

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



Volume 14, No. 10

Published at

Guthrie, Oklahoma

25c Per Year

January, 1944

God's Message For 1944

"And the king asked him secretly in his house and said, Is there any word from the Lord? And Jeremiah said, "There is." —Jer. 37:17.

"Is there word from the Lord for the year '44? Prophet, do tell us, thy help we implore. Events of this year have frightened us much," Says a sin-cursed world held in war's deadly clutch. "What may we expect of the coming new year? Will it bring happy days, or only more fear? Our very best rulers can give us no clue— What hope for the future? May we ask you? Endued by God's Spirit, you oft search His word, Is there a message for us from the Lord?"

"There is," comes the answer—all in one accord— From prophet, apostle, and saints of the Lord: "The Lord in His mercy sends now unto you, A valuable word for Gentile and Jew, 'Twill comfort the mourners, relieve the oppressed, Give rest to the weary, hope to depressed— Yea; all shall have blessings, prosperity, too, If you will but heed God's message to you. Since you have rejected the Saviour He sent, His Word this New Year to you is: 'Repent.'"

G. Ray

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Recovery of Sight by the Blind

(This article is a sermon in condensed form, written by Saint Augustine, who lived 354-430 A. D.).

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is the physician of our eternal health. He performs miracles on these bodies which are not meant to last, to bring us to faith. By means of those temporal things which are seen He builds up faith in those things which are not seen. He disdains not to exhibit lesser cures that might work greater ones. For as the soul is better than the body, so is the saving health of the soul better than the health of the body. The blind body is cured by its eyes by a miracle of the Lord, but greater is the miracle when the blinded heart openeth its eyes to the word of the Lord. As the mortal corpse was raised to life, so the soul doth rise again which lay dead in a living body. As the deaf ears of the body were opened by His touch, many ears of the

heart which were closed fly open at the penetrating word of God, so that they believe who did not believe, and they live well who did live evilly, and they obey who did not obey; and we say, "such a man is become a believer," and we wonder when we hear of them whom once we had known as hardened. Why, then, dost thou marvel at one who now believes, who is living innocently, and serving God, but because thou dost behold him seeing, whom thou hadst known to be blind; dost behold him living whom thou hadst known to be dead; dost behold him hearing whom thou hadst known to be deaf? For consider that there are those who are dead in another than the ordinary sense, of whom the Lord spoke to a certain man who delayed to follow the Lord, because he wished to bury his father; "Let the dead," said He, "bury their dead." Surely these dead buriers are not dead in body; for if this were so, they could not bury dead bodies. Yet doth He call them dead; where but in the soul within? For as we may often see in a household, itself sound and well, the master of the same house lying dead; so in a sound body do many carry a dead soul within; and these the apostle arouses thus, "Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." It is the same who giveth sight to the blind that awakeneth the dead. For it is with His voice that the cry is made by the apostle to the dead. "Awake thou that sleepest." And the blind will be enlightened with light, when he shall have risen again. And how many deaf men did the Lord see before His eyes, when He said, "He that hath ears to hear let him hear." For who was standing before Him without his bodily ears? What other ears, then, did He seek for, but those of the inner man?

Again, what eyes did He look for when He spake to those who saw indeed, but who saw only with the eyes of the flesh? For when Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father and it sufficeth us": he understood, indeed, that if the Father were shown him, it might well suffice him; when He that was equal to the Father had sufficed not? And why did He not suffice? Because He was not seen. And why was He not seen? Because the eye whereby He might be seen was not yet whole. For this, namely, that the Lord was seen in the flesh with the outward eyes, not only the disciples who honored Him saw, but

also the Jews who crucified Him. He, then, who wished to be seen in another way, sought for other eyes. Lest Philip should think that he was to conceive of God under the same form in which he then saw the Lord Jesus Christ in the body, he asked, "Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me?" He had already said, "He who hath seen me hath seen the Father also." With the natural eyes through which he was looking he could not see either the Father or the Son. So Jesus took in hand to cure, and with the medicine and salve of faith to strengthen the eyes of his mind. Let not him, then, who can not yet see what the Lord will one day show him, seek first to see what he is to believe; but let him first believe that the eye by which he is to see may be healed. "Walk by faith," that thou mayest attain to sight. Sight will not gladden him in his home whom faith consoleth not by the way.

Our whole business, then, brethren, in this life is to heal this eye of the heart whereby God may be seen. To this end is preached the Word of God; to this end are the moral exhortations of the Church, those, that is, that relate to the corrections of manners, to the amendment of carnal lusts, to the renouncing of the world, not in word only, but in a change of life: to this end is directed the whole aim of the Divine and Holy Scriptures, that that inner man may be purged of that which hinders us from the sight of God. For as the eye which is formed to see this temporal light, if anything be thrown or falls into it, whereby it is disordered, is shut out from this light; and tho it encompasses the eye with its presence, yet the eye turns itself away from, and is absent from it; and tho its disordered condition is not only rendered absent from the light which is present, but the light to see which it was formed is even painful to it, so the eye of the heart too, when it is disordered and wounded, turns away from the light of righteousness, and dares not and can not contemplate it.

And what is it that disorders the eye of the heart? Evil desire, covetousness, injustice, worldly concupiscence; these disorder, close, blind the eye of the heart. And yet when the eye of the body is out of order, one will do all in his power without delay to get it healed or cleansed. Even if the smallest straw fall into these eyes which see the light of the sun, all haste is made to remove it immediately. God, who made the sun is much brighter than the sun. Would He give thee wherewithal to see the sun which He made, and not give thee wherewithal to see Him who made thee, when He made thee after His own image? The light with which the eye of the mind is concerned is eternal wisdom. He hath given thee this also; both hath He given thee. But much thou dost love these outward eyes, and despisest much that interior eye; it thou dost carry about bruised and wounded. Yea, it would be a punishment to thine eye before it is cured and healed if thy Maker should wish to manifest Himself unto thee. For so Adam in Paradise sinned, and hid himself from the face of God. As long as he had the sound heart of a pure conscience,

he rejoiced at the presence of God; when that eye was wounded by sin, he began to dread the divine light and fled back into the darkness, and the thick covert of trees, flying from the truth, and anxious for the shade.

Therefore, my brethren, since we too are born of him, and as the apostle says, "In Adam all die": if he were loath to obey the physician that he might not be sick, let us obey Him now, that we may be delivered from the sickness. The Physician gave man precepts when he was whole that he might not need a physician. "They that are whole," He saith, "need not a physician, but they that are sick." When whole, we despised these precepts, and by experience have felt how to our own destruction we despised His precepts. Now we are sick, we are in distress, we are on the bed of weakness; yet let us not despair. For because we could not come to the Physician, He hath vouchsafed to come Himself to us. Tho despised by man when he was whole, He did not despise him when he was stricken. To us He would say, "Assuredly thou hast by experience felt that I spoke the truth when I said, Touch not this. Be healed then now, at length, and recover the life thou hast lost. Lo, I am bearing thine infirmity; drink then the bitter cup. For thou hast of thine own self made those my so sweet precepts, which were given to thee when whole, so toilsome. They were despised, and so thy distress began; cured thou canst not be, except thou drink the bitter cup, the cup of temptations, wherein this life abounds, the cup of tribulation, anguish, and suffering. Drink then," He says, "drink, that thou mayest live." And that the sick man may not make answer, "I can not, I can not bear it, I will not drink"; the Physician, all whole tho He be, drinketh first, that the sick man may not hesitate to drink. For what bitterness is there in his cup which He hath not drunk? He was despised, ridiculed, bound, and scourged, and crucified. In suffering these human things the Lord instructs us by his bodily patience that we may believe and be made whole.

Jesus had wrought many miracles. His fame as a body physician had spread abroad, and the two blind men who sat by the wayside begging desired that their eyes should be made whole, so they cried to Jesus for mercy as He passed by and would not be silenced by the crowd who tried to keep them back. Even so, the eyes of the heart are closed. Jesus, the great Physician of the soul passeth by that we might cry out. Who is he that crieth out to Christ, that his inward blindness may be driven away by Christ as He is passing by? Whoso despiseth the world, crieth out unto Christ. Beware, lest we cry aloud with our voices, and in our lives be dumb. Whoso despiseth the pleasures of the world, crieth out unto Christ. Whoso saith, not with his tongue but with his life, the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world, crieth out unto Christ. Let him that hears, and is not deaf to the sound, sell that ye have, and give to the poor: provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not; let him as he hears the sound as it were of Christ's foot-steps passing by cry out in response to

this in his blindness; that is, let him do these things. Let his voice be in his actions. Let him begin to despise the world, to distribute to the poor his goods, to esteem as nothing worth what other men love, let him disregard injuries, not seek to be avenged, let him give his cheek to the smiter, let him pray for his enemies; if any one who have taken away his goods, let him not ask for them again; if he have taken anything from any man, let him restore four-fold.

When he shall begin to do all this, all his kinsmen, relations, and friends will be in commotion. They who love the world will oppose him. What madness this! You are too extreme! What! Are not other men Christians? This is folly, this is madness. And other such like things do the multitude cry out to prevent the blind from crying out. The multitude rebuked the blind men as they cried out; but did not overcome their cries. Let them who wish to be healed understand what they have to do. Let them cry out, and not faint; let them not be led away as if by the authority of numbers; let them not imitate those who claim to have become Christians before them, who live evil lives themselves, and are jealous of the good deeds of others. Let them not say, "Let us live as these so many live," Why not rather as the Gospel ordains? Why dost thou wish to live according to the remonstrances of the multitude who would hinder thee, and not after the steps of the Lord who passeth by? They will mock, and abuse, and call thee back; do thou cry out till thou reach the ears of Jesus. Those who love the light which Christ is about to restore to them more than they fear the uproar of those who are hindering them; they shall on no account be separated from Him, and Jesus will stand still, and make them whole.

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Musical Instruments

There was a house of God that Solomon built (2 Chron. 3:1), then there is the house of God since that one that Jesus built on the Rock (Matt. 16:18). The first was natural; the last is spiritual. Solomon built of natural stones (1 Kings 7:10), but Jesus built His of lively spiritual stones (1 Peter 2:5), the first being a shadow of the one Jesus built. "The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts" Haggai 2:3-9.

In the first house were literal musical instruments which David set in the house of God (2 Chron. 29:25-28; 1 Chron 23:5). In the house that Jesus built, the Lord sets the members in the body (house) (1 Cor. 12:18), which are instruments of righteousness unto God (Rom. 6:13). The natural instruments were holy instruments (Num. 31:6), and the instruments (members) of the later house are holy. "Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Heb. 12:14.

The first house had ALL manner (kinds) of instruments—harps, psalteries, timbrels, cornets, and cymbals (2 Sam. 6:5). All of these instruments, though they were different makes, were in such har-

mony and tune that when they began to sing and play them it all went up as ONE sound until the house was filled with the glory of God—because there was no discord. (2 Chron. 5:13, 14). Jesus has placed all different kinds of instruments in his house. In Acts 17:26, we read, "And hath made of one blood ALL nations." For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Acts 2:39. And they continued daily with ONE accord (Acts 2:46). As all kinds of instruments in the first house were in such harmony and tune that their sounds went up as one sound, so are all the instruments (members) in the house which Jesus built so in tune that their voices go up as one, their songs as one, and their prayers as one. "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment." 1 Cor. 1:10. They see eye to eye (Isa. 52:8).

In the later house the Father is not worshiped with literal instruments, but the "hour cometh and now is when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. For the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth." John 4:23, 24. The hour was not come for true worshipers when David was setting literal instruments in God's house, for Jesus said, "The hour cometh." The instruments (members) that Jesus sets in make melody in their hearts to the Lord (Eph. 5:19). "Neither is worshipped with men's hands as though He needed any thing, seeing He giveth to all life and breath and all things" Acts 17:25. Just as the spiritual, lively stones take their places in the later house instead of the natural stones that Solomon placed in, so we become the instruments of the New Testament church instead of the literal instruments.

Concerning musical instruments used in worship, Bradis says, "There is danger in it."

Wesley says, "Good not heard."

Clark says, "Not spiritual."

Amos 6:1-5 says, "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion [church of God] that chant to the sound of the vial and invent to themselves instruments of music like David."

Some say it is the life of worship, but Jesus says, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10. He says, "I hate, I despise your feast days and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies [religious places]. Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs, for I will not hear the melody of thy vials." Amos 5:21-23. He wants the melodies that come from the heart. "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Eph. 5:19. "I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with understanding also." 1 Cor. 14:15. There is music in my soul.

—Darius Gibson

"FAITH AND VICTORY"**16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY**

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published each month (except August of each year which is Camp-meeting month, and we omit this month to attend these meetings) by Fred Pruitt, assisted by Mary A. Pruitt, and other consecrated workers at FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Okla.

(Entered as second-class matter June 30, 1930 at the Post Office at Guthrie, Oklahoma under the act of March, 3, 1879.)
—SUBSCRIPTION PRICES—

Single copy, one year	\$.25
Single copy, five years	1.00
Five copies to any address, one year	1.00
Twelve copies to any address, one year	2.00

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the promulgation and restoration of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from the world and entire devotion to the service and the will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God; no test of fellowship but the indwelling spirit of Christ; and separation from all human organizations—such are not authorized in the Word of God.

This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21 and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the same gospel which Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced; including the Divine healing of the body. James 5:14,15.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way the Bible and the Holy Spirit teaches you to do or stirs your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 24:2; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Free-will offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord and used in the furtherance of the gospel work as God directs unless otherwise specified. All personal checks and Post Office Money Orders should be made payable to Fred Pruitt, or to

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE
920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma.

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Hammond, La.—Dear Saints,—Greetings to you all. This morning when I was suffering so much from an awful pain in my head, had suffered two days, I was thinking if the Lord would only heal me how I could tell it and could even write it to "Faith and Victory."

I testified how I expected to hold on to the Lord for healing in behalf of different ailments, and while I was speaking the pain entirely left my head. Thank God, healing is real.

Sometimes we don't pray as much about different afflictions as we should. If we would put forth more effort and persevere more in prayer, we would see more results. Jesus, the same yesterday, today and forever, is the one who healeth ALL our diseases. No GOOD thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

In Christ, Ruth Murphey.

Editorials

As this issue of the "Faith and Victory" paper begins to circulate among our readers, we shall have passed into another year, the year of 1944. In looking back over the past year, we find that it has been a year of continual activity in the service of the Lord. As God increases the publishing work, obligations, responsibilities and heavenly burdens increase, but the Lord has taught us long ago to cast our burdens upon Him, and by doing this we find that His yoke is easy and His burden is light. Many times in this last year it seems good to us to say that God has helped us do an amount of work beyond the natural strength, that His purposes and will might be fulfilled. As we look on back over the years since He first directed us to put out the Faith and Victory paper, which was in 1923, it gives us much satisfaction and comfort to know that even in the darkest hours He has been with us to comfort and to encourage our souls. There is a great heavenly comfort and assurance which fills our souls at the thought and knowledge of a life wholly given unto His service, and in thinking of the many precious souls that have been saved by the Lord through the reading of the gospel by the printed page, and the large number who have been encouraged to follow on with the Lord and gain that celestial crown which is awaiting the faithful. It greatly rejoices our souls.

The publishers of the "Faith and Victory" paper are entering into the New Year of 1944 with joyful hearts and glad remembrances of the blessings and favors of God upon the work in the past and with bright hopes of the future as we see the working of God in increasing the ability and possibility of reaching many more souls than ever in the past; for the truth of the Gospel is being received by an increasing number of men and women throughout the land and country. All this rejoices our hearts, for we know that unless God works with the truth contained in the papers, books, and tracts it would only be as dead matter; but as He works with them by His Spirit, he makes the truth a living reality to the souls of men and their hearts are filled with love and devotion to Him.

Your editors and workers here at the Faith Publishing House send New Year's greetings to all of our readers and pray that the blessings of God may be your portion all through the New Year, and that the face of God may shine upon you causing prosperity in the needful things of earth; and above all, prosperity in soul and body.

In Romans 6:23, we read, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." This death does not mean physical death, for all men have an appointment with death. Paul says, "It is appointed unto man once to die, and after this the judgment." This death means something far greater and much more serious than physical death; it means a soul death, a banishment from God eternally in the flames of an ever burning torment. Oh, that the millions now who are earning the wages of sin could be awakened to their awful doom!

The verse of scripture quoted above would bring great sadness and sorrow to souls if it stopped with the words, "The wages of sin is death." But, thanks be unto God for the "Unspeakable Gift," which is offered to all men through the rest of the verse, "The gift of God is eternal life." Oh, glory be to His precious name! Then all who will may have eternal life and cease earning the wages of sin. By repenting, confessing and turning away from all your sins, you can have the gift of God, which is eternal life, begun in your soul, and this gift will bring peace, quietness, and assurance forever (Isa. 32:17).

After the Apostle Paul had received the Lord Jesus and was set free from the body of sin and eternal death, he said, "There is therefore now [just as soon as you receive the gift, Christ Jesus, by faith] no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." Rom. 8:1. Thank God, it is a bright hope for sinful man to know that although he has been earning the wages of eternal death, he can, if he will, have his sins all blotted out, receive Christ the Gift of God, and have eternal life, which is Christ in you the hope of glory. Oh, that men would believe in Christ to the saving of the soul and escape the damnation and ruin that awaits the sinful.

Dear sinner friend, I beseech you to read the whole third chapter of St. John and ponder the last verse, which reads, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." After you think over this verse for awhile, then turn to verses 16, 17, and 18 and read them over again. Humble your heart before God, ask Him to forgive you of all your sins, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, receive the Gift, and be saved, walk after the Spirit and have no more condemnation. It is a glorious way, a heaven to go to heaven in. Why stay in servitude to sin and be damned, when life eternal is offered to you through Christ, the Gift of God to believing men?

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On Monday evening, December 6th, we received phone message from H. H. Humphrey of Wisner, Neb. asking me to officiate in the funeral services of his mother, Sister E. E. Humphrey, who had passed away the previous evening while sitting in her chair. She left Guthrie Tuesday morning and went to Peru, Neb. where she was to be buried. The service at Peru was Wednesday evening. They brought the corpse in a hearse from Wisner, which is over one hundred and fifty miles north-west of Peru.

Sister E. E. Humphrey was over eighty years old and had been a devout Christian for many years. She was born from above and had joined herself to the Lord in a perpetual covenant, serving Him faithfully unto death. She lived here in Guthrie for several months at a time during the last few years of her life and was loved by all the saints at Guthrie and others whom she met. She always seemed to be just like one ripened for heaven, and I am sure

that the scripture is fulfilled in her case found in Rev. 14:13, which reads, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." She has died in the Lord and is now resting from her labors and her works of love will follow on and on bringing fond remembrances to many.

I, for one, feel that my association with her in this life has helped me, and will be a future encouragement to me; and I am sure that many others can truthfully say the same thing. The scripture, "She has done what she could," will be a comfort to all of her friends and kindred in the Lord.

We shall try to secure her obituary to publish in the next issue of the "Faith and Victory" paper.

Bro. Egbert Allen and wife and Sister Miller of Langdon, Mo. were at the funeral. We went home with them and the Lord gave us a precious service that night in their home. Twelve or fifteen gathered in for prayer meeting. I was glad to meet the saints there and it will be a pleasure for me to return and be in a meeting there if the Lord ever orders it that way. Our work at the office was pressing, so I had to hurry back as it was pleasing to the Lord.

I spent a few hours with my brother Orlin and family at Kansas City, Kans. on the way home.

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WANTED—CAMPGROUND CARETAKER

Bro. Kurtz, the present caretaker on the National campground at Monark Springs, Mo., is planning to move to Neosho, Mo. the 15th of December. Therefore, the Lord is in need of a consecrated man to live on the grounds and care for the property. A person who is self-supporting and willing to give their services to the Lord is preferred. Perhaps an old-age pensioner would like to accept this work for the Lord. A one-room cabin will be provided on the grounds. A grocery store is nearby.

We would like to contact anyone interested as soon as possible and secure a person to live on the grounds at least until the campmeeting next summer when more definite arrangements can be made.

Address your inquiries to Bro. Sam Barton, R. 8, Box 119, Tulsa, Okla., who is manager of the campground affairs.

—L. D. Pruitt, Secy-Treas.

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1943 "FAITH AND VICTORY" PAPERS

The "Faith and Victory" year books are now available at this office for forty cents each, postpaid. Each book contains the eleven issues of "Faith and Victory" paper which were published for the year 1943, bound together with a strong paper cover. The supply is limited so if you want one or more for yourself or your friends, order now, for it is very likely that the supply will soon be exhausted.

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1944 Scripture Text Calendar— Beautiful colored picture for each month with a verse of scripture for each day. Price 30c each, four for \$1.00, nine for \$2.

OBITUARIES

In loving memory of Sister Ellen Wilson of Good Pine, La, who departed from this life in September, 1943, age 58 years.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. C. C. Carver of Shreveport at the church of God chapel near Good Pine, and she was laid away in the Belah Cemetery.

Our mother's place is vacant here,
Her voice no more our hearts to cheer.
Her life was spent for God and man,
Ready to lend a helping hand.
Though we miss her love and prayers,
We're glad she's free from all life's cares.
She's gone to live in realms above,
Rejoicing in the Saviour's love.

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In Memory of William Isaac Miles

Our brother's gone we love so dear,
Whom we have known so many years
His soul has gone to live with God,
While his body rests beneath the sod.

Then roll on, roll on ye flight of years,
To the Christian man you bring no fears
To the end of time when all shall rise
To meet again above the skies.

To his beloved children dear,
Will you make the preparation here
To meet your father in that land
Just beyond the golden strand?

And to his faithful wife, I'd say,
God bless you, Sister, all the way;
Be true to God and at the end
Once more your soul with his will blend.

—G. E. Harmon

Bro J. E. Kurtz of Monark Spgs., Mo. is suffering from indigestion or heart trouble. Pray earnestly for him.

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They Killed The Preacher

In Matthew the fourteenth chapter we read about the death of John the Baptist, a preacher who uncovered sin and did not compromise with man or devils. He stood firmly for the truth. He had no fine church building with fine pipe organ and no fine car or carriage. He had to endure many hardships.

John uncovered the sin of adultery which was being committed by King Herod and his brother Philip's wife. Her carnal anger arose to defend her guilty conscience, so at a drunken party she seized an opportunity to put an end to the preacher who had thus exposed her sin. She thought they were rid of an enemy; but the real enemy, sin, was still there unconfessed and unforsaken and unforgiven. When Jesus came preaching repentance, the king, disturbed by his guilty conscience and the sin that was haunting his soul, thought it was John the Baptist who had risen from the dead. That sin is still tormenting them in eternity.

People as a rule do not like the idea of repenting of sins and cleaning up their wrong life and evil deeds, and do not like anything which reminds them

of their sins. They think when they get rid of the preacher who preaches the truth that they can then have peace with their sins covered up. But so long as the sin remains there will be trouble.

Many so-called churches today kill preachers though the laws of the land protect their literal life. They follow their man-made creeds from which the true worship of the Lord is barred out. Their hearts are filled with idolatry. They require their preachers to preach only things which will make it cozy for them to continue in their sins. If he yields to them, his spiritual life is killed; and if he will not yield, they turn him out because he didn't have the right influence over the people (especially the young people who are especially fond of youthful lusts), he was driving the members away and tearing up the church. No doubt, his preaching was a little hard on the parties, chicken suppers, and dances in the basement, if that is what they called "their church." If church members would repent of their sins and refuse to patronize the drunken parties, road houses, dancing holes, cigarette salesmen, booze peddlars, gambling dens, prostitutes and such like, these would all have to go out of business. These things have brought this country to ruin. Don't kill the preacher but repent of your sins. They will face you at the Judgment.

The Jews thought they would kill the Preacher (Jesus) who was making them uncomfortable in their sins, so they nailed Him to a cross, put Him in a tomb with a big stone in front which they sealed with the Governor's seal. But the Preacher conquered death, hell, and the grave. They did not harm the Preacher but their sins are harming them yet today. You cannot kill a preacher who is filled with the Holy Ghost.

People try to kill the preacher (the Bible) by explaining away scriptures (or counting them as non-essentials) which condemn some of their sins. But the Word of God will live on the same in spite of efforts to kill it. It will never pass away.

If you feel your conscience pricking you whose sins are being exposed, take the safe way and repent of your sins instead of getting rid of the one who reminds you of them. If your sins are not confessed and repented of here they will follow you and condemn you at the Judgment. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Proverbs 28:1. "Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after." 1 Tim. 5:24.

J. Linten (Revised)

—oOo—

UNITY

Surely the old-time, humble unity of the dear meek children of God is one of the most blessed things that could exist among them. This is surely the principal "turn key" that will open the doors of God's spiritual heavens and let down the copious showers of "early and latter rain" (Jas. 5:7). Surely there are wonderful promises from our all-powerful and loving God contingent on such qualities and relationships existing among his dear saints. Ho

sad it is to think that a few years ago there was one great, world-wide work of the true church of God moving on in harmony together and today the Devil is making such untiring efforts to make her like a drop of oil, which, when it is all together in one body is beautiful, compact, with all the possible strength of oil; but when dropped on a quantity of water, spreads all over its surface. Thus it practically loses its concentration and identity and becomes as an indefinite number of units, acting more or less independently. Satan can get the church of God by the nape of the neck; not only through some little compromise, but when some other little thing of a different character comes up and we run aside and stand aloof from one another instead of covering it with deep humility, he can pour us out like a drop of oil on the water and shatter us to fractions. Satan has been trying hard to produce another Arctic iceberg similar to that which sent the Titanic to the bottom of the Atlantic—a spiritual iceberg on which to wreck the ship of Zion. And dear children of God, are we aware he has done much in that direction and is still working hard at it? It is sad to see the tendency to scatter into bunches with a leader to suit their shade of teaching, each more or less mistrusting the other. O Lord, help the dear church of God to increase in the "unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace!"

—J. H. Pierson

—oOo—

The Holy Ghost Dispensation

John the Baptist, who was the forerunner of Christ, was filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb. Elizabeth, his mother, and Zacharias, his father, were filled with the Holy Ghost. John's baptism was water baptism for those who repented of their sins. He told the people that Jesus Christ would baptize them with the Holy Ghost and fire. He was looking forward to Pentecost.

John and Jesus were both looking forward to Pentecost when they preached, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." This was the kingdom about which Daniel and Joel prophesied.

The angel, when talking to Mary, said of Jesus, "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest, and of His kingdom there shall be no end."

When Jesus sent the twelve disciples to preach, he told them to preach, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." They obeyed Jesus, but they were yet carnal.

Pentecost was practiced in types and shadows fifteen hundred years before it actually came by the bringing in of the first fruits of the literal harvest. When the real Pentecost was FULLY come at Jerusalem ten days after Jesus went back to the Father in heaven, and Jesus did baptize the one hundred and twenty with the Holy Ghost and fire from heaven, this was the first fruits of the great spiritual harvest that followed. The kingdom of heaven that was at hand was then in them and they were in the kingdom. The many sayings of Jesus about his

crucifixion, death, resurrection, ascension, and the other Comforter were all brought back to the disciples in life and power by the Holy Ghost. From henceforth the Holy Ghost was their teacher, leader, guide, and Comforter. They were holy as Jesus, and the Holy Ghost in them has given us the New Testament.

Up to the third century millions repented, believed, and were baptized and received the gift of the Holy Ghost.

May God circumcise hearts, open the eyes of our understanding, and may the Holy Ghost lead us deeper into this great gospel kingdom of Jesus our Saviour. God's perfect salvation is the means of destroying the works of the flesh mentioned in Gal. 5:22, 23. "They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." Gal. 5:24.

Carnal-minded, educated sons and daughters of Adam and Eve are filling pulpits today. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears. And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." 2 Tim. 4:3, 4.

—J. Edward Wetzel

—oOo—

Putting God in a Tight Place

The following narrative is a true story of an incident that happened a few months ago in our home. We were sleeping in separate rooms in the warmest nights of last August so that each of us could be near a south window and thus get the benefit of what little cooling breeze that might be blowing from the South. Wife has been afflicted several times in the last year or so with gall stones, one of the most painful things that humanity is subject to. She was taken suddenly with one of those attacks and after walking around in the room for several minutes with her hands on her knees, she thought it best to call me to get up and pray for her. She did so and I think in less than ten seconds I was up and on my knees before a rocking chair, pouring out my heart in earnest prayer to God to stop this awful pain. I began quoting some of God's promises as recorded in the Bible. I quoted Psalms 46:1, also several others and the pain stopped instantly while I was still praying. We both laid down and I was soon asleep again. The next day as I was thinking of how good the Lord was to us and thanking Him for being a present help in trouble, God brought to my mind as forcibly as if he had spoken to me in an audible voice these thoughts. "Son, do you realize that you had me cornered up in a tight place, and I had to answer your prayer last night? You began to quote some of my promises and I can't fail on one of my promises. For if I failed on one of them, I could fail on all of them, and if I failed on my promises, what would my children in the world have to put their trust and confidence in? Don't you realize that the whole Bible and the whole plan of salvation hangs on my promises and if I should fail in keeping even one of

them the whole Bible would fall flat and could not be trusted in for anything?" Say, good people wherever you are or whoever you are, this experience has been the most help and the greatest blessing to me that I have ever had in more than thirty years of my Christian experience.

Jesus says in Mark 9:23, "All things are possible to him that believeth," and now I have unbounded faith in all of God's precious promises. I believe that it is as easy for a sinner to get in touch with God as it is for a Christian. For example, let the sinner read the 55th chapter of Isaiah. If the sinner will forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts, God has promised to abundantly pardon. Here we see that even the vilest sinner can put God in a tight place. If the sinner will only be willing to forsake his sinful ways and thoughts, God is bound by his most holy and righteous word to pardon that sinner. Not in a week or a month, but as soon as the sinner decides to quit his sinful ways and thoughts and believe God's infallible word, the work will be done instantly. It is a work of faith.

I had never thought that I or all my friends and relatives had the power to put God, the Creator of all things, in a tight place, but since this blessed experience, I can realize that any one of God's children can easily corner God up or put him in a tight place where He will answer prayer. If he didn't, the whole Bible would be a failure and not to be depended on in any emergency. Let all people both saved and unsaved take fresh courage and get a new and fast hold on God and His unfailing promises. Let us have faith. Read Matt. 17:20. Here it speaks of having faith as a grain of mustard seed. Nothing shall be impossible unto you. Now let us analyze this faith as a grain of mustard seed and see what it is like. All gardeners know that mustard will not mix with lettuce or radishes or any other seed or plants of like nature. But if you plant mustard seed you will get mustard plants. unmixed with any other plants in your garden. So we see that faith like a grain of mustard seed means there is no doubt mixed with our faith, but we with full confidence stand on God's infallible word. He can't fail in His holy and righteous word. Have faith in God. I count this my true experience as the greatest faith-inspiring experience of all my life and I truly thank God for sending it my way. God may have seen that I had a need of more faith and He in His unbounded mercy and compassion granted me this experience to teach me how to have more faith. Thank His precious and holy name.

—E. M. Wood

—O—O—O—O—O—O—
Brentwood, Md.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—May the Lord bless thee and the workers there, Amen.

I have just returned from Chicago where I was four weeks giving out tracts mostly to Jews and preaching right where the Jews were thickest and where the devil has full sway. The devil was angry and stirred up his agents to drive me out. They said, "We don't want you down here." I said, "Neither does the devil." I refused to go, so had to suffer persecution. The Word tells us that all who will live godly shall suffer persecution. I met one real saint among those unbelieving Jews, a widow,

who is a converted Jewess. She loves her people and works and prays over them and weeps as she prays. She took me in. I was tired, cold, and hungry. She fed me and gave me five dollars and a dime to ride home. That which she has done to God's humble servant will be told throughout all the eternal ages to come and great will be her reward. For God says that even a cup of cold water given in His name will not lose its reward.

Praise the Lord, I am glad I am on God's side and He is on my side.

R. F. Green.

—O—O—O—O—O—O—

La Grande, Ore.—Dear Bro. Pruitt—I am saved and still on the road to glory and I feel that I am farther up the way today. Oh, how my heart rejoices to do his will. The Lord showed me a river a few days ago which seemed swollen as by a mighty flood. Riding on its muddy frothing crest was this wicked world. I saw a dance hall where men and women swayed to the music and again a gambling den where thru thick smoke men were pooling away their souls. I saw men and women standing at a bar raising their glass. They seemed unmindful that they were headed for destruction. Oh, how I wanted to reach out and pull them ashore.

Truly sin is rolling like a mighty flood and we are all very near eternity. Then, oh, how it behooves us to work as never before. I had been hesitating for quite some time over something that the Lord was impressing me to do, and the more I hesitated, the worse I felt. One morning while attending a church service, I looked up toward the ceiling and there I seemed to see the Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane and He was weeping and praying. I seemed to hear the heavy broken sobs, and He raised His head and looked up toward heaven, and, oh, what a look of suffering was written there. His hair was matted and his clothes soiled. I never realized how much the Lord had suffered there for me until that moment and he was just young too. My heart broke. I whispered, "Yes, I'll do it, Lord, this very day,"—and I did. The Lord blessed me in a wonderful way. I shall never forget that scene, and if at any time I feel myself slipping, I shall see that vision again and feel I cannot fail Him, for He never failed me in the hour of agony when it seemed everyone had forsaken him. The Lord gave me this poem after that vision:

HE DID IT

He did it, Oh, praise God! He did it
In spite of all the imps of hell.
He paid the price upon the cross,
More pain than man can tell.

He did it, yes, He did it,
Tho men reviled while there He died,
He chose the most disgraceful death
When He was crucified.

He did it, Oh, Praise God! He did it
Tho even God had turned away,
He hung alone, forsaken, dying,
Yet for you He still could pray.

He did it by long nights alone,
Weeping, fasting, praying thru;
Thirty years He was preparing
Here to die for me and you.

Is there anything too shameful
Here for Jesus' sake to do?
Can you face the scorning thousands
As He did for me and you?

—Mrs. Grace Jones.

Young People's Section

Faith in Our Father

Oh, New Year so holy,
Please help me come boldly
For help in my time of sore need.
My best I give gladly,
No more to live sadly,
His Spirit forever will lead.

Why shrink from the crossing?
The waves may be tossing,
Yet grace is sufficient for thee.
There's no one can bother,
For trusting our Father,
His great love and mercy we see.

Oh joy beyond measure,
Unmerited favor,
By faith He has sanctified me.
I'll never cease to praise Him
For now I am washed in
The blood that was shed on the tree.

Though tempest be howling
And Satan be scowling,
There's never a doubt or a fear.
Though wild wind be blowing
It's anger keep showing
Yet Jesus forever is near.

—Clifford Wilson.

Editorials

As the old year of 1943 fades into eternity, the new year of 1944 dawns with its new responsibilities. The march of the years reminds us that time is swiftly passing, and time will have an ending in eternity. Time is valuable, for it is the little space between two eternities which God has given man in which to prepare for his eternal home. The wheel of time is going around and around—from the cradle to the grave. Youth is carried on steadily to old age, and old age to the grave.

In Amos 4:12 we read, "Prepare to meet thy God." You and I know not when that meeting will take place. Therefore, He says, "Be ye also ready, for in an hour ye think not the Son of man cometh." Everyone will meet God when time ends, we know, but the point of ending is known to God alone. Our concern should be to make preparation and keep prepared for that great event.

Think of a sinful creature meeting face to face his Almighty Creator. What a solemn meeting! Reader, there is not the shadow of a doubt but you will meet God. The words have gone forth from the mouth of Him who cannot lie, and you and I shall witness their fulfillment. "For we shall all stand," says the Apostle, "before the judgment seat of Christ." "The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and obey not

the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." "Behold," says John, "he cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him; and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him." And in Jude it is written, "Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all." He will give a strict and impartial examination of the sinner's conduct during his time on earth, and reward him according to his works. He has his sins all written down in his book; they form a long, black catalogue, which the sinner will look upon with horror. Every sin will strike a dagger into his soul, and add fresh fuel to the flame of punishment. Oh, what an awful day that will be.

That meeting will fix your future destiny. Here you are on probation, but there your probation will cease, and your lot will be decided. Everything you do here, will have an influence on your lot hereafter. Nothing that is done in this world can be undone in the next world. Nothing that is left undone in this life can be done in the life to come. If death leaves you unprepared to meet God, judgment will find you in the same dreadful state. How important, therefore, is preparation.

The vital question is, what kind of preparation is necessary in order to meet God with peace and joy? It must be a preparation of the heart and life. The heart must be renewed with divine grace, and the life must be conformed to the precepts of Jesus. The heart is corrupt, the affections are depraved; pride, anger, ill-will, and all sorts of evil dispositions grow up with the sinner, and therefore, all these must be eradicated and destroyed. The heart of stone must be turned into a heart of flesh and made anew. The whole inward man must be transformed into new life, must experience a new birth, a new creation. All sin must be forgiven; all guilt must be washed away, and the sinner must be reconciled to God. And having made peace with God, he must walk before him in reverence, humility, and obedience.

Your redemption has been accomplished through the death, burial, and resurrection of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Will you believe it, accept it, and prepare to meet thy God?

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The future outlook for the kingdoms of the world is dark indeed, but the citizens of God's heavenly kingdom need not fear, for they possess an everlasting kingdom that cannot be moved. Nations of the world rise and fall, but God's kingdom has been established forever and will never fall. Is your citizenship in heaven?

—L. D. P.

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"The home is the first line of defense of our democracy. The home, in many ways, is imperiled. In far too many homes reverence for God does not exist. Religion and the guidance of God are not sufficiently considered." —J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

You Can Choose for Yourself

Let us draw a picture of an active Christian and one of a passive Christian and see which fits us and which we would rather be.

Our passive Christian remembers to hold his tongue that no irreverent or ungodly words pass his lips. 'This is good. Our active Christian remembers to speak with deliberate forethought and premeditation toward glorifying God. 'This is better. A passive Christian stands fast and resists evil. This is good. An active Christian allows the love of God to be a real and impelling force in his life toward good. 'This is better. The passive Christian's thoughts rise at random and his words are often without objective or inspiration. The active Christian's thoughts and words are motivated by his love for God, and inspired by God's love for him. The passive Christian says, "If the Lord ever shows me something to do, I'll do it." This is a good attitude, but the active Christian seeks to know the will of God and seeks to fill his place in the body. "Wherefore, be ye not unwise but understanding what the will of the Lord is."

Often times the passive Christian spends much of his life laboring for that which satisfieth not. He may be resigned to his way of living and seek not to change it. Too often he has much time for leisure and repose. The genuinely active Christian is animated by an enthusiastic and aggressive ardor for the work of God. He bestirs himself zealously; is instant in season and out. There is no inertia here; no folding of the hands to sleep.

Can you vision the results if all passive, inactive Christians should suddenly become animated ones? "Enlarge the place of thy tent and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left." Isaiah 54:2, 3.

We often find that passive Christians are subject to personal hurt feelings—are easily wounded by someone's tactlessness. To the active Christian unintentional words or personal slights do not wound. There is a deeper hurt that they are subject to. Any deviation from God's word, any slackness or carelessness among God's children, any falling below the standard; these things really hurt him. We say falling below the standard because God's standard cannot be lowered. We hear folks talk about the standard being lowered or dragged in the dust. This is an impossibility. One can lower himself or drag himself in the dust, but God's standard remains unchanged. A standard is a measure. "Till we all come in the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man. Unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Eph. 4:13. The fulness of Christ himself, in us is the only thing that will bring us up to the standard of God.

Which are you and which would you rather be, a passive Christian or an active one? Do you think it very likely that the passive one will be a victorious Christian very long? I fear that for some time past I have been a passive Christian, but by God's

help and grace, I mean to be an active one from this moment on. How about you?

"All things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light, for whatsoever doth make manifest is light, wherefore He saith; awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time because the days are evil." "Wherefore, be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." Eph. 5:13-17.

One day at the California campmeeting a dear sister asked me if I had yet found my place in the body of Christ; if I knew what my duties were. I replied that I knew what I should like to do. She said, "Ah, but it isn't what we most like to do but the thing that God blesses us most in doing. That is the thing He wants us to do."

There is something for all of us to do, our specialty that God is wanting us to do; a little place to fill that only we can fill. Don't make the mistake of thinking it vain or conceited to say, "God has a work for me to do and I mean to do it by his help and grace." Rather would it show more conceit to consider that we are an exception and have no work to do while others must labor for the Lord. I hope and trust that when I see that sister again, I may be able to say, "Yes, God has shown me my place and I am happy in doing the things He would have me do." And by His grace I mean to find that place and that work. What a great day and what a looking up there will be when every little child of God finds his place and fills it. It is important too, to keep ourselves in a condition for that work of whatever nature it might be and in the place where we can perform it.

There is a story about a young Finnish girl who was coming to America to find work. A married couple, in seeking to employ her asked if she could cook. No, she couldn't cook. Could she sew? No, she replied that she had never tried to sew. Could she care for children? No, she had never learned to take care of children. "What can you do?" asked the couple in exasperation. "Why, I can milk reindeer," cheerfully responded the girl.

Let us not be like the Finnish girl. But rather let us be found in the place where our service can be used.

—Virginia Wittenborn

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If One Should Gain the World

If one should gain the entire world
By hard and honest toil;
With stocks and bonds, and talent skill
And products of the soil,

Having all that heart could wish,
A thousand times and more,
Of every kind of treasure rare;
Intact and laid in store.

Having all at his command,
Of silver, brass, and gold;
What would his profit be at last,
If he should lose his soul?

A precious asset, more than all,
Redeemed by blood divine;
The only thing that he can say
That this is really mine.

If he should gain all else beside,
From river to the sea;
And then at last his soul be lost—
What would his profit be?

Oh heed the warning, don't neglect
You precious, precious soul;
But strive with all your inward might
To reach the blessed goal.

Count all else loss, the Christ to gain,
And in his service shine.
When earthly treasures fade away,
Sweet rapture shall be thine.

What would it profit any man
To reach the highest goal
Of honor, wealth, or social fame
And lose his precious soul?

—Ulysses Phillips.

Camp Roberts, Calif.—Dear Friends,—Just a few lines from a lonely soldier this lonesome afternoon. My mother takes your paper, "Faith and Victory," and I have read a few articles in it, in fact, quite a few, and I find it very interesting. I am a sinner boy in this army, but I think about the good side of life quite often, and about salvation. Just this afternoon three of us boys were lying around, and started talking about the churches. We all had different beliefs about different things in the Bible. I told them I had read the Bible quite a bit but didn't know the true meaning of most things in it, but I do not believe you have to have your name on a church book to live for God. And another thing is being a Christian at church and not at home; if I see it right, you have to live for God wherever you may be whether at home, in the church or on the battlefield. I may be on the battlefield before long, but I know the great God of heaven will always be with me. And, dear friends, although I am a sinner now but I hope to be a child of God one of these days. I know that every man and boy on the battlefields will cry out to the Almighty God of heaven to take care of them. I have just come back from my furlough and I really didn't stop to realize the dangers of war until then.

I could see the young boys and girls out in civilian life enjoying things, having a good time. Here I am just 19 years of age in here fighting for those boys and girls that they may retain their happiness on this earth.

There are so many different beliefs in this U. S. Army that sometimes I wonder what is right. There are so many sinners in it, and I wonder if they ever think of the great salvation of God. I know I shouldn't talk about others because I am among the rest of them, but I hope to be delivered from it. I hope this letter is published; not for publicity, but so that the young and old can see just how a boy in the armed forces feels although he is a sinner. I desire your prayers each day.

Pvt. Gerald G. Palmer

Jena, La.—Dear Saints—Greetings in Jesus' precious name. I feel that I should write a testimony for the Lord, not to get praise, but to give praise unto the Lord.

Praise His dear name! He is so good to us at all times. I'm thankful He had patience enough with me until I finally decided to make another start for Him. I started living for the Lord once and drifted back into sin—an awful place to be, but truly I cannot say that I was ever satisfied until I came back to the Lord. I expect to press the battle on no matter what comes or goes. I know if we will do what little we can do, the Lord will surely teach us. My whole desire it to know and do the will of God throughout this life. My husband is unsaved and I desire your prayers that he will be saved. I pray for him and have requested prayer for him several times at meeting. He needs to be saved and help me raise our little boy and girl that God has intrusted in our hands in the way they should go. I want to let my light shine at all times. I also want the Lord to give me wisdom. I have trials but of course that is just natural for the children of God. My neighbors notice the change in my life, and I'm glad they do, but I don't think they like my dress so well. But pray that I'll always please the Lord rather than neighbors or anyone else. Your Sister in Christ, Cassie Price

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Columbus, Ohio—Dear Bro. Pruitt— I can say that I truly am a child of God. I was saved Oct. 26, 1943, during a revival meeting which my father was conducting here in Columbus. My brother takes your paper. I have been reading it and enjoy it very much. Though I have not been saved very long ever since I started to serve the Lord I have given up all to follow Him. The world and its ways don't have any more attraction for me. I am twenty years old.

We plan to have a revival meeting near our home at our place of worship which is located at 203 So. Wayne Ave. It will begin about the middle of December.

Since I have been saved I have been trusting God in all things. The way is too great to ever turn from it and there is nothing for me to go back to. My mother and father and brother are all saved and have been trusting the Lord for some time. It pays to serve God in the long run. I think so. Pray for me to keep encouraged and go on in the will of the Lord. I would like for some of the younger saints of God to write to me. I would like to be acquainted with some of them. My address is 418 S. Eureka Ave., Columbus, Ohio.

Yours in Christian love,

Ruth E. Miller

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Mansfield, La.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the dear saints,—For some time I have felt like writing of the Lord's dealings with me in His holy way. I know I have been born again and the Holy Ghost leads and guides every true child of God.

It is very necessary to see ourselves as God sees us and ask Him, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" I waited before the Lord and as I was humming the tune to the song, "A Charge to Keep I Have," the Lord spoke and said, "Tell the people they must unload."

I know I am a chosen vessel of the Lord, and am not ashamed to do what He wants me to do. I am not guilty of running after the things of the world. I need no face paint, nor do I wear short skirts. I am satisfied with my hair just the way the Lord gave it to me.

The Lord has kept me so that I have a good reputation. I am the mother of six children, four girls and two boys. One son is in the army service somewhere—and I ask the prayers of the saints in his behalf.

Sin is the cause of this awful war, and many so surely are paying the price. If the majority of people had Christ ruling and reigning within, we would have peace instead of confusion. Many love the world and

not unload their sin. They will not die to the world so they can be fruitful for the Master. John 12:24.

I love to read "Faith and Victory." It proves to be strength to me on my pilgrim journey. I need prayer so that I can stand in the midst of a crooked, backsliding people. The Holy Spirit has called me here to be a light so that souls may see and know what God would have them do. The more teaching they get the slacker they become, it seems; but with all I am standing. Why? because I have a solid foundation and do not care how the winds blow or how the storms beat; when all is over I am still on the Rock. The Lord is everything to me. Before souls start to walk with God they should count the cost. It means a death to self. I am placed in a very sinful community. The Wednesday night prayermeeting and Sunday School is forgotten. There are so many blind leaders of the blind and it brings about a sad condition.

I desire special prayer for my son in the army and my family, also myself. I am not well. My suffering is very weakening and I have an awful cold and cough.

Your Sister in Christ, Mrs. Elnora Washington
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Seattle, Wash.—Dear saints and readers of "Faith and Victory":—We send greetings to all in the precious name of Jesus. Glad we can report victory in our soul and a deep desire to go all the way with our blessed Lord.

Many, no doubt, will be surprised to hear from us here in Seattle, but we feel we are in the order of the Lord to be here. Before we came we had a burden from the Lord to come. It was a great trial for us to leave our dear ones and the saints in W. Va. and come so far. It took three nights and four days to make the trip here by train. When the train would stop at the different stations, we would get off and hand out tracts and papers.

We want to tell you about visiting dear old Mother Edwards, who lives in Cove, Wash. Some of the saints wrote us about her and asked us to visit her. Husband and I made the trip. We had to go out over Puget Sounds on the Ferry as she lives on Vashon Island, which is only twenty miles long and seven miles wide.

We found Mother Edwards a dear saint of God. She is eighty years old, and has been bedfast for something like six years with cancer. She has no pain. Her daughter told me the doctor was astonished and could not understand how it could be. Mother Edwards is a native of Norway. She speaks English very brokenly. She had never met any of the saints but had written to the sisters who wrote to me about her, and I think she told me she had written to Bro. Pruitt.

We took two Select Hymns song books with us and our Bible. I wish I could tell you about the little prayer meeting we had in her room. As we sang the songs of Zion she would raise her hands in praise to the Lord. We read the chapter which she selected, being the 12th chapter of Romans. As we arose from prayer we heard her saying in a low voice as to herself, "These are God's people." And now I want to say right there and then we knew that this was one reason why God had put the burden on us to come here—almost three thousand miles to see one saint of God, and to read and pray with her. Truly we felt that God was there and it was a good place to be. We hope to go to see her again soon. Mother Edwards has great faith. Through her prayers her family has been healed many times. I asked her who taught her about healing. She said, "I found it in God's word." This I understand she had never heard it taught in younger days, but she had believed in God and trusted all these years. She wants the saints to pray with that the Lord will be pleased to heal her of this

there are any saints living here or near here or

anyone who would like for us to visit them, we would like for them to write to us, as we want to contact all that we can. 2336-31 Ave. So., Seattle, 44, Wash.

May God bless you one and all, is our prayer. We would also like to hear from the dear saints who have been in our home when were back in W. Va. We do not know all of your addresses. Beatrice Spaur

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Anderson, Ind.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt,—Greetings in Christian love to you both and all the saints every where. You may wonder why I call you Bro. and Sister as I do when I have never met you. Well, I have met several saints who do know you and from what they tell me I feel you are a brother and sister in the Lord, a mother and father in Israel. I love the saints. I received the tracts and the "Faith and Victory" paper, the silent preacher. I quit my work and sat down to read the good news. It was food to my soul. Saints who can meet together cannot realize how hungry one gets who has not the privilege of being in service very often. I am so glad this morning that I can still report victory in my soul. I love to read the good testimonies in the little paper and everything that is in it then pass it on to others. We have been passing out the tracts. We are trying to get the truth of God's Word in as many homes as possible. Husband carried some tracts to the shop where he works and gave them out. Some man told him that his wife had sent for the paper and tracts, that it was the best they had ever seen.

I heard a man preaching over the air. He read the tract, "A Disappointed Soldier Boy" one Sunday.

On Dec. 6th, we went to Bro. and Sister Wm. Pearson's house in New Castle, Ind. In the afternoon saints began to gather in, some we had never met. What a wonderful time we had in the Lord, singing His praises—such ringing testimonies, good preaching, shouts of victory often rang out. We had a glorious time and a feast to our souls. It caused us to come home with a stronger desire to press on and live for Him who died for us.

May God bless all the workers in His print shop, and keep it going, supply every need as you put out the truth to the lost and dying, is my prayer.

A saved Sister,

Stella Lee.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o

English, Ind.—Dear ones— I want to speak a good word for the state of old Kentucky. We traveled through it, going to camp to see my son. We saw many signs on billboards of worldly things; such as, beer, cigarettes, and other things that were sinful; but as we passed through Kentucky we saw a great sign by the highway, put there for people to look at as they passed by. It must have cost hundreds of dollars. It was Jesus hanging on the cross, and surely looked real. Below the picture was the scripture, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." —J. Linten.

Roll of 5 Faith and Victory paper, one year.....	\$ 1.00
12 papers each month, one year	2.00
25 papers each month, one year	4.00
50 papers each month, one year	7.50
100 papers each month, one year	14.00

"Work on, work on, nor doubt, nor fear.
From age to age this voice shall cheer:
Whate'er may die or be forgot,
Work done for God, it dieth NOT."

Order Sunday School supplies about two weeks before beginning of new quarter. The price of the Primary Picture Roll is \$1.15, and the Lesson Cards are 4 cents per set. Each set contains cards for one pupil for each Sunday in the quarter. These sets cannot be broken. Send order to Dorothy Byers, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie.

JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

Sunday, January 2, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

Dec. 27 to Jan 1.

- M. The beginning of the gospel Mark 1:1-8.
- T. Beginnings in Judea Mark 1:9-13.
- W. Beginnings in Galilee Mark 1:14-22.
- T. Beginnings among Samaritans John 4:4-10.
- F. Beginnings among Greeks Mark 7:24-30.
- S. In the beginning John 1:1-5.

Printed PortionMark 1:9-22.

Mark 1:9. And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

10. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

11. And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

12. And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness.

13. And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.

14. Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

15. And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

16. Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

17. And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

18. And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.

19. And when he had gone a little farther thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets.

20. And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.

21. And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.

22. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

Golden Text:.. "Repent ye, and believe the gospel." Mark 1:15.

Practical Truth: In order to render the most effective service there should be preparation of heart and mind.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We are starting a study of the Perfect One, the man Jesus Christ, as Mark describes Him to us. Let us go so with hearts to follow in his steps and walk even as He walked, for the Word of God tells us that He left us an example. The Bible tells us to "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright." In other words, consider, observe, give attention to the perfect man. Too

many are looking at others around them and observing their imperfections, measuring themselves by themselves, and this is not wise.

Jesus had no need of Baptism as a figure to testify to the world that he was dead to sin (as we do) but he was baptized to leave us an example. In spite of the many confusing doctrines which are being taught these days concerning modes of baptism, when a person is truly born again that Christ life in his soul will put a desire in Him to be baptized like Jesus was. Do not smother this desire in your soul if you want the assurance from the Father that you are His child and He is well pleased with you.

The first Adam had met Satan and failed in time of temptation, plunging the world into sin; the second Adam (Christ) must meet the same foe and overcome him that many might be made righteous through Him. Christ fought the battle and gained the victory with the very weapons which He gives to His followers (Eph. 6: 11-18). The Christian need not expect to go through life on "flowery beds of ease." Instead, he must press, watch, pray, and fight the enemy. Failure to fight by the grace of God has caused the majority of nominal Christians to yield to the third temptation which came to Christ—an easier way than God's way, one more suitable to the carnal mind, worldliness, gaining the kingdoms of the world for self. The knowledge that angels are waiting to minister to us should help banish fear of foes. Angels are "ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation."

Notice what it was that Jesus preached—the kingdom of God which He had come to set up then, not in the far distant future for a thousand years.

Fishing was an honorable, honest occupation, but Christ had a higher calling for these men—winning souls. Child of God, do you realize that winning souls is a higher calling than the job by means of which you gain your livelihood? At which occupation do you spend the most time, and to which one do you give the most thought?

Christ could speak with authority because he had received it from the Father and was backed up by all heaven. The ministers that He has called and sent into the world to preach the gospel under the anointing of the Holy Spirit have the same backing and can speak with the same authority.

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JESUS BUSY WITH HIS MINISTRY OF LOVE

Sunday, January 9, 1944.

Daily Readings and Meditations

Jan. 3 to 8.

- M. Ministry in the synagogue Mark 1:23-28.
- T. Ministry in the home Mark 1:29-34.
- W. Ministry of prayer Mark 1:35-38.
- T. Ministry of preaching Mark 1:39-45.
- F. Ministry of evangelism Mark 2:1-7.
- S. Ministry by enlistment Mark 2:8-14.

Printed PortionMark 1:32-45.

Mark 1:32. And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils.

33. And all the city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

35. And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed

36. And Simon and they that were with him followed after him.

37. And when they had found him, they said unto him, All men seek for thee.

38. And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth.

39. And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils.

40. And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

41. And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

42. And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed.

43. And he straightly charged him, and forthwith sent him away;

44. And saith unto him, See thou say nothing to any man: but go thy way, show thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

45. But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter, insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places: and they came to him from every quarter.

Golden Text: "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." John 9:4.

Practical Truth: Some active service for Christ should be a part of the program of every Christian.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Some people seem to think they are active Christians if they go to services on Sunday and live to please self the remainder of the week. Such lives are not fashioned after the true pattern, as we shall see after studying this lesson.

Sabbath morning found him in the synagogue about his Father's business. Then he went to the home of Peter, where he healed Peter's wife's mother who was sick of a fever. It was a busy day for him but when evening came his work was still not done. News of his power had spread rapidly and the people of the town were anxious for His help. An earthly physician would have felt that his day's work was done when evening came, but the great Physician who had come to take "our infirmities and bare our sicknesses" regarded the needs of the people above his own need for physical rest.

He did not allow the great work which he did crowd out his prayer life, but the early morning found him at the place of prayer. If Jesus needed to pray, how much more do we weak creatures of the dust need to pray! Some say they do not have time to pray. If you have a busier every-day life than Jesus had, you are entirely too busy. If you would take inventory it is very likely that you will find you waste more time than it would take to pray enough grace into your soul to keep you with a victorious experience of salvation. While Jesus was praying the crowds began to seek him again. Why do you think Peter was able to find him when others could not? I hope you know the secret of where to find Jesus early in the mornings by personal experience.

Why did not Jesus not stay in Capernaum where there was so much to do?

In this record of Jesus healing the leper, let us notice three things: the compassion, the touch, the word. When we remember that His Word tells us that He is

the same today, his dealings with this poor miserable outcast should encourage us in times of sickness or distress of any kind.

Notice how readily evil spirits recognized Jesus. Is it not a shame that His human creatures do not recognize him more readily? Why is this? Do you not think it is because the enemy is fearful of losing a subject and does all he can to keep one blinded? Satan who has the souls of men in bondage unto him lies to them and makes them think he is their friend and that any attempt on the part of Jesus or His servants to rid them of him is considered an invasion of their rights. They feel like they are being robbed of some of their valuables. The next time you resent any portion of the truth which has been spoken by one of God's servants, or you try to evade the truth which was spoken by finding fault with the speaker, you should make an investigation to discover what spirit caused you to resent it. Was it the spirit of the Lord or the spirit of the devil?

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JESUS ANSWERS HIS CRITICS

Sunday, January 16, 1944.

Daily Readings and Meditations
January 10 to 15.

- M. A question about feasting Mark 2:15-17.
- T. A question about fasting Mark 2:18-22.
- W. A question about the Sabbath Mark 2:23-28.
- T. Healing on the Sabbath Mark 3:1-6.
- F. Recipients of Jesus' mercy. Mark 3:7-12.
- S. Blasphemy against the Spirit Mark 3:22-30.

Printed PortionMark 2:23 to 3:6.

Mark 2:23. And it came to pass, that he went through the corn fields on the sabbath day; and his disciples began, as they went to pluck the ears of corn.

24. And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful?

25. And he said unto them, Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungered, he, and they that were with him?

26. How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the showbread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him?

27. And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:

28. Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.

Mark 3:1. And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand.

2. And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day, that they might accuse him.

3. And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth.

4. And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.

5. And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

6. And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.

Golden Text: "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake." Matt. 5:11.

Practical Truth: We should do right whatever the cost may be.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In the beginning of this lesson we find the disciples out in the peaceful, open country, happy and free to do the right in the very presence of their precious Lord. They were hungry and, though living under the law, knew they were justified in plucking the grain, removing the chaff and eating as they went along. The law was divinely instituted and nothing of such origin inflicts suffering; so, being hungry, no need to withhold from that which someone had planted, another perhaps watered, but God had given the increase.

We have no record of Jesus being hungry and partaking of this food. Pharisees were near by watching with critical eyes. No doubt, the heart of Jesus was burdened because of their sinful condition and their unwillingness to humbly learn needful lessons. Jesus asked them to remember how David had done that which was contrary to custom and made an effort to have them see all in better light, but they were self-exalted and such a spirit can never rejoice when Christ has His rightful place being exalted, as we read here, "Lord also of the Sabbath."

Next, we find Jesus in the synagogue, still being watched with critical eyes. A poor soul was present which needed help. Jesus, knowing the hardness of the hearts of the Pharisees, appealed to their judgment to decide what was the right thing to do in this particular case. He asked, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath days, or to do evil?" Since they could not answer without making plain the unreasonableness of their position, they would not speak. We find Jesus acting the same as always, doing the good, helpful and right toward those in need, in spite of being hated and abused for it. The poor soul in need had his eyes upon Jesus and obeyed and stretched forth His hand at the Saviour's command and received the blessing of healing. Had he at that particular moment decided he would not offend the Pharisees and refused to obey Christ, he would have missed the blessing.

We must obey Christ's commands to us when right in the presence of those who take offence, or we miss the rich blessings of our Lord, and then fail to be a blessing to others.

Let us guard against a critical, fault-finding spirit such as the Pharisees had. Satan will impose it upon us if he can. It is the spirit which exalts self manifesting, "I excell; you are a failure. I am advanced; you are in the rear." etc., with all the meekness and humbleness of Christ lacking. There is a criticism that is constructive—it discourages no one; it crushes no one; it is uplifting and according to the correction and reproof we get from Christ and is blessed to receive. May the Lord help us all to strive together so that we may hope in the gospel.

—Rosella Slifer.

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JESUS TEACHES IN PARABLES

Sunday, January 23, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations
January 17 to 22.

- M. The parable of the Sower Mark 4:1-9.
- F. The purpose of the parables Mark 4:10-13.
- W. Interpretation of the parable Mark 4:14-20.
- F. The candlestick and the seed Mark 4:21-29.
- F. Parable of the Mustard Seed Mark 4:30-34.
- S. Growth in grace 2 Pet. 3:14-18.

Printed Portion Mark 4:1-9, 26-32.

Mark 4:1. And he began again to teach by the sea side, and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.

2. And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,

3. Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:

4. And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.

5. And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:

6. But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

7. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

8. And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

9. And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

26. And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground;

27. And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.

28. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.

29. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

30. And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?

31. It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all seeds that be in the earth:

32. But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, an shooteth out great branches: so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.

Golden Text: "If any man have ears to hear, let him hear." Mark 4:23.

Practical Truth: The kingdom of God should grow, both in our heart and in the world at large.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We think of a parable as a short story true to life, told to teach a spiritual lesson. Jesus gave his reason for speaking in parables in Mark 4:10-13. Those who are honest at heart do have spiritual ears. A parable tests men's honesty. It is like a sweet kernel in a nut shell. Some desire the good enough to break open the shell, but others are too lazy to bother with it and still others sense that they might get hurt while breaking open the shell so cast the whole thing aside.

In Palestine grain fields were unenclosed. Camels and people made beaten paths through them from village to village. When the farmer sowed his seed it would not sink below the surface on these beaten paths so fowls could easily come and pick it up. It was not natural for the soil to be so hard, but it was made that way by heavy feet which trampled many times over it.

Some people can sit under the sound of the gospel year after year without showing any signs that the word has entered their hearts. Such a condition is not natural but they have allowed the heavy feet of carelessness, procrastination, pride, love of the world, etc. to daily cross the threshold of their hearts until they have become hardened and no gospel seed can sink in and grow.

As growing plants in shallow soil cannot stand the

test of a scorching sun, even so those who have only shallow consecrations cannot stand the trials of life.

Did you ever see corn planted in a new field from which the stumps of trees and briars had not been removed? What was the result? What lesson does this teach concerning the need of sanctification to remove the old stump and roots of sin before one can have a prosperous experience of salvation? Did you ever see a young convert trying to hold to Christ and the world at the same time? What was the result?

We should be very thankful for those in past ages who stood true in times of hard tests, thus enabling us to have the gospel in this present day. Would you rather be numbered with them or with those who became weary in well-doing? With which shall you be numbered if you continue with your present experience? If your spiritual progress is being hindered and you find yourself becoming weaker instead of stronger, something is in your heart besides good soil. Dig it out!

There is a mystery concerning the process of natural growth of plants. But the seed is planted and the combination of proper soil, moisture, temperature, and sunshine causes it to grow. The warring elements do not stop the earth from bringing forth fruit. Thus it is with the gospel seed planted in the heart, and thus it has been with the kingdom of God or Church of God against which the gates of hell has not or cannot prevail. Christ planted the seed. The winds of hell have blown only to scatter the seed. Strong persecution has raged only to strengthen those who are the planting of the Lord. The kingdom has spread to all parts of the earth in spite of Satan's attempts to stop it.

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JESUS USES HIS POWER TO HELP

Sunday, January 30, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations January 24 to 29

- M. Help in the storm Mark 4:35-41.
- T. Help among the tombs Mark 5:1-10.
- W. Help for the fearful Mark 5:11-20.
- T. Help for the diseased Mark 5:21-34.
- F. Help in the house of death Mark 5:35-43.
- S. Help in time of trouble Mark 15:21-28.

Printed PortionMark 4:35-41; 5:35-43.

Mark 4:35. And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

36. And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

37. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

38. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

39. And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

40. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

41. And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

Mark 5:35. While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?

36. As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken,

he said unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.

37. And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James.

38. And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly.

39. And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.

40. And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying.

41. And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.

42. And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.

43. And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat.

Golden Text: "Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?" Mark 4:40.

Practical Truth: The Son of God, who had power to help others of old, has power to help us still.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In our printed portion is a record of two great miracles which show Jesus' power over the forces of nature and death. Already we have studied lessons which told of His power over demons and disease. Let us keep these things in our minds and hearts that our faith may be increased in times of distress or need. When the Lord challenges, "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?" (Jer. 32:27), may we be able to answer from the depths of our hearts, "Ah, Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee." (Jer. 32:17).

Should God's children be afraid of storms? Why? Read verse 40 before answering. Are you calm enough when facing danger to prove to your sinner friends that there is a difference between those who serve God and those who do not? Read the account of Paul in a storm on sea in Acts 27. Paul was able to be calmer than the disciples in today's lesson because he had the Lord abiding in Him and the disciples only had Him with them. This should teach us the value of sanctification to enable us to go through the storms of life, when waters of adversity are dashing high, with calmness in our souls and undaunted faith in the Lord to care for us in every time of need. It is good to have Jesus near us when we need Him, but it is better to have the Comforter abiding in our hearts. This is the will of God, even our sanctification.

The disciples expected Jesus to help them in some way or they wouldn't have awakened Him. Perhaps they just wanted comforting words from Him to show that He cared, but He did for them far more than they expected as showed by their great amazement. This verifies the promise that He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think. The next time you are facing a great storm on the sea of life we hope your faith will be so encouraged that you will not only expect the Lord to speak comforting words to you, but that you will expect Him to clear the storm away. Remember, the winds and storms, devils, disease and death obey Him