

January 2, 2022

## They Had Been With Jesus

by George Slover

“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.” (James 4:10)

At 9:04 AM on September 2, 1945, aboard the USS Missouri, World War II officially ended. A Japanese foreign minister signed his name to the document that acknowledged Japan's unconditional surrender to Allied forces. If you follow history, you know that Japan yielded to a U.S. led economic recovery plan. Japan placed herself at the mercy of the U.S. to help her rebuild. This resulted in one of the most productive and peaceful countries in the world.

The word “humility” is derived from a military term suggesting total surrender. In our lives God wants to be the prevailing power and wants our unconditional surrender. It is his plan and he knows us better than we know ourselves. God wants us to take him at his word and leave the results to him. He gave his own Son to earn our trust. Now wants us to believe in him.

Many of us are frustrated in our relationship with God, because we will not give up our selfish ways. Some resist because of pride. They have the “I know better than God does” attitude. They will pay a high price for their arrogance. Others resist because of fear. It is frightening to accept our faults and make the changes necessary to improve. Thus, many never yield to

God. God wants us to put away these self-centered attitudes, step out on the limb, and trust him!

The fruits of our faith will begin to manifest itself in faithfully attending worship services and Bible classes. We will take the risk and invest more time and energy in our families. Our faith will be seen in our conversations where it is evident we are standing on God's side. Our faith will manifest itself in a bold prayer life. And, our faith will be seen as we give up the sinful habits of the past.

As Americans we love to win. We love a risk! We enjoy a challenge! So, brother, accept the challenge that will change your life and save your soul!

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### Tell Me Something Good

by Rickie Jenkins

It is not unusual to hear complaints. It is too cold. Too hot. Preaching too soft. Preaching too hard. Elders aren't approachable. Elders will not listen. He said..., she said.... He is too old. He is too young. She didn't invite me. On and on it goes. It seems like we are not happy if we do not have someone with whom we can find fault, or against whom we can complain. It doesn't take a tremendously intelligent person to look very long to find a great many things wrong with others. Most faults are readily apparent. A person does not have to look too long

## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

## Important Dates

*If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.*

too hard. It just seems like people will not be happy unless there is something to complain about.

Instead of complaining and finding fault, why not try telling something good. The next time someone starts complaining, stop them and say, "Tell me something good." Wouldn't it be just as easy to look for good and tell something good? See, for lack of wood, the fire goes out. Rather than feed the fire of complaints ask, "What is not good?" Asking the question lets people know you are interested but also allows you to turn the conversation to something good, rather than dwell on the bad.

That leads to a second question, "How can we make it good?" "What will you do to make it good?" It is one thing to vent; another thing to vent and offer solutions, with actions to follow. Often the one complaining just wants to complain but offer no solution and certainly does not want to invest themselves in any action that may help solve the issue.

Our environment rubs off on us. Everything in the world seems to be in chaos. Conspiracies abound. Shortages, high prices, gas prices inflated and on and on it goes. The President is bad. The church is bad. My mate is bad. My children are bad. Really, is everything that bad? What is good? God is good. God's grace is good. His forgiveness is good. His people are good. His word is good. Spiritual blessings that He gives according to His will are good. His love is good. We live in a free country, that is good. God made marriage for companionship, that is good. God blessed us with children, that is good. If things are bad today, we can make them good by being like Him. We change the bad into the good.

Looking for the good and turning bad into good can help others see past the moment. When we really back off and look at all God has blessed us with, we can see God really has provided a beautiful life. So, let's feed the good.

Let's tell something good. Let's quit the complaining, faultfinding, hypercritical mindset. When people ask, "How are you doing?" tell them something good. Then, ask them to tell you something good.

## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** has improved some but still has limited mobility.

**Jerry Richardson** is still undergoing cancer treatments.

**Karen Hallmark** has improved but is still struggling with her health and her eyes, as well as asthma.

**Dinah Williams** is home but still has very limited mobility.

**Don Simmons** is home and still struggling with his breathing.

**John Miller (Dyanne Turner's brother)** is undergoing treatment for liver cancer.

**Mark Braddock** has stage 4 cancer and is not going to seek treatment.

**Debbie McMurray** has been diagnosed with cancer and will be undergoing chemo.

**Randall Vanaman** is having problems with one of his feet.

**David Beckley** is having health problems.

**Ana Urquhart** recently fell and broke her arm.

**Wilma Shipley** is ill with covid.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

*"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"*  
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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