

# FAITH <sup>AND</sup> VICTORY

## The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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### What Shall We Take?

Out of this life, what shall we take,  
Of all the lovely things we make?  
Things we cherish, and lay away,  
Here on this earth, must burn some day.  
Though on our walls hang paintings rare,  
Whene'er we go we leave them there.  
Though they are ours, we know their worth,  
Yet there they stay when we leave this earth.

All that we gather, and all that we keep,  
We leave here, when we fall asleep.  
I wonder oft, what shall I own  
In life beyond when soul has flown?  
While living here, we may have health,  
Wear things of gold, and have our wealth.  
God seeks our heart, that He may dwell  
Within our soul, that all will be well.

Then, should we love the things of clay,  
And place them in our heart to stay?  
Can we look up with conscience clear,  
If we have things, that we hold too dear?  
God's Holy City is paved with pure gold,  
And these, His jewels, are more than gold,  
What will God find, what will He see,  
In soul that answers God for me?

Shall the Judge see, when life is through,  
My soul laid up some treasures too?  
Or shall it be my shame to find  
That all my treasures were left behind?

Ivalyn E. Kriebel

("Evening Light Songs" book ready—see page 13.)

### Jonah

The book of Jonah is in the Old Testament. It is not a fairy story, nor a fictitious story as many believe. It is a true story.

How do we know it is true? What Jesus said is in Matt. 12:39, 41, Jesus said, "As Jonas

was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

God called Jonah to go to that great city Nineveh to warn the people that God had seen their wickedness and would destroy their city. Jonah did not have the courage to do it. He tried to flee from the Lord, which brought serious trouble, not only to him, but also to others.

Can we flee from the Lord? On the highest mountain top, He is there; in the deepest water, He is there. Praise God, we cannot hide from our Lord.

God heard Jonah's cry as he looked again toward God's holy temple. Then Jonah was cast out on dry land. Again the Lord told Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach to it what He told him to preach. It was a three day's journey, but Jonah had learned his lesson. He ran there in one day.

When the king of Nineveh heard the message that his great city would be destroyed, he was convinced of their wickedness and the severity of God. He laid aside his robe, put on sackcloth, and sat in ashes. He sent out a decree that neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. "Let them not feed nor drink water, and cry mightily unto God, and everyone turn from his evil way."

What a merciful God, to forgive and save that great city from destruction. God is just as merciful today to hear the cry of one in sin, if he will repent and turn from his evil way. For unless we repent we shall all likewise perish.

Praise God for the blessing I received and the much food for thought from reading the book of Jonah. May you read it and be blessed. Dott Henry.

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### Train Your Children for Heaven

What is meant by "Train up a child in the way it should go?" Young's Concordance defines the Hebrew word, "chanak"—train—by "To train, to dedicate, to give instructions to." It enjoins the duty of dedicating a child to God, and thus so training and in-

structing him in his ways that he will not depart therefrom.

Three applications are given of the use of the word; all of which show the exertion of imperative authority. First, it is used in the sense of drilling soldiers. Second, breaking and training oxen. Third, to train a twig or tree in the form it is desired to grow. . . . To train up a child in the way it should go, is, therefore, to drill, and exercise him in righteousness, as a soldier is trained in military tactics.

When the eye of prophecy looked forward to these last days, and beheld the seed of the blessed of the Lord, coming into the evening light, he saw also "their offspring with them." Isa. 65:23.

Therefore, see that they come with you. Induce them to volunteer if they will: if not, while they are yet under your control, draft them into the divine service. Like Abraham, command them after you, to keep the way of the Lord. Place them under that godly restraint, and holy discipline that will train them up for God. As soldiers must obey their officers in all things, so enjoin upon your children the imperative order from heaven, to repent, and believe the gospel. Command them in the name of Jesus to get upon their knees and pray God for mercy. Hold them to obey God, and by faith, hold God to his word, to give them repentance, and thus save your children from sin and destruction, and they will honor and thank you for it.

#### Train Them as Oxen are Broke and Trained

In breaking and training oxen and horses, kind and gentle treatment is the chief means of success, and in nearly all cases no severe measures need be added. But every good horse trainer begins the work with a fixed intention never to stop until the animal is really broken, rendered gentle, obedient and serviceable, ready to do what is required of it. Failure is altogether out of the question. One animal may take different handling from that of another, and may require a longer effort. But the ox or horse will be of no service unless trained to obey and work. Therefore it must be done. Just so, God commands you to actually train up your child in the way it should go. It is well to study the peculiar make-up of the child, and ask God for wisdom to adopt the best means in each peculiar case. **But train the child for God; you can and must,** or expose your soul to the rebuke that fell upon Eli, and your children to the flames of hell, where his sons are doomed.

Kindness, we say, is the most important means in conquering animals; likewise, children and men. But should stubbornness in an animal hold out against all kind means, a thorough tamer will resort to coercive measures. Bad habits that cannot be coaxed out, must be whipped out. And whom the Lord loveth, he also chasteneth. Just so, to train up a child in the way he should go, is not simply to administer an occasional soft, "Why do ye so?" and let him still go on in the devil's ways. It means that you must make a real success in changing him over to be a good and pious child. It means that he leave off sin, and walk in the law and service of the Lord. And when

God's word says, Thus it shall be, that settles the matter. The Lord will see that it will be fulfilled if you firmly believe him, and do your part. O dear parents, in the name of Jesus, we are constrained to cry aloud unto you, Save your children from an awful hell! Now is your time while they are yet in youth, and God has placed them under your control and authority. For Jesus' sake, use that power for their deliverance. Lay hold upon the promise of God, "their offspring with them," and never slack your prayer, faith, and training until you have the joy of sweet, God-fearing and saved children about your table as plants of righteousness. . . .

Remember, the Almighty has a hand in this work. "You are workers together with God," and there is nothing too hard for him. You lead the wild colts to the water of salvation, and hold them right there, and God will make them drink. Some may think it a hard saying, but in the name of Jesus, we protest unto you, if your children are growing up wicked, and on the way to destruction, it is the result of your shortcomings in duty, your slackness of effort, if, indeed, it be not the bitter fruits of your own crooked life. It is true, that the lost condition of your children may have been chiefly the result of your life before converted to God. But had you known and done your duty since then, that influence might have been counteracted by the power of God long ago, and your offspring now be with you on the way to glory. Not one of you, whose children are unsaved, we dare say, have devoted as much attention to train them up in the way they should go, or been as thorough and persevering in efforts to save their souls from hell, as a horse trainer devotes himself to his task. What man, who, if he has a valuable horse taken sick, will not employ the best help in his reach, and if need be, labor all night to relieve the animal? And if there is a bare probability that a certain remedy will save the animal's life, will you let him die for want of it, simply because the dose does not suit the horse's taste? . . . If he refuses to swallow, you keep his head up until he does, and if necessary, even close his nostrils, keep him from breathing through them, until he has taken down the medicine. True, it looks like harsh means. But it is to save his life; hence, no one makes any fuss about it, or threatens to prosecute you for cruelty to the dumb brute. And is not sin working death in your own dear children? Can you lie down and sleep with ease while their steps are directed to the flames of hell? Do you really love your boy more than your horse? and value his soul more than the price of an animal? . . . If they will not take the water of life freely, rein them up with a good strong chord of love and discipline. If they still refuse to swallow, shut off the breath of self-life and self-indulgence. Stop letting sin and the devil have their way with them. As long as young people have free license to revel in sin, they will be satisfied in its deceptive charms. But absolutely cut off the indulgence of sin, and they will begin to deplore the malignant disease within. have known parents, even during a protracted ing, and while daily praying God to save their dren, give them conveyance, and let them all go

to town to attend some worldly entertainment, Babylon abominations, or holiday works of the devil. We have seen others bow in family worship while their sons and daughters were irreverently sitting up, or amusing themselves outside, or in an adjoining room. Thus showing utter contempt for the God their parents worshiped. Others keep praying for their wayward children, and at the same time continue to feed sin and the works of the devil in them by gratifying their pride and vanity, and many other lusts that must be mortified and crucified. Stop, if need be, even the outworking of sin, and pray mightily to God to make them sick of the inbeing of sin. Love them tenderly, and do all in the way of righteousness to make them happy, but yield not one inch to the will of the flesh and the devil in them. If they, on that account forsake the parental hearth, they cannot escape the hand of God. They will return and bless you for the bitter cup you made them swallow.

If you want your children to reverence God, see that they reverence you. If you want them to obey God, train them to obey you. If you want them saved from sin, as far as possible restrain them from outwardly committing sin. Irreverence and disobedience to parents, develops the same unholy carriage toward God, and the practice of sin feeds the desire to sin.

—D. S. Warner

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## A Vision of Parents Meeting Sons and Daughters in Eternity

At this time I had only been saved six and one-half weeks and was much troubled over a neighbor's young daughter who had been converted in the church of God services. The girl's father had been very wroth over her experience of salvation and had told her she would have to give it up or leave home. She visited me a few minutes before I left for work. At that time I was working in the winding room of a textile mill. I was much troubled over the situation and burdened for others lost. As I stood before my window it seemed as if it were vanishing out of existence and the side of the mill also. I looked down at my feet to see if I were still on earth, and a voice said, "Look ahead."

As I looked before me, to my horror, I stood before a great lake of fire miles and miles it seemed, with no other side in view. This voice again said, "Look to the right." And the same sight—miles and miles of fire. Oh! the horror of it cannot be written.

There just a few feet down below where I was, came an object moving. As I watched it I recognized the hands of a man as if swimming along in water. Then his head came up and he swam swiftly to within a few feet of where I was standing, and there seemed to be a wall of some kind around this place. He was making his way to this.

I do not know why the Lord allowed me to see a wall there. It looked like a great concrete wall, but an eternal hedge. I believe he only allowed me to see this because souls would ever be trying to find a way to escape that awful lake.

This man made his way very close to what seemed to be the last stroke before he could touch the wall. I waited anxiously to see if he could get ahold of that wall, but a great flame of fire rose between this last stroke and the wall, and he was several feet down before he showed his face again. About this time a voice was heard coming through the flames, a voice well known to this man—the voice of his beloved son. Then they met face to face in my view. He looked to be about eighteen years old. Oh! the horror on the face of the father when he met his son in a devil's hell. As he traveled the broad way in life he never dreamed his son, whom he loved so dearly, was walking in his footsteps, and in an eternal hell they would finally meet. Then this accusation was made by the son, "Oh! Father, if you had been a Christian; if you only had not drunk and smoked and cursed, and had been a praying father, I would not be here today." How sad to hear when forever too late to make amends, if he had served God, he would have saved his son. Read St. John 15:7.

Then came a beautiful woman swimming as did the father and son. She made a try for the wall, but was turned back by that great flame. She, too, heard a familiar voice, that of her precious daughter—the voice of the baby that she had held to her breast and heard its laughter, its little cries as a baby. All of a sudden the memories of that baby voice, the sound of those little feet as they pattered to and fro in the home, the different turns of life as she grew into womanhood, the beautiful daughter about the age of 16 or 18 met her mother in hell face to face. The surprised look as the two faces met! Oh! I can never describe. Her daughter said, "Oh, Mother, if you had only been a Christian mother and taught me about the Lord instead of going to dances and shows and allowing me to go, I would not have been here today!" Mother was speechless. Their destiny was sealed; life was ended. Eternal ages were now rolling, their poor souls swimming in a lake of torturous fire. Oh! the sight I saw! Then suddenly heads and heads, screams, moans, prayers, and cries! Never, never can words express this terrible sight!

When at last it had vanished, I was myself again, beside my window. I had both hands entangled in my hair and my brows were wet with tears. I cried, "O God, why am I seeing such a place, and me trying to serve you?"

He said, "Go forth and warn others not to meet their sons and daughters in a devil's hell."

Mothers, Fathers! Please pray, and if you are not a Christian, turn unto God, then all his promises are yours. It is too late now if death has claimed that precious son or daughter unsaved, for his soul to have rest, but yours can escape and those other sons and daughters you love so well. Jesus is soon to return for his own, and the great wrath of God will be poured out upon all those left behind. The ones that go without God shall all spend eternity as we read in Matthew 25:41-46; Psalms 9:17.

Oh! be sheltered in the Blood of Jesus Christ that was shed to take away sin, so the joys of heaven will be yours in eternity.

—Della Patrick

## "FAITH AND VICTORY"

### 16-Page Holiness Monthly

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published each month (except August of each year, which is campmeeting 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.

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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.

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.

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.

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Calif.—I feel that it would be to the glory of the Lord for me to send in my testimony and write to the little paper of Faith and Victory. All these many years I have been reading it. What a great help it has been to me. I am so glad that I can say of a truth that it has been a great help and encouragement to me in time of sickness. It has encouraged me to go on, and I mean to go on to the end. Bless his name!

Again let me say to pray for us that God will keep us in his will and that we will live so that he can use us.

Your sister in the Lord, L. Motley, Fresno, Calif.

## Editorials

We are happy to greet our readers in this new year of 1950. Time is moving on with a solemn tread, eternity is looming in sight, and millions of souls are not saved—not ready to meet God in peace. Our heart is burdened for the lost, and the multiplied thousands penned up in the cages of Satan's religious deceptions, and because iniquity is abounding the love of many dear saints is waxing cold, and because the Lord does not bring judgments upon them hastily their hearts are set in them to do evil by rebelling against the light of his word and the brighter shining evening truth, which if believed and put into practice, will increase the joy in the soul and a greater assurance of God's favors and eternal glory.

When we look over the past year of labor for the Lord, it brings a great satisfaction to our souls to have that restful feeling that we have done what we could. The gospel by the printed page has been going out from Faith Publishing House in a steady stream all through the year, and we have had opportunity to travel more with the gospel and bring it personally to souls than we have for a number of years. We have been privileged to see some precious conversions in the true sense, and souls sanctified and filled with the Holy Spirit, which Paul speaks of God making known to us the riches of the glory of this mystery, and says is "Christ in you the hope of glory." Col. 1:27. It is blessed to have Christ in you, the hope of glory and not some kind of a ghost foreign to the crucified Christ.

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We are much encouraged here at the office to see the subscriptions for the three months offer come pouring in from all directions until we have a large list of new subscribers to send the gospel to this winter by the printed page. Those who have been faithful to send in the names will not lose their reward. May God bless every one of you and cause you to triumph over all sin in this life and reign with him in glory. There will be untold good done by this effort. Let us all keep fervent in spirit serving the Lord, and all will be well with our souls. God has no idlers in his vineyard, but declares unto us that he will quicken our mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth within. Our outer man is perishing, but the inner man is being renewed from day to day.

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Let us consider the Scripture 1 John 1:7: "But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin." I wish to say that it is a true saying, and all who truly do this will have fellowship with God and with the saints in light. You will notice that to be in the light of God, we must be walking or moving forward in his lovely ways. In Proverbs 4:18 we read, "But the path of the just is as a shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Brethren, we cannot walk back of true light and our souls prosper and keep in favor with God. As we near the end and the coming of Christ, the light from heaven to the true saints is

becoming clearer and brighter and will continue to do so up to the time when the true saints will be swallowed up with eternal victory and be made like Christ in glory. The Scripture says (Jesus speaking), "For as the light cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall the coming of the Son of man be." Matt. 24:27. The light is going to be brighter in the days of his coming, and will be easily seen by honest open-hearted souls.

Bro. D. S. Warner had light and knowledge given him of God in his day, greater, it seems, than others had. God used him as a leader in the restoration of precious truth that had been hid from view since the morning light by the long period of papal darkness; and as the prophecies teach us, "At evening time it shall be light." Zech. 14:7. The light of heaven has been coming back to his people and great awakenings have taken place since that long period of darkness wherein the Bible tells us the "Sun went down at noon." Amos 8:9. And through these awakenings, truth after truth has been restored to God's humble saints. But we, as children of the evening light, dare not stop with merely the reformer's light. Many have done so and have become as a stagnant pond or as a cracked cistern. The devil's business is to form some kind of human organization around some with truth mixed with error and keep souls from walking in the continued light from heaven and thus bring about a stagnant condition with souls that are penned up in such, and thus making a gateway to a burning hell for them.

Those that are walking in the true light are becoming separated further and further from this old world. We have many today who claim they are walking in "new light" or "more light" and all the time they are drawing closer and closer to the world. They are adorning the body, forming boards and pulpit committees, honoring themselves with titles of "D. D.," "Rev.," etc., hiring themselves out to preach for a salary as the business world, forming Bible schools to stagnate and kill some who otherwise would be "Lively stones in God's spiritual building." In many other ways they are committing spiritual adultery with the harlot daughters of "Mystery Babylon the Great," the "Mother of Harlots." Those that do such things are only deceiving their own souls and those that hear them. The Scripture is being fulfilled by them, which reads, "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." 2 Tim. 3:13.

The true light which God is shining forth into the hearts of the faithful, if walked in, will separate you more and more from the world and all sectish ways, and will bring upon the servant of God much persecution in the way of slander, misquoting, and misconstruing of words, together with ridicule, scoffing and being lied upon. And this oftentimes is from those who ought to love the truth and rejoice in brighter shining of the evening light.

As we consider D. S. Warner and the great light which God shone into his heart of which we all rejoice, I want to say that we as the true saints of God dare not bind ourselves to the light which he had

alone, for the light has brightened and is getting brighter all the time. If I should get up before an assembly of God's true ministers today, who are walking in the present evening light, and preach some of the things that Bro. D. S. Warner sanctioned in his day, all the brethren with one voice would rise up against me and say, "Bro. Pruitt, you are wrong; such teaching is darkness." I say this with all due respect and Christian love for Bro. Warner, for I believe that he was walking in all the light at that time, and God's approval was upon him and was mightily using him.

Someone may say that I have said more than I can prove. I know whereof I speak, for I have it in black and white before me. I have in my possession the whole year of "Gospel Trumpets" printed in 1895 when Bro. D. S. Warner was editor and E. E. Byrum was Office Editor, and these things which are darkness to us today are in print in these papers. Someone may say that they could have slipped through without his knowledge. We grant that to be true, but we find no place where they were taken up, and we have the consecutive copies in our hands. I am thankful to say that as the light kept coming, the same paper taught the truth, but not so among them today since they have apostatized into darkness. Those that rebel and refuse to walk in the brighter shining light today will make division among the saints, and in time become stagnant and sectish, but the truth will go marching on and the remnant will be his people, his church, the family of God that will be caught up to meet the Lord far above this old world of religion with its stagnant ponds and broken cisterns which will be on fire in that day while the professors writhing in the flames will be wailing, pulling their hair, crying, dying and never able to die, in a never-ending pit of fire and brimstone. Let every one of us apply the warning that Jesus gives us in Luke 21:34. "And take heed unto yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." Again in Revelation 22:14, 15, which reads thus, "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie."

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It always keeps a nominal professor busy trying to make his sandy foundation look like rock. (Isaiah 29:13; Ezek. 33:31).

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### 1949 Faith and Victory in Book Form

The eleven issues of the "Faith and Victory" paper for 1949 are now available in book form, bound together with a good paper cover. Those who want a copy, or more, of this book may obtain them for 40 cents each, post paid. We are compiling only one hundred of these books, so order now if you want a copy.

## Obituary

Lucy V. (Bowling) Anderson was born November 5, 1866 and passed away November 26, 1949 in Springfield, Mo. at the age of 83 years and 21 days.

She was married to Victor Everett Anderson in 1882, and to this union was born one son. Both husband and son preceded her in death.

The funeral was conducted by Bro. Sam Barton.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Ala.—Dear saints everywhere,—Greetings in Jesus' name. I feel led to send in my testimony to the glory of the Lord. For the past nine years I have been down in my left knee. I had to walk with a walking cane. I let a doctor examine it. He said it was not out of place but I could not walk without a cane. I went to the campmeeting in Oklahoma in 1948 and there I was prayed for but did not get any better, but I continued to trust the Lord for healing.

On the night of November 28th, the Lord awakened me and told me I was healed. Praise His name, I have been walking ever since without a stick, and telling how the Lord healed me.

Pray for me that I may ever do what the Lord wants me to. Your bro. in Christ, Alex Mullins.

New Mex.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt,—I have felt for some time that I should write a testimony to the Faith and Victory paper regarding the goodness and love of our heavenly Father in healing me of the results of a fall down three steps on to a cement walk, landing on the back of my head and neck, which caused me much pain and suffering. This fall took place the last Sunday in August, 1949. I grew worse instead of better, until it seemed I could endure it no longer.

About a month ago I wrote to Bro. and Sis. Pruitt and the saints there for prayer and an anointed handkerchief which they promptly sent, and according to James 3:14-15, the Lord honored his word, and in a few days the pain was gone from the back of my neck and head. It does not bother me any more unless I get my neck twisted around in my sleep, then sometimes it may pain for awhile, but by calling on the Lord, it soon passes away.

It is not the first time that he has healed me. I also want to testify how the Lord healed my eyes.

Several years ago when I lived in Clovis, I had the flu which settled in my eyes. Sister Stonecypher came over to visit me. My eyes were paining me so much I could not see well. I saw everything double, and every day my eyesight grew dimmer. I asked her to pray for them which she did. They got some better. When I was able to go to the chapel to meeting again I requested prayer for my eyes, and in a few days I could see as well as ever. After I moved from Clovis, in a year or two there was another epidemic of flu. I picked up a newspaper one day and read an account of a man whose eyes were afflicted exactly as mine had been and he had gone totally blind. Today I can see as well as I did many years ago. I wear glasses and read a great deal. Considering my age, (I lack two months being 81 years old) I think I can see remarkably well. To God be all the praise!

I also want to express my appreciation and thanks to the saints in other congregations for their prayers, and also here at home. May our Lord richly bless every one. I covet the prayers of all of God's true people.

Christian love,

Sis. H. B. Calkins.

Oklahoma—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus' precious name. I am still saved and trusting in Jesus for both soul and body. I am really glad that I found him a great while ago, and he is my doctor and healer. I often think of the time he healed me at the campmeeting at Boley. There was something wrong with my right shoulder and it had bothered me for years. They anointed me and prayed for me and the dear Lord healed me. I give him all the praise. I mean to tell what he has done for me, and by his grace be a witness for him wherever I go.

Without his help I can do nothing. I know what his precious word tells us to do and by his help, I mean to live just like his word tells us to. I am glad I have left all the world to follow Jesus. By his grace and goodness to me, I want to do all that I can for him.

Your sister in Christ,

Iola Payne

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West Va.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I wrote you in July for prayer for my sister. She is much better, but still needs prayer. I know that it is in answer to prayer that she is yet living, for she was extremely ill. I do thank God for helping her and you for your prayers.

I want you to pray for my healing, and that I will get stronger and closer to God, and stronger in faith.

Pray for God to send us a minister for a revival meeting. We need it. We have one service a month. Bro. George Peek comes once a month. We need a revival.

A sister in Christ, Maud Clifton, Rt. 2, Box 64, Webster Springs, W. Va.

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Miss.—Dear saints,—In Jesus' name I greet you all. I am so happy in Jesus, for what he has done for me and mine. It has been a long time since I have written a testimony, and I have so many things to thank him and praise him for, I hardly know where to start. I am writing in, as I promised my Lord, if he would give me my hearing back in my right ear as well as he did in my left one, I would tell it through the paper for the glory of God. After I did what he required of me, and that was write what was on my heart into a booklet, he kept his promise with me. When I sent in my manuscript and had it printed, I received my hearing back.

About a year or so ago I was about deaf. I could not hear normal preaching and could not sing with others because I could not hear to keep in time with the rest. Now, praise God, He has unstopped both my ears, and also done some more wonderful healings and bestowed blessings on me too numerous to mention here, but my heart is overjoyed to know that he still hears and answers prayer. I have faith in God that he can help when we trust and obey his commandments.

Pray for me that God may use me for his glory in getting people saved, and let the signs follow my work, for I believe I have had the gift of faith and healing for twenty years, but have not been as active in my service as I should have been. May God forgive me and help me not to bury my gifts and talents in the earth and become slothful. The devil doesn't want me to manifest the work, but faith without works is dead, being alone. I do not drive a car so I do not get around as much as I would like. Husband takes me, but he cannot always go as we live on a farm.

May our God bless all saints everywhere is my prayer. Yours in him, Sister J. Strickler.

Ill.—Dear saints,—I have just recently got victory over an affliction that has troubled me for many years. I am nearly forty-two years of age and have been married since I was twenty-four. This energy-robbing, sleep-destroying ailment has troubled me since my early married life, and perhaps before, I am not sure. Sudden changes in temperature or a chilly breeze would cause my head to throb for days. It disturbed my sleep and robbed me of much needed rest.

If any one has had their sinus drained, you can understand the pain I suffered. But now, thank God, since he has blessed me with this Precious Truth that we possess, I have leaned on Him for the healing of my body. I slipped once and turned to the arm of flesh but repented with bitter tears, as did Peter.

Many times I asked for prayer and was prayed for and the Lord would hearken and answer and I'd go on rejoicing until the next spell. I became more in earnest and sought the Lord for a clearer understanding. I knew the Lord's hand wasn't short, he had healed me and our children many times; the lacking was on my part.

Not so long ago He showed me how I would continually pamper, favor, and go on fearing every sudden breeze instead of walking out on his promises and go on by faith. I went against all feelings and fears and with a firm decision put my trust in God, and with a trembling heart walked outside with my head unprotected. My fears soon departed and I am well and happy, praise God! I can sleep fine. Jesus said to a man in Mark 9:23, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."

Pray for me.

Mary Wizenick.

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Oklahoma—Dear saints,—Greetings in our dear Saviour's name. I have much to be thankful for. The Lord has done much for me. I feel led to testify to the glory of the Lord, how he so wonderfully healed us of the itch.

My oldest girl was the first to have it. I noticed it on her right hand when she first started to school a year ago. It was her first year in school. I thought it was poison oak at first, so I let her attend school three or four weeks. It soon became worse, so I had to take her out of school. The sores became so large that her hands were almost solid sores. The air made them burn so that I made little white mittens to tie over her hands every day until the sores were gone. She also had them so bad that she could hardly sit down, and her feet and ankles were like her hands. She could not wear her shoes, so we had to buy her a pair of large house shoes to wear, and part of the time she could not wear these, they hurt her so.

She suffered so much with these sores that it kept us on our knees often, praying that the Lord would take the itching and burning away. He would give her relief from 15 to 20 minutes at a time, and some times longer, then we would pray again. She was like this day and night for almost three weeks. All this time the saints here were praying for her too.

By this time my younger girl four years old had it, and the sores started on her face and behind her ears. And my boy, seven, had a splinter infection on one little finger, and the itch got into it.

The saints and I felt led to fast and pray for the children and have prayer services at our home that night, and have the children anointed and prayed for as we are commanded to do in James 5:14. By the next day my

younger girl's body was cleared of sores and the older girl's sores were beginning to peel off. But the itching still remained.

By Christmas we all had the itch—my husband, baby boy two years old, and I, along with the other children. My husband and I did not have the sores like the children, but we had the itch bumps. We continued to be anointed and prayed for at different times, but the Lord did not see fit to heal us for some reason. By this time the saints nearly everywhere had heard about our affliction and were praying for us. We were thankful for all these prayers and the interest in our welfare.

By spring most of the itch had disappeared, but the Lord permitted it to linger all summer. The heat in the summer would irritate it so that we could hardly rest at night. But through all this the Lord kept me from being discouraged, for which I am so thankful. My six-year-old daughter had so much faith in the Lord that it was a great encouragement to me.

We took much persecution from our neighbors, relatives, and friends for not using medicines, disinfectants, or something to doctor the itch. But I did not want any one or any thing to get the glory for our healing except the Lord. I wanted him to have all the glory, and nothing else to receive credit for what our dear Lord had done.

I am very thankful that the Lord supplied the grace for me to go through all this, and gave me the faith to hold on and trust in him.

The week before school started this year, the teacher sent word that she would come and see the children and enroll them on Thursday. The Wednesday night before the Thursday that she was to come, we still had the itch. We went to prayer meeting, but got there too late to request prayer for the children. So after it was over I asked different ones to remember us in prayer that night, and told them why.

The next day when the teacher came, the itch was all gone from all of us. It left so quickly!

My two oldest children (7 and 6) missed last year's school, but the Lord has certainly blessed them in their school work this year. How I thank the dear Lord. If we will only stay true to the Lord and live according to his will, the Lord will certainly bless and reward us.

Sister Lottie Joiner is holding meeting here this week. How I do thank the dear Lord for sending her here. The first night she was here, there were four or five souls saved, among whom were my husband and nephew. Oh, how I rejoiced in the Lord. I can't thank the Lord enough for saving their dear souls. It was through a message that Sister Joiner delivered over two years ago at our campmeeting here at Guthrie, that I was saved. How I thank the dear Lord for saving my soul and bringing me into the Light. What a terrible thing it is to be in that outer darkness! I am still saved and sanctified, and I desire the prayers of all the saints that I will always be true to the Lord until the end.

Imogene Taylor.

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(In the article "Jonah" on page 1 of this paper, the statement that Jonah ran and made a three day's journey in one day, is a mistake. Jonah 3:3, 4 says Ninevah was a great city of three day's journey and when Jonah had gone into it a day's journey, he began to preach. Read it.)



## Choose Ye

"Choose ye this day whom ye will serve." Josh. 24:15. Beloved, this is a choice we all must make. When you reject the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Master of your soul, you automatically choose the god of this world, to serve him. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Rom. 6:16

The Lord said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28, 29. Sinner friend, are you bowed down with sin? Then come to Christ Jesus and confess your sin to him and he will give you rest. Go to him in earnest prayer, confessing and forsaking your sins, and he will have mercy upon your soul and save you from sin. He said, "Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37. He gently pleads for you to come. Will you turn him away?

Remember, when you turn him away, you are choosing the god of this world. He cannot give you peace. All he can give is a guilty conscience, followed by heartaches and a life of sin and shame. But turn to Jesus now, and cast yourself upon him, who has promised you life, eternal life. Wouldn't you like to exchange a guilty conscience and a life of sin for life eternal. That is just what you can do by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:13).

Some people think they are good and do not realize their need of a Saviour. If you are in this class, the Word of God says all "our righteousnesses are as filthy rags" in his sight, and none is righteous, no not one. Your soul is dirty with sin and not fit for heaven unless you permit Jesus to cleanse it with his blood and fill it with his righteousness.

There is no such thing as being neutral, for you have chosen one or the other.

The Word says, "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God."—Sel.

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## Tarry Ye

Jesus told his disciples that they should tarry in the city of Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. Luke 24:49. So Christ commanded his disciples at that time, and they obeyed him. At the time of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came from heaven, and rested upon each of them, and they preached the gospel of the kingdom to all nations present, that all heard the gospel in their own language in which they were born, the Parthians, Meades, Elamites, Mesopotamians, Judaeites, those of Cappadocia and Pontus, and Asia and Phrygia, visitors from Rome, Jews and Proselytes, Cretans, and Pamphylia, they from Egypt, and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and Arabians. They said, "We hear these men talking of the triumphs of God in our own languages! They were all amazed and quite at a loss. What can it mean?" Acts 2:6-11, Moffatt translation.

At the time of Pentecost, God sent the Holy Spirit into the world to witness to mankind the truth of the

gospel, and to work the wonderful works of God, the same as he worked through Christ, that the gospel might continue and bring many sons and daughters into favor with God, because of His working power in the hearts of those who "TARRY" at the feet of Jesus until endued with power from on high; in other words, until filled with the Holy Spirit of God, that they too, might work the wonderful, powerful works of the kingdom of God.

This infilling is only given unto those who have paid the full price that God demands of man. Each of the disciples, except Judas, had become God's by choice and repentance.

There are four prominent steps toward heaven that must be taken, before this infilling of the Holy Spirit. The first step is godly sorrow for sins committed, or, what we call repentance. A person must see himself lost and condemned before God, and without hope, unless forgiven by God. The next step is to confess to God that he is undone and a miserable sinner, and plead for pardon for Christ's sake, and be willing to make all wrongs right as much as lieth in his power. The third step is for man to forsake all sin. Then, after taking these steps, it is possible for him to believe that God forgives him for Christ's sake, for our Saviour died for this, our redemption. Now, in this redeemed state, a soul is ready to turn himself over into God's control, to be used of Him in this time world. The infilling of the Holy Spirit is putting the power of God into his soul, to do the works of God in this present world. When time is over with us, working time comes to an end.

One can hear different teaching from this, but I am telling you the truth. Believe me for your soul's good.

Down here is our dressing-room for eternity, not at the time of one's death. If left till then, there is little chance to make wrongs right, and work for God. God wants to use His redeemed to bring others into the fold of Christ. Our working days are over at death.

Follow these steps faithfully and the gates of heaven are open for your soul. By faith you can look right up into heaven and know that you are "BORN, AGAIN," not of the flesh, but of the Holy Spirit of God, and the very angels in heaven will rejoice, and give glory to God, because a child has been born into God's kingdom. All heaven is interested in the salvation of souls, and all heaven must mourn if souls come short of making their escape from the power of the evil one.

All of God's creation, and all the years that have passed, and that are yet to come, are allowed to us, that God's heaven might be filled. I think that time will be no more when man ceases to repent and turn to God for pardon. We can expect the curtain to fall on this time world, and the end of all things here on earth. Heaven is only for the redeemed.

Then let God have His way with you, turn to Him with all your heart, then you can dwell with the redeemed for all eternity. But TARRY ye and be filled with the power of God. —I. E. Kriebel.



# Young People's Section

## A Reminder

What did I hear the preacher say?  
Thou shouldst not murmur nor complain;  
And if we have not faith in God  
It is true, we shall be slain.

Not as the Israelites have done—  
They complained of their supply;  
But we see how God provided,  
That they could eat, and not die.

Truly it is a great privilege  
To serve such a wonderful friend;  
So we desire to be more like him,  
Journey with him to life's end.  
—Maybelle Pruitt.

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## Escape for Your Life

We read in the Bible and see very clearly how merciful God has been in making a way of escape for those who will obey him.

We read in the 19th chapter of Genesis where God said he was going to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their wickedness. In the 14th verse Lot talked to his sons-in-law, telling them God was going to destroy the city. He sounded as one that mocked to them. God told Lot to take his wife and two daughters and **ESCAPE FOR THEIR LIVES**. He also told them not to look back. Lot's wife looked back and was turned to a pillar of salt.

In Rev. 11:8, we read, "And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt where also our Lord was crucified." The dead bodies represent the Word of God and the Spirit of God (Zech. 4:6). In 2 Cor. 3:6 we find the Word of God is dead without the Spirit of God. Most of the world today have the Word of God, but if they do not obey it, to them the Word and Spirit are killed.

The city is the false religion of the world. This includes all sects, lodges, and many other man-made organizations. They are of that city which **SPIRITUALLY** is called Sodom and Egypt and also where our Lord was crucified.

As in Sodom, you can be ever so wicked, yet be a part of the "church," paying your tithes and having your name on the "church book."

As in Egypt, they have people of God under bondage, keeping them in darkness by silver-tongued orators proving their doctrines by their great numbers and not by the Word of God.

It is also where our Lord was crucified. The religious sects had Him crucified outside the gate of Jerusalem and put him to an open shame. (Heb. 13:12)

As in the days of the destruction of Sodom, God is sounding a warning to his people. **ESCAPE FOR YOUR LIFE**, dear reader, if you are in any part of this spiritual Babylon of today. In Rev. 18:4 we read, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." The plagues will be many heartaches and sorrows and in the end eternal damnation to your soul. **Flee that city and do not look back.**

God has a people who are pure and clean. They are free from sin or any other bondage except the bondage of love to God. He rules them himself (Rev. 21:27). He places them where he wants them in the body (1 Cor. 12:24, 27).

I am thankful God has shown me his true people. Eph. 3:14, 15, "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named," the **CHURCH OF GOD**. —David Madden

## His Child

Oh, the joy, the peace to know  
That I am his child just now,  
Just to hear him say again,  
"Thou art mine," as low I bow.

When the storms of life shall come  
I'll not fear the tempter's roar,  
If I can always hear him say,  
"Thou art mine forever more."

So let me keep low at his feet  
In sunshine or dangers wild,  
And let me, whatever may betide,  
Just hear him say, "Thou art my child."  
—May Ola Casto

## Love Delights to Give

I cannot fathom that infinite "so,"  
That stirred the great heart Divine:  
But while in the body, I certainly know  
A share in that love may be mine.  
For thus it is written, the record I trace,  
Says, "God so loved that He gave"  
The Son of His love for Adam's race,  
For love delights to save.

Believing the record of Gospel truth,  
That love reaches even to me;  
I pledge my love from the days of my youth,  
For His truth hath made me free.  
My heart toward Him forever goes out,  
It is His so long as I live;  
And love makes it easy, whate'er comes about,  
Since love delights to give. —Sel,

## Bread From Heaven

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life, he that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

When the Children of Israel (type of Christians) were in the wilderness, the Lord rained bread from heaven for them (Exodus 16:4), and they gathered it every morning. When sun waxed hot, it melted (Exodus 16:21). Moses said, "This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat." Exodus 16:15.

The prodigal son was in a far country (alienated) from God and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land, and he began to be in want. He went and joined himself to a citizen of that country (Satan's), and he sent him into his fields to feed swine (type of unclean), and he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat (things that did not satisfy), and no man gave unto him. When he came to himself, he said, "I will arise and go to my father." Luke 15:13.

Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? And your labor for that which satisfieth not? Harken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Isa. 55:2.

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. (And we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth) John 1:14. He was rich (Christ was in heaven), yet for your sakes he became poor (came to die on earth) that ye through his poverty might be rich. 2 Cor. 8:9.

O taste and see that the Lord is good. Psalms 34:8.

Whosoever eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life: and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood dwelleth in me and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live forever. John 6:54-58. My Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. John 6:32. Lord, evermore give us this bread. John 6:34.

—Mrs. Charles Reese

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## Let Us Have Grace

"Let us have grace." We find these words of exhortation in the 28th verse of the 12th chapter of Hebrews. We find also, according to the exhortation, that it is very needful to be in possession of this grace in order to be able to serve God in an acceptable manner, for it is impossible to serve him without grace, and grace is not an element that can be generated by mere human effort. It is something of divine origin. And we find by reading Eph. 2:8, that it comes from God himself, "For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." And by looking above at the 4th and 5th verses of the

same chapter, we find this statement, "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved)." The margin says, "by whose grace," or by whose grace are ye saved; that is, it is by God's grace that men are saved. Every "born again" individual receives grace from God. Romans 12:6a, "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us." Grace is God's free gift to man. It is an unmerited divine favor of God bestowed upon them who will believe and trust his power. It is given to us to use to the glory of our heavenly Father, and since it has been given to us, it is ours to use and to keep. We are not able to retain the grace of God in our souls if we do not put forth an effort to do so.

Considering the exhortation, "Let us have grace," we find a call or a stir to alertness. The margin says in this case, "Let us hold fast"; that is, let us hold fast to the grace that has been given to us, because by carelessness and neglect, the grace of God can run out like a leaking vessel. There is a divine sweetness or mellowness manifested in the lives of those whose hearts are filled with the grace of God. Their speech is not crusty and grating, they are not filled with light and chaffy remarks, neither do they indulge in sarcastic remarks and phrases, but they seek to please God in all that they do and say. God's grace dwelling within them teaches them to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. They do not lust after the things of the flesh, neither are they covetous or greedy, graspers after earthly gain. They are not lazy and thriftless; the grace of God does not make one lazy. But they are full of mercy and good fruits, peaceable, gentle, kind, and easy to be entreated. Any one who is filled with strife and envy, malice and debate is void of the grace of God; for grace and strife will not walk hand in hand, neither will grace go with malice and debate. One who is lifted up with pride and egotism is in dire need of the grace of God, "for God resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble." God giveth grace; he will not give grace to a proud man or woman, but he giveth grace to the humble.

Peter in his epistle, "to them that have obtained like precious faith," goes on to say, "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue." 2 Peter 1:2, 3. We gather then from the reading of these verses, that it is not only necessary to hold fast to the grace that we first received to be able to serve God in an acceptable manner, but also that we must obtain that grace and that grace be multiplied unto us by the divine power of God. In Romans 5:1, 2, we read, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Some call this standing grace, and truly we do need grace to stand against the many wiles of the devil as we journey through this land.

Some one may ask, How may we obtain this grace? Jesus said, "ask and ye shall receive." We also read in Heb. 4:15, 16, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Yes, the God of all grace is willing, and will give grace to every one who will humble himself before him, and seek for the needed grace to do his will. As the poet has said, "All his grace is free as the air we breathe, we may each have a full supply." But there must be an effort on our part, both to obtain and to retain the sweet grace of God in our hearts. We read in Heb. 12:15, "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled." Yes, there must be a diligent watching and a vigilance to guard and to keep that precious treasure that has been delivered unto us by the mercy of God.

The grace of God will bring the soul into a condition to be fruitful in producing the virtues of faith, purity, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, charity, etc. Sufficient grace will take us through. Paul passed through some experiences that were like a thorn in the flesh, and he prayed earnestly that it might be removed, but the answer came from God, "My grace is sufficient for thee." "There is grace for every need at the cross."

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." —Ulysses Phillips

### Definition of Fear

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Tim. 1:7. The word "fear" is most generally understood as meaning to live in dread, to be afraid, or to imagine the presence of evil. The Word of God clearly indicates that fear and doubt are decidedly instruments of Satan to discourage, weaken, or defeat the weary pilgrim's purpose to reach the eternal abode of bliss for the soul.

The loyal, faithful, uncompromising servant of the Lord serves God, not from a sense of fear of the wrath to come or a slavish bondage or restraint, but from the motives of a pure heart-felt, fervent love for righteousness. Satan makes many to believe there is no salvation for them and many more to be afraid even try lest they be not able to live it among so many sinners. John Bunyan, in "Pilgrim's Progress" tells about one, Mr. Fear, who was on pilgrimage, but was afraid he would not be received at the gate of the celestial city. Many professing Christians today are in doubt about reaching the realms of glory. God is sorely displeased at such professions that dishonor His name. The poor slave labored for his master from a sense of fear that he was sure to be punished for disobedience. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear, because fear hath torment. He

that feareth is not made perfect in love (sanctified). Read this in 1 John 4:18. A consecrated, set-apart, dedicated, sanctified experience is highly essential to overcome that sense of ungodly fear—the fear that "hath torment." The obedient child that loves its parents, fears no punishment. Likewise, a full-gospel servant is freed of doubt, and fear, for he lives daily with fervent love for God and His Son Jesus Christ.

To have no confidence in one's ability to please God is indeed a very sad condition. Ye who walk about with your head down, discouraged by Satan's sense of fear: stop! look up and do some serious thinking. The Lord has better things to offer you. Reach into your bosom for the key of faith and unlock the dark prison door and get liberty, freedom, and light from ungodly fear. The great remedy to correct this spiritual condition is the power of Jesus Christ obtained through faith. —John H. Griffith

### Ordination of Women

A brother writes that there is a disturbance of the peace and the unity of the body in their place over this matter: the ordination of female elders and deaconness. "Some of the ministers, he says, have already taken a stand against ordaining women, and are teaching it, and the result is division." The brother adds, "We know all divisions between God's people are of the devil."

Surely so. Now we wish to say that every preacher or professed Christian that takes a stand against God using as he sees fit, as preachers and deaconesses female members of the body of Christ, and agitates such views, was either void of the Spirit of God, or is becoming so in pursuing such a course. We have never known that course to fail to rob the soul of the real Spirit of God. And as sure as division is of the devil, and the word of God says, "There is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus," Gal. 3:28, so sure this contention against females acting in these callings when chosen thereto of God, is of the devil. The superstitious notion arises from the fact that "a man" is always spoken of as "desiring the office of bishop," etc. But the same erroneous notion would exclude a woman from being born of God. "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom." "Except a man be born of water, and the Spirit," etc. Nothing is said of women. They are therefore, excluded from salvation. An elder is to be the "husband of one wife," therefore, it is thought, a woman must not be ordained. But it is also written that a deacon is to be the husband of one wife. And the same apostle who said so, commended Phoebe as a servant—*diakonon*, deaconess—of the church at Cenchrea. Rom. 16:1. He did not therefore mean to exclude women from either the calling of elder or deacon, no more than Christ did from the new birth. In the name of Jesus, we say to all who have been contending in this matter to repent, and pray God to forgive you, and hereafter let God use whom he will, and that is neither male nor female.

—From "Gospel Trumpet," May 30, 1895

## A Question

What is truth? When Jesus stood before Pilate, he said, "Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice."

Pilate asked, "What is truth?"

John 14:6, "I am the way, the TRUTH"—"Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17); "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32)—"and the life." "In him was life: and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4).

Well may that question be asked today as in that day. Spiritual confusion and darkness cover this old world. People are groping in darkness, saying, "What is truth?" Each organization is saying, "Come with us, we are the way." Protestantism (the image of the beast, Rev. 13:14) is striving for numbers, power, and authority. Jesus is the great "I am." I AM the TRUTH.

The plan of redemption (which was planned in glory) is for the whole human family, composed of every nation. Acts 17:27, 28, "That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: for in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." Why? "Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man (Christ) whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance (offered faith) unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."

God created man for himself. The Lord's portion is his people. Of all creation, man is the only creature that is rebellious against his Creator. Jer. 32: 23, "They obeyed not thy voice, neither walked in thy law. They have done nothing of all that thou commandest them to do"—Well applied to this day.

When Jesus was upon earth he led and taught his people. When he was to depart, he said, "The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost [third person in the Trinity], whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." 1 John 2:27, "The anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you; but as the same anointing [Holy Spirit] teacheth you of all things, and is TRUTH, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him." This produces a oneness in God's family. There is one way, one faith, one God, Father of us all (Eph. 4:4-6). One is not complete when divided, it is only a part of something. This one way, one faith produces a family, a household, a flock, all of one heart and one mind, having the mind of Christ, and it is zealous of good works. This is a "called-out" flock, called from a sinning life to a life of purity (holiness). Church means "called out." This church

is the body in whom Christ dwells, a building of God not made with hands. Abraham in his day saw it by faith and looked for that city (New Jerusalem) whose builder and maker was God. 1 Pet. 2:5, "Ye, also as lively stones are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood [Rev. 1:6] an holy nation, a peculiar [purchased] people." Why? "That ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" Eph. 2: 19, "Ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints and of the household of God." "In whom all the building fitly framed together, groweth unto an holy temple [one] in the Lord. In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Chapter 3:14, "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom [God] the whole family [church] in heaven and earth is named."

Jesus told us to "seek the kingdom of God," and he would build the church. That is not our commission. He also said to preach the gospel of the kingdom—good news of salvation sent down from heaven. This great salvation that hath appeared to all men.

It is written, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image." Now the images that Catholics make are not the only images. Images are ways that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death (Prov. 14:12). Men are building beautiful edifices, calling them churches. Paul instructed the elders to "feed the church of God." (Acts 2:28). How can you feed a material building? No, the edifice is not the church. It is an image which man often worships.

In John 17:21, Jesus prayed that they, his flock, "all may be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they [the family] may be one in us." Why? "That the world may believe that thou hast sent me." In this world of spiritual confusion (Babylon) does the world know Jesus? No, the plan of redemption has been so altered and indoctrinated with false teaching that we have a world lacking in Truth and spiritual power (Holy Spirit). Jesus said, (John 10:1) "He that entereth not by the door [Jesus] into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way [the way that seemeth right], the same is a thief and a robber." "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men." "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." That is God's store house. "I was hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not." Some will say, "Lord, I paid my tithe into the church." Where does he say the church man builds is the storehouse? In no place does he tell us to build division, support it, or pay tribute to it. In 1 Cor. 1:10, division is forbidden. A house divided against itself cannot stand. Every plant (division) which my Father hath not planted shall be rooted up. Denomination means a sect, a class, or division. Jesus says, "ONE"; man says, "MANY." God is our Father, Jesus, our elder

brother. As our earthly father prepares a house in which to dwell, so God has prepared for you a house. In 1 Timothy 3:15 we find that this house is the church of God, the pillar and the ground of the truth.

Isa. 62:2, "And thou [Zion] shall be called by a new name which the mouth of the Lord [not man] shall name." Eph. 1:21, "Far above every name that is named," not only in this world, but also in that which is to come. John 17:11 reads, "Holy Father, keep through thine own name [God] those whom thou hast-given me, that they may be one, as we are." What wonderful unity, cooperation, and fellowship—the saints of God in perfect accord as they were in that upper room: one heart, one soul, and one mind—ONE.

—Mrs. Lucy Smith.

—oOo—

## Wisdom

Job 28

But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding? Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living. The depth saith, It is not in me: and the sea saith, It is not with me. It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof. It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire. The gold and crystal cannot equal it: and the exchange of it shall not be for jewels of fine gold. No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies. The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold. Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding? Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the fowls of the air. Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears. God understandeth the way thereof; and knoweth the place thereof. For he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven; to make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure. When he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the lightning of the thunder; then did he see it, and declare it; he prepared it, yea, and searched it out. And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.

Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.—1 Cor. 3:18.

—oOo—

## Carnal or Spiritual

"For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Romans 8:6.

Carnal thoughts are about earthly things. Spiritual thoughts are about heavenly things. If our mind dwells on things of the earth, it means DEATH, but if our mind dwells on things above, it means LIFE and PEACE. Christ, by his love and grace, can help us to keep our minds on heavenly things.

"Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth." Col. 3:2. If we are dead to things on the earth, we have our affections on things above, but if we are thinking all day about things of the earth and the cares of life, and not thinking about Jesus, we cannot expect him to help us to keep our minds on things above. While we are at work, or whatever we are doing, we should think about heaven and the salvation God has given us, and the good things he has given us in his word to guide us to heaven.

I am glad that I have my affections on things above, not on things on the earth. I praise the Lord for what he is to me. Pray for me that I will be all he wants me to be. I ask the Lord to give me something to write to be published in the "Faith and Victory," and this is what he gave me. —Ruth Rudd.

—oOo—

## Are We Spotless?

Do we care to work with dirty dishes? No, we make sure the inside is spotless before we use a dish. It is the same with our Lord. He wants clean vessels, and he makes sure that we are spotless before he can use us in his work. We clean the inside of the pots and pans as well as the outside; and the Lord wants us to be clean in heart and on the outside too.

When we start to do our wash, we look at the children's dirty clothes and wonder if they will ever be made clean and spotless, but it takes only a little soap and water and our effort to make them free from spot and dirt. Some have their hearts so dirty that it would hardly seem that they could ever be free from spot, but the Lord is able to clean them up. Not with soap, but by the blood of Jesus as it is applied to our hearts by faith.

We want our sheets to be spotless, and it is restful to crawl between them each night and rest until morning. When our hearts are in like manner clean and spotless, we can rest in peace with the Lord each day. As we go about our work each day it gives us satisfaction to see the different things with which we work clean and spotless. Even so the Lord gets pleasure and satisfaction out of us, his workmanship, when we are pure and spotless in soul, mind, and body.

My prayer is that I keep pure and spotless to please my Lord. —Evelyn Linch

## HOLY IN WALK

He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.—1 John 2:6. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.—1 Peter 2:21, 22.

—oOo—

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## The Millennial Reign

The theory is scattered abroad in the world today that when Christ comes, he will snatch away his bride and the unbelieving and wicked will be left here in great tribulations and after a period of time the Lord will set up a literal kingdom on this earth and reign here in righteousness for a thousand years. They call this his literal, earthly, Millennial reign.

Let us search the Scriptures some and find out whether these things be true or otherwise.

They use the latter part of the 4th chapter of 1 Thess. to prove that the bride will be caught up to God in the air and then after a thousand years there will be another resurrection of the wicked. The fact about this Scripture is that the apostle Paul was not talking about the wicked, but was teaching the brethren to not mourn over their loved ones who had died in the faith, for they would be resurrected and ascend up to meet the Lord in the air, also the righteous that were living would be changed and they would all go up together. According to the holy Scriptures, the wicked shall also be resurrected at the same time, and will take their place in the regions of the lost after the Judgment.

To prove this to be truth, let us turn to John 5:25, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, the hour is coming and now is [present tense] when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." In this verse and the preceding verse, he is speaking of the first resurrection, which is spiritual. Men who confess and repent, believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, are made new creatures by the power of God. They are resurrected from a dead state of sin unto spiritual life in God, and in this operation they have come up at the first resurrection. This is why in Revelation 20:6, we read, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power." The second death has reference to the time when, after the Judgment, the wicked are condemned and consigned to flames. The eternal death will have no power over those who have had part in the first resurrection, for they are blessed and holy, have come up at the first resurrection, and will enter into the joys of the Lord.

Dropping down to the 28th verse of the 5th chapter of John, we see that he changes the thought from the spiritual resurrection to the literal resurrection: "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming [future], in the which, all that are in the graves [Notice, it says ALL] shall hear his voice, and shall come forth: they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life: and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." He speaks of this taking place in an hour—both the good and wicked will be resurrected in the same hour, not a thousand years apart, as some teachers would lead you to believe. In the following chapter (John 6), we read four different places where Jesus tells them that he will raise them up at the last day. There will be no more days for this world when the last day comes.

Not only is this teaching false and misleading, but the same teachers also have other things that are false, as we shall prove by considering Revelation 12: "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: and she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered." The book of Revelation is symbolically written and cannot truthfully be interpreted in a literal sense. It takes someone filled with the true Holy Spirit of God (not those with what they call "Holy Ghost" but is only a sham) to interpret it correctly. Teachers, who have not the true Holy Spirit, put their private interpretations on the Scriptures, and confuse the people, causing them to believe lies that their souls might be damned.

With the fear of God in our hearts, we shall give the truth to our readers as He brings it to our minds. In order to clear our minds of false teaching, we should remember that the heaven spoken of here does not refer to the eternal heavens where God dwells, but it has reference to the ecclesiastical heavens. The ecclesiastical heaven is composed of all the lifted up spiritual forces, both good and bad together with Satan's priests that worship idols. Paul says, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Eph. 6:12. Keeping this in mind will help us to understand the following explanations.

The great wonder, the woman who appeared in the ecclesiastical heavens was none other than the kingdom of God, the church of God that was set up on the day of Pentecost, and began to function in the world. The church is oftentimes spoken of as a woman in the Bible. It is also spoken of as the bride, the Lamb's wife. It says the woman was clothed with the sun. This symbol is exceedingly fitting for the church, as the sun represents Christ. He is the light of the world, and the prophet Malachi, speaking of the coming of Christ, said, "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings." Mal. 4:2. Christ is the light and strength of the church, clothing the church in righteousness. "And the moon under her feet." The moon symbolizes the law age, for it was a shadow of good things to come. The moon borrows its light from the sun and casts its light upon the earth, so the Law is represented as the moon, and it under her feet. When Christ was crucified and resurrected and ascended up to heaven, leading captivity captive and giving gifts unto men (Eph. 4:8), the Law age ceased to be in effect; and the moon under her feet represents its end. When the literal sun arises, no matter how bright the moon is shining, its light is soon put out and fades away. Just so when the Sun of righteousness arose in the form of the woman, the church, the shadow met the substance and disappeared, was put down, and all men were (or should have been) drawn unto Christ, the head of the church, to walk in the greater light and not remain in moon-light darkness any more. The head crowned with twelve stars sym-

bolized the twelve apostles, who were pillars in the church and were to carry the gospel of Christ to all nations. When John, on the Isle of Patmos, saw Jesus, he described him as the "Sun shining in his strength" (Rev. 1:6). In the 20th verse he says that the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches. Angels represent messengers, or the ministers of the seven churches.

And she being with child travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered, symbolizes or represents the early church bringing forth sons and daughters. When Peter preached his sermon, immediately after this wonder appeared in the ecclesiastical heavens, over three thousand souls were added to the church. We read in Isaiah 66th chapter where the prophet is relating this matter (8th verse): "Who hath heard such things?" This was something new; it was a WONDER. "Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once?" This large number of souls that was added to the church was termed an holy nation. Read 1 Pet. 2:9. "For as soon as Zion, [a metaphor of the church] travailed, she brought forth her children."

Verse 3, "And there appeared another wonder in heaven: and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads." Now these wonders all appeared in the ecclesiastical heavens, and not in heaven where God dwells. Let us keep that clear in our minds, so we shall not become confused with the flood of false teachings. Verse four: "And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the Dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child, as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man Child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and three score days."

The great Red Dragon which appeared on the scene was, or represented, the rulers of the Roman Empire, which was given over to idol worship and was anti-God and anti-Christ in belief. This dragon power or spirit is spoken of as an old serpent, the Devil and Satan in Rev. 20:2. This does not mean that he was Satan, or Beelzebub, himself. In the 9th verse of this 12th chapter it states that he was called the Devil and Satan.

This great red Dragon power had crowns, denoting the victories he had over other nations, for he had conquered the whole known world at that time. The seven heads and ten horns denoted his strength and ruling power. The third verse says that his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth. The tail of anything refers to the last part, so in the latter part of his reign in the ecclesiastical heavens, he succeeded in bringing or causing a large number of ministers to fall from their ruling estate, or from the ecclesiastical heavens where they were reigning and ruling as God allowed. The false teachers in the world today will tell folks

that this means literal stars falling from heaven, and thus many souls are confused and kept away from the real truth. Casting them to the earth means that they became merely ordinary citizens with no ruling power any more, were not in the ecclesiastical heavens.

And the dragon stood before the woman (the church, the other wonder that appeared in the ecclesiastical heavens) which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man Child. This was the newly born church, for the church is also represented in the Word of God as a man. Read this in Eph. 2:15, also in other places in the Bible. This atheistic, infidel, idol-worshipping power, which is called the devil and Satan, was ready to slay the child as soon as it was born. A similar instance is recorded in the Bible when Jesus was born. Old Herod the king, who represents the devil, was wroth because a child had been born to be king, and he sought to slay the child. The devil, by his murderous spirits is always after the life of Christ to slay it, even in our souls today he would destroy that life if he could. He wanted to devour it. The Bible surely tells us how he persecuted the early church. It is stated that all the apostles but John were finally slain in some cruel manner, and many of the saints were killed in different manners. The Scripture says that her child was caught up to God and his throne. As the saints were slain their souls were taken up to God, and the woman, or the remnant, fled into the wilderness where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand and two hundred and three score days. According to Biblical language, counting one day for a year, it would be twelve hundred and sixty years, which is the time and space of the dark ages when Roman Catholicism reigned and slew all true believers in Christ. The remnant had to hide away in caves and dens of the earth to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. When the saints had fought against this great red Dragon power, which is called the Devil and Satan, and had overcome and cast his rule and authority down in the Roman Empire, it is said in a figurative language that he was bound with a great chain—not a literal chain, but by the gospel, for they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and their testimony and loved not their lives unto death.

After running through with this thought of the man child up to the dark ages, the scene drops back again to the Dragon and the church in their war in the ecclesiastical heavens during the early church age: "And there was war in heaven [the ecclesiastical heavens]: Michael [Christ] and his angels [ministers] fought against the Dragon; and the Dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven." The Lord and his angels did not fight with carnal weapons, but the dragon power did. He lost the battle. The 9th verse reads, "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent called the Devil and Satan [He was not Satan, but was called that], which deceiveth the whole world." At this time and before this he had been ruling the whole world. He was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.



The sense in which he was cast out of the ecclesiastical heavens is that the power of Christianity became so great and universal in the Roman Empire that the rulers of the great red dragon power were defeated and a Christian man by the name of Constantine was put in authority. Thus the great red dragon and his angels or rulers in the kingdom were reduced to ordinary citizens and were no longer in the ecclesiastical heavens. The Word of God says "the great dragon was cast out."

Jesus saw this and prophesied of it while in the fleshly body, recorded in the 10th chapter of Luke. The seventy had been sent out, and they returned, saying, "Lord, even the devils are subject to us through thy name." Jesus said to them, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven," then he went on to encourage them in the good work by saying, "I give you power to tread on serpents and scorpions [all manner of evil spirits] and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." The Satan that Jesus saw falling from heaven as lightning included this old dragon power which is called the devil and Satan. A prevalent false teaching is that Satan was in heaven where God was, and was a bright angel next to God, but he fought against God and God overcame him and kicked him out of heaven. This, according to the false teaching, was the war in heaven. Such talk as that is man putting his own interpretation (or private interpretation) on the Word of God and deceiving the people by their clever, crafty, humanly-arranged teachings, and are today deceiving the people into believing lies that their souls might be destroyed. Satan, in the form of this great dragon power, had exalted himself and was ruling over the whole known world at that time, and truly he was in a high place in the ecclesiastical heavens. But in 12:11, we read, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony: and they loved not their lives unto death." In this way the early morning church overcame the great red dragon. Many of them were killed and slain, but the rest kept right on declaring the blood that saves, and testifying that Christ is Lord and King, until the whole Roman Empire was filled with a belief in Christ—whether saved or not—to the extent that the red dragon power was put down and those who were in authority favored the true God, and allowed the gospel to go forth unmolested, and the saints were singing and proclaiming with a loud voice in the ecclesiastical heavens, "Now is come salvation and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before God day and night." In the 12th verse they are told to "rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them." Then he moves on to later scenes and says in the same verse, "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." The Revelator in this last verse stretches over a long period of time, reaching practically to the end of time, as he speaks of the devil having great wrath, knowing that his time is short.

In the evening, or winding up time, his wrath will be furious and raging against the few saints who love not their lives unto death and stand against him in his fury, declaring that the blood saves and that Christ is king and ruler, and not he.

In the 13th verse he drops back to the woman again also the dragon and his persecuting the woman that brought forth the man child. In this cast-out condition, the old devil, seeing that his power to rule as an anti-God and anti-Christ, comes on the scene under a cloak of religion which was Catholicism, termed as the beast in Rev. 13:2.

To bring out the message that the Lord has placed upon us, we want to now turn to the 20th chapter of Revelation and see more about this great red dragon and what becomes of him and the thousand year reign which the false prophets of earth and their followers rejoice about.

Before we go farther, I want to say that whatever a man really believes in his heart will affect him, whether it be a lie or otherwise. Jacob believed that a wild animal had devoured his son Joseph, and he mourned and wept for him greatly for years. It was all a lie, but he believed it and it affected him. Had he known the whole truth about the matter, as it came to light in later years, he could have rested the whole thing with God and rejoiced that the Lord was so wonderfully using his son to preserve life. Many of the saints today are believing the devil's lies, and are in great trouble and have unneeded burdens. If they would have unfeigned confidence in God and cast their burdens on the Lord, they could rest with rejoicing under the hottest trials in life. All of the precious promises of God written in his word belong to the saints, and it is written, "All things work together for good to them that love God." Again he says, "If God be for us, who can be against us."

To be continued



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## When Death Shall Call for me

Through this world men come and go,  
This everywhere I plainly see;  
Death takes them on, both high and low,  
And some day death shall call for me.

I have work to do 'tis true,  
Let me work while yet 'tis day;  
For no one else my task can do,  
When death shall carry me away.

While others work for their reward  
That they the Saviour's face may see,  
Let me be working at my post,  
Oh Lord, when death shall call for me.

If I toil faithfully, I know  
That Thou wilt surely stand by me;  
And trusting Thee, I will not fear.  
Oh Lord, when death shall call for me.

I have no knowledge of the date,  
Nor of the place where I may be;  
But I shall reach the solemn spot  
Sometime, when death shall call for me.

Lord, I will labor on and pray  
While I have life and health from Thee;  
I'm sure that I can do no more,  
Dear Lord, when death shall call for me.

Unsympathizing death—so strong  
I can not stay his hand, I see;  
And this I know, I'll have to go,  
Oh Lord, when death shall call for me.

But then, why should I be afraid  
Or fear to cross the foaming sea?  
He, who stilled the storm one day,  
Will speak, when death shall call for me.

And He will hold me by the hand;  
My guide and comforter He'll be;  
And I shall rest upon His breast  
And sleep, when death shall call for me.  
—Ulysses Phillips.

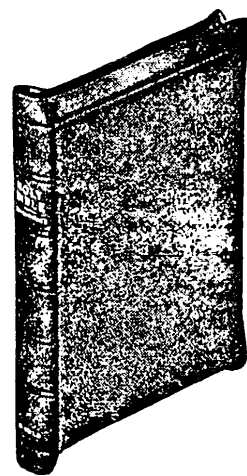
## Partners

Said a whiskey flask to a cigarette,  
"I'd like to make a good sized bet  
That I can get more scalps than you,  
Although your victims aren't so few."  
Said the cigarette to the whiskey flask,  
"Well, that's easy as I could ask,  
For I give kids their downward start,  
Then you pitch in and do your part.  
They come to you with burning thirst  
But I'm the fellow that sees 'em first:  
So most of them should count for me.  
I'll take the bet, it's a cinch, do'ye see?"  
Then the whiskey flask had this to say,  
"I never looked at the thing that way,

But I confess you spoke the truth;  
'Tis you who tackles the foolish youth.  
You fill his system with dopey smoke,  
I mould him into a first-class soak;  
We work together far too well  
To quarrel for even a spell."  
So the whiskey flask and the cigarette  
Shook hands together and offed the bet.  
And away they sauntered side by side  
Hunting for victims far and wide:  
In every corner of the nation  
Partners in crime and ruination.  
So here's our warning, on the level,  
Shun them as you would shun the devil.  
"Tobacco is a filthy weed,  
And from the devil doth proceed;  
It picks your pockets, burns your clothes,  
And makes a chimney of your nose."

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January 1, 1950

Printed Portion.....Acts 1:1-14.

Acts 1:1. The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

2. Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

3. To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

4. And being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

5. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not . . . days hence.

6. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7. And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

9. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11. Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

12. Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

13. And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

14. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

**Memory Verse:** And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2.

**Practical Truth:** Jesus calls for volunteers only, those who are willing to leave all the world and follow him can be his disciples—he has never drafted anyone.

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We are made to wonder if professed Christians really understand what it means to be disciples of Christ. Great crowds gathered around Jesus while he was here on earth, and on one occasion Jesus said unto them all, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Disciple means "follower of Christ." Again we hear Jesus say, "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all

that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." Only those who are willing to forsake this godless, Christless world can be disciples of Jesus.

Jesus said, "Many are called, but few are chosen." In the continuation of Christ's kingdom, all the way from the time he came to set up his kingdom up to the present time, Jesus has found only a few who have been willing to leave all the world to follow him; that is, to be his disciples.

In the last year of his ministry, just before he took his departure from his disciples, Jesus said, "Fear not, little flock, it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Since the time of Jesus' ascension, this work of gathering disciples for him has been under the supervision of the Holy Spirit, who is continually gathering the few who will stand for the right and deny the ways of the world and the lusts of the flesh, to follow the Lord all the way.

Jesus said, "Strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Will you be his disciple?

## THE CHURCH EMPOWERED

January 8, 1950

Printed Portion.....Acts 2:1-4, 14-17, 37-41.

Acts 2:1. And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a mighty rushing wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

14. But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

15. For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

16. But this is that which was spoken of by the prophet Joel;

17. And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

37. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38. Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remissions of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39. 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.

40. And many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

41. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

**Memory Verse:** Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Luke 10:19.

**Practical Truth:** The church must be endued with power to accomplish the purpose God designed for it.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The church empowered to carry out God's program is the church that is filled with God's Holy Spirit. We notice that they (the church) were all with one accord and in one place. They were ready to receive this gift, which endued them with power from on high to witness for the Lord to the uttermost part of the earth.

In many places we see the church stripped of power because they have lost connection with the great Power-house in heaven. A church in this condition is helpless, as a ship at sea without sails or rudder. A church without power becomes a stumbling block in the way of sinners.

When the church lets the Holy Spirit have the right of way in it, it becomes a power for God and for lost souls. The church today must have the Holy Spirit as its guide and director—He must be dwelling in the hearts of men and women for the church to have power in this wicked generation.

When we see the condition of the local churches today, we think of the condition that Hezekiah found things in when the king of Assyria sent them warning that they were coming to invade them. Hezekiah said, "This is a day of trouble and of rebuke and of blasphemy, for the children are come to birth and there is not strength to bring forth." A church in this condition should humble itself and call mightily upon God; and then God would endue it with power from on high to resist the enemy.

### THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR

January 15, 1950

**Printed Portion.....Acts 2:42-47; 4:31-35.**

Acts 2:42. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

44. And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

45. And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

46. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

47. Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

4:31. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were filled with the Holy Ghost; and they spake the word with boldness.

32. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that aught of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

33. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

34. Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

35. And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

**Memory Verse:** 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. I Cor. 1:10.

**Practical Truth:** Where Christian love predominates, true fellowship will be outstanding.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In the written portion of the lesson for today we see perfect fellowship; and there is a reason for this. By reading the written portion of this lesson carefully we may clearly see why this fellowship existed in the early church. First, we notice that they were all of one heart and one soul, and were intensely interested in the same things. They had all things in common; there were no divisions among them, and great grace was upon them all. They were all of the same mind. They had this perfect love that works no ill to his neighbor, and their hearts were all filled with the love of God, that perfect love which casts out fear. They were bold to speak the truth and to declare all the counsel of God. They were all teaching the same thing. They were all willing to bear the reproach of the cross that accompanies the true Christian life. They all rejoiced because they were counted worthy to suffer shame for the sake of this worthy cause. They were all doing their best to win souls for the Master.

There was no jealousy or hatred among them. Each had the same care for the others. The most important factor in this beautiful fellowship among the members of the early church was that they all loved each other.

The Spirit of Christ has not changed from that time to this. Brotherly love and true fellowship will always be found where Christ's spirit dwells and God's love prevails.

### FELLOWSHIP IN THE EARLY CHURCH

January 22, 1950

**Printed Portion.....Acts 6:8-15; 7:54-60.**

Acts 6:8. And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

9. Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

10. And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

11. Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God.

12. And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council,

13. And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:

14. For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.

15. And all that sat in the council; looking steadfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel. 7:54. When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

55. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

56. And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

57. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

58. And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

59. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

60. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

**Memory Verses:** But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Luke 21:12, 13.

**Practical Thought:** Are we willing to seal our testimony with our blood?

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

A martyr is one who gives his life for that which he believes in. Stephen, the first Christian martyr was one of the seven deacons chosen by the early church, according to the 6th chapter of Acts. According to this record Stephen was a man with great faith and power. He did wonders and performed miracles among the people, in so much that those opposing Christianity were enraged against him and they took him before the counsel and swore falsely against him, but he stood out boldly against them and declared all the counsel of God, until they finally became so enraged against him, this ungodly crowd of professors bit him with their teeth in their mad rage and stoned him to death.

Stephen left us a good example of true Christian living before he gave his life for the Lord. Jesus was much concerned about Stephen, for he arose from his seat at the right hand of his Father, where Stephen saw him standing as he saw heaven open when he was being stoned to death.

There were many martyrs in the first few years of the early church. According to history, ten of the twelve apostles were martyred. During the space of time known as the "dark ages" between fifty-five and sixty million Christians were martyred. A great many of them were burned at stake. Daniel's prophecy tells of this in the 11th chapter and the 33rd verse.

More than likely the Lord will call for more martyrs before the end of time.

O—O—O—O—O  
UNTO ALL MEN

January 29, 1950

Printed Portion.....Acts 10:17-20, 24, 34-43.

Acts 10:17. Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,

28. And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.

19. While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.

20. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.

24. And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea.

And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends.

34. Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

35. But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

36. The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

37. That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;

38. How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

39. And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

40. Him God raised up the third day, and showed him openly;

41. Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

42. And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of the quick and dead.

43. To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

**Memory Verse:** Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God for he will abundantly pardon. Isa. 55:7.

**Practical Truth:** With God's great plan of salvation before us, no one need be lost.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In the written portion of the lesson today we understand that this wonderful salvation which Jesus made possible by his life here on earth, his death and resurrection is to all people throughout the whole earth. No one was left out of the plan. Those who do not have it are not living up to their privileges. The great invitation was to all people. For whosoever shall call upon the Lord shall be saved. That grand word, **WHOSOEVER** stands out so prominent in all the invitations sent out by Him who purchased this wonderful salvation with his own precious blood. **Whosoever** means everyone, both Jew and Gentile, who will come as the Lord hath said, by the way of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ with a willingness to confess and forsake their sins and to take up their cross daily and follow Jesus.

Jesus said, ye must be born again. So many, when they get under conviction, instead of repenting and forsaking their sins as God's word instructs them to do, make a fatal mistake by joining a church (man-made organization) and do not get real Bible salvation. We will do well to notice what Jesus said, "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way which leads unto life and FEW there be that find it." A word of warning to all: **BE NOT DECEIVED**. The invitation is given to all with the understanding that we must be born again. We must confess our sins and forsake them before we can be saved.

G. Stephenson