



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



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GET A GRIP! ON THE WORD

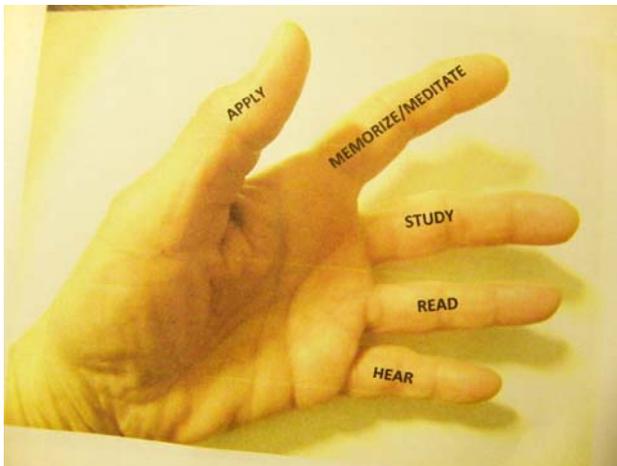
If you've been following the articles I've been writing, you know I have been stressing the importance of knowing God's Word to be sure you're hearing from him and not someone else. To many the Bible is a difficult to understand and overwhelming to study.

There are so many books and Bible study guides where does one start? But it doesn't

have to be difficult, time consuming or overwhelming. It's like eating an elephant. How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time!

One way to get a grip on the Word is to use your hand to remember what to do. Think of the 5 things you can do with any book - hear it, read it, study it, memorize/meditate on it and apply what you learn, that's simple.

Start with your little finger -



that's "hearing the Word". Whether it's audio tapes of the Bible, sermons where scripture is read out loud or scripture put to music, you're hearing God's Word. Try holding a Bible and balancing it on just your little finger. Kind of hard isn't it? To get a grip on what you hear, you must apply it! Your thumb is the "apply".

Your ring finger (the one next to the pinky), is "reading

the Word". Maybe this is just a verse here or there or maybe you're reading through the Bible in a

Year. Maybe it's one of those signs you see along the road, "The wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life." Where ever you read scripture, think about what you're reading and then get a grip! That's right, apply what you read. Balancing a Bible on two fingers is easier, but it stays put better when you apply your thumb to it.

The middle finger is "study the Word." The difference between reading and studying is

you start asking and seeking questions of what you're reading. You did in on background and start looking for the answers to "who, what, when, where, why, how" questions. I've known a few people who have studied the Bible a lot, but it hasn't changed their life much. The key again is "apply". How does this impact me? What should I do about it?

Your index finger is "memorize / meditate". Some separate these out, but I find it difficult to meditate on scripture without it "accidentally" getting memorized or trying to memorize, without meditating on what's running over and over in my mind. I've also found that it is while I memorize/mediate on God's word that the "how do I apply this to my life" is answered the easiest. These are also usually the best interactive times I have with my Lord. The key is, of course, to apply it.

So, get a grip! And learn to accurately handle the Word of Truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

WHEN NO JOB EXISTED

*From the book American Moments
Story By Jennifer Smith-Morris, Georgia*

In the heart of the Depression, lanky Howard, with his twinkling blue eyes and wavy brown hair, had already learned to live by his wits. His mother had left the family of ten when Howard was eight. His father couldn't care for all ten children, so at nine, Howard left home and lived with relatives, getting work wherever he could. By the time he was eighteen, he knew how to work hard, stretch a dollar, and find hope in a bleak situation.

Howard was my granddad. I knew him as a man with sparse gray hair, but with the same lanky frame and twinkling blue eyes. He told me he'd always believed that God would provide. That was his faith: Granddad always asked for just enough—not too much and not too little, and his faith carried him time and again.

In 1934 Granddad was living in Wisconsin, where, like the rest of the country there were no jobs. "Everywhere you looked, men were hungry and outta work," he'd say. Then the corners of his eyes would crease with a smile. "But I always managed to get some dinner."

Sometimes he would go to the diner that offered a Dime Plate dinner. He recalled, "I didn't even have the dime for the Dime Plate." He asked if he could wash dishes or scrub the grill for a plate of food.

He roamed the country-

side. Sometimes he split wood at a farm then knocked on the door and asked if he could do anything else to earn a mean. Sometimes he'd ask permission to sleep in the barn. "A little straw under my head, and I was pretty cozy for the night."

Men all over the country stood in lines, pleaded with the factory owners, and struggled to avoid starvation and homelessness. Granddad heard a rumor that the local tannery needed workers. He started going each day to see if they had any jobs. Dozens had the same idea. "The room was packed. Just packed full of men."

Every day the foreman would squeeze out of the office door and announce that they had no jobs. He would return to the office and slam the door as the men filed out, heads low. Day after day Granddad left without work. This frustration must have deflated many. But it strengthened Granddad's resolve.

One day, weeks later, Granddad again heard the foreman make his announcement and again watched the room clear. Then he walked up to the office door.

"I figured the way to get some notice was to go on in there." So he stepped inside the dimly lit office and asked the foreman, "Did you really mean there aren't any jobs?" With colorful language, the foreman assured Granddad that indeed no jobs existed. Granddad left smiling, returning the next morning to

see if work was available. He never left defeated. The obstacles he'd faced in his young life strengthened his survivor's spirits.

Many years later, he imparted this trait to his family: God will provide. He's faithful through all generations, just as the Psalm says. It was a matter of figuring out how the Lord would provide, and Granddad took it as a challenge to find out.

After several more daily visits, Granddad set off for the tannery as usual, ready to work, ready to go hungry, ready to see God work. But that morning, the tannery had an opening. Desperate men packed the room more tightly than ever. The office door swung open, and the foreman stood on a bucket and held up one finger. Shouts and arms raised as he peered at the crowd.

Granddad went into action, twisting through the crowd, aiming for the office door. He kept his head high, watching the foreman. The foreman surveyed the sea of faces then pointed his finger to my Granddad, yelling, "I want you."

And because of his tenacity, perseverance, and faith that indeed God would turn things around, my Granddad got that job even though no jobs existed.

⇒ *Received from Mary Warner*

Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV) *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

ALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

SUNDAYS

**MORNING WORSHIP 8:15 AM
& 11:00 AM**

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM

MONDAY'S

BIBLE STUDY: REVELATION
1:00 PM

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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11th

MEN'S BREAKFAST @ LISA'S:
8:00 AM

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CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:
9:30 AM

~

LADIES LUNCHEON:
11:00 AM

~

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12th

VALENTINE BANQUET
FOLLOWING THE 11:00 AM SERVICE

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19th

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13th

TEA & PRAISE @
MORTON CHURCH OF GOD
10:00 AM

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15th

SENIORS ON THE GO
12:00 PM

~

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16th

AMERICAN LEGION
6:00 PM
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HELPLESS LOVE

*by Stephen on September 13,
2008*

Once upon a time all feelings and emotions went to a coastal island for a vacation. According to their nature, each was having a good time. Suddenly, a warning of an impending storm was announced and everyone was advised to evacuate the island.

The announcement caused sudden panic. All rushed to their boats. Even damaged boats were quickly repaired and commissioned for duty.

Yet, Love did not wish to flee quickly. There was so much to do. But as the clouds darkened, Love realized it was time to leave. Alas, there were no boats to spare. Love looked around with hope.

Just then Prosperity passed by in a luxurious boat. Love shouted, "Prosperity, could you please take me in your boat?"

"No," replied Prosperity, "my boat is full of precious possessions, gold and silver. There is no place for you."

A little later Vanity came by in a beautiful boat. Again Love shouted, "Could you help me, Vanity? I am stranded and need a lift. Please take me with you."

Vanity responded haughtily, "No, I cannot take you with me. My boat will get soiled with your muddy feet."

Sorrow passed by after some time. Again, Love asked for help. But it was to no avail. "No, I cannot take you with me. I am so sad. I want to be by myself."

When Happiness passed by a few minutes later, Love again called for help. But Happiness was so happy that it did not look around, hardly concerned about anyone.

Love was growing restless and dejected. Just then somebody called out, "Come Love, I will take you with me." Love did not know who was being so magnanimous, but jumped on to the boat, greatly relieved that she would reach a safe place.

On getting off the boat, Love met Knowledge. Puzzled, Love inquired, "Knowledge, do you know who so generously gave me a lift just when no one else wished to help?"

Knowledge smiled, "Oh, that was Time."

"And why would Time stop to pick me and take me to safety?" Love wondered.

Knowledge smiled with deep wisdom and replied, "Because only Time knows your true greatness and what you are capable of. Only Love can bring peace and great happiness in this world."

"The important message is that when we are prosperous, we overlook love. When we feel important, we forget love. Even in happiness and sorrow we forget love. Only with time do we realize the importance of love. Why wait that long? Why not make love a part of your life today?"

Author Unknown

1 John 2:15-17 *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

Matthew 22:37 *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

THE LAST CAB RIDE

by Stephen on November 20, 2009 ·
in [Life](#), [Moral Stories](#)

Twenty years ago, I drove a cab for a living. One time I arrived in the middle of the night for a pick up at a building that was dark except for a single light in a ground floor window.

Under these circumstances, many drivers would just honk once or twice, wait a minute, then drive away. But I had seen too many impoverished people who depended on taxis as their only means of transportation. Unless a situation smelled of danger, I always went to the door. This passenger might be someone who needs my assistance, I reasoned to myself. So I walked to the door and knocked.

"Just a minute," answered a frail, elderly voice.

I could hear something being dragged across the floor. After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 80's stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940s movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase.

The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knick-knacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.

"Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she said. I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness.

"It's nothing," I told her. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I

would want my mother treated."

"Oh, you're such a good boy," she said. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address, then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?"

"It's not the shortest way," I answered quickly.

"Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice."

I looked in the rear view mirror. Her eyes were glistening.

"I don't have any family left," she continued. "The doctor says I don't have very long."

I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. "What route would you like me to take?" I asked.

For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl.

Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing.

As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, "I'm tired. Let's go now."

We drove in silence to the address she had given me.

It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her. I opened the trunk and took

the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair.

"How much do I owe you?" she asked, reaching into her purse.

"Nothing," I said.

"You have to make a living," she answered.

"There are other passengers."

Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held on to me tightly.

"You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said. "Thank you."

I squeezed her hand, then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life.

I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly, lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away? On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life. We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware—beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

⇒ A true story by Kent Nerburn



Psalm 121:1-6 (KJV) *I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.*

Q
U
I
Z



No one was able to come up with the correct answer to last month's quiz. The answer is King Agrippa, his wife Bernice and Paul. The story is found in Acts, chapter 25, verses 22-27.

Here is this month's quiz.

*I came to him that glorious day
When he returned from being
away*

*He asked me why I didn't come
When all the trouble had begun*

*My servant tricked me that fateful
day*

*He came to you and made me
stay*

*The way was hard and I couldn't
come*

Because you know, I cannot run.

*Now if you want to be correct
There are some names you have
to get*

*Getting my name you're half-way
done*

But spelling it is all the fun.

*Now tell the name of the one who
lied about me*

*And the name of the one I went
to see.*

*And if you can do this very thing
A grateful filling in your heart will
ring.*

CLEVER KIDS:

A police officer found a perfect hiding place for watching for speeding motorists.

One day, the officer was amazed when everyone was un-

der the speed limit, so he investigated and found the problem.

A 10 years old boy was standing on the side of the road with a huge hand painted sign which said "RADAR TRAP AHEAD."



A little more investigative work led the officer to the boy's accomplice: another boy about 100 yards beyond the radar trap with a sign reading "TIPS" and a bucket at his feet full of change.

Elephant:

The class teacher asks students to name an animal that begins with an "E". One boy says, "Elephant."

Then the teacher asks for an animal that begins with a "T". The same boy says, "Two elephants."

The teacher sends the boy out of the class for bad behavior. After that she asks for an animal beginning with "M".

The boy shouts from the other side of the door: "Maybe an elephant!"



AGE BAROMETER

How many of these do you remember?

1. Blackjack chewing gum
2. Wax Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water
3. Candy cigarettes

4. Soda pop machines that dispensed bottles
5. Coffee shops with tableside jukeboxes
6. Home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers
7. Party lines
8. Newsreels before the movie
9. P. F. Flyers
10. Butch wax
11. Telephone numbers with a word prefix (Olive - 6933)
12. Peashooters
13. Howdy Doody
14. 45 RPM records
15. S & H Green Stamps
16. Hi-fi's
17. Metal ice trays with levers
18. Mimeograph paper
19. Blue flashbulbs
20. Beanie and Cecil
21. Roller skate keys
22. Cork popguns
23. Drive-ins movies
24. Studebakers
25. Wash tub wringers

If you remembered 0-5 = You're still young

If you remembered 6-10 = You are getting older

If you remembered 11-15 = Don't tell your age

If you remembered 16-25 = You're older than dirt!

⇒ Received from David Anderson

A CHILD'S THOUGHTS ON LOVE

"When you tell someone something bad about yourself and you're scared they won't love you anymore. But then you get surprised because not only do they still love you, they love you even more."

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate."