God can do a lot of things. When the Living God speaks to you - He will remove all doubt and your life will be changed. This is to those who say "There is no God or God doesn't speak to us today.***



## A Day Trip to Remember

We started our day leisurely. The next 3 days we were taking day trips, a vacation for me, I haven't had one in many years and was really looking forward to time off and time away from daily life. Before we got into the rental car we had prayer asking for protection and that our encounters with those we came in contact with be led by the Holy Spirit.

That Saturday morning, June 21st, about 9:30 a.m. on interstate 50 it seemed such a calm morning. Not many were on the road that day. I remarked that it was too early for most people to be up and we were fortunate driving through the Grandview Triangle was such an easy task. As we drove toward Joplin it was very relaxing, the cruise control on we were going about 70 mph. Then, Wham! From out of nowhere it seemed - we were hit from behind.

A young mother of two, going through a very messy divorce, working nights and having little sleep the night before was on a mission to see her lawyer. Divorce is nasty enough without having to quarrel over guardianship of children when both parent want them. Then her job changed her hours and she wasn't used to being awake at that time of day. She fell asleep at the wheel, her car speeding along and she hit the rear left side of our rental car.

The impact jolted us, Jim held the steering wheel and the car swerved to the left then right but, then it went straight and it stopped. We sat for a moment, in shock, going 70 mph then it just stopped. What happened? We questioned each other. Then: *are you okay? Yes, he said, and you?* The back of my head hurts but, other than that I'm okay. *Call the police.*

Cars sped by, I thought to myself, isn't anyone going to stop? Then a red car pulled over in front of

us and a car stopped in front of them. No one got out of the red car but a man got out of the car in front of them. *"I'm going to get out"*. As I exited the man headed toward me I said *"call..."* he said *"I've already done that. They will be here momentarily. I'm Gary, I'm a retired highway patrolman"*. As Gary neared me he told me *I've been trying to catch up with this driver for some time.* While Gary was talking to me the young woman in the red car got out, she was quite upset. She apologized to me and said she had never had an accident before. I hugged her and said *"that's why they call them accidents"*.

Immediately behind our car another car stopped and a man got out. *"I'm a fireman, are you okay?"*

I don't know how long everything took, a fire truck came with one man who spoke with Dave (the fireman) and asked if we needed an ambulance which we declined. Gary spoke with Jim, he was amazed at how Jim was able to control the car: *I've never seen a car in that kind of tail-spin come under control so quickly!*

Jim said later, right after we were hit he heard in his mind: *"Relax, sit back and enjoy the ride"* then 2 hands over his. When the car fish-tailed in one direction the hands turned the car opposite, then the other direction, then his foot pressing on the brake pedal disengaging the cruise-control, steering to the right, slowed down and stopped. *"It wasn't me"* he said.

The sheriff came, spoke with Gary and Dave and then to the driver who hit us and to Jim, getting all the information needed. Then a highway patrolman came. Then a tow-truck came with two men. They looked at our car.

Things were winding down. She talked with Jim, apologizing again and explaining what was going on in her life. Jim reassured her that with all that she was facing her trust could be in the Lord. This could have been much more serious than it was. Better that she hit us than what could have happened.

Continued

***Everything around you can fail but God never fails.***

## Day Trip continued

I had been sitting in the car in the AC, it was 90 outside. The back of my head had a huge welt and my head hurt. As I sat there I prayed for her and words came into my mind so I got out. She walked over to me and I said “*I’m Barbara*” she told me her name, and how sorry she was. I told her that this could have been much worse than it is. If she hadn’t hit us she might have continued going off the road and might have crashed leaving her sons without a mother. *This is a blessing*, I said. *God has preserved you for a reason. Tuhank Him.*

Jim had looked with Gary at the damage to the rear fender and tire. The fender was jammed into the tire, it would be best to have the car towed back to Independence they thought. But when the tow truck came the driver pulled out the fender, no damage to the tire at all. *It’s drivable* he said. He looked over everything.

We left for home, reassessing what had just happened in an hour. You probably have read the scriptures that tell us things will change “in an hour” or “in a day” no doubt you’ve experienced that change within a day. You know the changes that occur and change our life’s trajectory, those moments when God intervenes and shows himself to us, his faithfulness, his guidance and direction, his comfort.

For us, a retired patrolman who saw everything and a fireman, as well. The car not going out-of-control at 70 mph., no serious injuries to either one of us nor the driver of the other car who was asleep, the air-bags did not deploy, no tire damage so we could drive the car back home.

I told the fireman and the fire truck driver that this was a God thing to which they agreed. The question might arise, we prayed why didn’t God stop this from happening. Well, it could have been worse and yet God intervened to save her life. There is a reason for everything, we may not understand it now but we will. Perhaps an open door for ministry has happened. Whatever, we praise Him.

Barbara Hobbs.

## The Sandbox Story

A young boy went to play in his sandbox and found a rock in the middle of it. He tried lifting it but it was too heavy. He tried pushing it but couldn’t. He even laid on his back and tried pushing it with his feet and legs but it wouldn’t budge.

His Dad stood watching and walked over to his son. The boy said: *Dad I’ve tried everything and I can’t move the rock.*

His Dad said: *No you haven’t tried everything.*

*Yes I have Dad, I’ve tried everything and I can’t move it.* His son replied.

His Dad reached down, picked up the rock and said: *See, Son, you haven’t tried everything, you haven’t asked for help.*

Have you asked the Lord for help with a seemingly unmovable difficulty?#

## Interesting Facts on Life

Recently on a Sunday a.m. we attended the Independence Branch of the Restoration where the following facts were relayed in the sermon:

**The Youth** - Current research on why children are leaving the church, not just Restoration churches but, world wide has found that children are less likely to leave a church when they hear parents and family talk about God in the home and prayer in the home is common practice.

**Marriages** - divorce rate in the Restoration (including CoC, LDS, and Restoration branches) is higher than the national average.

**Male life span** - men live on the average 5 years longer when there are positive affirmations given by their companions and to their companions. Affirmations include hearing and saying *I Love You*, the 5 second kiss, and long hugs - to name a few. This increases the feeling of closeness and bonding.

It takes 25 positive interactions to counter one negative interaction.#