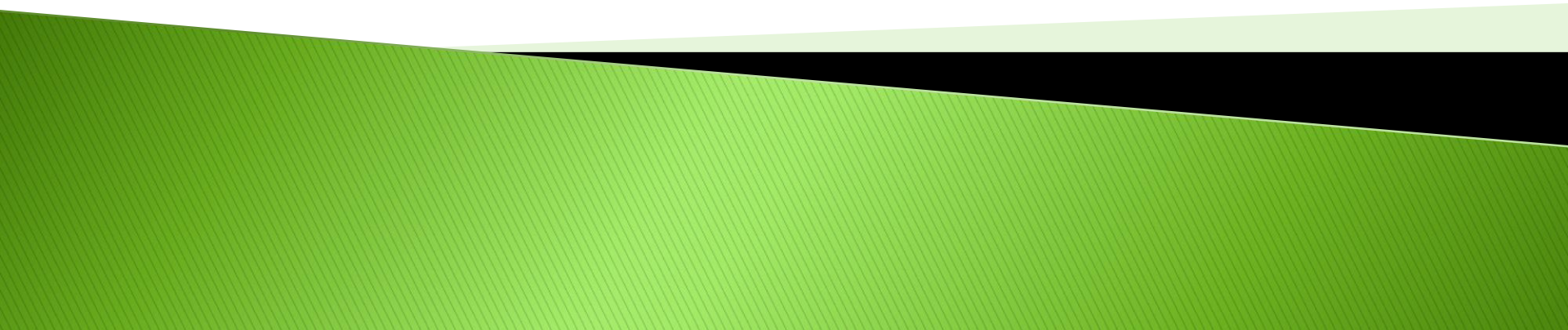


Green Letters

Miles J. Stanford



Who is Miles Stanford and what are the Green Letters?

- ▶ **Miles J. Stanford** (January 4, 1914 – September 21, 1999) was a Christian author best known for his classic collection on spirituality, *The Green Letters*.
- ▶ Stanford references The Keswick Convention and their “Deeper Life” movement. The Keswick Convention which began in 1875 in the United Kingdom. Among the Keswick Convention's early notable speakers was the founder of the China Inland Mission, Hudson Taylor, and in response Amy Carmichael decided to dedicate her life to missions. It was Stephen Olford who introduced Billy Graham to the Keswick message at a Keswick Convention in 1946 over a period of days of Bible study and prayer in a hotel room. This teaching gave Billy Graham the assurance of God's power in his life, which Graham wrote in his autobiography, *Just As I Am*, came to him as a second blessing and had empowered his preaching ever since.
- ▶ In 1960, *The Green Letters* series began, with letters going out to 1,500 correspondents every other month for three years, *The Green Letters*, was published in 1964.

A Journey of Faith



Faith

- ▶ So what is this thing called “faith” Heb. 11:1, 6a
- ▶ Faith is based on **scriptural facts** Rom. 10:17
- ▶ The Word, the living Word is God’s truth –**FACT**
2 Tim. 3:16
- ▶ This is the faith from which we began our spiritual journey-“we **stand**” 1Cor 15: 1-5,
we “**walk** by faith”- 2Cor 5:7, we “**live** by faith”- Gal 2:20b

Enemies of Faith

- ▶ Coincidences
- ▶ Circumstances
- ▶ Impressions and/or probabilities-



- ▶ *“if you can explain it, God’s not in it”*

Faith is based in/on the FACTS of God's Word

- ▶ "Faith must be based upon **certainty**. There must be definite knowledge of God's purpose and will.
- ▶ George Mueller "God delights to increase the faith of His children. We ought, instead of wanting **no trials** before **victory**, **no exercise** for **patience**, to **be willing** to take them from **God's hand** as a means. I say—and say it deliberately— **trials, obstacles, difficulties**, and sometimes **defeats**, are the very food of faith !"



Food of Faith

FOOD of faith- trials, obstacles, difficulties &
EVEN defeats

Something to think about!!

FOOD = Manure in the plant world




Twelve Proofs

that you can never be lost!

1. Because in the eternal, sure purpose of God, **you are a 'vessel of mercy' and will finally be 'conformed to the image of His Son.'**
2. Because **God's infinite power is no longer hindered by your sins**, but can wholly keep you safe, for **the Blood of Christ still removes your guilt.**
3. Because **God's love for you, supremely expressed at Calvary**, can now be manifested 'much more' and **so accomplish His every desire for you.**


Twelve Proofs

that you can never be lost!

4. Because of His delight in the Son, God can never reject the prayer of the Son asking Him to keep 'them which Thou hast given Me.'
 5. Because the death of the Son, having a value equivalent to the punishment demanded for all your sins, has paid also for sins you now commit.
 6. Because by the resurrection of Christ God has broken your connection with Adam and joined you to Christ for acceptance and life.
- 


Twelve Proofs

that you can never be lost!

7. Because, although your sin could hurl you into hell, **Christ as your Advocate defends you.**
 8. Because **Christ 'ever lives to make intercession' for you, Satan has no power to unsave you.**
 9. Because **the Holy Spirit has taken over your body as His personal, permanent home.**
- 

Twelve Proofs

that you can never be lost!

10. Because **the Holy Spirit has planted in you the very life of God**, making God your real Father.
 11. Because **the Holy Spirit has now united you with Christ and you are a very part of Himself.**
 12. Because **the Holy Spirit in you is the seal that your salvation is a finished transaction.**
- 

WARNING

“to accept and teach that a Blood-bought child of God can fall from grace is to conflict with the very nature, character, and sovereign purpose of God, as well as His justice and His love.”



WARNING

“Such teaching conflicts with the **nature of God** in that the believer is declared to be ‘partaker of the divine nature’ (2 Peter 1:4); ‘born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God’ (John 1:13); and indwelt by the Holy Spirit God (John 14:16, 17).”



WARNING

“It conflicts with the **character of God**—His faithfulness and truthfulness, in that the life He imparts He gives His pledge to maintain. His promise is, ‘I give into them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man (self is also “any man”) pluck them out of My hand’ (John 10:28): ‘and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life’ (John 5:24).”



WARNING

“Also, the doctrine of ‘falling from grace’ **conflicts with the sovereign purpose of God** as set forth in Romans 8:28-30, where the believer is seen in the purpose of God in the eternity of the past, in His foreknowledge and predestination, and in the eternity of the future sharing the very glory of Christ (John 17:22-26).”



WARNING

“Then, it **conflicts with the justice of God**, in that God declares concerning the believer, ‘Your life is hid with Christ in God’ (Col. 3:3), and that there is now ‘no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus,’ and no separation ‘from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord’ (Rom. 8:1, 37-39). Thus, we can thank our Heavenly Father for His justice because it is this which preserves the child of God
form a second charge:

*Payment, God cannot twice demand,
First at my bleeding Surety's hand,
And then again at mine.'*



WARNING

Lastly, it **conflicts with the love of God**, in that God declares His love ‘an everlasting love’ from which nothing ‘shall be able to separate,’ for He is ‘able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy’

Jer. 31:3 The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness. Rom. 8:39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jude 24 ²⁴ To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—).”



So in Short Faith is. . .

- ▶ Based on fact
- ▶ Defined as dependence on God
- ▶ Required for everything/ all circumstances
- ▶ Requires we know Him
- ▶ Built from all things given from the Fathers hand, i.e. trials etc. - “the very food of faith.”



Discussion

- ▶ **What does it mean to “declare Jesus as Lord” – Lordship means what to a believer?**
- ▶ **Discuss belief vs. conviction in regards to faith- which are you?**
- ▶ **How does this time today impact your faith, life, your walk? Share if you feel lead with others.**



DO YOU KNOW FORSURE?

God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart.

The following is a suggested prayer:

Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and invite You in to be my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be.

Amen