

THE VINE

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in
JCC,

The writer to the Hebrews admonishes us: "...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb 12:1-2).

First, we need to examine our lives to throw off habits or indulgences, whatever that the Lord reveals as hindrances in our spiritual growth. We need to be ruthless and radical in dealing with sin because a little yeast is enough to leaven the whole lump. Make 1997 a year of holy living. It won't be easy. The devil will do all he can to 'reason' with you and make you compromise your faith.

Let us also examine our financial habits. I believe that JCC is a blessed community. We have been blessed so that we may be a blessing to others. And we can do that through the ministries of JCC. The Church Council has looked at our 1997 budget every time we meet and we have tried our best to cut expenditure. But deficit faces us again. I hope that ministry leaders will understand that you are not at liberty to expend as you have proposed in your budget simply because we don't have the fund. That does not mean that we should be discouraged or reduce the intensity of our ministry. It only means that we have the challenge and opportunity to give more and sacrifice more for Jesus.

The main increase in expenditure is because we are training our missionaries for mission work. JCC has taken up this challenge almost four years ago. It was a step of faith which will move us into becoming a missionary sending Church and a church-planting congregation. Now it is time for us to exercise our faith by increasing our giving in proportion to our faith to do God's work!

Secondly, you need to persevere in this pursuit of holiness and God's Kingdom. It has been rightly said that a journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. We are in a marathon race that requires us to press on for the glory that lies at the end. It takes a life time for all of us but it begins today.

Thirdly, you need to keep your eyes focussed on Jesus who is able to bring to completion the good work begun in you. Be encouraged. If you come daily under His wings, by His grace you will be lifted up in due time. You will begin to shine as lights of truth and grace. People around will notice the transformation. Witnessing can become a natural part of your lifestyle and your ministry can grow.

Many challenges confront you and me. Whatever they are, Jesus is in control of our lives. He is also the Lord of all creation. He will enable us to overcome our problem. In fact, He has given us the Holy Spirit to comfort and counsel us. Through His grace, the power of God can be released in our weakness to turn problems into challenges that bring glory to Him (2 Cor 12:9).

I am so excited with what will happen in JCC in 1997. There are many learning opportunities planned for us to be trained and grow in evangelism. The Evangelism and Missions committee will be making some announcements soon. We have to make choices regarding our spiritual growth. We can choose to be a channel of God's blessings to touch lives for Jesus or to regret the loss of whatever God has entrusted to us for His Kingdom. Let us arise and shine for Jesus in our lives and in our stewardship.

For His Kingdom and His Glory,
Pastor Fredric Lee

A LOVE STORY

One day, I woke up early in the morning to watch the sunrise. Ah... the beauty of God's creation is beyond description. As I sat there, watching God's beautiful work, I felt the Lord's presence with me. He asked me, "DO YOU LOVE ME?"

I answered, "Of course, God! You are my Lord and Saviour!"

Then He asked, "IF YOU WERE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, WOULD YOU STILL LOVE ME?"

I was perplexed. I looked down upon my arms, legs and the rest of my body and wondered how many things I wouldn't be able to do, the things that I took for granted. And I answered, "It would be tough, Lord, but I would still love You."

Then the Lord said, "IF YOU WERE BLIND, WOULD YOU STILL LOVE MY CREATION?"

How would I love something without being able to see? Then I thought of all the blind people in the world and how many of them still loved God and His creation. So I answered, "It is hard to think of it, but I would still love You."

The Lord then asked me, "IF YOU WERE DEAF, WOULD YOU STILL LISTEN TO MY WORDS?"

How could I listen to anything being deaf? Then I understood. Listening to God's Word is not merely using our ears, but our hearts. I answered, "It would be tough, but I would still listen to Your Word."

The Lord then asked me, "IF YOU WERE MUTE, WOULD YOU STILL PRAISE MY NAME?"

How could I praise without a voice? Then it occurred to me: God wants us to sing from our heart and soul. It never matters what we sound like. And praising God is not always with a song. When we are persecuted, we give praise with our words of thanks. So I answered, "Though I could not physically sing, I would still praise Your Name."

And the Lord asked, "DO YOU REALLY LOVE ME?"

With courage and a strong conviction, I answered boldly, "Yes, Lord! I love You because You are the one and true God!" I thought I answered well, but God asked, "THEN WHY DO YOU SIN?"

I answered, "Because I am only human. I am not perfect."

"THEN WHY IN TIMES OF PEACE DO YOU STRAY THE FARTHEST? WHY ONLY IN TIMES OF TROUBLE DO YOU PRAY THE EARNEST?"

No answer. Only tears.

The Lord continued, "WHY ONLY SING AT FELLOWSHIPS AND RETREATS? WHY ASK ME ONLY IN TIMES OF WORSHIP? WHY ASK THINGS SO SELFISHLY? WHY ASK THINGS SO UNFAITHFULLY?"

The tears continued to roll down my cheeks.

"WHY ARE YOU ASHAMED OF ME? WHY ARE YOU NOT SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS? WHY IN TIMES OF PERSECUTION YOU CRY TO OTHERS WHEN I OFFER MY SHOULDER TO CRY ON? WHY MAKE EXCUSES WHEN I GIVE YOU OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE IN MY NAME?"

I tried to answer, but there was no answer to give.

"YOU ARE BLESSED WITH LIFE. I MADE YOU NOT TO THROW THIS GIFT AWAY. I HAVE BLESSED YOU WITH TALENTS TO SERVE ME, BUT YOU CONTINUE TO TURN AWAY. I HAVE REVEALED MY WORD TO YOU, BUT YOU DO NOT GAIN IN KNOWLEDGE. I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU BUT YOUR EARS WERE CLOSED. I HAVE SHOWN MY BLESSINGS TO YOU, BUT YOUR EYES WERE TURNED AWAY. I HAVE SENT YOU SERVANTS, BUT YOU SAT IDLY BY AS THEY WERE PUSHED AWAY. I HAVE HEARD YOUR PRAYERS AND I HAVE ANSWERED THEM ALL.

DO YOU TRULY LOVE ME?"

I could not answer. How could I? I was embarrassed beyond belief. I had no excuse. What could I say to

this? My heart had cried out and the tears had flowed. I said, "Please forgive me, Lord. I am unworthy to be Your child."

The Lord answered, "THAT IS MY GRACE, MY CHILD."

I asked, "Then why do you continue to forgive me? Why do you love me so?"

The Lord answered, "BECAUSE YOU ARE MY CREATION. YOU ARE MY CHILD. I WILL NEVER ABANDON YOU. WHEN YOU CRY, I WILL HAVE COMPASSION AND CRY WITH YOU. WHEN YOU SHOUT WITH JOY, I WILL LAUGH WITH YOU. WHEN YOU ARE

DOWN, I WILL ENCOURAGE YOU. WHEN YOU FALL, I WILL RAISE YOU UP. WHEN YOU ARE TIRED, I WILL CARRY YOU. I WILL BE WITH YOU TILL THE END OF DAYS, AND I WILL LOVE YOU FOREVER."

Never had I cried so hard before. How could I have been so cold? How could I have hurt God as I had done? I asked God, "How much do you love me?"

The Lord stretched out His arm, and I saw His nail-pierced hands. I bowed down at the feet of Christ, my Saviour. And for the first time, I

truly prayed.

*Email message, Author unknown
(submitted by Lissa Low)*



VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING

Over the years victorious Christian living has been a popular theme, but its meaning and methods have changed markedly. A century ago, in the 'higher-life movement', the focus was holiness. Techniques were promoted for overcoming recurrent and besetting sins; the leading concept was expressed in the still familiar slogan, "Let go and let God." Lately, however, the focus has been on conquering Satan. The preferred method now involves identifying and rebuking demons who interfere with successful evangelization.

The apostle John was also preoccupied with the theme of victorious Christian living. But his understanding and approach were considerably different from either the older 'higher-life' perspective or the more recent 'spiritual warfare' network. The differences are apparent in his exhortation to the seven churches of Asia, recorded in chapters two and three of Revelation.

Each church faced different problems, but received the same exhortation. The church in Ephesus had successfully resisted the claims of false apostles and persevered in hardship; yet their passion for Jesus had dissipated (2:2-6). The believers in Smyrna suffered great poverty and faced persecution; they were called to faithfulness, even in martyrdom (2:8-10). Those in Pergamum had already persevered in persecution, but were complacent in the face of false teaching and deviant lifestyles (2:12-16).

The church in Thyatira was diligent in service to the Lord. But they were tolerant of false teaching which encouraged participation in idol feasts and rituals (2:18-25). The believers in Sardis had begun well, but slipped into complacency (3:1-4). Those in Philadelphia had kept the faith in the midst of severe harassment, but were to prepare for more of the same (3:7-11). Finally, the Christians of Laodicea had grown complacent in comfort, and received the strongest rebuke of all (3:12-20).

The Church, like its master, must expect to face persecution and even perhaps martyrdom. But our primary opponents are not human: behind such harassment lurks the hand of Satan. Yet Revelation offers us no other way to defeat the Enemy apart from that which Jesus models.

In one respect, Satan has already been defeated. He has lost the decisive battle in heaven, and has been cast down to earth (12:7-9). But this does not make our lives and ministry easier; it makes them all the more difficult:

**Therefore rejoice, you heavens
and you who dwell in them!
But woe to the earth and the sea,
because the devil has gone down to you!
He is filled with fury,
because he knows that his time is short (12:12).**

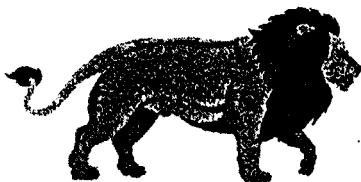
But whatever the threat to faith, whether persecution from outside or false teaching from within, each church received essentially the same exhortation: "The one who overcomes" will go to heaven (2:7,11,17,26-29; 3:5,12,21). Actually, the translation 'overcome', while legitimate, nonetheless hides important connections with other passages throughout Revelation, and with our present theme. The Greek word is *nikao*, elsewhere translated 'conquer'. For the churches 'to conquer' means for them to surmount whatever difficulties challenge their growth in the faith, whether that be moral temptation, religious harassment, or political persecution.

The final exhortation, to the church in Laodicea, summarizes and illumines the rest. Jesus promises:

To him who conquers, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne (3:21).

Jesus is a model for his followers in two respects: he models how to conquer, and he models the rewards for conquering.

The elder John elaborates on both ideas in Revelation 5. In his vision he sees God holding a scroll, fastened with seven seals. Dismayed that there is no one worthy to open the scroll, the apostle begins to weep. But then a heavenly being calls out, "Behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered. He is able to open the scroll" (5:5). Looking up to see the conquering lion, John beholds the opposite: he sees a slaughtered lamb (5:6).



This is how Jesus conquered the evil one: not through a visible triumph over the powers of evil, but through faithfulness to his calling to the point of death. As a result, he shares the throne of God and receives the praise of angels (5:9-13). In both respects Christ is a model for Christians: just as he conquered and shared the Father's glory, so, if they conquer, they shall share his glory (3:21). So though defeated, Satan still conquers Christians; indeed, he has been given the authority to do so for the present moment (13:7). But at the same time, this is not proof of his great power. Instead, it is evidence that he has already been defeated (12:7-12) and will soon be confined in hell (20:1-3,7-10).

More than this, though, being conquered by Satan provides Christians with the opportunity to conquer him! In fact, it is in defeat that we are victorious; in death, that we conquer.

**They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony;
they did not love their lives so much
as to shrink from death (12:11).**

Satan's crowning triumph turns out to be his defeat. In killing his enemies, he ensures their immortality. After the final judgement, John sees in heaven 'those who conquered the beast' through martyrdom (15:2).

In short, the attempt to find some technique which will enable us to conquer Satan or his demons overlooks several Scriptural teachings. First, Satan has already been decisively defeated by Christ and his angels (12:7-9). Secondly, it is God at some point in the future - and not us, now - who will finally and permanently bind him (20:7-10). Thirdly, in the meantime, no technique, not even some special type of prayer, will render him impotent. He is, and until the end of time, shall remain, a potent and dangerous enemy. He will harass, attack, and kill Christians.

Yet though we may look it, we are not helpless victims. Like the Lion-Lamb, we win the battle. But like him, it may be through death that we gain the victory, and in being defeated that we conquer.

This is not to counsel passivity. Instead, it is to encourage boldness. As Martin Luther boldly affirms in his hymn *A Mighty Fortress is My God*,

"He who conquers will inherit all this [heaven and its glory], and I will be his God and he will be my child" (Rev 21:7).



Dr. Chuck Lowe

(Dr Chuck Lowe has been lecturing in New Testament exegesis and theology since 1984, and is seconded to SBC from OMF International. This article appeared in SBC BULLETIN NO. 142 and is here used by permission.)

And tho' this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God has willed
His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim --
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure --
One little word shall fell him.
....

Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still --
His kingdom is forever
[trans. Frededck Hedge].

A missionary gave an impassioned plea for young people to consider service on the mission field when they grew up. After the service a small boy asked to see him.

"I think I can guess why you wish to see me. You want to be a missionary when you grow up, don't you?"

"Oh, no, sir," answered the boy. "I just wondered if you had any foreign stamps you could give me."

Good Quality Bible Study/Christian Books

by Martin Yee

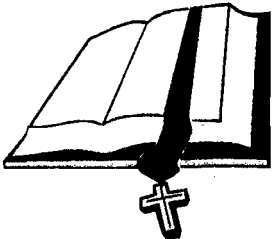
Books are generally recognised as good sources of knowledge and reference. Good Christian books are worth investing on. However many who enter Christian bookstores are often bewildered by the vast arrays of books/bibles offered at varying prices. Below are my personal recommendation of quality Christian books which I think are excellent value for bible study.

Bible

Buy the NIV (New International Version) with cross-references and maps. Some bibles also have short concordances attached which is helpful. This version is relatively readable in modern English and accurate in translation. But for solid

bible study, the New American Standard Bible (NASB) is also helpful as it is the most literal and consistent. For a new believer or non-Christian it is

better to give him the Good News Bible to read.



Concordance

The NIV or NASB Exhaustive Concordance is recommended. Strong's Concordance which is usually in King James Version may

not be helpful if you read the NIV Bible.

Lexicon

Don't buy any unless you have first studied basic Greek or Hebrew as the real excellent lexicons like BAGD Lexicon (Greek) and BDB Lexicon (Hebrew) need a basic knowledge of original languages, otherwise they will become white elephants sitting on your book-shelf.

Study Bible

A good study bible goes a long way to help one do serious bible study. There are now many such bibles in the market. I will recommend the Life Application Bible (NIV version) for its good explanatory notes and information in introductions, charts, character studies and practical life application pointers.

Another good one is the NIV Study Bible which have many technical discussions as the notes are written by a wide spectrum of scholars from various perspectives. There is also a Lutheran version of the NIV Study Bible called the Concordia Study Bible.

If you like to do word studies, The Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible (NIV version) by Spiros Zodhiate will be helpful. There are also many others catering specially to women, men, couples, youth, small group discussions, etc.

Theology.

If theology is a mystery to you, try reading "Systematic Theology" by Wayne Grudem. This recently published volume is written with remarkable clarity and very readable

even for lay people. And the contents and layout are good. It is an excellent investment.

Another famous theology book used by many seminaries as textbook which is really solid stuff is "New Testament Theology" by George Ladd, revised edition, edited by Donald Hagner. If you can have time to chew on this it will transform your worldview.

Church history.

"Two Kingdoms" written by three famous church historians, Robert Clouse, Richard Pierard and Edwin Yamauchi gives a panoramic coverage of church history up to the twentieth Century. It is an interesting book to read and refer.



Ethics

For some biblically sound discussions on ethical issues like abortion, euthanasia, gambling etc, "Biblical ethics" by Robertson McQuillkin is a good guide.

Apologetics

"When skeptics ask" by Norman Geisler is very helpful for tackling hard questions from skeptics of Christianity.

Cults

"Kingdom of the Cults" by Walter Martin is a good reference. Another good book is "Concise guide to Today's Religion" by Josh Mc Dowell and Don Stewart.



Biblical backgrounds

If you like to read about the cultural and historical backgrounds behind each bible passage "The IVP Bible Background Commentary - New Testament" by Craig. S. Keener is a valuable tool.



Commentaries

Depends on your budget:

1. For a one-volume copy go for the 20th Century Edition of the New Bible Commentary edited by D.A. Carson. The notes are very up to date and by reputable bible scholars.
2. For a two-volume commentary buy the Old and New Testament Volume of the Zondervan NIV Commentary which is an abridged version of the more expensive 12-volume Expositor's Bible Commentary (EBC).
3. For a series (whole set) the Tyndale Series of commentaries are more affordable and of quite good quality.

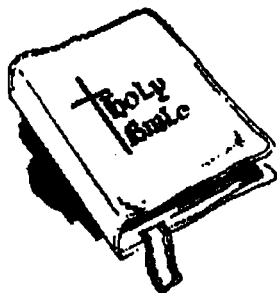
Individual Book Commentaries recommended:

- † John - by Leon Morris, NIC, 1995 revised edition.
- † Matthew - by D.A. Carson (EBC) or by Craig Blomberg (NAC)
- † Mark - by William Lane (NIC)
- † Luke - by Darrell Bock (2 vols) or Robert Stein (NAC)
- † Romans - by Leon Morris (IVP) or Douglas Moo (2 vols, Wycliffe)
- † Corinthians - by Gordon Fee (NIC)
- † Isaiah - by Alex Motyer (IVP)

- † Philippians - by Gordon Fee (NIC)
- † Acts - by I. Howard Marshall (Tyndale) or by Richard Longenecker (EBC)
- † Timothy, Titus - by Donald Guthrie (Tyndale)
- † Genesis - by John Sailhammer (EBC)
- † Ephesians - by Francis Foulkes (Tyndale)
- † Colossians and Philemon - by N.T. Wright (Tyndale)
- † Revelation - by Robert Mounce (NIC)
- † I&II Thessalonians - by Leon Morris (Tyndale)
- † I & II & III John - by I. Howard Marshall (NIC)

Abbreviations: NIC - New International Commentary series, NAC - New American Commentary series, EBC - Expositor Bible Commentary series, IVP - Inter Varsity Press.

For bookstore I would recommend going to SKS Marketing at level 10, Tan Boon Liat Building which is next to the former Glass Hotel (now Concorde Hotel). The prices here are reasonable and it has perhaps the widest range of Christians books in Singapore. The tel no: 2279700. Look for Thomas. Life Book Store at Funan Centre is also not bad but the prices are rather steep.



ENVY And JEALOUSY

Do you gossip, backbite, make snide remarks or try to build yourself up by degrading another? If so, you are guilty of the sin of envy or jealousy. Envy and jealousy are works of the flesh (Galatians 5:21) and a product of the natural sin of self-consciousness or pride.

Sin, when full-blown, produces destruction, tragedy and death (Galatians 5:19-21; James 1:14-15). So if you are envious or jealous, you may soon find yourself beset with undesirable, destructive emotions. You may adopt a judgmental attitude followed by hate. This leads to spiritual murder, character assassination and other sins against those of whom you are envious or jealous.

What Scripture Says

"A sound heart is the life of the flesh:

but envy the rottenness of the bones" (Proverbs 14:30)

"For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and

walk as men?" (1 Corinthians 3:3).

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred,



variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God (Galatians 5:19-21).

"But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth... For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work" (James 3:14,16).

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

To Be Free

Salvation in Christ includes freedom from the bondage of sin (John 8:36). The baptism in the Holy Spirit opens your life to the abundance and gifts of God. The Holy Spirit produces the virtues and qualities of godliness in you, leaving no place for sin (Galatians 5:22,23).

You have no reason to be envious. As a Christian, you are a "King's Kid", an heir to all that is Christ's. God has something better for you more than you can imagine (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Worship God in praise. Focus your attention on God (Colossians 3:14) rather than your own lack, which leads to envy and jealousy. Affirm that love now prevails in your life, and that jealousy and envy are dead

(1 Corinthians 13:4). Affirm that honesty, not strife and envy, is allowing you to walk in God's love and light (Romans 13:13). And affirm that from this moment, you will seek to walk in the Spirit where there is no provoking of one another and no envy (Galatians 5:25,26).

Rejoice and be glad when others are blessed or exalted. It pleases God and wins a friend (Romans 12:14-16). In due time, each of us will reap our blessings, if we don't faint and become weary in well-doing.

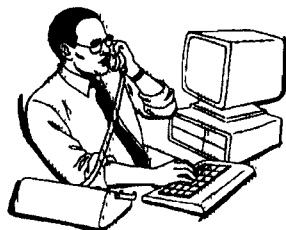
As You Pray

Pray for forgiveness of your envy / jealousy and to be filled with the Holy Spirit, that you may know and experience the glory of God within you.

Ask God to give you a vision of His glory and the ability to love and regard those of whom you have been envious and jealous.

Pray for the fruit of the Spirit to be produced within you (Galatians 5:22,23).

Source:
<http://www.webcity.com/crossroads/response/envy.htm>



"Journey of a dying Man"

Reflections on Anthony Yeo's "In the Shadow of Death"

"Katty has cancer! She has six months to live." What is your first response when such information knocks on your door? It may be your friends, relatives, parents or even your loved one such as your beloved spouse. How do we cope with such a dilemma when we meet it face to face? A reflection on "In the Shadow of Death" brings us into the world of a dying person and thus prepares us to understand and help the afflicted one to live on.

"...dealing with death is learning about how to live. It helps us consider ways to enhance life and clarify what matters in this life." - Anthony Yeo

What is in the mind of a Dying Person?

1) Does anyone understand me?

"Being understanding is one major step in responding to dying persons and their families". This is done by having a desire to understand them and detect ways to communicate this understanding to them. It requires an effort to penetrate into their internal states and sense their needs as deeply as possible.

2) Chaotic Feelings

The person will go through variable emotions during this period. These feelings are normally not positive - anger, disappointment and frustration. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross classifies these emotional reactions into five stages:

- a) Denial - "It is not that serious; I am not going to die"
- b) Anger and Shock
- c) Bargaining - Feel depressed and try very hard to bargain with God, doctors, self or anyone to extend his life
- d) Depression - Helpless stage
- e) Acceptance.

It is helpful to realize these various feelings are boiling in the person. We need to facilitate and allow him to express the feeling he wants. It can be done by asking how he is feeling as a way to draw him out. ("It is discovered that expression and discussion of feelings can be cathartic and provide release for pent-up emotions")



3) Please, tell me the truth!

Most patients have the rights to know about their conditions. But do they need to know and who should be the one to tell? - a debatable issue that always hits family members. The patient needs to know the truth because:

- a) No need to guess nor live with his own feeling. He can at least confirm for himself that he is actually dying.
- b) He can begin the process of coming to terms with his condition. (Shock - Depressed - or Give up) use:
- c) It can assist him to settle personal matters - writing will, reconciliation with people, seek forgiveness from someone, forgive someone or leave this world with a sense of resolution.

(A helpful approach is to ask the patient what he thinks of his condition and what he wants to know)

4) I am useless now!

A terminally ill patient tends to feel incapacitated, useless and helpless. He can be made to feel he has no role in attending to himself or adopt a "patient" mentality, believing that he cannot help himself and therefore needs full nursing care.

One helpful guideline is this: Avoid doing anything for the person that he can try to do for himself. This idea is to be respectful and restore as much dignity as possible of the dying person (He is not a cripple nor totally handicapped). Sometimes, it is important to consult patients on matters and involve them in decisions about their treatment and care. The patients can and need to feel useful still, rather than be dependent or helpless.

5) All in vain now? - Need to discover that life has been worthwhile

"There is little to look forward to for the future. The Past may be nothing but regrets". This may create more despairing than the current situation. (Life must have been worthwhile, memorable and meaningful before)

The author suggests that we should provide a sense of fulfilment for the person. It can be done through talking with the person about what has been worthwhile. His life is not wasted. Making recollections of special events, accomplishments and memorable experiences can be helpful. It helps to link the person to aspects of the past that meant something to him. It identifies the commendable acts and whatever the person considers worth his recognition. "Suffering becomes a little more tolerable when we feel life has been meaningful".

6) Am I a vegetable now? - Need to discover meaning in the present

How to find meaning when death is staring him in the face? This might be the most difficult process to the patient. The normal reaction of pain and suffering is senseless, futile and abhorrent. As a result, the patient may come out with many "Whys".

The only solution - listen to him and help him by moving him beyond these questions to think about what he can still do in spite of his condition.

7) Where're mum, dad, Winnie, Kent, Bobby? - Need for relationship

It is a lonely journey of the patient in such situation. The sense of isolation can be devastating. Thus, companionship is important to him. It make the journey more bearable.

8) Bye bye I am leaving!

Death - a frightening term which nobody talks about. Sometimes, it is a taboo word for many of us. Nevertheless, the patient has to come to the reality of his illness that brings death. This may help the patient to:

- a) Enlarge his/her reality to expect disappointment.
- b) Avoid vulnerability or serious depressive conditions when informed about deteriorating condition.
- c) Be more prepared for the worse.
- d) Settle all personal matters and be easier to bid good-bye to life and relationships.

"Difficult as it may be, coming to terms with death can release the person to do what is necessary to enrich life while awaiting death."

9) My world and I - Need for privacy

A dying person needs to be left alone sometimes. Being alone enables the patient to:

- a) have enough rest and restore energy.
- b) engage in personal reflections
- c) come to terms with death in a very personal way.

10) There is a Creator? - Need for spiritual connection

Patients who are religious, theists, agnostics or irreligious will somehow turn to supernatural or spiritual being when confronted with death. "Invoking spiritual resources is a way of reaching out to something or someone transcendent and supernatural. It is a resource that instills hope when all human efforts seem futile".

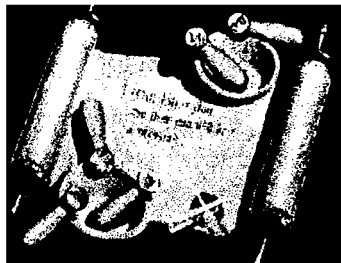
Death is scary! You got to face it yourself alone! Nevertheless, Praise be to God, He has allowed us to see our next world. New Heaven and Earth for all those who have the Life Giver - Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God. Everyone of us will leave this world one day. How comforting it is when we know God is there to welcome us?

Death brings temporary grief on earth yet eternal joy in heaven when we meet again with the loves one. Do you have Jesus in your life? Are you very very sure the Lord is there to accept you when you meet Him one day? It's your decision.

Anthony Loh

16 HIDDEN BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Here is a Bible Brain Teaser (or Eye Twister). There are names of 16 books of the Bible mentioned in the paragraph below. See how many you can find. (One has been identified for you.)



I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu: kept people looking so hard for facts ... and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph.

(Submitted by Lim Sek Hoong. Source of article could not be traced. Look out for the answers in the next issue of THE VINE.)