

Volume 1, Issue 2

Fall, 2006



SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO GROW THE VISION GOD
HAS PLACED ON YOUR HEART

His Way Newsletter

Are you a Wheat or a Tare?

By Doug Cook

In Matthew 13, Jesus said, *"The kingdom of heaven is likened unto the a man which soweth good seed in his field... the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? From whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, an enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn."*

As we can easily understand in this passage, the tares are among the wheat. Jesus said later in this chapter *"the field is the world"*, and our churches these days are trying to be like the world so much, they attract worldly people. In other words, our church buildings are full of tares, looking, acting and talking similar to believers, but they are of their father the enemy (evil one). It we are biblically grounded and mature in our Christian walk, we should be able

to distinguish the two, as the servants were able to do. But, it also says we, as believers, will not be the ones that will divide them out and separate them, lest we destroy one of God's people in the process. There are too many immature Christians in the church buildings today accusing other people of being "of the devil", when they themselves, by making this statement, are guilty of sowing discord among the brethren, which is one of the seven abominable sins of Proverb 6 that God hates.

Speaking of the tares, Jesus said He *"shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend* (a trap, snare, any impediment placed in the way and causing one to stumble or fall), *and them which do iniquity* (ignorance or violation of commandments or law)." In this definition, Jesus is revealing the tares to be people who don't know, or who refuse to obey His commandments and those who cause others to stumble and fall by spreading wrong teachings and doctrines contrary to biblical truth. According to this, there will be some pastors included among the tares.'

Jesus said *"the harvest is the end of the world* (age)." Brothers and sisters we are at the end of the

Emerald Ministries Bible Study Audios

We invite you to go to the website for recently added streaming audio from Emerald Ministries. There is a collection of audio teachings in MP3 format from our Friday night Home Church that are compatible with Windows Media Player and most other media players. These are provided at no cost. We pray you are blessed by what you hear.

The direct link to the streaming audio:

www.emeraldministries.com/Audio/AudioEMBS.htm

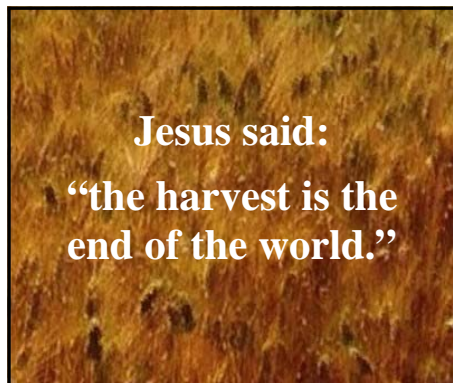
Are you a Wheat or a Tare? (cont'd.)

age, and God has begun the process of weeding out the tares from among the wheat. According to 2Thessalonians 2, the day of Christ “*shall not come, except there come a falling away first*”, and this falling away will happen before the man of sin is revealed. It also warns that the mystery of iniquity is already working with “*all power and signs and lying wonders*” to deceive many. “*For this cause God shall send them a strong delusion* (deceit, led astray), *that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believe not the truth* (word).” GOD is going to send strong delusions, NOT the devil, to test all the people that say they are “Christians”, and God will use the devils lying signs and wonders to weed out the tares. God takes all things and uses them for His good to those who are the called (Romans 8:28).

You might be telling yourself, “there is no way I could be deceived, I’ve been a Christian for 20 years.” You better think again. In Matthew 24 Jesus said, “*there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*” If you have spent the past 20 years getting your food from preachers instead of in depth study of your bible, you could be very easily deceived. Our churches are full of Christians that only listen to certain preachers they like to hear. They read the advertisements to see who’s preaching before attending services. Second Timothy 4 states, “*for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they*

heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears (tickle their ears, hear something pleasant); *and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned into fables* (fiction, false doctrine).” If these Christians don’t begin to follow biblical truths rather than the doctrines of these preachers, they will be deceived and will become a tare in the eyes of the Lord.

So how can we be deceived by lying signs and wonders? The bible doesn’t tell what kind of signs and wonders the evil one



will use, but it does explain what signs and wonders are from God. It is like a hundred dollar bill; if you know what a real one looks and feels like, you can distinguish the many different counterfeits out there. Matthew 10 tells us to “*heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils.*” Mark 16 says the signs that follow believers are they “*cast out devils, speak with new tongues; if they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them ... they shall lay hands on the sick and they will recover.*” Where in the bible does it say they will roll on the floor with “holy laughter”, shake violently when the Holy Spirit comes on them like a nervous condition, have “gold dust” fall in your meetings, or see diamonds

and jewels appear out of thin air? Although I have seen the Holy Spirit minister to someone by being “slain in the Spirit.” I have also witnessed people with the same experience that was the evil one mimicking God, and they had a demon imparted in them when the preacher laid hands on them and “fell under the power.” If the whole meeting is focused on everyone being slain in the spirit, you can bet demons are right in the middle of it.

How many believers do we see running after these lying signs and wonders that are not mentioned in the Word of God? These laughing, gold dust type meetings usually emphasize “God is doing a new thing”. I have had people who follow these signs tell me, “I’m not going to limit God and what He wants to do.” This all sounds good (tickles the itchy ear), but the bottom line is we need to look for the signs and wonders Jesus did and told us as believers to do. Otherwise, we set ourselves up for a “strong delusion” (sent by God to test us) that may cost us our salvation. This may sound harsh, but we, as believers, need to quit following every so-called “new wave of the spirit” that comes around. “*The thing that has been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done; and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there anything whereof it may be said, See, this is new? It hath been already of old time which is before us,*” Ecclesiastes 1. According to the bible, there is not any “new things” that have not been experienced previously.

Believer, deception is rampant in the highest levels of the church in these last days. I pray your eyes will be open to the truth and God will give you an overwhelming desire for His Word. “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8)

Is God With You?

“Thus says the Lord of hosts: In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.”
Zechariah 8:23

I ask you, what consumes most of your time? What are you devoted to? What are you a slave to? We as Christians have choice and the power to choose. Your choices reveal who is the master of your life.

The presence and mind of Christ in our lives should be so evident that others want to be around us. Whether it is at home, at church or at the workplace we should be making a difference in the lives

of those we come into contact with. The closer we get to Jesus the more people will draw near to you. In this Christmas season remember the real reason for the season, the birth of Jesus Christ!

Heart-Cry for Revival—Part Two “Are You Really Saved?”

By Doug Cook

As declared in part one of *Heart Cry for Revival*, our churches today are filled with many people calling themselves “Christian”, that do not have a true born-again experience with the Lord Jesus. But did you know that there are some in the pulpits today that are lost as well? We would like to share an excerpt from a public interview conducted less than 3 years ago with a preacher in which they related an event that happened when they were in the hospital.

Preacher’s comment: “But you’re right, if I died right now, I would be very happy.”

Interviewer: “Why?”

Preacher: “Because I know what’s ahead. It’s a paradise that we are going to go into, because to be in the presence of God itself will be a paradise. And I have total, total certainty of that from scripture. And I believe the Bible. I believe that I have received Jesus Christ into my heart. I believe that he has covered all of my sins.

And I had an experience where I thought I was dying. I was at the hospital about four years ago. I have had brain operations, and that is my biggest problem now is hydrocephalus, and they were trying

to get stents into my brain, and one night I thought, this was it, and during the night I prayed and told the Lord that, please receive me into his presence. And of all a sudden, all of my sins came before me. Everything I had ever done wrong that I had forgotten about years ago came into my mind. And I prayed, Lord, forgive me, may the blood of Jesus Christ cleanse me from all of my sins.

Do Not Neglect Salvation!

“How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.”

Hebrews 2:3

And I had the greatest peace come over me, and that peace has not left me since. And I am very certain that the Lord was ready to receive me at that time—not because of my good works or because of all the things I have tried to do, but because the Lord has forgiven me.”

Interviewer: “Don’t you ever, ever doubt it?”

Preacher: “No. No. I used to. But since that experience that I had that I just told you about. I have no doubts.”

Brothers and sisters what kind of experience would you call “that experience?” If we didn’t tell you this person was already a pastor, we believe most true Christians would undoubtedly agree they had a salvation experience. When we are sincerely saved, God forgives our past sins and He will NEVER bring them up before us again. If we told you who this famous person is, most of you would be shocked in disbelief. Almost everyone reading this would know the person because they have been preaching in the public eye for decades before they had this “experience.” This situation calls for rejoicing for their salvation, but it should also grieve us for the years of them trying to lead others into something they themselves did not even possess.

The end times are upon us. Please visit our salvation page on our website if there is the slightest question concerning your salvation.

www.emeraldministries.com/salvation.htm

For Prayer:

Email: Info@emeraldministries.com

Phone: 713-GOD-VISION (463-8474)

Mail: Emerald Ministries

P.O. Box 430486

Houston, Texas 77243-0486

Website: www.EmeraldMinistries.com

His Way Newsletter

Is sent out E-mail or USPS, free of charge. If you would like to be added to our growing list of readers and receive these messages send an E-mail to:

info@emeraldministries.com

Donations: Any and all donations of any size are gratefully appreciated. Some can donate millions. For these we are grateful. Others are only able to donate \$1.00 or a widows mite for which we are *equally* grateful. New Testament giving admonishes each person is to give accordingly as God has prospered them. Please send donations to the above address or visit our web page for current options.

www.emeraldministries.com/Donation.htm

Endorphins: God's Secret Weapon?

By Stephen Edelstein

“God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

When it comes to physical health the things you can change, the choices you make are entirely up to you. Recently, a friend of mine was having breathing problems and he visited his heart doctor for a checkup. After ten minutes of the doctor delivering a bad report he made a decision that it was time for him to do his part. It took the doctor telling him that if he kept up with his present life style that it would not be long before he would be affected by *Diabetes, Heart Attack and/or Stroke*.

His first reaction was to tell the doctor that he didn't like exercising and he would not do it. He had led a sedentary life for more then 50 years, why should he change now? The exercise he got at work, walking around was enough. Being more than 30 pounds overweight, so what, lets have another loaf of fresh baked bread from Central Market.

He went home that day and instead of looking at the problem he looked at the solution. He asked God to help him with a program of physical fitness, diet and sleep that would result in a life style change not just a temporary fix. He immediately started an exercise program which he maintains five days a week and has started to eat healthy.

A funny thing happened! He actually enjoyed what he was doing. The first two weeks were hard on him physically due to his body going through diet

changes. He had headaches on a regular basis but he fought through it. He says that after one month he has more joy, more energy, a great attitude towards life and a story that he shares with others. All the glory goes to God! The weight loss for the first month alone was eleven pounds.

He was wondering what was making him feel so good, a feeling that he had not felt in years. He soon learned as a result of a sermon by Pastor Joel Osteen that endorphins play a role in physical health. An exercise program can result in the brain producing an excess of endorphins that result in you having a good mood. Many studies have found that exercise can elevate mood, release stress and even improve sleep.

He has asked friends and family to help him be accountable. We influence each other more than we know. As Christians we are looked at by others to see if we are acting “Christian”.

“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you.” (1 Cor 3:16) Your body is an integral part of you. Your body is not an independent entity; it reflects what is going on inside of you: emotionally, mentally and spiritually. Don't wait fifty years to get your temple in shape!

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Parents teach your children about endorphins.

In this Christmas season take the time to eat well, sleep well and exercise. May you be blessed!
