FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

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Into Our Hands

As the song goes; *"Swiftly we're turning life's daily pages, swiftly the hours are changing to years."* Each day of our life seems to be moving so fast that it is over before we can blink an eye, and days turn into years.

"How are we using God's golden moments?" Are we using the days that God gives us, doing His will, spreading His word, showing others that He really is, "The Way, the Truth, and the Life?" Into our hands the gospel has been given.

"Shall we reap glory, shall we reap tears." We can reap glory for others as well as our selves by spreading the gospel of our lord Jesus Christ. We can show the world that there is a way back for them. The gospel is in our hands now. Jesus did His part, now let's do ours.

"Millions are groping without the gospel, quickly they'll reach eternity's night. Shall we sit idly as they rush onward?" There are millions of people who don't know about the gospel of our Lord. We have a duty to teach others His way, showing them that he has brought His plan of salvation to all, before it is too late.

"Haste, let us hold up Christ the true light." Jesus is the true light.

His word is a light to all mankind, and man's only hope for eternal life. Spread the message, send the light, there are souls to save. Into our hands the gospel is given, and time is running out for all of us.

"Souls that are precious, souls that are dying, while we rejoice, our sins are forgiven." We may have given our lives over to Jesus, but some of our loved ones may be living in sin. Let their sins be cleansed by His blood also.

"Did He not also die for these lost ones, then let us point the way unto heaven." Jesus died for us all, so let us point the way to heaven to all, so that Jesus can lead them down the right path, the pathway to heaven. Let their hearts rejoice in His love and eternal salvation.

Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven." We must do the work of our Father. It is our turn to spread His message, His life-giving word. We have a duty to all mankind, to present to them the message that He gave to us, that all might hear and obey.

Mark 1:15, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent ye and believe in the gospel." All that we have to do is believe in Him and do His will. Believe that He will truly do as He has promised and so obey His will, and we all will receive as He has promised, His true salvation of life, conquering death.

"Into our hands the gospel is given, into our hands is given the light. Haste, let us carry Gods precious message, guiding the erring back to the right."

Into our hands the gospel is given. Spread the word of the Holy One, the Son of the living God. Amen.

In love of the Truth,
Don Johnston.

"Let Us"

Here is a series of exhortations for us, of which we should take heed:

Hebrews 4:1." Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it."

Let us tremble with fear from this warning; we have to remember the warning of these Israelites that had failed to take God's warning seriously. They refused to obey and God kept His promise to them and didn't allow them to enter the rest that He had provided for them. God has given us an assurance too, this is a permanent rest, and it too is contingent on our obedience.

Hebrews 4:11. "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."

We should re-double our efforts to keep that rest in our grasp, never allowing it to pass from our hands. We should never take our salvation for granted. To receive that rest requires a decision and a commitment unlike any other commitment in our life, one that will enhance our knowledge and faith. Don't let unbelief settle into your life, Don't allow skepticism to filter past your faith.

Hebrews 4:16." Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

We have someone that can speak in our behalf that has suffered the same temptations that we face. We have Him as our High Priest to defend us and only our true faith and Christianity allows us such boldness in our search for that undeserved grace. Unlike the High Priests before Him He is everlasting never to be replaced.

Hebrews 6:1. "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,"

Let us never forget the very basics of Christianity, but we should grow into a mature Christian. Always teaching our new brothers and sisters the basics while growing ourselves daily in our faith in God's Word. We have a platform on which we can stand to learn some of mysteries of God, those prophesies fulfilled, His Ways, His love for us and His ability to help us in our times of need.

Hebrews 10:22." Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water."

Let us fill our hearts with faith in God our Father that we can truly feel that assurance in God's desire for us to not be left to the sins of this world that would surely devour us; Never forgetting the sins that cause us such heavy consciences because it is the sins of our past that give us reason to know that from our obedience to God's Word that they have been washed from our souls by God the Father never to be remembered again.

Hebrews 10:23. "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)"

Let us continue and never be indecisive about what we know to be a true confession of God and His Son. Don't allow others to come between us and God. God will be faithful to us even in our times of weakness so never ever think yourself beyond His power of forgiveness.

Hebrews 10:24. "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:"

During our times of weakness seek out those that are strong in faith. During our times of strength we must walk next to those that are suffering and show them the way back to our

forgiving Father. It will certainly be a battle to preserve our battle gear but we should never allow it to become tarnished by those fiery darts of evil. Polish it daily.

Hebrews 12:1. ""Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,"

We have a huge crowd of witnesses that help us to understand the struggles of life by witnessing ourselves those struggles that they endured and overcame, these are the benefits of living after them; they made our paths easier to follow. Let's never forget their strength in the face of those hardships. We have the knowledge of their testimony; we have access to their examples, both good and bad to follow. Perhaps we will be added to that list after our race is complete, that cloud of witnesses for those that follow us.

Hebrews 12:28. "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and Godly fear: No matter what happens to us here in this life we know that upon that foundation that we live by as Christians that that foundation nor we can be shaken nor destroyed if we love and obey.

Hebrews 13:13. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach."

Just as Jesus suffered the humiliation of being crucified outside the camp as was the tradition for those that were considered unclean and had to remain outside the establishment, we too must take our loyalty to a higher degree and remain outside the mainstream crowd and that safety net that we feel in being like the rest of the world. It isn't safety we gain by being like the world but total destruction and loss of that pure rest we are offered.

Hebrews 13:15. "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."

Remember the words that Hosea spoke in Hosea 14:2, 2. "Take with you words, and turn to the Lord: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips."

Our praise for God and all that He is can replace the calves of sacrifice that the old Jewish people gave to God. All acts of kindness are pleasing to God; all of our acts of sharing with those that are in need never go unnoticed by the Father. Never forget, never be fearful to give the thanks to our loving, compassionate and benevolent Father.

LET US always remember our loving God and never forget the life that He would have us to lead.

In Christian Love,
Denny Davis

LORENZO, TEXAS

As usual I am lazy and negligent about writing. Maybe being old and senile permits one to do that.

All here are doing fine. Sister White is still able to get around on a walker and is on oxygen all the time but seems to be holding her own. Joan's arms and shoulders hurt most of the time caused by bone density loss but she has about learned to live with it. Angela still has as lot of leg pain plus other problems but she keeps a pretty good attitude. Her blood count was up to normal the last time so that helps some.

Well it looks like Joan will make a pretty good cotton crop after all this year, so we had planned to go to Georgia for Xmas but Angela is having extra problems right now so we decided it best not to get that far away.

It has been dry here for several days now so if the weather will cooperate for a few more days the farmers may get to harvest their cotton. For a while, it looked as though they may have to leave it in the field. That would have been sad since this is the best crop they have had in 15 or 20 years.

We are sorry to hear about Bro. Mickey and hate that we didn't get to attend his meetings, but things don't always work out the way we would like.

Not a lot of exciting things around here to write about, but I just wanted to check in and say "hi" to everyone.

Love from the Church
at Lorenzo, TX
Gene Boling

YUMA, ARIZONA

Brothers and Sisters,

Just a short note to let you all know that most everyone down here is doing fairly well. Christmas is behind us now and nothing left but to pay the bills. It is always nice to be with loved ones during this time of year. We have a few that are still maintaining that awful cough and chest congestion. I believe that Susie and I still have the remnants of it since our return home from up north. Our Sister Debra Davis and Sister Jean Orendorff have been suffering from it for quite some time too. It is great to have Brother Harry Booth back in our midst again. We do have a very special prayer for Sister Iris Stewart that through our prayers, God will place His healing hands upon her and all that are suffering from the diseases of this life. Sister Stewart has been diagnosed with cancer and is receiving both chemo and radiation treatments.

We are in the grips of winter here, it's been in the mid 60's and 70's with some rain here and there. But other than that it has been great so far. The afternoon displays of the clouds against the

sunset are beautiful, it makes you think that God is painting a picture just for our enjoyment.

We are in the very beginning stages of planning for our upcoming meeting in March (20th thru the 27th). I would promise great weather except it can vary from warm to very cool, but it usually is pretty good weather at that time of the year. The more of you that are able to be here, the better. It was a great meeting last year and we are looking forward to an even better one this year. May God bless you all with good health and the necessities of life.

Denny and Susie Davis
the Yuma congregation.

CEDAREDGE, COLORADO

December's news from Cedaredge.

We had a good Thanksgiving with much to thank the Lord for. However, as we enter the December holiday period, we do so with sadness. Brother Eddie Wilkerson has been feeling poorly for a while. A couple weeks ago he was diagnosed with cancer. It's in his abdominal cavity and has invaded a number of organs. He has taken massive doses of chemotherapy in the hospital and is now at home. He continues with the treatments. The plan is to do another CAT scan in thirty days followed by his doctor's reevaluation. Please keep him and his family in your prayers. Each prayer will be a blessing. Sister Diane is holding up as well as can be expected. Their son, Joseph, had previously taken a leave from the Navy and will be home soon. That's sure to cheer him up.

Happy holidays to all,
George Cowger

FLORA VISTA, NEW MEXICO

Dear Brethren;

First of all, I want to thank all of you for your phone calls and prayers while Rex was ill. He is much better now after 6 weeks of medicine and doctors, and once again, prayers have been answered for me.

I'm so sorry that we couldn't make it to Broken Bow and to see Brother Doug and Sister Phyllis Ferguson, but God had other plans for us.

The congregation here in Flora Vista is doing ok. We have had some visitors lately and Brother Abe Lobato and Brother Curtis Wilson took care of everything here while we were gone, and then during Rex's illness. They and their families are truly a blessing for us here.

Our weather has been very nice for December. It has been quite cold but with not much snow. However, most of us are looking forward to Spring.

Anyone coming this way, be sure to stop and see us and worship with us. Lord willing, we hope to see many of you in Yuma in March.

Love,
Rex and Tina Mickey

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Dear Brethren;

The year 2004 is just about gone and we can start to look forward to 2005, which is starting to fill up with events already. Kelly's son, Lt. Matt McCay is to be married to Katherine Whitworth on January 7th in Spokane and they will be moving to Columbus, Mississippi in February where he will be stationed at the Air Force Base there. Mikaela Lamb will be graduating from

High School and Brady Lamb will be moving on from Wenatchee Community College to a 4-year college. Then, of course, don't forget the meetings in Yuma in March and Beaver's Bend in July. I am sure that there will be other meetings announced as the year progresses.

We have had the usual colds and their side effects but nothing too serious so far, although I suppose that Richard Johnston would protest that a kidney stone is quite serious. He managed to get rid of it fairly soon and we are thankful for that. Richard's parents, (my sister and brother-in-law) have been under the weather for quite some time. In fact, Oren has been in the hospital several times lately. Richard and Monica have been over to Burlington several times to see them.

Brandon Lamb was home for three days earlier this month but is supposed to be home for a week or so about the 1st of January. Holland America cruise line has been keeping him quite busy.

We have been blessed to have Terry and Susie Warford and family with us over the holidays. Terry is always ready to speak for us when they are here and we really appreciate his efforts. He is a good speaker and quite knowledgeable on the Bible. It is really great to see these young ones coming along to take our places.

Yesterday, December 29th, we had about 3 inches of snow and it is snowing again today. We were hoping it would hold off until we could get up to Spokane and back on the 6th and 7th, but we don't always get what we want. We will just trust in the Lord to get all of us there and back safely.

Veda and I have successfully passed our 56th wedding anniversary and I my 76th birthday. I don't feel that old until I try to do something that I used to do easily, and it doesn't come very easy any more. However, the Lord has truly blessed us over the years with a fine family and many great friends, and we are so thankful for that. There is a Southern Gospel song that should express our feelings.

"As the world looks upon me, as I struggle along, and they

see I have nothing, but they are so wrong. In my heart I'm rejoicing, how I wish they could see. Thank you Lord for your blessings on me.

There's a roof up above me, and a good place to sleep. There's food on my table, and shoes on my feet. You gave me your love Lord, and a fine family. Thank you Lord for your blessings on me.

I know I'm not wealthy, and my clothes are not new. I don't have much money, but Lord I have you. And to me that's all that matters, though the world cannot see. Thank you Lord, for your blessings on me."

If you are in our area, please stop in and visit/worship with us. All are welcome and we will be happy to have you. Please remember all those who are ill in body or spirit in your prayers.

Yours in Christ,
Bill McCay Sr.

MEETINGS

March 20-27	Yuma, AZ	Guest Speakers
July 16-25	Beaver's Bend, OK	Camp Meeting

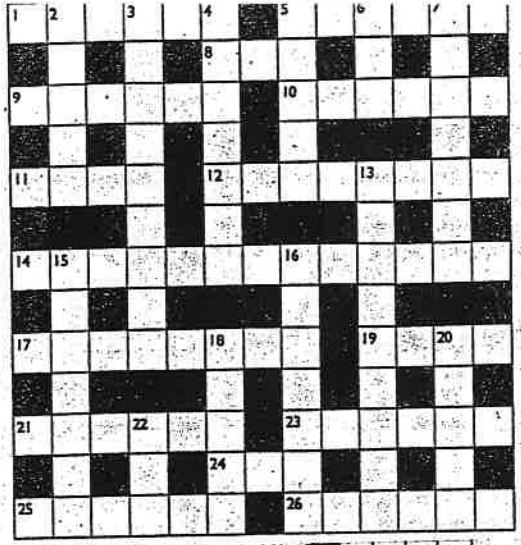
PUZZLE 57

ACROSS

1 "No one can ____ them from me"; carry away by force (Joh. 10:29)
5 "To enjoy your work and to ____ your lot in life—that is indeed a gift from God" (Ecc. 5:20)
8 "We toss the coin, but it is the Lord who controls ____ decision" (Pro. 16:33)
9 Nullify (Isa. 28:18)
10 Set on fire (Job 41:21)
11 Gave a new color to (Exo. 36:19)
12 "Because of this ____ upon Moses' face, Aaron and the people of Israel were afraid" (Exo. 34:30)
14 "This is the day ____ the atonement, cleansing you in the Lord's eyes"; celebrating (Lev. 16:30)
17 "I will reestablish the land of Israel and ____ it to its own people again"; allot again (Isa. 49:8)
19 "If the boss is angry with you, don't ____! A quiet spirit will quiet his bad temper"; resign (Ecc. 10:4)
21 One of Hazzelponi's brothers (1 Ch. 4:3)
23 "We are always confident, knowing that, ____ we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord"; at the time of (2 Co. 5:6; KJV)
24 Abijam's son; king of Judah (1 Ki. 15:7, 8)
25 Temporary indirect route (Isa. 33:8)
26 Nonmembers of the religious

DOWN

2 Original country of Aquila and Priscilla (Act. 18:2)
3 Jewish leader to whom Jesus said, "Unless you are born again, you can never get into the Kingdom of God" (Joh. 3:3, 4)
4 "I am but a ____ here on earth: how I need a map—and your commands are my chart and guide"; traveler (Psa. 119:19)
5 "This is what I have ____ of God for you: that you will be encouraged"; requested (Col. 2:2)
6 "I ____ do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ" (Phi. 4:13)
7 Large-billed sea bird (Deu. 14:17)
13 Ancient age (Isa. 23:7; KJV)
15 Late (Hab. 2:3)
16 A beginning again; restoration (2 Ch. 16:3)
18 A son of King David (1 Ch. 3:6)
20 "Without making a big ____ over it, God simply shatters the greatest of men and puts others in their places"; point of controversy (Job 34:24)
22 Prior (Deu. 1:6)



G	E	M	■	E	A	C	H	■	A	G	A	G
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Puzzle 56,