

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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New Clothes For Easter

I want some new clothes, not a coat or a dress,
Like people are seeking today;
Or shoes that are shiny or gloves that are new,
Or a hat that is pretty and gay.

I first want a robe—one of clear spotless white
That will come from my head to my feet,
The kind that was worn by the Master when He
Said, "Children, life's more than meat."

I want some new shoes, the kind that will wear
When I tread on the stones and the clay;
That will shed all the mud of sland'rous rebuff
Of sinners, who don't like His way.

I want a new helmet of faith strong and true,
That will stand all the buffet of doubt,
That will keep my faith soaring above all earth's
sins,
And keep ill thoughts and sins out.

I want a clear heart to beat for my Lord,
"O Jesus, come cleanse me from sin,
"Cast out all dross, take away all earth's goods,
"And dwell ever sweetly within." —Ruth Roake

Something Better

As the Easter season is here and we think of its true meaning and all the Bible events pertaining to our observance of the day, we are concerned in our heart about the attitude of the world in general about the occasion.

The crucifixion, death, and resurrection of our Saviour, the finished work that brought salvation into the world is covered up for most folks by the new Easter dress, hat, suit, etc. What a shameful trick of the enemy! And shame on us if we listen to him. The people of God have something better, and we need to guard it carefully.

I believe the Lord would be pleased if we come to meeting on Easter Sunday just like any other time—not wearing any special items that would draw minds

away from service, not being conformed to the world, but with humility of heart, mind, and appearance, worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. —A Saint.

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A Warning To Repent

Listen carefully, people in America! Jesus came into this world, born in a barn, God's Son who came to save us and teach us the way. Read and heed; you know He loves you. He loved and died for evil men. He wanted to save them all. You must remember that his suffering in the world was not easy. When He came into the world, and was wrapped in those swaddling clothes, He cried. From then until He died on the cross, His life was one of suffering. You remember how they scourged Him and how the iron cut his flesh. What pain that was! In Gethsemane, He suffered until He shed sweat as blood. Under the lash He suffered again. You can imagine the pain as the crown of thorns was placed upon His head and he was struck with a reed, driving thorns into his flesh. And O, the pain He suffered as the nails were driven into his hands and feet when He was nailed to the cross. He suffered all this because He loves you and wanted to save you. You ought to love Him and gladly suffer for His sake.

He says, "Do not fear. I will always give you all the power and courage you need. I will always be with you in life and in death."

Do you understand what I am telling you? Read, heed, and take warning! Woe! woe to the world! He will soon visit the earth with plagues and judgment. The time is very short.

He says, "I love you, but I can not save you unless you turn back and obey me. I can not abide your hypocrisy, your rich churches, your barren hearts, your drinking, your gambling, your adultery, your divorces, and your cursing. Oh, how can I save you when you refuse to be saved? But, woe unto you, for even you have no love. You have been stiffnecked and hard-hearted. You have gone on with your selfish ways. You have been disobedient. Therefore, broken and divided is my body. It pains and aches."

You must live and work together in love. You must do all in your power to persuade your own rela-

tives and friends to repent. Tell them how much He loves them and that He stands at heaven's door watching for their coming.

Dear reader: Are you prepared for these things that are to come upon the earth? Do not wait too long lest it be too late. Make sure you are ready now. God has protection for you against these things if you will call upon Him. He loves you, and if you are his child, He will protect you in the hollow of His hand. Take heed, watch and pray. Go to church services, seek God, and read the Bible.

—Mrs. G. C. Halliday.

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Three Lives

It has been said that a cat has nine lives, but of course we know that this is not true; but in a sense we each one have three lives: the life that we are living now, the life that we live after death, and the memory of our life after we are gone that lives on.

As we look at this and meditate upon it, we should become stirred in our hearts to seek God to keep us filled with the spirit and to ever live under the anointing of His Spirit hour by hour and day by day. Only those things that are done and spoken here in this life under the direct leadings and anointing of the Holy Spirit will touch the lives and hearts of those we come in contact with and cause it to be a blessing now and also after we are gone.

Let us just stop and think of the years gone by and the different ones that we have come in contact with. The words that were spoken by godly people and the acts done by them stand out in our memory. How it made us feel that someone cared! Those acts and words were done under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. And even their godly lives have loomed up before us just at the time we needed courage to press on.

Now the question is: Are we living a life filled with the Spirit so our lives can have that same effect? Oh, may the Lord help us! We are so helpless within ourselves, but God will live through us if we will LET Him. That takes communion with God and watchfulness, keeping our minds stayed on Him, delighting ourselves in the law of God, and being filled with the love of God.

Saul and Stephen were, as history tells us, probably about twenty-five years old when the scene took place recorded in the sixth and seventh chapters of Acts. Stephen was loving the Lord and was filled with the Holy Spirit. He was given grace to be stoned and to give his life for Jesus Christ. This caused Paul who hated Jesus to have serious thoughts as he witnessed this scene. Later Saul gave his heart to Jesus Christ. He went out to preach the gospel to others. One time Saul, who was later called Paul, was also stoned as Stephen was. I am sure the memory of the life that Stephen lived, the courage he manifested, the victory he had over his persecutors, were a stay, comfort, and encouragement to Paul as the stones fell upon his body and when he was drug out of the city,

supposedly dead. But God brought him back to do some more work for Him. Just so, those who have gone on before, the memory of their faithful lives is a comfort and stay to us now.

Then there is the memory of lives that were lived in sin. Those lives are warnings to us to prepare to meet our God.

There is a life to be lived after death throughout eternity. Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions, . . . I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:2, 3. "For we know that if our earthly house [this fleshly body] of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." 2 Cor. 5:1. Praise the Lord, some day we will live again forever with our blessed Saviour and Lord. How wonderful it is to know that we are ready to go.

There is a place for the wicked to live after death, but how sad to think about it. "And it came to pass [It happened, Jesus said] that the beggar died, and was carried by angels unto Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died, and was buried. And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed; so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldst send him to my father's house; For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, **THEY HAVE MOSES AND THE PROPHETS: LET THEM HEAR THEM.** And he said, Nay, father Abraham; but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, **IF THEY HEAR NOT Moses and the prophets NEITHER** will they be **PERSUADED**, though one rose from the dead." Luke 16:22-31.

Oh, dear souls living here, those who have gone before you do not want you to come to that place of torment. Won't you prepare to live with Jesus now, in this life. After death it is too late.

Surely our life here determines our abode after death, and if our life here is lived for God, the memory of our life after death will help others to reach heaven, but if it was lived for self and the devil, it will cause others to be lost. Let us think seriously on these things and the Lord give you understanding, is my prayer.

—Mrs. Marie Miles.

An old Preacher warned his hearers—There is a **CHRIST** for every sinner out of hell, and a **HELL** for every sinner out of Christ.

A Testimony To Full Salvation

On Friday, January 9, 1885, at about nine o'clock in the morning, God sanctified my soul. I was in my own room at the time, but in a few minutes I went out and met a man and told him what God had done for me. The next morning I met another friend on the street and told him the blessed story. He shouted and praised God and urged me to preach full salvation and confess it everywhere. God used him to encourage and help me. So, the following day, I preached on the subject as clearly and forcibly as I could and ended with my testimony.

God blessed the word mightily to others, but I think He blessed it most to myself. That confession put me on record. It cut the bridges down behind me. Three worlds were now looking at me as one who professed that God had given him a clean heart. I could not go back now. I had to go forward. God saw that I meant to be true to death. So, two mornings after that, just as I got out of bed and was reading some of the words of Jesus, He gave me such a blessing as I never had dreamed a man could have this side of heaven. It was a Heaven of love that came into my heart. I walked out over Boston Common before breakfast, weeping for joy and praising God. Oh, how I loved! In that hour I knew Jesus, and loved Him till it seemed my heart would break with love. I loved the sparrows, I loved the dogs, I loved the horses, I loved the little urchins on the streets, I loved the strangers who hurried past me, I loved the heathen, I loved the whole world.

Do you want to know what the baptism of the Holy Ghost is? It is not a mere sentiment. It is not a happy sensation that passes away in a night. It is a baptism of love that brings every thought into captivity to the Lord Jesus; that casts out all fear; that burns up doubt and unbelief, as fire burns tow; that makes one "meek and lowly in heart," that makes one hate uncleanness, lying and deceit and flattering tongue, and every evil way with a perfect hatred; that makes Heaven and hell eternal realities; that makes one patient and gentle with the forward and sinful; that makes one "pure, peaceable, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy"; that brings one into perfect and unbroken sympathy with the Lord Jesus Christ in His toil and travail to bring a lost and rebel world back to God.

God did all that for me, bless His holy name!

Oh, how I had longed to be pure! Oh, how I had hungered and thirsted for God—the living God! And He gave me the desire of my heart. He satisfied me—I weigh my words—He satisfied me! He satisfied me!

These twenty-nine years have been wonderful. God has become my Teacher, my Guide, my Counsellor, my all and in all.

He has allowed me to be perplexed and tempted, but it has been for my good. I have no complaint to make against Him. Sometimes it has seemed that He

had left me alone, but it has been as the mother who stands away from her little child to teach it to use its own legs, that it may walk. He does not suffer me to fall.

He has helped me to speak of Jesus and His great salvation in a way to instruct and comfort and save other souls. He has been light to my darkness, strength to my weakness, wisdom in my foolishness, knowledge in my ignorance.

When my way has been hedged up, and it seemed that no way could be found out of my temptations and difficulties, He has cut a way through for me, just as He opened the Red Sea for Israel.

When my heart has ached, He has comforted me; when my feet had well nigh slipped, He has held me up; when I have been in sore need, He has supplied all my need; when I have been hungry, He has fed me; when I have thirsted, He has given me living water.

Oh, glory to God! What has He not done for me? What has He not been to me?

I recommend Him to the world.

He has taught me that sin is the only thing that can harm me, and that the only thing that can profit me in this world is "faith which worketh by love." He has taught me to hang upon Jesus by faith for my salvation from all sin and fear and shame, and to show my love by obeying Him in all things; and by seeking in all ways to lead others to obey Him.

I praise Him! I adore Him! I love Him! My whole being is His for time and eternity. I am not my own. He can do with me as He pleases, for I am His. I know what He chooses must work out for my eternal good. He is too wise to make mistakes, and too good to do me evil. I trust Him. I trust Him, I trust Him! "My expectation is from Him," not from man, not from myself, but from Him. He has been with me for twenty-nine years, and I know He will never fail me.

During these twenty-nine years God has enabled me to keep a perfect, unbroken purpose to serve Him with my whole heart. No temptation has swerved that steadfast purpose. No worldly or ecclesiastical ambition has had an atom of weight with me, or has allured me.

My whole heart has cried within me as did Ephraim's: "What have I to do with idols? I have heard Him and observed Him."

"Holiness unto the Lord" has been my motto. In fact, it has been the only motto that could express the deep desire and aspiration of my soul.

For a year and a half at a stretch I have been laid aside from work by bodily weakness. At one time I should have thought this a cross too heavy to be borne, but in this, as in all things else, His grace was sufficient.

Of late God has been especially blessing me. My heart pants after Him, and as I seek Him in fervent patient, believing prayer, and in diligent searching of His Word, He is deepening the work of grace in my soul.

—Selected

"An idle mind is the devil's workshop."

"FAITH AND VICTORY"

Editorials

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 other consecrated workers at FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Okla.

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Five copies to any address, one year	1.00
Twelve copies to any address, one year	2.00

16-Page Holiness Monthly

An exclusive, full gospel paper printed and sent out in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in the interest of all Christians, which body of believers constitute the one and only true Church of God.

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

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.

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

Free-will offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. All personal checks and Post Office Money Orders should be made payable to Fred Pruitt, or to Faith Pub. House. All offerings and gifts given or sent to Fred Pruitt will be used in the general up-keep of the printing work unless you state that it is for personal needs. We make His work first.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma
Phone Number 1479

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY

"The Beautiful Way" a four-page leaflet for children is published quarterly in thirteen leaflets, one for each week. Mrs. Marie Miles Editor, assisted by others.

Subscription price: 60¢ per year for single copies. 40¢ each subscription in quantities of five or more to one address for a year. (Pay quarterly if you desire).

It does not seem good to us to withhold any news from our readers which would be of interest to them concerning the editor of the "Faith and Victory" paper and the Faith Publishing work. The "Faith and Victory" paper is read by more than ten thousand people each month and one month's edition of tracts, booklets, and papers will get the gospel to more people than the ordinary evangelist would in years and years of traveling. The Lord is blessing the work and the interest that prevails is increasing and more souls are getting light and truth than usual.

Some one has circulated it around that your editor was retiring from the printing work and was turning it over to L. D. Pruitt, our son, and to Anna Marie Miles, our daughter. This statement is true only in a small degree, for as the work and responsibilities connected with it have increased until it is not possible for me to oversee all of it, the Lord has sent Anna Marie here to help in the work. She is rendering to the Lord very efficient service, and rejoices in the fact that the Lord has seen fit to send her here to labor for Him. L. D. Pruitt also feels led to put his time into the printing work in a greater measure than in the past and is working and arranging his business with that end in view. But I expect to continue right on as Editor and manager of the work and never expect to retire until the Lord says, "It is enough, come up higher." Of course, our daughter and son will relieve us of a great deal of responsibility that otherwise would swamp us to the extent that the work would not be cared for efficiently. Our motto is to do all we do to the glory of God and to not be cumbered with anything only that which we can use to the glory of God and the furtherance of the printing work to the salvation of precious souls.

On the third day of March, your editor was married to Sister Nettie Sample of Tulsa, Okla., Brother Sam Barton officiating. Sister Sample has been a consecrated child of God for many years and is quite well known in these parts of the country. She is nearly two years younger than I, and was teacher of the Bible class in the Sunday School where she attended services near Sapulpa, Okla. Some one of the congregation there said that I was taking a pillar from the congregation. I am thanking God that she was a pillar and not merely a pillow. She will surely be a strength and a good help to the publishing work here at Guthrie, as she is already proving this to be true by assisting in the office work.

Bro. Hyrum and Geneva Ray have vacated the little four-room house just east of the publishing house and we live in that house. It seems good to be alone together with God in this little house where it is quiet, and we can seek God's face in prayer for the management of the printing work and other duties involved in a minister's and editor's work.

The first night after we were married, we were called at two o'clock in the morning to go to another part of Guthrie to pray for a young man that was seriously ill. The Lord touched him and healed him,

and later he got saved. Last evening a young couple of Guthrie, Bro. Vernon Cooksey and Sister Vera White asked us to perform a wedding ceremony for them. A few relatives and friends gathered in to our little home and this duty was taken care of in the usual way, making the young couple happy, which is in harmony with God's will and pleasure.

The publishing work is running along nicely, and the books, booklets, tracts, and papers are going out in every direction in a steady stream to all parts of this country and to many foreign countries. We are thankful to be a worker together with God in getting the pure unadulterated truth out to the people by the printed page. There is always a burden lifted from our souls when we put the "Faith and Victory" paper in the Post Office and then our prayers go out to God to deal with the souls that read its contents and make the truth weighty upon them to the saving of precious souls and to the edifying of the saints of God everywhere.

I know of no other paper that is putting out the sound gospel truth as you find it in the "Faith and Victory" paper. Of course, I know that there are some critics who find fault and criticize; but generally speaking, when the matter is looked into carefully, you will find that they are in error and sometimes have a lack of light on Scriptures and walk in dim light. Also it could be possible that a little jealousy or envy has crept into their souls unaware to them, and that causes them to want to down someone else, thinking to lift up themselves as graduates or those that KNOW.

I think often of the testimony that Jesus gave of himself in the 11th chapter of Matt. 29th verse, in which he said, "For I am meek and lowly in heart." Meekness and lowliness does not live in a proud heart, and neither does it give room for envy or jealousy to operate. Paul said in another place, "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Men are not always what they appear to be on the surface. Paul speaks of some that he found who had a false humility. A soul with that kind of humility would put on a pious humble-like attitude and at the same time would be itching inside to be thought somebody and would eagerly receive any praise that came to his or her ear. Any person that is easily offended will also be ready to receive praise. There is such a thing as one keeping himself (or herself) so "smoke-screen" covered that he takes advantage of the innocent when opportunity presents itself. The only safe way to get into heaven and be favored of God in this world is to seek the Lord daily for that meek and lowly life that Jesus possessed and continue therein, humbly fulfilling your place as a servant of God, giving praise and honor to God and him only that your life will be hid with Christ in God. Read the first few verses of the third chapter of Colossians and take heed thereunto by sowing unto the Spirit that you may reap everlasting life.



Lately my attention has been drawn to the 26th chapter of Proverbs and the 2nd verse, especially the

portion which reads thus: "The curse causeless shall not come." From this Scripture we understand that God has a cause or purpose in permitting us to have trials and seemingly hard things to endure in this life, and in many instances it would seem that we were really accursed of God and forsaken. Men may be allowed of God to do you evil, but God means it for your good or the good of others. We should meekly and humbly endure all the evil that God allows men to heap upon us, as God in due time will bring those who stand true out into a large or wealthy place. By your meek and submissive manner, he will get good to you and to others by the test or trial. We should keep in mind that it is God working in us, both to will and to do of his good pleasure, and also remember what Paul says in the 8th chapter of Romans that "All things work together for good to them that love God." In all the trials and tests of life, just meekly submit to God's will and keep right on loving him, and all will come out for your good and the glory of God.

We have many instances on record in God's Word where some seemed to be under a curse, and yet as time went on the Lord brought them out and they became a witness for Him in a marked degree. Consider the life of Joseph. For a young man (only 17 years of age) to be sold as a slave in a foreign land, and that by his own brothers in the flesh, would be as a curse overtaking him in life. To be falsely accused and thrown in jail for four years in that land, would seem like another curse upon him. But we find that in due time the Lord brought him out and made him ruler over all Egypt and he became a preserver of life. In later life Joseph told his brothers that they thought it for evil but God meant it for good.

Another character in the Bible is Job. It seemed he was accursed of God. All of his property was taken away and his children were all slain. His wife backslid and told him to curse God and die. When in this awful curse, he received still more and was afflicted with sore boils all over his body. His property was gone, children gone, his wife in rebellion, yet Job loved God right on and on and held his integrity and faith in the living God, and in due time God brought him out into a wealthy place. God meant it all for good. Today the book of Job is a well of salvation to many precious souls who may have similar trials and tests in life.

Again we read in Isaiah 53:4 that the prophet esteemed Christ as one stricken, smitten of God and afflicted. In the 10th verse we read that it pleased God to bruise him and put him to grief. Yet he was the only begotten Son of the Father, and he is our example that we should follow in his steps, of whom it is said, he did no sin neither was guile found in his mouth.

When God was sending Ananias to pray for Paul, he told him, "For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake." Acts 9:16. This was the thorn that God gave him, or it could be called a curse, for it followed him all through his life. In one place he said, "The Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me."

Acts 20:23. In 2 Corinthians Paul, speaking of this thorn in the flesh, said it was given lest he be exalted above measure. He called it a messenger of Satan to buffet him lest he be exalted. He also says that he sought the Lord thrice that it depart from him, but God answered, "My grace is sufficient for thee." Then Paul said, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in mine infirmities that the power of God may rest upon me." He also said, "I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." 2 Cor. 12:10.

Just think of the comfort we as Christians today get out of the writings of Paul and the knowledge and wisdom imparted to us by the Spirit of God when we read of what awful persecutions he went through, and in it all he stood true to God and did not waver nor give down, for the grace of God was sufficient and upheld him. If God had removed the thorn, the persecutions and the awful sufferings he went through could not have been on record and the writings of Paul would never have meant to us what they do as they are now presented and recorded. His steadfastness in and through the persecutions gives us courage in time of trials and tests, and we press on as he did, expecting a crown in the end.

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We hope and pray to have some good news in the next issue of the paper concerning the installing of the larger printing press. We are looking for God to send a buyer any time now for the old press so the larger one can be put in its place. Our patience is being tried in this thing and we ask the saints to bear with us and pray for us in this time of testing.

May the Lord graciously bless every reader and help you to keep up good courage.

The Crucifixion Scene

One day when the sun was darkened at noon,
The scene was heart-breaking to see,
A crowd had gathered at Calvary's cross
Where the Saviour was dying for me.

The multitude gathered around him
And mocked as he hung there and died,
And though the whole world turned against him,
"Father, forgive them," he cried.

The sins of the world lay upon him,
But he was without sin and shame;
So why not accept him, poor sinner,
When he suffered such anguish and pain?

Oh, forsake not the way of salvation,
Won't you come to the Savior today?
He offers you joy and contentment
And a mansion in heaven some day.

—Bro. Melvin Sharp.

"My honor is my life both grow in one
Take honor from me and my life is done."

NOTICE OF APPRECIATION

We take this manner and opportunity of expressing our sincere thanks and appreciation for the many wedding gifts and cards of congratulation which the saints have given and sent to us. We feel so unworthy of these gifts and congratulations but we do feel thankful in our hearts to all of you that thought of us.

—Fred and Nettie Pruitt.

Obituaries

John Wesley Sell was born in Mercer County, Ohio, August 30, 1866 and passed away February 28, 1956 at the age of 89 years and 6 months. He was united in marriage to Cora Caroline Stogdill, September 10, 1893. To this union eight children were born. One preceded him in death, a daughter Ada. The remaining who mourn his death are his wife Cora; and seven children: Mrs. W. J. Bryan, Scranton, Kans.; Lawrence E. Sell, Monroe, Washington; Mrs. W. K. Winkle, St. Louis, Mo.; Elmer Sell, Melvern, Kans.; Mrs. E. C. Bryan, Erie, Kans.; Ralph Sell, Fairview, Mo.; Mrs. W. T. Casida, Ottawa, Kans. and 32 grandchildren and 38 great-grandchildren.

He was saved at an early age and became affiliated with the Church of God 50 years ago in which he was faithful until death.

The remains was laid to rest in the Cemetery near Stella, Mo. Bro. Sam Barton of Tulsa, Okla. officiated in the funeral service, assisted by Fred Pruitt and Sister Bowers. Scriptures used are found in Jeremiah 22:10, and in 1 Cor. 15:55.

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Sadie Leah Evans was born January 13, 1889 at Buffalo Gap, South Dakota and departed this life at her home in Compton, California, February 27, 1956 at the age of 67 years, 1 month and 14 days.

On August 22, 1901 she was united in marriage with Fred Williams Gatke at Phoenix, Arizona. Immediately following the wedding they came to Los Angeles. She has made her home in Compton for the past 35 years.

On November 24, 1918 her husband died during the flu epidemic of that year.

On June 7, 1941, she was united in marriage with Donald Erwin Evans. Five years later he departed from this life.

Sadie was the mother of five children 3 of whom died in infancy.

She is survived by one daughter, Lucille Elliott of Compton, California; one son, Fred Gatke of San Fernando, California; four sisters: Lydia Stark of Brownsville, Oregon; Ethel Barbee of Compton, California; Edith Whittenborn of San Fernando, California and Lucy Phoebe of Olathe, Colorado; two brothers: George Stover of Glendale, California and Ira Stover of Dinuba, California; four grandchildren and many friends and saints.

Sister Sadie met the saints in 1909 and has lived for the Lord for 50 years. Her conscientious and exemplary life has been an encouragement and inspiration to many and having lived a victorious life she died a triumphant death in the Lord.

This was one of those outstanding cases where death is victory. She was faithful until death and we feel sure she has received that crown of life. It was a real spiritual inspiration to be at her bedside and hear her telling of the goodness of God and praising Him.

She had times when she had to labor real hard

for her breath and was in much distress from smothering but in these times between her gasps for breath she would be quoting some of God's good promises or the verse of some good encouraging song and talking of God's goodness. This was not just a time or two but it was that way all the way through and in the times of her greatest distress she testified that she had peace, perfect peace.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. and Sis. O. B. Wilson. Text: Rev. 7:9-17 with other Scriptures.

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ALL DAY SERVICES EASTER SUNDAY

The saints at Guthrie, Okla. again extend a hearty invitation to all to attend the annual all-day services on Easter Sunday, April 1.

The week following Easter was chosen as "work week" by the saints who attended the State Campmeeting business meeting in August. The purpose of this is to repair and paint buildings and do other necessary work on the State Campground. All consecrated ones who can should come and help.

MEETING NOTICES

The Boley Annual Spring Meeting will begin April 13th and continue through April 22nd the Lord willing.

For further information write to Bro. C. A. Wallace, Rt. 1 or to Sis. Ora Spears, Rt. 1, Box 109, Boley, Okla. May God bless you. —Sister Ora Spears.

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CAMP MEETING DATES

Hoffman, Oklahoma, June 22nd to July 1st. (This is a new place for campmeeting location).

Write to Bro. Andrew Ligons, Box 64, Hoffman, Okla. for information. The notice will be in May issue.

National Campmeeting, Monark Springs, Missouri, July 20-29, 1956.

The Hammond, La. Campmeeting will begin on June 29th and close on July 8th. Particulars later.

Oklahoma State Campmeeting, Guthrie, Oklahoma, August 3-12, 1956.

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Change of Address

Our new address is Route 1, Box 188A, Loranger, La. If anyone wants to reach us by phone call Bro. Max Williamson, phone 3007 Hammond, La. and he will bring word to us. Bro. and Sis. Ray Key.

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Report of Progress on Monark Springs Camp Grounds Improvement

I feel that all the saints will be interested to know how the work on the modern facilities at the National Camp Grounds is progressing, also how the finance is coming in.

We plan to erect a concrete block building 28 ft. x 40 ft. in dimensions with rest rooms on each end with storage space in the center. At the present time we have the septic tank, an opening 16 ft. long, 8 ft. wide, 6 ft. deep, walled with concrete blocks. It has a 4 inch concrete bottom. The forms are in, ready to pour 6 inch slab of concrete over this opening. For an overflow or catch basin from this septic tank we have a pit 50 ft. long, 10 ft. wide, and 4 ft. deep, almost filled with coarse rock which will be covered with approximately one foot of dirt. The next work will be the running of

footings and foundation for the building, also the roughing in of the plumbing.

The total amount of money received to this date to be used on this improvement totals \$2,373.31, for which we certainly thank the dear Lord, and all his children for this.

Pray for us that we will know just what to do in regard to source of water supply that will be needed to care for these modern facilities.

On the new ground we have possibly 16 or 17 lots available to those desiring to lease lots. The lots, size 24 feet by 24 feet, lease for \$20.00 each for 99 years, subject to a lease contract which shall govern the use of the lot by the lessee. Only those who are in accord with the aims and purposes of the National Campmeeting may lease lots, and you may make application for purchase direct to the undersigned.

If there is a question in your mind about the work on the camp grounds we will be happy to try and answer it if we can. The help of carpenters, masons, and common laborers will certainly be appreciated.

Pray for us that we be found doing the Lord's will at all times. Your brother in His service,

—Ralph M. Beisley, Rt. 5, Coffeyville, Kansas.

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To the Saints:—This is a mean world, but it is kind to people who will let it be. Those who are sinners are afraid of it. Those who are saved are proud to live in it. WHY?

Because they serve God, they have God to fight their battles; prayers for their witness; God for their Judge; God for their lawyer; their God as their Saviour, for he is their Almighty Helper. BUT WE sinners have nothing. All we don't pay for we don't get. One who doesn't know and thinks he knows but wants to know needs prayer. So please remember, in your prayers always, just a few words for poor me, for you see, I'm a sinner. —Ovida Spears.

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Cleansing In The Blood

"In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and uncleanness." Zech. 13:1.

"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 his Son cleanseth us from all sin." John 1:7. And "without the shedding of blood is no remission." Heb. 9:22. Praise God for the cleansing fountain, that cleanses from all sin and keeps us pure from all defilement.

Sin separates from God, and sin only can separate. (Isaiah 59:1-3). In the natural body, the white corpuscles in our blood act as street cleaners, keeping our blood clean and pure. But if our hearts become affected by some foreign substance, then the white corpuscles cease to function and our bodies become sick and full of disease.

As long as the blood from Calvary has free course through our hearts, we are kept clean and have full fellowship with all the blood-washed ones. But if we listen to the enemy, we become defiled and the precious blood of Jesus ceases to flow.

The only way back to God is through repentance. "Godly sorrow worketh repentance." 2 Cor. 7:10.

In the Body of Christ, His church, the blood flows freely from the cross to every heart and from heart to heart, as we empty from vessel to vessel, keeping us clean and pure as He is pure. Then, only then, we have that true fellowship that comes from the Father.

It seems rather easy to get an individual to see why he is separated from God; but when we are dealing with a body of people that have left the body of Christ through following a false shepherd, it seems very hard to get them to see that they have sinned and that the only way back to God and His saints is to repent, confess, forsake, and renounce the false way. You cannot just come back to the saints and expect to find full fellowship flowing from heart to heart. It just won't work, because the blood flow from Calvary has been stopped; yes, stopped when you left His body, the church. Fellowship comes from above. You have become defiled with sin. The only way back to God and His saints is through repentance.

Thank God for the One Way.

A brother,

H. P. Huskey.

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“EXAMINE YOURSELVES Whether Ye Be In The Faith.”

(2 Corinthians 13:5)

In the lives of a great many people today “the church”—or anything that resembles the church—seems to have taken the place of God. This twentieth century “goddess” appeases the consciences of her worshipers, and in her shadow they seem to feel great rest and security.

Few people today are troubled about their relationship with the Creator. Most of them feel that the church has assumed this responsibility for them. The minister is hired to bear the burden of doctrine and religious duty, and to him the laity entrust the welfare of their souls. Thus they are relieved of practically all sense of religious duty, and consequently they have much more time to devote to the affairs of this life.

But this is a false foundation. Numbers of people who attend church regularly have never had any definite change of heart or experience with the Lord. They have merely joined a church—not the body of Christ.

No church can save a man's soul. There is no salvation in any institution of man—nor has the Lord invested any earthly representative with the sole power of salvation. The experience of conversion is a personal thing between the Creator and His creatures.

“Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13). This is the first essential step toward a new life: to SEEK the Lord in prayer—the more earnest, the more desperate, that prayer; the quicker the results.

Down through the years many souls have been able to open the gates of communion before the throne of God, by fasting and seeking the Lord in times of great need.

But it seems characteristic of human nature that there must almost always be some great trouble or strife to prod a soul into really searching for God above all else; truly seeking reconciliation with the Lord, and forgiveness for sin.

“If any man be in Christ Jesus he is a new creature.” (2 Cor. 6:17). Paul also declares here that “old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.” And in Colossians he tells us that the Father “hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.” (Col. 1:13).

In speaking to Nicodemus, Jesus said: “except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3). Being “born again” is an experience which every man should vividly remember; it is his first real contact with the Spirit of God. Surely when this contact is made, the seeker must be aware of it.

In the book of Ezekiel there is recorded a promise of the Lord to the remnant of His people that He will put a new spirit within them, and “I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh.” (Ezek. 11:19). This is the “new covenant” spoken of in Hebrews 8:8. This heart-removing operation which God performs is a most glorious work, and with the “new spirit” that is put within us, we truly become sons of God. “Hereby KNOW we that we dwell in Him, and He in us, because He hath given us of His Spirit.” (1 John 4:13).

Many people today have been raised in religious homes, and have attended church services and Sunday School from infancy; but have had no definite change of heart and spirit. They believe in the Lord, and they try to live Christian lives; yet like the rich young ruler who sought the Lord, they realize that there is something that they yet lack. My friend, if this has been your experience, you cannot go far wrong if you follow the council that Jesus gave to this young man. And after you have followed the first part of this council, continue to “tarry until you be endued with power from on high.” This simply means to seek God in prayer: put away all earthly things for a time, and give yourself to prayer.

Such prayer made continually day and night by an honest soul, must eventually become “fervent,” and “fervent” prayer “availeth much.” If you “hunger and thirst after righteousness” in this manner, you will surely be filled.

“He that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will MANIFEST MYSELF TO HIM.” (John 14:21). Here is an absolute promise that the Lord will make Himself known to YOU, when you seek Him with all of your heart. —The Witness

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AM I A SOLDIER?

Am I a soldier of the cross
A follower of the Lamb
And shall I fear to own His cause
Or blush to speak His name?

Must I be carried to the skies
On flowery beds of ease

While others fought to win the prize
And sailed through bloody seas?

As I thought of this wonderful song I thought how much it really says! Some Christians of today have no backbone. We get saved and then sit back and wait for Jesus to come while the fields are white with harvest. I feel that we ought to get back to God. Instead of sitting back and letting our neighbor slide into hell we ought to pray a couple of hours and talk to them about their souls.

We ought to be glad to be a follower of Him but instead we blush or don't mention His name at all. Lord help me to be a better soldier of the cross is my prayer.

—J. E. Pennsylvania.

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Testimonies

Calif.—Dear Saints:—I give in thanksgiving and praise to the dear Lord. I believe he wants me to write my testimony in the "Faith and Victory" paper. I have enjoyed reading it so much before I got saved. I went to the altar on the 12th of Feb. this year. I prayed what little I could. Then the saints prayed. They prayed the prayer of faith. I felt relief but just couldn't give up and couldn't believe. The devil had me so tied up, so confused. I was afraid to believe. I went home that night a miserable soul. I had no peace. I prayed, begged and cried to the Lord to help me. My sins were just always before my face. I would close my eyes, but they were still there. Finally it seemed more than I could stand. I gave up and said, "Lord I can't do it. If you will just show me in some kind of way; if I could be forgiven; if I have a chance to ever get right with God in my soul—I am lost and afraid—" when a voice in my heart spoke, "You are saved. I am with you." Oh, the joy, the sweetness, the peace and assurance these words meant to me—more than I can ever express. I thank the dear Lord for what he has done and is still doing for me.

I am thankful for the suffering I had to go through to find the Lord. Two days after I went to the altar he set me free, and gave me joy and happiness in my heart, to know without a doubt that my soul is right with God once more. I need never want or wish for any thing as long as I follow Jesus. My desire is to just stay close to him—to pray, listen and learn more of God's way.

Oh, sinner, the Lord can save you. He can take away your troubled, mixed up thoughts. He can give you peace instead. He can give you assurance in your heart. He can teach you the joys of living for Him.

Even though I had been once saved, reared up in a saved home, the old devil really had me tied in sin. I could look right at God's saints and didn't believe they were saints. Those who have prayed for me, a sinner, I doubted them. But now I thank the dear Lord I can see and love all the saints. Through your praying for a sinner, and God's wonderful mercy, I am a child of God.

I agree in prayer with you that the Lord will bless his children, save more sinners, and keep me in the straight and narrow way. —Sis. Arceal Johnson.

Kansas.—Dear Readers,—I would like to write this morning of a recent experience I had. I feel that the Lord healed us and that it might be pleasing to Him that we tell others of His blessings, perhaps it will strengthen others faith.

Several days ago I became ill with a very bad cold. I had trouble with chills and other things. We have a very new baby and feared what would happen if it should get my cold. So we prayed for the Lord to heal us, also that other members of our family wouldn't take my cold, and that our precious little baby wouldn't become ill. Soon we began to get better and the rest of the family remained well.

This is only one of the many such experiences for which we thank the Lord and give Him all the praise.

—A Reader.

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Okla.—Dear saints of God:—I am still saved and mean to follow the Lord all the way.

The Lord has really helped me at school (in the classroom and among my friends). Sometimes I think about backsliding, but the Lord wonderfully comes to my rescue.

I desire the prayers of the saints that I will grow stronger in the Lord and I will continue to do the little things he wants me to do.

Your Sister in Jesus Christ, —Lilly Mae Adams.

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Mo.—Dear saints of God:—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am truly thankful this evening for salvation and the privilege we have to serve such a mighty God. God knows each trial and test we go through, and is ready and willing to help us in every time of need, if we but ask Him and have that child-like faith to believe He hears us when we call and He will answer. It really means much to have child-like faith. Children really believe when they ask the Lord for anything. He will answer just as they desire. We have been reading of children who prayed and really believed. They had no thought of doubting the Lord and their prayers were answered just as they expected. "All things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matt. 21:22.

I have heard others tell of how the Lord has talked to them on their beds etc., but I had never experienced it 'till the other morning. I believe the Lord must have just awakened me about 5 or 5:30 in the morning. As I lay there I began to meditate on the things of the Lord. Somehow, just all at once the Lord just brought the 23rd Psalm to my mind. I had read it many times and even memorized it. It never had meant so much to me at it did when I began to think upon it and realize just what each phrase meant. It describes nearly all circumstances in the Christian life, and how the Lord is with us through them all. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me." When I came to that part, joy just flooded my soul for that was just what we had been going through, it seemed. It helped us to know the Lord was with us even through the valley of the shadow of death. When one goes through severe tests, the enemy even tries to tell us (and tries to make us believe it too) that the Lord isn't even near, has left us, etc. and tries to make us forget every blessing we ever had. Thank the Lord, we can just rebuke the enemy and he will flee from us, and we can then see how much the Lord has done for us.

Truly, my whole heart's desire is to live for God and be a help to some other soul. These are surely evil days and we should diligently serve the Lord. Pray for me. I surely desire to dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

One who loves the Lord,

—Shirley Allen.

Calif.—Dear Saints:—I felt I wanted to write and testify for the Lord and what he has done for us.

Sunday, Feb. 20 after church Bob and I went to town. It was only about two miles from our home. On the way back, I had put the baby in the back seat. We were going along and Bob and Michael were talking. Bob ran off the road and as he was trying to pull the car back on the road he hit a soft shoulder and the car began to slide sideways. As it did we struck a light pole on the right back fender. Then the door came open and it threw me out. My feet caught in the door. As the car spun around it drug me and just before it stopped it threw me free from the car. I slid on the pavement on my left side. I only got deep road burns and skinned places on my legs. The children weren't hurt at all. Michael got one little cut behind his ear but it wasn't bad.

I would like to say the Lord is good and merciful to us and we can't thank him enough. Only he knows why things happen but it must have been for our good. We thank him for it. For I know it has drawn me closer to him. We always want to live just as he would want us to. The Lord has so many ways of showing us what we need and if it will save some soul then we can go through anything. The big thing about it was that we had the Lord to call on and to comfort us. He surely did. The next day I was able to be upon my feet a little. We truly love the Lord and intend to go all the way with Him. Do pray for us that we'll always be in his will so that any time he call's we'll be ready.

Your Brother and Sister in Christ,

—Bob and Margaret Stover.

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Calif.—Greetings to all the readers in Jesus' dear name,—I am glad to be yet saved and sanctified, kept day by day, the nights thrown in, which means at all times abiding in the Lord. Praise His precious name. The tests and trials have been hard and long and are still on. It seems all I can get is that bonds and afflictions await me on down the line. But He lets me know that in Him is peace and safety all the way to the end of the journey. I am so happy because the dear Lord has healed me of an unusual affliction in my old age. When I began to get fearful, he came with such comforting words: "I will never leave you nor forsake you; call for the elders to come and anoint." Bro. Leonard and Bud Gains came and prayed the prayer of faith and the dear Lord healed me. He made me every whit whole, praise his holy name for ever and ever. God is so real to me in lifting some heavy burdens of accusation. I feel encouraged as never before to press on up the King's Highway, knowing that just a few days at the longest and I shall go home where all trouble will be over. So one and all please pray for me, also Bro. Earl.

Sophie Earl.

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La.—Dear saints, Greetings in Jesus' precious name,—I am so happy in the Lord for answered prayer. I promised the Lord that if he would heal my little grandson I would write it to "Faith and Victory." My grandson fell and hurt his leg. It swelled and had red lumps on it. They took him to a doctor and he said he believed it was a bone disease and made X-ray. My daughter asked me to pray that it would not be a bone disease and that God would heal it without an operation. So I prayed and wrote to Sister Key for prayer, and asked other saints to pray. Praise the Lord, He healed him completely. The doctor could not find any bone disease and he didn't have to be

operated on. Oh, I can't praise God enough for healing him.

I want to ask the saints to pray for me to always do God's will and be prepared when Jesus comes. Also pray for my family, that our family circle will not be broken in heaven. Your sister in Christ, Eleinor Robertson.

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La.—Dear readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper,

May heaven's richest blessings rest upon each of you, encouraging you who love the Lord to press on, realizing this warfare against sin and the devil is not in vain. The day of final victory will come after awhile if we are true to the end. "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life." Rev. 2:10.

To you who do not know the Lord in the forgiveness of your sins, may the Lord help you to see and realize there is nothing you can do, regardless of how well paying and advancing it may be in a literal way, like yielding yourself to the Lord and giving him the first place in your life. This will make you ready to live and ready to die. You can then live with that soul-rest every day, able to go to bed at night and close your eyes in sleep without any condemnation on your soul and without fear of meeting the Lord, should he call you in death before the dawning of another day. Send your sins on to judgment before you have to go so they will not follow you when you are called in death and condemn you before the Lord. People will not have any excuse to appear before the Lord with sin on their soul, for He sent his Son Jesus to forgive us and deliver us from our sins.

The Lord is so very good to us we can never thank and praise him enough for it. I was sorely afflicted with rheumatism in my left hand a few weeks ago. I had my whole trust in the Lord for healing, and promised Him to testify to it in the "Faith and Victory" paper, and I am still thanking and praising Him for the way He came to my rescue. On Monday morning I could hardly comb and braid my little girl's hair because of the pain in my hand. As the day went on the pain began to increase even with my hand just lying on a pillow. By the middle of the afternoon the suffering was so great it seemed I had to have some help. I called Sister Joiner and she came and prayed with me. The pain seemed to let up a little, but the Lord was not ready to heal my hand yet. After she had been gone awhile the suffering came harder than ever. As I looked to the Lord in tears because of the pain, He undertook and took all the suffering away. My husband went to meeting that night and requested prayer for me. The saints prayed earnestly for my healing. I had rest most of that night. But about 9 o'clock the next morning the suffering started again. As the day went on, the pain was so great that it seemed I could hardly stand it. My hand and fingers were drawn and swollen tight. I was just crying, the pain was so great. My husband called a couple ministers for prayer, but they were away, so he called a sister in our congregation. She and another sister in the home with her agreed earnestly in prayer for me in her home, and my husband and I were at our home agreeing with them. He soon had to go milk the cows. For a short time the suffering seemed harder than ever. I wondered if my hand would hurt any worse if it had been crushed. I kept holding on to the Lord and told Him that He knew how much I could stand and He promised in His Word that He would not permit more than we could bear. I told Him that He knew I meant to trust Him fully. I wanted Him to get all the glory for my healing. I reconsecrated my hands to do the things with them for others as the Lord directs, realizing if we have health and all the

body and able to use them, it is only a great blessing of the Lord and we should be wholly given over to Him to use us in any way He sees best. I then told the Lord that if He would heal me I would testify to it through the F. & V. paper. After all this, which was only half an hour or so after the agreement of prayer, just instantly the Lord sent the healing. The feeling was wonderful. How I did, and still do, thank and praise the Lord for that experience. From then on if I did not use my hand, I never had another pain in it. In a few days the swelling was completely gone and the stiffness, too. As each day went by I could see how I could use it more and more. After several days it was completely normal. Surely it is a great privilege to have such a great loving God to be our Father.

I do want to be found drawing closer to the Lord each day and set the example a saint should. Surely we are an unpopular people as the world looks at it, but I often think of what a popular people the saints will be when Jesus comes bursting through the clouds to claim his own. Everyone will want to be a saint then, but it will be too late for those who were not willing to choose him in this life.

I am encouraged to be true and need the prayers of the saints. One who loves the truth, Alta Flynn.

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Va.—Dear saints,—I am much encouraged in my soul this morning, determined by the help of the Lord to press on. I trust all of you dear ones are well and prospering in your souls.

The Lord has been so good to me, I feel I can never thank Him enough. I was ill when I wrote you dear saints for prayer. The devil tried to make me think I would never get healed, but I know the Lord is able and I know He can untangle everything the enemy tangles up for us. There is nothing too hard for Jesus. There is nothing He cannot do.

The saints are the best people in the world.

Remember us in your prayers. Sister Laura Powell has been real sick for a good while. Please pray earnestly for her strength to be restored. I know the Lord has more work for her and we love her and desire the Lord will not take her from us. I haven't forgotten how deep in sin I was when the Lord sent her to work where I was. I was so hungry in my soul! Oh, I was so wretched, so sick of sin, and she came with so much love and brought the Gospel to me and the Lord got a hold of my heart. Everything is so different now. Oh, I am so glad to know the way, and so glad for the true people of God! Not many are willing to pay the price, but I thank God He helped me to count the cost and get things settled for Him. I think of the song, "His Yoke is Easy" (No. 207, Evening Light Songs). I remember how old Satan told me, "Thy gain will not repay thy loss, His yoke is hard to bear." But he is a defeated foe. Pray for us as we pray for you. Love and prayers, Sister Bessie Foudree.

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Okla.—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus sweet holy name. I feel led to send in some of my experiences. I thank God for every one of them.

When I was 36 years old I came to myself one night. I felt sick but did not know what was wrong with me. I got out of my bed, put on my clothes, went outside and walked around on some vacant lots awhile. Christians had been praying very much for my soul. I thought I was losing my mind. I hurried back to my bed but still not better. I began to think I was going to die so I lay down in a chair. I began to count the seconds as I lay down, if the dear Lord will forgive

my sins tonight I'll serve Him all the days of my life. I got down on my knees and began to pray and repent to God. I saw myself one of the meanest men in the world; but all at once I just felt all my sins roll away. I jumped to my feet and started praising the Lord. I was so happy that my sins were forgiven. I started doing mission work for the good Lord. I went in and woke my wife up and told her my sins were all gone and asked her if she wanted to get saved. I was still shouting and praising the good Lord. I got her up and out on her knees on the floor. We both started to pray. The dear Lord saved her soul, thank God. Oh, we loved each other, and loved our dear Redeemer more than life! I just wanted to go right on to heaven.

My wife asked if I would go to church with her on Sunday and I said I would. She asked if we would read the Bible. I said, "Oh, yes. I never read the Bible, but let's get the Bible out of the trunk." I wanted to read it all the way through. She asked if we would thank the Lord for the food at the table and I answered, "Oh, yes, for everything, thank God." I began to measure to God's Word. I heard about holiness and read in the Bible about it. I wanted all the dear Lord had for me. Oh, I thank God for this wonderful salvation. —D. J. La Faver.

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La.—Greetings in Jesus' name,—I have been burdened some time about writing, but have put it off. But today I feel I must write. I am still saved and encouraged to press on. Life's burdens are heavy on me.

I have been burdened for some time concerning pride and things that are creeping in among the dear saints. The devil is so mean to try to deceive every one he can. Jesus is not pleased with pride. The tie has been taught against as pride and superfluity of dress among the men, but what about the women and girls? If men or boys would wear a tie they would soon be classed as unsaved or of the world, but we see girls wearing a big bow tie on their dress. The world is watching this. They say, What is the difference if a man or woman wears the tie? It is a tie just the same. Some of the girls let their hair hang and keep it trimmed to their shoulders. This is like the world. The wearing of "rats" as they were once called, used to be preached against. We used to hear sermons on hair dress, but I haven't heard one for a long time. We can comb our hair worldly as well as dress worldly. Let us not be a stumbling block. These stiff wide "can can" slips are of the world (on little girls as well as big ones).

Dear saints, let us be examples on these lines. I heard a worldly woman make expressions that showed she was stumbling and remaining unsaved because of some of these things. Dear saints, let us be examples in every line—dress, hair dress, word, and deed.

Pray for me that I ever live humble at Jesus' feet. I have burdens and problems. I am looking to the Lord to work them out, so please pray earnestly for me. I cannot write my problems, but the Lord knows.

Yours in Christ,

Mary Bush.

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Tenn.—Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am glad I can report victory in my soul. I feel led to give my testimony for God's people to read in the paper. The Lord has been good and merciful to me. I know He is real to me. I had a longing in my heart for more of Jesus. I was praying for the Holy Ghost. I would tarry before God. I knew Jesus would not let me down, so I told Him I would not eat another bite until He filled me with His Holy Spirit. Mother and some of my sisters got worried about me. They came to see me and begged me to eat. One brother (42 years of age) who has never been in a meeting house that

I remember, sent word by Mother that he would go to service with me if I would eat. I had the determination to get an answer from God before I would ever eat a bite. Praise his dear name, I got an answer from Him. He sanctified me wholly today. He took care of my body and gave me strength, but for His glory He let the weakness show in my face to prove a blessing to others.

I know Bro. Allen and Bro. and Sister Sell will be pleased to hear this, as I asked them to remember me that I would be satisfied.

I would today that we had more men, women, boys, and girls filled with the Holy Ghost. I desire the prayers of all the saints. Keep me on your minds when you pray that I will be just what God would have me to be. Praise His name all my soul! Still remember my unsaved husband. May each of God's children be encouraged to press on in this sinful time that we will be found just like the tree that is planted by the waters that will not be moved. A sister in Christ, Mrs. Maude Gregg.

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

La.—To all the saints and readers of "Faith and Victory," greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am happy this evening to be able to say, Jesus is mine and I am his—praise the good Lord forever. It is blessed to know him, for he is love. Such love cannot be found by those in sin. Oh, that I could tell the world the value of salvation, that they could really know their need of the Saviour and come to Him, confess and forsake their sins before it is too late!

Dear sinner friend, why do you risk your soul in sin? Each passing day you are getting farther and farther away. Won't you please stop and think? If you are not convicted, if you do not feel that you need the Lord, won't you please begin to pray and ask the Lord to get hold of your heart, to open your eyes, to roll all your sins before you, to help you to see yourself as He sees you, and whatever it takes to save your soul from eternal death and destruction? Just as sure as we live, we will have to meet God some day and give account of the deeds we have done. Can you think how sad it will be to hear the Lord say, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepare for the devil and his angels"? Dear sinner friend, that will be said to you if you do not make your peace with God.

I have been very burdened lately as I behold the ones who have made a start for the Lord and have fallen by the wayside. Oh, such a sad condition! Dear ones, it is better not to make a start if you do not mean business. DO NOT trifle with your soul. This is a serious thing, and needs all of your attention. When you come to the Lord to be saved, you MUST realize that you have sinned and come short, you must be WILLING and READY to give up ALL for the Lord and want HIM above everything else in this life. If you do not come under these conditions, you may as well not come at all. God will not accept half-hearted service. We also MUST be willing to forgive and ask forgiveness if and when necessary.

The Lord has all we need. We can just stay in the fold of God and enjoy rich blessings and be contented. I enjoy this way and I mean to go on, by my Lord's help.

I want to tell to all what a great blessing the Lord bestowed upon us in the wonderful way He came to our rescue when Billie Jean was sick. She was quite ill several days before perfect victory came, but even from the beginning of her illness the dear Lord would relieve her from time to time in answer to prayer. The saints here were so precious to us and helped out in many ways. But on Friday after she had been ill several days I felt

we needed more help, so I called Guthrie and asked the saints there to help us pray. That same day as we were by her bed praying, we had our hands on her arms, which were so hot with fever; and while we were praying, the fever began to cool. From that time on she continued to improve. She is back in school now and is just fine. Before she became bad sick she had suffered a long time with her stomach, and since the Lord healed her she has not had a trace of the trouble any more. Praise the good Lord!

I desire the prayers of all the saints for my sister Diannee. She is fourteen years old. She suffers much with her side and her throat. She said she wants to trust the Lord for her healing. Please help us pray for her.

Dear saints, let us keep very humble and always listen for that still small voice and pray always for the Lord's will to be done in us.

Yours in Jesus' love,

Gladys Cashio.

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

Va.—Dear saints in the Lord,—As I sat down to rest a little while, my mind turned to the blessings of the Lord and I thought of how He touched my head. It was hurting so badly, just like when I had polio. But I asked Sister Powell and Sister Foudree to pray for me, and in a little while after they prayed for me, it left. I was just thinking how the Lord brought me down to look up to Him. In 1948 I had polio. My mother was a Christian. When she went to bed at night the Lord told her to pray all during the night after I went to the hospital. I was not saved then, but I asked the Lord to just give me another chance and I would live for him. I didn't know just what I was doing, but I know now. I thank God for letting me live, for now I can testify for him and live for him, and I am trusting Him for everything. When I get sick I call on the people of God to pray for me. I just want you all to pray for me that I will live for him and do his will.

I have a special request for prayer. Alice Wicher.

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

Ill.—Dear saints, Greetings,—I was sick around the first of Feb., lost my voice a week. It is by the help of the good Lord that I received it back. I am glad I asked for prayer through the "Faith and Victory." I am not yet normal—still cough some—but am better, so Jesus answered prayer.

We are to love the Lord with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. I got saved years ago. I can't thank and praise Him enough. He saves and He heals. I never let a day pass without reading the Bible and praying.

I thank all of you saints who prayed for my healing. Please pray for my husband in all of his weakness.

Martha Knox.

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

La.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all God's children,—I feel impressed of the Lord to send in my testimony concerning the goodness of God and His blessings to me. I promised Him I would write one. I am rejoicing in my soul today for God being so merciful and longsuffering with me and saving even me. Oh, the times I turned my ears and tried not to listen to God's call to salvation! He gave me so many opportunities to get saved, but I turned from His wooing Spirit and kept on in sin. Oh, if I had just listened to God's call and been saved so I could have prayed with and for my dear Christian parents while they were sick and suffering; also while my dear Christian mother-in-law was sick in bed for so long before God saw fit to take her home. These things are passed now and the Lord knows best. By His help and grace I intend to live a life so that I might be of some help to others along this

way, whether it be some relative to me or some one that is not. I want to and desire and am determined to live as I believe the Lord is pleased with me to live. Those that are not born again do not understand our dealings with them, but our dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ knows and understands all. He knows every thought and intent of our hearts. This is wonderful to me. Then when we are falsely accused or someone does not understand us, we can take it to and leave it with Jesus who knows and can work things out for us.

Some time ago I was under such a burden of fasting and prayer for a friend of mine that we were told had cancer of the liver. They said her liver was eaten up. She had been to the hospital and had come home. She could not eat anything that would not come right back up with vomiting and hemorrhaging. The doctor told her not to get up in bed and not to raise her head up (I believe not to raise her head). She was so poor and in a terrible condition. The Lord permitted us to visit her several times and talk concerning the Lord and His saving and healing power. I love her and so desired to see her healed and saved. This day that I was lying in bed, not able to be up myself, praying for her, I plainly saw this old liver that I had heard was eaten up. I could see this pale, pale liver and could see the holes in it as plainly as if someone had brought it to my bedside in their hands. Then I saw as plainly the new one, so rich looking, that the Lord had made for her. Not a spot, not a blemish was on it; it was perfect. Dear ones, the good Lord healed her liver, and I began to ask God to help her to eat and not to let it come back. Dear children of God, the Lord did just this in answer to prayer. She began to eat, and maybe a couple of times it came back. But she is well and doing her cooking today, and I guess her housework with her little daughter maybe to help her. No one will ever make me believe that God wasn't in this. I believe with all my heart that the Lord healed her and made her well. Dear saints of God, she needs to be saved the real Bible way. Will you all please help me pray that God will work on her heart now and make it as perfect as He has made her liver? This can be done, too. She has three wonderful children to be reared up and taught the true Bible way. It would be wonderful for her to be saved and witness there in her home and to her neighbors about the saving and healing power of God.

I am encouraged to press on in this wonderful way with God to guide and keep me. People think it strange the way we dress and live after we get saved, but our dear Father knows and cares all about the trials and temptations we have, but he never puts on us more than we can bear. Praise His name! One who loves God and loves to serve Him.

Lorene Hilbun.

God's Power

GOD created man with a will of his own (Deut. 30:15-18).

GOD cannot override man's will of choice.

GOD can lead a sinful man through suggestions and impressions on man's mind and heart, causing man to unwittingly do God's will and yet not be conscious of the fact that God has directed his steps (Prov. 16:9).

GOD cannot infringe on man's right of choice to force him to yield to God; but—

GOD can bring circumstances to pass in man's

life whereby he will finally realize that he is lost and in a horrible pit, and that God's way is best to follow, and the only way out of that horrible pit. (Job. 33:14-30).

GOD, in order to cause a lost soul to yield to His will, can, and in many instances does, take away loved ones, sweep away earthly treasures and possessions, lay sicknesses and afflictions on bodies, bring fear and terrible dread of death, permit temporary separation of families, and in many cases permit man to sink so deeply in sin that he will in **desperation** seek God for the way out (Luke 15:11-32).

GOD did not create man and just turn him helplessly loose to shift for himself and not use any persuasion whatsoever in man's life; but—

GOD does *everything possible* to lead every individual soul to Christ before taking him, or her, out of this life.

GOD is perfect in faithfulness toward every soul whom He permits to be born into this sin-cursed world, and deals in a perfect manner with each one according to their individual nature and need (Jeremiah 31:35-37; Hebrews 13:5).

GOD has all power in heaven and in earth, and is from everlasting to everlasting; and all power of every description has always been in His Almighty hand. Satan is subject always in all things to the will of Almighty God, and Satan can do **absolutely nothing** to any soul God has created except God first grants permission (Col. 1:16, 17; Luke 10:19).

GOD sees all and knows all things and always at all times knows just what is best for every soul whom he has created, regardless as to how His actions in many instances may appear to man.

GOD in His infinite wisdom and mercies permits trials and tests to come against the souls whom He has created, by permitting Satan to come against them in temptations of various kinds. But He never permits Satan to bring on them more than they are able to bear. He is ever faithful to make a way of escape, so they are able to bear them and come out victorious, more than conquerors through Him that loved us.

GOD created man for one purpose, just to bring honor and glory to His great and perfect name while man sojourns here on earth. So, by being an overcomer of every obstacle which God in His infinite wisdom and faithfulness permits Satan to throw in life's pathway, man fulfills God's purpose; and so long as man walks daily in all the light God shines on his pathway, with a perfect heart toward God, he will have all the power of Heaven to aid him, and will then be able to be a complete glory and honor to his glorious and Almighty God.

So then, we, as the beloved saints of God, should pray on and on in faith believing for those dear lost souls laying so heavily on our hearts; for if we hold our integrity in God without wavering and without doubting, God can and will work a perfect work in their behalf and will absolutely move everything in their behalf to bring them into His glorious kingdom. Amen.

—Bro. Trimble.

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BIBLE STUDY

THE MEANING OF THE RESURRECTION

April 1, 1956

Printed Portion: Luke 24:28-34, 44-53.

Luke 24:28. And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

29. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

30. And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.

31. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

32. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

33. And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,

34. Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

Luke 24:44. And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

45. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

46. And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

47. And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48. And ye are witnesses of these things.

49. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

50. And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

51. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

52. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

53. And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

Memory Verse: But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 15:57.

Practical Truth: The resurrection of Christ, in fulfillment of his own prediction, is our final proof that he is what he professed to be—the Son of God.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

The 24th chapter of Luke is a wonderful story and it thrills our very souls as we read it. We read how the

followers of Jesus, who had sought "the living among the dead" (verse 5) realized before the day was gone that Jesus was a living Christ and had completed the plan of salvation as was prophesied by the prophets. The wonderful message that Jesus preached that day to the two disciples as they journeyed to Emmaus caused their "hearts to burn within" them. Today as we think of our risen Christ and the love of God to us when we were lost in sin and without hope, it causes our hearts to burn within us. Praises rise up, from our hearts, to our Saviour who ascended up to heaven and today is sitting on the right hand of God interceding for us. He is not dead. He is alive forevermore. His presence causes us to rejoice and feel that inner glow that those two men felt, as we obey His Word and do His will. Sometimes it is greater when we do a special service for the Lord, or when we are in prayer, or help bear someone's burden, or when our understanding is opened. We will feel it as we listen to the Word of God preached under the anointing. It will cause us to offer the "fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." Heb. 13:15.

Jesus told them to "tarry . . . until ye be endued with power from on high." If more people would tarry before the Lord, power would be given to them. Tarrying will cause your soul to become in a condition to receive power.

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THE CHURCH AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

April 8, 1956

Printed Portion: Acts 1:6-8; 2:22-33.

Acts 1:6. 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 all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 2:22. Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

23. Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

24. Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

25. For David speaketh concerning him, I forsook the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:

26. Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

27. Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

28. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

29. Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

30. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

31. He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell neither his flesh did see corruption.

32. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

33. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Memory Verse: 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. Acts 1:8.

Practical Truth: Power to make the church's mission a success may be attained through the Holy Spirit.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

We begin our study of the books of Acts. Our lesson today is parts of the first and second chapters. We trust you have read both at home.

Jesus was seen forty days, at different times, by the disciples. (Recorded in 1 Cor. 15:4-8.) They still did not seem to understand that Jesus was not going to set up a literal kingdom, but that the "kingdom of God is within you." He did not explain to them fully, but told them to tarry in Jerusalem until they received power after the Holy Ghost would come upon them. He would be their teacher, guide and comforter. (John 14:26; 16:13) Ten days after Jesus' ascension, on the day of Pentecost, which was kept in memory of giving of the law on Mt. Sinai, God sent the Holy Spirit down into the hearts of the 120 gathered there. He wrote the law, not upon stone this time, but upon the fleshy hearts of man. (1 Cor. 3:3) The power of God came into the church that day and set it in order, giving gifts to each one. It began to function as the body of Christ in the world. "Every nation under heaven" knew about it. Seventeen nations were gathered there and God in a wonderful way caused the uneducated Galileans to speak in their language.

After Peter received the Holy Spirit he no longer was timid but boldly preached a sermon to the hearers, part of which is in our printed portion. The results were 3000 saved. Our testimony backed up by the manifestations of Christ in our life, will attract people to Christ.

THE COURAGE OF THE EARLY CHRISTIANS

April 15, 1956

Printed Portion:Acts 4:13-20, 29-31.

Acts 4:13. Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

14. And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

15. But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves,

16. Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.

17. But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.

18. And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

19. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

20. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Acts 4:29. And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

30. By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

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

Memory Verse: Grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word. Acts 4:29.

Practical Truth: The help of the Holy Spirit can make us effective witnesses today.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

Jesus told his disciples to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high before they should go forth. They obeyed Him and received the Holy Spirit. They were filled with wisdom and knowledge. Even though they were ignorant men, others marvelled at their boldness. They perceived they "had been with Jesus." Today, if others are to take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus we must take time to commune with Jesus and attend to the reading of His Word, carrying with us from our secret place of prayer that sweet fragrance of the spirit of Jesus. Our words will then be "seasoned with grace" and our deeds done with kindness. Power and boldness will accompany our words and actions because of the power that worketh within us. We, today, meet the power of the devil, yet it may not be from our rulers. That power is working in the hearts of those who do not believe on the name of Jesus. We need to possess the same kind of courage displayed by our early leaders.

We note that after the disciples were released by the rulers there followed a notable prayer meeting. They prayed in the name of Jesus that they could speak the Word with all boldness and that many signs and wonders might be done. They did not intend to be cowards but be bolder than ever before. God's presence filled them with His Spirit, answered their prayers and they went forth with great courage and zeal.

THE CHURCH ENDURES PERSECUTION

April 22, 1956

Printed Portion:Acts 6:8-10; 7:51-60.

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.

Acts 7:51. Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

52. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have seen now the betrayers and murderers:

53. Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.

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 Verse: Unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake. Philippians 1:29.

Practical Truth: Any persecutions we are called upon to endure for Christ's sake should be bravely faced.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

Our hearts are touched as we read the account of Stephen, the brave hero of the cross. We do not feel that he was the type of a man who purposely made himself objectionable to others. When opposition came he faced it and preached a wonderful sermon on the history of his people. "They were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake." It stirred a mob spirit within them. They spoke ugly to him yet he kept sweet within. Surely he felt no ill toward them because God was blessing him insomuch that his face shone like an angel. God's grace was sufficient for Stephen. When Stephen suddenly accused them of betraying and murdering the Righteous One, they were filled with fury. At that moment God let Stephen get a glimpse of His own glory. He saw Jesus standing on the right hand of the throne of God. Surely Jesus could not sit while one here on earth was being murdered for His sake. They drug him out of the city and stoned him. He asked the Lord to receive his spirit and forgive those who had done wrong to him. He had the honor of being the first to lay down his life for Jesus. Since then thousands have been killed for Jesus' sake. It was said some seventeen hundred years ago by Tertullian that, "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." The highly-educated Paul, who stood looking on at Stephen, and had caused Christians to be put to death, saw the bravery, strength of character and divine touch and a seed was planted that day in Paul's heart that bore fruit.

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THE CHURCH REACHES OUT

April 29, 1956

Printed Portion: Acts 8:4-8, 14-17, 26-28, 34-35.

Acts 8:4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

5. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

6. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

7. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

8. And there was great joy in that city.

Acts 8:14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15. Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

16. (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

17. Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:26. And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

27. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

28. Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

Acts 8:34. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

35. Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

Memory Verse: By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:35.

Practical Truth: The church should not neglect areas near at home that are in need of the gospel.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

We find that God broke up the nest of saints in Jerusalem. He wanted the world to know of His great love. He permitted persecutions to come against the church and it caused the saints to scatter abroad and they preached the gospel wherever they went. Should we today push away the tool that God is using to send us to our knees? While on our knees God can help us to see a greater vision of His love and a need for more workers to go forth into the vineyard and work for God. One saint prayed earnestly, with a burden, for God to send forth laborers into his vineyard because the saint saw the need was so great. This saint was surprised when God spoke and said, "You go forth." Should not our consecration be deep enough that we pray as Isaiah "Lord here am I send me." I believe God requires that of all. Then it is up to the Lord if he sends us or not.

Philip did not question God when he called him away from a mighty revival and sent him out on the desert. There the eunuch was saved, baptized and went on his way rejoicing. No doubt as he went home and told others, it was the means of many being brought to the Lord. History says a great revival broke out in the eunuch's home town. That was God's way of spreading the gospel. It was the result of one man obeying God and preaching Jesus to one man. Things that may be small to us will count for big things if we let God have His way with us.

—Mrs. Marie Miles.