

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter February 1992

Dear Brethren:

May this time of year find all of you prospering well physically and spiritually. Spring is just around the corner as we eagerly anticipate the coming holy day season. We look forward to seeing many of you personally at that time.

Spiritual Principle: "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him . . ." Job 13:15

Every statement, action, or concept has an underlying premise. Job had a reason for making the above statement. He was inspired of God, indeed. But, there is also a most telling basis behind that inspiration. Job had been at the pinnacle of respect and admiration from peers and subjects alike. He was fabulously blessed, protected, and successful. At this very apex of his physical existence he was suddenly reduced to poverty, shame, embarrassment, ill-health, and everything men most fear. Why? In the answer to these questions we find an explanation for the trials and difficulties which we experience. He who learns, and applies the intrinsic lessons will most greatly profit and avoid future necessity of trial and test.

First, let us learn the valuable lesson that testing and proving are essential for all human beings. Even though there are two possible premises for trials or tests—the results of sins and/or mistakes and the purposeful intervention of God—those trials and experiences must be accepted with an attitude of understanding. Please note and study carefully I Cor. 11:31–32; Heb. 10:30, 12:1–4.

A failure to properly respond to life's experiences is sure evidence of a lack of wisdom and understanding (Heb. 12:4–10; James 1:2). To accept experiences with equanimity, courage, and confidence in God is a manifestation of faith and trust.

God abundantly and clearly recorded in His priceless Word the reasons for trials and tests (Ps. 34:19; Heb. 12:11–16). Man's problem lies in the inability to accept and understand the purposes of God. The development of God oriented character is hard and most difficult. The superficiality of man's claim to faith and trust is an open book to God. For us to see just how lacking we are, we must be subjected to severe and difficult trials to see how deep our trust and faith are. Remember, there is no situation in life that is too difficult for God to solve. He can turn situations around anytime He pleases.

Some of those called of God depart from the way of truth because they lose confidence and trust. Their eyes become fixed upon the physical instead of the spiritual. Regardless of the trials experienced we are admonished to continue in the way to which we were called (II Tim. 3:11–14; Heb. 10:35–36). There is nothing more important than developing the character of such trust and faith. When we become weakened by trials and tribulations, we become most vulnerable to the deceptions of those who have already departed from the truth, unless we use such trials to exercise our wills and to underscore our determination to remain faithful. Our example is Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us carefully remember that any weakness of faith and conviction—real faith and conviction are manifested in continuity of belief and practice—is physical evidence of spiritual failure. See I Peter 1:8 and Heb. 10:38–39.

By real faith and determination we can endure to the end. We do not have to permit the experiences and trials—allowed by God—to destroy us. We can allow them to fulfill their spiritual intent in our lives—the development of real character and faith.

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Blessings of Brethren

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Deaths

We were saddened to hear of the death of Mrs. Melvin Stringfellow, Sr. who expired on January 28, 1992. We extend our sincere condolences to Mr. Melvin Stringfellow and his family.

Trips

February 8	Raymond Cole	Hawaii
February 15	Raymond Cole	Hawaii
February 15	Bryce Clark	Vancouver, BC
February 22	Raymond Cole	So. California
March 14	Raymond Cole	Florida
March 21	Raymond Cole	Austin

Tape Schedule

Tape Series	Mailed	For	Title/tape #
Principles of Christian Living*			
CL 2-135	1/8	2/15	Meekness #4
WSE-BC 138-5	1/22	2/22	Paul's Epistles #5
CL 2-136	1/22	2/29	Meekness #5
WSE-BC 138-6	2/5	3/7	Paul's Epistles #6
CL 2-137	2/5	3/14	Meekness #6
WSE-BC 138-7	2/19	3/21	Paul's Epistles #7
CL 2-138	2/19	3/28	Humility #1
WSE-BC 138-8	3/4	4/4	Paul's Epistles #8
CL 2-139	3/4	4/11	Humility #2

*Currently being given at Eugene Sabbath Services.

In Christian Love,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark