

RST Analyses from the RST web site (www.sfu.ca/rst)

The Devotional Reading Text

One interest in this devotional page is that it shows an example where effective understanding of the text seems to require recognizing an event in the story which is prominent, but not represented by any text. In the analysis diagram it is represented by "GHOST SEGMENT," along with imputed content. Ellipsed segments of this sort are rare in written monologue text.

Another interest is that there is an important part of the organization of this text that is carried by a strong template of **layout and formatting**. Fonts, white space, break lines and positions are employed to give **simultaneous approachability to several parts**. (The analysis is confined to the body of the right hand page.)

RST is implicitly working with a **linear** view of text and so does not have a representation for these features.

The scanned image below shows features of this and the adjacent page.

The text:

1) July 27 Tuesday 2) Let Go! 3) Read: Psalm 31:1-8 4) In You, O Lord, I put my trust ... Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble. -- Psalm 31:1,9 5) In an article for Campus Life magazine, Susan Smart describes her third -- and nearly last -- solo flight. 6) She had been practicing a maneuver at 5,000 feet 7) when she lost control and her Cessna 150 began spinning wildly toward earth. 8) After several seconds of panic, 9) she recalled her instructor's words: 10) "If you ever go into a spin in a Cessna 150, 11) just let go of the controls. 12) It's built to fly on its own." 13) Susan shouted to herself several times, "Let go!" 14) Finally she yanked her hands from the controls and covered her face. 15) After some wild yawing and pitching, 16) the plane returned to level flight. 17) She had fallen more than half a mile, 18) but she survived 19) because she had the faith to let go. 20) Her experience vividly illustrates what it means to trust God in a time of crisis. 21) I know that's hard to do 22) when it feels as if everything in our lives is spinning wildly out of control. 23) Our feelings cry out for us to panic, to doubt His promises, to ignore or disobey His instructions, and to try to solve things without Him. 24) But those responses are futile. 25) In Psalm 31, David cried out to the Lord in his time of trouble. 26) He knew that his only hope was to put his situation in God's hands and rely on Him. 27) Is your life in a spin? Let go of the controls! -- DCE 28) Though to your shortsighted vision No way of escape may appear, 29) Trust, for when least you expect it, 30) The help of the Father is near. -- Anon. 31) THE BEST WAY TO HANDLE A PROBLEM IS TO HAND IT OVER TO GOD. 32) Extracted from Our Daily Bread, June July August 1999, RBC Ministries, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The text as it appeared:

July 26
Monday

WHY DO WE SUFFER?

READ:
2 Corinthians 12:1-10

**Comfort the faint-
hearted, uphold the
weak, be patient
with all.**
—1 Thessalonians 5:14

THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR:
□ Isaiah 58-60

When evangelist Vance Havner was in his mid-thirties, he developed a troubling nervous disorder. Previously he had been critical of people who were experiencing this condition. He said, "For 2 years I suffered from nervous exhaustion, and I learned not to laugh at nervous people."

How easy it is to make light of the difficulties others face until we experience a similar problem! In God's school, we learn to sympathize with a variety of frailties we thought shouldn't affect Christians or should be easily overcome. We learn that God doesn't deliver us quickly and easily from such conditions.

Paul was a person of great faith and strength, but his "thorn in the flesh" (2 Cor. 12:7-10) remained with him in spite of his repeated pleas for God to remove it. Instead of resenting this "thorn," Paul learned to welcome the resulting weakness that led him to find strength in Christ. This same apostle, perhaps because of his affliction, had earlier urged Christians to "comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all" (1 Th. 5:14).

Through the emotional and physical thorns that God allows in our lives, we learn what it means to trust Him. And in the process, we learn patience and kindness toward all. —DCM

*Because I've grieved and tasted bitter loss,
Because I've stumbled carrying my cross,
Because I've learned of Christ's sufficiency,
I'll show His grace to others just like me. —Gustafson*

**WE CAN COMFORT OTHERS
BECAUSE GOD HAS COMFORTED US.**

July 27
Tuesday

LET GO!

READ:
Psalm 31:1-8

**In You, O Lord, I put
my trust . . . Have
mercy on me, O Lord,
for I am in trouble.**
—Psalm 31:1,9

THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR:
□ Isaiah 61-63

In an article for *Campus Life* magazine, Susan Smart describes her third—and nearly last—solo flight. She had been practicing a maneuver at 5,000 feet when she lost control and her Cessna 150 began spinning wildly toward earth. After several seconds of panic, she recalled her instructor's words: "If you ever go into a spin in a Cessna 150, just let go of the controls. It's built to fly on its own."

Susan shouted to herself several times, "Let go!" Finally, she yanked her hands from the controls and covered her face. After some wild yawing and pitching, the plane returned to level flight. She had fallen more than half a mile, but she survived because she had the faith to let go.

Her experience vividly illustrates what it means to trust God in a time of crisis. I know that's hard to do when it feels as if everything in our lives is spinning wildly out of control. Our feelings cry out for us to panic, to doubt His promises, to ignore or disobey His instructions, and to try to solve things without Him. But those responses are futile.

In Psalm 31, David cried out to the Lord in his time of trouble. He knew that his only hope was to put his situation in God's hands and rely on Him.

*Is your life in a spin? Let go of the controls! —DCE
Though to your shortsighted vision
No way of escape may appear,
Trust, for when least you expect it,
The help of the Father is near. —Anon.*

**THE BEST WAY TO HANDLE A PROBLEM
IS TO HAND IT OVER TO GOD.**

2-29

6-29

28-29

Solutionhood

28) Is your life in a spin?
29) Let go of the controls!

30) - DCE

31) Thought to your shortsighted vision

No way of escape may appear.

32) Trust for when least you expect it.

33) The help of the Father is near. - Anon.

34) THE BEST WAY TO HANDLE A PROBLEM IS TO HAND IT OVER TO GOD.

35) Extracted from Our Daily Bread, June July August 1999, RBC Ministries, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Motivation

Evidence

6-27

6-25

21-25

Elaboration

21) Her experience vividly illustrates what it means to trust God in a time of crisis.

22-25

22-23

24-25

Condition

22) I know that's hard to do

23) when it feels as if everything in our lives is spinning wildly out of control.

Antithesis

24) Our feelings cry out for us to panic, to doubt His promises, to ignore or disobey His instructions, and to try to solve things without Him.

25) But those responses are futile.

26-27

Elaboration

26) In Psalm 31, David cried out to the Lord in his time of trouble.

27) He knew that his only hope was to put his situation in God's hands and rely on Him.

28) Is your life in a spin?

Solution

↓-cause

20) because she had the faith to let go.

PreparatiBeparatiBeparatiBeparation

Elaboration

Interpretation

ice

14) Susan shouted to herself several times. "Let go!"

10-13

Volitional-cause

13) It's built to fly on its own."

10-12

il-cause

GHOST SEGMENT (it will stop spinning)

15) Finally she yanked her hands from the controls and covered her face.

16) After some wild yawing and pitching,

17) the plane returned to level flight.

18) She had fallen more than half a mile.

Antithesis

19-20

Volitional-cause

19) but she survived
20) because she had the faith to let go.

5) In an article for Campus Life magazine, Susan Smart describes her third - and nearly last - solo flight

6) She had been practicing a maneuver at 5,000 feet
7) when she lost control and her Cessna 150 began spinning wildly toward earth.
8) After several seconds of panic,

9) she recalled her instructor's words:

10) "If you ever go into a spin in a Cessna 150,

11) just let go of the controls.

Condition

10-11

Nonvolitional-cause

10-12

GHOST SEGMENT (it will stop spinning)

Volition

10-13

Elaboration

9-13

Sequence

6-20

6-17

1) July 27
Tuesday

2) Let Go!

3) Read: Psalm
31:1-8

4) In You, O Lord,

I put my trust ...

Have mercy on

me, O Lord, for I

am in trouble. –

Psalm 31:1,9

5

5) In an article for

Campus Life

magazine,

Susan Smart

describes her

third – and

nearly last –

solo flight.