

THE FAITHFUL FEW

Joe Wright Griggs

*A tiny few of those who gazed
Into the western sky
Observed The Star, and were amazed
And asked the question: "Why?"*

*For only one small shepherd band
The angel choirs performed,
But they proclaimed throughout the land,
Their lives had been transformed!*

*Though multitudes had heard Him teach
And saw His wond'rous deeds,
Yet God's own Words could only reach
The few with soil for seeds.*

*Yet by His own He was betrayed,
By one of His denied;
While most had fled, a few had stayed
Near Him, until He died.*

*A few of them came to the tomb
That Resurrection Morn
But most were bound by fear and gloom,
Defeated and forlorn.*

*It was the few that chose to take
That rocky, narrow road
Which leads to Life, and for His sake
They shared each other's load,*

*And so, like them, the faithful few,
Let us observe That Star
Which points His Will for us to do
At home, or journey far!*

Jesus told His disciples: "...The laborers are few..."
[Matthew 9:37 from The King James Bible]

THE FALL OF MANKIND

Joe Wright Griggs

Man walked in the Garden with God -
The Divine with creatures of sod.
They talked as good friends often do
Each meeting like starting anew!

Man's Freedom was almost complete -
He chose which fruits he wished to eat.
Only one tree was restricted -
He disobeyed, and was evicted!

Adam's descendents since The Fall
Have followed suit - *not some, but all!*
The Tempter came, we all gave in -
Not one of us is free from sin!

God forged a very costly Plan
The Only Way to save the Man -
God sent His Son in Holy Birth
To die for All mankind on earth.

Had Christ remained within the Tomb
There'd be *No Hope from Judgment's Doom!*
Thank God, His Resurrection gave
Defeat for sin, death and the grave!

The Apostle Paul wrote to Christian converts in Rome:
"... But God commended His Love toward us, in that,
while *we were yet sinners, Christ died for us* ... Being now
justified by His Blood, we shall be saved from wrath through
Him ... *Being reconciled, we shall be Saved by His Life.* "
Romans 5:8-10 from The King James Bible

FALSE PRIDE

Joe Wright Griggs

False pride led Lucifer to sin
His evil plan brought many in -
In fact, one third of Heaven's Host
Had bought into the devil's boast!

God's Judgment was both swift and sure -
His Holiness could not endure
A challenge to His Sovereignty -
God's Kingdom must remain sin free!

Cast down to earth, Ol' Satan's Crowd -
Still unrepentant and still proud -
Deceives mankind, for they have tried
To teach to all their sinful pride .

Quarrels, divorces, and all wars
And those behind all prison bars -
Attest to Satan's great success -
For pride produces wickedness!

But Satan lost - *God paid full price* -
He sent His Son as Sacrifice!
No place for pride, or saving face -
Not by our works - we're saved by Grace!

King Solomon wrote: *Pride goeth before
destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.*"
Proverbs 16:18 from The King James Bible

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THE FATTED CALF MENALITY

Joe Wright Griggs

The Prodigal chooses to roam -
(Soon lack of food made him aware)!
He then opted to go back home -
To his Father, who waited there.

How will Father greet wayward son?
What punishment will he mete out?
What would we do with such a one?
(*He'd feel our wrath, there's little doubt!*)

"Let's kill for him *the fatted calf*-
Bring the best robe, expensive rings -
Dress my boy well, alert my staff -
We'll party 'til this whole house swings!"

The eldest son, fresh from hard work -
Hearing the noise, spoke a sour note -
"I do for you and never shirk -
You don't give me *a skinny goat!*"

*Which mind-set do we wish to claim -
"The Fatted Calf," or "Skinny Goat?"
"Forgiving Grace," the Father's aim -
"Self-Centeredness," the son's sour note!*

Jesus taught the multitudes the parable of The Prodigal Son:
"... I will arise and go to my Father ... And when he was yet
a great way off his Father saw him and had compassion ... and
kissed him ... The Father said: Bring forth *The Fatted Calf*...
and let us eat and be merry But the elder son was angry ...
You never gave me a kid (*A Skinny Goat*) that I might make
merry....." Luke 15:11-32 from The King James Bible

FLEEING GOD'S CALL

Joe Wright Griggs

God called Jonah "to go and tell" -
Save Nineveh from doom and Hell -
But he rebelled against God's Plea -
Rather than go, decided to flee!

Fled to Joppa, then went astray -
Boarded a ship bound the wrong way.
God sent a great storm on the Sea -
Jonah confessed: "It's all about me!"

He then was thrown into the wave -
God used a whale, Jonah to save.
Inside the whale, Jonah repented-
Said he would go, God relented!

As Jonah preached, the people heard -
Clad in sackcloth, they heeded his word!
Jonah had wished the city would burn -
(He still had lessons from God to learn)!

Jesus commissioned all of us here -
To go and tell - not flee in fear!
Let each of us answer The Call -
Help save a world lost by The Fall!

Read the entire book of Jonah for background!

FOUR NEW TESTAMENT SAINTS

Joe Wright Griggs

**There's Matthew, Peter, John and Paul-
Each using a Spirit'al Gift!
Each Believer has God's Great Call:
“Use your Gift to help those adrift!”**

**As a Jew, Matthew tried to draw
From prophecies Jesus fulfilled -
Proving that He was Messiah -
That all protests would then be stilled!**

**Though impetuous, Peter
Was judged by Christ a solid “Rock!”
His sermons were a “no retreater” -
They left some hearers in deep shock!**

**John was a great visionary -
Was given a prophetic dream!
We're the beneficiary -
Who gaze into God's future scheme!**

**Paul was a great evangelist -
He founded churches in his sphere!
All his writings that now exist -
Believers must surely revere!**

Matthew: “... This was done, that it might be fulfilled...” Mt. 1:22

Peter: Jesus to Peter: “upon this Rock I will build...” Mt. 16:18

John: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ...” Revelation 1:1ff

**Paul: (Following his conversion): “...And straightway he (Paul)
preached Christ ... that He is the Son of God...” Acts 9:20**

(All these references are from The Kings James Bible)

FOUR OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS

Joe Wright Griggs

There's Joseph, Daniel, Ruth and Job -
Each one has traits to emulate!
We read about them when we probe -
Their lives have much to contemplate!

Joseph models integrity -
Tempted to sin, he remained pure!
Didn't succumb to self-pity -
But his forgiveness would endure!

A model of faith was Daniel -
Who prayed three times every day!
Refused all laws against God's Will -
The penalty was harsh to pay! .

Ruth was a truly faithful friend -
Left home's security behind!
The world can never comprehend
How strong love ties can really bind!

Through suffering, Job's faith endured-
He lost children, income and health!
When we feel pain, we are assured -
We'll find Job's Book contains much wealth!

Joseph: Joseph resisted Potiphar's wife: Genesis 39:12 ff
Daniel: Daniel prayed three times each day: Daniel 6:10 ff
Ruth: To Naomi: "Where you go, I'll go!" Ruth 1:16 ff
Job: "Blessed be the name of the Lord!" Job 1:21 ff
(All of these references are from The King James Bible)

FREEWILL

Joe Wright Griggs

Though Sovereign of the Universe,
God does not force His Way!
Each one of us is free to choose -
We can, or not, obey!

It's not God's Nature to impose -
He lets us make our choice.
He never threatens or compels,
His Speech: a Still Small Voice!

By Grace, He sent His Son as Gift -
To die for each one's sin.
He paid the Price, now we must choose -
To Live, or die again!

The world has never understood
That, though He has All Power,
God grants "Free Will" to all of us -
That we may truly flower!

Each choice we make has consequence -
The outcome bad or good.
If we're in harmony with God-
Then we'll choose as we should!

On the Plains of Moab, just before Israel was to enter Canaan,
Moses gave his Final Address to the Israelites, in which he
exhorted them: " I have set before you life and death,
blessing and cursing: therefore choose life that you and your
seed may live: That you may love the Lord your God and that
you will obey His voice, and hold onto Him for He is your life.."
Deuteronomy 30:19-20 from The King James Bible

FROM BELIEVING TO EXPECTING

Joe Wright Griggs

If we just passively Believe ...
But are not ready to Receive
God's answer to our prayer request ...
We're not prepared to pass God's Test!

*In True Belief, we demonstrate
That we Expect Him to Relate!
We show that we plan to receive ...
By the way in which we live!*

*If we live with Expectation
(Not with fear and trepidation) ...
That God's answer is forthcoming
Our receptors will "be humming!"*

Our preparation now is done
To show: *"With us it's all or none!"*
Now all we need to do is wait -
For God's Answers are Always Great!

King David showed his Great Expectation while waiting:
*"My soul waits silently for God alone. For my Expectation is
from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation: He is my
defense: I shall not be moved! In God is my Salvation and my
Glory: The Rock is my strength, and my refuge is in God.
Trust in Him at all times you people: Pour out your heart
before Him: God is a refuge for us!"*
Psalm 62:5 - 8 from The New King James Version of the Bible

GET OUTSIDE OF THE BOX

Joe Wright Griggs

Let us get out of our routine -
Don't stay where we have always been!
Our horizons must all expand
Or else, we build our house on sand!

God wants to take us to new places
Where He'll confront us with new faces!
When we're forced from our "comfort zone"
We meld with Christ, our Cornerstone!

Let us not fear to face the new -
The Lord will teach us what to do.
He'll use our willingness to change
And help our lives to rearrange!

So let's be malleable as clay
And let God mold us every day!
*Let's open now our safety locks -
It's time to exit from our Box!*

In the Book of Genesis, Moses wrote about how God called Abram (Abraham) out of his Box into a life of service to The Lord:

"Now the Lord said unto Abram, Get thee out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father's house, unto a land that I will show you: And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great - you shall be a Blessing

Genesis 12: 1-2 from The King James Bible

The Prophet Samuel wrote about how, even as an infant, his mother brought him to the Synagogue to be reared by the priests:

"As long as he lives, he (Samuel) shall be lent to the Lord

I Samuel 1:28 from The King James Bible