

Gospel Gazette

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FINALLY FULFILLED



LES WELLS

"I grew up in Richmond Virginia and had a fairly average childhood. Mother and father, four siblings and things were good for the most part. At 20 years old I married and was blessed with three beautiful children. I was a truck driver for 30 years, traveling all 48 of the lower states. This put a lot of stress on all of us, which contributed to our marriage failing apart, slowly but surely.

Driving a large truck across the U.S. was exciting. I saw a lot of beautiful sites and met a lot of people. As time went on I began to gamble and associate with people doing the same, especially the women I befriended. For awhile it seemed like the "GOOD LIFE", but it became difficult to keep up with and in time, I ended up losing more than I won. It wasn't too long before I was nearly broke. After traveling the U.S. for decades, I remembered Utah as being one of my favorite places.

When I arrived in Salt Lake I was broke and living on the street and in shelters. It was obvious I needed help to change. I remember walking by Pioneer Park one day and meeting a gentleman named Pastor Bill. As I spoke with him, he listened and as the Salt Lake City Mission outreach group was leaving, after feeding those in need, Pastor Bill told me to "Get in the van!" I didn't know what I was getting myself into but it had to be better than the streets or shelters.

After a month in the city program, I went to the Second Chance Ranch where I met Pastor Wilson. This guy knew the Bible back and forth. As time went on I experienced real love, unconditional love. Finally I had found true peace from God, through Jesus Christ.

I just want to praise God for His mercy and grace, and encourage anyone who has not given their life to God, through Jesus' sacrifice, to do so. All have sinned against God, the Bible clearly states. No one can do anything good enough to be saved except by receiving Christ, and studying His word, the Holy Bible, to learn of Him and remain in Him.

EFFORT

A vigorous or determined attempt. 2. Strenuous physical or mental exertion. Origin Latin ex-'out' + fortis 'strong'

How much effort does God put in to what he does? We may tend to think, "not much", because we know He is "all-powerful" and can create things by simply speaking them into existence. Why would we think God doesn't take great efforts to do things? Possibly, because we don't make great efforts in some of the things we do. In addition, I believe many times we are under the assumption we are harder working than others. It seems we are always the ones doing the "effortful duties".



Either way, these thought patterns are deceptive. To think God doesn't put much effort in what He does is insane. Yet we minimize God by taking things for granted. If we only knew the great efforts God makes towards us daily we would truly be thankful. Also when we recognized the efforts others make, we will truly be thankful. Quite frankly, we can be very self-centered and only looking at "what's in it for me."

God's Word says: 2 Peter 1:5-11 ...giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful...

Luke 13:24 He said to them, "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not be able to.

John 5:44 How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God?

Rom 14:19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

Heb 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.



Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

A life without God produces a bitter lonely and hopeless old age full of sorrow. Yet a life with a personal relationship with God is fruitful, fulfilling and rewarding with eternal benefits and a very bright future!

This is written by one of the wisest men that ever lived near the end of his life. When he had become much wiser through his extensive personal experience. In the King James Version and other versions this passage is a little cryptic, complex and hard to grasp the exact message of God that Solomon is communicating to us.

Read this passage in your Bible and then read the same passage from the **Message Bible** below and see if it enlightens and blesses you as it has us.

1 ¶ Honor and enjoy your Creator while you're still young,
Before the years take their toll and your vigor wanes,
2 Before your vision dims and the world blurs And the
winter years keep you close to the fire.
3 In old age, your body no longer serves you so well.
Muscles slacken, grip weakens, joints stiffen. The shades
are pulled down on the world.
4 You can't come and go at will. Things grind to a halt.
The hum of the household fades away. You are wakened
now by bird-song.
5 Hikes to the mountains are a thing of the past. Even a
stroll down the road has its terrors. Your hair turns
apple-blossom white, Adorning a fragile and impotent
matchstick body. Yes, you're well on your way to eternal
rest, While your friends make plans for your funeral.
6 Life, lovely while it lasts, is soon over. Life as we know
it, precious and beautiful, ends.
7 The body is put back in the same ground it came from.
The spirit returns to God, who first breathed it.
8 ¶ It's all smoke, nothing but smoke. The Quester says
that everything's smoke.
9 Besides being wise himself, the Quester also taught
others knowledge. He weighed, examined, and arranged
many proverbs.
10 The Quester did his best to find the right words and
write the plain truth.
11 The words of the wise prod us to live well. They're like
nails hammered home, holding life together. They are
given by God, the one Shepherd.
12 But regarding anything beyond this, dear friend, go
easy. There's no end to the publishing of books, and
constant study wears you out so you're no good for
anything else.
13 ¶ **The last and final word is this: Fear God. Do what
he tells you.**
14 **And that's it. Eventually God will bring everything
that we do out into the open and judge it according to
its hidden intent, whether it's good or evil.**

December 31st is Nearing!

The end of the year will soon be upon us... and before we know it, a new year will dawn. Here are four gentle reminders to help you end the year in charitable style:

1. **Charitable giving benefits you, as well as the charities you care about. A special, year-end gift, during "The Season of Giving" can bring you added pleasure; especially as you consider the help your gift will give us here at Salt Lake City Mission. You will enjoy knowing that your generosity has made a difference and will help us to fulfill our worthy goals. And, of course, there are usually tax benefits related to charitable giving.**
2. **Appreciated assets can make dandy gifts. For example, if you have owned stock for at least a year and a day, you can receive full value for the gift, including all the appreciation. What's more, neither you nor Salt Lake City Mission will have to pay capital gains tax on the gift. Your tax advisor can spell out the specifics for you. Mutual funds, real estate and other appreciated assets can make great gifts as well.**
3. **Tax-wise charitable gifts often require advanced action. A stock gift usually takes more time to complete than writing out and mailing a check. Real estate gifts require even more time - often several weeks. You should also plan for time to discuss your non-cash gift with your attorney or financial advisor. Getting appointments and handling the paperwork takes time. So... start early!**
4. **A life-income plan may make sense for you at this time. These deferred giving plans allow you to establish a gift arrangement now, obtain current tax benefits, create a stream of lifetime income and provide a future gift to Salt Lake City Mission. They are especially attractive to donors who cannot afford to give up current income from retirement related assets.**

To Learn more, call Philip at (801)-388-1968, or Brad at (801)-355-6310 or visit us on the internet at www.saltlakecitymission.org

