

WAIT AND TREAD WATER Sometimes it is better to do nothing. There are times when any attempt to do something with one's own strength or effort proves to be counterproductive. God can sometimes demonstrate His power and presence best when we do nothing. To illustrate this point, Bruce Larson shares the following anecdote in his book Wind and Fire:

A few years ago I almost drowned in a storm at sea in the Gulf of Mexico when I found myself swimming far from shore, having tried to reach my drifting boat. I got into that predicament through my own stupidity, something not unusual at all. I can remember saying, "Well, this is it." The waves were seven or eight feet high, and the sky was dark with gale force winds and lightning. I was drifting out to sea when the Word of the Lord came to me and saved my life. What I thought He said was, "I'm here, Larson, and you're not coming home as soon as you think. Can you tread water?" Somehow that had never occurred to me. Had I continued my frantic effort to swim back to shore, I would have exhausted my strength and gone down.

He continues: In all sorts of situations we can make matters worse by our frantic efforts to save ourselves when God is trying to tell us, "Stand still." We have gotten ourselves into a hopeless situation and the more we do the worse it gets.

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES One Sunday on their way home from church, a little girl turned to her mother and said, "Mommy, the preacher's sermon this morning confused me." The mother said, "Oh? Why is that?"

The little girl replied, "Well, he said that God is bigger than we are. Is that true?"

The mother replied, "Yes, that's true honey."

"And he also said that God lives in us? Is that true mommmmy?"

Again the mother replied, "Yes."

"Well," said the little girl, "If God is bigger than us and he lives in us, wouldn't He show through?"

TEMPTATION A youngster was asked what he did when he was tempted. He replied, "Well, when I hear Satan come knocking at the door of my heart, I just say to the Lord Jesus, who lives within my heart, "Lord Jesus, will You please go to the door?" And then, when the Lord Jesus opens the door, Satan draws away and says, "Oh! Excuse me, I have made a mistake."

God has given us Himself to dwell within our hearts. The Living Word is there with a full command of the Written Word. When we let Him meet the temptation in our behalf we shall know the joy of positive victory. We are fortunate that one victory does not help us to win another, for our hearts are kept from feasting upon an experience so that we may gaze upon the living Lord Jesus Christ.

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS A relatively new parishioner was aghast at the dreadful financial condition of his church. He visited with a wise friend and said, "We've tried grab bags, box socials, benefits, suppers -- everything we can think of. What else is there to try?" The friend said, "Maybe we ought to try obedience to the Word of God."

We humans have the amazing ability to disguise things so that our own desires and inadequacies are not recognized by anyone at all -- including ourselves. Consequently, the will of our God gets lost.

Word of Wisdom . . . One thing it takes a lifetime to learn -- and some people never do -- is that you can't antagonize people and expect to influence them at the same time. This is especially true if you are trying to influence them with the love of Jesus Christ.