



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

“Sadly, there are those in the church that are still among the Lost and not Found.”

Once was Lost

I do not know about you, but I have a habit of losing things. I have temporarily lost money, check-books, keys, my wallet, and today I lost a tool that I was just using. Once, I lost my good Bible for years. It was returned to my wife, at her workplace, by someone who found it. I even lost my son for an hour at a waterpark and my granddaughter at Disney. It is funny that every church, school, store, factory, and business has a “lost and found”, but we never have a place in our homes where missing items appear.

Just recently, I lost my cellphone. The last time I had used it was during my father’s memorial service at his church. The very next day, I went to use it and it was gone. I looked everywhere. His Pastor looked for it twice. My sister looked for it. One week went by, but no phone. Two weeks, then three, four and five weeks and still no phone. I do not use my phone that often, but I could no longer access my retirement application, nor give money to the church by getting codes on my phone. (How long can you last without your phone? Maybe we all need time away from our phones and use that time talking to God and others face-to-face.) Then, I was told me how to ping it. So, I tried it. It showed that the last time it was used was at that church five weeks before. I was finally resolved to think about getting another one.



As I just finish writing last month’s devotion, I asked the Lord what I should write about next. A few hours later, I grabbed a jacket that I rarely use, and something was in the pocket. It was the phone! How it got in that jacket, I do not know. As for why I found it then, I believe God wanted me to write about it.

“What woman having ten pieces of silver, if she loses one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she finds it? And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbors together, saying, “Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth”. Luke 15:8-10

Before the recent GPS system giving step-by-step directions, we would use paper maps. If we got lost, we would never stop and ask for directions. I remember that my uncle took us kids on a long trip. He did not use maps. He did not travel on the main highways. He never stopped for directions. He drove by instinct. After many wrong turns and my sister got car sick, we got there and back very late and tired.

We are all born lost to answers about why we are here, where we are going, whether there is God, and whether there is life after death. We are all born with a sinful nature and lost to God. The Bible said, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Luke 19:10. I, too, was lost in sin but Jesus took me in.

If you never admitted that you are lost and heading in the wrong direction, then this day ask Jesus for forgiveness. Ask Him to be your Savior and Lord. “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Rom 10:13 Then read His Roadmap the Bible. Through this, He will guide you with the right GPS (God’s Perfect Spirit). “When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth” John 16:13. But if you miss a turn, do not worry about getting lost. Just return, go to the right, and you will not come to a dead end. “Of them which Thou gavest me have I lost none.” John 15:9

	<p><i>Charles Stambaugh</i> Mt Wolf, PA “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me I once was lost, but now I'm found Was blind, but now I see.” John Newton</p>	
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