



the **PROCESSES** and to a host of new resources



"I'm relying on God"



Isn't a good excuse for **stale spiritualness** through **unhealthy** (not sound) **spiritual**

Jesus demands substance
(He will always demand what is right)

Jesus develops substance
(He will always provide what He demands)

4 ways Jesus PROVIDES for substance

"Provide" doesn't mean he does it for us. It means he makes it available. He gives us everything we are incapable of, but what we ARE capable of.

1. Jesus shows substance is needed



2. Jesus provides substantive encouragement



Excellence
"Spoke so effectively"
"Won a large number of disciples"
(vs. 1 & 21)

(BOTH)

Faith
"Spoke Boldly"
"Enabled to perform miraculous signs"
(vs. 3)

3. Jesus creates examples of substance - shepherds and leaders

You and exemplary leadership

Rejecting structure rejects:
- the real human condition (constantly wandering off)
- the real human purpose (responsibility not choice)
- the real human calling (spiritual leadership)

4. Jesus creates substance in structures

Acts 14:23
Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

"My darling child!
She's found her gravity!"



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ACTS

Sin PRODUCES and IS a kind of insubstantialness

it makes us...



Slavish



Hollow

Thin

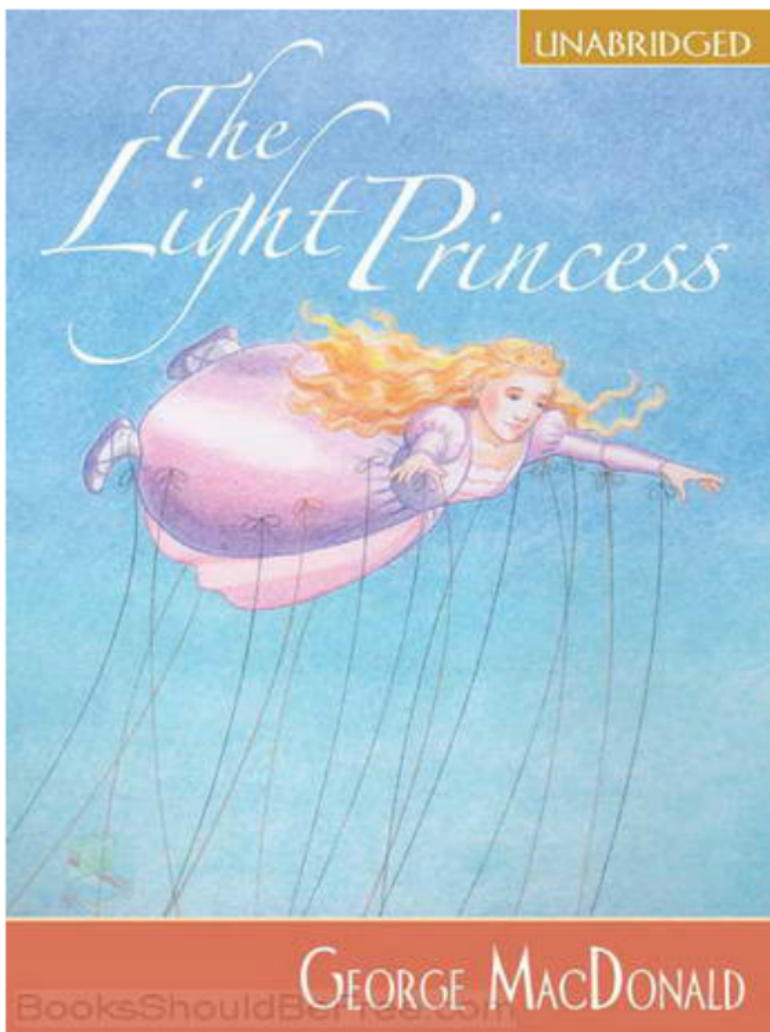


Parasitic

Shallow

Pics Depicting: C.S. Lewis *The Great Divorce*

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(though admittedly it does sound spiritual)

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"Provide": doesn't mean he does it for us. It means he makes it available. He gives us everything we are incapable of- not what we ARE capable of.

Jesus disciples will face viciousness

Acts 14:2

But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers.

Jesus' disciples will face the fickleness of the crowds

Acts 14:13-13 When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" 12 Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. 13 The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

Acts 14:19 Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead.

1. Jesus shows substance is needed

Jesus disciples won't only have to face

VICIOUSNESS in our enemies
and

VACUOUSNESS in the crowd

We will face it in ourselves.

*Sin finds a way to make cultivated people vacuous
and polite people vicious.*

and to the surrounding country, ⁷where they continued to preach^x the gospel.^y

In Lystra and Derbe

TRUTH
RESISTANT + EASILY
MANIPULATED

⁸In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth^z and had never walked. ⁹He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed^a and called out, "Stand up on your feet!"^b At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.^c

¹¹When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!"^d ¹²Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker.^e

¹³The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

¹⁴But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes^f and rushed out into the crowd shouting: ¹⁵"Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human,^g like you. We are bringing you good news,^h telling you to turn from these worthless thingsⁱ to the living God,^j who made the heavens and the earth^k and the sea and everything in them.^l

¹⁶In the past, he let^m all nations go their own way.ⁿ ¹⁷Yet he has not left himself without testimony:^o He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons;^p he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy."^q ¹⁸Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.

¹⁹Then some Jews^r came from Antioch and Iconium^s and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul^t and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. ²⁰But after the disciples^u had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

The Return to Antioch in Syria

²¹They preached the gospel^v in that city and won a large number^w of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium^x and Antioch, ²²strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith.^y "We must go through many hardships^z to enter the kingdom of God," they said. ²³Paul and Barnabas appointed elders^a for them in each church and, with prayer and

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Proverbs 11:25

vs.

Proverbs 27:6

Lessons in humility are SUPPOSED to be humiliating...by etymological definition.

Godly encouragement is VERY OFTEN "bracing"
("brace yourself!" - see what's coming and how to overcome it.)

Acts 14:21-22

They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.

Acts 11:22-26

News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

2. Jesus provides substantive encouragement



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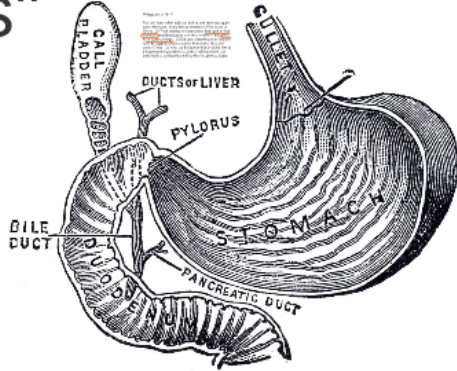
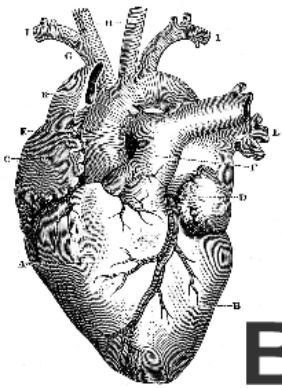
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"The Disciples"



"Stomach Christian"
(worldly and visceral)

Both lack discipline.



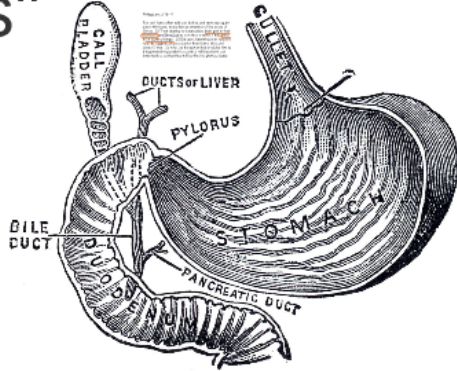
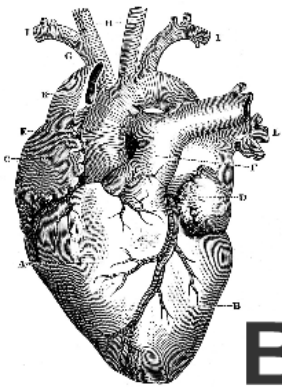
"Adrenaline Christian"
(emotionalism)



Philippians 3:18-21

For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and [they] glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

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Faith

"Speaking Boldly"

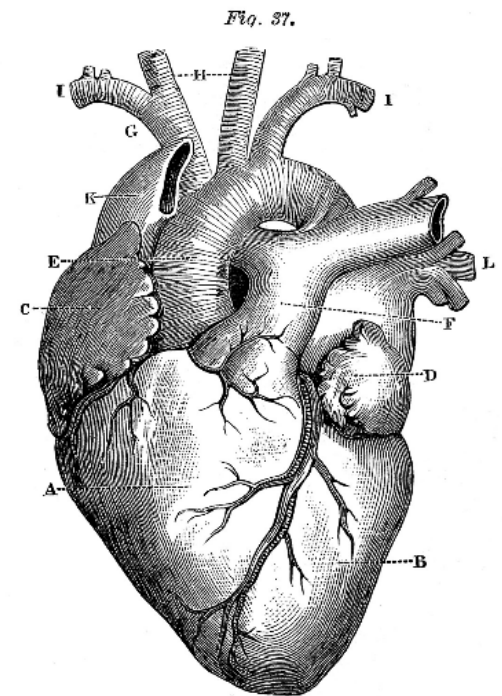
"Enabled to perform
miraculous signs"

(vs. 3)

3. Jesus creates examples of substance - shepherds and leaders

You and exemplary leadership

Abhorrence of hype and fashion,
especially in our leaders,
is a kind of Christian **vigilance**.



Rejecting structure rejects:

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