

Breathing is Believing!
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terribly. Yet, God Himself finally got Saul's attention and succeeded in humbling his heart and opening his ears. Has God done that for you, yet?

Then, on the other side of things, God got the attention of one of the believers and said, "I want you to go to a certain street, for there in a house is Saul of Tarsus, **and Behold, he is praying!**" Saul, who became Paul, was already a very religious man who would have had the habit of praying different times during the day. Yet now, God says, "He is praying!" I guess that means that perhaps for the first time, Saul was *really* praying! It is very important to note that the first things Saul asked, upon meeting the resurrected Christ were, 1) Who are You, Lord? and 2) What do You want me to do? (Acts 9:5,6).

The first thing (above) is a matter which the Devil has stirred up mightily in recent years—to bring doubt and confusion as to the identity of Jesus Christ. **The Da Vinci Code, The Judas Gospel**, etc. as well as the religious teaching about Jesus from **Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, the Koran**, etc. etc. all join together to create **Christ-Confusion**. I choose to leave that confusion behind, and keep marching happily onward with the old, old story of Jesus of the Bible...a Bible not distorted by anybody!

The second thing (above) helps us to realise that God *does* have something for us to do, and that we must find out what it is! *Whatever* that something is, God will fill you with Himself and position you so that you may help others to know Him. Are you breathing? Are you praying?

Jesus' disciples knew this was so important, and on one occasion came to Him and said, "**Lord, teach us to pray, just like John the Baptist taught his disciples to pray.**"

As a direct reply to this request, Jesus gave them what we now call The Lord's Prayer, or The Our Father. I grew up with the religious practise of often repeating this prayer. I now know that we *must*... **WE MUST... stop to think deeply** about the little parts of that very, very brief prayer. Take each part of the prayer, and ask yourself how it really relates to you. Oh, how full and how powerful that prayer is! It is there for our good.

Inside this issue are other articles relating to a couple aspects of this prayer. I hope they are a great blessing to you.

**THE TRUTH :
CALL IT WHAT YOU LIKE**

Britain and the rest of the world is being overflowed with a Flood, not of water, but evil of all sorts. There is an epidemic of madness, in general and sex madness, in particular. Society, inside as well as outside the church, is being perverted. Crime is being encouraged. Many other things are being allowed and put into place which are increasingly destabilising the country. Big crimes and little crimes.

Big sins and little sins. They are ALL destroying the country and the people. A 100% turning to God in genuine repentance is the only way of recovery, and it must start with individuals like you and me. People are generally too busy, too afraid, too uncaring and selfish to really be honest with God and themselves. Desperation about earthly and temporary things is causing people to neglect caring for spiritual and eternal matters. Many who consider themselves religious—even Christian,—are trying to satisfy themselves AND God, though Jesus clearly said,

"No man can serve two Masters!"

"And Be Sure, Your Sin Will Find You Out!" (Numbers 32:23)

These were God's words through Moses, and are relevant and applicable to us today. Through DNA, the "Deame Valley Shoe Rapist" was discovered and successfully prosecuted last month for raping a woman 20 years ago! Yet this is nothing compared to God's record of each person's sin. The Bible says "all liars go to the lake of fire" (Rev. 21:8) ALL sin must go, or else.

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"Lift up a standard for the people." Isaiah 62:10

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**BREATHING
is Believing!**

Talk about "getting back to basics?" There's nothing more "basic" than this!

Gabriel L. Mancino



"Seeing is believing" is a saying that has been in use for generations. However, we must rest our lives and eternal destiny on a foundation made of more than the things we may see and feel. Yes, we must live in this world—working, shopping, etc. like anyone else. Yet, while we do these things, we can be operating with a far better "engine" on the inside than Rolls-Royce, Lockheed, Boeing, Ferrari or any other can boast of.

There is no better place to start than at the beginning! With the creation of Adam, the Bible says, "**And God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.**" As vital as a mother's milk is to a new baby, yet the first thing that newborn baby does is gasp for air and let out a cry! These are the first signs of life. Adam's God-given breath signalled the beginning, not only of his physical life, but more importantly, his *spiritual* life in fellowship and communion with God, his

Creator. Maybe this is how the expression began about **"breathing a prayer!"** One thing we must not do as humans is stop breathing. Perhaps this is why St. Paul says, "**Pray without ceasing!**" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

When Adam sinned, he certainly didn't stop being a physical human being, yet he lost his greatest possession. A pretty

young "lady" I knew took the nice hat my mother gave me off my head, placed it gently on the counter between us, and then smashed it flat—then roared with laughter! That is what Satan and sin wish to do to our soul. Satan and sin may appear ever-so gentle and nice, but only a fool is fooled. Even with the first God-united couple, their nakedness became shame because of the entrance of sin. The breath of the *physical* was very active, but the breath of the *fellowship* was destroyed. Their *believing* was corrupted, so their *breathing* ceased.

This "breathing" of communion and fellowship with God is not to be understood as a mere saying of ritual prayers. Regular praying can be great, but Jesus warned against a mere ritual repetition of prayers. Perhaps the greatest enemy of the original disciples was the man who became St. Paul, for he hated and persecuted the believers

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A Message From the Middle East: Trouble and tragedy are spotted all over this world, though the present spotlight is on Lebanon. People say that "the big one" (earthquake) will come some day to California. But God says the "Big One" (war) will come in the Middle East. Peter asks us: "Since these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought YOU to be, in all holy conduct and godliness?!" (2 Pet. 3:10-14).

Who Are You Talking To?

Thoughts to consider, from the beginning of The Lord's Prayer

by **Gabriel L. Mancino**



The front page article begins some thoughts for this issue from what is called **The Lord's Prayer**, given by Jesus at the request of His disciples. They wanted to learn how to pray, and they knew that John the Baptist had taught *his* followers to pray. Jesus gladly accommodated them and gave them a prayer-pattern full of prayer-principles, even though the prayer itself is so brief. Let's get a few lessons, at least, at the beginning of this prayer, since our own paper is so little!

Jesus led into His prayer-teaching by saying to them, "**When you pray, say...**" Let's just stop there, because there are many people who never pray. They don't talk to God. On the other hand, there are many people who will say they pray, but they have no real and regular connection to God whatsoever. **Try to become a citizen** of Britain, America, etc. without learning the "Constitution" of the country applied to. **Try obtaining a UK driving license** by walking into the DVLA office without an appointment and demanding a license on the spot—with no lessons, no exams and no fee! Think again.

Jesus knows that a person who loves Him and obeys Him is a person who also prays. Jesus also knows that a praying person who has His "stamp of approval" is a person who reads and studies what He has said; not to mention the rest of the Bible. Yet, like I said, there are people who *do* pray, but don't seem to

care about knowing what God or Jesus have to say. **That is very odd.**

In 1 Peter 1:17 St. Peter says "*And IF you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here [on earth] in reverential fear*" (like Heb.12:28). Jesus' prayer starts, "*When you pray, say Our Father...*" Here, Peter says "*IF you call on the Father...*" Maybe you *don't* pray to the Father and maybe you *do*, but if you *do*, Peter says there are some things you had better think about.

One thing Peter wants us to realise is that *this* Father-God is holy, for in the verses just prior (v.15,16) he wrote, "*but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct; for it is written [in Lev.11:44;19:2;20:7,26], 'Be holy, because I am holy.'*" The Bible makes it absolutely clear that if a person expects to be a child of God, then that person is to walk and live in holiness—*true* holiness (Eph. 4:24), not a false, man-made type. There is a **Calling**, but also a **Conduct** to this matter. Peter says "*IF you call on the Father...be holy.*"

Peter's words not only speak about people calling on *God*, but first speaks about God calling to *us*! He wrote "*as He who called you...*" **Always remember** that you are invited to call upon the Father and that the Father is already calling out to *you*! Yet we know that *IF* we expect to properly and effectively call upon the Father, we need to be prepared to live in holiness. God has no obligation at all (*even though He is a God of love*) to answer or assist a person who has no intention of changing or of loving and obeying God. Jesus certainly also says that "*Our Father makes it rain on both the good and the bad!*" (Matt. 5:45). Yet "*Our Father*" is also our *Judge*, and as Peter wrote... "*the Father*" doesn't "*Juggle the accounts*" for anyone.

"NOBODY'S PERFECT!" We comfort & excuse ourselves with this threadbare cliché. But Jesus said, "*Be perfect, therefore, even as your Father in heaven is perfect*" (Matt. 5:48). Translators have sometimes changed "**perfect**" to "**mature**," but obviously can't here! It would be great if Christians were as afraid of sin as they are of holiness!

Are We ALL God's Children?

(referring to older children and adults)

by **Gabriel L. Mancino**



Some people have actually told me that the Jews have changed the Old Testament, so I cannot trust it, and the Catholics have altered the New Testament, making it untrustworthy, too. **First of all**, the Devil himself wishes to take away the Bible so I have nothing to believe, except the opinion of such people as make these ridiculous claims as above! **Secondly**, it is frankly stupid to believe, for example, that the Bible shows favouritism to *anyone*—Jewish, Catholic, or anyone else! God calls all people to the same salvation, the same way without respect of persons or nations. Read Deuteronomy 10:17; 2 Chronicles 19:7; Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11 and Galatians 2:6 for demonstration of this. No person will "go to heaven" simply because of being born Jewish, Catholic, Orthodox or any other group or non-group. We must repent to God and exercise saving faith that meets God's conditions and approval...or else.

Next, let's see that even though God chose the Hebrews (Jews/Israel) as a special nation, yet even *they* can be disqualified individually and nationally if they do not come to God **HIS** way. This same is true for all others, including professing "born again" Christians. In Deuteronomy 32, God begins by describing His special love and relationship for His chosen people, the Hebrews. Yet, in verse 5 something is seen to have happened, and God says: "*They have corrupted themselves: They are not His*

children. Because of their blemish: A perverse and crooked generation. Do you thus deal with the LORD, O foolish and unwise people? Is He not your Father, who bought you?" Notice, God says through Moses here that they are NOT His children, but that God IS their Father. There is no contradiction here. The Hebrews had

walked away from their special relationship, just like many, many people do in marriages in these days...and oh, what heartache it brings.

Isaiah the prophet provides us with what is called "The Gospel in the Old Testament." In 63:16 Isaiah pictures God's all-inclusiveness to people even outside the special relationship to Abraham (which means outside Jews AND Muslims!). Isaiah says: "*Doubtless You are our Father though Abraham was ignorant of us, and Israel does not acknowledge us. You, O LORD are our Father; Our Redeemer from Everlasting is Your name.*" So we see that special relationship to God CAN be broken, and the special relationship of *others* to God does not exclude *still others* from entry! (see also Malachi 2:10 and 1 Corinthians 8:6).

Any who read **that powerful chapter**, John 8, will see what appears as a contradiction in Jesus' words. The religious Jews professed connection to God, to Abraham and to Moses. Jesus makes a distinction between "My Father" and "your father" in v. 38. He admits they are children of Abraham biologically, but not in the most important way—in the obedient faith of Abraham. Though they says that they have one Father—God, yet Jesus told them that they were of their father the devil, and that they do the desires of that father! (v. 37-45). Lesson: *Anyone* can cut themselves off from God and become "disinherited."

CONDITIONS OF SONSHIP TO GOD: In Matthew 5:43-48 and in Mark 11:22-26 we see we must love, forgive and pray for our enemies "*that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.*" These are only a few of God's conditions, and if we do not meet God's conditions, we are not His children. But do not worry, if you love God He WILL help you all the way!

We meet at Christ Church on the corner of Brent Street and Heriot Road in Hendon (NW4) at 8:45 pm Sundays. Nearest Tube: Hendon Central.