

A VOICE OF

# fort Sanders's Faith Sons



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## "The Rich are Getting Richer and The Poor are Getting Poorer"

This is the lament you often hear from a certain "compassionate" element of society.



Well, it looks like Jesus approves. \*

Let's look at the Parable of the Talents. That's one of the sections that many people tend to overlook. (If we're going to "let the mind which was in Christ be also in you", (pg. 1123) we're going to have to look at all his life - not pick and choose.)

On page 1916 Jesus says, "As individuals and as a generation of believers hear me while I speak a parable:" Then he goes onto tell the familiar parable. We notice that the actual amount of gain each steward had made was of no consequence. Only if they had used the talents they had. If the one-talent man who buried it had used his talent he would have received the same commendation: "Well done, good and faithful servant (steward). You have been faithful over a few things; I will now set you over many; enter you into the joy of your lord."

But what did he say? "You are an indolent and slothful steward. ---take away this one talent from this unprofitable servant and

Then Jesus goes on to say: "To every one who has, more shall be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him who has not, even that which he has shall be taken away."

How can you take away something from someone who "has not"? Well, it seems that if we don't use what we have - money, talents, whatever - we don't really possess them - They do us or society no good.

The Parable of the Pounds on page 1876, is similar. It is amusing to read that when the ruler was giving the one pound to the man who had made ten, that the other steward said, "But lord, he has ten pounds !" (Bible)

It's strange how some people resent others having wealth, even if they themselves have all they need. \*

We need good honest administrators of great talent to be stewards of God's wealth.

\* Greed and Avarice (envy) are two of the deadly sins of the Middle Ages

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But what did he say? "You are an indolent and slothful steward. ---take away this one talent from this unprofitable servant and give it to him who has ten talents." (Why? Probably because he has more administrative ability than the others, and his use of the talents would benefit society more.)

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\* Greed and Avarice (envy) are two of the 7 deadly sins of the Middle Ages. Also Sloth (laziness) is one.



\* Jesus certainly believed in helping those who couldn't help themselves. It was the indolent and the social parasites he warned us against. See Page 1580. Also read 1704.

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# The ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY of The Epochal Revelations

Of course they speak with absolute authority. How ridiculous to think they would tell us something that wasn't true. They may say they don't know, or they speculate, or they have been forbidden to reveal certain things. But how — what is the need adjective? blasphemous? — to say they're lying.



On page 1102 it tells us that Jesus (who was the fourth epochal revelation) taught with absolute authority.

On page 1109 they tell us that the historic facts and religious truths of the URANTIA Book will stand on the records of ages to come. They can't tell us scientific<sup>ly</sup> that we are supposed to discover. "While divine or spiritual insight is a gift, human wisdom must evolve".

So much for the truth of the revelations. But how we interpret them is another kettle of fish.

How many people really understood all Jesus was trying to tell them? Many times it says the apostles were puzzled, and didn't really understand. And the Alphaeus twins almost never understood what he was talking about. That is, in their minds. But in their hearts (souls) they felt the goodness of Jesus. (1219) They loved him and wanted to be like him and the heavenly father he represented. They had faith. Which is all we need for salvation. (Remember faith "motivates life and shapes the mode of living". 1114)

And us. How many of us clearly understand what the Book is telling us? Else why would we spend many wonderful hours in exhilarating discussion of the meaning? But we do have the Spirit of Truth that will guide us into understanding.

On page 2063 it says we have his help "in accordance with love for truth and



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But we do have the Spirit of Truth that will guide us into understanding.

On page 2063 it says we have his help "in accordance with love for truth and the capacity to grasp and comprehend spiritual realities". Good studying!

## Attention!

If you have friends who would like to receive our newsletter, please copy it and send it on. Our list is getting to be about all we can manage!

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# are we Masters of the Self?

Are we masters of the self now?

Yes — all those who are born of the Spirit. On page 1610 we read: "Salvation is by the regeneration of the spirit, and not by the self-righteous deeds of the flesh. You are justified by faith and fellowshipped by grace, not by fear and self-denial of the flesh, albeit the Father's children who have been born of the Spirit are ever and always masters of the self and all that pertains to the desires of the flesh."



We consider it a privilege and joy to be working toward perfection.

How can we have achieved self-mastery and still make mistakes?

Because we are on the right road. We have turned ourselves over to the direction of our Thought Controller — who isn't telling us what to think, but controlling the thought processes. (1205)

One of the ways we grow is by trial and error. But our Thought Controller lets us know when we've erred. So we grow.

On page 1097 we read: "New religious insights arise out of conflicts, which initiate the choosing of new and better reaction habits in the place of older and inferior reaction patterns"



On page 1133 the Book tells us: "The hunger and thirst for righteousness leads to the discovery of truth, and truth augments ideals, and this creates new problems for the individual religionists, for our ideals tend to grow by geometrical progression, while our ability to live up to them is enhanced only by arithmetical progression."

And farther down on page 1133: "Man can not hope to live up to his highest ideals, but he can be true to his purpose of finding God and becoming more and more like him."

So, you see, if your purpose is to find God — to do his will — you are master of yourself — even if you do progress by resolving conflicts and learning from your mistakes.

Remember, "Salvation is by the regeneration of the spirit and not by the self-righteous deeds of the flesh."

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## Thank God for Conferences!

Several members of our Group attended the Conference

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Several members of our Group attended the Conference  
in Maine.

It was a high experience — not only getting new insights,  
but meeting new people and renewing old acquaintances.  
Also one of the most enjoyable parts was our talk and  
fellowship on the way up there and back.

I was sorry I couldn't find some people who were  
there that I know by correspondence only. I wanted  
to put a face to the names!

Many thanks to the people who worked so hard  
to put together a great conference!