

# Gems

Paris, TN Convention, 2008

October 9-12, 2008

- The eagle has wings to lift it above the earth. God can help us to be lifted above this world to see Jesus.
- Some testimonies: (1) A doctor told an older lady that she was ill. She asked what was wrong. He told her she had an enlarged heart. She said, "My prayer is answered." (2) "I'm thankful because I'm still thankful."
- Jesus is the great king! Other kings come and go, but Jesus is forever. When He first came he came as a little child. Most did not see Him because they were looking for a material king.
- Herod sought to destroy the "little child". Even today the devil seeks to destroy the little child in us.
- If we don't recognize our pride, it will destroy us.
- When we give in to sin, it's because we don't love the Savior enough.
- God loves us in spite of our sin. He saves us from the punishment of sin, the guilt of sin, the pollution of sin, and the power of sin.
- Jesus always focuses on the person who is the most needy, the most hopeless. Jesus sees us as what we can become.
- The worst teachers say and do not. When something happens where you could be a help, don't say "too bad." Instead do something, be a light, be salt.
- Go to the source. If we rid ourselves of anger, there is no killing. Rid ourselves of lust, there is no adultery.
- We need to get to the root cause of our problems. Do we have something that does not belong to us? Something like pride, place, envy, jealousy, etc. (Remember Achan)
- In all the Gospels the last word is "Amen". But that is not true of the book of Acts. That's because it is still going on today.
- Four small things exceedingly wise. For us to be exceedingly wise we must be small. (1) Ant carries bread to others. Good for us too, but we must first get bread for ourselves. (2) The coney is a hoofed animal. It cannot dig in the dirt. Good if we don't dig in the dirt and live in a place of safety. (3) Locusts go in bands. Like our love holds us together. Love is like mortar, keeps us bound together and keeps us apart but close. (4) The spider does well in a place that is too large for it. We need to focus on the place we have and who has made us worthy.
- Some testimonies: (1) I feel my praying for others has helped me as much or more as it has helped them. (2) All our battles may not bring us victory; but they will bring us closer to the one who can give us victory. (3) Thankful for what God has given me and thankful for what he has taken away (things I didn't need) (4) God never puts you through more that you can bear.
- God wants to see evidence that we are keeping sensitive to His voice and direction.
- God can soften our hearts to be useful. Like rain has a gentle effect on the earth. God too provides a gentle rain to soften us (not large plows or bull dozers). The soft soil then brings fruitfulness. Weeds are more easily pulled from the soil when the ground is moist.
- A word in season depends on the spirit within us. In Proverbs it says a soft answer turns away wrath. Abigail went out to meet David with a quiet and soft spirit. She accepted the blame and it changed the scene.
- The virtuous woman's tongue had the law of kindness. This is always in season.
- The Lamb nature leads us softly and safely. Our Esau nature has to be kept in servitude.
- Be careful not to grow cold and careless.
- Our faith grows stronger each time we hear the word of God.

- We desire fellowship in the Father's house where there is bread and water in abundance, compassion, clothing (Robe of Salvation), ring for the finger (seal of everlasting love), shoes on our feet. It is so important to be inside the Father's house. (Read about the Prodigal Son)
- An honest heart asks, "What is the purpose of my life?" The purpose of life is to prepare for the next life. This life is a preparation for the life to come.
- It would be wonderful if we would treat our Soul as we would our lost wallet or purse.
- The prodigal son knew his situation was the result of his own actions. But there was a REMEDY. God always has a remedy if we have humility and repent!
- If we say things can't be done today like Jesus taught, it's like saying God made a mistake. God makes no mistakes!
- May God help us to look on other people, as those who Jesus died for.
- A child of God is like making bread. The leaven does not look like much, it's small and it disappears into the whole and has an effect. Bread dough has to kneaded, and punched down, but the leaven works again. Baking is like the fiery trials that bring bread in our life.
- Some testimonies: (1) We recognize people's voices at convention even when we can't see them, We need to recognize the voice of God speaking to us. (2) Let convention be a life changing event in our lives. (3) The devil would like to steal our identity. He wants to destroy our identity as a child of God.
- A great and troublesome fear is that our joy and satisfaction comes from someplace else, and not in serving the Lord.
- Q: Teach me to pray?  
A: I don't know how.  
Q: Who teaches a baby to cry?  
A: A deep need teaches the baby to cry.
- Plow up your fallow ground. Fallow ground is ground that's idle. Do we have fallow ground in our life? Look around the lot, our lot.
- Live for others, but don't let strangers devour us.
- If we are not willing to deny ourselves, then our doings will not let us get close to God.
- Remember the ancient landmarks that mark our boundaries. Don't move the boundaries.
- Our own natural goodness is like the morning dew... gone in an instant. God's goodness is like the rain.
- Don't ask for God to take care of our future while our life is in our own hands. Instead trust the future to God with our lives in His hands.
- Why is the trial of our faith more precious than gold? Because it can bring us closer to God, and gold cannot do that.
- Some testimonies: (1) The man with the withered hand did not hide his hand from Jesus, (2) The gifts Jacob gave Esau were animals, both male and female with the hope of fruitfulness. A gift to encourage Esau to settle down and become a shepherd. (3) If we keep the faith, the faith will keep us. (4) I get up early and pray, I'm retired and have time. Some in our meeting are young with families and jobs, and may not have a lot of time to pray. I have time to pray for them.
- Live each day as we would want to live our last day on earth.
- Jacob wanted to save his entire family (remember him preparing for his meeting with Esau). Don't be content for our families to be lost. Pray and intercede. Don't be afraid of offending, because we may be their only hope.
- Don't limit the power of God. Every person we see is someone who Christ died for.
- The fool says no to God.  
The fool say there is no God.  
The fool says, no, God.  
Jesus never said NO, to God.
- We don't make a choice only once in our life. We make it every day. Yes or No. The right direction or the wrong direction. We need to get our direction settled. Then we can have real peace.
- We should respond anytime when God speaks to us. And obey, not because of the consequences, but obey because of love.
- Someone said that they wanted to take all their excuses out of their service to God.

- Daniel did not defile himself. He kept himself clean and God could use him in a special way.
- All sunny days do not help us grow; they make a desert. We need cloudy days and rain to grow in the way.
- Natural ability can never take the place of a right spirit (humble and contrite).
- Would Jesus' return disrupt any of your plans? Or is it something you would welcome as part of what you wanted to happen.
- It's good to love God's correction and feel His touch in our lives. We are thankful for his gentle correction.
- If we can see Jesus in all His perfection and beauty, it helps us to see ourselves in all our need.
- We could do a lot of things better if we were willing to be turned. An old mule might turn its head to "gee" or "haw" but keep going the same direction. We could just turn our heads and not really change our direction.
- If we close our eyes, ears, heart and mind to what God wants for us... does that mean we escape? No, we're still accountable.
- When a servant decided to not go free and stay with his master, they did it because the master was kind, gentle, and provided for their needs. Their ear was marked to show this. God marks us with His spirit. He's the only one who can give us His spirit.
- A natural friendship has to be developed. The same is true with Jesus. A true friend tells the truth. He tells us what we need to hear. A true friend will help us and even save us. (An enemy or foe wants to harm us.)
- During life we have stewardship of our life, our health and natural possessions. There's a time coming when we will lose our stewardship. Now is the time to prepare while we have time and opportunity, and while we have a friend to help us.
- We all have pride! If we don't acknowledge it and fight it, we will be in a lot of trouble. We hate pride, and God hates pride, too.
- Some testimonies: (1) The worst thing we could lose is to lose our rest and peace. (2) The Bible is like a picture album of Jesus. (3) The world is "fool's gold". It's not real, it has no value, and it deceives. (4) We don't know how far we have drifted from God until we come to convention.
- Our human nature is good. God never made anything that was bad. But human nature is weak and apt to sin.
- Eve's first mistake was to begin talking to the serpent. She should have gone to God and asked, "Who is this serpent, and why is he saying these things?"
- Lust is a strong desire. Any lust can be achieved lawfully. But when achieved unlawfully it is sin.
- The world has various requirements to become a minister. The only real requirement is to obey what is taught in the Bible.
- Jesus made it very clear what true greatness is all about... be humble as a little child. There is no way to enter the Kingdom of Heaven unless we are converted and become as a little child.
- Parents make decisions for a little child, determining what they will eat, when they will eat, what they wear, where they live, when they need to be cleaned, etc. God is our Father in Heaven... he provides bread, clothing to wear, cleansing. We need the Father.
- Naaman didn't get help until he humbled himself. He had to change his thinking from "I thought" to "You know what's best".
- Jesus never exalted himself above the Father.
- Nothing we do can add to or take away from Jesus' sacrifice. He did not lose His life! He offered His Life! Jesus was an offering.
- Are there barriers between us and God? Boat in a canal must go through locks to get to the higher levels. There's a gate in front and a gate behind. No progress if the gate behind cannot be shut. We need to close off the things that hinder our progress. God will open the gate in front.

- We can be sure that outwardly Jesus' body bore bruises, cuts and scratches. Inwardly there was nothing to spot Him. He was the spotless Lamb of God.
- Words that Jesus Spoke on the Cross:
  - (1) "My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?" Matt 27:46. Jesus had to face this alone even without God.
  - (2) "Father forgive them; for they know not what they do" Luke 23:34. Jesus set a good example, immediate forgiveness.
  - (3) "Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise" Luke 23:43. Spoken to one of the two thieves. There was a lot of difference in the two thieves, one got a revelation, he was sorry and he repented. This gives us hope today for people who in their last days repent.
  - (4) "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit" Luke 23:46. Nothing had defiled Jesus' spirit. He could "commend" it. It does not say "commit" it.
  - (5) "Woman behold thy son", "Behold thy mother!" John 19:26-27. On the cross Jesus was concerned about His mother's needs. A precious example of thinking of the needs of others.
  - (6) "I thirst" John 19:28. We must keep a thirst for the living word all the way to the end. Jesus kept His thirst.
  - (7) "It is finished" John 19:30. Jesus was willing to go all the way and not give up... He endured to the end.
- Some people think that Jesus was special, and had God-like powers, and was different from us. This gives them an excuse not to bring their own will into subjection. Have no doubt, Jesus had a human body and a human will just like you and me.
- We can be 99.99% resigned to God's will, but the 0.01% can ruin it all.
- The future before us is untouched and unblemished. The past behind us can be just as clean and pure. The past has to be dealt with or it affects the future. Time never covers up the past.
- Jesus had an effect on others when He was on the cross. Remember the centurion, the thief, Nicodemus, and Joseph who begged for His body. (Maybe many more?)
- We should not be slow to take steps in the way. Don't be slow to feel the need to be baptized. They would have no right to claim salvation if they had turned down baptism time after time.
- The workers going out in our day gives us confidence that the truth will survive into the next generation.

~ Completed October 28, 2008