



The Anchor



A Publication of Vaughan Baptist Church

Summer Issue

"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast..." Hebrews 6:19

July 2015

From The Pastor's Desk Pastor Bill Adams



We all know that God sees everything. Proverbs 15:3 says, *"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."* He sees

the good and the bad (1 Timothy 5:24-25; Ecc.12:14). Concerning God, the prophet Daniel remarks, *"He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him"* (Daniel 2:22). In this quarter's issue, I want to write about a special place where God both hears and sees the secret. In contrast to what others were doing publicly, Jesus encouraged His disciples to go to a private place: *"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when that hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly"* (Matthew 6:6). I want you to consider three points about: **"The Christian's Prayer Closet."**

The Solitary Resort

As Christians, we enjoy the comfort and strength that comes from praying with another Christian or a group of Christians. Whether it be at church, in a car, or at home, this special time with brothers or sisters in the Lord is both a joy and a need. But, when a Christian goes into their prayer closet to be alone with their heavenly Father, there is no more precious or intimate time in the Christian walk. There is no other replacement or substitute for this sacred

privilege. This quiet time alone with almighty God is something we Christians ought to covet and cherish. In a busy life, God daily calls us to His side where He desires a personal and private time nurturing a relationship of trust, care, and companionship. Paul's devotional time started on the road to Damascus and was nourished by a three year solitary, spiritual sabbatical in the Arabian desert (Galatians 1:17-18).

I believe those intimate times alone with God provoked a life-long passion to retreat to his prayer closet where he would get to know his Saviour God. He would tell Timothy, *"For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day"* (2 Tim.1:12). Inside this resort, a Christian, because he is alone, can weep, lament, sing, and pour out his heart to God. He can shut the door and open up, share, confess, and praise His Lord in the privacy of his prayer closet.

The Special Requests

This special room affords the Christian



the ear of One. One who wants to hear: *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"* (Matt.11:28); *"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not"* (Jere.33:3). The writer to the Hebrews exhorts his congregation: *"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need"* (Heb.4:16). No matter what the request or need is, no matter how difficult or intimate the petition, confidently and confidentially empty your soul to the loving, compassionate, and tender ears of God. Then wait patiently and expectantly for His answer.

Jeremiah prayed in his secret place for the salvation of Israel: *"Give glory to the LORD your God, before he cause darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and, while ye look for light, he turn it into the shadow of death, and make it gross darkness. But if ye will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for your pride; and mine eye shall weep sore, and run down with tears, because the LORD'S flock is carried away captive"* (Jere.13:16-17).

Even when traveling, Peter would find solitary, secret places to pray: *"On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour"* (Acts 10:9).



Jesus often separated Himself from His disciples to enter into His private chamber: *“And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him. And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done”* (Luke 22:39-42). Though busy from ministering to others, He still made time for this needed quiet time alone with His Father: *“But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities. And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed”* (Luke 5:15-16). Mark records, *“And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed”* (Mark 1:35).

Whatever your request is, know that it is special to God and He yearns to hear from you.

The Seeable Rewards

Jesus said in Matthew 6:6 that when you pray this way, thy Father will reward you openly. God genuinely desires these times with His children alone and to demonstrate His delight in this secret communion, there will be open, seeable results.

God's rewards always come in a variety of ways. Some are spiritual, some are earthly. Some are open answers to prayer which can be seen and discerned by man. Going to your prayer closet is all faith-based! You are trusting God and Him alone with your life and the problems, predicaments, and pressures associated with it. You are living on His promises to supply and sustain your every need. And this truly pleases Him. He chooses to reward such behavior and belief.

Hebrews 11:6 says, *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that*

he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

In their alone times, both Moses in the wilderness (Acts 7:30) and the Apostle Paul in the Arabian desert (Galatians 1:17-18), got their calls to service. In Acts 10:9, Peter got alone with the Lord on a housetop and during that sweet communion time got his call to visit and witness to Cornelius.

As Daniel resorted to his prayer closet, God answered him openly: *“Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime”* (Daniel 6:10). After communing with God, he would courageously and victoriously go into the lion's den. Again, with another predicament, Daniel seeks intimate time with God and was rewarded openly: *“And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God; Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding”* (Daniel 9:20-22).

The word “closet” is also translated “secret chamber” (Matt.24:26) and “storehouse” (Luke 12:24). Every Christian needs a secluded, private room or area where they can get alone with their Father. For some in history, it has been a dungeon while for others it was an island (John, on Patmos). Whether it be in the wilderness, in a desert, in a garden or in a room in your home or apartment, make one. It may actually be a closet – at age 25, it was in a closet where I first spoke intimately and sincerely with God.

Your chamber may have clothes in it or be for storage, but let me encourage you to set it aside as a sacred place where you meet with your heavenly Father alone. There you can weep and rejoice and pour out your heart to Abba Father, Daddy. This should become your favourite place to go to, a holy respite to which to resort. Go in there to commune and to fellowship. Discover where that best place is for you. Develop a daily routine of attending to that place. Defend that time against all enemies. Delight in your aloneness and oneness with your Father!

A Woman's Window

Mrs. Debbie Adams

Feeding Among the Fairest

Our emotions have the ability to govern our attitude for the day. All in the space of a few seconds or so, our outlook is impacted by maybe hearing our children arguing as they are eating breakfast or our husband says something that is insensitive. It might be that you remember that things aren't going so well at work. Sometimes, an illness, physical pain or care-giving can plague our thoughts with doubts of God's love. Even an event from the past can flash across our mind, old feelings resurface and the day has hardly begun!

We have a battle on our hands to control our thinking which affects our attitudes from the minute we wake up 'til we fall asleep at night! Resist the temptation to be negative right at the start! The temptation to sin in our attitude won't be sin unless we give in to it. There is a saying I heard once: “Tell me where thou feedest and I'll tell you where you are going!” Thus, what my mind is thinking/feeding/dwelling on will influence how and where my day goes! Thinking on fair and good things will keep me on the right path.

It helps if we can choose to pray a Scripture like Psalm 118:24 upon awakening and start a conversation with the Lord: *“This is the day which*

the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” This will help to bring our thoughts to Him for His approval (2 Cor. 10:3-5). We can start off well, trusting, having gratitude, accepting God’s will and waiting on Him. But, at any time we can unwisely get off the preferred path that God wants us on and take a detour.

When we think thoughts like “It’s so hard...I don’t like this...I can’t help it... But I’m just tired...God doesn’t care... This isn’t fair...I’ve had it,” and the like, we won’t grow into a mature Christian. But, if we turn to the Lord and tell Him, “I don’t have to have my way and I’ll have a good attitude,” and “It’s okay, I’ll take what You allow and I’ll seek Your glory,” then we are growing into a Christian that God can have fellowship with.

I am encouraged greatly at the lives of Christians we read about in the Scriptures that regularly dealt with tough situations and yet kept good attitudes. Paul, remember, says he learned that in whatever state he was in to be content (Phil. 4:11). He also talks about how he and other Christians were pressed out of measure, above strength and even despaired of life but they had died to themselves, would not trust in themselves, but in God who raised the dead (2 Corinthians 1:8-9).

With God helping us, let us also run with patience the race that is set before us - as a wife, a mom, an employee, a caregiver, a friend, and a servant and lover of God. *“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before*

us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.” (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Foundations In Education

Daniel Bousquet
VBCA Principal

In the last Anchor edition, we covered the fifth piece of spiritual armour: the helmet of salvation. In this article, we will examine the sixth piece of armour: the sword of the Spirit. Ephesians 6:17 tells us to *“take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”*

History tells us that the Roman sword (most likely the type that Paul would have had in mind in his analogy) was a weapon used for both offense and defence. The soldier would have kept this sword with him at all times. Similarly, our sword of the Spirit—the Bible—should be with us at all times. We should have as much of it as possible committed to memory so that if a physical copy of the Scriptures is not available, we are not without this crucial piece of spiritual armour. At VBCA, our students memorize dozens of verses each year to help them hide God’s Word in their hearts.

Let us examine five of the ways that the sword of the Spirit—the Bible—is our weapon:

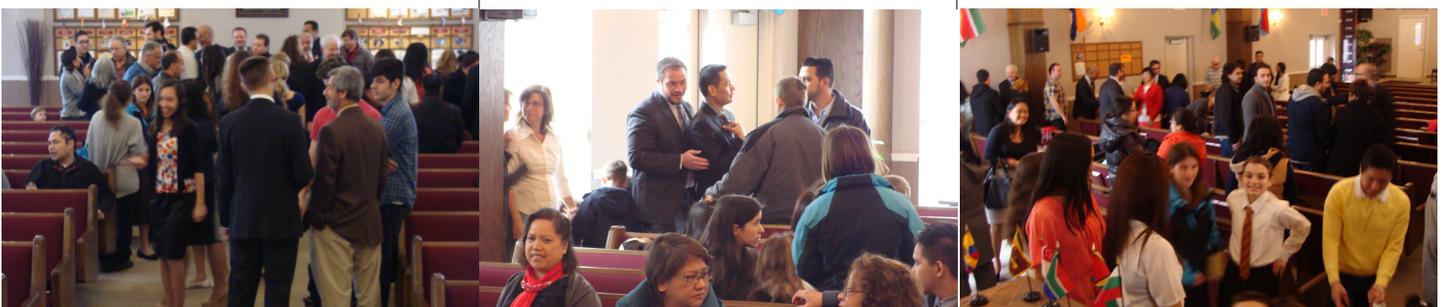
(1) It enlightens. Psalm 119:105 says, *“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”* We want our students to realize that the Bible is relevant today and has the answers to life’s perplexities. The Scriptures will illuminate God’s will for every person who is truly seeking to know Him through His Word.

(2) It ensures. In John 17:17, we read, *“Thy word is truth,”* and Psalm 19:7 reveals, *“The testimony of the word is sure, making wise the simple.”* In a world of uncertainty, God’s Word remains true. It can strengthen the unstable mind and fortify the unsettled heart in the person who is willing to read and apply it. It is the only source of genuine wisdom.

(3) It endures. We learn from Isaiah 40:8 that *“the grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand forever.”* Secular culture is constantly changing. Traditional morals and values that were once common are now considered outdated. We teach our students that no matter what society considers acceptable, we, as Christians, should allow the Bible to be our guide since it is always true and never changes. It is a weapon that will never rust or become obsolete.

(4) It erases. Psalm 119:9 informs us that if a young man desires to cleanse his way, he should take *“heed thereto according to thy word.”* Our manual for righteous living is the Bible. A Christian will not know how to live a holy life unless he or she knows the Scriptures. Through daily Bible classes and weekly chapel services at VBCA, our students are taught the Word of God. In addition to these structured times, we also encourage them to have

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THE VBC PICTURE



GALLERY



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a time of personal Bible study each day.

(5) It equips. In Matthew 4, when Jesus was tempted by Satan, He repeatedly used the Scriptures to combat these attacks. We are to follow this pattern. We must know the Scriptures in order to use them. The more Scripture a Christian knows, the better he or she will be able to wield the sword of the Spirit in whatever spiritual battle arises.

As a final thought, let's consider Joshua 1:8, which states, *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."* Every student desires to be successful in life, and all parents wish success for their students. According to the verse above, true prosperity and success come from meditating on and obeying God's Word. It is our goal at VBCA to provide not only a solid academic foundation, but also (and more importantly) a thorough knowledge of the Bible. Students who are willing to apply this knowledge will be properly equipped with the sword of the Spirit.

Inspiring Teenagers

Be Strong in the Lord

Lois Tuck

Tests and trials are part of every Christian's life. But when you go through these tests and trials, do you go to God for help? Philippians 4:6-7 says *"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* God wants us to come to him. Maybe there's a person who is giving you a hard time, or maybe you're going

through temptations. You may even be overwhelmed with exams as the school year is coming to an end. But Matthew 11:28-30 says *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

Come to Jesus and He will lighten your load.

Living a Fulfilling Life

Elle Duguid

Why am I alive? What is my purpose? These are questions that some people regularly find themselves asking. They are not aware that they have a purpose in life, that purpose being to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Though as Christians, that is what sets us apart. We recognize that we need Jesus in our lives and we try to serve Him as best as we can and bring honour to His name. We are able to do this using our God-given talents.

In Matthew 25:14-15, Jesus talks about the parable of a man giving talents to his servants, *"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey."* When we read this scripture, we learn that when we are given talents, we need to use them to glorify and honour God.

In 1 Corinthians 12 beginning with verse 4, *"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit"*, Paul reminds us of the diversity of gifts given to many different people, and how we can use them to live a fulfilling life. We must not forget that in order for our lives to be fulfilling, we must live for the glory of God.

Today I urge you to use your talents given to you by our Lord and Saviour, so that when you are standing before our Lord and give your account of the things you have done for Him, you will be able to hear Him say *"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."*

Submission

David Kapauan

Luke 2:49-52 *"And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."*

Jesus, as a teenager, was subject to His earthly parents. Jesus, who deserves to be worshipped, exalted, honoured, and obeyed, humbled himself to the will of His parents while he was a young person. Try to imagine, the Creator of the universe subjecting Himself to His creation!

Satan on the other hand, is the original rebel. He was a created angel, in fact one of the most exalted angels, but he refused to submit himself to the authority of God. He has carried his work of rebellion into homes and families of this world.

Next to your relationship with God, the relationship with your parents is the most important relationship during your teenage years! Satan wants to destroy this. As a teenager, you will choose to follow one of these two examples. Satan came to the foolish conclusion that superiority would result from his rebellion. Jesus, in all His wisdom, understood that superiority is a result of submission. So which will it be for you teenager?

Check out these verses, a submissive teenager becomes superior in the following areas:

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Announcements and Events

**VAUGHAN BAPTIST
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

The second year of the VBCA has now been completed. By the grace of God, in September, the academy will move into new facilities next door and commence its third year. During July and August, Principal Daniel Bousquet is overseeing an eager group of skilled and unskilled labourers from the church as the building is renovated and fitted for our school's needs. Work will also begin on a chapel, church bookstore, offices, and Sunday school classrooms. Registration of new students is on-going during the summer and any questions can be directed to Dan or you can visit the VBCA website at:

www.vaughanbaptistacademy.org

Thursday, September 3rd
Vaughan Baptist
Christian Academy
Back to School Night

Tuesday, September 8th
First Day of School

Sunday, September 20th
24th Anniversary Service and
Vaughan Baptist Christian
Academy Building Dedication



Our Schedule of Services

MINISTRIES ON SUNDAY

Sunday School
for all ages 10:00 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Evening Service 6:00 pm
*We have fully staffed and supervised
nurseries at all services.*

MINISTRIES ON WEDNESDAY

Bible Study and
Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm

We are an Independent Fundamental Baptist Church, located in the heart of Woodbridge, Ontario, Canada. The Church is located 5 minutes north of Metropolitan Toronto and 20 minutes from Toronto Pearson International Airport, and only a 40 minute drive from downtown Toronto.

William E. Adams, D.Min.,
Senior Pastor
James Hird, B.Th.,
Youth Pastor

THE ANCHOR

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Would you like to share your testimony? Do you have a special story, event, prayer request or any other information you would like to share with your church family?

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◆**Citizen** - 1 Pet 2:13 "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme"; Rom 13:1 "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."

◆**Employee** - 1 Pet 2:18 "Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward."

◆**Church Member** - Heb 13:7 "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation."; Heb 13:17 "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

◆**Leader** - Matt 23:12 "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."

◆**Christian** - Phil 2:5-8 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Christ, by His personal example, has shown us that there is no excuse for rebellion. I challenge each and every teenager to be humble and submissive to your parents like Jesus was.

