

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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Peace On Earth!

*My Saviour left His home on high
To live here on the earth;
And through His suffering and death,
He gave me a birth.
His love has filled my heart with song
'Til all my world is bright;
My heart I lift to God in song
Both morning, noon, and night.*

*I give the praise to God alone
For His redeeming grace,
My heart with rapture sings and sings
Because I see His face.
It fills my soul with Triumph,
The whole world seems athrill,
For angels brought the tidings,
"Peace on earth, to men good will."*

*I sing when rain is falling,
For it gives us golden grain;
I sing when the sun is shining
Over mountain, field and plain;
I sing when the moon is beaming,
Yes, for joy of heart I sing;
I sing when my heart is dreaming
Of my Lord, my Priest, my King.
—Mrs. I. Edith Kriebel*

How A Christmas Eve Was Spent

By C. E. Orr

"During the summer of 1889 I became more deeply convicted of sin than ever before. Day after day the load of sin grew heavier. At times despair seemed to be written all over earth and heaven. I kept praying as best I could. Every time I asked man for instruction I became confused. On Sunday evening, Oct. 26, I became more in earnest than ever before in my life, but went to my bed without having obtained any assurance of my acceptance with God. On Monday morning as I started to go to teach school I asked my wife to pray for me. As I walked along my soul was wrestling with God. Suddenly a

sweet sensation thrilled by entire being, a soft mellow light shone round me. The whole earth was full of light and music. Everything in nature, together with my happy heart, seemed intent on praising God. All doubts and fears were gone, and I was blessed and happy as mortal could wish to be.

"At the age of nine I learned to chew tobacco. I did not become a constant user until about the age of 15. By the age of twenty this habit had succeeded in greatly impairing my health. It was my master. Of all the sins that lay so heavy upon my conscience none was so weighty as that of tobacco-using. When conviction was the heaviest I resolved to abandon its use, but tobacco was king, and I bowed a burdened slave at its idolatrous shrine. Thus it went on until the Sunday evening before my conversion. That night I threw away my tobacco with a deeper resolve than ever that by the help of God I would never use it again. On awakening the next morning, among my earliest thoughts was that of tobacco. The appetite was strong, but I resisted and started to my school without any, and imploring victory from God. My conversion was so blessed and God's glory so filled my soul that I am quite sure it was as much as a week before I thought of tobacco and when I did I no more desired it than if I had never used it. Glory to the name of Jesus!

"For nearly two weeks after my conversion heaven's peace and glory in my soul was uninterrupted. I thought my happiness complete, and that my joys would never end. But one day while I was doing some work which became very aggravating I was strongly tempted to evil. I felt a wrong disposition in my very nature, and was surprised and alarmed. I called on God for help. When the third time it went wrong, I was overcome. I spoke an evil word, but I had no sooner done so than I fell upon my knees and called upon God for forgiveness. I there received the blessed assurance that I was forgiven, but in this experience I became aware of an evil in my nature that was going to make it very difficult to live and serve God as I desired. From that hour my soul began to call upon God for deliverance from that inward foe. I read of others that were wholly sanctified and my soul hungered for that "blessed expe-

rience." Days were spent in fasting and prayer before God for a clean heart, but we had no man to teach us; yet God led us on from one ray of light and knowledge to another.

"The time of Christmas was now near. Space will not permit telling all the many things that God had taught us previous to this time. He had shown us the evil of secret societies, from which we had withdrawn. He taught us the evil of worldly pleasure, and how those who love Him can find no enjoyment there. He taught us the evil of foolish and frivolous conversation, and how his children must be grave and sober. God taught us these things, and many more, independently of his word; because we were very ignorant of his word. It was at this Christmas time that God taught us our first lesson in divine healing. It is true he wonderfully healed my wife of lung trouble at the time of her conversion, but it was unasked for; consequently we did not call it divine healing in direct answer to prayer. On Christmas eve when all the village was astir and people were gathering from a distance to engage in the festivities, we decided to show our appreciation of the gift of the Son of God by remaining at home and reading and praying. Late in the afternoon wife was taken with an intense pain in the head and ear. The time for our reading and prayer service drew near, and the aching only increased. We wondered why this could be. Since all the people were spending the evening in pleasure and wantonness and we had withdrawn from such revelry to spend the evening in praising God, we were puzzled as to why we should be thus disturbed. God spoke gently to us, saying, 'I want to teach you of the good things I have in store for those that love me; ask of me, and I will heal her.' We at once fell upon our knees and asked God to take away the pain, when instantly it was removed and the glory of the Lord shone round about us, no doubt not unlike the glory that shone round about the shepherds so many years ago. The Spirit's voice in our soul shouted, 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men.' Until late in the evening we offered up the incense of prayer and praise unto the holy child Jesus.

"A meeting was arranged (with two brethren of God) for about the 10th of February. The first night of the meeting my wife and I went forward to the altar for sanctification. Only a little instruction was necessary to enable me to grasp the promises of God, and the Holy Spirit fire came into my soul in such power and glory that it seemed to transport me far above. My conversion was glorious, but my sanctification was more glorious. I was conscious in my heart of a cleansing. I actually felt pure. Just as a stained cloth being washed comes forth clean and spotless and white, just so I could see my soul purged, cleansed, and made whiter than snow. (Psa. 51:5; Matt. 3:11; 1 Thess. 5:32; Heb. 13:12). During this meeting I was shown glorious things by the Spirit and Word of God. I was shown the true Church of God all radiant in her holiness. I saw the gulf separating the church from the world. The life of God was assimilated into mine, and mine was hid in Him.

This world had no place in my affections or my thoughts." —C. E. Orr, taken from Wickersham's *History of the Church*.

Unbelief

The origin and also the beginning and working of unbelief in the souls of men was in the Garden of Eden: "And the serpent said unto the woman. Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Gen. 3: 4, 5. The devil is the author of unbelief. He disputed God's Word in conversation with Eve and taught her unbelief. It is one of his greatest and most subtle ways of working in these last days. Jesus marvelled at unbelief in his day on earth, and asked if there would be faith on earth when he comes again. Jesus knew what he was talking about. We do not need to find an atheist or infidel to find unbelief. The devil is present to slip the seeds of it even into the hearts of God's trusting children if they are not watchful and resist it. The devil is a very convincing teacher, and every one that has unbelief received it from him, either directly or indirectly.

Unbelief is opposite to God and counts him a liar; but it honors the devil, and counts him truthful. It is an element that never was in heaven and never can be. Furthermore it will bar out of heaven every one that holds to it. Unbelief seems almost to be inherited by some people. They are taught it from their infancy. Babylon sects are full of it, they teach it and preach it from their pulpits, and the children of sectarians are taught it in the home circle. It thrives in Babylon soil, and some of us who have come out of Babylon have had quite a time getting rid of it. It will hang on as a leech and sap the life out of the soul.

We are not against education, but we are aware of the fact that the devil has succeeded in working his theories of unbelief into the schools of today until it is exceedingly hard for the school children to receive much education without being tainted with the spirit of unbelief—some receive it more than others. It has been the personal testimony of many that as they advanced in learning in the modern institutions of learning that it became harder and harder to keep that child-like faith that they once had.

Before going further, let us consider a little of the unbelief in Babylon. God's Word teaches that we must live a holy life; Babylon cries out, "Impossible! We can not live without sin." What causes her to do this? We answer, Educated unbelief. The Word of God also teaches that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever; that God heals his people today the same as ever: but Babylon hirelings cry, "Can not be healed nowadays; day of miracles is past." And their highest conception of healing is to send for the doctor, take his medicines, and "pray God to bless the means." Some of the physicians of this age are skeptics and do not believe in God at all. Do you think God would get any glory out of such? There is no fellowship there. Why cannot men believe

God's Word on the matter according to James 5:14? Unbelief is at the bottom of the whole thing. It truly is the work of the old serpent.

Many souls have trouble in getting to God and even after they have an experience because of unbelief. Here are some ways in which this trouble is brought about. God's Word believed is faith; his Word doubted is unbelief. A soul coming to God for pardon, purity, healing, or anything else promised in the Word, 'must believe that God is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.' Heb. 11:6. To believe God, is to believe his Word; and his Word believed puts us on promised ground, where the promise is ours. His Word is yea and amen to all those who believe. Of course, unbelief must be resisted and rebuked if you are bothered with it, or you cannot believe. Resisting it will do no good if there is something in your life which you could correct but have not corrected that stands between you and God. When a soul does not meet the conditions for faith, unbelief is the result. God's plain Word is thus and so; you look at it, think it over, and, if you are not decided to obey, the devil will whisper, "You cannot obey." You listen to him and believe him in preference to believing God, and the result is, that God looks like a hard taskmaster, and his demands very inconsistent. The devil plants such thoughts as these in your heart, "I can not. My job hinders, this or that hinders, God is so inconsistent to require such a thing of me, it is unjust," etc.

Stop and think. Do you not see you are believing the devil and doubting God? This course pursued a while will put you in a dreadful condition, giving you a foretaste of the lost world. What brings about this state of affairs? Simply listening to the devil, and counting him truthful, who is the father of lies, and counting God a liar, whose very character is faithfulness. Do you know that unbelief will pave your way down to hell if you hold to it? It is soul-destroying in its very nature. "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death." Rev. 21:8. We see by this scripture that those who hold to unbelief will be cast out to spend eternity with all the other vile characters mentioned in the text.

If you continue in unbelief it will shut heaven's door against you forever and you will have to spend eternity in the regions of the lost where the unclean and vile have gone, through all ages. Can you afford it? Heed the warning and go to resisting the devil and unbelief with all your heart. Get after it and chase it to its den. If you hold to it and foster it you will have to reap the result of your folly and live throughout eternity with the author of it who is the king of the bottomless pit.

Dear saints, let us not encourage unbelief on any line, but, to the contrary, let us take the Word of God and believe it, irrespective of emotions, feelings, or surroundings. Let us do as Jesus taught—live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God, and faithfully believe all the promises for both soul

and body. If we begin doubting a little of God's Word, we are liable to doubt it all before we stop, and thus die infidels and be lost ourselves and also be the means of scores of others being lost. May God help us to be faithful and on our guard, watchful and prayerful, and not cast away our confidence nor make shipwreck of our faith. Remember that heaven is promised only to the faithful. We hear the Lord saying through John, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." —M. C. R.

Ohio,—To the dear saints everywhere,—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. Tonight I am praising God for His wonderful goodness to me and my family. I am yet saved, sanctified, and kept by His mighty power. I would like to tell how God marvelously healed me. Some called it a rash, others called it allergy; but whatever it was, praise God, I am healed. It first started on my ears. It would burn like fire and then it would stick like lots of pins. Oh! it was very irritating and at night I couldn't sleep. How I cried and prayed to God to please help me. For about two weeks I was in this condition. I told the Lord I was going to trust him if He slay me. The Lord did give me relief. I made a promise to God if He would just heal me I would send in my testimony. On a Tuesday night the saints came and anointed me and God gave me a divine touch. Sister Greer called me the next morning and told me that God had showed her that He had healed me. I told her yes, God had; and oh! how we rejoiced in the Lord!

I would like to tell a few incidents of how wonderfully God has healed in my family. I sent my oldest daughter to the store for a bottle of milk. She fell on the bottle and stuck a piece of glass in her chest. She ran home about two blocks, the blood just spurting from her chest. I got on my knees and prayed and God stopped the bleeding immediately. What a mighty God we serve! The two younger boys were outside playing. My boy, Earl Jr. fell on a broken tile and cut his blood vein. They came running in the house with blood spurting from his arm. My husband wanted to put water on it. I told him no. I got down in prayer and God met me there. It stopped instantly. Oh! it was just wonderful. It is all right to call on someone else to pray for you, but I believe in living a life so whenever I need Jesus He will come to my rescue any time and any place.

Not only will God heal, but He will also help us in any kind of trouble. I was in the basement, ready to do my washing. I turned the washer on but it would not work, so I began to pray. I tried it again and still it wouldn't work, so I laid my hand on it and asked God if He would please fix my washer, and as soon as I finished praying and turned the washer on it began to work. Oh, how I praise God! I shouted and leaped. God is a present help in time of need. I am so glad God will never fail us so long as we obey His Word. Pray much for me so that I might do the little things God has for me to do.

Yours in one body,

—Sister Zenola R. Knight.

Oklahoma.—Dear saints,—I find it a great privilege to testify for my precious Lord. He is keeping me saved by His power through faith. I have lately been learning more about how to use the shield of faith. It, with the other weapons of prayer and the sword, which is God's Word, and the tightening of my armor has enabled me to have victory again and again over the enemy. "Now thanks be unto God which always causeth us to triumph in Christ." I desire to ever be a faithful soldier. —Sylvia Forbes.

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We are much pleased with the way the Lord is blessing and using the readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper to send in names for the two months' offer. There is no telling how many souls will be saved by this effort, and then the fact that you have cleared your soul in getting the truth to your friend or neighbor means so much to you and shows that you love the Lord and the souls of men who are precious in His sight. The way the names have been coming in, it looks like we will reach the number we have been praying for—which is 4,000 at least. We surely ought to be busy for the Lord in these last days when we see, as the Apostle John did in his day, when he said, "We know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness." Some one has said, "I wish I could get into the work of the Lord." Such individuals ought to open their eyes and behold those all around them living in sin, and get busy working with these precious souls and in some way let them know about the Son of God that saves from all sin.

The two months' offer will expire on Dec. 10th, so please get the ten names in to our office before that time, if possible, so the workers can have them all ready to receive the January paper. We must have the January issue ready to mail before Christmas day. We certainly do appreciate the readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper in co-operating with God and us for the advancement of His cause among men. The tracts, papers, books and booklets are going out in a steady stream to all parts of the world and our hearts rejoice to see the truth go forth by the printed page. Pray for us, as we labor on for Him.

Remember, the dead in Christ shall rise again. All that we do or say in this world is on record in God's book in heaven. The last verse in the 20th chapter of Revelation reads thus, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." You can have your name written in the book of life only by being born again from above, and it will remain there as long as you live free from sin.

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Since issuing the November paper, our hearts have been much encouraged and refreshed by letters from some of the saints who have known us for years and now have been moved upon by the Lord to again express their confidence in the printing work and to assure us of their continued support in prayers and well wishes. It seems that some of the saints are more expressive of their appreciation of the truth that goes forth from year to year.

In the last thirty-five years of publishing this Biblical truth and sending it forth with a burdened heart for the salvation of souls, there have been now and then some individuals who seemed to think that God has raised them up and commissioned them for the purpose of destroying our influence among men and bringing destruction to the Lord's Print Shop. So far, such attempts have utterly failed through the working power of God. We are so thankful that we have God who fights our battles and gives us the

victory again and again. He says in His Word, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Rom. 8:31. In the 37th verse God's Word says, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

Brethren and sisters, do not fear the attacks of the enemy upon you, for such things will come upon you in life if you are doing any thing much to expose Satan and his crowd. We want to encourage the hearts of our readers to not think it strange concerning the fiery trials that may come upon you in life, for if you are faithful to God you will have to fight many defensive battles and wait upon God in due time to give you the victory. There are some who, through lack of knowledge and understanding, fight against the truth of God in different ways and yet he blesses them anyway, for he is good to all, but will bring all into judgment some day. There are some we meet up with in life that make us think of the baby we were called to pray for last evening. This baby was real sick with high fever. When she was anointed with oil and we laid our hands on, she objected to us having our hands upon her, and cried and squirmed away from our hands, but prayer was continued anyway for a few minutes. Right after prayer the baby broke out in a sweat and she was touched by the power of God. In like manner, we see the goodness of God to many people today who lack knowledge and understanding as to God's will for them, and they try to get away from the very thing or means by which God is showing His goodness to them. God says in His word that "*All things work together for good to them that love God.*" He did not say that one thing worked for our good, but that "*all things work together for our good.*" Some single things may not be working to our good as far as we can see, but when all things that take place is put together, we find that all of it has worked together for our good. In the 12th chapter of Hebrews we read from the 11th verse, "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." We are to exercise ourselves in godliness all through every trial or test that He permits us to be in, having it settled aforehand, that it will work out for our good and His glory. Paul, in speaking of his trials which were very severe, said, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." Though his afflictions were severe, as we look at things today, yet he termed them light afflictions. If we look at things as Job did in his severe trials and afflictions, we will and can rejoice in them. Job looked beyond what Satan was doing and said God did this, and thereby held his integrity and faith in God as being above all that Satan could do. Read about it in the 16th chapter of Job.

Many people today are oppressed in afflictions and held in bondage because they have a greater fear of Satan than God. Preachers, who tell their subjects that they cannot live free from sin in this life, keep themselves and their subjects in bondage to Satan be-

cause they ascribe more power to Satan than God. In Luke 1:74, 75 we read, "That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life." Again in Titus 2:11 we read, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world." Yes, dear reader, we are to live this holy life right here in this present world. If people had more faith in the power of God to keep them from the evil than they had fear of Satan's power to make them sin, they would have the victory over all sin and would be living like the Bible teaches us to live. The great trouble in the world today is that so many people who profess Christ allow Satan's preachers to deceive them and they use or quote scriptures, wresting them away from their proper meaning, and make them believe that the Bible teaches that no one can live free from sin in this life. Many of the scriptures they use to uphold their false ideas teach just the opposite if they had the right understanding. Most of these false teachers will use the seventh chapter of Romans to try to prove that Paul testified that he was a great sinner and wretched when he was a Christian, and do not seem to understand that Paul was telling of his condition when he was a sinner before he found Christ. In the 8th chapter of Romans he tells about his experience when he was converted to Christ and was a Christian. Some of these false teachers will go so far as to say that even Christ was not good and they will quote the scripture found in Matt. 19:16, 17 where the rich young ruler came to Jesus and called him "good Master" and Jesus said unto him, "Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is God." The young ruler was looking at the fleshly man and Jesus wanted him to see farther than that, and see God in Him that made Him good. There is no man good without God being in him. No man can live free from sin without God being in him and thereby giving him power to do so. As long as any man does not see that God alone has power to keep one free from sin, he will remain in sin. God, living in a man by his Spirit, makes him good and enables him to be more than a conqueror over the devil and all of his agents. Jesus was not good from a fleshly source, but it was God in him that made Him perfect and free from sin. Peter testifies that "He did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." He is our example in life and not some sinning preacher. Keep your eyes off sinning man and get them on the Lord and follow his example. Jesus says, "He that commiteth sin is the servant of sin." In 1st John, third chapter, we read: "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him." Dear loved one, if your preacher abides in sin and transgresses the laws of God, he does not even know God. Flee for your life from such a teacher and personally abide in Him and He will keep you free from sin.

Some preachers make their hearers believe that

they are saved because they have been baptised in water. They do not seem to know that it is the faith they have in the sacrificial blood of Christ that saves the soul and that water baptism is only a picture of what faith in His blood has already done for them. Peter tells us plainly in 1 Peter 3:21 that water baptism is "the answer of a good conscience toward God." By being baptized in water we answer the question of the world, "Why are you being baptized?" God has forgiven us and our conscience is clear before God. Oh, the shame of the multitudes of souls who are deceived by false teachers and go on sinning and will in time reap damnation. Our very soul cries out to God for them. Oh, that the devil had no preachers in the world to deceive precious souls! But alas, we find the world full of false teachers and preachers. God warns us over and over again, "Let no man deceive you." We read in Matt. 24:5, "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ [or I am Christ's preacher] and shall deceive many." In the 24th verse we read, "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." We see by this scripture that the devil imitates the Lord in doing great things to deceive the people into false religions. Let each one of us take heed unto ourselves and make God an individual and personal Saviour to us and not join up with any of the humanly organized sects that exist in the world. Abide in Him alone and He will keep you free from sin and ready for heaven.

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I'VE BEEN TO HELL AND BACK

(Continued from November issue)

Finally, I rebuked him for pleading with me, with one breath, and asked him to pray for me with the next breath.

My body was still hot from the heat of those flames. My husband left the room and went alone to pray for me. I tried to read. I leafed through the Bible—finally, settling down on the second chapter of Acts. With my eyes sore from torment, I could hardly see the words. But as I read a word here and there I realized I must be emptied of self, base desires, and be filled with the Holy Spirit: an experience that can only come from putting all on the altar—being WHOLLY sanctified. As my husband returned to the room, he suggested I get ready to go. Time was passing and the meeting was starting. Suddenly, I was filled with the desire to go. I jumped up and hurried to my bedroom and prepared myself very little, as my false pride was beginning to leave me. I was fully aware now that time for me was just about gone—getting to prayer meeting was the strong hold between my soul and hell. We left immediately. The cold night air made my scorched face burn even more!

We didn't talk—my husband and I—he did ask me twice if I was all right. As we neared the place, I suddenly began pleading with him to turn around and go back home, but thank God, he didn't. Finally,

he told me we had arrived. He stopped the car, but I couldn't move. All at once I felt paralyzed—I couldn't even see. With the aid of my husband, I got out of the car and slowly walked to the house. As we entered, I again saw a room filled with people. I quickly dropped my head. The light in the room was so bright and beautiful I couldn't look at it. I realized this was a heavenly light—not a man-made light. Far off in the distance I could hear the soft strains of heavenly music. Another odor filled my nostrils. This time it was the odor of beautiful flowers. I raised my head slowly—the faces I saw in the room were lovely. Heads held high, eyes bright and shining. I felt so unclean in their presence. I felt every sin of my soul was written all over my face, that my sins were hanging like grapes in a vineyard.

I couldn't hear their words of welcome. While I knew everyone there, my eyes couldn't focus on anyone. I didn't see them as friends—I saw them as saints. As my eyes went around the room, they rested on the lovely face of a godly woman; the young people's spiritual leader. She was standing to my right—a tall woman whose voice is as sweet as cords from a golden harp. There was a halo of heavenly light encircling her head like a wreath. My first impulse was to run into her arms, lay my head on her chest and cry out my soul to her, but I knew I could not. I knew I wasn't clean enough to even touch the hem of her garment!

Someone gave me a chair, and I sat down. This woman, led by God, began the meeting. Directly in front of me was a vacant chair that from previous meetings I knew represented an altar. While I could not hear this saint of God speaking, I knew there was only one step between me and my Saviour. I began to cry. My stubborn will was broken—my heart was becoming contrite. Finally, I leaped from my chair for the vacant chair. As quickly as my knees touched the floor, the arms of Christ was about me. The pit of hell was closed. For even though I couldn't see it, I could feel it was open and waiting for me, as this was my day of decision. The heat left me. The water of my tears cooled by soul. I laid my broken and contrite heart at the Master's feet. I repented sincerely, fervently; but, praise God, it was only seconds before the joy of my salvation was restored to me in a fullness I had never known. My sins dropped off me like ripened fruit. I became clean—I knew I was washed in the soul cleansing blood of Christ. I felt free as a bird—light as a feather.

Sinner friend, hell is truly terrible. Words could never explain its horrors. Repent NOW! Don't spend eternity THERE!!! Backslider, don't risk your soul against time. You may LOSE! —Tract

—o—

Mt. Zion, The Family of God

Certainly, all truly spiritually minded people understand that the word, Mt. Zion, is a metaphor for the Church of God, the Family of God, or those who are born from above and retain the heavenly life in

their souls, and those who are grafted (Rom. 11:17, 19) into Christ, the true Vine, and draw their substance and knowledge from God out of heaven and bear the fruits of His Spirit among men in this sin-cursed world.

In the 49th chapter of Genesis and the 10th verse we read, "The Sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet until Shiloh [Christ] come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be." Shiloh is a name which refers to Christ, the rest-giver, the Prince of peace, and we note that the people are to be gathered unto Him and not to some Pope or dictator who wants to usurp authority in His place.

The next verse says, "Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine." A foal is the young of the horse family and their young resemble their parent and are attached to that family. So we who are born from above, born of God, are also bound to the true Vine which is Christ. Read John 15:1-8. This family, which is born from above and bound to the true Vine, is symbolized in the Bible by many and various names such as: The Kingdom of God, the City of God, the House of God, Mt. Zion, His Sanctuary, Tabernacle, Pavilion; and His people are referred to as an Habitation of God through the Spirit, The Family of God, and The Body of Christ. In the apostles' writings it is repeatedly called: The Church of God, and in 1 Tim. 3:15 it is referred to as "The house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

In this article we expect to use the name, "Mt. Zion," principally, to bring forth some truths of the Church that God has functioning in the world today.

Let us first read some from the 48th chapter of Psalms, beginning at the first verse. "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King." Then beginning with the 12th verse: "Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following. For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death." Just think what a glorious institution the Lord gives witness to his redeemed people!

Let us read some from the 87th Psalm beginning with the second verse, "The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. Selah." Fifth verse: "And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her. The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there." When you are born from above your name is registered in the Lamb's book of life and will only be erased when you commit sin. Unrepented sins will put you out of Zion and bar you out of heaven. In Rev. 20:15 we read, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Let us read some from the 9th chapter of Isaiah and begin with the 6th verse, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end. . . The Zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." You notice that the government is to be upon his shoulder; Jesus Christ his Son will govern and rule in Mt. Zion. In the 12th chapter of Isaiah and the sixth verse it reads, "Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee." Isaiah 35:10 reads: "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." In Jeremiah 50:5 we read of the way to Zion. "They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten." In the fourth verse it says when they were going they were weeping.

There is no place in the Bible where it tells us to join any thing else but the Lord. Do not join any man's humanly organized so-called church. The Lord alone is sufficient. Abide in Him and in Mt. Zion, for this is the gateway to heaven and to God. In the 43rd chapter of Ezekiel and the 12th verse we read, "This is the law of the house; Upon the top of the mountain the whole limit thereof round about shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house." The most holy ones are God's sanctified children, His ministers who give out the Word are the law of the House, Mt. Zion, or His Church. In Isaiah the 28th chapter and beginning at the 16th verse we have these words: "Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. Judgment will I also lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place." Jesus is the tried stone, the pure foundation. The Household of God which is also Mt. Zion is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone. (Eph. 2:20.) In 1 Pet. 2:6 we read, "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded."

In Hebrews we have some more statements concerning Mt. Zion, a metaphor of the church. "But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven [all the names of God's people are written in heaven], and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect." 12:22, 23. Dropping down to the 28th verse we read some more. "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let

us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: for our God is a consuming fire."

In the above writings we have given our readers some Biblical truth on Mt. Zion which relates to the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. (1 Tim. 3:15.) In Eph. 2:20 we read, "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye all are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." This is the church that Jesus built, which the gates of hell shall never prevail against, but which will stand till time shall be no more. This is the church of God which is triumphant, all pure in this world below. It is the one we, who are saved, belong to, and have been born into, and are become ambassadors of God declaring heavenly things to men of earth. We are become servants of His church.

Any man, woman, city or nation that fights against Mt. Zion shall be as a night vision, as a flickering, fading light—disappointed and lost. Listen to the Word of God in Isaiah 29:8, "It shall even be as when a hungry man dreameth, and, behold, he eateth; but he awaketh, and his soul is empty: or as when a thirsty man dreameth and behold he drinketh; but he awaketh and behold, he is faint and his soul hath appetite: so shall the multitude of the nations be that fight against Mt. Zion."

All the humanly organized churches with human dictators are built on the sand and will tumble and fall; will be weighed in the balance and found wanting. Let us not be divided from the true way by any human leader who may possess a sheep skin clothing. Remember, the enemy is bidding high for precious souls in this last day of the last days. Let us keep the whole armor on holding up the shield of faith to ward off all the fiery darts of the enemy and take the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God and hold it boldly before all enemies of the truth.

By the grace and help of God we mean not to hold our peace but to continue right on declaring the whole counsel of God and walking in the light of His Word. The first verse of the 62nd chapter of Isaiah expresses our determination and it reads thus, "For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth." This was the decision of Isaiah who is termed the New Testament prophet, and it should be the decision of every minister who is in Zion today. Let us all take courage and put the Word of God forth to the gathering unto Him of every honest soul. We have no human church for you to join, but we do covet your soul for Christ, that you join Him by the new birth and live in Zion in this time world and be among the redeemed who will meet him in the air and ever be with Him.

Fred Pruitt.

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OBITUARIES

Mary Lora Wilsford was born in Giles Co., Tenn. Oct. 13, 1868, and when God said, "Come up higher into my sheepfold," she was 91 years and one day old. She was married to Jeff Whitfield Lovell at the age of 15. To this union was born nine children. Her husband and two children preceded her in death.

With the sweet smile of assurance upon her face, My heavy burden of grief God did erase; She seemed to whisper, "Sweet peace, I'm at rest," I have that sweet consolation deep in my breast. She leaves to mourn her departure seven children, a host of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She was a wonderful mother.

Scriptures: 1 Cor. 15:42-56; St. John 14:1-4; 1 Thess. 4:13-18, "that we sorrow not, even as others which have no hope... even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."

—Mrs. Nellie Lovell

Lela Mary Berry was born in Texas Nov. 20, 1875 and passed away Oct. 4, 1958 at the age of 82 years, ten months, and 14 days. She and her husband celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on Tuesday, Sept. 30. They had lived in Houston and Amarillo, Texas before coming to Tulsa, Okla. in 1930. Sister Berry left a good testimony of seeing the saints as the real people of God.

Her survivors are her husband, C. A. Berry, Tulsa.; four daughters: Mrs. J. M. O'Rielly, Tulsa, Mrs. John Andrews, San Diego, Calif., Mrs. G. E. Lettner, Lake Jackson, Texas, and Mrs. Louis Lagamarsino, Rio Del, Calif.; seven grandchildren; and six great grandchildren.

Services were conducted by Bros. Richard Madden and Orie Young. Interment was in Memorial Park.

Charles Agusta Bowers was born in Fort Wayne, Ind. on Sept. 3, 1869, and departed this life at Neosho, Mo.

Oct. 13, 1958 at the age of 89 years, one month, and ten days. He came to Missouri with his father when a small boy. A number of years ago he was a minister of the church of God.

He was the father of eight children, three preceding him in death. Those surviving are two sons: Chalmer of Wyandotte, Okla., and Lowell of Purdy, Mo.; three daughters: Mrs. Ethel Brooks of Avilla, Mo., Mrs. Nellie Robbins of Dodge City, Kans., and Mrs. Mildred Frost of San Lorenzo, Calif.; one sister; 24 grandchildren; and 27 great grandchildren.

Services were conducted by Bro. Richard Madden. Place of interment, Granby, Mo.

MEETING NOTICES

ALL-DAY MEETING AT SAPULPA RD. CHAPEL

We would like to remind the saints and friends of Oklahoma and surrounding states of the fifth Sunday all-day meeting at the Sapulpa Rd. Chapel, Nov. 30th. Come!

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CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting of the church of God will be held at the saints' campground located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif. (a suburb of Los Angeles) beginning Dec. 26, continuing through Jan. 4. Any coming from out of town who do not know the location may phone EMpire 9-3608 when they arrive in either Los Angeles or San Fernando.

We are expecting the same visitations of God and manifestations of His power and workings of His divine Spirit and grace at this meeting as have been in former years. We invite all to come and share in the benefits. All who can, please bring your own bedding.

We will be looking forward to seeing you at the Assembly Meeting. Ostis B. Wilson, 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, California.

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OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Assembly Meeting of the Church of God at Guthrie, Okla. will begin Friday, December 26th, 1958, and continue ten days.

All are welcome to attend this meeting. Dormitories and dining hall are located close by for your convenience. We are sure you will be blessed as you come and labor with us for the salvation of souls. The expenses of the meeting will be taken care of by free-will offerings. Those desiring to send offerings or supplies, send to M. A. Davis, Rt. 4, Guthrie, Okla. O. C. Porter, Pastor

—M. A. Davis, Treasurer

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Meeting Reports From The Field

Dear Saints, Greetings to all in Jesus' sweet and precious name. We are still saved and on the battlefield for God. We haven't written for a while but we have by no means been idle. The time is too short, and souls are too precious for that. We were at the Hammond Camp-meeting when we last wrote. We were so thankful to be there and enjoy the sweet fellowship of God's dear saints. Several received help from the Lord and the meeting was precious indeed.

We then went to Dayton, Ohio, stopping by my folks' in Ky. We found and left them getting along very well. We had a few services in Dayton and I was glad to know how God is blessing the saints there. They are planning to add Sunday school rooms onto their chapel. Then we went to Powell, Ohio. Here we found a group of saints who are standing clear for God and this old time truth,

and were building a chapel as they had out-grown the present building. We were glad to meet, and have a few services with them, and left them encouraged in the Lord. When their chapel is finished, the Lord willing, we shall be glad to go there and have a meeting.

Then we returned to my folks in Ky. as Mother was unable to do her work. I stayed with them a few weeks and Bro. Abbott returned home. When Mother was better I went to Dayton, Ohio, and Bro. Gibson and Bro. Abbott met me there for their all-day meeting, and through Monday night. The Lord did richly anoint and bless in every service. The brethren visited an isolated brother in southeastern Ohio. He was very hungry to see them, for he needed encouragement and help from God. Then the three of us went to Duffy, W. Va. for a meeting. The truth was planted there about two years ago and they were anxious for another meeting. The Lord blessed. Some were under conviction, and others testified they had received much help. We left there and traveled south into the mountains of eastern Ky. to find an isolated family who had somehow come into possession of a "Faith and Victory" paper and had written Bro. Pruitt at Guthrie to learn more about the Church of God for which it stands. These dear folks were indeed hungry for the living bread. The brother said he had been earnestly praying for two weeks for God to send some of the old time saints to visit them. We had a wonderful visit with them until mid-night and we all rejoiced together. They invited us to come and hold services in their home.

We returned home by way of my folks who seemed to be fairly getting along. We were home about a week, then went to Oklahoma City for that meeting. Two precious souls were saved, others received help, and some were under conviction when the meeting closed. Then we went to Bristow, Okla. for a ten-day meeting there. It had been six years since we were there in a meeting and we were glad to see how God had worked and the congregation had grown. The attendance was good throughout and a sweet spirit prevailed. Two souls were sweetly saved and three were sanctified. We feel that much lasting good was done. Praise the Lord! At the close of this meeting we were called home on some business and were there ten days, during which time we were at the all-day meeting at Myrtle. Saints from different places attended. The Lord blessed and two sought help at the altar. Then we came to Tulsa, Okla. and were there for three nights of that meeting after which we came to Okeene. The Lord is blessing in this meeting. One has been saved so far, several hands have lifted for prayer, and others are under conviction.

Dear ones, we are not expecting large numbers to be saved. The harvest is past and we are nearing the end of the gleaning time. May God encourage and help us each one to press on and be faithful. Remember the value of one soul is more than the wealth of this world. Our greatest desire is to spend and be spent in the service of God. How we do appreciate our little trailer. It is very convenient and a real blessing to us. Brethren, pray for us.

—Bro. and Sister S. E. Abbott, Box 223, Thayer, Mo.

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Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt,—I greet you in holy Christian love in Jesus' name. This leaves me enjoying the blessings of the Lord in both soul and body and encouraged in His service and to press on for Him, and I trust it will find you the same.

I arrived here in Mississippi last Saturday and began meeting Sunday morning. I don't know just how long I will be here but hope I stay until God is ready for

me to leave. I have meetings to hold in W. Monroe, and Shreveport, La. after I leave here so will be in this part of the country for a few weeks if the Lord wills.

This is my first trip east this year. I went to Oregon for some meetings in February. Then I went up for the last four days of the Oregon Campmeeting with an obligation to be back for Tuesday night, so never tarried that time. I left home on Wednesday morning and got back the following Tuesday. Then I was called up there on an emergency at the close of our campmeeting and Opal and I both went. Counting the mission we went on and other visits we made and stops going and coming we were gone about nine days. Then in less than a week I was called back up there to preach Sister Franklin's funeral. I just hurried right there and back that time as it was time for me to leave on this trip. In fact, I had to phone back here and postpone this meeting a week in order to go there for the funeral, as it was time for me to start here the same day I left to go up there.

That is the full extent of my traveling for the whole year up to now but God found some use for me there at home [Calif.—which covers a large territory—Ed.], and I accepted it cheerfully and dedicated myself wholeheartedly to the task in fasting and prayer and felt His blessing in it and was real happy in it. So I have not just been sitting down and wasting my time.

Please pray with us for God's blessing on the meeting here.

And now may the richest blessings of the Lord be upon you in both soul and body and may He grant unto you all things which pertain unto life and godliness through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Yours in the fellowship of Christ, —Ostis B. Wilson.

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Dear ones in Christ,—Greetings to you in Jesus' dear name. It has been some time since we reported through the "Faith and Victory" paper. We enjoy reading it very much, for it is comforting to know about the activities of the saints. They are very dear to us. We are thankful the Lord has a few ministers in active gospel work, for there is much to be done.

It is wonderful the way the Lord has blessed us with strength to get about, more than I ever expected Him to do. We left home Sept. 23 and stopped the first night in meeting with the saints near Louin, Miss. On Sept. 24 we spent the night with dear Sister Pearline Whitson and her family near Jasper, Ala. We left the next morning for Yorkshire, Ohio, but stopped that night at a tourist court and arrived in Yorkshire the next night where we spent four days with Ray's mother, Sister Flora Key. We found her quite well and enjoying salvation. Then we went to Dayton, Ohio where we held a meeting from Oct. 1st to the 12th, which was one of the most precious meetings we have ever attended. There was quite a bit of altar work done and five were baptized. We felt such unity there and heard no murmurings nor back-biting whatsoever. It was such a comfort to be there. Bro. Wm. A. McCoy is the pastor and Bro. Earl Sharp co-operates very nicely in the ministerial work. We were really free to preach all the Word and the saints had a receptive heart to all the truth. So many opened their homes to us, until it was just precious to be there.

We had one service at Sister Amanda Bayse's home which was also very good. She is going on 94 years of age and she and her husband live at Rosewood, Ohio. We were so glad to find her so spiritually minded.

Then, we had another good meeting, held in Bro. and Sister John Nottingham's home at Union City, Ind., from Oct. 15th to the 26th with good results. Quite a bit of

altar work was done there, too, and seven were baptized. We found Bro. and Sister Nottingham very devoted to the Lord and holding to the truth as it was revealed to the saints years ago. They have had many things to meet in time past, especially from some who used to be with the saints but pulled off in a way of their own—like the Scripture reads in Heb. 13:9, "Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines..." (We should obey the rest of that verse.) "For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace." So let us pray for them.

We are now with the dear saints at New Castle, Ind., staying in dear Bro. and Sister Lawson's home and are praying for a good meeting. We started meeting here Oct. 29th. We want the Lord to have His way with us so we don't know when we shall get home.

Dear Saints, let us not permit the enemy to break the unity of the Spirit, for unity is very precious in God's sight. A lot of damage has been done on this line over the country and all of us need to watch. "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch." Mark 13:37.

Yours in His service, —Ray and Kathrine Key.

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TESTIMONIES

Ore.—Greetings of love to the saints everywhere,—I have felt for some time that the Lord wanted me to send in my testimony of how wonderfully the Lord has helped me in the last three years since my husband passed away. The day he passed away I waited until almost dark for him to come in from the field and then I took the car and drove out to where he had been working, which was almost a mile from the house. As I drove out there, the words, "Fear not, O child of mine, I am thy God, I will take care of thee," kept going through my mind, over and over. So the Lord made me to know what to expect when I reached the field, and it left me with an assurance that God would take care of me, and I had no fear to trust Him.

Up to this time I had suffered quite a lot with pain in my hips and legs and at times the pain in my hips was so I could hardly sit still when night came and after going to bed I would turn over and over trying to ease the pain. I still worked in the garden, did my housework and canning and all the things necessary, even while I had this trouble. But at the time my husband passed away all this pain completely left me and I have never had it since, for which I truly thank the Lord.

During the summer I stayed on the farm and had the added work of irrigating the alfalfa field besides doing the usual work around the home and garden and having to find someone to do the work I could not do. The Lord gave me added strength to do the extra work and helped me out time after time to get things taken care of better than I even thought of doing it. When it was time for the hay to be cut I tried to get someone to cut, bale, and stack it on shares, but after trying for several days to find someone who was not too busy in their own hay fields to handle mine, I started praying the Lord to work it out. A few days later a neighbor came who usually had to buy hay, and asked if I would sell him all I had at half price and he would do all the work of putting it up. This was so much better than I had been trying to do, as I would have had to give half for having it put up and then still would have had to find someone to buy it. The Lord worked things out for me several times during the summer in this same wonderful way.

Then in the fall when all the harvesting was done I felt I could not stay alone on the farm through the winter and I could not do the work, so I prayed much for the Lord to lead me and show me what to do. In October I decided to move to Jefferson and buy a house even if I had

The fast day on Tuesdays at Guthrie has been like a life saver to us many times. When a person needs help and is isolated, with no ministers to anoint, it means a lot to know there is a group going into a fast and be agreed for the needs of God's children. Oh, how it builds up our faith and we appreciate it so much words will not express. We are agreed with the dear saints in prayer on Tuesdays and are so thankful there is no distance with the Lord. Our prayers can go up as one. It is as sweet incense before the Lord. The devil hates that. He hates unity and peace; and, dear ones, he is working hard to

My mother-in-law and I desire to spend some time each week visiting and giving out good tracts and papers. The devil isn't going to like this, but after all, we are not our own and our work will wait, but precious eternity-bound souls can't wait or keep. May we have more of a vision as to how precious a soul is and we will make more sacrifices to spread the truth as the dear ministers are doing. There is such a shortage of consecrated ministers, that it just encourages my soul to see the laity standing in the gap, lifting up the standard, and doing all they can. Jesus said, "If I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." Who else will lift Him up, by life and example, than the saints? How responsible we are to lift Him up, so souls will be drawn to Him. How can we do that? by living a clean life, and showing the world we are a happy people, and by loving the brethren.

Mo.—Dear Saints,—I felt like the Lord would be glorified by my giving my testimony. On September 26, I was playing ball at school when another boy and I ran together and were hurt. I was knocked unconscious for fifteen minutes. It cut my lip clear through, making a larger gash on the inside from my teeth. My right leg was hurt above the knee and was apparently a cracked bone. We called several saints for prayer. The Lord wonderfully touched me and I was able to walk the next day some. This happened on Friday afternoon and I was

able to go back to school on the following Monday, and never missed any school.

The other boy received a broken arm and three stitches in his face. They took him to the hospital. He had trouble with his eye. While he received medical treatment and didn't do so well, I trusted the Lord and recovered sooner. I surely do thank the Lord for His love and mercy to me. Also I thank the saints for their earnest prayers.

Pray that I be faithful to the dear Lord.

In Christian love, —Wilbur Allen.

La.—Dear Brother and Sister Pruitt,—Greetings in Jesus' name. I surely thank you for praying for me. I know your prayers were answered, praise the Lord. I am still saved and thank God this evening for this salvation. God is very real to my soul. I was very sick for four months. The doctor said I would have to have an operation for gall stones, but I thank God I am well. I have a sister who has had five operations and she isn't well yet. I told her she ought to pray to the Lord, but she cannot believe in God. Her trust is in the doctors. I am praying for her.

I love the truth with all my heart and thank God for salvation and the sweet Holy Ghost. Praise the Lord! May God bless you all with lots of love. I know the Lord will take care of me.

Your sister in Christ, —Viola Pasquet.

Oklahoma.—Dear Saints and all who read the "Faith and Victory" paper,—Greetings in Jesus' holy love. Oh, how I thank God today for the fullness of His love. Had it not been for His infinite love, my soul would be lost, without hope, and not ready to meet God in peace. He has taught me different lessons and I am thankful for His loving hand of correction, for "afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." Heb. 12:11. "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." Heb. 12:6. More and more I am realizing God's love to me, and am ever learning to love him more.

"God is love." 1 John 4:8. Therefore He is the only source of love. "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." 1 John 4:10. God loves us first, and gives us His love so we can love Him in return. Then His love in us, prompting us to obey him, brings forth these fruits of righteousness: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance in our lives.

Dear ones, we are forever indebted to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves. (Mark 12:30, 31.) Jesus said, "There is none other commandment greater than these." "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me." St. John 14:21. "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." 1 John 5:3. How do we love God? By obeying Him in everything we know and understand, and doing His will in love. If we serve God in love, He will serve us and stand by us through every test and trial of life. Praise the Lord!

God has graciously stood by and given us the victory many times in sickness, tests, and trials, and we thank and praise Him for His mercy. It is beyond our ability to express it in words.

Just a few weeks ago God wondrously stood by us again when our fourteen months old baby swallowed a metal brad used in a screen door closer. It was about an inch long and had a head almost a half an inch in diameter. She picked it up from the floor and stuck it in her

mouth without my knowing it. It had fallen out of its place and I was going to pick it up as soon as I put down a bag of groceries. Then she began choking on something. It seemed hard for her to swallow whatever it was. I didn't think about her having that big thing in her mouth. We have to watch her pretty close for she often puts things in her mouth. But when I realized without a doubt it must have been that metal brad she swallowed, I suddenly became weak all over. I called Mother Barton and told her. I called Brother Richard Madden and other saints here and requested prayer. Then I went to God in earnest, fervent prayer about it, and while I was still in prayer, He spoke the comforting and assuring words to my heart, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." 2 Chron. 16:9. Oh, the assurance from God that all would be well almost overwhelmed me. The weight and burden on my heart was instantly lifted, and was replaced with sweet rest in Jesus. It seemed as though God hid that burden from me, and it didn't trouble me anymore.

I had asked God to let me find the brad she had swallowed, and the very next day, at almost the same time she swallowed it the day before, God let me find it. He brought that foreign object carefully through our baby's stomach, intestine, and bowels without any irritation or bleeding. Praise the Lord! Mother Barton was here and we both thanked and praised God and rejoiced together.

My neighbor, who is a nurse and also a Catholic, said to me the next day, "You were just lucky that didn't get into her lungs, or puncture the lining of her stomach." But I told her God had done that for us. Surely, it was another one of God's miracles, and we praise Him and give Him all the glory. "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men." Psalms 107. The Psalmist David repeats these words four times. Surely it is our duty to praise God for his goodness and wonderful works that others may hear. It is another way of glorifying him. "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me." Psalms 50:23. "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Cor. 10:31.

Pray for me. I desire to live a life of careful watching and praying by His help, to the glory of God.

With Christian love, —Sister Mona Lee Barton.

Ark.—To the dear saints in Jesus' precious name.—I truly thank you all for your prayers and please remember me in your future prayers that I will always stand true and be in the center of God's will. Oh, what a great blessing it is to know the dear Lord! I am still saved and sanctified, praise God. He is my all in all. God bless every one in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Yours truly,

—Sister Richard.

Va.—Dear saints and workers at the print shop: We send greetings of love to you across the miles. Thank God for this wonderful plan of salvation and for His love and mercy. Truly He is our Saviour, Sanctifier, Healer, and soon-coming Lord. We want to stay ready to meet Him.

There are many sick and afflicted in soul and body. Saints, pray eagerly for a dear lady who is asking for prayer. She has cancer and very badly afflicted. Pray that she will see the truth and walk therein.

It makes my heart very glad to see my little children go off to school and call back for me to pray for them. Also at night they call down, "Mama, pray." Mothers, let us live close to God so our children will have confidence in us. Let us dress our little girls (and boys) modest so God can smile upon us and be pleased. Thank you Sister Norma Allen for your efforts and testimony to please God

by helping saint children to dress modest. I want to go all the way, bless His name!

Remember a very special request of my own and Betty Robbins, who has tests and trials, that the Lord may give her grace to overcome. Pray for our lost loved ones here.

Yours in the "one body," —Sister Edith Melvin.

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Mo.—Dear Saints,—Greetings of love to you all. I want to tell what the Lord did for my nephew, and trust it might help someone else.

About a month ago the school had some of the boys out picking grapes. My nephew's hands began to feel stiff and his knuckles and the joints in his fingers were swollen. He had a ring on his finger. The janitor brought him to my house and wanted to know if I would persuade him to go to the doctor. He did not want to go. I told them to leave him with me until his folks came after him. I got a pan of hot water and soap and had him put his hands in it. Some of the neighbors came in and saw his hands. One said, "It is impossible for that ring to come off over that joint." I did not say anything to him, but prayed, "Lord, let the swelling go down, and let this ring come off." My nephew did not know I had prayed. He said, "Aunt Verba, I don't think it will come off." I told him it would be a miracle if it did, but we were going to trust the Lord to do it. Soon the swelling went out of that finger, leaving the rest still swollen. The ring came off. I told one of the children to call the neighbor back. We showed him and told him what had happened. He was speechless for he had thought it impossible. Thank God, the days of miracles are not passed, and all things are still possible with our great God.

I am trusting Him for soul and body. I need your prayers as I am not very well in body, but feel better than I did a while. I am trusting the Lord to completely heal my body. Pray for me and my family. I truly need the prayers of all the saints. May God help each one who reads this to have more faith in Him.

—Mrs. Verba Holdt

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Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints: Holy greetings with much love to you all in Jesus' dear name. I am still saved and sanctified. I am truly glad that Jesus chose me to walk in this wonderful way.

First, I want to thank the Lord for the way He blessed me while serving in the army in Korea. I wasn't saved at the time. Twice to my knowledge I was in danger. I knew I owed thanks to God for the prayers of my mother and the saints for protection. Although I wasn't saved then, I never did forget my mother's teaching. As I lay there in those mountains I made a vow to the Lord that if I got back to the States safely I was going to marry and get saved. I did, praise the Lord. I thank the Lord for Bro. Lewis Williams who sacrificed his time one Bible study night to come into my home in May, 1956 to help me to understand the truth better, and the Lord wonderfully saved my soul. Praise the Lord! I also thank the Lord for the "Faith and Victory" paper. Some of the saints we may never see, but we can hear from one another through the paper.

Saints, pray for me that I may keep true and encouraged to the end.

—Bro. Alonzo Jordon

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Kentucky—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the saints: We greet you this morning in the name of our dear Lord. We are glad to be able to testify that we are saved, sanctified, and walking in the light as we are directed by Him.

In May, 1945, wife and I knelt at an altar of prayer

with godly sorrow that we have lived so long in sin. We were in the Pilgrim Holiness church house. We had nine children—seven boys and two girls. I was a blacksmith at the coal mines for 28 years and never went to church except it be a funeral. Our son and his wife had gotten saved in a tent meeting just two or three weeks before, and they just insisted that we go to church with them. To please them we decided to go. The first song they sang was one Father would sing very often—"Amazing Grace"—and it seemed that something just took hold of me and would not let loose. After the services we started home and I said to my wife that we would not go back next Sunday and she would agree, but when the next Sunday came we were there, and we would say the same thing again, but the Lord knew best. The reason I would fight against it so hard was that my father believed in the Primitive Baptist denomination and did not believe in holiness. I would say that all my people are Baptists of different branches—some Primitive Baptist, some Old Regular Baptist, and some Missionary Baptist — and I would say I can't be anything but a Baptist, for all my people are Baptists, and what would people think if I joined the holiness church? It went on that way for a while, then when the good Lord came down with convicting power my wife and I yielded the same night. That was when I began reading my Bible and found the truth on holiness and sanctification. As I worked at the mines I would pray four or five times each day for the Holy Ghost and sanctification, but when I prayed I would say, Lord, if there be such a thing as the Holy Ghost and sanctification I want it, having a doubt in my heart all the time. When I left off that "if", and said, Lord God, here I am this morning (just before day light around the mountain from where I worked) and if it takes my natural life I will give it now, then He came in with power and I jumped up from where I was on my knees and began to shout and praise God. Oh, what a wonderful experience!

I went on for a while reading God's Word and praying for guidance. I saw that the Pilgrim Holiness church was not doing all that is commanded in God's holy word, so I asked the pastor why it was they did not wash one another's feet? He said, Bro. Roberts, that is not necessary to salvation. Then I asked him to show me where we are commanded to tithe and he couldn't showed me in the New Testament. Then one day he came to my home and said, Bro. Roberts, it seems to me that you are not satisfied in the Pilgrim Holiness church and I don't know what to tell the church. I said tell them the truth that I said I was going where the saints wash each other's feet and don't require you to tithe. And here I am in the one and only true Church of God. Praise the Lord! That has been around ten years ago.

—J. T. Roberts

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PRAYER REQUEST

Pray for Sister Mary Jones, Box 229, Rt. 4, Hartsville, S. Car., who is in need of a year's assistance until she can get her old age pension. She fell and broke her hip and has to pay for someone to stay with her. She does not have but one relative, an aged sister. She is trusting the Lord for her healing and needs.

When looking for faults, use a mirror, not a telescope.

Some folks who are inclined to criticize their fellow-laborer in the gospel would do well to step aside and watch themselves go by.

BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll, \$1.50: Lesson cards, 10¢

December 7, 1958

JESUS' MATCHLESS POWER

Printed Portion Mark 5:1-13

1. And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes.
2. And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,
3. Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:
4. Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him.
5. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.
6. But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,
7. And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.
8. For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.
9. And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.
10. And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country.
11. Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding.
12. And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them.
13. And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.

Memory Verse: Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee. Mark 5:19.

Practical Truth: Christ can still deliver those who are under the power of Satan.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson brings out the realities of devil possession. There are today in the world people who are filled with the devil's power to some extent. Of course, these people are kept in insane asylums. There are also different kinds of spirits of the devil controlling many people who are loose in the world. These spirits cause them to do things they can't help doing.

It is a dangerous thing for people to go against light and knowledge of the Word of God. They open themselves for spirits of different kinds to take hold of them. We read in 2 Thess. 2:9-12 about a line that was crossed by some who became possessed with a deception "because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." It seems there wasn't any hopes for their deliverance. It pays to be honest with God and face the Word of God and live by it.

Our lesson bears out what is recorded in Mark 3:11 that "unclean spirits" recognized him as he went about doing good. All power is given unto Christ in heaven and in earth. The demons recognized Christ's power and asked

that they be given another home in the swine. This shows how the devil can be put to flight by the power of God.

The man was changed after his deliverance from the power of Satan and sought to be with Jesus. His love for him was great. Jesus sent him to his own home and there he magnified the name of Jesus. We clearly see it is the power of the devil working in people that causes them to do evil.

December 14, 1958

JESUS SHARES HIS MINISTRY

Printed Portion Mark 6:6b-13, 30

- 6b. And he went round about the villages teaching.
7. And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;
8. And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse;
9. But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats.
10. And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place.
11. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.
12. And they went out, and preached that men should repent.
13. And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.
30. And the apostles gathered themselves unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught.

Memory Verse: Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd. Mark 6:34.

Practical Truth: All of us, as best we can, should share in the work of winning souls.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

While Jesus was here he was teaching the disciples precious truths so they could in turn teach it to others. It is today, as it was then, good for two to go out together in the work of the Lord. The devil is very cunning and two are more able to detect and rebuke him than one. Jesus also said, "That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father in heaven." (Matt. 18:19). Later we find Jesus using this method in sending out the seventy. They were to trust God fully, and Matthew adds: "For the workman is worthy of his meat." If the workman gives spiritual help to people, they are glad to give to him of their carnal things. Scrip was a leather sack in which travelers carried provisions. They did not need this. They were to travel lightly.

In the days of Sodom and Gomorrha people did not have Jesus among them or signs following the preaching of the gospel. We are going to be judged by the light and knowledge that we have. Some will be beaten with many stripes. (Luke 12:47). It will be sad for us if we reject light or Bible truths.

We notice that the teaching of repentance was associated with the healing of the sick. There is help for both soul and body in the gospel. Teaching and practicing divine healing is part of the gospel today.

December 21, 1958

JOY AT THE SAVIOUR'S BIRTH

Printed Portion Luke 1:46-55; 2:1-7

46. And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,
 47. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
 48. For he hath regarded the low estate of his hand-maiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
 49. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things: and holy is his name.
 50. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.
 51. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
 52. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.
 53. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.
 54. He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;
 55. As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

Luke 2:1. And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

2. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

3. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

4. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

5. To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

6. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Memory Verse: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. Luke 1:46-47.

Practical Truth: In celebrating the birth of the Saviour, there is reason for great joy when we realize what He means to us.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The events of our entire lesson no doubt came from the lips of Mary herself to the writers of the New Testament. How her soul magnified the Lord! She rejoiced at the knowledge of the great workings of God in the world. Her spirit rejoiced and was exceedingly joyful. Today we rejoice with her because of the Son that was born and for God's mercy shown to those who fear him from generation to generation. We thank God for the "unspeakable gift." We thank God for the "gift of God" which "is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 6:23). With the realities of what Mary prophesied, living in our very soul, we should be able to rejoice in a greater measure than she. So let us rejoice together because Jesus was born, not only born, but also that he willingly gave his life that we might have eternal life.

All the world at that time was under the Roman government. Caesar Augustus was the first of the Roman emperors. He ruled, history tells us, in 31 B.C. to 14 A.D. Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem, according to the order, to be enrolled and taxed.

While there God verified his promise to the world, and Jesus was born in very humble circumstances. Oh, how we thank God for His mercy shown to this sin-laden world. Through Christ we have salvation and a home with Him forever.

December 28, 1958

JESUS ACKNOWLEDGED AS THE CHRIST

Printed Portion Mark 8:27-35.

27. And Jesus went out, and his disciples, into the towns of Caesarea Philippi: and by the way he asked his disciples, saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am?

28. And they answered, John the Baptist: but some say, Elias; and others, One of the prophets.

29. And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answereth and saith unto him; Thou art the Christ.

30. And he charged them that they should tell no man of him.

31. And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

32. And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him.

3. But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.

34. And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.

35. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

Memory Verse: Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. Matt. 16:16.

Practical Truth: Because Jesus is the Christ, we should follow Him fully, whatever the cost may be.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Jesus wanted the disciples to verify the fact that he truly was the Son of God before he told them that he would suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests. This was sad news to the disciples because they had hoped that Jesus would be accepted by all. They did not understand His sayings about Him being killed and then after three days rise again. We find after he was put in the grave they were all perplexed. Peter seemed to be the spokesman for the group. He felt the inspiration of the Spirit upon him and boldly declared that He was the Christ. He also boldly went beyond the inspiration of the Spirit and spoke his own feelings which was not in harmony with the will of God. No doubt this was a temptation to Jesus, as the flesh recoiled from the cross. Jesus would not give any place to the devil and He rebuked him openly, naming who had given him the thought and told him he did not understand the things of God. Jesus then began to teach them how they were not to go by their feelings and try to preserve their life but to lose it for Christ's sake. This way is a self-denial way. We are on our way to heaven and we want to take everyone with us that we can. This is not our home so we need not lay up treasures here, but deny self and life for God.

—Sister Marie Miles