

# REFLECTOR

VOL.69, No.1

"Holding Forth the Word of Life"

January 2023

## A WORD TO BELIEVERS FOR 2023



One thing that I have learned in my eighty-seven years, that encompasses seventy-one years of ministry, is the need to be reminded. A verse that has guided my ministry has been **1 Samuel 10:26**: "And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a **band of men, whose hearts God had touched.**" As the prayer seminar ministry began to grow throughout the 1980s with invitations from many churches far and near to schedule an all-day Sunday prayer seminar ("**A Day in God's Courts**"), **the Holy Spirit began to stir hearts** to partner with us. The **Doorkeeper family** grew by leaps and bounds.

In early 1989, a change of course was effected when a decision was made to use the monthly publication, called **The Doorkeeper Report**, to minister to the **Doorkeepers** to encourage them in their prayer lives and in their quest to move toward Christian maturity. I would write Bible studies to replace books, pamphlets and other gifts we were sending to show appreciation. Out

of this approach came many books and articles to flesh out the seminar content in the **Prayer Seminar Workbook** or in the teaching sessions.

**Reminders needed.** Most of the prayer seminar consists of things that many participants already know. There is a **need**, however, for us to **be reminded** about these things. **It is easy to forget** the primacy of the Word and prayer for Christians wishing to **be** what God wants them to be and to **do** what He wants us to do. It is easy to forget that God speaks through the Word. When we forget we often receive God's word as we do any other written word. It is easy to forget that God's intention has always been for His children to call on His hand to move in all aspects of our lives. When we forget that we often call on Him only when we get into trouble. Jesus said, "men ought always to pray and not faint [lose heart] "...(**Luke 18:1**). Sadly, many of us do not pray until we do faint.

We need to be reminded that God has set eternity in the heart of all of us (**Ecclesiastes 18:1**). When Adam sinned, he became separated from God's fellowship. Each person since Adam has been born with the Adamic nature, dead to God. There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart that only God can satisfy. Earthly splendor, wealth or accomplishment can never fully satisfy the heart. Only God can do so.

The moment that a person trusts Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord, the Holy Spirit moves into his heart. What was dead to God becomes alive to God. It is the Holy Spirit that brings the Word of God alive as it enters our minds and hearts through reading or listening. The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.

**Reminder to examine yourself.** One simple exercise to check on how you are doing in your spiritual life is to look back over the last seven days of your life. Are you satisfied with the time you have spent in the Word listening to God's voice speak to you and the time you have spent in prayer communing with God? When we come to Christ, we want to serve the Lord. We sincerely want Him to use us. First, He must do some things "in" us before He can do things "through" us.

**Reminder to read the Word of God daily.** God designed the holy Scriptures so that His main things are the plain things and the plain things are the main thing. Spending time in the Word of God is basic to spiritual growth and development. There are two elements involved in a meaningful daily Bible study—man's part and God's part. The human element is diligent reading and study of the Scripture that requires both time and attention. To achieve this level requires both discipline and considerable prioritizing. The divine element is the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit that provides spiritual insight and understanding to be applied to daily living.

**Reminder to pray.** Go to **Luke 11:1**. Lay out the scene in your mind and join in the event. Jesus was with His disciples and slipped away to pray in solitude. When He returned, one of the disciples requested, "Lord, teach us to pray." Not only is this one of the most beautiful glimpses into the life of the Lord Jesus Christ, there is a call for each of us to make the same request and then follow through. A closer examination of the text will unveil three lessons to learn that are actually three requisites in the journey toward a stronger Christian life: **Requisite One: Acknowledgement of the importance of prayer;** **Requisite Two: A desire to know how to pray;** and **Requisite Three: A willingness to be taught.** For the Christian, the Holy Spirit is our Teacher and He uses the Word of God to teach us.

It has been said that the Word of God will keep us from sin or sin will keep us from the Word of God. The ramification of this truth is for the believer to stay clean before God and allow the Holy Spirit to control us as we walk in the Spirit, not the flesh. By the way, to be Spirit-filled (controlled by the Spirit) is the will of God for every Christian (**Ephesians 5:18**). We must be sensitive to the convicting work of the Holy Spirit when we do things God has told us not to do or fail to do things He has told us to do. Once we become conscious of our sin (i.e., **conviction** that there is a sin), we must change our minds about the sin in a genuine act of **repentance**. We must confess to God that we are guilty of the specific sin or sins (a general "forgive me of all my sins, dear Lord" does not meet the Biblical definition of confession). To confess brings forgiveness and cleansing. Finally, we must be willing to receive the forgiveness that He gives (**1 John 1:9**). Take time to be holy. Jesus said clearly "If you abide in Me and My

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words abide in you [That's Bible reading], you shall ask what you will [That's praying], and it shall be done [That's a promise!] "(John 15:7). Hopefully, I can use the 2023 Reflectors (our 69th year of publication and probably my last year) to encourage readers to become Lighthouses of Prayer for their families, their friends, their churches, their nations, and the world. **May 2023 be the greatest year of your Christian life and walk!**

Yours in Calvary love,

NOTE. This article is an abbreviated version of a study shared in the August 2022 issue of the **Doorkeeper Report**. Anyone wishing a copy of the original article may request it.

J. Gordon Henry

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: MAJOR CHANGE

As of January 1, 2023, financial affairs will become the responsibility of Adam and his team. As the Lord leads you to continue supporting the prayer seminar ministry through your prayer and financial support, please draft your checks to "THE PRAYER SEMINAR" (now the official name for J. Gordon Henry Ministries) and mail to THE PRAYER SEMINAR, P.O. BOX 42038, BALTIMORE, MD 21258-2038. For your convenience, response envelopes will continue to be included with the monthly **Reflector**. Official records will be kept and sent at the end of the year.

Pray earnestly each day for Adam and his team. Our desire is to continue establishing **Lighthouses of Prayer** around the world to push against the spiritual darkness that is deepening. Tell others.

## Notes from My Bible

Note 6050. God sees ... He cares ... He answers. Day by day, God hears our prayers and answers our needs.

Note 6051. Kindness is a language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

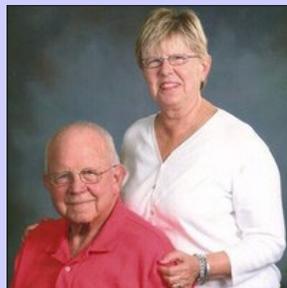


## Honor to Whom Honor is Due

**Hats off to the DOORKEEPERS whose prayer and financial support have made a faith ministry possible!** In the forty-two year history of the prayer seminar ministry, no one surpasses the financial support proffered by **Jackie Henry** (now **Mrs. Zack Olcott**). In a recent Christmas visit to Lynchburg, her mother, **Gina**, and brother **Sean** (with his son **Lincoln**) joined Jackie's family (**Jackson, Scarlet and Josephine**) in a delightful visit. When the books are open in Heaven, we will all rejoice in amazement as we learn of the lives touched around the world as the result of Jackie's faithful investment in eternity through the prayer seminar ministry. **Together we have been able to touch lives for time and eternity. Thank you for giving to the Lord!**

## Remembering Beverly Blankenship (MRS. BOB) DOORKEEPER/JGHM BOARD MEMBER

6/20/1936-11/10/2022  
Murfreesboro, Tennessee  
"Absent from the body,  
present with the Lord"  
2 Corinthians 5:1,8b  
A special member of Sue  
Henry's "best friends" roster



## ROPEHOLDER/DOORKEEPER REPORT

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers."

1 Thessalonians 1:2

November 22-December 18, 2022

Regular 46 \$6,635



## REFLECTOR

ISSN 0885-8538

THE PRAYER SEMINAR

[Founded as J. Gordon Henry Ministries in 1984]

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## PRAYER SEMINAR ONLINE

Download Prayer Seminar  
Workbook

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