

IMPACT PERSONS

Joe Wright Griggs

Each of us requires a Mentor -
Someone with whom we have rapport -
One who'll help us get off center -
Help us to see God's Distant Shore!

They'll help us choose alternatives -
As we traverse this road of life -
These choices last for all our lives -
Keeping us safe and free from strife!

These persons of integrity
Are models for our Christian walk -
They'll help us keep our acts sin free
And help us guard and purge our talk!

Most prayerfully we then should choose
The ones who have this great Impact -
We have Eternity to lose
If our spirits become side-tracked!

Ideal characteristics of
Such an Impact Person? A few:
A living model of Christ's Love -
Who's word is bond, who's life is true!

They're just and yet compassionate,
Joyful, friendly, and self-secure -
They'll take a stand for what is right -
Both speech and actions are mature!

We may encounter them at church
Or wherever Christians are found -
*Once we have bonded through our search -
Our lives will be on solid ground!*

The wisest man who ever lived, King Solomon wrote:
*"He that walks with wise men shall be wise:
but a companion of fools shall be destroyed!"*
[Proverbs 13:20 from The King James Bible]

THE FAITHFUL FEW

Joe Wright Griggs

*A tiny few of those who gazed
Into the western sky
Observed The Star, and were amazed
And asked the question: "Why?"*

*For only one small shepherd band
The angel choirs performed,
But they proclaimed throughout the land,
Their lives had been transformed!*

*Though multitudes had heard Him teach
And saw His wond'rous deeds,
Yet God's own Words could only reach
The few with soil for seeds.*

*Yet by His own He was betrayed,
By one of His denied;
While most had fled, a few had stayed
Near Him, until He died.*

*A few of them came to the tomb
That Resurrection Morn
But most were bound by fear and gloom,
Defeated and forlorn.*

*It was the few that chose to take
That rocky, narrow road
Which leads to Life, and for His sake
They shared each other's load,*

*And so, like them, the faithful few,
Let us observe That Star
Which points His Will for us to do
At home, or journey far!*

Jesus told His disciples: "...The laborers are few..."
[Matthew 9:37 from The King James Bible]

GOD'S HEART TRANSPLANT

Joe Wright Griggs

Though we are made of flesh and bone
God's Word reveals, *Our hearts are stone!*
We worship idols: *pow'r and greed,*
"The Art of Selfishness" our creed!

These *hearts of stone* made us resist
God's Plan for us, His Goal we missed.
Thus we became a rebel band
Were exiled to a foreign land.

Yet, God transplants these hearts of stone,
When we repent *He will atone!*
For in His Love He sent to earth
His Tender Heart, in Holy Birth!

God's Son was born that He might give
To us *His Heart* that we may live!
His Love pulsates through every vein,
Thus we become Love in His Name!

Through trusting Him we cease to roam,
And by God's Grace He brings us Home,
Removes our idols, sets us free.
Oh God, in Christ, we come to Thee!

The Prophet Ezekiel received a message
from God for all exiles: "Although I have
scattered you in the countries of the world...
I will gather you back from the nations
where you were scattered...
I will take from you *your hearts of stone*
and give you tender hearts of love for God,
so that you can obey my laws and be
my people and *I will be your God!*"
[Ezekiel 11:16-20 from The Living Bible]

GOD'S NEW CREATION

Joseph W. Griggs

God's New Creation will begin
in us, when we make *Jesus Lord!*
First, He will *purge us* from our sin
And then, *remake us by His Word!*

He will replace our ignorance
With Knowledge, our stupidity
With Wisdom, our intolerance
With Acceptance, our hate with Love.

He will replace our doubt with Trust,
All our anxieties with Hope.
Depression will give way to Joy
And anger to a Song of Praise!

He will replace our sinfulness
With His Own Holiness, our greed
With Generosity, and pride
Will yield to True Humility.

When we cannot forgive, He will
give us His *Gift of Grace!* When we
Are overcome with fear, He will
Empow'r with Courage and Boldness.

God hones, reshapes and sets us free
From that *worldly self which has died.*
Now as His New Creation, We
Are made ready to be *Christ's Bride!*

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christian Church
in Rome: "Don't copy the behavior and customs
of this world, But be a *new and different person*
With a *fresh newness in all that you do and think...*"
[Romans 12:2 from THE LIVING BIBLE]