



GMAF Newsletters 2007

By

Sensei Mark McGee

Grace Martial Arts Fellowship began in 1990, went online with a website in 1995 and began publishing newsletters to the Christian martial arts community in 1998.

Because of the quality of information found in those early newsletter articles and the fact they are no longer available online, we've decided to re-publish many of them in the coming weeks and months. Our hope is that a new generation of Christian martial artists will be blessed by the wisdom of those who were on the path before them.

GMAF NEWSLETTER

January – February 2007

Welcome to the GMAF Newsletter! We pray it will encourage you in your Martial Arts and Outreach for Christ.

Thoughts from the Master

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?” Jesus Christ

“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.” The Apostle Paul

Wisdom Notes

“The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.” Proverbs 15:3

“What We Have In Jesus: The First Blessing”

by

Mark McGee

GMAF Director

We have EVERYTHING in Jesus!

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his

grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

Ephesians 1:3-14

Paul is specific about the individual blessings God gives His children. The first he mentioned is that God chose us in Him “before the foundation of the world.” When we consider who we were before we were saved, God’s choosing us becomes an even larger blessing.

“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.” Ephesians 2:1-3

We were “dead” in trespasses and sins. We lived our lives according to the direction of every other sinner in this world. We lived according to the direction of Satan, the prince of the power of the air. He is the spirit that works in all children of disobedience. We used to live as children of disobedience behaving according to the lusts of our flesh. We lived our

lives to fulfill every desire of our flesh and sinful mind. We were by our very nature children of wrath, just like every other sinner. We were spiritually dead, dirty and diseased. No one would look at us and find anything attractive about us. If we were put up for adoption, no one would want us. No one, except God.

God “chose” us. He wanted us. He loved us. His desire was to make us part of His spiritual family, part of the Body of believers in His Son Jesus Christ. How amazing is that?

“He hath chosen us.” Those four words hold a world of hope for every believer and every person who will believe. God chose us. We are His choice. He wanted us. He loved us. His wish was that we belong to Him. How wonderful!

He chose us. We are not an unpleasant duty. We are not a dreadful deed God had to do to fulfill some ancient obligation He couldn't find a way to escape. God chose us freely, voluntarily, willingly, wantingly, gladly!

God chose us “in Him.” The words “in Him” are used in the context of the location of our blessings: “in heavenly places in Christ.” God the Father chose you and me in Christ! God’s work is always done in perfect harmony. The triune God – Three in One – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – make “their” choice. It’s never one against the other. The Triune God makes a singular choice – and their choice was you and me! God the Father chose us in His Son and God the Holy Spirit agreed with the choice and plays a vital role in carrying out the purpose of the choice.

When did God make this choice? Was it recently? Was it just before we prayed to receive Christ as our Savior? Was it at our birth? Was it when our parents prayed we would pray to receive Christ? The Bible says clearly that God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit chose us “before the foundation of the world!” God chose us before He created the world. His choice was not made in haste. He chose us in Christ before His creative act of bringing the world into being. God knew us intimately and loved us intensely long before the first human beings walked on the earth. He chose us before there was a world surrounded by a sky filled with stars, planets and

moons. He created us before there was water, air and land. He created us before the birds sang, the fish swam and the animals foraged for food. God wanted us and chose us before He created the world we live in and depend on for life. God's choosing us was an amazing activity of the Great Mind of God before He thought and spoke the worlds into being. God chose us, then created a place for us. What phenomenal love!

God didn't just choose "people" to be saved. He chose you personally because He knew you before time, loved you and wanted you. He knew who you would be. He knew when you would be born. He knew where you would be born. He knew who your parents would be. He knew what you would look like, what you would do as a child, what you would become as a teen and adult. He knew all about you. He knew your strengths and weaknesses. He knew your sinful ways and made a way for you to become His child. He sent His Son to die for your sins and make a path to righteousness. He knew when you would believe, when you would pray to receive the salvation He provided for you, how you would live your life as a Christian. He knew everything and chose you!

God chose us in Christ before He created the world “that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.” God had a marvelous purpose in choosing us. He wanted the best for us. He wanted us to be saved from sin, to be spiritually and physically whole again. God chose us to be “holy and without blame before him in love.” The word “holy” means we are separated and dedicated to God. We are set apart for God’s service. The words “without blame” mean we are without any blemish. God has made us perfect in Christ. We are like Him. Christ was the pure sacrifice without blemish and God chose us to be made like His Son. No one can point to any blemish and accuse us of being unworthy of belonging to God because God has made us without blemish. We are without blame (blameless) in Christ. That’s how God sees us now, how He saw us before the creation of the world and how He will see us through eternity. God chose us before He created the world that we should be holy and without blame.

The position of our blamelessness is “before him.” We would be foolish to think we are perfect in this world. We know our faults. We know our sins. We know our failings. We are as imperfect as they come. We don’t (can’t) live up to all God asks of His children. We are human. We are sinners. However, in Christ, we are saved sinners. God sees us differently than we see ourselves or other believers. He sees us standing before Him in love as sinners saved by His Matchless Grace. He sees us covered by the Blood of Christ. He sees us saved and set apart for service to Him. We are holy and without blame in God’s sight.

As we will see during our study, God is the reason we can be holy and blameless. We are not holy and blameless because of something we did, do or will do. We are holy and blameless in God’s sight because He sees us “in” Christ. Jesus is the Holy One. He is the Blameless One. We are holy and blameless before God because we are in Christ and He is in us. That is both a miracle and a mystery.

This first spiritual blessing is the greatest blessing of all. We have hope for every aspect of our lives. When we fail (as we will continue to do every day we breathe air on this planet and our heart pumps blood through our body), we can pick ourselves up and know that in God's eyes we are holy and blameless in Christ. We will blame ourself for so many things in this lifetime, but God chose us to be holy and without blame before Him in love. That's how God sees us and how He wants us to see ourselves, other believers and those who will become believers.

The first blessing is how we learn as Christians to see God, see ourselves, see others, see this world and the world to come. We can do what God calls on us to do because we have the proper perspective about life. We understand when He chose us, how He chose us and why He chose us. That perspective makes every day special, every moment important, every opportunity vital.

You are so special! God chose you from before the foundation of the world. He chose you to be holy. He chose you to be without blame before Him in love. Enjoy your life!

(Next newsletter: The Second Blessing)

“Improper Motivation for Obedience”

by

Dr. Robert Xavier

Set Free Youth & Family Ministries

Confident Kid Martial Arts

I. The Lord Looks at the Heart

The Lord Jesus repeatedly emphasized that His concern is not only what we do, but why we do it. The Pharisees obeyed many rules and regulations, but their hearts were far from the Lord. The following are some poor motivations for obeying God and their possible results. Someone May Find Out.

- Many people obey god because they are afraid of what others will think of them if they don't obey. Example: Allen went on church visitation because he feared what his Sunday school class would think if he didn't.
- Barbara was married, but wanted to go out with a man at work. She didn't because of what others would think.

There are problems with determining our behavior solely on the opinions of others.

- First, there are times when no one is watching. Maybe you're away from home and don't know anyone in the city. The motive to refrain from sin is missing, so you indulge in it. Christians need to faithfully practice the Lord's presence.
- A second problem is that the desire to disobey may eventually exceed the peer pressure to obey. Finally, once someone has found out you've sinned, you may no longer have a reason to obey.

- Sherry didn't sleep with her boyfriend. She was afraid her mother would find out. One day, Sherry slept with her boyfriend, and as she feared, her mother found out. Sherry lost her motivation to obey, so she began sleeping with him regularly.

Obeying God because of others' opinions might work for awhile, but it won't honor God or set you free and eventually it won't work at all.

II. What Gives You Power Over PBA: Propitiation Means Satisfaction

The Bible teaches that propitiation refers to Christ's payment on the cross which satisfied the penalty for our sins. Christ's death appeases, or turns away, the wrath of God. God's righteous anger is directed against all sin, and therefore, against all of sinful mankind. Christ's death removes God's anger from repentant sinners.

- God cannot overlook sin... not even a "little one." Even our "righteous" deeds – those deeds we do to look good in the

eyes of people or to try to earn God's acceptance – are like filthy rags to God (Isaiah 64:6).

III. Accepting Your Acceptance

- Yes, God's wrath is person and is directed toward the sinner. All of us deserve God's righteous condemnation because all of us are sinners. The fact that God poured out His wrath on His Son for you is proof beyond question that He accepts you and unconditionally loves you. If you have recognized you are a sinner and believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins, was buried, and arose again the third day, then you have received the Spirit of the eternal God and Savior Jesus Christ. You are a son of God, unconditionally loved, completely accepted, approved, and totally forgiven all sins.

(Next newsletter: You Are A Spirit, Who Lives in a Body, That has a Soul)

“Christians: Are we really one?”

By

KARL WILLIAM MARX SR.

Founder of Keichu-Do Martial Arts

Hay! Just what is a Christian? You said the words someone led you with. Did you really mean it? I mean from the bottom of your heart truly mean what you said? Look at how many men and women, even men and men or woman and woman, who make the vow to love and cherish each other until death they do part, but end up in a stinking divorce. What happened to all those the commitments? Come on folks, wake up and smell the coffee. If you just said the sinners prayer but then live like the devil, there is some question as to if you were really saved or just thought you were. When I was saved back in May of 1970 and baptized the same night,

was I really saved? I went around to several Churches giving my testimony of how Christ had saved me and people were moved and many accepted Christ as their Savior.

Now, I believed with all my heart that I was saved. Within two years I was licensed to preach the Gospel by my then Community Baptist Church. Shortly thereafter, I started preaching at the Louisiana State Penitentiary “Angola,” a Local Prison Farm. To my surprise a few of the inmates were former friends of mine from my bad days before Christ. Preaching in a prison (if you could call what I was doing preaching), I wasn’t very good as preachers go. However, the good thing was that I had a captive audience so to speak. After awhile my Pastor and one of the Church Elders came to my Karate Academy and asked me for my License they had given me. Boy! Was I surprised, and devastated. I asked why and what had I done and they said they would rather not discuss the matter.

WOW! Talk about a kick in the groin. OUCH! I suppose they felt that because I spent Sunday at the prison and not at my home Church like I guess I was supposed to do for first service and since I didn't tithe to them I wasn't doing what was required. I suppose they were right, however I would have gladly done what was required if they would have instructed me. I knew I wasn't a great preacher. I knew that ever since my first preaching assignment as a visitor at a nearby Church. After the service as I was walking to my car in the parking lot. Some fellow shot me with a shotgun. Ha! Lucky for me it was just a hunter in a field shooting doves and only birdshot from way across the lot rained down on me.

I remember looking up to heaven and thinking, dear God, I wasn't that bad was I? Hearing a gun blast and feeling bee, bees hitting me on the head like rice at a wedding, still was a bit frightening. Needless to say and possibly ironic as well, that was the last time I ever preached from the pulpit in a Church. With one exception when as part of my Bible college Timothy's class we were required to give a sermon at Church on a Wednesday night. It is during those times that many

folks begin to wonder if they are in fact a Christian. The Enemy loves to jump on our backs and rob us of our faith, and replace it with doubt, suspicion, and depression. I wonder which is worse. Doubting ourselves and feeling like we have let God down by failing to be in His will, thus losing His blessings.

Or for those who just think they are a Christian who really doesn't live the life, as they should. There is more to being a Christian than simply saying a few words. God knows our heart and HE will NOT be mocked. Anyone who is living in the flesh and fornicating regularly is not obeying God. Call it rebellion or just plain old stupidity, either one is deadly, dangerous living. Young or mature, it makes no difference. Sin is sin and Hell is hell. I'm not saying that a real Christian is sin free. No, we all sin at one time or another. He who claims to be sinless is a liar. I do know this that couples that live together are asking for trouble. There is NO real commitment between the two, and if both have so little morals what is to prevent them from cheating on each other?

Many laws originate from some form of morals. Many started taken from the Judo-Christian Holy Bible. Take for example, it's against the law to murder someone. That comes from the Bible. Stealing is against civil law and that comes from the Bible also. There are many other examples that you can look up for yourselves. Tell me, if your daughter were sleeping with her boy friend, how would you feel? Or let's say you find out your husband or wife is sleeping around or has a lover, how would your mind accept that? Well, tell me what the difference is when you young people sleep around. It hurts your parents to the core. It's bad enough that you have no respect for your mom and dad, but you're sinning in the face of GOD. That takes a lot of stupidity on your part. The wicked shall not go unpunished, we are taught, and I for one can attest to the truth of that statement.

Ho! Boy, can I attest to that. Anyone who has first hand experienced the pain of a ten-penny nail going through his or her finger can attest to the fact of excruciating pain. (I did that, too). Anyway, I know for a fact that when we sin we pay a horrible price one way or another. When I was a young man I was guilty of the sin of fornication and even adultery. Here I was sinning and I had no remorse for sin. I didn't care that I was being disrespectful to the girl's father and mother, or to my own parents who had raised me to be a good Catholic boy, keeping my body pure, no sex of any kind including masturbation because that was sinful. However, when I did taste the sweetness of the apple, I was snagged, hooked, addicted to and in bondage to the belief that if a girl had sex with me she loved me.

You see folks it is not the sex act itself that hooks us, it is the thought that if someone cares enough for us to share their most important possession (their bodies) then they must care a lot about us. This is a boost in our morale. It lifts our self-esteem and confidence that we are a worthy person, despite what we feel about ourselves because of what someone (parent, family member, sibling, or anyone who matters who

called us a loser or other self- defeating lie) says about us. The sad part of this is what sin does to one's personal relationship with their Savior and God.

You know with me and I can only suppose that a big problem with the sin of fornication is that way to many participants of this particular sin, is that they do not think of what they are doing as a sin. Couples living with each other out of wedlock have so many excuses that after awhile their neck stiffens up and their hearts harden and they become callused. Eventually, they justify their sin as nothing more than acting naturally. Talk about a lot of hogwash. "Just because we don't want to believe something is what it actually is doesn't make it what we want it to be". Hay! Just because YOU don't agree with me doesn't automatically make me wrong. Ignorance is only not knowing the truth. Stupidity is refusing to accept THE TRUTH. Now, what does all this sex talk have to do with being a Christian? I say a great deal. Look! It is not the sin I'm writing about. It is the fact that in many cases Christians are guilty of living like non-believers.

All too often I have counseled folks who say if so and so is a Christian, I don't want any part of that Christian stuff. Christians who are poor examples of what a Christian should be like are more like what hypocrites are like.

Christians should not be quick to anger, but I am. Sometimes I curse like a Marine Drill Sergeant. I am not always an ideal role model of what a Christian should be. When I was younger I was also unashamedly promiscuous. I confess that is not the behavior of a real Christian. Was I really saved? Back then? I believe so. Why? Because eventually God broke me. I mean everything I touched turned to poop. I was riddled with bad health and rotten luck. One day I was high on the hog. The next day my girlfriend chipped out on me. I started having anxiety and panic attacks. Then on top of that at only 40 years of age I had a mild stroke and found out I suffered from angina pectoris. From there on my life just plummeted down to hard times.

Even Christians can and do come on to difficult times. Several months earlier my second wife and I split up and she married a younger fellow within 6 weeks. Texas Divorce HA! I thought I was a good husband. We attended church every Sunday. I bought a nice home on an acre of land. I had a good job. I was faithful, not a substance abuser or wife beater. I don't know exactly what I did wrong, but I sure messed up royally. My ex-wife got a new husband and I got a girlfriend, then another and another. All the time not feeling like I was sinning. Now, that is what I'm talking about or should I say writing about. Christians living in sin and not fearing the wrath of God. Again my point is being a Christian doesn't stop us from sinning, however, we should be dying to the old self and becoming more like Christ by reading daily what the scriptures teach from the Bible.

When you're lonely and depressed most people pray for someone to love them and to share their life with. Instead we should be praying to be closer to Christ. Only God can fix our situations. Self-preservation is strong in most individuals. Most folks I have asked what are they searching for had the same answers.

Question: What are you wanting and searching to find in your life? Answers:

- (1). "TRUTH"
- (2). "THE WAY"
- (3). "Peaceful LIFE"
- (4). "ENLIGHTENMENT"

Well, that is not so difficult to explain to non-believers. The answer is simple: You need Jesus Christ. No man in the history of humanity has ever spoken these words except one. "I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE". Jesus Christ also said He was the LIGHT of the World. So, that covers everything the whole of mankind needs. Not the kind of wants they think they need, but the real necessary ingredients of living they really NEED. One thing too many individuals don't think about is that sin separates them from God's Blessings. You think God is going to say Oh! That's alright that you're fornicating or committing adultery and Bless you for doing that. You must be really deep, dumb, and dense. What you might get is a pregnancy, venereal disease, or used and a reputation of being easy. They have names for

girls and women like that. Living with your boyfriend or girlfriend doesn't change the name you're labeled with the rest of your life.

Girls, men remember your name and locker talks in the men's room is vicious. Bragging rights run high, and 10 years or more you and your husband might run into one of your lovers, and ladies, that picture isn't pretty. Embarrassing does not even come close to the feeling. How will you feel if your husband goes to the men's room and one of your old lovers happens to be in there. Talk is bound to start, and how do you think your husband will feel if the other fellow or two of them say, "Hay, I see you married old easy wizzy." Look, what goes around comes around. You folks who have no respect for God will find out the hard way. Christians live by the Blessings of our ABBA Father God. Without these blessings life is not as fulfilling as with them.

When you're sick or need a job, maybe a raise, whatever our need, prayer is effective if we are right with our Father. I mean surely a daddy will buy a new bike for his child rather than for a stranger. HAY! Check this out. He (GOD) will fulfill the desire of those who FEAR him. Can anyone of you honestly say you fear God when you're fornicating? Come on, if your partner in sin really loved you, certainly they wouldn't stand between you and YOUR GOD, your Creator and Savior. Get real. Now hear this! " The Lord preserves all who love Him, But ALL the wicked He will destroy."

Now if that isn't enough to make you think, YOU need to get a life.

Any good Martial arts instructor worth his or her salt will tell you that conditioning is very important. My formula in teaching is:

(1) Technique First

(2) Speed Second

(3) Power Third

However, even more importantly, if you have all three mastered, unless you are able to perform them you will have worthless knowledge. This is the same with Christians. You might know the Bible inside and out. The devil and all his demons know the words of the Bible, but if you are not in condition, which comes from practice, you're road kill. All sports need certain conditioning so they can function properly. A boxer who cannot last the required rounds and poops out from exhaustion will very likely be defeated by a less skilled fighter who is in better shape. By training your mind through Spiritual exercise, reading and studying a Christian Bible, you are exercising your brain, mind and body.

If just looking at a woman and lusting after her body is the same as fornicating or if your married committing adultery, what do you think living with a person of the opposite sex and having sexual relations with that person does to your relationship with your Creator? Do you expect God to bless you for sinning? Most of the time we don't even think about the consequences of our actions. I never did, do you? Be honest. Well, what do you think? Do you really consider yourself a Christian? If so, great for you. If not, Hay! All you have to do is REPENT, ask God to forgive you for ALL your sins, and accept Jesus Christ as YOUR Lord and Savior. MEAN it from your heart and soul. Don't jive with God. HE knows your inner self. You try and fool with HIM and I guarantee you will come out on the short end of the stick.

“Faith or Fear”

by

Phil Lewis

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Heb. 11:1

He who has fear, has torment, the Bible tells us (1 John 4:18). Tortured thoughts and state of mind cause us to hold back, to procrastinate, to hide, and to cower. Faith, on the other hand, lends to courage, to boldness, and to action. It is imperative for us to examine our actions, or lack thereof, to see if we are exercising faith, or fear.

Even when faced with uncertainty, and difficult choices, it must be our belief in God's goodness, guidance, and sovereignty which guides us. God is good all the time. He knows how to give perfect gifts (James 1:17). He will never leave us nor forsake us. He will never short-change us. All His thoughts towards us are good (Jer. 29:11). The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. He has given His Spirit to guide us into all truth. He leads us with His right hand. His Word is a lamp unto our feet. And even when what we see happening around us, or to us, does not make sense, our God is in control. He is the Lord of Lords, King of Kings, and the ruler over all creation. He holds the hearts of kings in His hand, and turns them in whatever way He desires. And He promises to work all things out for the good of those who love Him and are called by Him (Rom. 8:28). So why do we fear?

Fear, like faith, involves “substance and “evidence (see Hebrews 11:1). When we take our eyes off of, and lose connection with the sure hope and glory of God,s presence, promises, and power, we are left with the substance and evidence which the devil and circumstances so easily provide. Yes, circumstances, when filtered by the devil,s lies, will deceive us into doubting God: Is He truly with me in this? Will He see me through it? How can He allow this? What good can come of this? Do I really need to submit to my authority? Doubting God will lead to doubting those in authority over us, doubting the application of His Word to certain things, and ultimately, to forming our own opinion and acting independently outside His will.

Fear does not come all at once. It comes by a shift in our focus. We begin to see the waves instead of the Master. We start to look at our surroundings and our circumstances. The natural realm of circumstances will never tell us the truths of the spiritual realm in which God operates. Deception creeps in as the “waves look too high, the “water too deep, and the “distance too far. These all tell us “It,s too hard! “You will never make it. “You don,t have to do this! “No one can

expect this of you! And if you listen to these masters of deception, you will begin to sink. You will sink because of fear. And you will sink into fear. You will be lost in the high waves and deep water of the troubles around you. As you sink deeper, you become isolated, and no one can tell you anymore that you can walk on water. But it need not be so.

Peter knew where to look when he began to sink. He cried out “Lord save me! He immediately changed his focus. More importantly, he recognized that only the Lord could stop him from sinking. He knew Jesus was greater than the waves, was walking on the water, and could walk him through this.

You and I may be called to “walk on water in some way in our own lives. Perhaps you are experiencing this now. There is something seemingly impossible to deal with in your life. You feel you are being asked to do the impossible, bear the impossible, believe the impossible. And you are right. Without God and an implicit trust and focus on Him, you cannot do this. God does not call supernatural people to do ordinary things. He calls ordinary Christians to do supernatural things

as they showcase God,s enabling grace in their lives. And God,s grace is received by faith (Eph. 2:8,9).

Faith is an action. It is the laying hold of the presence, promises, and power of God. By faith we believe that He is, and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him. By faith we choose to seek Him in praise and prayer. By faith we choose to submit to His Word and to the authority under which He has placed us. By faith we step out in obedience in that which we are being called to do, trusting that His power is unlimited and His grace is sufficient. By faith we choose to see how God sees, to look at things from eternity,s perspective, and to expect God to move on our behalf for His honor and glory. By faith we trust and receive God,s love for us. And “perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18).

What is God calling you to do? What is that difficulty you are going through? What challenge lies ahead? Is there some area in which you are “sinking?” Call out to Jesus. Reach your hands out to Him. Keep your eyes focused on Him. In the words of a contemporary Christian singer: “Don’t give up, and don’t give in. This is a race that you can win. God loves and believes in you. He knows the pain that you’re going through. He’s with you every step of the way and He’s by your side.

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:22, 37-39)

“A Cause Worth Dying For”

By

Dr. Daryl Covington

2Ti 4:6 “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.”

2Ti 4:7 “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”

2Ti 4:8 “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

Here in the text, the Apostle Paul likens the Christian life to that of a soldier. We in the martial arts community like to think of ourselves as soldiers, as warriors, and people of valor. I would like to offer the thought that one area we as Christians fall short in as far as being “soldiers” of the cross is concerned, is being ready to die. To be a good soldier, one must be willing to DIE.

There is no current draft in our U.S. military right now. All of our troops signed up as volunteers. We have been to war several times with a volunteer army: Grenada, Panama, Desert Storm, Somalia, Afghanistan, Desert Storm II. (Somalia: some say was not real a war, but I would challenge you to tell that to my Ranger brothers’ families that didn’t come back. Tell that to the guys that had to run out of the city getting shot at.)

Some say Panama wasn't really a war. May I ask you a question? Have you ever been standing in an airplane and jumped out into a barrage of bullets just as your friend got his leg shot standing in the door? Ever had to charge a line of men firing AK 47s at you? Don't tell me it wasn't war. The question is, why would someone volunteer to do that?

Signing up for the military is a commitment. Before a man enlists, he sits down and figures out the costs, weighs the benefits. My parents almost had a cow when I signed up, but I had weighed the costs. When I got out I'd have money to pay for school, I'd gain some good training, I would get to choose where I would be stationed, I was guaranteed an airborne assignment, not to mention free boots, camo, and bullets. There were many disadvantages as well, but I sat down with the recruiter, got all details, and signed up. Why?

Let's put the same question on a spiritual plane, because the answer is the same. WHY fight? If you have eternal security, why not just rest in John 3:16 (or more properly 1 Corinthians 15:1-5) and wait till the Lord calls us home?

Keep that in mind while we look at a couple of men of Valor on the battlefield. Nathan Bedford Forrest was a tiny Confederate General, but he carried a 5 ft. sword. Once he and 20 Confederate troops were surrounded by fifty Union soldiers. The commanding officer of the Union troops said, "Forrest, you are surrounded, now give me your sword. Forrest responded, "Here have it", drew his sword, sliced the commanding officer's head off, turned his horse, and chased the remaining Union troops away! Where did THAT courage come from?

General Armistat led troops by putting his hat on his Sword, and marching up front. Why?

You may not get recognition or reward in this lifetime. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain waited 30 yrs to get his reward from the battlefields of Gettysburg. Christian, you may wait longer than that, but Christian, there is a reward worth for fighting.

We have a weak Christianity today. We need valiant warriors, men that will draw the sword and charge headlong into the enemy's Camp: men that will cut the head off the enemy.

Some great soldiers died for their country's cause. I've been in combat with guys that would have laid down their life for me. Their job was, if necessary, to lay down their life for me, so I could get done what had to be done. John 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." There it is. That's the answer to why we as Christians aren't serving with Valor: We aren't ready to die! Listen. We aren't ready to die.

Paul wasn't talking about being ready to die in terms of Salvation, HE KNEW HE WAS SAVED WAY BACK IN ACTS. He mentioned in Corinthians: "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." Knows he is saved, but he wasn't ready to be offered yet. Next words say in 2Cor. 5:9 : "Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him." (This is not about salvation, this is about something else). Again, he desires to go ... in Philippians: "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better." But he isn't ready to be offered yet. Look at the next verse: Philippians 1:24.

Finally, back to our text, 2 Timothy 4:6: “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.”

2 Timothy 4:7 – “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”

2 Timothy 4:8 – “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

You as a Christian aren't ready to die until you have FOUGHT a GOOD FIGHT, FINISHED your course, and kept the faith (That's not saving faith, but THE faith). THEN, you are ready to receive a reward.

Most aren't ready for reward, so you're not ready to die. Paul was. If most of us died today, there'd be no reward. Some may say, “Well, I raised my kids right, don't get a reward for that?” God takes it for granted a Christian mom and dad will do that. Jesus says even a heathen takes care of the kids.

We aren't ready to die until we KNOW that we have done ALL we could for a cause worth dying for.

Why does a volunteer army work? Men find the cause worthy to die for. Jesus died for us, but men, we aren't ready to die for him.

Paul, on his death bed, said, "Timothy the cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when you come, bring it, and the books, but especially the parchments." (2 Tim 4:13). Now, if there has EVER been a man that didn't need to study doctrine, wouldn't it be the guy that wrote it? Why?

2Timothy 2:15 – "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

We don't love the Book enough to be offered yet. Love for the living word and written word leads to love of people. Let us work towards being ready to be offered.

(Editor's note: AMEN!)

GMAF NEWSLETTER

September – December

2007

Welcome to the GMAF Newsletter! We pray it will encourage you in your life, your martial arts and outreach for Christ.

Thoughts from the Master

“Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it,

and it yielded no fruit. And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred. And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. “ Jesus Christ

“For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.” The Apostle Paul

Wisdom Notes

“The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise.” Proverbs

“What We Have In Jesus: The Third Blessing”

by Mark McGee

GMAF Director

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all

wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

Ephesians 1:3-14

The first blessing Paul mentions in Ephesians is that God chose us in Him “before the foundation of the world.” The second blessing Paul mentions is our “adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.” The third blessing is that we were adopted by Christ “to the praise of the glory of his grace.” We have a high calling and purpose!

There is nothing small or ordinary about Christians. We have been called by the Most High God to the most high purpose: “to the praise of the glory of his grace.” That statement in itself is amazing and almost beyond explanation.

“TO THE PRAISE”

- Praise is the Greek *epainos* and means “applause, commendation, approbation, praise.” Jesus Christ is the object of our praise. I like the word picture of applause. I’ve often thought about how hundreds of millions of Christians will react to seeing Christ in Heaven’s great arenas and applause and shouts of adulation come to mind. I can just see and hear the throngs of the redeemed applauding,

shouting and singing songs of praise to the Lamb of God as we see Him in all His heavenly glory. We get a picture of that in the Book of Revelation as the heavenly host sing “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.” Won’t it be wonderful to join with the angels in heaven to sing their song to Christ? We’ll see the 24 elders worship Christ saying “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” We will praise Christ with our whole body, including mouths for shouting and singing and hands for applauding.

- We don’t have to wait until we get to heaven to praise Christ and applaud Him. We were adopted as children “to the praise” of Christ in this lifetime and for eternity! The singing and praising and shouting and applauding started at our adoption service (our salvation) and will continue forever. The purpose of our entire life is to be to His praise!

“OF THE GLORY”

- Our excited praise is because of the “glory of his grace.” Glory is *doxa* and means a high opinion of someone or something and the honor that would go with it. In the case of Jesus Christ, *doxa* would be the highest opinion and the highest honor we can possibly give! We know about the glory of Christ through what He created and His life-giving sustenance to everyone and everything (“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.” Colossians 1 ... “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.” John 1)

“OF HIS GRACE”

- Grace is *charis* and means “unmerited favor.” *Charis* has the underlining meaning of favor that causes joy and gladness. The Grace of God brings joy! It brings gladness! It brings hope! We were lost in sin. We were spiritually dead. We deserved God’s punishment, but instead we received His Love and Grace! That’s why we sing! That’s why we shout! That’s why we applaud! God’s Grace is what we praise and honor. Christians were adopted as children of God to the praise of the glory of His grace. We spend our lives praising God, applauding God, singing to God and serving God because of the glory (highest opinion and honor) of God’s Grace (unmerited favor).

There is nothing higher or more important in our life than the high purpose of our calling. We are God’s children. We were adopted as His children to be to the praise of the glory of His Grace!

How do we live our lives to the praise of the glory of His grace? We obey Him. That means knowing what He says about every subject of life, every aspect of life, and obey what He says. That means reading the Bible regularly, intently and fervently. That means praying to God regularly, intently and fervently. That means living the life of Christ before others regularly, intently and fervently. That means sharing Christ with others regularly, intently and fervently.

Think about how excited Christians get at sports events, entertainment events, church events. We shout and applaud and high-five each other and enjoy ourselves thoroughly. Do we have that same high opinion of Christ?

Does being a child of God bring out that kind of fervent joy and gladness? If not, why not? What keeps us from enjoying our relationship to the Most High God to a higher degree than our favorite team making a touchdown or getting a home run or hitting another basket or making another goal? Why would we become more excited about hearing our favorite singer or group in concert than hearing from God in prayer or study? I think about this often. Nothing in this life should make me

happier or fill me with more joy than being a child of God. Christians should be “the” happiest people on earth. We have something that everyone wants, even though they don’t know it. I didn’t know I wanted Christ when I was an atheist. I wanted happiness. I wanted joy. I wanted fulfillment. I wanted satisfaction. I wanted love. I wanted acceptance. I just couldn’t find it in anything or anyone. My search for peace in this life was not fulfilled by anything in this life. What I wanted was to be adopted by God. I wanted His love, His grace, His acceptance. I wanted to belong to Him. I just didn’t know it until He found me and wooed me and saved me and cleansed me and taught me about His Grace. That’s when my applause began. That’s when I shouted for joy. That’s when I cried with tears of thanksgiving. That’s when I knew I belonged. That’s when I knew my life had begun. That’s when I knew life had meaning. I was a child of God. We are children of God “to the praise of the glory of his grace.”

(Next newsletter: The Fourth Blessing!)

“A History of Man’s Quest for Immortality”

by Mark A. McGee

We are pleased to announce the publication of our new book, A History of Man’s Quest for Immortality, published by Fifth Estate Book Publishing. This 780-page book was written to help Christians understand what non- Christians believe about immortality and how to reach them more effectively for Christ. We also wrote the book for people who are searching for answers to their deep questions about immortality and life after death.

Here is a brief explanation About the Book.

“Immortality. Everlasting life. Eternal bliss. Heaven. Nirvana. Paradise. It is the siren cry that calls all human beings to something better than what we have in this life. What is waiting for us on the other side of death? Will it be eternal joy and rest or everlasting pain and

agony or do we just disappear with nothing after our last breath? How can we beat the fast-approaching moment of our own demise and the deaths of people we love? Can we live longer and stronger? Can we find something that will keep us from ever dying? Every people and tongue, city and civilization have asked the same questions you and I ask today. Was there a time when people lived to be almost a thousand years old? Could that happen again in our lifetime?

‘A History of Man’s Quest for Immortality ‘ is about humanity’s search for a way out of the prison we call time that eats away at every cell of our body and mind. Thousands of years of human history are filled with billions of people trying to make sense of lives that begin with a promise and end with a curse. The Garden of Eden, Noah’s Ark, the Tower of Babel, the Temples of Mesopotamia, the Pyramids of Egypt, the Golden Elixir of China, the Philosophy of Greece, the Power of Rome, the Alchemy of Arabia, the Medicine of Europe, the Science of America – all stand witness to the passion of the human race to find a cure for death. The questions

are easy. The answers difficult. The purpose of this book is to document the quest and discover the answers.”

You can purchase “A History of Man’s Quest for Immortality” from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

“Greater Grace, Greater Purpose”

(Understanding God’s Grace is to Understand His
Purpose for Your Life)

by

Dr. Robert Xavier

Set Free Youth & Family Ministries
Confident Kid
Martial Arts

We all break all of God’s commandments in omission and commission. Everyday we break His laws. Therefore, we have no other hope but to put our trust in God’s GRACE and MERCY.

God saves us not because of what we have done, but rather in spite of what we have done. God is not like us! HE IS THE GOD OF ALL GRACE. IT IS IN HIS GRACE AND ONLY IN HIS GRACE THAT WE ARE SAVED!

ROMANS CHAPTER 12:1-3

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”

TITUS 2:11-14

“For the grace of God that brings salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”

DOES GOD APART FROM GRACE SAVE AND ACCEPT ANYONE?

- God is not giving out His righteousness and acceptance as a reward to us because of our faithfulness to Him. God is giving out His righteousness as a gift to us because of Christ's faithfulness and service to Him. Jesus Christ always did the will of His Father, even when it came time to give up His life and die on the cross for our sins.
- In Christ and through faith in Christ we may approach God with freedom and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12)

- Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. He came into this world in order that there might be a Gospel of Grace to preach.
- God the Father made Jesus Christ who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God IN HIM.
- God credited His Son's righteousness to all of us who believe and receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.
- Grace is the highest form of love. God's Grace transforms something ugly into something magnificently beautiful. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses you and me from all sin. We are all sinners. There is nothing that we can do to gain God's favor.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
(Ephesians 2:8-10)

Salvation is the work of God on our behalf. It could not be made clearer. Salvation comes to us, NOT on the basis of our works, but on the basis of a FREE GIFT FROM GOD. There are only two religions in the world: Do and Done. You belong to one of these religions.

People in the DO Religion don’t agree.

- The people in the DO Religion are insecure and disagree about how to become acceptable to God.
- New DO Religions are formed every year. People in the DONE Religion all agree.

- The people in the DONE Religion are absolutely secure about their love, accepted, approved, and forgiveness by God.
- They know for certain they have secure favor and eternal life with God.

Who is Man?

- Both of these religions believe in the existence of this wild and wooly creature.
- Most of mankind believes they have problems, hangups and difficulties in human relationships.

Words about religion bring up God.

- Most people agree God exists in some form of higher power.
- Both religions believe in life after death, but how to get in good with God is not agreed.

- The DO Religion – I have tried. I am trying. I live in a way that is pleasing to God.
- The NONE Religion – I have tried, but... I am trying to live right, but... I try to do good, but...
- Some people think you are god, they are god, the son, moon, and stars and nature are god.
- THIS IS WHERE THE TWO RELIGIONS GO IN COMPLETELY DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.

Three things people of the DO Religion must do to get on the god side of God to enter into heaven or the place of bliss.

- Chanting a variety of words and prayers. Doing good humanitarian works. Seeing God as the great cosmic scorekeeper in the sky.
- Worshipping nature, even on the gold course or in sports and things that have been created.

NOTE: People of the DO Religion are hoping to tip the scales of their good deeds to outweigh their bad deeds to win God's favor. The second leading cause of death among teenagers is suicide. No Hope!

What DONE Religion agrees and believes.

- IT IS FINISHED
- They have a textbook called the Holy Bible

Our problem is a 3-letter word: S(I)N• No one is perfect. After all, we are only human.

- SIN is rebelliousness against our holy creator. We all sin every day of our lives.
- God's standards of righteousness are set forth clearly in the Bible. We should never take God's Holy Name in vain... honor your mother and father... never lie, cheat, steal, lust, murder, harbor bitterness or act in fits of rage, etc.

- It is appointed for men once to die then the righteous judgment of Almighty God. Everyday we are closer to the final judgment.

THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL NAME IN THE WORLD.

- (JESUS) “Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
- The Lord Jesus Christ left the glory of angels, left heaven, was conceived of a virgin by the Holy Spirit, had two natures, perfectly Divine Creator God, and perfectly sinless one who died on the cross. There lies the greatest love story ever told.
- The Lord Jesus came into this world to put sin onto His account. He became sin for us who knew no sin, suffered and died a criminal's death on a cross for us and rose from the dead three days later.

What makes Jesus different from other dead martyrs or some dead hero?

- Jesus Christ was truly God and truly man.
- He came into this world to redeem mankind from their sins and to die a substitutional death on our behalf.
- He took up His life three days after His death and rose from the grave.
- Many witnesses saw him on ten different occasions after His Crucifixion. Over five hundred witnesses saw him at one time.

“The gospel he [God] promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 1:2-4)

“For if, when we were sinners, God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved thorough his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.” (Romans 5:8-11)

- We break most all of God’s commandments in word, thought or deed daily.
- Grace is the highest form of love. God’s Son the Lord Jesus Christ came down from heaven and took the form of a human so we could someday live with Him for all eternity. The Son of God became a son of man so that the sons of men could some day become sons of God.
- Grace transforms something ugly into something beautiful.

FAITH, AGREEING WITH GOD

F.A.I.T.H.

- Forsaking All I Trust Him
- The Lord Jesus Christ who has begun a good work in you will continue it.
- You are now able to do all things through Christ who will strengthen you.

JESUS IS WORKING IN YOU

- For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.
- Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

(Next newsletter: Now How About You?)“When the Going Gets Tough

“The Christian Gets Tougher”

BY

KARL WILLIAM MARX SR.

Founder of Keichu-Do Martial Arts

In Spiritual warfare there are no rules and it's a no holds barred fight. I used to think I was the dirtiest street fighter in the World. Ha! Satan is so dirty at fighting he makes me look like Mr. Clean. My friends Steve and Roger as well Roger's wife, we all have something in common. My son Victor and almost every Pastor I know are in conflict with the enemy on a daily basis. I suppose if we were not a threat to Satan he would not have to keep sending fresh troops to out sectors. Without adversity I think we might not be worth his time or effort. “Why attack those who are not fighting for Christ

Jesus. Let them alone and attack those who are against sin and the father of lies”.

Sometimes it seems like everything I touch turns into manure. If I did anything right it might be slipping on a roller skate falling through a plate glass window, into a China shop, breaking \$10,000 worth of antique wares, but not hurting myself in anyway shape or form. Not even a scratch from broken glass. “If it weren’t for bad luck, I wouldn’t have any luck at all” is an old saying. The truth is, it’s not luck at all. Fate? Karma? None of that is what goes on in life. The Creator starts most individuals off in perfect condition, unless they are very special, and have some physical, or mental difference. When things go wrong with us it is usually our own fault. Take for example a fellow breaks up with his girlfriend and starts drinking. He becomes involved in a car accident because he is drunk. The consequence of that action is not fate or Karma, it’s stupidity. We are not born stupid.

That comes with not wanting to learn knowledge. The fellow with no understanding will not have much Wisdom. Come on, everyone knows that anyone who hates wisdom is stupid. If the fellow whose girlfriend left him would have just thought to use his knowledge that he should have learned by reading the correct Book he would have understood what to do with his situation rather than feeling sorry for himself and getting drunk and driving. If you run in mud, your shoes will get muddy.

Satan has so many areas to attack us that it is difficult to fight back when we never know when, how or with what he will attack with. Something as small as disappointment can bring on anger, which can create depression, then even more serious anxiety attacks. Manic depression and Bi Polar, Obsessive Compulsive Behavior are but a few attack methods used by Satan.

Unfortunately for most people we believe we are crazy and we run to a psychiatrist. I wonder why some folk's call them shrinks. Do you suppose they might be kinfolk to the Headhunters who shrink their victim's heads?

Ha! Just kidding. When we start to experience any symptoms of an oncoming attack, whatever kind it is, get tough, get mad, not scared. Pray like all get out. If you have medication, fight the attack with prayer before you resort to taking the medication. But never ,ever not take your medication if you are unable to pray it off. God will always be there for you. Sometimesit feels like HE is not there, however, when the going gets so tough that you can't take it, or even walk, you might feel deserted, unloved and without hope. Usually you are being carried. That's why there was only one set of footprints in the sand. The point I'm fumbling so badly to make is that no matter how bad things appear, it will go away. You will always win in the end. That's the good part. You may have to get tough, I mean tougher, than you have ever been. Also, call your mentor. I you don't have one, GET ONE. Usually a Pastor or elder from your congregation will suffice.

However, without your mentor to gain knowledge from because your mentor has the wisdom, your fight may be longer and harder. So, now you have at least some information on how to do battle with the enemies of your Creator.

“Teaching the Whole”

BY

Joseph Lumpkin

Shinsei as an art is beyond a physical training system or self-defense. It focuses on “teaching the whole.” From a Biblical standpoint, our personhood, our “humanness,” is a three-part essence, embodied in one. We are Body, we are Soul, and we are Spirit. Paul states this in 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, “I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.” Yes, man indeed has a tripartite nature. We find these concepts in the New Testament Greek, soma-body, psyche-mind, and pneuma-spirit. It requires three parts of a man to create the whole. God himself is a Trinity, three in one. God is three persons: God the Father (Soul), God the Son (Body), God the Holy Spirit (Spirit). As God is, so is his creation. Adam was made in the image of God. He has this tripartite nature.

So why the theology lecture, and what does it have to do with teaching martial arts? It is to remind the instructor that we are tripartite beings, and therefore must receive tripartite training. There are three aspects of being which our Shinsei Hapkido system is designed to develop: body, soul, and spirit. These three aspects must be developed in balance for a person to become properly balanced as a martial artist and, therefore, as a person. This balance is represented by the belt being tied with the knot in the center, and either side of the ends being equal in length.

The first part of this tripartite division of the human is the body. Most instructors practice this portion of the training. The body is developed through the physical exercises involved in martial arts training. They may include forms, Kata, sparring, grappling, conditioning exercises, stretching, and other drills. Repetition of the basic and advanced techniques develops the proficiency of the practitioner at this level.

The second aspect of the tripartite division is the soul (which includes the mental training, as well). Bible concepts, Biblical meditation, and the development of one's personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ are essential teachings of Shinsei Hapkido. Mental training must also include studies that will help balance the student in such forms of artistic expression such as writing, painting, poetry, or music.

Shinsei also emphasizes teaching the student to focus his mind and to coordinate his thinking with his movements. Students are encouraged to listen, read, think, and write. Instructors should never restrict themselves to simply teaching the martial arts, but should study all aspects of history, philosophy, science, medicine and other subjects, as well as Biblical concepts. To facilitate the quest for knowledge, Shinsei is unique in the fact that Scripture memorization and applications are intertwined within the system.

The third part, the spirit, is often overlooked as well. Students need a firm foundation of beliefs to guide them. The true martial artist is continuously in pursuit of personal improvement. It is not enough to have a strong mind and body; the true martial artist should also strive to be strong in spirit. He should have a well-defined goal in life and a firm foundation of beliefs to guide him. Shinsei offers a vehicle to reach others with the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. It is when Jesus becomes one's personal Saviour that the Spirit of God takes up residency in the individual's life. When we ask Jesus to save us, the Holy Spirit comes in and "Christ liveth in me." (Galatians 2:20)

We must look beyond the obvious, the physical. We must address the reality of the trinity of Man. We can feed the body, and starve the spirit. What good would it do to feed a hungry man and then allow him to die and go to hell?

(From *Encounter the Warrior's Heart: The Philosophy of Shinsei Hapkido*)

“A Matter of Lying”

BY

Dr. Daryl Covington

What's so bad about a little lie?

“The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh.” Proverbs 11:17 (KJV).

Lies will be exposed: Lying is deceiving someone. It can be direct – “I didn’t touch that cake” (as you swallow the last bite) or it can be indirect, such as telling only part of the truth when it benefits you to do so. But to fall short of truth, in any way, is to lie. Pilate asked, “What is truth?” (John 18:38). Pilate had the answer to his question standing before him, in person. “I am the way, the truth and the life,” Jesus said on another occasion (John 14:6). Think of it! Jesus not only tells the truth, he is truth. We cannot follow the God of truth while

we persistently tell lies even “small” ones. We must determine to tell the truth in all matters of life, big or small. Lying is the basic fault line in the foundation of the soul, putting all the superstructure in jeopardy. All the believability a person has, his very integrity, totters on the shifting sand of one lie. Deceit holds hostage all other virtues.

Why do we lie?:

“But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, -And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles’ feet. – But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? – Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. – And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. -And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out,

and buried him. -And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. – And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. – Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. -Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. -And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.- And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.” Acts 5:1-12 (KJV).

HOLDING BACK:

The sin Ananias and Sapphira committed was not stinginess or holding back part of their money; they were free to choose whether or not to sell the land and how much to give. Their sin was lying to God and God's people by saying they gave the whole amount while they were holding some back for themselves, trying to make themselves appear more generous than they really were. This act was judged harshly because dishonesty and covetousness are destructive in a church, preventing the Holy Spirit from working effectively.

THE CURSE OF HYPOCRISY:

“In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. -For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.” Luke 12:1-2 (KJV).

WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN?:

Do you remember the old TV show *The Lone Ranger*? Whenever the hero, who wore a black mask across his eyes, did a good deed, someone always asked, “Who was that masked man?” I think many observers today are asking the same question of a lot of Christians. They’ll perform a convincing act on the outside while faking it on the inside. In other words, many will be hypocrites. The word hypocrisy means “to wear a mask.” In the Greek theater, actors held masks over their faces to portray different characters. Jesus tells us, in essence, “Beware of hiding behind a mask of hypocrisy.

Don’t try to appear to be something that you really aren’t.” What a curse hypocrisy has been to the church! So many pretend to be something they are not. Yet no mask will stand up to God’s scrutiny. Jesus warns us that “there is nothing covered that will not be revealed.” There are no secrets with God.

In the end, Jesus will pull off every mask and reveal who's really underneath. Paul speaks of the day "when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel." (Romans 2:16).

Proverbs says, "The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble." Proverbs 12:13 (KJV). Sinful talk (lying) is twisting the facts to support your false claims.

“THE PERFECT GIFT”

BY

Phil Lewis

Are you looking for the perfect gift? What does he need? What does she want? What would really make them feel special? How can you show that person they are really loved? Well, God did something 2,000 years ago that is just the “ticket. He gave the most perfect gift ever. And He is still in the business of giving to all who would receive. The Bible says that “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” James 1:17 And in John 3:16 we read “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

What do you need, more than life? “The wages of sin is death.” Rom. 6:23. And we are all sinners. Jesus said He came to give us life, and life more abundantly. What could you want more than forgiveness and peace with God? “..being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Rom. 5:1 “There is..no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus...” And what could really make you feel special and loved more than the fact that Jesus did it all just for you?

He was given, and died for your sins, so that you could live eternally in a loving relationship with the very God who created you, and knows all that you are, what you want, and what you need.

God is still reaching out to you today. He would like you to receive His gift, Jesus. “For as many as received Him, to them gave He the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.” John 1:12

“Jesus Ascended”

BY

Mark McGee

GraceLife Ministries is in its 18th year of sharing the Love and Grace of God with people around the world through Christian Martial Arts, Bible Studies and answers to serious life questions. Here is one of the questions we received many years ago and the insights we found then and continue to find in God’s precious Word.

QUESTION: I would appreciate your comments on the meaning of Ephesians 4:8-10. I’m particularly interested in Paul’s quote from Psalm 68:18: “When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.”

ANSWER: Ephesians 4 is about Unity in the Body of Christ.

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

Paul then writes:

“But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: ‘When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.’ (What does ‘he ascended’ mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service,

so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

Christ is Eternal. He sits on the Throne of Heaven. He descended from His Throne to the “lower, earthly regions” two-thousand years ago to live, minister, die for sins and rise from the dead. After that, Christ ascended “higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.” It was Christ Who gave gifts to men. Those gifts are the gifted individuals we know as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. The reason He did that was to bring Unity out of chaos and Purpose to hopelessness. Christ gave the world

people who had specific spiritual gifts that would change the direction of people's lives from bad to good, from evil to righteousness.

Those gifted people would prepare God's people for their works of service so the Body of Christ would be built up until everyone reached Unity in the Faith. Those gifted people exist to help us mature and become like Christ.

Those gifted people are to speak the Truth in Love, knowing that's what helps us grow up into Christ who is the Head of us all. Those gifted people are the supporting ligaments to join and hold together members of the Body of Christ as they grow and build up each other in love, as each part does its work.

Paul quoted from Psalm 68:18 when he wrote: “When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.” Psalm 68 was Israel’s song of victory and triumph. It’s a tribute to God. It reminded Israel about how God lead them through the desert, how He defeated their enemies, how He chose Mt. Zion to be His home on earth, how He saved Israel and crushed their enemies, how great was the procession of God into His sanctuary, and how God will use His Strength to subdue His enemies. Psalm 68 is one of the most powerful and wonderful of David’s songs. Psalm 68 is about the procession of God’s Ark of the Covenant as Israel took it through the desert and the land of promise up to its special place on high. The Ark was where God dwelled on earth. The Lord Almighty was “enthroned between the cherubim that are on the ark.” (Read 2 Samuel 6 for more insight.) Israel did not move until the Ark moved. The God of the Ark was Israel’s Power and Glory. He was their Victory.

It's interesting to note that God's Name, Elohim, is used 23 times in Psalm 68. One commentator wrote that "this Psalm among all the Elohimic Psalms is the most resplendent." Psalm 68:18 is about when Israel took the Ark of God to its resting place high on Mt. Zion. It was then that God gave Israel the great gifts they would experience during the reigns of David and Solomon. God took many captives as Israel triumphed during their journey from the desert to Mt. Zion.

Those captives would benefit from God's gifts to the people of Israel. In the same way, Christ has taken many people captive through His conquering Love and Grace.

C.H. Spurgeon said it well many years ago:

"A multitude of the sons of men are the willing captives of Messiah's power. As great conquerors of old led whole nations into captivity, so Jesus leads forth from the territory of his foe a vast company of the trophies of his mighty grace. From the gracious character of his reign it comes to pass that to be led into captivity by him

is for our captivity to cease, or to be itself led captive; a glorious result indeed.”

[C.H. Spurgeon, “The Treasury of David,” Volume 2a, Zondervan Publishing, 1966]

Paul’s choice of that Psalm and that verse is strategic. Jesus Christ is God. He came to earth in a human body in the same way God came to earth in the Ark. Both went up from the desert to Mt. Zion conquering enemies and taking captives as they went. They both descended and ascended higher than all the heavens to fill the whole universe. Christ is our Ark. He is our Life. He is our Salvation. We are His captives. We are those to whom He gave gifts for His glory and praise and the blessing of humanity.

Taking God's Grace to the World!

[Join our [Grace Martial Arts Facebook Community!](#)]

Grace Martial Arts © 1990 – 2025