

RELIGION



SCRIPTURE OF
THE WEEK: I PETER Chapter
5

CONFIRM OR DENY PART II

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

Just because you are accustomed to 'going off' on people whenever things don't go your way--it doesn't make it all right.

Just because you are used to sleeping with someone you are not married to--it doesn't make it all right.

Just because you haven't been caught stealing or selling drugs and you get lots of money to give to your family and even to your church--it doesn't make it right at all.

God is not happy with the way we, His people, have chosen to live. God gave us the ability to choose and many have violated their opportunities.

If you say you're a Christian; then, act like one! Being a Christian means that you are striving to be like Christ. Christ didn't cuss! Christ didn't steal! Christ didn't run around lying on others or selling drugs to destroy people's bodies! Christ didn't sell his body for sex and other perverted acts! So how can you walk around calling yourselves Christians and continue doing all these things that displease God?

Christ came to save that which was lost to sin. He came to heal. He came to put joy in your hearts. He came to comfort. He didn't come to condemn. God wants His people to thrive and be happy. To be safe. To be secure.

When a person accepts Christ as his/her personal Savior, a real change takes place. Suddenly you really don't want to do or say those things that you once did or said. All of a sudden, your old friends begin to ask you "Hey! What's wrong with you? How come you're acting so different? You're not the same. Why?" Sometimes they will call you on the phone or come by and ask, "How come we don't see you any more?"

Are you prayed up? Are you studied up? Because if you're not, Satan

is going to grab you by your collar and snatch you right back where you were. Why are you putting yourself through all that unnecessary suffering and unhappiness?

Are you a confirmed Christian? Can your life with Christ be seen in your walk? in your language? in your witness? Or, are you one of those who professes, "...Do as I say--NOT as I do."

I was looking at a little baby, the other day. As I gazed into his little eyes, he smiled. He reached out for me to take him. I did. But, the child didn't know me and I didn't know him but his innocence and the confidence in me, that he exuded, was overwhelming. It made me think. We, as Christian adults, need to make up our minds about what kind of a life we are supposed to be living. Just how do the younger ones see you? Are you a wolf in sheep's clothing? Are you doing things in secret that you don't wish to come out in the light? My Bible tells me that what is done in the darkness will be exposed to the Light. There are young people, today, reaching out to you. But, are you equipped to help them?

Christ gave his life on the cross that we might have a chance and when He arose, with all power, He sealed the contract. God could have waved His mighty hand and just wiped us all off the face of this earth. But, He had compassion on us and gave us a chance to do better.

Life with Christ is BLACK or WHITE with no GREY areas. You are either for Him or you're against Him.

Have you denied Christ access into your life? into your heart? The scripture says that if you deny Christ on earth--He will deny you before His Father which is in HEAVEN.

Don't be silly and think that you're getting away with anything. God sees all and He knows all. He knows your every thought. Be for real! Why don't you just get your act together and open your eyes to the truth--which Jesus Christ, the Almighty Father, the Prince of Peace, the Rose of Sharon, the Lily of the Valley, the Bright

Morning Star, Jehovah, God, Lord, the King, of Kings--has already paid such a costly price for.

Were you worth the sacrifice? Christian adults and leaders!!!!...We must not be guilty of misleading or misguiding our young people.

I have seen people leave straight out of church exclaiming how wonderful the service was and how truly good God is; then, they go straight from church to a night club. With a cigarette in one hand and a glass of booze in the other, cussin' and lyin', shaking and swaying to the music.... Can't be they just came out of church? Huh? The answer--"Yes, they did." Look like they should have been scared or something. But, it is not for us to judge whether they are saved or not. God will do that. Instead go to them privately and tell them that they can't continue wearing two hats. Also, lift up their names in prayer. We must pray for one another. The strong must bear up the infirmities of the weak.

God said that he'd bear our burdens and fight our battles. He said that vengeance was His and that He'd repay-- NOT for us to take matters in our own hands. His commandment to us was, "...Love ye one another as I have loved you."

You must confirm or deny your position with Christ. Some have tried to do both and they're now in the insane hospital or have committed suicide.

I'm not writing this because I think that I'm so much better than you; but, as my eyes witness so much moral decay and hypocrisy--I wonder to myself, "How can I, one person, help to reach these, my sisters and brothers, before they wander too far off?"

WRITE! WRITE! WRITE! Tell them about the 'Good News' that the Almighty has proclaimed. Where do you stand? THINK! and PRAY!



"COME JOIN THE CELEBRATION"

The members of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church cordially invite you to an evening of celebration. Come celebrate their years of service in the Holy Family of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Sunday, August 27th at 5:00 p.m., in the evening.

There will be an exciting program that will include the renowned organist/composer, Mr. Jerry White from Oakland, California.

The program is being sponsored by the Building Fund Committee; chairman, Deacon Ben Brown; program chairperson, Deaconess Willie Mae Hart; reception committee, Deaconess Harrielle Paris.

CELEBRATION TABERNACLE ANNIVERSARY

Pastor Elbert Mondaine, Jr. and members of CELEBRATION TABERNACLE cordially invite you to a celebration of our church's first anniversary to be held September 22nd, 23rd and 24th, 1989.

Come along and join us in three days of celebration. The festivities begin on Friday night. We invite all choirs, musicians, soloists, groups, and, etc, to join us in our musical beginning 7:00p.m., Friday September 22nd. Come looking forward to jumping, shouting, praising God and exclaiming His name to the highest.

On Saturday, September 23rd help us to acknowledge our pastors first anniversary beginning at 7:00p.m.

And finally, on Sunday, September 24th we will conclude with a 3:00p.m. service of good gospel preaching and singing to mark the end of a wonderful year and set the pace for a new beginning with our fall revival with evangelist Ruby Nelson from Shreveport, Louisiana.

HAVE FAITH

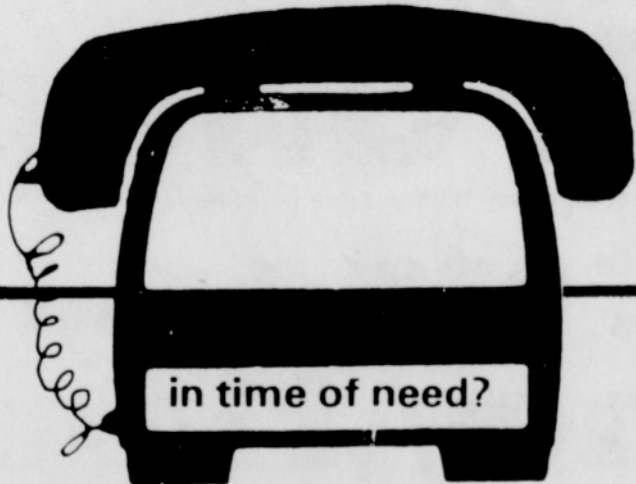
Have faith when others turn and run;
Endure the night, there will be sun.
Have faith when things are looking dim

With head erect, your eyes on Him.
Be not afraid to lose or fail;
No ocean's crossed until you sail...
No victor's won without a fight,
No bird, migrates without a flight.

Faith overthrows the strongest foe
And lights the path where we must go.
Faith overcomes both doubt and fear;

It paints a picture bright and clear,
And faith is never far away...
It grows each time we kneel top pray!

Clay Harrison




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Psalm 34:3

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS For Social Security or Supplemental Security Income assistance

QUESTION: My Social Security card was lost or stolen. I don't get around very well and can't afford a cab. Can I get it replaced by mail?

ANSWER: Yes, it is possible to get a card replaced by mail and many people do. Call Social Security and ask for Form SS-5. This type of request can be handled by the 24-hour service using the toll-free number 1-800-234-5772. We will send the form with instructions. It is important to carefully read the instructions to find out what type of evidence of identity you will need to send back with the form. We will return your documents and send you a new card in about 10-14 days.

QUESTION: I'm 23 years old, paraplegic, and have applied to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability payments. I was surprised when Social Security told me my payment will be reduced because I live with my parents. Why is this?

ANSWER: Because you are living in your parents' household and they provide you with free food and shelter, your SSI payment will be reduced by one-third rather than figuring the actual value of room, board, and other support you receive. If you move or your situation changes, contact Social Security. You will be asked questions about your living arrangements and your payment will be adjusted in accordance with your living arrangement and other income and resource criteria.

QUESTION: I'm receiving reduced Social Security retirement benefits. Do I have to apply for Medicare when I reach age 65?

ANSWER: No, it's automatic at age 65 for those already receiving checks. The package of Medicare material will be mailed to you shortly before you reach age 65. It explains what to do if you do not want Part B Supplemental Medical Insurance.

QUESTION: How can I tell if I have the part of Medicare that covers visits to the doctor?

ANSWER: Medicare contains 2 parts: Part A-hospital insurance and Part B-medical insurance. It is Part B which covers doctor visits. Look at your red, white and blue Medicare card. If you see the annotation, "Medical Insurance" on that card, you are covered for doctors services.

QUESTION: My sister receives SSI payments due to blindness. Recently, she acquired a guide dog to help her become more mobile. Does SSI provide an added allowance for those who use these animals?

ANSWER: If your sister is working, the cost of keeping her dog can be considered a work-related expense. Such costs can be deducted from her monthly income when determining whether that income exceeds the SSI limit. If she has established a Plan for Achieving Self Support, the funds she uses to purchase the animal can be included with the other funds she has set aside for that purpose and will, therefore, not be considered a resource for SSI eligibility purposes.

QUESTION: My father died a few months ago and my mother is thinking about applying for Supplemental Security Income to help her meet expenses. What does she need to apply for benefits?

ANSWER: She must be either disabled or at least 65. She should bring proof of age and U.S. citizenship or residency--such as a birth certificate or immigration documents, etc. If she has income or resources, her income information--pay stubs, tax returns, unemployment compensation receipts, etc., will be needed as well as the resource information--bank books, car registration, burial fund records, insurance policies, mortgage, and property tax information, or the rental lease, and the name of the landlord. She should also have her Social Security card or a record of her number. She can apply by calling 1-800-234-5772.

Maranatha Church

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Senior Pastor
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