

It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

**Matthew 4:4**

## Store In My Heart

### Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The book of Genesis is an origin story. It tells of the beginning of the world. It also tells of the beginning of sin. It reveals the beginning of society and governments. This book also tells us of the beginning of God's physical people, Israel in the story of Abraham and his family.

We also need to understand that Genesis tells us of the beginning of God's spiritual people as well. Abraham, as well as, Enoch and Noah, demonstrates to all readers the qualities of faith and trust that are necessary to be in God's spiritual family. Centuries before Christ these, and others were living for Him. This book tells of many beginnings. Maybe a little more time in this book would help us better understand the expectations God has for us today.



# God Writes the Story

**Gary Henry**

*"When they asked him to stay a longer time with them, he did not consent, but took leave of them, saying, 'I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing.' And he sailed from Ephesus"* **Acts 18:20-21**

**Paul had wishes and made plans, as we all do, but his plans were always tentative.** What he wanted to happen was always contingent on what God's will turned out to be. *"I will return again to you,"* he said to the people in Ephesus, *"God willing."* Paul had turned everything about his life and work over to God, and having done that, he really believed that whatever happened to him was God's will. So he had ideas now and then, but he would wait to see how God would write the actual story.

In these latter days, God does not speak personally and directly to us; He speaks to us through His written word. So we would not expect audible messages directly from God explaining to us what His will is for our personal lives. Yet we do not need to receive such messages. If we have committed ourselves to Him, we can trust that whatever comes our way is coming from Him.

And bear in mind that this includes the obstacles as well as the opportunities. When we turn everything over to God and ask Him to set the agenda for us completely, some of the agenda that He sets will involve pain and suffering. He knows we need some difficulty, and He loves us too much to protect us from what we need. So we may face some situations and

ask, “How could this have come from God?” But more good than we realize may come from the “useless” and “unpromising” situations that He puts us into.

In all cases, we must trust that the story of our lives is being written by God — and we should be content with the story as He writes it. There will be unexpected turns in the plot. There will be unwelcome events, at least from our perspective. The true story may turn out to be very different from the scenario of our dreams.

But my friends, let us resist the temptation to take the pen out of God’s hand and write the story ourselves. Let us rather wait and see how it all comes out. *“It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord” (Lamentations 3:26).*

“God engineers our circumstances as he did those of his Son; all we have to do is to follow where he places us. The majority of us are busy trying to place ourselves. God alters things while we wait for him” (Oswald Chambers).

(I thought this article fit well with our recent Wednesday evening studies in James. We need to keep God and His work in mind in everything we do. This attitude will help keep us from getting involved in activities that might draw us away from God and keep our focus on God in all parts of our life. DLH)

## For Our Information

John Ragsdale is bedridden. Hospice is helping with him. Betty is exhausted but still helping as she can.

Stanley and Gloria Hurst have both been running fever and not feeling well this past week.

Amy Simpson has been down in her back.

Sue Soliday is getting treatment for the lymphedema in her arm. She has several appointment to check on how it is responding.

Ruben & Brenda Keisler are in Texas this weekend

Dottie Henderson is not able to stand or walk. Her heart doctor says things are still balancing. Hospice is helping with her care. Dan & JoBeth will be travelling a little more frequently as she needs someone with her all the time.

Jeffrey Melton will have hip replacement surgery in the end of August to fix his broken hip that has not mended.

Sunday Evening - **Daniel 1:1**. Wednesday Evening - **James 5:13**

Our Wednesday will be in **1Peter** when we finish James.

## Read, Think, Apply, Repeat

### Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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We seek only to serve God according to His Will!