



JANUARY FEBRUARY 1992

EMPLOYED! *Very Good!*

Were you laid off? Did you receive a pink slip? Do you think a layoff is coming? Are you looking for work? Do you know someone who is? Is business bad? Did you have to borrow to meet your payroll? These are tough times. No doubt about it. But, this is also the truth!

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Phil 4:13) That means you can improve your job situation.

You either believe it or you don't. If you don't, I wish you would.

I ASKED YOU TO

I recently asked you to "Pray for jobs for our students who need work, and for business to pick up, too. Really. Please don't forget. Many of our students, friends and readers are hurting this year." That's a quote from the MONARCH, December 1991.

NOT MUCH BETTER

The number of prayer requests has not let up in the last months. My students tell me things are not getting any better. They say things are getting worse all over the country.

WE HAVE GOT TO HAVE A CHANGE

You can get a good job. You can make a good sale. There are a few things you need to know and do to make the necessary changes.

YOU ARE SALTY

First, you better know what you're like. You're like salt. Right, you're a salty Christian.

YOUR OLD JOB NEEDED SALT

I know something about the place where you used to work. Our GOD put you there to add a pleasing taste to that place. Did you erroneously think that you worked there in order to perform a service or to make a profit for your boss? No. Not so. Your boss might have thought so, but he was wrong. Our GOD put you there so that your testimony could be felt; so that your savor would improve the place. Of course you had to produce to keep your job; that's not what I'm talking about.

YOU SALTY CHRISTIAN, YOU

JESUS said, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:13-16)

It is as impossible for you to lose your good influence on your workplace as it is for salt to lose its taste. I never heard of salt losing its taste; have you?

SALT SOMEWHERE ELSE

You didn't get laid off because you were non-productive. No. Not so. Even the best worker in the place will get a pink slip when the economy is bad long enough. Maybe you thought you were the best of the lot and you're wondering why it happened. Our GOD approved your pink slip because He has other plans for you. He has another place that He wants to salt.

Bless our GOD and praise Him for His goodness, and for your new job, even though you don't yet know where it is. You'll know soon.

A BOX OF SALT

That doesn't mean that you are supposed to carry evangelical tracts to your next job interview. You are not salt on the steak yet. You're still salt in the box. Tell them about your work experience, and your education, and why you can do a good job for them. But, don't over do it. Just a pinch of salt will be enough. The boss is still trying to decide if he wants to hire you.

Let your life and your job performance be your testimony, not your mouth. There'll be plenty of time to use your mouth, later.

After they have learned to respect you, then tell them what's right about our GOD and JESUS CHRIST. The savour of the salt and the respect for your opinion are a lot alike, as far as your new job is concerned. Keep your mouth shut until you are asked. Then put on a little salt, not the whole dumb box. You know too much salt spoils the soup.

That advice also works in family situations and other social situations as well.

STILL WORKING?

You say you've still got a job? Well praise our GOD and thank Him for it. Keep adding a pinch of salt here and a pinch there. You'll keep your job as long as our GOD wants to keep salting the place.

You say you want to keep working there anyway, no matter what. Are you sure? Do you want to keep salting the carcass of an old dead bird after it has started to decay and stink? I hope not. Our GOD has better things for you than that.

RECESSION OR DEPRESSION?

A man said that a "RECESSION" is when my neighbor is out of work. The "DEPRESSION" starts when I get my pink slip.

Don't ask the government if this present economic problem is a "RECESSION" or if it is a "DEPRESSION." They won't tell the truth. Ask our generation. We will.

THIS IS A DEPRESSION

This is a depression!! But why must we have a depression now? Whose fault is it? Are you losing your job because of the Japanese? How about the Germans and Italians? Or are you blaming your bad job situation on our politicians?

You know our politicians weren't any better or more trustworthy back a few years ago, when things were better. Quit blaming the politicians.

You know grandpa's generation brought the Germans, the Japanese, and the Italians to their knees only 45 years ago. Quit blaming the foreigners for your job failure. Sure, our politicians and the foreigners all contributed to our present economic problems; but none of them caused them. What happened?

WHAT HAPPENED?

Here's what happened. First, you must come to grips with the fact that our GOD has never been out of control. Our GOD is in charge of everything -- your job, your home, our nation, heaven and hell.

"If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there."
(Psalm 139:8)

Some preachers believe the devil is in charge of hell; I don't and I don't think the other David who wrote the Psalm did either. My GOD is in charge of heaven and hell and everything in between.

Our GOD knows about the hell created by the present economic depression. Right now our GOD is shaking up both heaven and hell, and your job, and your home, your church, and our nation.

"Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain." (Hebrews 12:26-27)

What's happening? We're getting shook up. Elvis Presley was right when he sang, "There's a whole lot a' shaken goin' on."

Grandpa's generation shook the world apart and blew the pants off Hitler, Mussolini and Tojo. So, how'd they do it? Here's how.

DEPRESSION SHAKE

They all went through the depression. That's how! They learned to play without toys. They learned to read out of only one book. They learned to eat a meal without dessert. Some made a whole meal out of fried green tomatoes and some others learned to fall asleep on an empty stomach. They learned to put cardboard in their shoes and stuff newspapers under their worn jackets. Very few of them learned to dial a telephone until they were teenagers. When their dads told them to adjust the horizontal sinc they went to the kitchen to turn off the water drip instead of to the den to adjust the TV. This is the generation that's come a long way, baby!

Grandpa was a member of the rough and tough generation. They didn't want it. They resisted it. Their parents tried to make things better, but it didn't work.

WEAK OR STRONG?

You young adults may be surprised to know that our government told our schools to watch out for them and take special care of them because they would develop into weaklings as a result of malnutrition they received in the depression while they were growing up. Everyone who was a child in the depression years between 1928 and 1935 was predicted to become a weakling. They got a depression shake instead of a milk shake. Weak? Hogwash! They became one of the strongest generations the world has ever known. They went to the big war and they won.

"Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: LET THE WEAK SAY, I AM STRONG." (Joel 3:10) They did that.

Back home, things only got better after "the boys came marching home." They won the war and then they rebuilt the world. Don't call them weaklings. The depression made them strong; our GOD knew all about the hard times -- and He used the depression to make them strong. No pain -- no gain.

That's why things are going from bad to worse, now. Don't you get it, yet?

GET TOUGH

This present generation is the generation that is going to do what their grandparents did 50 years ago. This generation is being "toughened up." Why? The same! That's why things are being shaken up, right now. But, this generation is going to win the LAST war. Grandpa thought he fought the "last" war; but this generation will.

This depression is getting us all ready for the Battle of Jehoshaphat, closely followed by the battle of Armageddon.

Jobs are getting harder to find because we are getting ready to bring about the beginning of the end. Our GOD has toughened up one generation and he has started to toughen up another for the same reasons. One beautiful thing is that many of our students were the ones who won the last war and many will win the (real) LAST war. WWII, KOREA, VIETNAM - go tell Grandpa and Grandma thanks.

NO ATHEISTS IN A FOX HOLE

But, there are a lot of people in this present generation who will not yet seek our GOD for strength, so our GOD is using this depression to toughen them up anyway because He is going to use them.

Will everyone turn to God? I think so -- eventually -- because there are no atheists in a foxhole.

This generation is going to learn a lot about getting through hard times. And they will use what they learned to get through the next wars.

FAITH OR HOPE?

Now for the hard part of this Bible lesson. You've got to have FAITH - NOT HOPE, to get through this depression and through the next wars.

Quit HOPING that God will get you a job. Use your FAITH to get a new and better job. What's the difference?

HOPE is something you do when everything is in the hands of someone else. When you can't make it happen by FAITH you have to WAIT in HOPE. HOPE is always for the future.

On the other hand, FAITH makes you do something to change things for the better. You take control when you exercise FAITH. FAITH makes you do things at the present time. Quit waiting in HOPE and start acting by FAITH.

Get up early. Fix your hair. Put on good clothes. Get out and knock on doors. All those things are by FAITH. By FAITH you write a resume. By FAITH you spend a lot of money to print it and mail it. By FAITH you train for a better job. You can HOPE for a job by sitting in front of the TV, watching some dumb show and wondering why God has not moved on your behalf. Get off your chair and stop HOPING; get your shoes on and start using your FAITH, now.

I know the Bible tells us to HOPE, but NOT for a job. I'll get to the good things about HOPE in a minute; now I'm hot on FAITH.

By FAITH: (Hebrews 11)

Abel offered

Enoch pleased

Noah prepared

Abraham went out and offered

Sarah judged

Isaac blessed

Jacob blessed and worshiped

Joseph prophesied and gave commandment

Moses forsook Egypt and kept the passover

Israel passed through the Red sea

Israel compassed Jericho

Rahab received spies

Gedeon, Barak, Samson, Jephthae, David, Samuel, the prophets - subdued, wrought, obtained, stopped, quenched, escaped, etc.

That's a wonderful list of ACTIVE verbs to be used at the PRESENT TIME in FAITH.

Your FAITH makes you DO THINGS to produce results.

But, HOPE is different. When you HOPE you don't take any action. For example: Romans 8:23-25, "And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, WAITING for the adoption, to wit, the REDEMPTION of our BODY. For we are saved by HOPE: but HOPE that is seen is not HOPE: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet HOPE for? But if we HOPE for that we see not, then do we with patience WAIT for it."

Paul WAITED in HOPE for the salvation of his BODY. He used the word "WAIT" twice in that passage. The only thing that HOPE produced was an internal groaning; that's nothing like the action list that FAITH produced.

Yes, his SPIRIT was saved (past tense) by JESUS CHRIST; his SOUL was being saved (present tense) by the HOLY SPIRIT; but he HOPED and WAITED (for the future) when his BODY would be redeemed.

The time of BODY SALVATION is in the hands of our GOD -- not Paul's -- not yours -- not mine. So SALVATION of your BODY is by HOPE not FAITH. If there was something you could do to produce BODY SALVATION, you could exercise FAITH and do it. But you can't, so you WAIT and HOPE for BODY SALVATION.

Body salvation is a lot different from getting a job. You don't have to HOPE for a better job. Exercise FAITH for it, now.

I would rather have an ounce of FAITH than a pound of HOPE, in order to get a better job. But, 100 pounds of FAITH and/or 100 pounds of HOPE won't produce BODY SALVATION.

I THINK I CAN -- I KNOW I CAN

Change your attitude from, "I don't know; I just don't think so," to, "I can do anything, if someone shows me how. And if they won't show me I'll figure it out for myself."

You better believe it; "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Phil 4:13)

WORK OR BEG?

Here's the reason I think you are going to get a good job. "I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." (Psalm 37:25)

For years, Betty and I have lived by that verse (and others like it); by faith we have not begged our students, readers, friends, or anyone for anything. We do admit that this ministry does not exist apart from the gifts of our students, readers and friends. But that is a testimony, not begging. You know that for over 20 years I have not begged like some other preachers have.

I don't think you'll have to beg either when you exercise your FAITH and get a good job.

Here's one way we exercise our FAITH -- very often. By FAITH (action) I spend \$3,000.00 every time I mail you a free MONARCH. Then I (wait and) HOPE the words of the Bible study will help you to make the right Godly decisions in your life.

WHO ARE YOU?

Now hear this, you salty Christian! "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy." (I Peter 2:9-10)

That sounds to me like you were created to be victorious.

I still remember pastor David Torrence's young son saying, "God don't make no junk! I'm going to amount to something." He told me that when he was 6 years old and now he is in college. I think he was right, and I think he has demonstrated some things about the difference between FAITH and HOPE.

He knew he wasn't junk. He knew he was made in the image of God. Now he is exercising FAITH by studying in college. He is HOPING that our GOD of the future will smile upon him. For him and for you, I claim this verse:

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Phillipians 1:6)