



Christian Ambassadors, Inc.

# My Brother's Keeper

Volume 15, Number 1, January-March, 2010

## GROWING on the WORD

A scripture study

The Word of God is the source of light, truth and power, for those who seek it's meaning and apply it to their life. Jesus Christ is the word made flesh, and we seek to follow him.

**John 8:12 (NIV)** – *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

Each issue of “My Brother’s Keeper” features a WORD study. This issue’s Word Study is from Sharon K. Griffiee, Co-founder of Christian Ambassadors.

## Jesus Restores Us To Wholeness

By Sharon K. Griffiee

**Ezekiel 34:16a (KJV)** - *I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was*

*driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick:*

A prisoner who had just found himself in segregation (the hole) for the first time in his seven years of incarceration, wrote describing what it was like to have hit the bottom.

“You know, Sharon, the Bible says my mind should be: spiritual, ready, pure, stayed, peaceful, renewed, humble, sober, sound, loving, serving, and fully persuaded. Yet, all around me and within me - minds are hardened, reprobate, carnal, doubtful, blinded, corrupted, fleshy, vain, earthly, alienated by wicked works and double-minded.

Sharon, I listen to these people in segregation all day long! It’s like trying to follow Christ in hell! Therefore, it is my prayer to our Lord that my eyes will be opened, and my ears will hear when He presents His will for my life.”

Some people allow themselves to be buried by hatred when they hit the bottom. But, some people turn to Jesus when they hit the bottom. They make a great effort

to hear His voice speak words of hope to them; words that catch their attention;

**Matthew 11:28-30 (KJV)** - *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

They take Jesus at His Word, coming to Him with full purpose of heart, learning from Him and finding rest for their souls.

On the afternoon of April 20th, 1999, I turned on the television to see what was happening. After listening for a few minutes to the gloomy news, my thoughts were propelled toward the wickedness in the world and all the calamity taking place. I had just learned of the most recent tragedy; two teenage students walked into their High School and opened fire on fellow students, killing twelve students and a teacher – then took their own lives. The whole metropolitan area of Denver, Colorado had people on alert, while others were rushing to help those in need. In the aftermath of this

tragic event, news reports were constantly updated. Hour after hour the spirit of grief became noticeably heavier, not only over the city, but spreading over the entire nation like an ugly black covering.

Since that day in 1999, we as a people have experienced hundreds of tragic news stories: the World Trade Center, conflicts in the middle east, the Virginia Tech and Fort Hood shootings, and daily reports of violence in our own communities (in and out of prison).

While deep in thought, pondering the spiritual condition in the world, the Holy Spirit pierced my conscience with the words to a popular "Nursery Rhyme" I learned as a child. The words kept playing over and over in my head.

### ***"Humpty Dumpty"***

*Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.  
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.  
And all the King's Horses and all  
the King's Men, Couldn't put  
Humpty Dumpty back together  
again!*

As I considered the words, I saw for the first time a spiritual interpretation behind these simple verses. The poem "Humpty Dumpty" could be thought of as a parable about the fall of man. "Humpty Dumpty" is representative of humans in their fallen state.

The poem says that all the King's Horses (horse soldiers) and all the King's Men (foot soldiers) couldn't put "Humpty Dumpty" back together again! This would

be a grim outlook for humanity. Had man fallen so far that despite all efforts, humanity couldn't be restored to a right relationship with God after their fall?

Literally speaking, there was nothing external that could be done. No outside force could put man back together again. It is entirely correct to say that "Humpty Dumpty" (mankind) could not be "patched up" by anyone, not even by all the good works we try to do. But, praise God, Jesus didn't die on the cross and rise again, simply to "patch up" or "glue back together" the shattered pieces of fallen man. A new man needed to be created.

Nothing but the best would be good enough for this new species of man; this *new creation in Christ*. What fallen man needed was a *new spirit*! That meant the old spirit had to go, because we cannot become perfect (mature) individuals merely by looking at Christ's example; for we are powerless to become like Christ, except we receive power from God to help us.

### ***II Corinthians 5:16-19 (NIV) -***

*"So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in*

*Christ, not counting men's sins against them."*

Because Jesus died for our sins, not counting them against us, we can no longer use the lame excuse, *I've sinned too much to be saved.*

Through Christ Jesus, the old life of slavery to self and sin is gone. **(Eph. 4:22)**. It is replaced with the new life of devotion to Christ, one with new attitudes and actions. **(Ephesians 4:23-24)**

To every person lost in the meaningless darkness of this world, please listen! It doesn't matter what side of the tracks you were born on, whether you were born to rich parents or if you were born in the ghetto. It doesn't matter how far down you have fallen. Jesus can bring you up out of that "hell hole" and set you on the path that leads to His throne!

Several years ago I read a testimony from a woman, which stuck with me because her testimony is about survival and spiritual growth through Christ Jesus.

This woman was born to an unmarried mother, who was unsupported and did not get the necessary medical attention they both needed while she was pregnant. At birth she was in a breach position and nobody noticed until it was too late! During the birth her spinal cord snapped from the strain and she was born disabled and in critical condition. Through the love and faithfulness of her adoptive family and God's grace,

she overcame all the obstacles in her life.

Did it happen over night? Of course not! It took fourteen years of listening to God and receiving His help to bring down the last of the strongholds of suicide, depression and oppression. She became a positive person. She was no longer a manipulator or a control freak because of her terror of losing people. God spoke deep into this woman's heart, giving her the desire to live and to be responsible for her own life.

She said;

*"God once gave me a vision. I was standing on top of this huge mountain, and there was just enough room on top that I wasn't scared of falling off. In front of me there was a bridge that led to the throne of God, and when I looked up I could see Jesus and the Father. When I looked down, the sides of the mountain were covered with nothing but knife-like, sharp, jagged rocks. There was no room to get a safe handhold. You couldn't go up or down without being cut to pieces. Jesus said to me, "That is what I have brought you out of!"*

Brothers and sisters, no one can beat you out of the blessings of God, because it is not a competition. God is no respecter of persons. It doesn't matter what your background is. But know this; **God is a respecter of Faith.** Are you ready to believe [be certain of] Jesus and come to Him that you might have this new life He is offering you? Are you ready to be

restored from your broken self to wholeness? Don't hesitate another minute, because Jesus is waiting for you to receive Him! Receive Him now!

*John 1:12-13 (KJV) - But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that*

*believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*



### ***"I Lost Belief, And Got It Back"***

By Gary Waskul, Avenal State Prison  
Avenal, California

Instantly, I've discovered that old road,  
Even with all I've learned and been told.  
My victories are masked by the enemy,  
The goodness seems too far away to see.

I have been silenced when I shout,  
I'm somehow being compassed all about.  
My countenance fills me with great shame,  
My life, my life, I need to claim.

I've lost my purpose, but I remember my belief,  
Gathering treasure in Heaven is what I must seek.  
As the fog gets clearer I understand my role,  
The powers of darkness try to steal my soul.

Father in Heaven within me, you know my heart,  
I need to bounce back; I need a new start.  
The Holy Spirit within me, my faith I will renew,  
God's love concealed within me, like it has my whole life through.

I rebuke the evil around me, until its bitter end,  
In the name of Christ my Savior, the name I will defend.  
I'm on the path of righteousness; I'm joyful once again,  
Temptations and delusions, these thoughts I won't attend.

See me as you know me, for Jesus I will contend.  
I lost belief and got it back,  
We must overcome the dark attack.

### *Sharing the Good News*

"We are therefore Christ's Ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

*II Corinthians 5:20-21*

**From: Susan R.  
SCI – Muncy  
Muncy, Pennsylvania**

**Dear Sharon,** Hi! How are you doing? I am sending this short note to thank you for responding to my inquiry letter. I want to thank you for *My Brother's Keeper* newsletter. I appreciate all the spiritual encouragement I can get. I trust that I will be in the prayers of all the people connected to Christian Ambassadors. I want you to know that I continuously pray for the outreach of the gospel, for your ministry to grow. May God Bless you in all you seek to endeavor. Sincerely, Susan

**From: Samuel S.  
CMC-Arrowhead Correctional  
Canon City, Colorado**

**Dear Alan and Sharon,** God is good all the time and all the time God is good. How are you two?

I am doing fine and I thought that I'd let you know that your Newsletters and Spiritual Growth Lessons have made a large difference in my walk and others that I have shared them with over the years.

At first you helped bring a friend and I closer at a time when her son was at this facility, and he was hedged by divine protection. Sometimes you graciously shared what the Lord had put on my heart to write and that was a blessing. The printed fellowship and spirit filled writings, poems and letters from brothers and sisters all over the world touches a very special place in my heart.

My walk is heading towards a different direction and I'll be released on parole in a few months. God never forgot me the whole time that I've been in prison, and I'll never forget what He has done in my life through His people the whole time that I've been in prison.

Thank you Alan and Sharon for allowing God to love me and others in prison, through you and your ministry. Yours, trusting in the Lord alone. Samuel

**From: Samantha R.  
Hernando Correctional  
Brooksville, Florida**

**Dear Sister Sharon,** Bless the Lord! How are you and your family? Blessed I hope. Please write down my new address.

Please send the Newsletter *My Brother's Keeper*. I love it! I share it with other ladies and they are blessed by it as well. May God continue to bless you and the ministry. In God's love, Samantha

**From: Brittany W.  
Missouri Dept of Corrections  
Vandalia, Missouri**

**Dear Sharon and Alan,** I'm writing to thank you for your wonderful words of encouragement and insight of the Word guided by God! I found myself in my cell at 2 A.M. last night, reading them and understanding what we really face, (**Ephesians 6:10-20**).

Please continue to send me your Newsletters and Study, as it brings much comfort to a young hungry soul! God's Word says it best;

*James 5:19-20 (KJV) - Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.*

Thank you and God Bless you in the powerful name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
Brittany

**From: Dudley S.  
Sterling Correctional  
Sterling, Colorado**

**Dear Sharon,** Last night I received #47 of the Spiritual Growth Lesson entitled "*The Gospel of Second Chances*". It spoke to me directly. I must admit that I haven't been producing the kind of fruit a Christian should. While I know that it's absolutely no excuse, it's so easy to fall into the negativity that is constantly around me. It's discouraging to say the least. Is there any way you can send the previous, #46 Spiritual Growth lesson? I have plenty of time to immerse myself in study.

I long to have an unquenchable passion for our Lord. To grow in my faith to a point where I can live the kind of life that the Lord wants. Sincerely, Dudley

---

**From: Timothy H.  
NE Ohio Correctional  
Youngstown, Ohio**

**Christian Ambassadors,** I have been a Christian for many years, but pride, arrogance, and laziness got in the way and I let my spiritual life slip. Now I'm in prison, in isolation for my own safety, looking at 5-20 years of Federal time. God now has my attention!

I have confessed my sin, repented, and God has forgiven me; and He has given me a pas-

sion and a desire to grow and be used by Him. I'm writing to ask what resources you may have to assist in my mission of growth and learning. I want so badly to be useful to Him. Both here in prison and once I am released. Thanks for your time. Timothy

---

**From: Walter H.  
FAC  
San Diego, California**

**Christian Ambassadors,** I now believe in the Life of Jesus Christ in that He lived, died, and was resurrected. I also believe He lived for the sole purpose of being God Almighty's great sacrifice. In so that anyone who believes in Jesus Christ can and will be forgiven their sins against God, and receive the greatest gift of all, everlasting life.

Before I came to know Jesus Christ, and how He lived, I was lost and confused in this world of ours. I was trapped in a lifestyle of stealing, lying, and cheating others, all for my own personal gain. Everything was always about me, me, me.

I have personally experienced a big change in my attitude since I have devoted my life to Christ. I now have hope for tomorrow, renewed strength, and the determination to take full responsibility for my crimes. I plan to repay my debt to those I have wronged, through restitution and community service.

In conclusion, my life has gotten better every day since I have become a reborn man. Through the power of Jesus Christ, who washes away our sins, my whole outlook on life has changed, and the way I treat others has completely changed. Now I am eager to help others, rather than hurt them, which makes me feel proud of the things I do, rather than ashamed of them. Sincerely, Walter

---

**From: Ray B.  
Pleasant Valley Prison  
Coalinga, California**

**Dear Sharon,** I write to give thanks to you and all your staff in faith in God and in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen. I thank you for your response and for the newsletter and brochure. I am most grateful. With all respect, I give thanks to you and your staff for all that you do for all who are in need; in times when we have no one to turn to – [or] so at times that is what we think.

I know now all I got to do is to open the Bible and the Bible answers my questions. I trust the Bible because it is God's Words, not men or my own. Thank you for adding me to your mailing list. May God always be with you and with all your loved ones. With respect, Ray



## ***“Simple Truths For Simple Folks”***

By: Larry A. Thompson (F.F.)  
August 23rd 2007, Copyright 2007

If you have ever longed for a love that is everlasting, and a peace that knows no bounds, then you must surely come to realize that neither can be found if you're unwilling to search deep within your heart to find the hidden treasures that God has given you. Or, come to accept the fact that if God isn't the foundation upon which your life is lived, your search will be in vain. This simple truth remains, “...*not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God.*” (2nd Cor. 3:5)

If ever in your loneliest hour you've wondered whether or not I'm lifting you up in my prayers; rest assured my beloved friend, I am. As it is written, “*For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.*” (Col. 2:5)

If you've ever truly had a desire to see the beauty of the valley, then these two things are certain; you must humble yourself and seek your strength from the Lord, without whom we can do nothing. And, you must be courageous enough to climb the mountain before you by faith.

The simple truth of a Christian's journey is, “*For we walk by faith, not by sight.*” (2nd Cor. 5:7)

***“In the Eye of the Storm”***

By Merissa Lee Kelley, December 1, 2000

There's a place of peace in the midst of turmoil  
 A haven that God has provided  
 You'll find a refuge where you can rest  
 When your heart and your mind feel divided

In the eye of the storm...is God Almighty  
 Steadfast as the winds grow in strength  
 He's not confined by human boundaries  
 He adjusts to every height, width and length

When you can't find the words to express what's within  
 God knows the language of tears  
 He sees your need and will answer you  
 He'll reach down and calm all your fears

God's vision is clear...a pure 20/20  
 His focus is sharp and on track  
 When you wander away because of your flesh  
 God is waiting to lead you on back

You need to remember that He is the potter  
 Only He can change a heart  
 Be persistent in prayer...but leave it with Him  
 When you surrender the changes can start

When the sky grows dark and the winds are raging  
 Lift up your voice in a song  
 When you praise the Lord while in the valley  
 You may not be there as long

Time is too short to live "hit & miss"  
 With your devotions and the times that you pray  
 You are more than a conqueror through Jesus Christ  
 And you must live those words everyday

Smooth sailing isn't promised, but one thing sure is  
 God will never jump ship in rough waters  
 In the trials...through the storm...in the heat of the battle  
 God protects His sons and His daughters

*“He stilled the storm with a whisper; the waves  
 of the sea were hushed.” Psalm 107:29*

***“Into Ashes”***By Gregory K. Ethridge (© 2009)  
Greenville County Detention  
Greenville, South Carolina

We create and we destroy  
 From the dust of this ground  
 Abandoning the beauty of earth  
 For the worldly treasures abound.

We rip away the life  
 That God had created  
 The man-made idols take over  
 God's plan is slowly abated.

The things of this world  
 Fade into the sands  
 For its God's gifts that last  
 Not the works of our hands.

In His perfect grace  
 He grants us every need  
 If it's not from Him  
 It's our lustful, evil greed.

Eventually this world ends  
 And the King descends from on high  
 Forget the worldly things  
 For it's only Satan's lie.

Everything here is void  
 A space so empty and dead  
 We feed on the dry, barren land  
 Passing on daily bread.

Life is in Christ  
 The debt paid in violent lashes  
 He comes to take us home  
 When this world turns into ashes.



**“Love”**

By: Donnell Weathers  
High Desert State Prison  
Indian Springs, Nevada

When I think about love, I think of God's most beautiful creation,  
Man made in His image, from different tongues, races, creeds and nations.

Love is the most powerful entity, or substance known to man,  
Since God is love, He left us a Word, a simple gift of His commands,  
That we may obey spreading His love; the message of Christ across the land.  
God's Word is love, *“will you receive it today?”*  
Down on your knees with praying hands.

The best thing about love, that makes it so special,  
Is that it's from God, which makes it so true.  
When I think about love, my brothers and sisters in Christ,  
I often find myself thinking of you.

**My Brother's Keeper**

Vol. 15, No. 1, January-March 2010

**Sharon K. Griffiee**, Senior Editor

**Alan W. Griffiee**, Production Manager

**My Brother's Keeper** is published by Christian Ambassadors, Inc., a nonprofit, tax-exempt, ministry.

© 1995-2010, all rights reserved.

Reproduction in whole or in part, except for personal or group study, without written permission is prohibited.  
The CA logo, with dove and cross, is a registered service mark of Christian Ambassadors, Inc.

Printing and distribution costs are paid for by donations. To have your name added to our distribution please write to:

Christian Ambassadors, Inc., PO Box 62876, Colorado Springs, CO 80962-2876

Inspirational articles, especially from current or former prison inmates, are invited and will be prayerfully considered for publication. Please request a copy of the publication guidelines before submitting an article for consideration.

**Vision Statement** - Christian Ambassadors exists to bring the ministry of Jesus Christ into the lives of people, demonstrating how the gospel teachings can help a person live a more abundant life, filled with joy, hope, and purpose.

If you, a member of your family, or a friend, are imprisoned, wanting to find new hope, purpose, and direction in life, please contact us at Christian Ambassadors. Our website can be visited at:

<http://www.christian-ambassadors.org>.