

I Only Talk to God When I Need a Favor

By Don Ober

Those are the opening lyrics of a very popular song on the country charts right now and, I must say, I found them to be thought provoking. I, of course, am not recommending the song for church anytime soon, but it did make me stop and think about the message of the song. At first, I bristled at the lyrics and found myself arguing with the man who wrote the song in my mind. But the more I thought about it, the more I realized it was in some ways a very honest type of confession for a secular song.

Of course, the lyrics are immature in many ways and even slightly blue in places where that type off-color language was not needed. But his lyrics go on to say, "Who am I to expect a Savior, if I only talk to God when I need a favor, boy I need a favor." The immaturity comes in that line as if he can earn God's willingness to be his Savior if he was talking to Him on a deeper level or if he worked at it more diligently. But his honesty in admitting his one-sided take on a relationship with the Lord made for some meditations of my own. God has been there all along to be his savior, regardless of how often he talks to God. The truth is, it is his loss if he hasn't been talking to God, not some hoop he failed to jump through to get God's help. But again, the honesty in a secular song made me think about these things and, in that way, it was good for me to think about it.

We've all heard it said, "There are no atheists in fox holes," as in when your life is on the line, you will grasp at anything for help, even God. But how many of us, including myself, live our lives somewhat like what this man is singing? When we get sick, is the doctor the first one to

Continued on page 2...

Annual Picnic at Straubel's



“I Only Talk to God...” Continued...

call? Do we finally reach out to God when the doctor fails and delivers us the bad news? Now I am in no way suggesting we all turn our backs on modern medicine and rely solely on faith healing. It is my belief God gave doctors their talents to be used on a people He loves. But shouldn't our first call be to God and then the doctor? When work or family problems become too much to bear, is it then, and only then, that we call out to God? Shouldn't our discussions about our everyday life be so intimate with God that we have been talking to God about these things all along the way, and He knows before we even ask? I'm embarrassed to admit, I have often gotten these backwards myself.

I really wish I could reach out to this singer “Jelly Roll” because, from these lyrics, it is plain to see there is a seed of belief, even if it is misguided in ways. At least it is not an arrogant denial of God's sovereignty, which is the norm in much of today's secular music. I wonder what inspired him to write this song, and maybe it is possible that God is at present working on him in His quiet voice, and this man does not yet realize it.

I do know three things. Firstly, we should not be talking to God only when we need a favor. Secondly, if we have been living our life that way, our God is so big, so powerful and so loving, that regardless of our past, He will listen and love us just the same, even when He is the last one we call. And finally, there is no one else who will respond like our forgiving God will. Try talking to friends or family only when you need something from them, and see how well you do. But our God defies all logical thinking like that. Our God is there calling out to us in the good times, in the bad times and even when we are so busy that we fail to think about Him at all. Maybe our response should be, “I always talk to God cause I need a Savior.”



Happy Birthday!

Blessings to all who celebrate a birthday this month. May you feel the love, joy and presence of the Lord as we all celebrate your special day with prayers and warmest wishes.

Mark Warner	October 1
Elise Bruno	October 2
Marina Cull	October 3
Rose Ventura	October 3
Nancy Muldrow	October 4
Robert MacQueen	October 12
Donald MacQueen	October 20



Saturday, October 28

The leaves are turning colors, the days are getting shorter, and there is a chill in the air. It's the perfect time for our annual Harvest Party, which will be held on Saturday, October 28, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm, in the Windsor Chapel picnic grove. Please join us and gather around a crackling campfire with friends on a cool, crisp evening. You may wish to bring a folding chair for extra comfort while listening to a suspenseful campfire story. Invite your friends and neighbors to share in the warm fellowship and enjoy this special evening. Everyone is welcome!

Elders' Corner

By Pastor Andy Straubel

Fall is finally here! Children are back in school, and the air has finally cooled. I love the fall! Thank you to all who came to the church picnic on September 10. It was a great time together. And thanks to all who helped with cleaning up. Many hands make the work light.

Ed and I continue to meet, pray together, and discuss matters of the church. Two others have joined our conversations expressing interest in possible leadership.

Fall events include the start of our 11th Hour adult education class. It is being team taught by Ken and Cindy Bills and Larry and Janet Berrill. Our study will be the Book of Romans. Class starts promptly at 11. Coffee and light refreshments can be found just outside the nursery so grab something and head downstairs. On October 28 we will host our annual Harvest Festival. It will be held outside from 7:00-8:30 pm, weather permitting. Enjoy a warm fire, snacks, some hot cider, warm Dutch oven peach cobbler, and a "scary" story from our own story teller, Ed! After that, it is a race into November and Thanksgiving, and then, hard to believe, Christmas.

One additional note of blessing. You all might remember Joe Seibert. Joe came to the Lord later in life (his late fifties). He was baptized and discipled at Windsor Chapel before moving farther north. He quickly got involved in a little church and began taking online classes at Sothern Seminary in Kentucky. He is more than halfway done with schooling. On October 1, Joe will be ordained at Living Gospel Baptist Church in Rutherford, New Jersey, and take on the role of Associate Pastor. Let us rejoice with Joe and the church as he continues to follow the Lord.

Psalm 63 says, "O God, you are my God, early will I seek you. My soul thirsts for you, my flesh also longs after you, in a barren and dry land where there is no water. Thus I have looked upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and glory. For your loving kindness is better than life itself; my lips shall praise you. As long as I live I will magnify you, and lift up my hands in your Name. My soul shall be satisfied..." My praise and prayer for Windsor Chapel.



Financial Update

(Through August 31, 2023)

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want..."

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$96,837	\$146,000
Expense	\$140,716	\$146,077

Windsor Chapel has sent \$14,405 to our missionary partners this year. That is 15% of your giving!

More Picnic...



Further Up and Further In

Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in and among us



By Cindy Bills

Stress Testing....

At my annual check-up this year, my electrocardiogram (EKG) showed an abnormality. Thus began a summer of medical dominoes. Although my primary care provider did not think my EKG was especially alarming, she recommended a visit with a cardiologist. The cardiologist was wonderful, and although she did not think the EKG was of particular concern, she made a convincing case that a thorough evaluation was appropriate. That meant scheduling an echocardiogram, a calcium cardiac scoring test, and a stress test. As I was arranging my day's schedule to accommodate the stress test, one thought kept running through my head: Given the stress of my days, why did I need a formal stress test?!

The cardiologist gave me an A+ on my stress test. I am, of course, grateful for that result, and I don't want to take it lightly. But the fact remains that I do not get an A+ for the way I deal with the mental and emotional stress of days. To be sure, being a fallen creature in a fallen world does not help. But Jesus came to redeem us, not only for eternity in heaven but in the here and now.

There are, of course, many Bible verses that would call us to trust in the Lord, throw our cares upon Him, and walk in His peace and joy. But as true as these passages are, they are not the whole story. Even as Jesus talks about the peace and joy in Him, He warns His followers about trials, suffering, hardship, and persecution. We may not be of the world, but we are in it. We are living in the now and not yet: tastes of heaven and glimpses of redemption, now but not yet the full fruits of Christ's victory.

Continued on page 5...

“Stress Testing,” continued...

And somehow, I find this encouraging. It is neither abnormal or shameful to find life in this broken world challenging and even painful at times. But I am still left with the task of living in the tension of the two realities: the challenges that I encounter today even as I catch glimpses of the redemption that will have its culmination in eternity.

It isn't easy to live in the now and not yet. Some believers prefer to focus on persevering through the slog of this life, and others would minimize and ignore the hardships and claim victory in Christ. It seems to me that maintaining a “both/and” mindset, while difficult, best reflects the dual realities of our fallenness and our redemption.

King David gives us an excellent glimpse into living a life of dual realities. In the book of I Samuel, we read of Samuel anointing David as King of Israel when David was a teenager and Saul was the reigning (but disobedient) King. In the approximately 15 years that followed, “King” David was hunted and persecuted by Saul. We can read about David's distress during those times in several of his Psalms. In those Psalms, David is not restrained in expressing his distress and resentment toward evildoers who go unpunished. But at the same time, David repeatedly expresses his commitment to following the Lord in righteousness and declares the LORD God's goodness and glory. He walks in faith to the best of his ability, and he restrains himself from killing Saul on not one but two occasions when he has the opportunity. He suffers; he waits; he perseveres; he waits. When he is thirty years old, David—finally—becomes King of Judah. He becomes King of a united Israel a few years later.

David's life as it is recorded in the books of I Samuel and II Samuel and expressed in many of David's Psalms is one of both struggle and faith. David's hardships and personal missteps

cannot be missed. But we also read how the peace, joy, and power that flowed from his faith relationship with the Lord sustained and empowered him in the hard times and took front and center in the times of triumph. David's life is recorded for generations of believers not merely as significant history but also as a model of what life on earth as an heir of heaven can look like.

When we turn to the New Testament, we see John the Baptist, imprisoned for preaching the righteousness of Christ, reach out to Jesus for reassurance that Jesus is who He says He is. Jesus has a ready answer:

Go and report to John what you hear and see: the blind receive sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me.

Jesus' answer also reveals an important truth about suffering: while the Lord does not will or rejoice in the suffering of this sin-laden world, He uses it to reveal His goodness and grace. Indeed, I could make a good argument that David's earlier suffering was used to make him a wiser king.

To be sure, none of us has been called to be a king and ancestor of the Messiah, or as a forerunner of the Messiah. But we are nonetheless called to fulfill the glorious purposes for which we have been created, and we are, through the Messiah, princes and princesses of the King for all eternity. We are blessed.

Jesus, of course, has the last word.

These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation but take courage; I have overcome the world.

Please feel free to contact Cindy (609-275-8557) or cynthialbills@gmail.com to continue the dialogue....

Putting Off Your Old Self

By Janet Berrill

“What is she wearing??”

“Who taught that person to drive?!”

***“That child is really rude. What kind of
parents does he have?”***

***“I am so good at doing this. Other people
should watch and learn.”***

“What an idiot! What is he doing?!”

These are examples of the kind of thoughts that sometimes pop into my mind. It seems that no matter where I am or what I am doing, thoughts like these occur to me. These thoughts are an invitation to a conversation of sorts with myself. In the past, I would engage in that conversation, expounding on the original thought and letting my mind take me wherever it went. Too often it would lead down a road of putting others down, lifting myself up in pride, imagining situations that were negative and not true, or remembering similar situations in the past to reinforce the original thought. All of these internal conversations were not healthy for me, they would drag me down, and certainly would not make me want to show kindness to the person.

Where do thoughts like these come from? Are they from Satan? Are they from my sinful nature? I can't say for sure where they originate, but what I do know is that I don't want to think them anymore. They are thoughts that judge other people, put other people down, or puff myself up. But how to get rid of them?

Before accepting Jesus as my Savior, I was a slave to my sinful nature. Once Jesus became Lord of my life, I was freed from the control of sin, but my sinful nature will remain with me until I am fully united with Jesus in paradise. I am no longer a slave to my sinful nature, but I can choose to listen to it, which, unfortunately, I too often do.

Ephesians 4:22-24 says, *“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful*

desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” This scripture teaches us that we should put off our old self, that is our sinful ways. We can do that now, because Jesus has set us free.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says that I am a new creation in Christ. Unfortunately, that doesn't mean that I am immune to negative thoughts. Negative thoughts still pop into my mind, but what I do with them has completely changed. Now if I think something that is judgmental or prideful, I immediately put it off. That is, I acknowledge that thought is not part of who I am in Christ but is from my sinful nature (or the enemy), and I no longer dwell on it. I lay it before the feet of Jesus and ask Him to renew my mind so that I no longer think such things.

This is a continuing battle, but I have had a lot of success! I find that I don't think negative thoughts as often as I did previously. God is making me new in the attitude of my mind. Do I do it right all the time? No, I don't. As a matter of fact, I just caught myself doing it right now! I am writing this article in the airport as I wait to board a plane. Every time I fly, it seems I am reminded of a situation that happened many years ago when a gate agent made me put my purse in my backpack before getting on the plane. I thought it was ridiculous at the time. Now whenever I fly, I think about what happened and replay the scenario over and over, sometimes imagining how I could have handled it differently. How ironic! I am still a work in progress! But I will not give up, I will continue to battle the negative thoughts, knowing that I have the ability to resist because Jesus has set me free.

If you have any items or information you would like to share in the newsletter, please e-mail:

Susan Seiboth at

susan@quiltingsquare.com

Dorothy Soi at

dsoi@windsorchapel.org

Chapel Office (609) 799-2559

www.windsorchapel.org

Contributing photographers:

Janice Straubel, Kate Taylor & Jean Warner