

If there appears to me to be a contradiction [in the Bible], then I need more of His Spirit to see that there is none. And instead of trying to “harmonize” the supposed contradiction, in confidence, I am going to say that the Lord knows all about that; and I am going to wait until He gives me breadth of mind enough to see that there is no contradiction there at all. What I want you to decide now, and forever, is that when you read anything in the Bible, that that means exactly what it says, and you need not hunt up anything else in the Bible to see whether that tells the *other side of it*. There is no *other side*; it is all one. Someone might argue, “Well, then, how are you going to explain everything in the Bible when people ask you?” There is the difficulty; men go out preaching the gospel, and they think if they cannot explain everything that people ask them, then it is going to be a discredit to their ministry. No, sir; it will be well for you to acknowledge that there are some things in the Bible that you have not grasped fully yet. What the Lord asks of you and me is stated in 2 Timothy 2:7, and it is the key of all Bible study; it is God’s direction for Bible study: “Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.” The only thing He asks of you and me is to *consider what He says*. Bear in mind that the longer you have to consider a text to find out what is in it, the more it will be worth when you get it. So there is no place for discouragement. All we have to do is to *consider what He says*, and depend upon Him to give us the understanding of it. That is all.

1893 General Conference Bulletin, pp. 361, 362

Much is lost by not noting exactly what the Scriptures say. In Galatians 2:16, in the original, we have “faith of Christ” just as in Revelation 14:12 we have “faith of Jesus.” He is “the Author and Finisher of our faith.” Hebrews 12:2. “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17), and Christ is the Word (John 1:1, 14). God has “dealt to every man the measure of faith” (Romans 12:3) in giving Christ to every man. There is therefore no opportunity for anyone to plead that his faith is weak. He may not have accepted and made use of the gift, but there is no such thing as “weak faith.” A man may be “weak in faith,” that is, may be afraid to depend on faith; but faith itself is as strong as the Word of God. *The Glad Tidings* p. 41.

## APRIL 2016

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sabbath
					1	2 SS -Joyce Kimbel Sermon - Leslie Walper
3	4	5	6	7 Family Night	8	9 SS - Joyce Kimbel Sermon - Tory Kimbel
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 SS - Jerry Vogt Sermon - Leslie Walper
17 Fall Creek Falls day trip	18	19	20	21	22	23 SS - Ann Walper Sermon - Pastor Clark <b>COMMUNION</b>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 SS - Joyce Kimbel Sermon - Tory Kimbel

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# Bread from on High

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## God's Gift to Us

A.T. Jones, 1893 General Conference Sermons

Do we look to the law for righteousness, even after we have been brought to Christ? Where do we look for righteousness? In the face of Jesus Christ. There “we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory”—from righteousness to righteousness, from character to character, from goodness to goodness, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Then don't you see how the righteousness of God and the Holy Spirit go hand in hand? Don't you see that when we obtain the righteousness which is by faith of Jesus Christ [see Romans 3:22; Galatians 2:16 KJV], that then the Holy Spirit cannot be kept away from us. You cannot separate the two. They belong together. When we receive Christ, then He says we have a right to ask for the Holy Spirit and to receive Him too.

Christ came “to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts.” *He sends it*. He does not want to hold it back. He sends it into the heart. It is a free gift.

Do you see, then, that

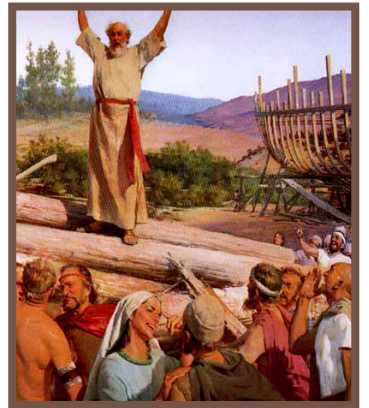
it is impossible to keep the righteousness of God and the Holy Spirit separate? We are “changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” And when the image of God in Jesus Christ is found in us, what then? There is the impress, the seal of God.

By looking into the face of Jesus Christ, and there alone, we receive the righteousness of God which is by faith in His power over sin and death.

The effect of looking ever into His glorious face that reflects the glory of God, is to change us into the same image, to restore the image of God in us, and perfect it in us, by the working of the Spirit of God upon the soul. And when that is done, then the same Spirit of God is there to affix the seal of the living God, the eternal impress of His own character in us.

“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law.” Has He? He says He has, so then He has. Why did Christ become a curse on the tree? Why did He redeem us from the curse of the law? That the blessing of Abraham might come on you and me.

What is the blessing of Abraham? Righteousness by faith (Genesis 15:6). Christ died that you and I might



be made righteous by faith. Brethren, isn't it awful when a man will rob Christ of the very thing for which He died, and want righteousness to come in some other way?

For what saith the Scripture? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.” What was it that was counted unto Abraham for righteousness? He believed God. When God said a thing, Abraham believed it. Agreeing with God, he said, “that is so.” And he believed in the Lord and He counted it “unto him for righteousness.”

We are redeemed from the curse of the law; Christ is made a curse for us, that the blessing of Abraham might come upon us. And what does that come upon us for? “That we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” When the individual believes in Jesus Christ and receives

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the righteousness which is by faith alone, then the Holy Spirit, which is the circumcision of the heart is received by Him (Romans 2:29).

Now do you believe that Abraham became righteous in just that way? Honestly now, do you? Do you know that it was as simple a transaction as that? Has He shown you a great many sins? But He says, If thou be able to number them, "they shall be white as snow." What do you say? Amen.

Then what does the Lord say? "You are righteous." Well, are you? Do people become righteous as easy as that? Is it as simple a transaction as that? Yes, and amen. Thank the Lord! The only thing that can keep you and me out of the kingdom of God is to tell the Lord that He lies.

"For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by One, Jesus Christ." Romans 5:17.

What is righteousness in that verse? A *gift*. "Their righteousness is of Me, saith the Lord." It is a gift of righteousness. He who receives it, what does he receive? A gift. He who receives it as the gift that it is, receives what? Christ's righteousness. According to what? God's idea of righteousness, not man's idea.

Will He give us anything other than that which is righteousness in His own sight and according to His own

mind? No. Do you see that point?

Then he who does not receive the righteousness of God as the *free gift of God*, does he have righteousness? No, and he cannot obtain righteousness in any other way because, you see, it is a gift. It is of God. It comes from God by the precious gift that it is in Christ Jesus.

And therefore it being of God, and He giving it as His own gift, it is left to me to get it in *His own way*. He gives what is His own and He gives it according to His own idea. That is the genuine article; that is the righteousness of God alone.

Then don't you see that there can be no room for a single thread of human invention? We cannot get *self* in there at all. Don't you see how amply the Lord has given that we may have the perfect robe which He Himself hath woven, which is the righteousness of God itself and that which will make us complete now, and in the time of the plagues, and in every other time, and throughout all eternity?

Then the third angel's message being the righteousness of God, His message of righteousness, and the loud cry being the proclamation of that message, and all this being the latter rain which is to come down from heaven, then what is to hinder us from receiving the latter rain now? Unbelief. ☘

## Good News, Better Than You Think

How do Calvinism and Arminianism differ in their views of righteousness by faith? The two ideas are distinctly different. Both try to make sense of what the Bible has to say about justification by faith but neither fully understands; and when God can find a church that believes the full truth, it will proclaim it so clearly that the Holy Spirit will bless as He blessed the apostles after Pentecost, to lighten the earth with the message of Christ's righteousness (Rev. 18:1).

Calvinism holds that whatever is God's sovereign will must be fulfilled "on earth as it is in heaven." From this comes the idea that God must therefore predestinate some people to be saved eternally and nothing can alter that predestination. Calvinism would be right if it recognized that the Lord has predestinated everyone to be saved (Ephesians 1:4, 5, 11). But many will at last be lost; therefore the strict Calvinist conclusion has to follow—that Christ did not die for all humanity, only the "elect."

Arminianism arose as a protest: Christ must be allowed to *offer* salvation to all men, but He must have some resource to back up that offer. It follows that He must have died for all men; but that sacrifice does no one any good so far as

salvation is concerned unless he first believes.

But this raises a problem: the salvation of those who believe therefore ultimately depends on their own initiative in believing. Thus in the end the idea is there, underground in every person's "experience," that he has had a vital part in his own salvation. If we believe we helped save ourselves, pride is inevitable (Revelation 3:17). Until this is resolved, generation after generation who anticipate the "soon" return of Christ go into their graves short of realizing the "blessed hope" of seeing Jesus return in their lifetime (John 14:1-3).

About 130 years ago two young men came up with a clearer understanding: Christ did die for "all men"; He *did* redeem "all men." He *gave* the gift, not merely *offered* salvation to "all men," in the same way that Esau's birthright was his, and no one could take it from him; he had to throw it away. And no one can be lost unless like Esau he has "despised" and "sold" what Christ has given him (Romans 5:15-18; Hebrews 12:16, 17). This truth puts an end to lukewarmness forever. Your soul is "constrained" by the love (*agape*) of Christ, for self is now "crucified with Him" (2 Corinthians 5:14, 15; Galatians 2:20).

☘ Robert J. Wieland

## SKILLET GNOCCHI



### Makes 3 servings

325 calories; 7 g fat; 8 mg cholesterol; 55 g carbohydrates; 14 g protein; 6 g fiber; 616 mg sodium; 360 mg potassium.

- 1 Tbsp. plus 1 tsp. olive oil, divided
  - 16-oz. pkg. shelf-stable gnocchi
  - 1 med. yellow onion, thinly sliced
  - 4 cloves garlic, minced
  - 1/2 cup water
  - 6 cups chopped fresh spinach leaves
  - 1 15-oz. can diced tomatoes
  - 1 15-oz. can white cannellini beans
  - 1 tsp. "Italian" style mixed herbs
  - 1/2 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella
  - 1/4 cup finely shredded Parmesan cheese
1. Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add gnocchi and cook, stirring often, until plumped and starting to brown, 5 to 7 minutes. Transfer to a bowl.
  2. Add the remaining 1 teaspoon oil and onion to the pan and cook, stirring, over medium heat, for 2 minutes. Stir in garlic and water. Cover and cook until the onion is soft, 4 to 6 minutes. Add or spinach and cook, stirring, until starting to wilt, 1 to 2 minutes. Stir in tomatoes and beans and bring to a simmer. Stir in the gnocchi and sprinkle with mozzarella and Parmesan. Cover and cook until the cheese is melted and the sauce is bubbling, about 3 minutes.

## Feeding Your Aging Brain

### The right foods can keep your brain young.

Colorful vegetables are key components to maintaining a healthy brain. Brightly colored vegetables contain many phytochemicals that reduce inflammation and its resulting tissue destruction.

Carrots, bell peppers, celery—and the herbs rosemary and thyme—contain luteolin, a flavonoid believed to reduce inflammation that can lead to cognitive decline.

In a study published in the October 2010 issue of *The Journal of Nutrition*, mice that ate a diet of foods containing luteolin had better spatial memory (for example, they could work their way through a maze more quickly). Their brains also showed less inflammation than mice that did not get luteolin.

Beets, cabbages, and radishes are rich in naturally occurring nitrates (not the kind used as additives in cured and processed meat products, which have been linked to certain cancers).

Unlike the artificial additives, natural nitrates may be beneficial to both our brain and our heart. The January 2011 issue of the journal *Nitric Oxide* (yes, there's a magazine dedicated to this naturally occurring chemical!), older adults who ate a diet rich in nitrate-containing foods got a boost in the blood flow to the front section of their brain—the area commonly associated with debilitating dementias, like Alzheimer's.

Poor blood flow to this part of the brain contributes to age-related cognitive decline. Scientists think that the nitrates' nitric oxide component relaxes the blood vessels, keeping them supple and open to blood flow, increasing the

amount of oxygen-rich blood that gets to the brain (and to your heart).

Another under-appreciated vegetable is asparagus. Like leafy greens (spinach, collards, turnip, mustard), this vegetable delivers folate, which works like vitamin B-12 to help prevent cognitive impairment.

In a study done at Tufts University, older adults whose blood tests showed that they had higher levels of folate and B-12, performed better in a test of speed and mental flexibility. ☘

### Did You Know?

Walking is a gentle, low-impact exercise that can ease you into a higher level of fitness and health. Walking is a form of exercise accessible to just about everybody. It's safe, simple and doesn't require practice. And the health benefits are many, such as lowering your blood pressure, reducing your risk of or helping you manage type 2 diabetes, and it improves your mental outlook on life.

All it takes to reap these benefits is a routine of brisk walking several times a week. Walking exercise can be "accumulative" meaning you can walk briskly for as little as 10 minutes at the time, several times a day and it has the same overall effect as walking for a longer period all at once. It doesn't get much simpler than that. Research shows that regular, brisk walking can reduce the risk of heart attack by the same amount as more vigorous exercise, such as jogging.