## PREMINISTERIAL AND CHRISTIAN WORKERS' BIBLE COLLEGE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES PREPARED BY A. A. ALLEN

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## **VICTORIOUS FAITH - NO. 2 (New Testament)**

There are many examples of Victorious Faith among the followers of Jesus in the New Testament, but we would call your attention, first, to Paul.

Paul's father was a Pharisee (Acts 23:6), and a Roman citizen (Acts 22:25-28). Paul was a free-born Roman citizen, He was born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, learned tent-making, and studied with Gamaliel (Acts 22:3).

As a young man, Paul (then called Saul) was an arch persecutor of the Christians, and was present when Stephen was stoned to death.

- "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,"
- "And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that, if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem."
- "And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:"
- "And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Acts 9:1-4.
- "And I persecuted this way unto death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women." Acts 22:4.
- "And cast him (Stephen) out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul." Acts 7:58.

In Acts 9:1-4 when Paul was on his way to Damascus to obtain written permission from the high priest to more sorely persecute the followers of Jesus, a light from heaven shone about him, and he heard a voice saying, "...why persecutest thou me?" Acts 22:7. When Paul asked God what he should do, God instructed him to go to Damascus and he would be told the things which were appointed for him to do.

Being blinded by the glory of the great light from heaven, Paul had to be led by those who were with him, into Damascus. When he came to Damascus, Ananias, a devout man according to the law, came to Paul, spoke to him, and his sight returned. Ananias told him he was to be a witness unto all men of what he had seen and heard, and instructed Paul to be baptized.

Paul started preaching Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. All that heard him were amazed, for he had been destroying those who called on the name of Jesus In Jerusalem, in and they knew that he had come to Damascus for the same purpose. The Jews were puzzled and took counsel to kill him. As Paul had persecuted the early Christians, so was he persecuted, to the extent that his life was almost taken by angry people on several occasions.

"Are they ministers of Christ? . . . I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft."

"Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one."

"Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;"

"In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;"

"In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness." II Corinthians 11:23-27.

"In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me:"

"And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands." II Corinthians 11:32, 33.

"... I suffer trouble, ... even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound."

"Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory."

"It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:"

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: . . . :" II Timothy 2:9-12.

"I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where, and in all things, I am instructed, both to be lull and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need."

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:12, 13.

Paul (as Saul of Tarsus) was a man of mental stature and force even before he became a Christian. His personality was so strong and original that no other man could have been less expected to sink himself in another. Yet from the very moment when Paul came in contact with Jesus, He WAS SO OVERPOWERED WITH HIS INFLUENCE THAT HE NEVER AFTERWARD HAD ANY OTHER DESIRE THAN TO BE A CLOSE FOLLOWER OF JESUS, AND TO BE AN ECHO AND A REFLECTION OF JESUS TO THE WORLD!

Accepting Jesus as his personal Savior, being filled with the precious Holy Ghost, and being obedient "... unto the heavenly vision:" Paul pressed "... toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14. He was willing to give his life for the cause of Christ. "... I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." Acts 21:13.

"According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also, Christ, shall be magnified In my body, whether it be by life, or by death."

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Philippians 1:20, 21.

Paul's mind was of breadth and force; it was never able to leave any object with which it had to deal until that object was thoroughly studied from its remotest causes and forward into all possible developments. There was one great subject that Christ had to leave unexplained --- HIS OWN DEATH. He could not explain it before it had taken place. This became the leading topic of Paul's thinking --- to show WHY it

was needed and what were its blessed results. By LIVING FOR CHRIST, PAUL CAME TO REALLY KNOW HIS SAVIOR, and his thirteen Epistles give to us a rich knowledge of what it means to follow Christ. As Paul took up his cross daily and followed Jesus, WE MUST TAKE UP OUR CROSS DAILY AND FOLLOW OUR LORD!

Student, there is no other way to heaven but the way of the cross, so we need not expect to have a MIRACLE MINISTRY WITHOUT TAKING UP OUR CROSS DAILY AND FOLLOWING JESUS. If others had to go by the way of the cross, WE WILL HAVE TO PAY THE SAME PRICE!

God asks no more of us than we are able to do. If we are from lowly walks of this world, or from more advantageous positions in this world, GOD ASKS NO MORE OF US THAN WE ARE ABLE TO GIVE. Paul was a Hebrew of the Hebrews, a Pharisee (Philippians 3:5), "... after the most straitest sect of our religion, I lived a Pharisee." Acts 26:5.

"I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, . . ." Acts 22:3.

Gamaliel was a Pharisee, a doctor of the law, and "... had in reputation among all the people, ..." Acts 5:34.

Some of the other apostles were unlettered men, while Paul enjoyed the fullest scholastic advantages of the period. Whatever your station in life may be --- GOD WANTS YOU! If He can get you to fully consecrate your life to Him, HE WILL HAVE YOUR TALENTS, YOUR POSSESSIONS, YOUR ALL to use in His service. If you have not made the FULL consecration God requires, fast and pray until God reveals to you what YOU have to do to PAY THE PRICE FOR HIS MIRACLE-WORKING POWER TO FLOW THROUGH YOUR LIFE! What you do for God will have to be done quickly, for there is not much time left! " . . . ,the night cometh, when no man can work," John 9:4.

Jesus wants to use our hands, our feet, our tongues, our brains, and our hearts through which He may evangelize the world. He would have us face difficulties victoriously. THIS REQUIRES THE FAITH GOD GIVES! Only as you live in obedience to God will He be able to give you this faith and live THROUGH you to bless the world.

Student, can you make the words of the following song YOUR words?

But if by a still small voice He calls to paths that I do not know, I'll answer, dear Lord, with my hand in Thine, I'll go where you want me to go. I'll go where You want me to go, dear Lord, o'er mountain or plain or sea; I'll say what You want me to say, dear Lord, I'll be what You want me to be.

On his first missionary journey with Barnabas, Paul came to Lystra in Asia Minor, and found himself in a population of heathen people, "And there they preached the gospel." Acts 14:7.

"And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:"

"The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,"

"Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked." Acts 14:8-10.

The people thought Paul and Barnabas were gods who had come down in the likeness of men, and were on the point of offering sacrifice to them. Paul and Barnabas were filled with horror, and rejected the intentions of the people with haste. Certain Jews from other areas in the land came in, stirred up the people at Lystra, and having stoned Paul, they took him out of the city, thinking he was dead.

Paul never thought of turning back --- his was a total commitment of his life to God, even unto death. As he went from place to place a little band of converts were left behind. The gospel found those for whom it was intended-penitents burdened with sin, souls dissatisfied with the world and their ancestral religion, hearts yearning for divine sympathy and love; " . . . as many as were ordained to eternal life, believed." Acts 13:48. These formed in every city the nucleus of a Christian church. Even at Lystra, where defeat seemed so complete, a little group of faithful hearts gathered around the mangled body of Paul outside the city gates. Eunice and Lois were there to minister unto him, and young Timothy was there, and perhaps his heart was knit more closely to the hero who had courage to suffer unto death for his faith.

God is looking for those who will follow His leading as did Paul and others --- those who will suffer unto death, if necessary, for their faith. We are to obey God and leave the results of our obedience up to Him, as did Paul. THE GOSPEL WILL FIND THOSE FOR WHOM IT IS INTENDED, IF WE WILL ONLY OBEY GOD!

"... Are ye able to drink of the cup that I drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able." Matthew 20:22.

"Are ye able," said the Master,
"To be crucified with me?"
And heroic spirits answer
Now, as then, in Galilee,
"Lord, we are able."

Student, are you able to follow Jesus, EVEN UNTO DEATH? If you are not ready for this kind of consecration, PRAY AND FAST UNTIL YOU CAN SAY YOU ABE READY.

"... He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; ... " John 14:12.

In Thyatira, Lydia, a seller of purple, and her household, heard Paul preach --- the Lord opened their hearts to the things spoken by Paul, and all of them were baptized. (Acts 16:14, 15).

A damsel, possessed with a spirit of divination met Paul and Silas. She followed them saying, "... These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ, to come out of her. And he came out the same hour." Acts 16:17,18.

God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: so that from his body were brought unto the sick "... handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them." Acts 19:11,12.

Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. Just as surely as one of Christ's followers does some miracle, or something outstanding for God, Satan tries to withstand them, or tries to stop them in some way. There were those in the synagogue of the Libertines who disputed with Stephen when they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spoke.

These men accused Stephen of speaking blasphemous words against Moses, and against God. They stirred up the people, and the elders and the scribes, and came upon him, caught him, and brought him to the council. They set up false witnesses who accused him of speaking blasphemous words against " . . . this holy place, and

the law: . . . we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us." Acts 6:13, 14.

"And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel." Acts 6:15.

Stephen was allowed to speak. He preached such a strong sermon that they were cut to the heart and gnashed on him with their teeth.

"But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,"

"And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God." Acts 7:55, 56.

The people stopped their ears and ran upon him with one accord. They cast him out of the city and stoned him as he called upon God to receive his spirit.

"And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep." Acts 7:60.

Our lives are not our own! When we accepted Jesus as our Savior, we really became subject to Him and His will for us. Too many Christians try to follow Jesus "afar off" as did Peter on one occasion. Jesus was led away to the high priest, Caiaphas. There the scribes and the elders were assembled together seeking false witness against Jesus, to put Him to death. "Peter followed Him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end." Matthew 26:58. Two false witnesses appeared accusing Jesus of having said He was able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days. Jesus did not answer when asked about this matter.

The high priest then asked Jesus if He was Christ, the Son of God.

"Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."

"Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? Behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy."

"What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death."

"Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands,"

"Saying, Prophesy unto us, thou Christ, Who Is he that smote thee?" Matthew 26:64-68.

Peter sat without in the palace, and a damsel came to him and accused him of being with Jesus, but he denied this before those present. When Peter went out on the porch, another maid saw him and told those around her that Peter was with Jesus. Again, he denied the accusation --- his time Peter denied with an oath, saying he did not know the man.

"And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee."

"Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew."

"And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly." Matthew 26:73-75.

"And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice."

"And Peter went out and wept bitterly." Luke 22:61, 62.

Student, if you are following Christ afar off, repent of those things in your life you are allowing to come between you and your Savior, and run quickly back into the center of God's will for your life. If you do not come back close to Jesus, you will find yourself like Peter, denying your Lord and Savior. Peter even denied Christ so vehemently that he cursed. Then he remembered that Jesus had said he would deny Him three times before the cock would crow. When he heard the cock crow, he saw Jesus turn to look upon him. PETER WAS FULL OF REMORSE AND WENT OUT AND WEPT BITTERLY. He realized he had openly denied Christ --- he wept and repented then and there. Jesus forgave him, just as He forgave the ones who put him to death. " . . . Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34.

At sunrise on the first day of the week after Jesus was crucified, Mary

Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought sweet spices to the tomb to anoint Jesus body. The stone had been rolled away from the door of the sepulchre, and they found a young man sitting there clothed in a long white garment. They were afraid, but he spoke and told them not to be afraid, saying further that he knew that they sought Jesus of Nazareth, who had been crucified. He told them He was not there, for He had risen.

"But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you Into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you." Mark 16:7.

If Jesus had not forgiven Peter, the angel of the Lord would not have told the women to tell Peter, too, that He had gone before them Into Galilee, where they (the disciples and Peter) would see him.

"Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen."

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

"He that believeth, and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not, shall be damned."

"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;"

"They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

"So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God."

"And they went forth and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the work with signs following." Mark 16-20.

The word "they" included Peter --- when he repented for denying Christ, he was forgiven. The angel at His tomb told the women there to take the message he gave them to the disciples AND TO PETER. Peter WAS A DISCIPLE, TOO, but Jesus wanted Peter to know that HE WAS STILL A DISCIPLE. Praise God, when we are forgiven for our sins, THEY ABE REMEMBERED AGAINST US NO

MORE! Peter was re-instated with Jesus BECAUSE HE REPENTED OF HIS SIN.

Peter was present on the day of Pentecost with the one hundred and twenty followers of Jesus who waited for the baptism of the Holy Ghost in the upper room.

"And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them."

"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Sprint gave them utterance." Acts 2:3,4.

When this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and they were confounded, because every man heard them speak in his own language. The ones who were baptized with the Holy Ghost were Galilaeans, yet, although there were about sixteen different languages represented there that day, THE PEOPLE HEARD THE WONDERFUL WORKS OF GOD IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGES.

Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice and expounded unto the people the works of God. He told them how they had slain Jesus with wicked hands, but that God had raised Him from the dead. They were pricked in their hearts and asked what they should do.

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

"... And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 2:38,41,47.

Many signs and wonders were done by the apostles (Acts 2:43). On their way to the temple one day, Peter and John were accosted by a lame man for alms. Peter and John fastened their eyes upon the man, and Peter said,

- "...Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."
- "And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength."

"And he, leaping up, stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God." Acts 3:6-8.

Signs and wonders were done by the apostles, and fear came upon every soul. All that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. (Acts 2:43-45).

A certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, and kept back part of the price, and brought part of it to the apostles, but Peter said,

"... Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? . . . thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias, hearing these words, fell down, and gave up the ghost: . . . " Acts 5:3-5.

The young men buried Ananias. About three hours later, his wife Saphira came in. Peter asked her whether she had sold the land for so much, and she answered that she had.

"Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out." Acts 5:9.

Sapphira fell down at Peter's feet and gave up the ghost. The young men came in, and finding her dead, carried her out and buried her by her husband. Great fear came upon all the church, AND UPON ALL THAT HEARD OF THIS MATTER. Believers were the more added to the Lord --- multitudes of both men and women were added, (Acts 5:14).

"Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them."

"There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one." Acts 5:15,16.

These apostles were abiding so closely in Christ that His power was flowing through them to work mighty miracles and wonders.

As Peter passed through the land, he came down to the saints who lived at Lydda, where he found a man named Aeneas. This man had been in bed eight years, sick with palsy.

"And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately." Acts 9:34.

This man was known by the people at Lydda and Saron. When they saw the power of God so manifested as to make Aeneas whole, EVERY ONE LIVING AT LYDDA AND AT SARON TURNED TO THE LORD!

Going on down to Joppa, Peter learned of the illness and death of a faithful disciple of Christ, Dorcas. Dorcas "... was full of good works and almsdeeds." Acts 9:36. On his arrival in Joppa, he was taken to an upper chamber where he found Dorcas washed and laid out as a corpse. The widows stood by Peter weeping and showing him the coats and garments that Dorcas had made before her death.

"But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body, said, Tabitha (by interpretation, Dorcas), arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up."

"And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive."

"And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord." Acts 9:40-42.

In Hebrews 13:8 we read, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." If Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, what He did himself, or what He did through Paul, Peter, and the other apostles, HE WILL DO THROUGH YOU! BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE TO GET GOD'S POWER IN YOUR LIFE. This calls for holy living.

As we have been in subjection to our earthly fathers and have been corrected by them, "... shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness." Hebrews 12:9, 10.

"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."

"If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?" Hebrews 12:6, 7.

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord:" Hebrews 12:14.

Listen to the words of Jesus as he communed with God just before his crucifixion.

"While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gayest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled." John 17:12.

As Jesus watched for the souls of those God had given to Him to look after, we are expected to be watchful over those under our care. If we are true to our task, we will be instant in season and out of season.

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." II Timothy 4:2.

It is not enough to win people to the Lord, or to bring deliverances to them physically, mentally or spiritually. The people need to be taught in order to became firmly established in God, so that they may be used of God in winning the lost and delivering other people from sickness, oppressions from Satan, demon possession, and other bondages imposed by the enemy.

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost bath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he bath purchases with his own blood."

"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock."

"Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." Acts 20:28-30.

Paul knew he had to go to Jerusalem on one occasion, in spite of the fact that he was warned not to go in every city he entered enroute to Jerusalem. The Holy Ghost even witnessed to him along the way that bonds and afflictions awaited him there.

"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." Acts 20:24.

"... the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome." Acts 23:11.

Paul went to Rome literally bound as a prisoner, not knowing what awaited him there. His main objective was to fulfill God's call on his life --- NO MATTER WHAT THE PERSONAL COST, HE OBEYED GOD AND WENT TO ROME!

Student, what shall it profit you if you gain the whole world and lose you own soul? Disobedience is sin. "... so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the Lord your God." Deuteronomy 8:20. "... to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry..." I Samuel 15:22, 23.

Do not forget---POWER IS A DIRECT RESULT OF FAITH, AND FAITH COMES BY OBEDIENCE! If you would have God's power operating through your life, BE OBEDIENT TO GOD IN ALL HE TELLS YOU TO DO! FIRST--- be sure you know the WORD --- "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15, "Pray without ceasing." I Thessalonians 5:17. Live in an attitude of prayer --- BE READY TO TUNE IN ON THE ROYAL TELEPHONE OF HEAVEN AT ANY MOMENT. God may speak to you through sermons, songs, conversations, or through many other ways --- BE SURE YOU KNOW THE VOICE OF THE LORD, TRY THE SPIRITS TO SEE WHETHER THEY ARE OF GOD. "... believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." I John 4:1.