THOUGHTS OF JANUARY, 2012

1. How about opening our new year with a self-evaluation? Do it for yourself and then get 2 others to evaluate you by the same 5 questions. How is your ability to:

 1. … associate ideas? When you hear or see something, do you relate and adapt it to your own situation or to situations you could develop? A good learning process involves the ability to add new knowledge or imagination to previous knowledge or imagination. Like a house if built from the bottom up, so is knowledge.

 2. … question the status quo? Does your thinking go along and stay with the flow of others’ thinking, or do you tend to challenge standards and procedures and think of other ways to say and do those same things? For this to work for us, we have to have an encouraging imagination which often comes from success with previous imaginations. It is remarkable how some can fail time after time but still have a driving imagination – that for most eventually pays off.

 3. … observe and listen to others, and devise new thoughts and actions based on their thoughts and actions? If our mind-set is that everything must originate with “me” we are not going far in life or in any other project. Good teachers like to see their students move ahead of their teachers.

 4. … network with others, drawing from them and drawing them into your vision and labors? It’s like, “in a multitude of counselors there is safety/victory” – Prov. 11:14; 24:6.

 5. … experiment, with at least some degree of commitment to the project? Gideon was not reluctant to experiment – Jud. 6:36-40. Neither was Abraham – Gen. 18:22-33. Nor Peter – Matt. 14:28-29.

 If you are noted for doing the above, you should be encouraged to step out on your own. You are a visionary who has talent to lay a strong foundation and to succeed with your ideas.

2. Some don’t agree, nor do they seem to want to agree, with me that the best of this life is yet to come. That’s true, no matter our age or condition. Wouldn’t it be terrible if our best was past! [My soul runs from that mindset.] It would be all downhill thereafter. That’s not necessary.

3. Our mayor is promoting Corpus Christi’s Citizen’s Creed, which goes like this:

 1. I promise to be a person of integrity.

 2. To honor those I live with, work alongside, and reside by.

 3. I promise to care for my community, to recognize and honor our leaders, to exemplify my beliefs

 by the way I live, the words I speak and the attitudes I display.

 4. I promise to make a difference in Corpus Christi by supporting those making a difference.

 5. I will love more, pray more, give more, forgive more, dream more, and be more for my family, my

 community, my country, and my God.

 6. I will honor my rights by living out my responsibilities for Corpus Christi.

 7. For this is my citizen’s creed.

4. On the Jewish calendar, Thursday, January 05, 2012 is the 10th day in the Hebrew month of Tevet. It is a day of mourning, being the anniversary of the date on which the Babylonian emperor Nebuchadnezzar began his siege of Jerusalem in 420 B.C. It took Nebuchadnezzar 30 months to breach the walls. One month later he destroyed that first temple and the people were sent into exile to Babylon for the next 70 years.

Upon their release by Cyrus the Great, only a small part of them chose to return to Jerusalem with Ezra. Cyrus realized it was the God of the Jews who had called, anointed, and prospered him in all of his ways, and saw in the writings of the Jews that their captivity was to be for only those 70 years. He believed the written word of God and acted upon [called “faith”] that which was written. No wonder God loved Cyrus.

NOTE: Nebuchadnezzar’s destruction of the first temple [Solomon’s temple] was on the same date that the Romans destroyed the second temple [“Ezra’s temple”] approximately 490 years later. One outside retaining wall of the second temple still remains and is referred to as the Western Wall, or Wailing Wall, the place where Jews weep because of its destruction.

Especially on days of mourning, rabbis urge Jews to repent by reflecting on these and other tragic events over the millennia of their history in order to improve their ways, to bring a better future, and to bring about the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem.

Other events are mourned on the 10th day of Tevet: 1) The death of Ezra the Scribe who led the exiles back to Jerusalem, who was instrumental in rebuilding the second temple and, even greater, who led the revival of Jewish adherence to the written word of God, the Torah. 2) A general day of mourning for the victims of the holocaust. 3) The translation of the Torah into Greek, known as the Septuagint. My being a recipient of God’s grace through that translation, I had not been aware that it was a time of sadness for the Jews – that their Holy Writ had been adulterated, contaminated, denigrated, etc. I understand their sadness, and look forward to the time when they too will rejoice over that and other translations.

5. Nancy is active and industrious – in our home, in the garden/yard, in her and my services to the Lord, church and world. So, when she has the opportunity to [and will] stay a bit longer in bed than I do, or to take a daytime nap, I am pleased. If she were lazy I know that I would not be as delighted when she takes those extra times to rest.

Seeing righteousness being rewarded is a blessing. Rewarding the righteous is an even greater blessing. Perhaps we can be God’s means of blessing more of the righteous.

My central Thought here is that if we are diligent about our faithful service in the kingdom, our “time outs” are as pleasing to the Lord as are our “times in.” He even arranges our respites, becoming our travel agent and tour guide! On the other hand, if we are slothful [Rom 12:all; Heb. 6:9-12] He is not pleased with our behavior, including our time outs – such as vacations, holidays, weekends, evenings at ease, and retirements. I can imagine that He might even arrange some sort of customized enlightenment for each of us in order to improve our attitude and performance about faithful work and recreation.

We are his workmanship, from beginning [long before we were earth-born] to end [long after we will finish this earth-life]. It is thin-minded for us to think that our Creator is involved with us starting at the beginning of our earthly salvation/born-again experience and then we are on our own with His instructions for behavior and service. He purposes great things for us in the here-and-now and in the hereafter, upon which our daily attitudes and diligence have a significant bearing.

My flesh does not always appreciate being disturbed during my rest, leisure, and spare time – or during the times of my active service to Him. That weakness can be compared to a captain on active assignment being agitated when his general calls him. Not good! When I see myself acting that way I know the Lord is working deeper in my soul.

6. One of the ways that governments grow is through the process of people seeking favors. After our Civil War during the mid 1800s, General Grant was elected president. He had the habit of walking from the White House [his residence] to the Willard Hotel where he enjoyed a bourbon and cigar. During that time he enjoyed something else – people hung out in the hotel’s lobby, waiting to talk to him about appointments to federal jobs.

Thus we had a new word added to our dictionary – lobbyist. It didn’t take long for politicians to realize that favors created loyal supporters who help you get reelected. More goodies required more government; more government meant more goodies. Elbow-room at the trough has been at premium since then.

Think how that looks to the Righteous One who is no respecter of persons. Our world’s carnal systems would begin to fail if our many carnal support systems and supporters were to cease in our unrighteousnesses. Think how that carnality may be functioning in our lives. Do we readily take a side simply because of friendship or benefit? Selah. Friendship will indeed support a friend, but may call for our opposition to that friend’s purpose. The truth in word and deed must be applied.

Governments grow fat due to cronyism, as do friendships. Fat lacks strength; truth has muscle. The kingdom of heaven and its King are coming. The kingdom of this world and its kings are falling. Heaven is on its way to earth and the spiritual powers over and on the earth know it. They are self-destructing. Everything that is rooted in unrighteousness is being shaken. All things of God will stand.

So, stand!

7. Decent people have difficulty obeying immoral laws. For years, in my medical practice, I intentionally violated governmental rules and regulations that were immoral. Christians should be the most law abiding citizens in their land. However, as in America, when morality wanes and immorality waxes, the laws of the land mirror and even lead those changes. Decent people refuse to obey them.

That presents the government, society in general and the decent people in particular with a problem. Because the slide into immorality ordinarily happens over several generations the masses, who usually have several reasons to go with the slide, such as slothfulness and greed [others’ money through taxation], force of law [government medical care or none], ignorance [public education], unawareness [biased or lazy news media], etc. become adjusted to the new immorality. The decent nonconformists are labeled as troublemakers, and government comes down against them; thus fulfilling the word of Scripture – Matt. 5:11-12; 2 Tim. 3:12.

Frederic Bastiat’s criterion for determining the righteousness of a government is: “See if the law benefits one citizen at the expense of another by doing what the citizen himself cannot do without committing a crime.” The government’s growing hostility to a moral culture, the bedrock of American life, is promoting homosexuality and prosecuting those who speak out against that evil, and protecting those who kill unborn and newborn babies, to name only two of our slides into immorality.

Decent people must disobey immoral laws. They are compelled from within.

8. Those gigantic trees, the redwoods, are interesting in many ways. My Thought about them today is that it is a miracle that they can even stand, holding up under the bashing of winds, although they have only a shallow root system. The reason they can? Their roots entwine with other redwoods that stand nearby. That mutual assistance stabilizes them. God’s principles apply broadly, don’t they! Proverb 13:20 is applicable.

9. Mary was impregnated by the Holy Spirit while she was engaged, before she was married. The church is in the same condition. She is impregnated by the Holy Spirit while engaged to the Lord Jesus, not yet being married to Him. The marriage will occur in heaven before He and we return to earth to reign for 1,000 years in Jerusalem over the earth.

10. The evangelist will run to the place where the enemy is now attacking, knowing it is the Lord’s place and time for him.

11. I know this Thought applies to you as well as it does to me, because I know each of you and that you are exactly like I am. It’s from Psalm 107, verses 23-32, with emphasis on verse 27. That verse shows the stresses of life and how we come to the end of our wits, before we [adequately] cry out to the Lord and receive His intervention. The picture is of sailors/Christians who have sailed those waters many times, who have the confidence and ability to make the trip again even if things go bad, but who on this trip encounter the impossible.

 Remember, saints, that it is the Lord who originates the storms, not only the One who calms them. We probably do not need to be reminded that storms are essentials for our growth, but do need to be reminded of our need to be stretched to wit’s end – also for our growth. Being stretched to our wit’s end means that we are absolutely despairing, that we know there is absolutely no solution and no way out. The righteous refuse to take a tainted way out at that point. The Lord is a great architect, developer and stretcher.

12. The numerical growth of the church is about the same as the growth of the world’s general population. One reason for our growth is our increasing persecution in non-Christian nations. Sub-Saharan Africa was 9% Christian at the beginning of the 1900s, and was 63% by the end of the century.

In Europe it’s a different situation. Whereas the Christian population was 95%, it reduced to 76% over that century. In America, the reduction was from 96% to 86%.

The cause of those shifts? Persecution vs. no persecution. Where there is persecution, the church grows. Where there is no persecution, the church dies.

13. Tim Tebow is the Lord’s man of the sports hour. The Lord has ways of showing that to be true. Not only is he successful, but in a remarkably played game last weekend his team won on the first play from scrimmage in overtime – an 80 yard pass and run play for a touchdown.

You knew that, but did you know about the “3:16s?” He has said many times during interviews that John 3:16 is his favorite verse in the Bible. He even wore the reference on his eye black. Then, last weekend, he passed for 316 yards, and had a 31.6 yards per pass average. [No one had done that well since 1972.] The television rating for the game peaked to 31.6.

Surely the Master Coach would not just “allow” that sort of thing to happen! It looks deliberate to me.

14. There is a vast difference between, 1) the ministry of the church is to prepare its members for life in this world, and 2) the ministry of the church is to prepare its members to be the bride of Christ. As you think about it, the first is man-centered and not likely to be costly; the second is Christ-centered and is guaranteed to be costly.

15. One of the Lord’s more frequent commands is that we are not to fear. He doesn’t mean the type of fear as is the “fear of God,” but the type of fear we have of man and natural things and situations; being afraid. Much can be said of fear and not fearing, so the only one at this setting is that every situation possible is not only under the Lord’s control but is divinely devised. So what’s to fear, except fear itself?

That doesn’t mean that nothing adverse will happen to us, but that all is designed by the All-mighty for His glory and our eternal betterment. Consider these records, which happened and were recorded for our benefits: 1) Exodus 14:9, Israel’s fear and failure, and God’s attitude and action. 2) Exodus 15:23, Israel’s fear and failure, and God’s attitude and action. 3) Exodus 15:1, Israel’s fear and failure, and God’s attitude and action, 4) Exodus 17:1, Israel’s fear and failure, and God’s attitude and action, and 5) Hebrews 3:7—4:13, Israel’s fear and failure summarized, and God’s attitude and action summarized.

Although I catch myself fearing and being tempted to fear, I know there is no reason to be fearful in the face of ordinarily fear-producing situations. It’s a life-long walk, is it not?

I’ll add this thought. There are two situations in which we do not fear. One is when we have absolutely committed ourselves to the Lord in all possible situations of life, and welcome the next opportunity to risk all. The other is that we have definitely settled for where we are, so are not challenged by any thought of trusting the Lord beyond our current comfort level – meaning we are entrenched and others can go over the top into the battle.

16. Coalition Forces split their roles in Iraq and Afghanistan. It has been the practice that Ugandan security forces guard operating bases in Iraq while U.S. and other allied forces prepare for and come back from missions. A chaplain deployed with the 101th Airborne at a forward operating base indicated that many of those Ugandan security forces, nearly all of whom were raised Muslim, were having dreams of a Messiah named Jesus. The Lord was visiting them personally in their dreams. They went to the chaplain asking, “Please tell us of this Messiah named Jesus.” Many of them spoke articulate English, so the chaplain arranged for them to receive the entire Bible in their native language, Swahili.

17. We are placed in Christ when we are first born again [a free gift]– Eph 2:8-10. That is “positional,” meaning that it is a done thing in relationship to the Lord. We could have not done it; it is of His plan and action alone. It is a free gift, called justification – meaning that we are given a standing before the Almighty. That could not have been accomplished by any action of ourselves.

After we have been placed in Christ, we can become partakers of Christ. In this we have free will choice. Jesus’ life begins to come forth from us. That’s called being sanctified. We continually lay our self-life down at the cross. We submit our will to His so that His life is able to come forth through us.

Partaking of His life results in our becoming overcomers. We are told that overcomers will receive special rewards, one of which is to reign with Jesus during His 1,000 year reign on earth – Rev. 3:21. That is a picture of one result of the sanctification process here on earth, with the reward being that we inherit such great promises. Note that God’s initial act of our salvation was that which put us in the proper relationship [family], so that we can gain an inheritance. If we do not do well during our process of sanctification we do not lose our family membership, but we do not receive an inheritance. Remember that we are placed in Christ so that we may be partakers of Christ so that we may inherit during the Millennial Kingdom – Colossians 1:10-13.

Again, we must walk worthily with the Lord and become qualified in order to become a partaker of the inheritance of Christ during the Millennium. It means that we bear fruit – let the Holy Spirit work in us to develop the character of Jesus and work through us to do the work of Jesus to which we are assigned. We display His love, His abundant life, His supernatural power and His divine wisdom. He did not save us simply to take us to heaven; He saved us to totally re-create us. That’s what the sanctification process is about. He wants us to be re-created in the image of Jesus for the purpose of bringing glory to Jesus – Romans 8:29-30.

Jesus “warned” our flesh that when we submit ourselves to the new Spirit within that it would “die.” He said it would not be simply prettied up, but that the abiding Holy Spirit would enable the person to die to its self-interests. Then we would find the new life of God coming alive within us – Matt. 16:24-26. It is an exchange of lives – John 12:24-25; Eph. 3:19; Rom. 3:22; Gal. 2:16, 20.

18. Perhaps only carpenters and masons will understand this. Today one of your brothers told me that anyone who sees him knows that he is on the level. Why? Because the bubble is in the middle. [He has a paunch.]

19. It has been said that that which separates us from death is an unfinished assignment. I’m in my 80s and expect to live a long time, yet. What that tells me is that I expect to have a very prolonged assignment. In this line of thinking, the alternative is that I am dragging out a shorter one.

Additionally, I don’t expect or plan to die. I didn’t expect or plan to retire but did, upon instructions from the One for whom I worked. Then I occupied myself productively for 8 years until reassigned. I don’t expect or plan to have a flat on my car, but may, although I plan and work [good tires, good driving, proper balance and alignment] to not have one. I don’t expect or plan to take a typical vacation, but my Boss may change that, also. I have taken 2 or 3 vacation-type trips in the past 30 years, and am willing to take more, but don’t have any good reason to vacate the place and people where and whom I live among daily.

So, I don’t expect to or plan on dying, although the Lord may have something special in mind.

20. I like dogs. They are faithful, kind and useful. Nancy likes cats. They are evil, independent and useless. <[:=) Well, that’s my observation, which is neither final nor absolute. Garrison Keillor used the dogs and cats non-issue to make a good point: “What else will do except faith in such a cynical, corrupt time? When the country goes temporarily to the dogs, cats must learn to be circumspect, walk on fences, sleep in trees, and have faith that all this woofing is not the last word.”

21. The rate of divorce is falling off over the past few years. One reason for the decline is that there is more cohabiting without marriage, and that separation of cohabiters is not recorded as divorce. In 1960, 72% of all adults age 18 and over were married. Now that number is 51%. Only 20% of adults 18 to 29 are married.

In a related matter, 1/3 of all American women have an abortion by age 45.

22. If you accept what you like in the Bible, and reject what you don’t like, guess who wrote your bible.

28. Are you having trouble pleasing people? Do you find yourself measuring out your zeal and obedience to the Lord according to others’ opinions? I do, and sometimes I have missed the opportunity before I notice it or have decided to not compromise. How about you? One person said, “If you are in the compromising mode you are on the right track. Except for the Lord, just compromise by not pleasing anyone.” That seems like a rocky road to walk without having on our sandals – Eph. 6:15.

29. 80% of Israeli Jews believe in God. Those who practice a religious lifestyle also are increasing. Belief had declined during the 1990s but significantly increased since 2000. 77% believe in a divine power that guides the world. 72% believe that prayer has the power to change their lives. 67% believe that the Jews are God’s chosen people. 65% believe that the Torah and its commandments are of Divine origin. 34% believe that Jews who do not obey the Torah are endangering their fellow Jews and Israelis.

That’s encouraging. In fact, those stats may better the church’s. I know that anyone can come from a condition of total unbelief into total faith in Jesus immediately, but the revelation that there is a god of some sort and then that He is the Lord God can be a Holy Spirit progression toward the revelation of Jesus Messiah. Whatever the case, that revelation is on the way.

30. How can I get my Thoughts around even a small piece of the Lord Jesus’ work at the cross? In this case, I’ll try to lay aside the wonderful, righteous emotions associated -- both His and mine/ours, in which God’s revealed love is overpowering. That’s a big “aside.” Instead, I want to point to His work there, and His work not there, during those few hours which for everyone impacted all eternity.

Faith and obedience toward God were not introduced to the world at the cross; they had been essential from Adam’s beginning. Faith in whom and obedience to whom were clarified, strengthened and enabled through increasingly clearer revelations of the Lord given to and through Adam, Abraham and the patriarchs, Moses, David, and the prophets. There were other, lesser grants of God’s revelation of Himself to many other saints prior to the cross. Then the fullest revelation of the Lord God was given us during Jesus’ ministry, certainly including as He went to and while He was on the cross. A small aside exception to “the fullest revelation” will be the explosive revelation of Himself to be given the Jews shortly before and at His second coming. Now the revelations.

First, there were and are those who live in an Adamic, pre-Abrahamic faith and obedience to the invisible God through a clean conscience, with a poor focus on just what sort of God that is and what He requires – Rom. 1:18-23. However, the conscience is a malleable beast which easily gives way to personal desire and cultural mores.

Second, there were and are those who are stuck in an Abrahamic faith and obedience to the Lord based on a strong revelation of God’s friendship. Be wary. The mixture of “my good conscience” plus “God loves me” is without final substance. What’s next? God’s third step, of course.

Third, there were and are those who are stuck in a Mosaic faith and obedience to the invisible God who accentuate obedience and some degree of faith but have lost the revelation of God our friend. Even conscience has been reduced or negated so that obedience to the Law is foremost and superior.

Fourth, there were and are those who are stuck in a Davidic faith and obedience to the powerful, invisible God who seems to desire the bestowance of blessings [meaning the stuff in this world] in return for that on their part which pleases God, namely making something of oneself and changing society. Personal and church success in this world is the focus.

But, thank God, at the cross the Lord tied all those revelations together: The love of God [which we had tried to set aside briefly in this little Thought], a clean conscience toward God, friendship with God, obedience to God, and the blessings of God. All of that showed God’s planning, persistence, wisdom and love for all of His creation. As pointed out, there are those who are stuck in one or more of those revelations without getting the whole picture.

31. For decades, Alaska Airlines has passed out cards with their meals. The cards had a short excerpt of a Psalm printed on a beautiful photograph, such as, “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever,” printed over a beautiful beach scene.

Now the airline is ending that practice. Of course, you already know why. Some passengers said they did not want to mix religion with flying. [I think the two are necessarily symbiotic!] Although many appreciated the cards, some did not want to receive one. So, “out of respect for all passengers,” the practice has been stopped.

My Thought in this all-too-common situation is that Christian and non-Christian toes are a bit too sensitive. That applies to atheist, Jewish, Muslim, etc. religious expressions, whether in the majority or minority. A second thought is that the more antagonistic our culture and government becomes, the better it is for the church. The persecuted church grows in numbers, strength and purity.

In any case, I’m not worried about Christ’s kingdom. We know what to expect from our King as difficulties develop. After all, what are we to expect from the world?

32. Genetic engineering of E. coli, a very common bacterium with variations some of which are essential for human life and others which are life-threatening, has given biotechnologists the ability to produce fuel from wastes, sea weed, garbage, etc. Depending on its exact genetic programming, the E. coli can be used to produce ethanol [beverage alcohol], jet fuel, or butanol [an alternative to gasoline]. Gradually our wastes are becoming useful, and even valuable. The same goes for the human “wastes” of society, and for the least to the greatest in the kingdom of God.

33. More than 67% of Samaritan young men who join the Israeli army serve in combat units, as opposed to the Israeli national average of 40%. 82% join after completing high school or some other education immediately after high school, compared to 75% nationally. 17% become officers, compared to 6 % nationally.

It is reported that the youth in Samaria are educated in the values of settling the Land of Israel and in making Israel that which Scripture says it is. Christians, that is an example of how we should work righteously to establish the reign of God in our own souls and environments.

34. It has been said that sister “X” is not always right but is always certain.

35. And it has been said that the trouble with socialism is that sooner or later you run out of other people’s money.

36. I have never heard any such statistic, but I’m going out on a comfortable limb to say this: I believe the gospel has been spread more by what I will call “commerce/the business world” than by professional missionaries. Actually, they often work together, but commerce opens cities, states, whole nations and continents. I’ll say that again: “COMMERCE OPENS NATIONS.” When nations are opened, missionaries follow. That’s not the only way missionaries get into closed nations, but it is the principle way. If the missionaries are mistreated, there is a political and financial problem, which can be expected to be tempered or resolved by national leaders.

Study your history. Trade routes opened closed nations. Diverse groups were connected and came to accept one another through trade, profit and the need/desire for new products. The natural intercourse of business and trade and communication opened minds and governments to cooperative ethics and then to Christianity. Technology has joined the business big-time in my lifetime. Freedom and virtue have followed as nations are being slowly Christianized.

37. The Anabaptists arose in Zurich in 1523 among the followers of Huldrych Zwingli, who had started the Swiss segment of the Reformation. Soon thereafter, on January 21, 1525, a group of them met at the home of Felix Manz in Zurich. That evening, after much prayer and seeking of God’s will, “they were so pressed in their hearts” over water baptism matters that George Blaurock, a Roman priest who was present, asked Conrad Grebel to administer to him believer’s baptism. Historical accounts say Blaurock then baptized the others present, all of whom had been baptized as infants. On this point they disagreed with Zwingli, who held to infant baptism and against subsequent re-baptism of adult believers.

Modern Baptists continue the belief and practice of Anabaptists, in that they baptize believers, not babies or others too young to commit personally to Jesus Christ. Together with the Anabaptists, Baptists believe that the baptismal waters do not wash away sin, but are an obedient act and a sign of our covenant with God, similar to circumcision for the Jews.

The Reformation split the church and these smaller [not meaning unimportant] differences split the Reformers. There is frequent need to perfect our beliefs and behaviors, very few of which should rise to the level of causing division. Weaknesses of our flesh motivate us toward disunity and separation when we encounter theological differences. It is a challenge to maintain close Christian fellowship when differences are encountered, whether those differences be theological, skin color, ethnic, or any of many others.

38. There are two types of “worship.” One is centered on the Lord, face to face with Him, looking Him in the eyes while expressing ourselves to Him. That worship is quiet, humble and tranquil because we are “in His presence.” It is improper to shout in His face or in His presence. It is very personal, using the word “You;” because we are not talking about Him. We don’t use the pronoun “Him” in true worship. This worship is consciously focused on the Lord and delights in Him and in being in His presence. Musical instruments and singing may or may not be involved, but there may be silence.

The other type of “worship” is about the Lord. It speaks of Him and is often exuberant, often loud for He is greatly to be praised. It is human-centered although it is about the Lord. This type of worship gives all who so worship a great time. It may look like a celebration or a concert because it is, even though it is labeled as “worship” and is in a church “worship” service. This is a jubilee, a happy and exciting time. The Lord delights in us as we enjoy the activity of singing about Him.