

Foolish Prayers Fabulous Answers

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The Stan Chinn Experience

Oh, the miracles of divine grace in the Chinn's lives! What a thrill to both hear, and share them! And they are, as the other stories in this book, every word true, as nearly as memory can recall and pen portray.

We first had the privilege of meeting Brother and Sister Stan Chinn at the Laurelwood Academy prayer series. Then our paths crossed not long afterward at Bozeman, Montana. They were on a business trip. We on a prayer mission. But, as always, they loved to share the love, the protection and the care of our miracle-working Christ.

As we entered their motel room that Saturday night, by kind invitation, the fellowship in Jesus Christ was sweet. As you read these wonderful experiences, we believe you will unite with us in exclaiming: "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together." Psalm 34:3.

The Authors

Foolish prayer for a puny man to

Take On the Devil

Not really foolish, because God promises us we “shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.” Eph. 6:16.

THE CHALLENGE of my life is to defeat the devil.” Those are strong words from a puny man! Stan Chinn had been a super-salesman, swinging deals of up to \$1,000,000.00 before he became president and owner of Compass Industries, Inc. with headquarters at Gresham, Oregon.

Trade Unions

But when Stan spoke these meaningful words, he was in one of his several crises with a trade union which insisted on unionizing his construction industry.

Stan had studied most carefully the principles of trade unions. He fully believed the big businesses had, at times, taken advantage of the working man. He also recognized that unions have in many instances been a source of help to laborers. Yet he felt the principle of force, too often employed by trade unions, is incompatible with the principles of the gospel. He could not be signatory to any program which goes contrary to the plain injunctions of Scripture pertaining to the very issue of capital and labor. Though taken advantage of, the laborer is commanded to, “Be patient therefore, brethren, . . . for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh . . . behold, the judge standeth before the door.” (See James 5:1–9.)

Not a Hasty Decision

Stan's decision not to join a trade union was in no wise hastily made. He had studied the Scriptures most prayerfully. He had studied the writings of our favorite author. He consulted with a number of prominent ministers of the Gospel.

Some of the clergymen with whom Mr. Chinn discussed the problem, had not considered the matter too carefully. Yet all felt that in the last analysis, the decision is personal with each individual. Stan did receive the support, however, of his Elders in being true to his convictions. Among these clergymen were those who united with Stan in earnest prayer that he would receive the sustaining grace of God to prove true to what he, and they, felt were pure principles of the Gospel. Hence, Mr. Stan Chinn did not take on the devil in his own strength, but in God's. "I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me" (Phil. 4:13).

Christian Attitude

"Resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also," is a principle direct from the lips of our Lord Jesus, Himself (Matt. 5:39). "Avenge not yourselves." Love "seeketh not her own." "Freely give." "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you," commanded Jesus, "that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven." (Rom. 12:19; 1 Cor. 13:5; Matt. 10:8; Matt. 5:44, 45.) These verses of Scripture epitomize Stan Chinn's code of honor—not the principle of force, with its resultant strife. Even bloodshed has followed in the path of trade unions in an effort to receive what man believes is his own due.

Jesus had said of Satan, "He was a murderer from the beginning" (John 8:44). Satan's kingdom is built on the principles of selfishness, force, hatred and bloodshed.

Stan concluded that once a human being accepts the Gospel, he begins a specialized relationship with two supernatural beings—One is Christ, the other, Satan. The spirit and character of the two are at complete variance with one another. And "no man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matt. 6:24).

A Winning Stan

Again and again, Stan had won out against the powerful pressure of trade unions. Try as they would at intimidation, they met with a Lutherlike response: “Here I stand. God help me. I cannot do otherwise.” Stan Chinn wondered if his standing firm to principle might result in bodily injury, or even jail. But little did he dream Satan would attack him from *within*.

Knotlike Boils

“So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils” (Job 2:7).

At first something appeared on Stan as knots on his chin and back of his right ear. His family doctor gave him a series of antibiotics, hoping that these knots were mere infection symptoms. When after a week, the knot behind Stan’s ear was larger, his doctor suggested they consult with Dr. Syphers, who felt surgery would be wise.

Dr. Syphers informed Stan that the right side of his face would probably be paralyzed temporarily—possibly three months, or so. He also warned of sizable scars in the two locations.

Stan realized the full import—confinement, and the inability to carry on with his construction activities as before.

Checking Into the Hospital

But Stan had complete confidence in these Christian doctors. “I did not feel there was any reason for concern over the possibility of this being a malignancy,” he said. And the following Tuesday evening Stan checked into the Portland Adventist Hospital as a patient.

Stan found himself among friends when he entered the spacious hospital lobby. Many of the workers attended the Mt. Tabor church located across from the hospital, where Stan served as the head elder. While chatting with a friend, he learned that Pastor Ernsten was a patient in the hospital at that time. Stan asked the admitting clerk for the privilege of being assigned the unoccupied bed in the pastor’s semiprivate room. Stan and the pastor were close friends. So his request was understandable.

A pleased smile brightened the face of the ill pastor as Stan walked into the room, for he thought Stan had merely come for a visit. After chatting a while, Stan chuckled: “I like you so much I think I will spend the night with you.”

Pastor Ernsten showed a wee bit of gracious embarrassment when Stan

began removing his shoes and preparing to do exactly as he had suggested. The good pastor replied with a curious smile: “That is all right with me, if you think the authorities won’t object.”

“Seriously though, I am a patient here, too, and requested the privilege of sharing your room,” Stan explained.

The Surgery

The operation the next day took about three-and-one-half hours. When Stan awakened, he groggily understood that his wife and Mrs. Ernsten were standing over him. That night the side effects of the anesthetic caused Stan great discomfort, restlessness and tossing.

The next morning Stan overheard Mrs. Ernsten ask her husband, “Did you sleep well last night?”

“No,” the Pastor replied, “I couldn’t sleep. My brother was sick.”

“Pastor Ernsten was a very godly man,” Stan told me. “He was concerned for my life and could not rest, knowing that I was sick. He was that kind of man,” Stan emphasized.

Thursday afternoon, a customer of Stan’s from Denver called him, stating that he wanted him to build a plant for him back in Montana. After concluding the call, Stan’s wife and two daughters came in to see him. They were quite elated over the prospect of the deal. Although Stan was still in the hospital, they were thrilled that he was able to carry on his business.

Cancer

In the midst of their rather carefree conversation, suddenly Dr. Syphers appeared in the room. He visited with the family for a while, and then said, “Well, I hate to break the spell of a happy family, but I have a message for you that I don’t like to share, but it is my duty to do so. Our findings were, that your tumors were malignant. Being in the lymph glands, it is impossible to know how extensively it has spread.”

In relating this story, Stan said, “I don’t know whether or not any of you have had this shock; but if you have, you know somewhat the way I felt.

“I realize,” he continued, “that I am not the only one who has ever had cancer. I am not the only one who has been afflicted. Needless to say, my emotions changed quite rapidly.”

Mrs. Chinn asked their two daughters to leave the room. These things are not easy, or simple, for a family to take.

Facing the Grim Reaper

“If you’ve ever seen a grown man cry,” Stan continued, “you know what it is like.”

(He recalled that at the Toastmaster Club, they recommended that each of the students get to his feet and give a two-minute talk on what he would do if he had only two days left to live. Stan challenges the readers of this experience, and all with whom he comes in contact, to give this same solemn thought much earnest consideration.)

Security

Stan actually, for days, gave himself up to almost uncontrolled tears. “All the things I thought I had to make me secure, suddenly became very insecure. I couldn’t seem to think of any magic number I could dial to ask for money to save my life.” Stan exhorts business men who have made their business their god, to remember that they cannot call on business to save their life. “I can testify that your only salvation is Jesus Christ,” Stan says.

But the greatest challenge that faced Stan in that crisis hour was the possibility of breaking the chain of friendship. “I don’t know how much you crave the friendship of those around you,” he said, “but I know how much it meant to me in that hour.”

Discussion With God

“I had a pretty long, drawn-out discussion with God after this announcement of the doctor,” continued Stan. “So I felt that He and I had a pretty good understanding about things. But I remembered some of those I loved very much who were not in the Ark of Safety; who had not accepted the truth of God’s Word; who had not come all the way; who had not taken Christ as their Savior. This is a hard link to take out of this chain. I remembered the letters I should have written to those I love, to encourage them to give up the gods of this world, and to lay hold on the One who is life eternal.”

Later, in his public testimony, Stan challenged his hearers, “I wonder if you are remembering the letters you have not written yet; of the ones you have not yet approached with the knowledge of the love of God, of His Word; of the surety of salvation it offers through Jesus Christ.

Changed Plans

“The word *cancer*,” continued Stan, “will change your prayers, and bow

your head. If you prayed a ‘canned’ prayer previous to this, it will change that, too. It will change your conversation with the Lord. It will change the type, the quality of the music you listen to. It will change your talk. It will change your value of time. It will change the excuse, ‘I’m too busy to win souls.’ It will change your attitude toward the pastor, toward church work, and toward the spirit of cooperation. Toward unity, toward criticism, and toward every branch of the work of Christ.”

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:12).