

GOSPEL 'shorts'
Trouble In Seeking
And Finding The
LORD



The following are in no particular order

TROUBLE IN SEEKING AND FINDING THE LORD

1. The man who walks the steep road of seeking God gets ever closer to his rest. When he sees his rest it is no hard thing to sit down and finally rest in the Lord
2. Gen 4.6b-7 "...Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it." To do what is right is to repent and obey what God says.
3. This is what a person says about their life when they become a Christian; "I stand corrected." If you do not think this, then you are still in pride's grip. Pray for a true view of yourself from the Lord who reveals the heart.
4. If we need to be clean we wash our whole body, after that, in the day we need only wash our hands and faces. This is the same for the soul, true salvation comes but once, but we must continually 'clean the decks' of our daily sins.
5. Not knowing God as our Saviour is like being locked out in the dark and cold. Becoming a Christian is like when the door opens and you come inside to light and warmth.
6. You cannot serve two masters anymore than chasing two hares and catching none.
7. Healing of the soul and how it may be obtained: Some praise the balm of Gilead, or man's morality; many try the Roman salve, or the oil of Babylon; others use a cunning ointment mixed by learned philosophers; but for his own soul's wounds, and for the hurts of others, this writer knows but one cure, and that is given gratis by the good Physician to all who ask for it. A humble faith in Christ Jesus will soon bring you to this sovereign remedy. Use no other, for no other is of use. C. H. Spurgeon
8. Trusting God: An art teacher once said to me, concerning Michelangelo's art, "Whatever he did is ok with me, who am I to criticize a genius." This illustrates how man may trust other men. But many are not prepared to trust God, the maker of the heavens and the earth, in the same

unconditional way. It is a strange misplacement of trust, often, to not doubt or question fallible men and their 'wisdom', but to be very wary and doubtful of He who laid the foundations of the world!

9. The gospel of John and the BIBLE as a whole: You Bible readers, who have never believed in Jesus Christ, have read in vain: you have read to your own condemnation, but not to your salvation. Oh, you that are afraid that you may not be allowed to believe in Jesus, dismiss that foolish fear, for this holy book is written on purpose that you may believe, and therefore it is clear that you have full liberty to do so. Every time John dipped his pen into the ink he breathed the prayer, "Lord, bring men to believe in Jesus by that which I have written," and he closed his gospel by declaring the inmost longing of his living soul, "These are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God." My dear reader, your immediate conversion to faith in the Lord Jesus is the object of this book. God grant it may be fulfilled in you! C.H. Spurgeon.

10. The unholy trinity: The world, the flesh and the devil.

11. The Bible is a book about God written by men, but equally it is a book about men written by God.

12. I have an old book about art. I've had it so long that I can't remember when I got it or where from.

In fact it seems I've always had it. But somewhere there's someone who knows all about this book, why it was written, why the chapters end when they do, why the dust jacket was designed the way it was, the colour of the title text etc. This is because he or she designed it to be that way, they wrote it and had it published even though they may be old and grey now. This is how it is with mankind and God, but you are worth far more than a book, His eye is always upon you and God is changeless, not affected by time; however, man pushes God's obvious existence to the back of his mind.

13. Too proud to beg? Then, my friend, if no change is wrought in you, you'll never enter the kingdom of God. For begging is the only way to obtain His mercy.

14. To really see our spiritual state, and the reality of the world around us we must learn to see things spiritually with new eyes. This is like turning off a torch or an electric light in order to see outside through adjustment of the eyes to the dark. The bright lights of this world must be turned off in our lives in order to adjust to spiritual sight in this dark world.

15. Show me your friends and I'll show you your character.

16. Do you think it is possible for you to know the Lord? Do you know why you know Him not? Can you cry out to God for forgiveness? Do you know why you need it? Can you truly mean it from the bottom of your heart? If you can, then there is hope for you friend, and you will have an advocate on high.

17. This is the conclusion a person must come to in order to find the LORD; "What can I do to right my wrongs? NOTHING; a free forgiveness from God, whom I have wronged, is the only thing that can save me." Once a person realises this, it is the obvious thing to cry out for that forgiveness in repentance and faith. There is no merit in this act, anymore than pleading for clemency from a judge, but what judge would take the sentence himself. It is indeed a Gospel of good news (which could be open to the charge of being an understatement!).

18. You must come to God as you are in order to be forgiven. You must come as a sinner. It is like an artist who asks a tramp to come to his home in order that the artist may paint him. However, when the tramp arrives, he has tried to clean himself up for the occasion. The artist says, "This is no good. I wanted to paint a tramp!" God will only forgive those who accept their condition, not those who try to hide it and deceive themselves. These folk don't even know what they ask for.

19. There is a swap that goes on within conversion; our sins are put upon Christ and His righteousness is put upon us.

20. A person is saved by grace through faith. But what is Grace? Grace is a free gift we do not

deserve. But what is Faith? Faith is threefold; it is knowledge (of the Gospel), belief and trust.

21. A man tried to listen, but he had no ears.

A man tried to speak, but he had no words.

A man tried to walk, but he had neither strength nor direction.

A man tried to buy, but he had no currency.

A man tried to appease, but he had no righteousness.

A man tried to build, but he had no sure foundation.

A man tried to be free, but he had no key to the door.

The man tried and tried, but he could do nothing.

Finally, when he had come to the end of himself, he gave up.

It was then that he heard the still small voice telling him to stop trying and to start praying.

So he cried out from the bottom of, and with all, his heart for pardon.

He stood up and walked to that great seat of mercy,

And there traded One life for his life without paying a penny, And went free through the door into the kingdom.

22. A man lay on the floor. He was bound hand and foot and dressed in rags. Another Man, clothed in white linen, stood not far away, and knowing the man was struggling to stand, offered to free him and bring him to his feet. But the man was proud and refused the offer, saying he could do it by himself. However, as he struggled he seemed to get himself into a more and more hopeless state.

Finally the man on the floor humbled himself and asked the Man in white linen to free him and asked for forgiveness for spurning His offer. The Man immediately released his bonds and pulled him to his feet.

23. Seeing with the eyes of faith is like trusting your eyes in the dark without the bright lights of the world, believing in the fact that you will be able to see.

24. Have you ever tried to get in somewhere that you couldn't? Usually you have to know the person that's the head of the event. Know the Lord; it's the only way to heaven.

25. Going to God in prayer without pleading the merit of Christ Jesus and His work is like going before a great King who you have greatly offended, and asking him to do things for you! Man deserves nothing himself only punishment. Does this message seem hard to you? Would you rather it were not so? I'm sure you would, but why then do men and women have consciences if it does not indicate a justice above and overall, a justice that will balance all things out. Is not the fear of death bound up in all this, and indeed the fears within life?

26. You want to be saved? You've prayed, but nothing? Come on, persist, mean it, do better, be more earnest, more humble, wrestle and prevail! Appeal the more with true faith and belief, persist, persist! The Lord requires fervent, feelingful and sincere pleading, a repentance worthy of our sin.

27. Finding God: The way up is down! God commands all men everywhere to repent. Hang your head and know your sin before a holy God. The tree that bears good fruit hangs low.

28. "I don't understand." "Do you fear God?" "No", " Well, that's why you don't understand."

The fear of God is the beginning of understanding.

29. When this world gets you feeling blue, what do you do? Do not love the world or the things in it, and come out from among it.

30. Be under no illusion, conversion is a miracle. Only God does miracles. We can contribute

nothing if we are to be saved, and if we are to be 'quickenened' it will be a miracle for we are dead in our trespasses and sins.

31. Prayer is our lifeline to God. How the airwaves are full of chatter at the present time. Mobile messages abound, criss-crossing the globe, with a blanket of chatter above our heads. However, it is sad to see that, at the same time as we communicate with each other horizontally, we do not communicate vertically to God more often than we do. And even when we do, is it not a mere shopping list of requests rather than firstly an honouring of the one true God and a pleading for transgressions to be removed, and a yielding up of our lives to His Lordship?

32. A common mistake in seeking the Lord is to assume that at our core we are basically good people. In our imaginations we are always, naturally, on the good side. The 'baddies' are always someone else. However, God is the source of all goodness, and if we freely admit that we are not Christians and that we do not know God and He plays no part in our lives, then where do we suppose that 'goodness' comes from? Therefore, the assumption that we are naturally good must be challenged. The truth is we have been blinded to the fact that we are on the wrong side! Whole countries can follow evil leaders but never consider themselves to be on the wrong side (Germany, 2nd World War), it is always someone else who is the bad guy when it comes to human nature. Is it therefore too much to suppose that we have the wrong view of ourselves? The only way then to get an unbiased view is to get a truly independent analysis, this comes only from God and we can read it in His word; "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jeremiah 17.9

33. Not wanting to change your life, or to give up things you know to be wrong before God, in order to become a Christian is like a poor, homeless and filthy orphan child, clinging onto an old rag for security. A kind and good man, who is full of fatherly love for the child, offers to wash the child clean and adopt him and be his security. But first the child must give up the filthy blanket and agree to the offer; but the child mistrusts and refuses the loving offer.

34. "Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity." Joel 2.13

35. You can tell when you are walking away from something; it gets smaller. To find God you must allow Him to loom large in your thinking and actions. If this present world seems large and the things of God seems small then seek Him better. Fill your mind with Him. Open up your ears and eyes to Him instead of the world. Instead of movies, go to look at faithful preachers; instead of TV, read good Christian books; instead of self-seeking thoughts, try earnest and reverent prayer. God must get bigger, and the world must get smaller.

36. Just as the man made lights of the towns and cities blind our eyes from seeing the beauty and depth of the stars and bodies in the heavens above us, so it is with the blinding lights of this world and its deceitful entertainments and allurements which distract us from the riches of God.

37. Knowledge is a forerunner within faith. To believe and trust we must first know. The message of the Gospel is this knowledge- find it and you find the road to belief. A man can no more believe without knowledge than the eye see without light. But true knowledge is yet more, it is to know Christ Himself for yourself, to understand, to have it dawn upon your mind what the message really means for you, and then to trust in Him wholly.

38. The man who thinks he can come to God in his own sweet time is being foolish to provoke the Almighty so grievously.

When a child has pulled a face a mother has been known to say, "If the wind blows, your face will stay like that!" Well, if the heart of the man, who wilfully delays bowing the knee to God, remains in that ugly state of stubborn resistance then the Spirit may blow in another direction and your heart will then fix itself in it's hardness forever! Be, therefore humbled for you know not what tomorrow

may bring.

39. Are you a Christian? No? Seeking God? Yes? So how is the battle for your soul going?

Actually the truth is you're probably not helping, you're resisting. 'Seeking' sounds like you have to do something, really it's a case of *realizing it* is what you are *doing already* that is *stopping you*. If you are not yet a Christian the fact is plain, you are resisting the army of El-Shaddia at the wall of your heart. You are resisting the Spirit of God Himself. You must find out exactly why. Work out what your besetting sins are, determine to hate them and have God deal with them and you will proceed. After all it was the Lord who said 'If your right eye offends you, then cut it out'. By proceed, all I mean is to fall before your God, first one knee then the other and bow the heart in true, humble repentance and faith.

It is said 'You have not because you ask not', a man who desires the wares sold in the shop of salvation should not linger but needs to go to the counter and ask, and it will be freely given because the price has been paid.

40. It has been said that looking for God is like finding a needle lost in a haystack. Actually the needle is more like us and our souls, and it's not so hard to find the needle if you have a very strong magnet. God specializes in the impossible. Like the powerful magnet, God will draw us to Himself if we would only truly ask Him.

41. 'There is many a slip twixt cup and lip', as the old saying goes. There's many a slip before you may drink the cup of Salvation. But remember it is Christ who has done it for you (Mark 10.38). Be wary lest you think salvation can be attained in your own time and by your own merit. Seek Him diligently in season or you will never find. The key is Christ and His death, it should be your only plea in prayer and your theme in life.

42. If you find it hard to see the open your ears, if you find it hard to hear open your eyes. There is a clarion call which sounds forth from God's word, let it rouse your sleeping soul. There is light in this world for those who care to see it. That enemy of souls uses smoke screens, be careful lest he beguile you, but if sight is gone use your ears and listen to the true Gospel that leads a man to his Saviour. If it is drowned out by the noise of this world, a diabolical orchestra conducted by it's prince, then open your eyes to the work of His hands in creation and in those who are His disciples. Either way pray, pray that the one who opens the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf will do the same for a needy man's soul.

43. There are two kinds of guilt. One is what the conscience testifies of and warns us about, this is to be addressed not ignored and must be dealt with by the One true God whose business is to deal with such things. However, the other type of guilt is from Satan, and drags the seeker down, ever accusing and lying, telling the soul that he/she is too bad to come to God for forgiveness, and there is none to be had. He tells that troubled person that they should withdraw from God's presence and refrain from prayer. This is false, and a certain boldness must be employed in order to over come it. A confidence not in ourselves but in the promise of God that if we come humbly and sincerely and fall at His feet pleading the merit of Christ the Saviour then He will in now way cast you out. The Devil employs his most cunning schemes when a true seeker is most close to the door into the kingdom, so take heart cast fear asside, and see what the Great God of Love will do for your needy soul. ***Matthew 7.9-11 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?***

44. A true believer sees with the eyes of faith. With one eye we view His perfect life offered up for us. With the other eye we see His death on the cross of Calvary; That great atonement for those Christ would redeem. With love Christ takes hold of us, with faith we take hold of Him with the strength He Himself gives us in true knowledge, true belief and true and trust.

45. To truly understand God is to love Him. Understanding and love go together like light and warmth.

46. The magnet attracts at one end and repels at the other. This is like God. One hand is held out for mercy, but the other pushes away and repels the proud and unrepentant. ***John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. James 4.6 God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.***

47. A major problem with us all is how we view ourselves; it is not how God sees us. We have the wrong view because our hearts suppress conscience and embrace self-justification. We don't think sin, which is all against God, is that bad, and therefore we don't think the punishment will be that bad- or even there at all. But these are assumptions, judgements made with wrong standards. The question for those who come to such conclusions is, 'What if sin *is* that bad?', 'What if God *is* that holy', and 'What if the punishment matches the sin', ***Lev 24.20 'eye for eye, tooth for tooth: as he hath caused a blemish in a man, so shall it be done to him again.'***

48. Some think they know the way of salvation; "I know it's all of grace!" they say, but they are still not saved. The truth is that they feel they can still trust and rely on their own good character and good works as well. They think if they have good works and a free gift from God then it will do no harm. They feel as if they do their part and God does His part it must be better than God alone, but God will have no part in this. The one cancels out the other! You cannot mix works and grace any more than oil and water.

Men view Adolph Hitler as a wicked man even though he could do 'good' things, he could show affection to his girlfriend and pets! How much more is God more righteous than men, so then, how do you think He views our supposed 'good' works. Don't be so foolish as to offer them to God, but go to Him with nothing in your hands and He will accept the sacrifice you bring- that is, a broken and a contrite heart.

49. Being saved is not so much something you have *to do*, but something you have *to realize*. Anything you bring to God is going to hamper you.

50. We men are wretched things. Like worms of the earth. A worm is blind and deaf, feeling its way through the dirt, which is its lot. Unable to rise from its position the worm lives a short life, living only to satisfy its appetite. It would be better off as caterpillar lava. Although they are similar, the difference between the worm and this grub is like that between the 'out and out' worldlying and the earnest seeker of God. The lava must shed its skin four or five times (like shedding the vain things we try to cover ourselves with spiritually). It must then die, or 'rest'. Then from its cocoon 'grave' a new creation will emerge. The butterfly is one of the most beautiful of creatures and its beauty is given it by the Lord. The first time it spreads its wings and flies, the glory is God's. Men are as worms and likewise must be born of God in order to fly.

51. Have you ever read a book that can never be exhausted? I have. Its depths are greater than the ocean floors, for it tells how they came to be. Its wisdom is greater than the minds of wise men for it tells of where they came by their wisdom. Its message is simple and yet greater than all the letters of men, for it comes from God. A man may read it every day of his life for an abundance of spiritual riches and strength yet exhaust it he will not. For it is a well one may always draw from. Go to it if you thirst my friend. Its name? The Holy Bible.

52. Do you think that you must be lost because you are a sinner? This is the reason why you can be saved. C.H. Spurgeon. It is sinners who need and gain salvation.

53. So you have trouble in finding relief for your soul? You've prayed but it's still the same? Well, I ask what is your prayer? And how do you pray it? I trust you know that you must go to God and plead a pardon for a sinner. This is how to pray, as a wretch in need of forgiveness. But what do you plead? Is your plea, 'I'll do better', This is a hopeless plea. Is it, 'Well, I'm not as bad as some', You know this is foolish. Is it, 'I never knew but I do now, so because I believe and go to church and

pray, then help me', This will merit nothing.

There is only one plea to bring to God in prayer, and that is Christ the Lord and His death for sinners on Calvary. Don't miss the point my friend or you will miss eternal life.

54. The Devil's strategy to the lost soul can be twofold. On the one hand he may convince the person that they are too bad to be saved. Or to another person he may convince them that they don't need conversion because they already respect Christianity and have affected some sort of moral change for themselves. Both positions are lies and desperately dangerous ways to think.

55. As talking without thinking is a most prevalent occurrence these days, the old saying comes to mind, 'A brain is worth little without a tongue to speak it's thoughts. But it is also true to say that a tongue is worth little without a brain!'

It should also be noted that a body is worth little without life in it. How much more should we seek life for the dead souls we find ourselves with spiritually.

56. If, however, you are troubled about the power of sin, and about the tendencies of your nature, as you well may be, here is a promise for you. Have faith in it, for it stands in that covenant of grace which is ordered in all things and sure. God, who cannot lie, has said in Ezekiel 36:26: "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh."

You see, it is all "I will," and "I will." "I will give," and "I will take away." This is the royal style of the King of kings, who is able to accomplish all His will. No word of His shall ever fall to the ground.

The Lord knows right well that you cannot change your own heart, and cannot cleanse your own nature; but He also knows that He can do both. He can cause the Ethiopian to change his skin, and the leopard his spots. Hear this, and be astonished: He can create you a second time; He can cause you to be born again. This is a miracle of grace, but the Holy Ghost will perform it. It would be a very wonderful thing if one could stand at the foot of the Niagara Falls, and could speak a word which should make the river Niagara begin to run up stream, and leap up that great precipice over which it now rolls in stupendous force. Nothing but the power of God could achieve that marvel; but that would be more than a fit parallel to what would take place if the course of your nature were altogether reversed. All things are possible with God. He can reverse the direction of your desires and the current of your life, and instead of going downward from God, He can make your whole being tend upward toward God. That is, in fact, what the Lord has promised to do for all who are in the covenant; and we know from Scripture that all believers are in the covenant. C.H.Spurgeon.

57. The Law is for the self righteous to humble their pride; the Gospel is for the lost, to remove their despair. C.H.Spurgeon.

58. It is possible to pray with tears to God and still be unsaved. Well consider King Saul; he cried when David called out to him (1 Samuel 24.16), but he was more sorry for himself than sorry for sin.

59. Commit this saying to memory to remind you of the way to freedom of your soul;

Sin confessing,

Sin forsaking,

Christ's righteousness embracing,

The soul is free.

It once helped a companion of that father of modern missions Mr William Carey, and can help you to.

60. When a man is humbled before a Great King he lowers his posture in respect and reverence

kneeling before Him. This is how to come to God bending two spiritual knees. The first is to abandon your trust in yourself or this fallen world and the proud men and women in it. The second is to accept the rule of God over you, pleading His mercy and giving Him your life being ready to follow Him from now on and to have Him change you. It is if you say to the King, "Forgive me Lord I am a wayward sinner before you, I am willing to become your humble servant if you might be pleased to grant me that privilege in the name of Christ Jesus and for His sake."

61. A desperately thirsty traveller approached a small hut along his road. He entered it and to his relief found an old water pump, however when he tried the handle no water came from it. Then he noticed, sitting beside the pump a small bottle of stale water with a note stuck to it that read "Use this water to prime the pump". The man found himself in a difficult situation, should he trust the note in hope of the ever flowing cool clean water from the primed pump, or should he drink the small amount of stale water in the bottle in case the note was false? He decided to have faith in the writer of the note and trust the message, so he used the water to prime the pump, and sure enough the water flowed from it, and he drank freely until his thirst was quenched. He then filled the bottle back up again and left it for the next traveller.

This is how it is to have faith in God's promises of salvation for our thirsty souls.

62. Faith is like a rope a man may see and grasp in this present life that stretches into the unseen heavenly realms. The rope is the life line to salvation and Christ is at the other end pulling us along. However, lest we think our salvation depends on the strength of our grip and thus may fail, take heart my friend, for the Holy Spirit who indwells us from the moment we laid hold of the rope is the one who gives the strength of our grip.

Hebrews 11

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

When considering this, think of this lesson from history. England is old and small, and in the 1500s the local folk started to run out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins; one out of every twenty-five coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realised they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the body, lead it through and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be considered a 'dead ringer!', it is also where we get our phrase 'saved by the bell!'.

It is so with us, dear reader, we are as good as dead in our sins. The bell is placed by free grace and it is only Christ who can awaken us. Would it be an unwelcome thing to ring the bell in faith? An man is saved by grace through faith. Grasp that cord of faith and the bell of grace will ring, and add it's sound to the angels rejoicing at another sinner saved.

63. One of the most cited reasons for problems in finding the Lord is that a person is still holding something back in their lives, some secret sin or self seeking pathway you will not give up. Is this true of you? If a wife tells a husband she gives him all her love, but is seeing another man secretly, will this love be acceptable? Like Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5) be careful when you pray and claim to give God your whole life that you do not lie to God!

64. Come empty handed to God, empty of self confidence and self righteousness pride. 'It is a happy day when a full Christ and empty sinners meet. Hang self-confidence on a gallows high as that whereon Haman was suspended, for it is an abominable thing. Man's pride may carry him far if he is a great fool; but let him not suffer his pride to carry him into hell, for it certainly will never carry him out again.' C.H. Spurgeon

65. Do's and Don'ts of Salvation:-

Do not delay.

Do not try to save yourself.

Do not hold onto this world.

Do confess, and repent of, your sins, directly to God, in prayer.

Do wholly trust God in, and through, Jesus Christ.

Do give up your life to the Lord.

66. Regeneration is a change in nature. Adoption is a change in position. Think on this; Regeneration is how a boy finds himself in a court room, and a judge declares the boy 'Not Guilty' (this is justification). Then he assumes a different role and says, 'The boy is to come into my family and become part of it' (this is adoption). When this happens, the boy continually takes on the family characteristics and becomes a good son (this is sanctification).

67. If God is small in your sight, it is because you do not humble yourself before him. The right relationship between the saved sinner and the Lord is such, that the lower the sinner goes before God the higher or larger God becomes in his sight.

68. You can never hear the message of the Gospel neutrally. You will either be changed by it or you will resist it, but you can never be neutral.

God. Our Sin Pain Eternally Lost

G O S P E L

God. Our Salvation Peace Eternal Life

69. How do you turn to God?

Let me offer you a simple illustration, which may help. We could ask the question; how do you turn from the 'World' (with all it's human pride of life, sinful show and base things) to the 'Word of life' Jesus Christ (John1)? The answer lies in what you choose to love. Remove your love of the world and give it to the Lord instead, trusting in His work on Calvary.

Here is the illustration:- If you remove the letter 'L' from the word 'WORLD'(standing for your love of it), then you can make the word 'LOVE' from it and apply it to the letters you have left 'WORD'. The answer is now in plain view 'LOVE WORD'.

Jesus Christ is that Word who became flesh. Love him with heart, soul and mind through faith as all men should, and repent of your past wayward affections. Cast those worthless idols away and receive the living LORD of life instead.

70. Do not trust in your *repentance*. Trust in the LORD toward who you direct your repentance.

71. *Faith* doesn't have to be large or strong, but it does have to be true.

72. Riddle: - It has been said, 'Seeing is believing'. But in whom is believing seeing?

Isaiah 45:22

Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

73. Seven Pillars of Wisdom (a didactic): -

1. God has revealed Himself, His ways and the truth. Rom 3.21
2. The human race is 'fallen'. Rom 3.23
3. There is a Day of Judgement to come. Rom 3.19
4. There is a Saviour and a way of Salvation. Rom 3.22

5. He has atoned for our sins. Rom 5.11
6. Justification is by faith alone. Rom 3.24
7. Peace is by conversion (the 'new birth' from above). Rom 5.1,2

74. Conviction of sin and Conversion of soul; -

If you want the truth to 'Dawn' on you, you must first go through the 'Night'.

If you want the shoot of life to spring from your heart, it must rain in your soul!

75. We need to be empty before we can be filled. It's not half and half. Only Christ alone can fill you with life from above. Anything you attempt to offer will spoil the pure gift of God.

76. None enter heaven who are only half-inclined to go there. Cold prayers ask God to refuse them.

Spurgeon

77. The fount of life is like a desperately thirsty traveller who approached a small hut along the road. He entered it and to his relief found an old water pump, however when he tried the handle no water came from it. Then he noticed, sitting beside the pump a small bottle of stale water with a note stuck to it that read, "Use this water to prime the pump". The man found himself in a difficult situation, should he trust the note in hope of the ever flowing cool clean water from the primed pump, or should he drink the small amount of stale water in the bottle in case the note was false? He decided to have faith in the writer of the note and trust the message, so he used the water to prime the pump, and sure enough the water flowed from it, and he drank freely until his thirst was quenched. He then filled the bottle back up again and left it for the next traveller.

This is how it is to have faith in God's promises of salvation for our thirsty souls.

78. Trying to offer your own righteousness to God is as acceptable as decorating a shovel of manure like a wedding cake and offering this to the couple.

79. The mysteries of God: where reason can only wade, there faith may swim.

80. Repentance is hating the things I loved before and loving the things I hated before.

81. Do not hold back; God will have all of you or he will have none of you.

82. My mother's name is Grace, but so should yours be. Grace should be our spiritual mother for no one is born spiritually without grace.