

*“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).*

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## THROUGH FAITH

*Johnie Edwards*

The phrase *“through faith”* occurs a number of times in the Bible. The fact that God used it shows its importance. Let’s take a look at some of the times the phrase is used.

**THROUGH FAITH WE UNDERSTAND ABOUT THE CREATION.** We are often told that things just happened or there was an explosion and here we are. Not so! The Hebrew writer said, *“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear”* (Heb. 11:3). I cannot explain the creation, but I can believe it as recorded in Genesis 1. If one believes the Bible, then he has no difficulty in believing how things were created. God spoke things into existence. *“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light”* (Gen. 1:3).

**JUSTIFIED AND SAVED THROUGH FAITH.** Paul said that men are justified by and through faith. Romans 3:30 says, *“Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.”* Paul told the brethren at Ephesus, *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of*

*God”* (Eph. 2:8). When individuals put their faith to work in obedience to the gospel, they can be saved as James says in James 2:24-26.

## WE ARE RISEN WITH CHRIST THROUGH FAITH.

When one’s faith is put to work in obeying the Lord in baptism, then he is risen with Christ. Paul told the Colossians, *“Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead”* (Col. 2:12). One risen with Christ is a member of the Lord’s church and is in the relationship where he can enjoy God’s spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3).

## ONE IS MADE WISE UNTO SALVATION THROUGH FAITH.

*“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus”* (1 Tim. 3:15). A lot of people are unwise when it comes to salvation. If we will but put our faith in the Lord and do what He has told us, then salvation can be ours.

**THROUGH FAITH WE CAN INHERIT THE PROMISES.** The Hebrew writer said, *“That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises”* (Heb. 6:12). After one has

obeyed the gospel, he must keep his faith alive and be patient unto the second coming of the Lord so he can inherit the promises.

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## MARCHING ON

*John Edwards*

The Bible pictures Christians as militant soldiers marching beneath the blood-stained banner of the Lord. Christians are engaged in a spiritual warfare against Satan and the forces of evil (Eph. 6:12). For years Christians have joyfully sung: *“We are marching on to eternity...”* Here are some essentials for marching on:

**A GOOD CAPTAIN.** The Hebrew writer identifies Jesus as the captain of this great army in Hebrews 2:10. Peter recognized Jesus as captain when he said, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life”* (Jn. 6:68). As captain, Christ has the lead and we must follow (1 Pet. 2:21).

**A QUALIFIED ARMY.** A qualified army is one with good, qualified soldiers. Timothy was to be *“a good soldier of Jesus Christ”* (2 Tim. 2:3). There is a real need for good soldiers today! A good soldier is well disciplined. He takes orders and

obeys without question (Heb. 5:9). The Lord's army must always be on the lookout for spies (Gal. 2:4). The Lord warns against false teachers in 2 Peter 2:1-3. Further, a good army is a united army. Each soldier has a part to supply (Eph. 4:16). A divided army will destroy itself (Gal. 5:15).

#### **THE PROPER ARMOUR.**

The Christian soldier is arrayed in the proper armour when he puts on "the whole armour of God" (Eph. 6:11). This involves "having your loins girt about with truth," "having on the breastplate of righteousness," "your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace," "taking the shield of faith," "the helmet of salvation," "the sword of the Spirit," and "praying always" (Eph. 6:14-18).

Let us march on to victory!

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## **EYES OF THE LORD**

*John Edwards*

The eyes of the Lord are mentioned in both the Old and New Testaments. Since the Lord

God is a "Spirit" (Jn. 4:24), and a Spirit "hath not flesh and bones" (Lk. 24:39), the eyes of the Lord are spiritual in nature and not physical.

**GRACE FILLED.** Genesis 6:8 says, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." God's gift of grace has made the salvation of all men possible. Paul recorded, "For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8). Titus was told, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men" (Titus 2:11).

**ALL SEEING.** Solomon wrote, "The eyes of the Lord are in every place..." (Prov. 15:3). An individual cannot escape the all-seeing eyes of the Lord! "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth" (2 Chr. 16:9; Zech. 4:10). The Psalmist knew that he could not escape the surveillance of the Lord's eyes (Ps. 139:7-8).

**EVIL AND GOOD BEHOLDING.** The wise man declared, "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding

the evil and the good" (Prov. 15:3). The Spirit revealed, "For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings" (Prov. 5:21). Job said, "For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings" (Job 34:21). A person may be capable of hiding his evil doings from men in this life, but he cannot hide them from God! The weeping prophet said, "...for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men" (Jer. 32:19).

**OVER THE RIGHTEOUS.** "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil" (1 Pet. 3:12; Ps. 34:15). Job 36:7 states, "He withdraweth not his eyes from the righteous..."

**UPON HIS PROMISES.** The Lord always remembers and keeps His promises. The Lord made a land promise in Genesis 12:1-7 and God never lost sight of it! "A land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it" (Dt. 11:10-12).

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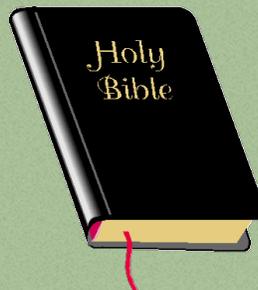
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