

*Preface*  
**That Ye May Learn to be  
More Wise than I**

Prepared by  
Elder Dwight Burford  
<http://www.hisworkmanship.net>  
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This book began as a personal letter to a brother in the church who had committed adultery. Upon learning of his circumstance I was led to go before the Lord in prayer on his behalf. As I did, I was instructed to extend the call of repentance to him in the hope that he and those involved in this sin might receive forgiveness and healing through exercising faith in Jesus Christ (James 5:16 with Psalm 51:1-17 & I John 1:3-9).

When asking the Lord for wisdom on how to extend the call of repentance, I was instructed to write him a letter in *the spirit of meekness* (Galatians 6:1). Upon further prayerful consideration of what I might write that would be of benefit to him I was counseled to use for a theme my own experience with lust and what the Lord had taught me through the things I had *suffered* because of it (cf. Genesis 6:57 with D&C 92:1a,b & 102:2d).

While preparing the letter, the Lord further impressed upon me that there are many individuals, especially priesthood, who need to hear this message as well, and that I should make it available to as many people as possible (cf. Ecclesiastes 10:4-6). Accordingly, I addressed it to the members of the body of Christ at large and to priesthood members in particular.

Since first distributing this letter in January of 1998 I have been led of the Lord to rearrange and add some sections as well as to expand and clarify others to provide a more general ministry on the subject at hand. Although the apostle Paul warned that *we wrestle... against spiritual wickedness in high places*, our concern must not be limited to our leaders – religious, civil or otherwise (Ephesians 6:12 & Galatians 6:1-10). Each one of us can be compromised by becoming *puffed up* with vanity (i.e. vain imaginations) and pride, which is *the reproach and snare of the devil*, and *fall* thereby into sin (cf. I Timothy 3:6,7 & I Corinthians 10:12-14 with II Corinthians 10:3-6).

In calling me to minister in this situation the Lord taught me anew how He does not leave us to our own resources or devices to *resist* evil while we labor in His vineyard (D&C 102:3f & II Corinthians 10:3-6 with 92:1a-c & James 4:7). Through faith the Lord prepares us to meet the challenges that confront us – if we will but heed His instruction (I John 5:4b & D&C 92:1a). In the particular situation mentioned above, the Lord led me in a study of the phrase *gird up your loins* just prior to my learning of my friend's circumstance (D&C 26:3d 38:2b, 43:5c, 61:6d, etc.). In this study I was taught, in essence, that one use of the phrase *gird up your loins* involves preparing or equipping oneself to take action by *putting on* and *abiding* in the Truth, i.e. in Jesus Christ (cf. Jeremiah 1:17 & I Peter 1:13 with John 14:6,15:1-8, Ephesians 6:14 & Genesis 7:70).

*Love worketh no ill to his neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and*

*envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ [the Truth], and make not provision for the flesh, to gratify the lusts thereof. (Romans 13:10-14 [cf. John 14:6 & Ether 1:108])*

*Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance; But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. (I Peter 1:13-16)*

Unfortunately, I accepted this study mainly as head knowledge and did not actually apply the principles I had learned when confronted with my friend's situation. In other words, I received the knowledge more as an intellectual exercise as opposed to a call, even an opportunity, to prepare myself to put into practice what I had been taught.

In the end I failed to properly heed the counsel to *consider thyself, lest thou also be tempted* (Galatians 6:1; cf. I Corinthians 10:12,13). As a result, I allowed a number of things to hinder my efforts to prepare to bring ministry to this individual and the others involved in an effective manner.

One instance in particular stands out in this regard. While driving down a highway after leaving this brother's home I allowed myself to become very angry at the flow of traffic. I was in a hurry and had a long way to go. But there was construction on the road and cars had lined up in one lane long before the construction zone. I and others behind me wanted to pass, but several motorists coordinated a blockade of the open lane. In response, I sounded my horn, blaring at those forming the blockade. I cannot recall ever doing anything even remotely like that before.

Through this fit of anger I had unwittingly *given place* to the devil (cf. Ephesians 4:26,27 & D&C 90:8d with II Nephi 3:44, 12:23 & III Nephi 5:30). By not *watching unto prayer* I had allowed the spirit of that evil one to influence my actions and, thereby, *hinder* me in the work of the ministry to which I had been called (cf. Luke 21:36 with I Corinthians 10:12,13, D&C 90:8d & III Nephi 5:30). Consequently, I found it very difficult to perform the Lord's ministry in the days that followed because of this extra weight of sin I had allowed into my life (e.g. II Nephi 3:42-66).

During the editing of this book the Lord thoroughly convicted me of the seriousness of my sin in this matter. He led me to confess and forsake it before my family, who had been with me at the time. And although I am not able to speak directly to those I offended that day on the highway (in this life at least), I am confessing it to as many as will read this testimony. One of my hopes in doing so is *that you may learn to be more wise than [I] have been* (cf. Mormon 4:97). Satan and his emissaries continually look for, or create opportunities to compromise and, if possible, to nullify our ministry, by causing us to become offenders ourselves when we are called to labor in our Lord's vineyard (cf. I Peter 5:8,9, Ephesians 6:10-12, III Nephi 8:47 with I Thessalonians 2:18 & II Corinthians 2:11). As Jacob put it, "*O be wise: what can I say more?*" (Jacob 4:17).

So, please, give the matter addressed in this book your utmost prayerful consideration, not just as head knowledge, but as a practical, working knowledge that will equip you for the work to which you are called. And may you be *filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God* (Philippians 1:11). To Him be all praise and honor forever.