

TRUMPET SOUNDS



PEOPLE WHO DON'T GET IT—DON'T GET IT—GET IT?

"A religion that is small enough for our understanding would not be big enough for our needs."-Corrie Ten Boom

Just imagine that God could only achieve what we could understand. Think about that for a moment. Here is an example from my own experience as a fourth grade teacher: I passed out paper telling my class they could draw anything they wanted. Half the class sat not knowing what to do until they found something familiar within the scope of the classroom to copy, while one quarter of them drew familiar things they would usually draw when doodling. The rest sat staring at the paper then raised their hands saying, "Teacher, I don't know what to draw," followed by wasting class time chewing on a pencil or the eraser and sighing heavily until time was up.

I believe that people who don't get it...don't **get** it. Most people have to understand it before they can receive it. Small faith produces only what it has the ability to handle. God gives us His Word, but life hands us a paper and says draw something. Christians using God as a reference might have any number of responses for example, half the Christians not knowing what to do might resort to something familiar to copy, while a quarter of the Christians would do what they typically do...no more, no less. Then you would have some of them sitting and fretting asking others what to do because they have no clue as they sit and stew in vacancy and indecision until time is up and they quit altogether.

Jesus said something that should resonate: **Matt 9:29 According to your faith be it unto you.** The contingency of our desire hinges

upon our faith. If your desire is greater than your faith, what have you? It would be like going into the store and desiring an item for which you hadn't enough money. You might wish to have it with all your heart but it does not change the fact that you will not get it.

The biggest problem for those who don't get it is taking for granted that they do just because they go to church on Sundays and are basically good people. God has already given us what we did not deserve...salvation. It was His gift of Grace. For the promises to be ours we must believe that we have them, see them in faith, embrace them no matter what our circumstances say or our feelings feel. We need to get it before we can **get** it. Get it?

If you do not believe me look at these Scriptures together:

Luke 17:21 ... behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Question: Where is the Kingdom of God according to that Scripture?

Matt 11:12 ...the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

[The phrase "kingdom of God" occurs 68 times in 10 different New Testament books, while "kingdom of heaven" occurs only 32 times, and only in the Gospel of Matthew. Mark and Luke used "kingdom of God" where Matthew used "kingdom of heaven" frequently in parallel accounts of the same parable.]

Question: What does the Kingdom of God suffer? Who has the ability to take the Kingdom? How do you take the Kingdom?

To be violent is the Hebrew word *bi-astēs* which means energetic forcer.

The energetic forcer takes it by...the Hebrew word for force is *harpazō*, which is to say to *seize it by force*.

The promises are not entitlements for us to take for granted as if delivered by mail. The Kingdom of God is within us...it suffers violence, but the enthusiastic forcer will seize it by force. Get it? If you cannot get it, you will not **get** it.

Believers believe and doubters doubt, however, a believer who doubts is actually a doubter in denial.

We are in a spiritual battle, which cannot be won by rote memorization and repetition of verses sprinkled with doubt, fear and negativity. Our faith should be a FORCE to be reckoned with, should the enemy chose to enter that futile battle. We should believe God's Word enough to get the job done even if we do not see it right away. We are not out on a stroll as if picking daisies. We are to seize "it" by force. It will take strength in Faith by the Word and a steady stand no matter how the rains fall or the winds blow against our house. When we get that, we get it!

Get it?

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“PRAYER...YOUR STEERING WHEEL OR SPARE TIRE?”

If you want to understand the difference between the Christians who are intercessors and those who are not, it is clearly spelled out in the title, which is from another Corrie Ten Boom quote.

Intercessors use prayer as their steering wheel. We pray at the beginning of the journey to its finish. Most Christians keep prayer in the trunk just in case they end up with a flat tire and

need to pull it out. Then there are some who forget about replacing their spare used in the last blow out and find themselves stranded on a deserted road.

Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of

man.

1 Thess 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

These Scriptures are not addressing intercessors but **all** of God’s children. Intercession is considered basic equipment in Christianity and not a particular calling for a very few.

Intercessors do not steer the prayer but allow the

prayer to steer them, **for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. (Rom 8:26-27)**

“I’M ONLY HUMAN”

There are some things that Christians can never say like, “The devil made me do it,” which was how Eve excused her sin to God or today’s version of that, “I’m only human.” Neither saying exempts nor even repents sinful actions.

The redeemed of God are never **only human**. We are a threefold being. The two main characters of that threefold being are the soul man and the spirit man; the lesser being the flesh. The “first person” of the threefold being is the spirit, for it is eternal. Our spirit connects with God and our soul should connect with the spirit but more often than not connects with the flesh to fulfill its cravings and desires. When a

Christian tries to excuse error with being **only human**, what they are actually saying is “I’m a soulish creature living vicariously through the flesh on purpose.” This changes it from an excuse to a choice. We must choose to live vicariously. To do anything vicariously means we are not living in the “first person” but through another vehicle.

To live the **only human** life is to be unrepentant. When we fall prey to error and sin we are to repent not to chalk it up to humanness. Merely confessing our humanness does not relinquish the deed for which the confession was made. Admitting our fault to others and asking forgiveness with fervent

prayer is what the Scriptures tell us to do to be healed: **James 5:15-16 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.**

Prayer is a large key to forgiveness and healing. There is no redemption that excludes the prayer of faith or the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous for healing.

What does it mean to be effectually fervent in prayer? Effect-

ually fervent is the word **energeō** meaning successful in producing a desired or intended result; operative and powerful!

Notice also that this is not addressing the sinner’s confession but the confession of the righteous. The righteous never excuse the error as being **only human**, but from owning the error and washing it away by the blood of the Lamb in the prayer of faith, which is the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man. The righteous man lives with integrity, while the foolish live vicariously an **only human** life.

So the next time you fall prey to error, remember confession is better for the soul than an excuse.

DEAR FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD

I have heard from many friends around the world from nations I have never been to; some I have never known existed. I want to thank you for the encouraging emails. The Lord is providing manna though this vehicle of which I am privileged to be a part. I want to tell all those from whom I have not yet heard; you are not alone. Many of you whose faces remain unseen are lifted in prayer. Technology has

helped us to become as close neighbors and friends. Prayer reaches beyond oceans, boundaries and walls of oppression. No matter the corruption of governments, no one can rob us of God’s Grace and power. We are not victims to any ruler or king but yielded members of one body, which is our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. Though our words may sound different our heart is one.

Soon we will meet when we are gathered together in the heavens to live without sickness, poverty and oppression, until then...May God’s rich blessings overtake you and keep you safe as you grow in the depths of our Lord. Do not lose heart or let your countenance fall, for in a short time all tears will be wiped from our faces and joy will replenish the rest of our days in eternity! Amen.



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HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Did you know that both Jesus and Satan were present with the Adams in the Garden of Eden? Many of you did, while some of you have probably not thought about that aspect.

The Adams, residing at #1 East Garden Street in small suburb of Eden, had a garden. In the midst of their garden were two trees: one was the Tree of Life/ Jesus, and the other was the Tree of Good and Evil Cunning or intellect/Satan. They were to stay clear of the tree of intellect for obvious reasons. Intellect made man a free agent to think his own thoughts and arrive at his own conclusions. In other words, be his own god thinking and abstractly creating his own life. Like a Picasso changing

reality into abstract design and calling it Truth.

The tree of life was present and walked with the Adams in the cool of the day. They were never without Truth because He was ever present.

Of the two trees we know which became the delicacy of addiction, and man became addicted to the drug of delusion living a life through the eyes of intellect ever since.

How does your garden grow? Both trees are in our midst. We can eat freely of the tree of intellect and become our own god, which can never save us by any power of itself or we can eat from the tree of Truth and

Life and attain all of the power bequeathed us as beneficiaries.

It seems hard to imagine that this is such a difficult choice to make when there is only one choice that makes any sense at all.

I guess it depends on whether the choice is being watered by the Word of God or fertilized with manure. Without our continual washing in the water by the Word, we are wallowing in the manure of Satan's lies and deceit.

Take this song to your garden:

***I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the***

***roses
And the voice I hear falling
on my ear
The Son of God discloses.***

***And He walks with me, and
He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His
own;
And the joy we share as we
tarry there,
None other has ever known.***

This may be a great time to weed.



WHISPERER

In my study of the Word while in Genesis, I found something curious in the translation of the word for **serpent** in Gen 3. The root word of serpent is the Hebrew word *nāchash*: *to hiss, that is, whisper a (magic) spell; generally to prognosticate: - enchanter, (use) enchantment.* Therefore, the serpent is actually the whisperer of the enemy. Satan is referred to as a serpent, dragon, harlot and devil etc. etc.

We have all experienced that whisper...serpent. The visual is used to identify the source of the whisper. It is a cunning device of the enemy and a well known fact that people will often times miss the normal tone of conversation, but try to whisper

and you will quiet a room. The serpent is the whisperer whispering things into our hearts for consideration, whether to tempt or condemn. While God is a still small voice, the serpent is a hiss.

Ps 41:7-8 All that hate me whisper together against me: against me do they devise my hurt. An evil disease, say they, cleaveth fast unto him: and now that he lieth he shall rise up no more.

Who whispered that, but the work of the serpent.

Isa 29:4 And thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and

thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust.

Who whispers out of the dust? ***Gen 3:14 ...upon thy belly shalt thou go, dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:***

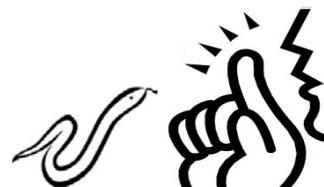
We were formed from the very dust that this serpent eats...the devourer seeking who **may** be devoured! The word "may" is asking permission. Do not give it!

When you feel as if God has not heard your cries...who has whispered this to you? When condemnation or self consciousness is felt...who whispered it? When you feel as if you are all alone

and nobody cares...who whispered it? When you feel stupid or crazy...to whose benefit would that be but the whisperer! The serpent is more cunning than any beast, says the Word.

The only way to counter the whisper is to know the Word and follow **that** voice. Remember that the serpent is also familiar with the Word and cunningly twists it as was accomplished with Eve.

Next time the serpent hisses, put your finger to your lips and *shoosh* the thoughts. Never let a whisper control who you are.



WEAPONS OF MASS DISTRACTION

Have you ever noticed that many people live a life of distraction. Look at the word distraction:

1. something that diverts attention: something that interferes with concentration or takes attention away from something else
2. amusement: something providing entertainment or amusement, especially something that takes the mind off work or worries and helps relaxation
3. emotional upset: a state of great mental upset or emotional intensity

Synonyms: [interruption](#), [disruption](#), [commotion](#), [disturbance](#), [interference](#)

This is the whole of Satan's arsenal whether pleasurable or fearful and dreadful. It is the fly in the ointment of destiny. Satan is the detour taking our focus away from our destiny, purpose and relationship with God.

If you want to take a nation distract her citizens. If you want to take the family distract the parents...in separate venues. If you want the impotence of the Christian distract them from their call. Anything off balance has the ability to topple

with the slightest push from the enemy.

Find the greedy of the world to comply by making money using distractions, and the enemy can take a respite, sit back and watch the entertainment of mankind.

God has given each of us a mission unique to the abilities He has placed within us. Not knowing the mission is to be distracted away from our purpose. We may know but not complete it because distractions got in the way.

Our lives should be filled rather than filler. Purpose strength-

ens the man, but distractions make him weak and easily led into temptation. Distractions can seem beneficial or as polluted as pornography...either are effective tools of mass distraction.

Check yourself out, and see if your focus is on God's purpose for your life or if you have been scattered and off balance with worries, detours, activities or projects. It is time to clean house of all the distractions and get back to the business of the Kingdom or become another casualty from the shrapnel when the weapons of mass distraction implode your vision.

STAND YOUR GROUND

The Stand-Your-Ground doctrine dates back to when the United States numbered a mere 38 states, the Indiana case of *Runyon v. State*, 57 Ind. 80 (1877). In that case the court noted: *"The tendency of the American mind seems to be very strongly against the enforcement of any rule which requires a person to flee when assailed, to avoid chastisement or even to save a human life... [Therefore,] the weight of modern authority . . . establishes the doctrine that when a person, being without fault and in a place where he has a right to be, is violently assaulted, he may, without retreating, repel force by force, and if, in reasonable exercise of his right of self-defense, his assailant is killed, he is justifiable."*

The Bible also acknowledges a Stand Your Ground doctrine: *Eph 6:11; 14 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil...Stand therefore...*

We have the authority to STAND OUR GROUND against the enemy.

Picture, if you will, that you are back in the Ol' West and Big Bad Bart bumps into you, eyes you up and down and decides to call you out. Back in those days you had the right to stand your ground too. What do you do if there is no backing away from Big Bad Bart since he is cocked and ready?

1. Look upward to the heavens and ask God, "Why me?"
2. Start to cry and wring your hands?
3. See if Big Bad Bart will hold that thought while you get advice from a friend?
4. Take an anti-depressant/anti-anxiety pill and hope he will just go away all by himself?
5. Talk Big Bad Bart into seeing a shrink for his difficult childhood?

Nope; none of the above will work for you. There is only one thing to do...STAND YOUR

GROUND! Realize that you have been given the authority over any enemy calling you out. The Word of God provides the ammunition to get the job done. Just draw, pull the trigger and watch the enemy fall...remembering of course that this is a spiritual battle.

Why is it in this day and age when the enemy calls us out we falter on the 5 point examples in the second column? If it makes no sense in the Ol' West, it makes no sense now. We need to be ready to draw. Having the Word of God in us is our only ammo against the enemy. Being quick on the draw is knowing the Word well enough that it is instant in and out of season: *2 Tim 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

However, just as in the Ol' West when you have the "quick draw" reputation, with each victory comes another challenge to claim a stronger reputation for taking you out.

We should have the reputation in the spiritual world to cause demons to tremble at our very presence. Demons should rue the day they crossed paths with one of God's own.

Every once in a while a gun needs cleaning out so it does not jam or backfire. Old traditions and made up doctrines from man's experience will not make for a sound weapon against an enemy. It will make a misfire and give the enemy another crack at you.

By the way, there is no Big Bad Bart to face. The enemy is more like One-Eyed Pete for lack of vision. He is a constipated foe from being bound up by the body of Christ!

If you do not learn to stand your ground, you gain the reputation as the shakiest gun in the West by the enemy.



**THE WILL WITHIN A WHEEL: By Joseph Kosma**

Can the beginning of joy actually start with a dramatic event? A forest fire might leave a vast wake of devastation in its path. It seems to many a tragic loss of beauty in a split second, but so few realize that inches under the charred surface, new life is waiting to spring forth. Keeping that thought in your mind, let me hit the rewind button for a second; you can even add sounds effects if you want while I backtrack to the beginning.

Welcome to my childhood, carefree, fanciful, and to most observers, totally void of any disturbances. I grew up in home with parents who were far from perfect, but still married. I was blessed with a hard working dad, an awesome Christian mom who sacrificed everything in her life for me, and the privilege of attending a private Christian school from the adorable (but honestly, extremely adorable) age of four. I have pictures to prove it! But, just because you are placed in the perfect petri-dish to grow or surrounded by the ideal environment where you should flourish, it doesn't always keep outside influences from affecting the way things should grow.

As a child, in my eyes I was utterly cursed. Cursed like all the plagues of pharaoh rolled into one tight bundle of awfulness. That awfulness, in my case, was an extremely sensitive heart. You know that kid who, no matter what you did, seemed to cry at the drop of a hat. Stop rolling your eyes, because that was me, and I hated every second of my defectiveness.

That whole ball of sensitivity didn't exactly fit my father's role of a man. While he was willing to spend time with me (a.k.a. hunting and fishing), all understanding was sucked out and replaced with criticism until I started to shut down. I even began resenting everything about it, the look, the taste, the smells, EVERYTHING!!!!, including him. That small root of bitterness which I held tightly had escalated rapidly to a rebellious, punk-rock, vulgarity laced, tattoo adorned tornado that led people to dive for cover, hoping it would not destroy everything in their path. It was my life and no one else's. I didn't want it to change and

no one could tell me how to live. But no matter how hard I fought, my life most definitely changed on New Year's Day 2001.

On a day when most are making resolutions for their lives, in a few short hours I would be fighting for mine. While traveling from a wedding in El Paso, TX, one of our two vehicles slid off the road due to a patch of black ice. As I stood on the side of the interstate to make sure everything was ok, tragedy struck. In the blink of an eye, another vehicle lost control at over 70 mph, colliding into my body. Amid injuries of broken ribs, punctured lungs, a shattered leg, broken vertebrae, and a removed spleen, still stood the most serious, a lacerated liver. Simply stated; I was bleeding to death. Upon arrival, due the extent of my injuries my parents were unable to recognize me. Initially with my body so swollen, the internal organs would not fit inside. However, following multiple surgeries and more than a month in ICU, my survival was being proclaimed a miracle! But that "miracle" took on the new shape and form that I only saw as a wheelchair. And if being alive was walking on water, I was Peter looking at the waves. The cold, bitter sting of depression, fear, and doubt quickly consumed my very being. A once independent person who had everything in control, had just been thrown into a tail spin, spiraling down with the earth fast approaching. The rug had been pulled out from underneath me and now even the smallest, trivial tasks seemed to be overwhelming obstacles.

After many years of grinding through gears, stopping short of my target, and finding myself feeling lost (or at least in the bad side of town), I made the best decision of my life. I handed the keys of my heart to Jesus Christ. To be honest I don't remember the day or the hour, but I have experienced a lifetime of joy since that day more than 8 years ago.

It is so easy to focus on the "I's". You know, I have this need, I have that need, and you couldn't possibly understand. Or better stated, me me me me me! But the fact is I do

understand and Christ completely understands, unless you forgot that whole cross thing. And once my "I's" were taken off me and focused on Him, He put my "EYES" on what I could do. You see, I was the one who had been limiting Him the whole time.

When Paul wrote Philippians 4:13 *"I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me"* He did not suddenly get laser vision or the ability to jump over tall synagogues. He was in jail. Yep, I said it...JAIL! But he was also sure that whatever Christ brought his way, he would be able to accomplish no matter the circumstances. He took the limits off God a long time ago, and I have chosen to do the same thing. I simply refuse adversities the devil tries to bring my way, and instead prefer the approach in Philippians 4:2-7 *"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident the Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."*

I know what it is like wanting to kill yourself because of feeling like there is no hope, but I have also felt the redeeming power of Christ transforming my life into unspeakable joy. I do not believe for a second that kind of life is just for me. Christians should be the most joyous people on the planet, but instead I regularly encounter the post-apocalyptic Christian; the one who drags his or her feet around, with a frown on their face, repeating the phrase "Rapture, rapture, one day rapture." You know, rapture! When the clouds in the sky will roll back like a scroll, Christians are sucked up with a heavenly vacuum and all our problems vanish, as Jesus is riding big white horses when he comes. I am not trying to make light of the second coming of Christ, but I am trying to illuminate the point that as brothers and sisters in Christ we should be living a rapturous life every single day. That is what Jesus came for; to give life and life more abundantly (John 10:10). We were never de-

signed to carry our burdens. We were made to lay our burdens down at Jesus' feet, just like you would return a crappy book to the library or in all likelihood a DVD back to Red Box. Our job, (yours and mine), is seeking first the Kingdom that God established through His Mighty Son Jesus Christ. (Matthew 6:33) That is what transforms our individual lives and the lives around us.

I have traveled all over the US, also to Canada, Europe and Africa, all while in a wheelchair. I have been in many situations that could have easily overwhelmed me if fear, doubt, or anxiety were allowed into my life for even a millisecond, for they only serve to destroy God's plans for us. But one thing I have found true over and over is that God is greater than any circumstance that arises in our lives. That does not mean it has been easy but in many cases far from it. If every instance was as easy as eating a piece of cheese-cake (dang it now I am thinking about sweets!), I would have no need for a Mighty Creator. When I trust in Him alone, I must say it is amazing to see how Jesus has had every step of the way covered in a much greater fashion than I could ever imagine. So the bottom line is you can carry a heavy burden now, live a life full of complaints and pray one day a Heavenly Hoover sucks it all away, or you can start living a true life of rapture today. I have made my choice, how about you?

