

THE SHINING LIGHT
Shining Forth in Truth for the Blind
Fall 2012, Issue 4.

“For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.” (2Corinthians 4:5)

Welcome, friends to this edition of The Shining Light. The Shining Light is a quarterly publication produced by Gospel Light Foundation for the Blind. It is available in Braille, Microsoft Word, digital cartridge, and cassette. Gospel Light exists to make Christ-centered, Biblically sound materials available to those who are blind or partially sighted. Our desire is to see more and more blind persons grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and we pray that God will use the ministry of Gospel Light Foundation for the Blind in the spread of His gospel and the equipping of His church.

Part 1. REFLECTIONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Below for your reflections are two devotionals taken from Charles Spurgeon’s classic work entitled Morning and Evening. Charles H. Spurgeon was England’s best-known preacher for most of the second half of the 19th century. He is popularly referred to as the prince of preachers. Morning and Evening consists of brief meditations on Scripture for each day of the year and it continues to be a popular daily devotional even today.

If you are an internet user, you will find Spurgeon’s Morning and Evening meditations at the following web site:

<http://www.ewordtoday.com/spurgeon/>

The Morning and Evening devotionals are also available in audio form from Gospel Light along with a host of Spurgeon’s sermons which are extremely well read. The following are Spurgeon’s morning devotionals for January 4 and January 6.

Morning, January 4.

"Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." --2 Peter 3:18.

"Grow in grace"--not in one grace only, but in all grace. Grow in that root-grace, faith. Believe the promises more firmly than you have done. Let faith increase in fullness, constancy, simplicity. Grow also in love. Ask that your love may become extended, more intense, more practical, influencing every thought, word, and deed.

Grow likewise in humility. Seek to lie very low, and know more of your own nothingness. As you grow downward in humility, seek also to grow upward --having nearer approaches to God in prayer and more intimate fellowship with Jesus. May God the Holy Spirit enable you to "grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior?" He who grows not in the knowledge of Jesus, refuses to be blessed. To know Him is "life eternal," and to advance in the knowledge of Him is to increase in happiness.

He who does not long to know more of Christ, knows nothing of Him yet. Whoever hath sipped this wine will thirst for more, for although Christ doth satisfy, yet it is such a satisfaction, that the appetite is not cloyed, but whetted. If you know the love of Jesus--as the hart panteth for the water-brooks, so will you pant after deeper draughts of His love. If you do not desire to know Him better, then you love Him not, for love always cries, "Nearer, nearer." Absence from Christ is hell; but the presence of Jesus is heaven.

Rest not then content without an increasing acquaintance with Jesus. Seek to know more of Him in His divine nature, in His human relationship, in His finished work, in His death, in His resurrection, in His present glorious intercession, and in His future royal advent. Abide hard by the Cross, and search the mystery of His wounds. An increase of love to Jesus, and a more perfect apprehension of His love to us is one of the best tests of growth in grace.

Morning, January 6.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." --1 Peter 5:7

It is a happy way of soothing sorrow when we can feel--"HE careth for me." Christian! do not dishonor religion by always wearing a brow of care; come, cast your burden upon your Lord. You are staggering beneath a weight which your Father would not feel. What seems to you a crushing burden would be to Him but as the small dust of the balance.

Nothing is so sweet as to "Lie passive in God's hands, And know no will but His." O child of suffering, be thou patient; God has not passed thee over in His providence. He who is the feeder of sparrows, will also furnish you with what you need. Sit not down in despair; hope on, hope ever. Take up the arms of faith against a sea of trouble, and your opposition shall yet end your distresses.

There is One who careth for you. His eye is fixed on you, His heart beats with pity for your woe, and his hand omnipotent shall yet bring you the needed help. The darkest cloud shall scatter itself in showers of mercy. The blackest gloom shall give place to the morning. He, if thou art one of His family, will bind up thy wounds, and heal thy broken heart.

Doubt not His grace because of thy tribulation, but believe that He loveth thee as much in seasons of trouble as in times of happiness. What a serene and quiet life might you lead if you would leave providing to the God of providence! With a little oil in the cruse, and a handful of meal in the barrel, Elijah outlived the famine, and you will do the same.

If God cares for you, why need you care too? Can you trust Him for your soul, and not for your body? He has never refused to bear your burdens, He has never fainted under their weight. Come, then, soul! have done with fretful care, and leave all thy concerns in the hand of a gracious God.

Part 2. GREAT HYMNS OF THE FAITH

Sweet Hour of Prayer

This hymn was written by William W. Walford, a blind preacher of England. It first appeared in print in the New York Observer September 13, 1845. It reflects the heart of a man who often sought His God in prayer. This delightful hymn beautifully describes the disposition God wants His children to have as they cast their cares upon Him. The hymn reflects the heart of Paul in Philippians chapter 4, verses 6-7 which contains the following exhortation:

Philippians 4:6-7. 6. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

7. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!

That calls me from a world of care,
 And bids me at my Father's throne
 Make all my wants and wishes known.
 In seasons of distress and grief,
 My soul has often found relief
 And oft escaped the tempter's snare
 By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!
 Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
 The joys I feel, the bliss I share,
 Of those whose anxious spirits burn
 With strong desires for thy return!
 With such I hasten to the place
 Where God my Savior shows His face,
 And gladly take my station there,
 And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!
 Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
 Thy wings shall my petition bear
 To Him whose truth and faithfulness
 Engage the waiting soul to bless.
 And since He bids me seek His face,
 Believe His Word and trust His grace,
 I'll cast on Him my every care,
 And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!
 Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
 May I thy consolation share,
 Till, from Mount Pisgah's lofty height,
 I view my home and take my flight:
 This robe of flesh I'll drop and rise
 To seize the everlasting prize;
 And shout, while passing through the air,
 Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!

Part 3. Ministry Updates

In the past few months we have had the privilege of helping four young blind men studying for the ministry, one in New York, one in Georgia, one in California, and one in Arizona. They have all been much encouraged by the excellent material, Bible studies, sermons, and books to help them in their studies and ministry. Some examples of these materials are over 300 Spurgeon sermons, Manual of Theology by J.L. Dagg, word studies from the Bible by Duane Edward Spencer, biographies of great Christian men throughout history (such as John Newton, Dr. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Charles H. Spurgeon, Mrs. C.H. Spurgeon, William Tyndale, John Calvin, John Knox, and John Bunyan). Please pray that we will be able to obtain more excellent materials for these young men, and find more blind people eager to read them like these young men.

Lilianna and Joshua were able to attend both the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky and the Georgia State Convention of the American Council of the Blind in Savannah, Georgia, in the month of August. We praise the Lord for the results. We now have 15 new students for our e-mail, 23 for the Braille, 4 for large print, 11 for cassette tapes, 19 for the digital, and 6 for CDs. This is keeping us busy. Praise the Lord, because of exhibiting in these conventions we are able to minister to more blind around the United States with our Bible courses, magazines, books, and sermons. Also, at the Georgia state convention a man wanted a digital cartridge of the NKJV Bible for his blind wife to listen on the National

Library Service digital player. We were able to find this for her.

Part 4. TESTIMONIES AND LETTERS

We are enclosing a letter from a blind lady from South Carolina that has been receiving our newsletters by e-mail for many years. She has been extremely interested in our ministry. When she found out we had most of our books and many sermons on NLS cartridge, she wanted as many as she could get. She has been a faithful reader since.

õDear Ones,

Thank you so so much for the tons of Christian literature that you sent me on one cartridge! I expected several sermons and possibly a book but I got tons more literature than I expected to get! I never dreamed that a cartridge could hold tons of material like this! Thanks tons for so much Christian literature sent at one time.

The quality of the digital recordings is so clear and of such good quality that it's hard to remember that they were on cassettes before they were recorded digitally! Tom my husband will enjoy everything too! Again thanks tons and tons for making Christian Braille literature available that otherwise might not be accessible for me to read!

Hugs.õ P.B.

Part 5. PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS

We praise the Lord for allowing us to update our web site www.glfb.org . More and more blind people use the internet and a user friendly web site can be very helpful. In addition, sighted persons can use the web site to locate materials for those blind individuals who don't use the internet. We owe much thanks to Angela Butler for her kindness and patience in helping us update the site.

Our Gospel Light Foundation for the Blind board meeting for this year is October 19. Please pray for safe traveling for the members from Florida, California, Georgia, and Texas, and that we will know what is best for GLFB for the coming year. Please pray for wisdom and spiritual strength for those of us who are regularly involved in the ministry of Gospel Light.

We have good news to share with you. With many of our friends helping by giving extra gifts, we have been able to meet all our financial needs at this time and we have sent the Braille embosser to Florida to be repaired. It will be so good to finally be able to put our Bible courses and tracts in Braille form again. We still do need more regular monthly support. Praise God for the blessing of being caught up and please continue to pray about this need for more support. We thank you for your part in working with us by praying for us. God is blessing our ministry greatly. Please continue to pray for the Lord's provision for this ministry.

We sing along with King David's song of thanksgiving in I Chronicles 16, õO give thanks to the Lord for He is good; For His loving kindness is everlasting.õ

Part 6. NEW ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Thanks to the kindness of Chapel Library and Reformed Audio, we have added a wonderful autobiography and two rich theological articles to our library.

Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners

Book description: Grace Abounding To the Chief of Sinners is John Bunyan's spiritual autobiography. In it he tells of his conversion and struggle with faith. He wrote it while he was imprisoned for preaching without a license.

His main issue was a kind of "spiritual obsessive compulsive disorder" as one reviewer puts it. Bunyan was constantly concerned about the state of his salvation and whether God deemed him worthy enough for eternal life. This story communicates the author's anguish over his sin, his confession, and the life-changing impact of God's saving grace. Bunyan's spiritual struggles will remind readers that even the great minds of faith had issues with belief, and his personal testimony will encourage anyone who is doubting the status of their salvation.

About The Author

John Bunyan (1628-1688) was a Puritan writer and preacher. He grew up in a poor home in a village outside Bedford, England, and was the son of a tinker (or brazier -- a mender of metal household utensils). He had very little education and probably acquired his grasp of the English language from reading the Bible. As a young man, he joined the British army, where he stayed for three years, and then returned home to set up a business as a tinker.

In 1651, he was introduced to pastor John Gifford who was used by God to lead him to repentance and faith. In 1653 he joined Pastor Gifford's Independent church at Bedford and a year or two later he began to preach with much success. He was arrested and imprisoned in 1660 on the charge of preaching without official rights from the king. His imprisonment lasted intermittently from 1660 to 1672, but it enabled him to produce his masterpiece *Pilgrim's Progress* and other writings, including some verse.

After 1672 he spent most of his time in preaching and evangelism in the Bedford area. Bunyan died in 1688 from a fever, and his statement before death reveals his passion for his Savior and his love for his church, "I long for nothing so much as to be dissolved and be with Christ. I am content to depart when He shall call me. I have long borne a crucified heart, and by grace I shall enter into rest. Stay me not, for I am bidden into the presence of the King! Weep not, for though I pass away the Lord abides with you and never faileth!"

John Bunyan's most famous works consist of *Pilgrim's Progress*, *The Holy War*, and *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*. All three of these classics are available from Gospel Light on cassette and cartridge.

Why I Believe in God By Cornelius Van Til

This dialogue with an imaginary unbeliever is the very personal witness of a scholar and teacher who through his writings and students has changed the pattern of the defense of the Christian faith in our time. Worshiping the Sovereign Creator and Redeemer, Dr. Cornelius Van Til has pressed the demands of the Word of God upon all human thought and action.

Van Til has shown the disastrous implications of accepting the assumptions of unbelief and then trying to prove to the unbeliever that Christianity is possibly or even probably true. Instead, he lays claim in the name of the living God to all truth. Apart from God the Creator, there can be neither meaning nor existence for man the creature. God is the fountain of life and light, the Alpha and Omega in whose light we see light. This article is available online and we can e-mail you the text upon request. In addition, Gospel Light has it on cassette and cartridge.

About the Author

Cornelius Van Til (May 3, 1895 - April 17, 1987), born in Grootegast, the Netherlands, was a Christian philosopher, Reformed theologian, and presuppositional apologist. Van Til was the sixth son of Ite van Til, a dairy farmer, and his wife Klasina van der Veen in Grootegast, Holland. He was the first of his family to receive a higher education.

In 1914 he attended Calvin Preparatory School, graduated from Calvin College, and attended one year at Calvin Theological Seminary, where he studied under Louis Berkhof (a renowned theologian). He transferred to Princeton Theological Seminary and later graduated with his PhD from Princeton University.

Van Til became a professor of apologetics and systematic theology at Westminster Theological Seminary, where he taught for forty-three years of his life. He was also a minister in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church from the 1930s until his death in 1987.

The Bible, The Book of Mankind
By Benjamin B. Warfield

This recording consists of a paper read at the World Bible Congress held at the Panama-Pacific Exposition, San Francisco, California, August 1-4, 1915. It is an excellent article in which professor Warfield repeatedly demonstrates that the Bible is not merely one of many books, but a unique, divinely inspired book that is preeminent over all others. If you would like a copy of the article as a Microsoft Word document, we can send it to you as an e-mail attachment. We also have it on cassette and cartridge.

Within his paper, professor Warfield makes this observation: "Other books may belong to a people, an age, a stage of human development; this book belongs to all peoples, all ages and all stages of growth, whether of the individual or of the race - unifying them all and welding them into one vitalized and vitalizing whole. The Bible is, by way of eminence, the book of humanity."

About The Author

Benjamin Breckinridge Warfield (November 5, 1851-February 16, 1921) was the principal of Princeton Seminary from 1887 to 1921. In late 1876 Warfield and his new wife moved to Germany where he studied under Ernst Luthardt and Franz Delitzsch. Warfield was the assistant pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, Maryland for a short time. Then he became an instructor at Western Theological Seminary, which is now called Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He was ordained on April 26, 1879.

In many of his writings, Warfield attempted to demonstrate that the doctrine of Biblical inerrancy was simply orthodox Christian teaching, and not merely a concept invented in the nineteenth century. His passion was to refute the liberal element within Presbyterianism and within Christianity at large. Throughout his life, he continued to write books and articles, which are still widely read today (and listened to).

Part 7. RECOMMENDED READING

The Knowledge of The Holy
By A. W. Tozer

This is an inspiring, instructional, and captivating classic on the person and nature of God. It consists of meditations on the various attributes or perfections of God including His holiness, power, knowledge, wisdom, faithfulness, mercy, grace, and love.

In a spirit of reverence, author A. W. Tozer considers the attributes of God through the lense of Scripture. His thoughtful study reveals a majestic, holy, sovereign, loving, and gracious God worthy of our adoration and praise.

Tozer opens his book with these words: "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. The history of mankind will probably show that no person has ever risen above its religion, and man's spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God. Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God. For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like."

This beloved classic will be treasured by anyone who desires to grow in their knowledge and adoration of God. It is thoughtfully read by Matt Wolfe and each chapter opens and closes with instrumental music. We offer it on cassette and digital cartridge. If you want to read the text of the book online, here is the web address:

http://www.heavendwellers.com/hdt_knowledge_of_the_holy.htm

About the Author

Aiden Wilson Tozer (1897-1963) Tozer, as he was affectionately known during his lifetime, is widely regarded as one of the most perceptive writers in the 20th century. He served as pastor of Christian & Missionary Alliance churches in Chicago and Toronto, and was a popular speaker and prolific author. His best-known books, *The Pursuit of God* and *The Knowledge of the Holy*, are perennial best-sellers.

Tozer was known for his deep and personal relationship with God. His life is a compelling example of spiritual passion, commitment to lifelong learning, and the integration of theological reflection and ministry. In his studies, he drew heavily from Christian mystics, early church fathers, and revivalists.

Part 8. Additional Resources

As we shared in our summer edition, it is the goal of Gospel Light to consolidate a list of helpful resources for blind Christians with various needs. Eventually, we hope to have a list prepared which we can send to all who are interested. As we become aware of helpful resources, we will update our list. We will give greatest attention to those organizations that offer quality Christian literature, including those ministries devoted to making Braille, digital, and large print Bibles available to those who are visually impaired. Some resources will be available at no cost, others will not.

In each publication of *The Shining Light*, we hope to identify a couple of helpful resources and these will be included in our larger resource list. In the meantime, if you are struggling finding a Bible in Braille, on CD or cassette, in digital format, or in large print, don't hesitate to call and we will try to assist you in locating one.

Here are a few resources for your use.

Audio Bibles for the Blind

P.O. Box 621

Bradenton, FL 34206

Telephone (941) 748-3031

Web site www.audiobiblesfortheblind.org

The mission of Audio Bibles for the Blind is to make God's Word, the Bible, available to blind, visually-impaired and print-handicapped people all across the globe. They do it every day in as many languages as they can generate and into as many countries as they can reach. They believe that God speaks through His Word of Truth and want to furnish it to as many people in need of it as they possibly can.

Audio Bibles for the Blind has both the King James Version and the New King James Version, as well as the Bible in many languages on NLS cartridges for use on the Digital Talking Book Player. There is no cost whatsoever for this recording. It is given freely to those who provide the ministry with the blank cartridges needed to store the recording. If you do not have a cartridge, Audio bibles can supply one for a donation of \$15 to help cover the cost of a blank cartridge.

Reformed Audio
<http://reformedaudio.org>

Reformed Audio provides high quality audio readings of literature from renowned Christian theologians and preachers. In addition, they also offer PDF versions of many of the articles they have recorded. Since their desire is to see these readings disseminated to the widest possible audience, they have graciously permitted us to add their recordings to our library here at Gospel Light Foundation for the Blind. Any of the books or articles in our library recorded by Reformed Audio will begin by identifying Reformed Audio as the ministry responsible for the recording.

If you use a screen reader, the easiest way to navigate the web site is to down arrow to media, press enter, and either arrow, or search for the link titled Authors. Press enter on this link, scroll down to the letter of the alphabet which corresponds to the last name of the author you are interested in, and press enter. Scroll to the recording(s) you desire and download them at no cost.

Digital Talking Book Cartridges for the NLS Book Player

As you read our materials using your NLS digital player, there may be some books and articles you really would like to own. Well, all you need to do is to purchase your own digital cartridge, send it our way, and we will send it back filled with as many of your favorite books as it will hold. This is one of the least costly ways of acquiring materials for your own personal library.

Typically, a cartridge will hold more than one book so you can enjoy a lot of quality reading with just one cartridge. For example, we can place quite a few of Charles Spurgeon's professionally recorded sermons on one cartridge. In the words of one of our listeners, "Now that's livin. "

If you are a computer user, you can also purchase a USB cable and download MP3 audio files from your computer for use on your Digital player. There are some great web sites out there; including Reformed audio and others we will list in future issues of The Shining Light. The following are some organizations from which you can purchase digital cartridges and USB cables.

1. American Printing House for the Blind, Inc.
1839 Frankfort Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206
Telephone: (502) 895-2405 or (800) 223-1839
Web site: www.aph.org

A 2GB (gigabyte) digital talking-book cartridge sells for \$12.00. The USB cables, needed for connecting the digital cartridge to your computer sell for \$5.00. No shipping except in Kentucky. No postage.

2. Adaptive Technology Perkins Products
175 N. Beacon
Watertown, MA 02472
Telephone: (617) 972-7357
Web site: www.perkinsproducts.org

E-mail: madaptivetech@perkins.org

Perkins Products have 2GB blank cartridges. The 2GB cartridge is \$11.99, or \$16.99 with the cable. A USB cable may also be purchased separately for \$5.00. Free Shipping, except in MA, ME, NY & CT.

3. Howell Mobility Products

717 Louis Avenue

Royal Oak, MI 48067-4603

Telephone: (248) 548-1788 or (877) 970-5550

Web site: howellmobility.com

E-mail: mcanes@howellmobility.com

Howell has 2GB blank cartridges and the price varies according to the number of cartridges you purchase. Order only by phone or mail.

Part 9. FROM THE EDITOR

We hope this magazine has been both informative and inspirational. Take advantage of the great literature we have to offer, especially if you are an ardent student of God's word! Let us know how useful this issue has been in your life. We are happy to share your testimony in a future issue, if you would like. If we can be of any help, we would be glad to hear from you.

Above all, if you have questions about the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and what it means to be a Christian, please don't hesitate to ask us. We will provide you with the materials you need to understand the message of the Gospel and will answer any questions you may have, or direct you to pastors who can help you. Also, if you are having trouble obtaining a Bible, please let us know and we will do our best to help you acquire one. There is no greater treasure that you could hold in your hand than the Holy Word of God.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1:17)

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