

STUDY EDITION

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THE PURPOSE OF THIS MAGAZINE, *The Watchtower*, is to honor Jehovah God, the Supreme Ruler of the universe. Just as watchtowers in ancient times enabled a person to observe developments from afar, so this magazine shows us the significance of world events in the light of Bible prophecies. It comforts people with the good news that God's Kingdom, which is a real government in heaven, will soon bring an end to all wickedness and transform the earth into a paradise. It promotes faith in Jesus Christ, who died so that we might gain everlasting life and who is now ruling as King of God's Kingdom. This magazine has been published by Jehovah's Witnesses continuously since 1879 and is nonpolitical. It adheres to the Bible as its authority.

This publication is not for sale. It is provided as part of a worldwide Bible educational work supported by voluntary donations. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the modern-language New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures—With References.

PURPOSE OF STUDY ARTICLES

STUDY ARTICLE 1 PAGES 8-12

Some people mentioned in the Bible are good examples for us, but they may also serve as warning examples. This article will help us to examine Solomon from both standpoints. What can we learn from him that will help us live as Christians?

STUDY ARTICLE 2 PAGES 13-17

There is a powerful force in the universe that can guide us successfully through life in this wicked world. What is it, why should we want to be guided by it, and what can we do to benefit fully from its influence?

STUDY ARTICLES 3, 4 PAGES 18-26

Many servants of God in the past were filled with holy spirit. In what ways did God's spirit operate upon them? Studying how Jehovah directed them will be of great encouragement to us in our service.

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The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) is published semimonthly by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; M. H. Larson, President; G. F. Simonis, Secretary-Treasurer; 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483, and by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L/G 444. Periodicals Postage Paid at Brooklyn, NY, and at additional mailing office. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Watchtower, 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299. © 2011 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. All rights reserved. Printed in Canada.

MAKING Adjustments Has Been REWARDING

AS TOLD BY **IAMES A. THOMPSON**



When I was born in the southern United States in 1928. segregation of whites and blacks was the law. Breaking it could lead to imprisonment or worse.

T THAT time in parts of the United States, A white and black Jehovah's Witnesses had to have separate congregations, circuits, and districts. In 1937 my father became company servant (now called coordinator of the body of elders) of the black congregation in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Henry

> My father and Brother Nichols set a fine example for me



Nichols was company servant of the white

I have pleasant memories of when I was a youth sitting on our back porch at night and listening to Father and Brother Nichols talk. While I did not understand everything they were talking about, I enjoyed being at Father's side as the two discussed how best to carry on the preaching work under the existing circumstances.

Earlier, in 1930, tragedy hit our family. Mother, who was just 20 years old, died. Father was left to take care of my four-year-old sister, Doris, and me, only two years old. Although Father had only recently been baptized, he made good spiritual progress.

Examples That Shaped My Life

In 1933, Father met a wonderful Christian sister named Lillie Mae Gwendolyn Thomas, and they soon married. Both Father and Mother set a good example for Doris and me in loyally serving Jehovah.

Congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses were asked in 1938 to support a resolution that elders in local congregations be appointed from our headquarters in Brooklyn, New York, instead of being elected locally. When some in Chattanooga hesitated to accept the change, Father declared his unconditional support of the organizational adjustment. His example of loyalty—along with Mother's wholehearted cooperation—has helped me to this day.

Baptism and Full-Time Ministry

In 1940 several in our congregation rented a bus and traveled to the convention held in Detroit, Michigan. A few in our bus group got baptized there. Some wondered why I did not, as I had been preaching since the age of five and was very active in the ministry.

When they asked me about it, I replied, "I don't understand all that is involved in baptism." Father overheard me and was surprised. From then on, he made extra effort to help me understand what baptism means and its importance. On a very cold day four months later, October 1, 1940, I was baptized in a pond outside of Chattanooga.

At age 14, I began pioneering during summer vacations from school. I preached in small towns in Tennessee and the neighboring state of Georgia. I would get up early, pack a lunch, and catch a 6:00 a.m. train or bus to the territory. I returned about 6:00 p.m. The food I packed was often gone long before lunchtime. Although I had money, I could not enter a local store to purchase any more food because I was black. One time, I entered a store to get an ice-cream cone and was asked to leave. A white woman kindly brought one out to me.

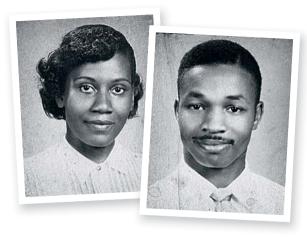
As I entered high school, the civil rights movement was picking up momentum in the South. Organizations such as the NAACP

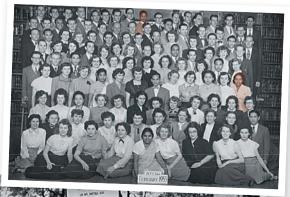
(National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) encouraged student activism. We were urged to become members. Several black schools, including mine, made it a goal to have 100-percent membership. I was pressured to "support our race," as it was put. But I refused, explaining that God is impartial and does not favor one race over another. So I look to God to solve such injustices.—John 17:14; Acts 10:34, 35.

Shortly after finishing high school, I decided to move to New York City. On the way, however, I stopped in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to visit with friends whom I had met earlier at a convention. The congregation there was the first racially mixed one that I attended. During his visit, the traveling overseer took me aside and said that I was being assigned a part on the next meeting. That made it easier for me to decide to stay there.

Among the friends I made in Philadelphia was a young sister named Geraldine White—Gerri, as I came to call her. She knew the Bible well and was adept at communicating with householders in the door-to-door ministry. Especially important to me was that she shared my goal of becoming a pioneer. We were married on April 23, 1949.

With Gerri, ready for Gilead, 1952







After attending Gilead, we were assigned to the traveling work in the South

Invited to Gilead

Our goal from the start was to attend Gilead School and serve as missionaries in a foreign country. We were happy to adjust our circumstances to qualify for Gilead. Shortly, we were asked to move to Lawnside, New Jersey; then to Chester, Pennsylvania; and finally to Atlantic City, New Jersey. While in Atlantic City, we qualified to apply for Gilead, having been married for two years. But our invitation was put on hold. What was the reason?

During the early part of the 1950's, many young men were being drafted to serve in the military and fight in the conflict going on in Korea. The draft board in Philadelphia seemed prejudiced against Jehovah's Witnesses because of our neutrality. Finally, I

was informed by a judge that a background check on me by the FBI had substantiated my neutral stand. So on January 11, 1952, the Presidential Appeal Board granted me a 4-D classification as a minister.

In August of that year, Gerri and I received an invitation to attend the 20th class of Gilead, which started in September. During our studies, we anticipated receiving a foreign assignment. My sister, Doris, had graduated from the 13th class of Gilead and was serving in Brazil. How surprised Gerri and I were to receive an assignment to the circuit work—visiting black congregations in the southern state of Alabama! That disappointed us somewhat, for our hearts had been set on serving in a foreign land.

The first congregation we visited was in Huntsville. Upon arriving, we went to the home of a Christian sister with whom we were to stay. As we were unloading our things, we overheard her say on the telephone, "The children are here." We were only 24 and looked even younger. The nickname The Children stuck as we served that circuit.

The South was often referred to as the Bible Belt because most people there held the Bible in high regard. So we frequently opened conversations with this three-point presentation:

- (1) A brief comment on world conditions.
 - (2) The remedy the Bible provides.
 - (3) What the Bible says we must do.

Then we offered an appropriate Bible study aid. Because of the success of this approach, I was assigned a part at the 1953 New World Society Assembly in New York. There I demonstrated that three-point presentation.

Soon, in the summer of 1953, I was assigned to serve black circuits in the South as

district overseer. Our territory covered the whole area from Virginia to Florida and as far west as Alabama and Tennessee. Yes, traveling overseers needed to be adaptable. For example, we often stayed in homes that had no indoor plumbing and bathed in a tin tub behind the kitchen stove. Happily, that was the warmest part of the house!

The Challenge of Racial Segregation

Serving in the South required fore-thought and ingenuity to get things done. Blacks were not allowed to use Laundromats. So Gerri would go there and explain that the clothes were for "Mrs. Thompson." Many seemed to think that she was a servant and that "Mrs. Thompson" was the lady of the house. When district overseers were showing the film *The New World Society in Action,* I would telephone the shop and reserve a large screen for "Mr. Thompson." Later, I went to the shop and picked it up. We were always polite and generally fulfilled our ministry without trouble.

There was another form of prejudice, a regional one, against those from the North. A local newspaper once reported that James A.

Traveling overseers and their wives preparing for an integrated district convention, 1966



Thompson, Jr., of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York would be speaking at an assembly. Some read this to mean that I was from New York, and our contract for the use of a school auditorium was canceled. So I went to the school board and explained that I had gone to school in Chattanooga. We were then granted permission for our circuit assembly.

Racial tension was heating up in the mid-1950's, and sometimes there was violence. In 1954, some Witnesses took offense when no black speakers were on the program at a number of district assemblies. We encouraged our black brothers to be patient. The following summer, I was assigned as a speaker. Thereafter, more black brothers in the South were on the programs.

In time, racial violence in the South diminished, and congregations gradually began to integrate. This required reassigning publishers to different congregations as well as adjusting congregation territories and the responsibilities of brothers having oversight. Some, both blacks and whites, did not favor the new arrangement. The majority, however, were impartial, as is our heavenly Father. In fact, many were close friends regardless of color. Our family had experienced that in the 1930's and 1940's while I was growing up.

A New Assignment

In January 1969, Gerri and I received an invitation to go to Guyana, South America, and we happily accepted it. First we went to Brooklyn, New York, where I received training to take oversight of the preaching work in Guyana. We arrived there in July 1969. After 16 years in the traveling work, it was a big adjustment to be situated in one place. Gerri spent most of her days in the field



Missionary service in Guyana was a joy

ministry as a missionary, and I worked at the branch office.

My work involved everything from cutting the grass and handling literature needs for the 28 congregations to corresponding with headquarters in Brooklyn. I was working 14 to 15 hours each day. It was hard work for both of us, but we enjoyed our assignment. When we arrived, there were 950 publishers in Guyana; today there are over 2,500.

Although we enjoyed pleasant temperatures and exotic fruits and vegetables, our true joy was that humble people who yearned for Bible truth were learning about God's Kingdom. Often Gerri would conduct 20 weekly Bible studies, and many with whom we studied progressed to baptism. Some, in time, became pioneers, congregation elders, and even went to Gilead to become missionaries themselves.

Challenges, Especially of Health

In 1983 my parents in the United States needed assistance. Doris, Gerri, and I had a family meeting. Doris, who had served for 35 years as a missionary in Brazil, chose to return and look after them. Why take two missionaries out of the field, she said, when one can do the job? Since the death of our parents, Doris has stayed in Chattanooga and serves as a special pioneer.

I was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1995 and had to return to the United States. We settled in Goldsboro, North Carolina, because it was about halfway between my family in Tennessee and Gerri's in Pennsylvania. My cancer is now in remission, and we serve in a Goldsboro congregation as infirm special pioneers.

As I look back over 65 years in the full-time ministry, I am truly grateful that Jehovah has blessed Gerri and me for making adjustments to serve him. How true are the words of David: "With someone loyal [Jehovah] will act in loyalty"!—2 Sam. 22:26.



IS HE A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR YOU OR A WARNING?

"The God of Jacob . . . will instruct us about his ways, and we will walk in his paths."—ISA. 2:3.

ARE you not convinced that you can benefit from what is written in the Bible? Therein you find examples of faithful men and women whose life course and qualities you would like to imitate. (Heb. 11:32-34) However, you have likely noted warning examples also—men and women whose deeds or attitudes you do well to avoid.

² Actually, some individuals mentioned in the Bible stand out both as good examples of the course to follow and as warnings of what to shun. Think of David, a humble shepherd and then a powerful king. You find in him a good example of one who loved truth and trusted in Jehovah. Yet, David was guilty of serious wrongs, such as those involving Bath-sheba, Uriah, and an ill-advised census. Let us, though, focus on his son—a king and also a Bible writer—Solomon. We will first note two ways in which he was a good example.

"The Wisdom of Solomon"

³ The Greater Solomon, Jesus Christ, spoke favorably of King Solomon, setting him before us as a good example. Jesus told some doubting Jews: "The queen of the south will be raised up in the judgment with this generation and will condemn it; because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, but, look!

something more than Solomon is here." (Matt. 12:42) Yes, Solomon was famous for his wisdom, and he urged us to acquire it.

⁴ At the start of Solomon's kingship, God appeared to him in a dream and invited him to make a request. Aware of his limited experience, Solomon requested wisdom. (*Read 1 Kings 3:5-9.*) Pleased that the king asked for wisdom rather than for riches and glory, God gave Solomon "a wise and understanding heart"—as well as prosperity. (1 Ki. 3:10-14) As Jesus mentioned, Solomon's wisdom was so outstanding that the queen of Sheba heard of it and made a long trip to experience it for herself.—1 Ki. 10:1. 4-9.

⁵ We personally do not expect to receive wisdom miraculously. Solomon said that "Jehovah himself gives wisdom," but he wrote that we should strive to gain that godly quality: "Pay attention to wisdom with your ear, that you may incline your heart to discernment." Related to that, he used expressions such as "call out for," "keep seeking for," and "keep searching for" wisdom. (Prov. 2:1-6) Clearly, we *can* gain wisdom.

⁶ It would be good to ask, 'Am I taking to heart Solomon's example of treasuring divine wisdom?' Economic uncertainties have moved many to concentrate on their job and finances or have influenced deci-

^{1, 2.} In what ways can you benefit from Bible examples?

^{3.} Why can we say that Solomon set a good example for us?

^{4, 5.} How did Solomon gain his wisdom, but how is our acquiring of wisdom different?

^{6.} In what ways may we show that we are benefiting from Solomon's good example as to wisdom?



sions about the type and amount of education to seek. What about you and your family? Do your choices indicate that you are treasuring and seeking divine wisdom? Would adjusting your focus or goals allow you to acquire more wisdom? Really, gaining and applying wisdom is for your lasting good. Solomon wrote: "In that case you will understand righteousness and judgment and uprightness, the entire course of what is good."—Prov. 2:9.

Elevating True Worship Brought Peace

⁷ Early in his reign, Solomon took steps to replace the tabernacle, in use since Moses' day, with a magnificent temple. (1 Ki. 6:1) We may call it Solomon's temple, but it was not his idea or his way to make a name for himself as an architect or a wealthy benefactor. In fact, it was David who first proposed building a temple, whereupon God gave David detailed plans for the temple and its furnishings. And David made a great contribu-

Solomon applied God-given wisdom

tion to finance the work. (2 Sam. 7:2, 12, 13; 1 Chron. 22:14-16) Still, it fell on Solomon to carry out this building project that went on for seven and a half years.—1 Ki. 6:37, 38; 7:51.

⁸ Thus Solomon set a good example for us of persevering in good works, and he kept the right focus. When the temple was finished and the ark of the covenant was placed in it, Solomon offered a public prayer. In part, he prayed to Jehovah: "[May your] eyes... prove to be opened toward this house night and day, toward the place of which you said, 'My name will prove to be there,' to listen to the prayer with which your servant prays toward this place." (1 Ki. 8:6, 29) Israelites and foreigners could pray toward this structure on which God's name was called.—1 Ki. 8:30, 41-43, 60.

⁹ What resulted from Solomon's elevating of true worship? After celebrating the temple's inauguration, the people were "rejoicing and feeling merry of heart over all the goodness that Jehovah had performed for David his servant and for Israel." (1 Ki.

8, 9. (a) We find in Solomon what good example as to persevering in good works? (b) What resulted from Solomon's elevating of true worship?



^{7.} How did God come to have a grand temple?

8:65, 66) In fact, remarkable peace and prosperity marked Solomon's 40-year reign. (*Read 1 Kings 4:20, 21, 25.*) Psalm 72 reflects that and gives us insight into the blessings we will enjoy under the rule of the Greater Solomon, Jesus Christ.—Ps. 72: 6-8, 16.

Solomon's Warning Example

¹⁰ Why, though, can we say that Solomon's life course is also a warning example? You may think first of his foreign wives and concubines. We read: "It came about in the time of Solomon's growing old that his wives themselves had inclined his heart to follow other gods; and his heart did not prove to be complete with Jehovah." (1 Ki. 11:1-6) Undoubtedly, you are determined never to imitate his foolish course. But is that the only warning we find in Solomon's life? Consider some details of his life that are easily overlooked, and see what warning you find.

¹¹ Solomon reigned for 40 years. (2 Chron. 9:30) Hence, what can you conclude from 1 Kings 14:21? (Read.) According to that verse, upon Solomon's death his son Rehoboam became king at age 41, his mother being "Naamah the Ammonitess." This means that before Solomon became king, he married a foreigner from an enemy nation that served idol gods. (Judg. 10:6; 2 Sam. 10:6) Did she worship them? Even if she did at one time, she may have turned away from idols and may have become a true worshipper, as did Rahab and Ruth. (Ruth 1:16; 4:13-17; Matt. 1:5, 6) Still, Solomon likely came to have Ammonite in-laws and relatives who did not serve Jehovah.

¹² And things definitely took a bad turn after he became king. Solomon formed "a marriage alliance with Pharaoh the king of Egypt and [took] Pharaoh's daughter and [brought] her to the City of David." (1 Ki. 3:1) Did this Egyptian woman imitate Ruth by taking up true worship? Nothing indicates that she did so. Rather, in time Solomon built a house for her (and perhaps her Egyptian maids) outside the City of David. Why? The Scriptures say that he did so because it was not fitting for a false worshipper to dwell near the ark of the covenant. −2 Chron. 8:11.

¹³ Solomon may have seen political advantages in marrying an Egyptian princess, yet could he justify it? Long before, God had forbidden the marrying of pagan Canaanites, even listing certain peoples. (Ex. 34:11-16) Did Solomon reason that Egypt was not one of those listed nations? Even if he reasoned that way, would such rationalizing be valid? Actually, his course ignored the clear risk that Jehovah had mentioned—that of turning an Israelite from true worship to false.—*Read Deuteronomy 7:1-4.*

¹⁴ Will we let Solomon's course be a warning example for us? A sister might attempt to rationalize forming a romantic link that ignores God's directive to marry "only in the Lord." (1 Cor. 7:39) With similar rationalizing, one might share in extracurricular sports or clubs at school, underreport taxable income, or tell untruths when asked to reveal actions that could be embarrassing. The point is, Solomon must have used imperfect reasoning to get around what God commanded, and that same danger exists for us.

^{10.} What failing on Solomon's part may readily come to mind?

^{11.} We can conclude what about Solomon's first marriage?

^{12, 13.} Solomon made what poor decision early in his reign, and how might he have reasoned?

^{14.} How might we benefit from taking to heart Solomon's warning example?

¹⁵ It is interesting that after mentioning Solomon's marriage to that foreign princess, the Bible relates that God granted his request for wisdom, and He also added riches. (1 Ki. 3:10-13) Solomon had ignored God's instructions, vet there is no indication that Jehovah quickly rejected him as king or strongly disciplined him. That accords with the fact that God realizes that we are imperfect humans, made from dust, (Ps. 103:10, 13, 14) Remember though: Our actions can have consequences now or perhaps down the line.

So Many Wives!

¹⁶ In the Song of Solomon, the king said admiringly of a certain virgin that she was more beautiful than 60 queens and 80 concubines. (Song of Sol. 6:1, 8-10) If that refers to Solomon's situation, he had acquired that many women at that point in his reign. Even if most or all of them were true worshippers, God's direction through Moses was that a king of Israel should "not multiply wives for himself, that his heart may not turn aside." (Deut. 17:17) Again, though, Jehovah did not simply turn away from Solomon. In fact, God still blessed Solomon, using him to compose the Bible book Song of Solomon.

¹⁷ Does this suggest that Solomon could ignore God's direction with impunity or that we can do so? No. Rather, it shows that God's forbearance can go on for some time. Yet, that one of God's people can ignore his direction with no immediate negative consequence does not mean that there will be no sad outcome eventually. Recall what Solomon wrote: "Because sentence against a bad work has not been executed speedily. that is why the heart of the sons of men has become fully set in them to do bad." He added: "I am also aware that it will turn out well with those fearing the true God, because they were in fear of him."-Eccl. 8: 11.12.

¹⁸ If only Solomon had kept heeding that divine truth! Yes, he had done much good and had long enjoyed divine blessings. But over time, he took one false step after another. A bad pattern developed. How true what the apostle Paul was later inspired to write: "Do not be misled: God is not one to be mocked. For whatever a man is sowing, this he will also reap"! (Gal. 6:7) In time. Solomon reaped sad fruitage from ignoring God's direction. We read: "King Solomon himself loved many foreign wives along with the daughter of Pharaoh, Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian and Hittite women." (1 Ki. 11:1) Many of those likely remained attached to false gods, and Solomon was not immune. He went astray and lost the favor of our patient God.-Read 1 Kings 11:4-8.

Learn From His Example -Good and Bad

¹⁹ Jehovah kindly inspired Paul to write: "All the things that were written aforetime were written for our instruction, that through our endurance and through the comfort from the Scriptures we might have hope." (Rom. 15:4) Those written things include many good examples, men and women of outstanding faith. Paul could say:

^{15.} How did Jehovah show mercy in dealing with Solomon, but what should we remember about that?

^{16.} In taking many wives, what was Solomon ignoring?

^{17.} What reality should we not ignore?

^{18.} How did Solomon's case illustrate the truth we find at Galatians 6:7?

^{19.} Why can you say that the Bible contains many good examples?



Are you benefiting from the warning example involving Solomon?



"What more shall I say? For the time will fail me if I go on to relate about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David as well as Samuel and the other prophets, who through faith defeated kingdoms in conflict, effected righteousness, obtained promises, . . . from a weak state were made powerful." (Heb. 11:32-34) We can and should benefit from the good examples found in the Scriptures, following or imitating what is presented in those fine Biblical accounts.

²⁰ Certain Bible accounts, however, include warning examples. We can find some of those in the lives of men and women whom Jehovah at one point accepted and used as his servants. As we read the Bible, we can note where and how some of God's people went astray and thus became warning examples. We can discern that some gradually developed wrong attitudes or tendencies, which eventually produced sad consequences. How can we draw lessons from

20, 21. Why are you determined to benefit from warning examples found in God's Word?

such accounts? We may want to ask ourselves such questions as: 'How did that develop? Might such a trend develop in my case? What can I do to avoid that and instead to benefit from this warning example?'

²¹ We certainly should consider these examples seriously, for Paul was inspired to write: "These things went on befalling them as examples, and they were written for a warning to us upon whom the ends of the systems of things have arrived."—1 Cor. 10:11.

What Have You Learned?

- Why can you find both good examples and warning examples in the Bible?
- How did Solomon allow a bad pattern to develop in his life?
- How can you benefit from Solomon's warning example?

WHY BE GUIDED BY GOD'S SPIRIT?

"You are my God. Your spirit is good: may it lead me."—PS. 143:10.

TAVE you ever used a compass to find AVE you ever used a company your way? A compass is a simple device with only one moving part—a magnetic needle pointing toward the north. Because of an invisible force known as magnetism. the needle of the compass aligns itself with the magnetic field surrounding the earth between its poles. For centuries, explorers and travelers have used the compass to guide their way over land and sea.

² There is another invisible force that is even more essential for our guidance. What is it? The one described in the opening verses of the Bible. Speaking of what Jehovah accomplished aeons ago, Genesis states: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." As he did so, he sent forth a powerful force, for the creation account adds: "God's active force was moving to and fro." (Gen. 1:1, 2) What was at work? Holy spirit -the dynamic force behind creation. We owe our existence to Jehovah's use of this spirit to produce all his works.—Job 33:4; Ps. 104:30.

³ As living, breathing humans, should we expect God's active force to have any further effect on our lives? God's own Son knew that we should, for Jesus said to his disciples: "The spirit . . . will guide you into all the truth." (John 16:13) How are we to understand what this spirit is, and why should we want to be guided by it?

The Nature of Holy Spirit

⁴ Likely, some of the people you talk to in the ministry believe in what the King James Version and some other Bible translations call the Holy Ghost. Trinitarians wrongly think that this is a spirit person equal with God the Father. (1 Cor. 8:6) It is noteworthy. however, that throughout The Webster Bible, an amended King James Version originally published in 1833. American lexicographer Noah Webster replaced "Holy Ghost" with "Holy Spirit." Webster did so because he knew that in the Scriptures this expression did not mean "an apparition."*

⁵ What, then, is the true nature of holy spirit? A footnote at Genesis 1:2 in the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures—With References states: "Besides being translated 'spirit,' ru'ach [Hebrew] is also translated 'wind' and by other words that denote an invisible active force." (Compare footnotes at Genesis 3:8; 8:1.) Just as wind is invisible but exerts force, so the immaterial, impersonal holy spirit is unseen but produces effects. This spirit is energy from God

^{1.} Illustrate how an invisible force can guide a person.

^{2, 3. (}a) What powerful force did Jehovah use aeons ago? (b) Why should we expect God's invisible active force to guide our lives today?

^{*} In the preface of his Bible, Webster wrote: "Whenever words are understood in a sense different from that which they had when introduced, and different from that of the original languages, they do not present to the reader the Word of God."

^{4, 5. (}a) What do Trinitarians wrongly think that the holy spirit is? (b) How would you explain the true nature of holy spirit?

projected and exerted on people or things to accomplish his will. Is it hard to believe that such a marvelous force emanates from the holy Source, Almighty God? Not at all! —Read Isaiah 40:12, 13.

⁶ Can Jehovah continue to use his spirit to guide us through life? He promised the psalmist David: "I shall make you have insight and instruct you in the way you should go." (Ps. 32:8) Did David want that? Yes, for he appealed to Jehovah: "Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Your spirit is good; may it lead me." (Ps. 143:10) We should have the same desire and willingness to be guided by God's spirit. Why so? Consider four reasons.

We Are Not Qualified to Guide Ourselves

⁷ First, we should want to be guided by God's spirit because we are not capable of guiding ourselves. "To guide" means "to direct in a course or show the way to be followed." However, Jehovah did not create us with the ability to do that for ourselves, especially not in our imperfect condition. His prophet Jeremiah wrote: "O Lord, I am conscious that a man's way is not in himself: man has no power of guiding his steps." (Jer. 10:23, The Bible in Basic English) And why not? Jeremiah heard God's analysis of why we are impaired when it comes to directing ourselves. Speaking of the person we are inside, Jehovah said: "The heart is more treacherous than anything else and is desperate. Who can know it?"—Jer. 17:9; Matt. 15:19.

⁸ Would it not be foolhardy for an inexperienced person to set off alone, without a



skilled guide and not so much as a compass. hiking deep into an uncharted wilderness? Not knowing how to survive inhospitable conditions in the wild and not having the expertise to find his way safely to his destination, he would be putting his life in jeopardy. So, too, the person who thinks he can direct his course through this wicked world without allowing God to show him the right way is placing his life in grave danger. The only chance we have of traversing this system of things successfully is to make the same prayerful request to Jehovah that David did: "Let my steps take hold on your tracks, in which my footsteps will certainly not be made to totter." (Ps. 17:5; 23:3) How is it possible to receive such guidance?

⁹ If we are humble and willing to depend on Jehovah, he will impart to us his holy

^{6.} What significant appeal did David make to Jehovah?

^{7, 8. (}a) Why are we not able to guide ourselves independent of God? (b) Illustrate why we dare not try to find our own way through this wicked system of things.

^{9.} As depicted on page 17, how can God's spirit serve as a sure guide for us?

spirit as a sure guide for our steps. How will that active force help us? Iesus explained to his disciples: "The helper, the holy spirit, which the Father will send in my name, that one will teach you all things and bring back to your minds all the things I told you." (John 14:26) As we regularly and prayerfully study God's Word, including all the sayings of Christ, holy spirit will increase our comprehension of Jehovah's deep wisdom, so that we can follow his will closely. (1 Cor. 2: 10) Additionally, at any unexpected turn in the road to life, the spirit will show us the way to go. It will bring to mind Bible principles that we have already learned and help us to grasp how they apply in directing our next step.

Jesus Was Guided by God's Spirit

¹⁰ A second reason why we should want to be guided by holy spirit is that God led his own Son by it. Before coming to earth, the only-begotten Son of God knew of the

10, 11. What expectation did the only-begotten Son of God have regarding holy spirit, and what did he experience?



prophecy: "Upon him the spirit of Jehovah must settle down, the spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the spirit of counsel and of mightiness, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Jehovah." (Isa. 11:2) Just imagine how eager Jesus was to receive the help of God's spirit while residing in the environment that he faced here on earth!

¹¹ Jehovah's words came true. The Gospel record states what happened immediately after Jesus' baptism: "Now Jesus, full of holy spirit, turned away from the Jordan, and he was led about by the spirit in the wilderness." (Luke 4:1) There, while Jesus was fasting, praying, and meditating, Jehovah likely instructed and enlightened his Son about what lay ahead for him. God's active force was at work on Jesus' mind and heart, guiding his thinking and decisions. As a result, Jesus knew what to do in each situation, and he did exactly what his Father wanted him to do.

¹² Knowing the value of the effects of God's spirit in his own life, Jesus impressed on his disciples the importance of their asking for and being led by holy spirit. (*Read Luke 11:9-13.*) Why is that so necessary for us? Because it can transform our thinking, so that it resembles the mind of Christ. (Rom. 12:2; 1 Cor. 2:16) By letting God's spirit guide our lives, we can think as Christ does and imitate his example.—1 Pet. 2:21.

The World's Spirit Would Lead Us Astray

¹³ The third reason for wanting God's spirit to guide us is that without it we could be

God's spirit was an impelling force in Jesus' life

^{12.} Why is it necessary that we ask for God's spirit to lead us?

^{13.} What is the world's spirit, and what does it produce?

led astray by the unholy spirit that is at work in the lives of most people today. The world has its own powerful, impelling force that foments a course totally opposite of what holy spirit can produce in us. Rather than fostering in people the mind of Christ, the world's spirit causes their thinking and actions to resemble those of the ruler of the world, Satan. (*Read Ephesians 2:1-3; Titus 3:3.*) When a person gives in to the world's spirit and takes up practicing the works of the flesh, grave consequences result, preventing him from inheriting God's Kingdom.—Gal. 5:19-21.

¹⁴ Jehovah has equipped us to resist the spirit of the world. The apostle Paul said to "go on acquiring power in the Lord and in the mightiness of his strength . . . that you may be able to resist in the wicked day." (Eph. 6:10, 13) By means of his spirit, Jehovah fortifies us to withstand Satan's efforts to mislead us. (Rev. 12:9) The spirit of the world is strong, and we cannot avoid it altogether. However, we do not have to be corrupted by it. Holy spirit is even stronger, and it will help us!

15 Of those who forsook Christianity in the first century, the apostle Peter said: "Abandoning the straight path, they have been misled." (2 Pet. 2:15) How very thankful we can be that we have received, "not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is from God"! (1 Cor. 2:12) With the help of its influence and by taking full advantage of all of Jehovah's provisions to keep us on the right path spiritually, we can succeed in resisting the satanic spirit of this wicked world. —Gal. 5:16.

Holy Spirit Produces Good Fruitage

¹⁶ A fourth reason for wanting God's spirit to work within us is that it produces healthy

fruitage in the lives of those who are led by it. (*Read Galatians 5:22, 23.*) Who among us would not want to be more loving, joyful, and peaceable? Who of us would not like to abound in long-suffering, kindness, and goodness? Who of us would not benefit from developing greater faith, mildness, and self-control? God's spirit produces in us fine qualities that benefit us and those with whom we live and serve. Cultivating this fruitage is a constant work in progress, since there is no limit to the amount of the spirit's fruitage that we need and are permitted to produce.

¹⁷ We are wise to take stock of ourselves to be sure that our words and actions give evidence that we are directed by holy spirit and are producing its fruitage. (2 Cor. 13:5a: Gal. 5:25) If we see that we need to cultivate some aspects of the fruitage of the spirit, we can cooperate with holy spirit to a greater degree in producing such qualities. We do this by studying each aspect as it is revealed through the pages of the Bible and discussed in our Christian publications. Thus we can discern how the spirit's fruitage should be manifested in our everyday life and then work to cultivate it to a greater extent.* As we observe the results of the operation of God's spirit in our own life as well as in the lives of our fellow Christians, we clearly see why we must be guided by it.

Are You Yielding to God's Spirit?

¹⁸ As God's "master worker" in the creation of the physical universe, Jesus knew all

^{14, 15.} How can we succeed in resisting the spirit of the world?

^{16.} What fruitage can holy spirit produce in us?

^{*} For a discussion of each aspect, see the subject "Fruitage of God's Spirit" and the heading "List by Aspect" in the *Watch Tower Publications Indexes*.

^{17.} How can we cultivate an aspect of the fruitage of the spirit to a greater extent?

^{18.} How is Jesus a model for us in responding to God's spirit?



God's spirit operates on minds and hearts to move and guide them

about the earth's magnetic field, which humans use to navigate the earth. (Prov. 8:30; John 1:3) However, there is no evidence in the Bible that Jesus ever used that force to guide his way when he was on earth. The Bible does report that as a human, he experienced what a powerful force God's holy spirit was in his life. He welcomed its influence, and when it impelled him, he yielded and acted accordingly. (Mark 1:12, 13; Luke 4:14) Are you of that sort?

¹⁹ God's active force still operates on willing minds and hearts to move and guide them. How can you let it work upon you to lead you in the right direction? Pray constantly to Jehovah that he send you his spirit and help you yield to its influence. (Read Ephesians 3:14-16.) Work in harmony with your prayers by searching out the counsel found in God's written Word, the Bible-a product of holy spirit. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17) Obey the wise instructions it offers, and then respond eagerly to the leading of holy spirit. Act with faith in Jehovah's ability to guide you properly through life in this wicked world

Did You Get the Main Points?

- How can holy spirit affect our lives?
- What are four reasons why we should want to be guided by God's spirit?
- How can we do our part to benefit fully from the leading of holy spirit?

^{19.} What must we do for holy spirit to become the guiding force in our life?

FAITHFUL ONES OF OLD —GUIDED BY GOD'S SPIRIT

"The Sovereign Lord Jehovah himself has sent me, even his spirit."-ISA. 48:16.

THOUGH it has been in evidence since the days of Abel, "faith is not a possession of all people." (2 Thess. 3:2) So why does a person have this quality, and what enables him to be faithful? To a large extent, faith follows the things heard from God's Word. (Rom. 10:17) It is an aspect of the fruitage of God's holy spirit. (Gal. 5:22, 23) Therefore, to demonstrate and exercise faith, we need holy spirit.

² It would be a mistake to conclude that men and women of faith are born that way, that faith comes naturally. The exemplary servants we read about in the Bible were people "with feelings like ours." (Jas. 5:17) They had doubts, insecurities, and weaknesses but "were made powerful" by God's spirit to face challenges. (Heb. 11:34) By considering how Jehovah's spirit operated on them, we today will be encouraged to continue in our course of faithfulness, living as we do at this time when our faith is under attack.

God's Spirit Empowered Moses

³ Of all humans alive in 1513 B.C.E., Moses was "by far the meekest." (Num. 12:3) This mild-tempered servant was entrusted with enormous responsibility in the nation of Israel. God's spirit empowered Moses to prophesy, judge, write, lead, and perform

miracles. (*Read Isaiah 63:11-14*.) Yet, at one point, Moses lamented that the load was simply too heavy. (Num. 11:14, 15) So Jehovah took "away some of the spirit" that was upon Moses and put it on 70 others to help carry the workload. (Num. 11:16, 17) Although Moses' load seemed too heavy, he had, in fact, not been carrying it alone—neither would the 70 who were appointed to assist him carry it alone.

⁴ Moses had been given holy spirit sufficient for the task. After the change, Moses still had all the spirit that he needed. Moses did not have too little, and the 70 older men did not have too much. Jehovah supplies as much of his spirit as we need, according to our circumstances. "He does not give the spirit by measure" but gives "from out of his fullness."—John 1:16; 3:34.

⁵ Are you enduring trials? Are legitimate demands on your time increasing? Are you striving to provide for the spiritual and physical needs of your family while coping with rising expenses or anxieties over health? Are you carrying weighty responsibilities in the congregation? Be assured that by means of his spirit, God can give you the strength you need to cope with any situation.—Rom. 15:13.

Holy Spirit Made Bezalel Qualified

⁶ The experience of Moses' contemporary

^{1, 2.} What is needed in order to demonstrate faith, and what encouragement will we find by considering faithful ones of old?

^{3-5. (}a) How do we know that Moses acted with the help of holy spirit? (b) What does Moses' example teach us about Jehovah's giving his spirit?

^{6-8. (}a) What did God's spirit enable Bezalel and Oholiab to do? (b) What shows that Bezalel and Oholiab were guided by God's spirit? (c) Why is Bezalel's experience particularly encouraging?

Bezalel reveals much about the way God's spirit can operate. (Read Exodus 35:30-35.) Bezalel was appointed to take the lead in making the necessary furnishings for the tabernacle. Did he have knowledge of crafts prior to this vast project? Possibly, but in all likelihood his most recent job was that of making bricks for the Egyptians. (Ex. 1:13, 14) So how would Bezalel fulfill his complicated task? Jehovah "proceeded to fill him with the spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding and in knowledge and in every sort of craftsmanship and for designing devices . . . to make ingenious products of every sort." Whatever natural aptitude Bezalel may have had was enhanced by holy spirit. The same is true of Oholiab, Bezalel and Oholiab must have learned well, for they not only performed their duties but also taught others what to do. Yes, God put it into their hearts to teach.

⁷ Another testimony that Bezalel and Oholiab were guided by God's spirit is the amazing durability of their work. Their productions were still in use some 500 years later. (2 Chron. 1:2-6) Unlike modern-day manufacturers, Bezalel and Oholiab had no interest in leaving their signature or trademark on their work. All credit went to Jehovah for their accomplishments.—Ex. 36:1, 2.

⁸ Today, we may be faced with daunting tasks requiring special skills, such as building, printing, organizing conventions, administering disaster relief, and communicating with doctors and hospital personnel about our Scriptural position on the use of blood. At times, these deeds are performed by skilled workers, but more often they are carried out by volunteers without much background in a specific field. God's spirit makes their efforts succeed. Have you held back from accepting an assignment in Jehovah's service, feeling that others were more qualified than you? Remember, Jehovah's spirit can enhance your knowledge and abilities and help you to fulfill any assignment he gives you.

Ioshua Succeeded With the Help of God's Spirit

⁹ God's spirit also guided a contemporary of Moses and Bezalel. Shortly after the Exodus, the Amalekites launched an unprovoked attack on God's people. The time had come for the Israelites to repel the threat. Although totally unaccustomed to war, the Israelites had to engage in their first military action as a freed people. (Ex. 13:17: 17:8) Someone was needed to lead the fighting force. Who would it be?

10 Joshua was chosen. But if he had to state his previous work experience to qualify for that mission, what could he have listed? Slave laborer? Straw mixer? Manna gatherer? True, Joshua's grandfather Elishama was chieftain of the tribe of Ephraim and apparently led 108,100 men of one of the threetribe divisions of Israel. (Num. 2:18, 24; 1 Chron. 7:26, 27) Yet, Jehovah directed through Moses that, neither Elishama nor his son Nun, but Joshua was to lead the force that would vanquish the enemy. The battle lasted the greater part of a day. With Joshua's implicit obedience and his keen appreciation for the guidance of God's holy spirit, Israel proved victorious.—Ex. 17:9-13.

¹¹ Later Joshua, "full of the spirit of wisdom," succeeded Moses. (Deut. 34:9) Holy spirit did not produce in him the ability to

^{9.} In what circumstance did the Israelites find themselves after the Exodus, and what question arose?

^{10.} Why did the Israelites under Joshua prove victorious in combat?

^{11.} How can we succeed in sacred service as Joshua

prophesy or to perform miracles as it had in Moses, but it did enable Joshua to lead Israel in the military campaign that brought about the conquest of Canaan. Today, we may feel inexperienced or underqualified to carry out certain aspects of our sacred service. Yet, like Joshua, we are assured of success if we adhere closely to divine instruction.—Josh. 1:7-9.

"Jehovah's Spirit Enveloped Gideon"

12 After Joshua's death, Jehovah continued to demonstrate how his power can strengthen faithful ones. The book of Judges is replete with accounts of humans who "from a weak state were made powerful." (Heb. 11:34) By means of holy spirit, God impelled Gideon to fight in behalf of His people. (Judg. 6:34) The army Gideon assembled, however, was outnumbered by the Midianite menace 4 to 1. In Jehovah's eves even that small Israelite regiment was far too numerous. He twice decreed that Gideon scale back the army until the enemy outnumbered Israelite fighters 450 to 1. (Judg. 7:2-8; 8:10) These were odds that Jehovah favored. If a stunning victory was to take place, who could brag that it was wrought by human effort or wisdom?

¹³ Gideon and his troops were almost ready. Had you been part of that little band, would you have felt secure in the knowledge that your company had now been pruned of its fearful and less-than-vigilant ones? Or would you have had a twinge of trepidation as you contemplated how matters might work out? We do not have to guess how Gideon felt. He did what he was told to do! (*Read Judges 7:9-14.*) Jehovah did not re-

proach Gideon for having asked for a sign as evidence that God would be with him. (Judg. 6:36-40) Rather, he strengthened Gideon's faith.

¹⁴ Jehovah's power to save is infinite. He can deliver his people from any predicament, even doing so by using those who appear weak or helpless. Sometimes we may feel outnumbered or in desperate straits. We do not expect miraculous affirmation such as Gideon received, but we can draw abundant guidance and reassurance from God's Word and through his spirit-directed congregation. (Rom. 8:31, 32) Jehovah's loving promises fortify our faith and convince us that he really is our Helper!

"Jehovah's Spirit Now Came Upon Jephthah"

¹⁵ Consider another example. When the Israelites had to confront the Ammonites in battle, Jehovah's spirit "came upon Jephthah." Eager for victory to Jehovah's praise. Jephthah made a vow that proved costly. He vowed that if God gave Ammon into Jephthah's hand, the first one to come out of the door when he returned home would be Iehovah's. As Jephthah returned from subduing Ammon, his daughter came running to meet him. (Judg. 11:29-31, 34) Did this come as a surprise to Jephthah? Not likely, for he had but one child. He fulfilled his vow by devoting his daughter to exclusive service at Jehovah's sanctuary at Shiloh. Being a loyal worshipper of Jehovah, Jephthah's daughter was convinced that her father's vow should be carried out. (Read Judges 11: **36.**) Jehovah's spirit gave both of them the strength they needed.

¹⁶ How had Jephthah's daughter developed such a spirit of self-sacrifice? No doubt

^{12-14. (}a) That 300 men could rout the overwhelming Midianite horde reveals what? (b) How did Jehovah reassure Gideon? (c) We receive what divine reassurance today?

^{15, 16.} Why did Jephthah's daughter have a fine attitude, and how is this encouraging to parents?



her faith was built up as she observed her father's zeal and godly devotion. Parents, your example does not go unnoticed by your children. Your decisions communicate that you believe what you say. Your children observe how your fervent prayers and effective teaching combine with your example of what it means to serve Jehovah with a complete heart. As your children do so, they will likely develop a strong desire to make themselves available to Jehovah for his service. This is a cause for rejoicing.

"Jehovah's Spirit Became Operative Upon" Samson

¹⁷ Consider another example. When Israel fell captive to the Philistines, "in time Jehovah's spirit started to impel" Samson to deliver Israel. (Judg. 13:24, 25) Samson was empowered to perform deeds of astonishing, incomparable strength. When the Philistines persuaded Samson's fellow Israelites to capture him, "Jehovah's spirit became operative upon him, and the ropes that were upon his arms came to be like linen threads that have been scorched with fire, so that his fetters melted off his hands." (Judg. 15:14) Even from the physically weakened state brought

17. What did Samson do by means of God's spirit?

on by his own poor judgment, Samson was made powerful "through faith." (Heb. 11:32-34; Judg. 16:18-21, 28-30) Jehovah's spirit operated on Samson in a unique way because of unusual circumstances. Still, these historical events are of great encouragement to us. How so?

¹⁸ We rely on the same holy spirit that Samson did. We do so as we carry out the work Jesus gave his followers, namely, "to preach to the people and to give a thorough witness." (Acts 10:42) This assignment calls for skills that may not come naturally. How grateful we are that Jehovah uses his spirit to enable us to accomplish the wide variety of tasks that we are entrusted with! Thus, as

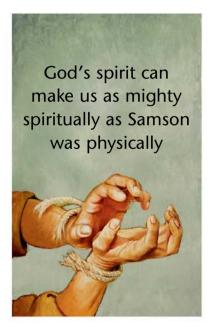
18, 19. (a) Samson's experience provides what assurance for us? (b) How have you benefited from considering the examples of faithful ones in this article?

Why are you encouraged to know how God's spirit operated upon . . .

- Moses?
- Bezalel?
- Ioshua?
- Gideon?
- Jephthah?
- Samson?

we carry out our commission, we can say as did the prophet Isaiah: "The Sovereign Lord Jehovah himself has sent me, even his spirit." (Isa. 48:16) Yes, it is God's spirit that has sent us! We set our hearts to the work with the assurance that Iehovah will enhance our qualifications as he did for Moses, Bezalel, and Joshua. We take up "the sword of the spirit, that is, God's word." confident that he will empower us as he empowered Gideon, Jephthah,

and Samson. (Eph. 6:17, 18) By leaning on Jehovah for his help in overcoming obstacles,



we can be as mighty spiritually as Samson was physically.

19 Clearly, Jehovah blesses those who take a bold stand for true worship. As we respond to the operation of God's holy spirit, our faith abounds. It will be a pleasure, therefore, to review also some of the exciting events recorded in the Christian Greek Scriptures. That will reveal how Jehovah's spirit operated upon his faithful servants in the first century, both before

and after Pentecost 33 C.E. These accounts will be considered in the following article.

GUIDED BY GOD'S SPIRIT IN THE FIRST CENTURY AND TODAY

"All these operations the one and the same spirit performs."—1 COR. 12:11.

PENTECOST. What thrilling events that one word brings to mind! (Acts 2:1-4) The outpouring of holy spirit on that occasion in the first century marked a momentous change in God's dealings with his servants. In the preceding article, we considered some of the ways in which God's spirit enabled faithful ones of old to carry out difficult and detailed assignments. But what is

1. What points will we consider in this study?

the difference between the way God's spirit operated in pre-Christian times and the way it worked in the first century? And how do Christians benefit from the action of God's holy spirit today? Let us see.

"Look! Jehovah's Slave Girl!"

- ² Mary was present in that large upper room in Jerusalem when the promised holy
- 2. How had Mary seen the effect of holy spirit?

spirit was poured out. (Acts 1:13, 14) Yet, for more than three decades prior to that event. she had seen the effect of Jehovah's spirit in remarkable ways. Jehovah had transferred his Son's life from heaven to earth, causing conception in Mary's womb while she was still a virgin. What had been begotten in her was "by holy spirit."—Matt. 1:20.

³ Why had Mary been favored with that unparalleled privilege? After the angel explained Jehovah's will concerning her, Mary exclaimed: "Look! Jehovah's slave girl! May it take place with me according to your declaration." (Luke 1:38) In stating matters that way, Mary revealed a heart attitude that God had already noted. Her immediate response indicates that she was ready to accept his will in the matter. She did not raise any question about how people in the community would view her pregnancy or what possible effect it could have on her relationship with her fiancé. By referring to herself as the lowliest of servants, Mary showed that she trusted completely in Jehovah as her Master.

⁴ Have you at times felt somewhat overwhelmed by challenges or responsibilities in God's service? Each of us does well to ask himself: 'Do I completely trust in Jehovah to work matters out in harmony with his will? Am I truly demonstrating a willing spirit?' Be assured that God gives his spirit to those who trust in him with all their heart and recognize his sovereign will.—Acts 5:32.

Peter Was Helped by Holy Spirit

⁵ Like Mary, the apostle Peter had personally experienced the powerful operation of God's holy spirit prior to Pentecost 33 C.E. Jesus had given him and the other apostles authority to expel demons. (Mark 3:14-16)

And although the Scriptures do not provide many details, it seems likely that Peter used that authority. God's power was also made manifest when Iesus invited Peter to walk toward him over the Sea of Galilee, and Peter did so. (Read Matthew 14:25-29.) Obviously. Peter relied on holy spirit to help him perform mighty deeds. Soon that spirit would act on Peter and his fellow disciples in new ways.

⁶ At the Festival of Pentecost 33 C.E., Peter and others were given the miraculous ability to communicate in the languages spoken by the sojourners visiting Jerusalem. Thereafter. Peter took the lead in addressing the assembly. (Acts 2:14-36) Yes, this man who on occasion was impetuous or fearful was imbued with courage to give a bold witness despite threats and persecution. (Acts 4:18-20, 31) He received knowledge by divine revelation. (Acts 5:8, 9) And he was even empowered to perform a resurrection.—Acts 9:40.

⁷ Even prior to Pentecost, Peter got the sense of many truths that Jesus taught. (Matt. 16:16, 17; John 6:68) But there were aspects of Jesus' teachings that remained unclear to him before Pentecost. For instance. Peter had not discerned that Christ would be resurrected as a spirit on the third day; nor had Peter grasped that the Kingdom would be in heaven. (John 20:6-10: Acts 1:6) The concept of humans becoming spirit creatures and ruling in a heavenly Kingdom was foreign to Peter. Once he himself was baptized with holy spirit and given the heavenly hope, he could grasp the meaning of Jesus' teachings on those points.

^{3, 4.} What attitude did Mary display, and how might we imitate her?

^{5.} In what ways had Peter seen holy spirit at work before Pentecost 33 C.E.?

^{6.} By means of God's spirit, what could Peter do during and after Pentecost 33 C.E.?

^{7.} What teachings of Jesus became clear to Peter only after his anointing?

⁸ Insight previously unattainable to Jesus' disciples became available after the outpouring of holy spirit. By inspiration, the writers of the Christian Greek Scriptures set out—for our benefit—amazing facets of Jehovah's purpose. (Eph. 3:8-11, 18) Today, both spirit-anointed ones and those of the "other sheep" feed together spiritually, assimilating these same truths. (John 10:16) Do you cherish the knowledge and understanding of God's Word that holy spirit thus makes available to you?

Paul Became "Filled With Holy Spirit"

⁹ A year or so after Pentecost 33 C.E., someone else received God's gift of the holy spirit. That was Saul, who became known as Paul. The spirit operated on him in ways that benefit us today. The apostle Paul was inspired to write 14 books of the Bible. And as was true of Peter, God's spirit enabled Paul to understand and write with clarity about the hope of immortality and incorruptibility in the heavens. By holy spirit, Paul effected cures, expelled demons, and even raised the dead! However, the power received through holy spirit had a more important purpose, one that all of God's servants today experience, though not miraculously.

¹⁰ Paul, who was "filled with holy spirit," spoke boldly against a sorcerer. What an effect that had on the principal administrator of Cyprus, who was listening to the whole conversation! That proconsul accepted the truth, "as he was astounded at the teaching of Jehovah." (Acts 13:8-12) Clearly, Paul knew well the importance of God's holy spirit when it comes to speaking the truth.

8. Both the anointed and the "other sheep" have what knowledge available?

(Matt. 10:20) He later entreated the congregation in Ephesus to make supplication for him that "ability to speak" might be given him.—Eph. 6:18-20.

¹¹ Not only did holy spirit *enable* Paul to speak but, at times, it *forbade* him to speak in certain localities. As he embarked on his missionary journeys, Paul was guided by God's spirit. (Acts 13:2; *read Acts 16:6-10.*) Jehovah still guides the preaching work by means of his spirit. Like Paul, all of Jehovah's obedient servants strive to declare the truth with boldness and zeal. Even though God's direction is not as obvious today as it was in Paul's time, we can be sure that Jehovah is using his holy spirit to make sure that deserving ones hear the truth.—John 6:44.

"Varieties of Operations"

¹² Do accounts of Jehovah's blessing on the first-century congregation of anointed ones provide significant encouragement to God's dedicated servants today? Without a doubt! Bear in mind Paul's inspired words to

11. How was Paul guided by God's spirit?

12-14. Does God's spirit work on all his servants in the same way? Explain.

God's spirit enabled Paul to overcome the influence of wicked spirits



^{9.} Paul was able to accomplish what by means of holy spirit?

^{10.} How did holy spirit affect Paul's ability to speak?

the congregation in Corinth concerning the miraculous gifts of the spirit in his day: "Now there are varieties of gifts, but there is the same spirit: and there are varieties of ministries, and yet there is the same Lord; and there are varieties of operations, and yet it is the same God who performs all the operations in all persons." (1 Cor. 12:4-6, 11) Yes, holy spirit can operate in different ways on different servants of God for a purpose. Indeed, the holy spirit is available both to Christ's "little flock" and to his "other sheep." (Luke 12:32; John 10:16) Yet, it does not always operate in the same way on each member of the congregation.

¹³ Elders, for instance, are appointed by holy spirit. (Acts 20:28) But not all spiritanointed ones serve as overseers in the congregation. What are we to conclude from this? Simply that God's spirit operates in different ways on members of the congregation.

¹⁴ The spirit that instills in anointed ones "a spirit of adoption," or a sense of sonship, is the same spirit by which Jehovah raised his only-begotten Son from the dead to immortal life in heaven. (Read Romans 8:11. 15.) It is the same spirit by which Jehovah brought the entire universe into existence. (Gen. 1:1-3) By that same holy spirit, Jehovah qualified Bezalel for special work on the tabernacle, empowered Samson to perform deeds requiring outstanding strength, and enabled Peter to walk on water. Let us, therefore, not confuse having God's spirit with being anointed with God's spirit, the latter being just one special operation of the spirit. Spirit anointing depends on God's choice.

¹⁵ God's holy active force has been operating in various ways upon his faithful servants for as long as he has had faithful servants, ves. for thousands of years before spirit anointing began. At Pentecost 33 C.E., that new operation began, but it will not continue forever. Baptism with spirit will cease, but holy spirit will continue to operate on God's people so that they may do his will for all eternity.

¹⁶ What in particular is now taking place on earth by means of Jehovah's holy spirit? Revelation 22:17 answers: "The spirit and the bride keep on saving: 'Come!' And let anyone hearing say: 'Come!' And let anyone thirsting come: let anyone that wishes take life's water free." Moved by God's spirit, Christians today extend Jehovah's lifegiving invitation to "anyone that wishes" to accept life's water. Anointed Christians are taking the lead in doing this. Yet, those of the other sheep join in extending this invitation. Both classes cooperate with the same holy spirit in accomplishing this work. Those of both classes have symbolized their dedication to Jehovah by being baptized "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit." (Matt. 28:19) And all of them yield to the action of God's spirit in their lives, allowing it to produce in them its fruitage. (Gal. 5:22, 23) Like the anointed, the other sheep allow God's spirit to help them. With its help, they do their utmost to measure up to Jehovah's requirements of holiness.—2 Cor. 7:1; Rev. 7:9, 14.

Keep Asking for Holy Spirit

¹⁷ So whether your God-given hope is that of everlasting life in heaven or on earth. Jehovah can supply you with "power bevond what is normal" in order for you to

^{15.} Will baptism with holy spirit continue indefinitely? Explain.

^{16.} What are God's servants doing now by means of his spirit?

^{17.} How might we give proof that we have God's spirit?





Today, holy spirit is available to aid Christians, whatever their hope

maintain your integrity and receive your reward. (2 Cor. 4:7) Your continued preaching of the good news of the Kingdom may draw ridicule. But remember that "if you are being reproached for the name of Christ, you are happy, because the spirit of glory, even the spirit of God, is resting upon you." -1 Pet. 4:14.

¹⁸ Holy spirit is God's free gift to those who sincerely seek it. It can enhance not only your abilities but also your desire to do your best in his service. "God is the one that, for the sake of his good pleasure, is acting within you in order for you both to will and to act." The precious gift of holy spirit, coupled with our earnest efforts to keep "a tight grip on the word of life," will allow us to "keep working out [our] own salvation with fear and trembling."—Phil. 2:12, 13, 16.

¹⁹ With complete confidence in God's

18, 19. How will Jehovah help you by means of his holy spirit, and what is your determination in this regard?

spirit, then, pour your heart into every assignment, become skilled at what you are given to do, and look to Jehovah for assistance. (Jas. 1:5) He will give you what you need to understand his Word, cope with life's problems, and preach the good news. "Keep on asking, and it will be given you; keep on seeking, and you will find; keep on knocking, and it will be opened to you," and this includes receiving holy spirit. (Luke 11: 9, 13) Indeed, keep on supplicating Jehovah that you may be like faithful ones—both ancient and modern—who were guided by God's holy spirit.

Can You Explain?

- Like Mary, what attitude can we display that will bring blessings?
- In what sense was Paul guided by God's spirit?
- How are God's servants guided by God's spirit today?



PICTURE yourself waking up wishing that the day would end before it has even begun. You have to cope with physical or emotional pain yet another day. You may even feel like Job, who said: "I would prefer death to all my sufferings." (Job 7:15, *The New English Bible*) What if such a condition persists, even for years?

That was the case with Mephibosheth, the son of King David's friend Jonathan. When Mephibosheth was five years old, he "had a fall and was lamed." (2 Sam. 4:4) Emotional distress must have increased the pain of his disability when he was later falsely accused of betraying the king and then suffered a material loss. Yet, he consistently showed himself to be a wonderful example in coping with infirmity, slander, and disappointments, not letting such rob him of joy.—2 Sam. 9:6-10; 16:1-4; 19:24-30.

The apostle Paul is another example. He once wrote about "a thorn in the flesh" with which he had to contend. (2 Cor. 12:7) The thorn he mentioned might have been a long-term disability, or it could have been the people who challenged his apostleship. Whatever the case, the problem lingered, and he had to deal with the physical or emotional pain it brought.—2 Cor. 12:9, 10.

Debilitating chronic illnesses or emotional stresses plague some of God's servants today. At the age of 18. Magdalena was diagnosed with systemic lupus erythematosus, a disease in which the body's immune defenses seem to attack its own organs. "I was terrified," she says. "As time went by, my condition worsened and was aggravated by digestive disorders, mouth ulcers, and thyroid problems." Izabela, on the other hand, has to put up with conditions that are not so obvious. She explains: "From childhood I have suffered from depression. This has resulted in panic attacks, breathing problems, and stomach cramps. I am generally left exhausted."

Facing Reality

Sickness and infirmity can upset your life. When that happens, it helps to sit down and honestly appraise your situation. Accepting your limitations may not be easy. Magdalena says: "My disease is progressive. I often feel too exhausted to get out of bed. The unpredictable nature of my disease makes planning ahead very difficult. My greatest frustration is that I can no longer do as much as I used to do in Jehovah's service."

Zbigniew explains: "As the years go by, rheumatoid arthritis saps my energy,

damaging one joint after another. At times, when the inflammation is severe, I am unable to perform the simplest of tasks. That leaves me feeling dejected."

Some years ago, Barbara was diagnosed with a progressive brain tumor. "My body has undergone sudden changes," she comments. "I feel listless, experience frequent headaches, and encounter concentration problems. Because of my newfound limitations, I had to reevaluate everything."

All these individuals are dedicated servants of Jehovah. For them, doing his will takes priority. They put their complete trust in God and benefit from his support. —Prov. 3:5, 6.

Jehovah Helps-How?

We should avoid thinking that a personal affliction is evidence of God's displeasure. (Lam. 3:33) Think of what Job had to go through despite being "blameless and upright." (Job 1:8) God does not try anyone

with evil things. (Jas. 1:13) All illnesses—including the chronic and the emotional—are a dismal legacy from our first parents, Adam and Eve —Rom 5:12.

Jehovah and Jesus, however, will not leave the righteous ones without help. (Ps. 34:15) Especially at difficult moments in our lives, we come to appreciate that God is 'our refuge and our stronghold.' (Ps. 91:2) So, then, when coping with conditions that have no easy solution, what can help you to maintain joy?

Prayer: Following the pattern of God's faithful servants of old, you can throw your burden on our heavenly Father in prayer. (Ps. 55:22) In doing so, you can experience "the peace of God that excels all thought." That inner peace "will guard your hearts and your mental powers." (Phil. 4:6, 7) By relying on God through prayer, Magdalena copes with her debilitating disease. She says: "Pouring out my heart to Jehovah brings relief and restores my joy. Now I really under-

They Keep Preaching Despite Chronic Illness

"I can no longer walk by myself, so my wife or some other brothers and sisters accompany me in the ministry. I memorize presentations and Bible scriptures."

—Jerzy, visually impaired.



"In addition to doing telephone witnessing, I write letters and regularly correspond with a few interested ones. While in the hospital, I always put the Bible and publications next to my bed. That has helped me to strike up many good conversations."—Magdalena, diagnosed with systemic lupus erythematosus.

"I like the door-to-door ministry, but when I am not feeling up to it, I engage in telephone witnessing."
—Izabela, suffers from clinical depression.

stand what it means to rely on God day by day."—2 Cor. 1:3, 4.

In response to your prayers, Jehovah can give you strength by means of his holy spirit, his Word, and the Christian brotherhood. You would not expect God to remove your infirmity miraculously. Yet, you can count on him to give you the wisdom and strength needed to cope with each adversity. (Prov. 2:7) He can fortify you, giving you "the power beyond what is normal."—2 Cor. 4:7.

Family: A loving and compassionate atmosphere at home can help you to endure illness. Bear in mind, though, that your loved ones also suffer. They may feel as helpless as you feel. Still, they are there for you, even in trying times. Praying together will help you keep a calm heart.—Prov. 14:30.

Barbara says regarding her daughter and other young sisters in the congregation: "They support me in the ministry. Their zeal warms my heart." Zbigniew finds his wife's support invaluable. "She looks after most of

the household chores. She also helps me get dressed and often carries my bag to the Christian meetings and in the ministry."

Fellow believers: When we are in company with our fellow believers, we are encouraged and consoled. But what if you cannot attend meetings because of your illness? Magdalena comments: "The congregation has made sure that I benefit from the meetings by means of audio recordings. My fellow worshippers often call me to see what else they can do to help. They also send me encouraging letters. The thought that they remember me and are concerned about my well-being helps me to endure."

Izabela, who suffers from depression, relates: "Within the congregation, I have many 'fathers' and 'mothers,' those who listen and try to understand me. The congregation is my family—here is where I experience peace and joy."

Those who suffer various trials do well to avoid 'isolating themselves.' Rather, they



"I enjoy making return visits and helping out on Bible studies. On my better days, I like to witness from house to house."—Barbara, who has a brain tumor.

"I carry only a very light magazine bag. I stay out as long as my aching joints allow."—Zbigniew, rheumatoid arthritis patient.





Young and old can be sources of encouragement

treasure their association with the congregation. (Prov. 18:1) They thus become a huge source of encouragement to others. You may hesitate at first to let the brothers and sisters know of your needs. Yet, your fellow believers will appreciate your frankness. It will afford them an opportunity to extend "unhypocritical brotherly affection." (1 Pet. 1: 22) Why not let them know that you need a ride to the meeting, would like to work with them in the ministry, or want to have a heart-to-heart conversation? Of course, we should not be demanding but be appreciative of their help.

Be positive: The key to coping with chronic illness without losing joy is often in your own hands. A gloomy disposition and despondent feelings can lead to negative thinking. The Bible states: "The spirit of a man can put up with his malady; but as for a stricken spirit, who can bear it?" —Prov. 18:14.

Magdalena notes: "I work hard to avoid focusing on my problems. I try to enjoy the days when I do feel better. I find encouragement in reading the life stories of people who have remained faithful despite chronic illness." Izabela is strengthened by the thought that Jehovah loves and values her. She says: "I feel needed, and I have someone to live for. I also have a wonderful prospect for the future."

Zbigniew says: "My illness teaches me humility and obedience. It teaches me to show insight and good judgment as well as to forgive from the heart. I have learned to enjoy serving Jehovah without feelings of self-pity. In fact, I have been motivated to keep on making spiritual progress."

Keep in mind that Jehovah carefully notes your endurance. He feels for you in your suffering and cares for you. He will not "forget your work and the love you showed for his name." (Heb. 6:10) Take to heart the promise he makes to all who fear him: "I will by no means leave you nor by any means forsake you."—Heb. 13:5.

If on occasion you do feel down, focus on the wonderful hope of living in the new world. The time is fast approaching when your own eyes will see on the earth the blessings of God's Kingdom!

Do You Remember?

Have you carefully read the recent issues of *The Watchtower?* Well, see if you can answer the following questions:

• Who was Olivétan, and why should his work interest us?

Frenchman Pierre Robert was known by that name. During the Reformation in the 16th century, he translated the Bible into French. He preferred "overseer" to "bishop" and "congregation" to "church." In places, he rendered God's name "Jehovah."-9/1, pages 18-20.

• What did God mean in telling the Levites: "I am your share"?

Each of Israel's other tribes got an allotment of land, but the Levites had Jehovah as their "share." (Num. 18:20) They would not inherit land, but they received a special privilege of service. Still, Jehovah cared for their basic material needs. Today, those who have the privilege of advancing Kingdom interests can be confident that the necessities of life will be provided.—9/15, pages 7-8, 13.

• How do we know when ancient Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians?

Classical historians give mixed, conflicting details about the Babylonian kings and their reigns. Yet, scholars agree that Cyrus II conquered Babylon in 539 B.C.E., a pivotal date. The Jews were released, and they arrived in their homeland by 537 B.C.E. The Bible says that their exile was 70 years long. So Jerusalem must have fallen in 607 B.C.E. (2 Chron. 36:21, 22; Jer. 29:10; Dan. 9:1, 2)-10/1, pages 26-31.

What can help a Christian decide whether some type of recreation is beneficial or not?

In determining if a type of recreation will be beneficial and be pleasing in God's eyes, it is useful to ask: What does it include? When will

I pursue it? Who will my companions be? -10/15, pages 9-12.

• Why would it be wrong to have an abortion?

God considers life sacred and views a human embryo as a distinct, living being, (Ps. 139: 16) Killing an unborn child is murder, as shown by the fact that under the Law a person would be called to account for injuring an unborn child. (Ex. 21:22, 23)-11/1, page 6.

• How can the account at Proverbs 7:6-23 help us avoid viewing pornography?

That passage tells of a young man who walked in an area where an immoral woman was known to live. She seduced him. Todav. we do well to avoid Internet sites that contain provocative images, and it is important to seek God's help in prayer before even encountering such images on the Internet. -11/15, pages 9-10.

• How do we know whether the earth will survive 2012?

Because of cycles in an ancient Maya calendar, some feel that the world will end in the year 2012. But that is not possible, for Jehovah created the earth to be inhabited. The Bible says that the earth will endure permanently. (Eccl. 1:4; Isa. 45:18)—12/1, page 10.

• Which Bible writers were present at Pentecost 33 C.E.?

It seems that six of the writers of the Christian Greek Scriptures were present. Three apostles were there-Matthew, John, and Peter. Two of Jesus' half brothers were too-James and Jude. And it is likely that the young man Mark was present.—12/1, page 22.

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