

FAITH^{AND} VICTORY

Church of God Servant



Volume 28, No. 10

Printed at

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35c Per Year

April, 1959

Christ Has Risen

With heavy hearts, and doubtful minds,
The disciples looked to see
The body of the Son of God
Taken from the cruel tree.

He had been crucified and slain;
Two thieves had met their doom;
And then the body of the Lord
Was buried in the tomb.

With blasted hopes, and saddened hearts
The disciples went away,
And certain women who were there,
To rest the sabbath day.

And when the sabbath day was gone,
Scarce had the shadows flown,
The women came with spices sweet,
But found the Lord had gone.

"He is not here," the angel said,
Turn, look, and see;
Go tell Peter and the rest
He has gone to Galilee.

Oh, how quickly they departed,
What great joy had filled their heart,
As they ran to the disciples,
To them the good news to impart.

He has risen! Christ has risen!
He hath conquered death, and hell;
And the angels bid us hasten
The good news to others tell.

But they scarcely did believe it,
Filled with doubt and joy combined
Until they ran into the garden,
And the empty tomb did find.

But their doubts were soon relinquished,
When they the Lord Himself did see,
At the place he had appointed
In the land of Galilee.

Oh, dear people, Christ has risen!

He has risen in my soul,
All my doubts and fears have vanished,
He hath blessed, and made me whole.

—Ulysses Phillips.

HERE AM I

"The Lord called Samuel; and he answered,
Here am I. And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I;
for thou didst call me." 1 Sam. 3:4, 5a.

Perhaps all have heard the story of the child Samuel who heard the voice of the Lord and, thinking it was Eli the priest, ran obediently to him. Eli had not called and told him to lie down again. When this was repeated the third time Eli perceived that the Lord had called Samuel and instructed him to answer, "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth." Although only a small child, the Lord gave Samuel a message for Eli. Samuel was in a condition that God could speak to him and trust him with a message. May the Lord help us to be always in a condition where God can speak to us and can trust us with whatever He wants us to do. Samuel answered, "Here am I."

After Isaiah had seen the vision of the Lord and the seraphim had touched his lips with a live coal from the altar he heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then Isaiah answered, "Here am I, send me." He was ready to do whatever the Lord needed done. God wants us to be ready too. My heart is especially burdened that our dear young people may feel the responsibility of being ready for service. Remember, Samuel was only a child when God began to use him. He can use boys and girls today. They must be obedient. Nor does God want any to feel that they are too old to do anything for the Lord. Eli was old but God would have used him to the end had he kept where God could have trusted him.

I remember one dear old sister who lived to be over ninety. One day she went to the Lord and asked Him why He was leaving her here so long. The Lord gave her this reply, "So that you may tell people, 'Ye

must be born again.' She couldn't be active as in younger days and sometimes had to be cared for by others, but she took the message seriously and began to use the opportunities given her to tell people that "they must be born again." "They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing." Psa. 92:14. God wants his older saints to keep in a condition where He can talk to them and they can answer, "Here am I."

One day the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden was heard in the cool of the day. Adam and Eve hid themselves. Why was it? The Lord had not spoken one word of reproof yet. Probably before this they had welcomed His presence and voice and delighted in communion, but now they hid themselves. They had disobeyed and were afraid of His presence. They were no longer in a condition where they could joyfully say, "Here am I."

God had given Abraham the son he had promised. One day God spoke to Abraham and he answered, "Here am I." God told him to take his son and offer him for a burnt offering upon a certain mountain. Abraham had answered not only with his lips but his heart was ready to obey God. He started early the next morning. Sometimes God calls for a sacrifice but let us be ready and willing as Abraham was. He will be sure to bless us as he did Abraham if we will be faithful. God called a halt to Abraham's sacrifice just in time and made him to know he was not to go through with the ordeal. God accepted the will for the deed for he knew Abraham purposed to obey.

May God help us to ever keep in that place where God can talk to us and we can reply, "Here am I."

—Some thoughts from a message.

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"Hold Fast That Which Is Good"

All young people, especially those in the congregations of the saints should be encouraged in their souls today. They may live day by day knowing that they are saved. Surely this is the kind of salvation Christ died for us to have.

1 Thess. 5:21 reads: "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." God wants us to hold fast to salvation, no matter how hard the enemy of our souls tries to make us give it up. The devil has been in his business a long time, and has many, many cunning methods of getting souls. One of his most effective weapons is discouragement. He'll come at us and suggest that perhaps we aren't saved at all. Perhaps we only thought we were saved. Right there is where we have to stand our ground, young people. If we give in and accept what the devil tells us, we just don't have a chance in this race. We have to keep our eyes on the goal and keep our determination to live for God regardless of all opposition. Suppose your mother or father gave you a wonderful gift. If someone were to come along and tell you that the gift had not been given to you at all, would you merely lay it down without a murmur and go on your way? Certainly not. You'd tell the per-

son that the gift is yours, and hold on to it. So it should be with the most precious gift of all, salvation. The devil is sly and crafty, but our Lord will protect. He has plenty of grace for all our needs.

1 Thess. 5:22 states: "Abstain from all appearance of evil." What we've written above deals with false accusations of the devil and holding to our salvation. That is true; we have to withstand the devil and hold to our ground. But also, we must abstain from all evil. That is, leave no room for accusation unless it be false.

Webster defines abstain as "hold aloof, keep away from, refrain." Young people, God wants us to hold aloof from evil. Keep away from it. Jesus says "... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:23. He wants us pure in His sight, and to be pure we have to give up things of the world and follow Jesus.

There is sometimes confusion in our minds as to whether or not a certain pleasure or activity would be worldly. There is where we must be cautious, for the devil will trick us if he can. He has created many pleasures and placed them before us, some worse than others. The seemingly "harmless" ones are his means of trapping many young people. "Go to one ball game, watch just a few T. V. shows, listen to just this one 'rock and roll' song you like; what will it hurt?" he whispers. "Well, I don't see any harm..." No, indeed, the devil doesn't want you to see the harm. That is why we have to keep close to Jesus and keep our eyes on the goal or we'll lose out. We must not let the enemy trick us with his clever, evil, schemes. Let's not give down one bit on any line. "... Let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me" Surely we must deny ourselves and pray each day for guidance and grace to live a real Christ-like life. —A young saint.

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To Young Married Folks

One young married couple wants to know how they can get along well together. They do not tell much of their trouble, but they say enough to give us to understand that their troubles are sometimes real serious. A few times the young wife has gone home to her parents.

The first thing needed by the young husband and wife is Christ in their hearts. It is almost useless to go any further in our telling you how to get along well together until you get Jesus in your lives. Very few ever get along well together except they be saved. There will be angry feelings and moods, short, harsh speeches, hurt feelings, tears, etc., in the lives of most all young married folks who are not real Christians. So, the first thing to do is to get the grace of God in the heart. Will this make an end of all trials and troubles? Not very likely, at least not an end of all the trials. You can, however, soon get to a place, by God's help, where troubles have no place in your lives, and trials will be much fewer and weaker. There is something for you to do, both of you. You must

have a strong strength of the trial. You must set right resistance. Not a strong resistance against each other, but a strong resistance against the devil, the trial and your own feelings. Yes, we say, against your own feelings. Trials bring unpleasant feelings, and the unpleasant feelings are in proportion to the strength of the trial. You must sit right down on your feelings. Instead of giving place to them and acting like you feel, resist them and act contrary to your feelings. You may say you cannot do it. Yes you can, and you must. Your happiness in life and through eternity depends upon it. God will help you if you earnestly ask Him and try hard to help yourself.

Some folks are unwilling to resist their feelings. They weaken down and let their feelings express themselves in words and action. Shame! That is weakness. You cannot afford to give place to ugly, unpleasant feelings—feelings of irritation and impatience. Do not trifle with them; give them no place in your life for a moment. If allowed to linger they will rob the soul of that gentleness, kindness, tenderness, and sympathy which you should grow up into through the years. You must want to be a kind, gentle, tender, cheerful, happy, sunny saint when you get old. Now is the time to begin to lay the foundation for such a happy and beautiful old age. Nothing is more beautiful and helpful on earth than a happy, kind, patient, tender-hearted old saint. You will never see as much of heaven anywhere until you get to heaven. It takes years to form a real, deep saintly character. If you give place to your ruffled feelings and say and do something that you should not do or say, you are playing a losing game. If you resist your feelings and smile when you do not feel like it; if you will tell the one that has tried you that you love them greatly when you do not feel like you loved them at all, you are winning in the fight. It is not speaking falsely. Down in your heart of hearts you do love them, but the trial has ruffled the surface of your feelings until you do not feel like you loved them. Do not speak and act according to the prompting of your disturbed feelings, but think a moment, calm yourself and speak and act according to the desires of the deep of your heart. Oh, how this will help you to tenderness of soul, and sunniness of life! This resistance of the agitation on the surface and bringing up from the deep the calm and peace and letting them rule in your life will bring you happiness in your home, and through the years will ripen into a character that will make you such a brilliant reflection of heaven that will linger long after you are sleeping neath the sod. —C. E. Orr.

God's Way and Men's Ways

Some people resent the idea of being saved by the sacrifice of another; they prefer to expiate their own sins. The Bible says, "The soul that sinneth, IT shall die." (Ezek. 18:4).

Is salvation too simple? The Bible says, "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Rom. 10:9).

Some say they are not sinners. But the Bible says, "If we say that we have no sin [to be cleansed from], we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." (1 John 1:8).

Some say that sin does not matter. The Bible says, "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you that He will not hear." (Isaiah 59:2).

Some say they are all right as they are. The Bible says, "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3).

Some say that a good life will save a man. But the Bible says, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration [new birth] and renewing of the Holy Ghost." (Titus 3:5).

To some salvation is an intellectual problem. But the Bible says, "After that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." (1 Cor. 1:21).

Some believe that money can bring about their eternal salvation. The Bible says, "Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things such as silver and gold . . . but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." (1 Peter 1:18, 19).

Some ask—"How can what is written in a book save me?" The Book of God says, "This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life and this life is in His Son." (1 John 5:11).

Some teach that "there are many ways to God." The Bible record however is that Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me." (John 14:6).

Some ask—"How can one who was crucified 1900 years ago save me?" The Bible says, "He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." (Hebrews 7:25).

"I beg leave to propose a short, clear and strong argument to prove the divine inspiration of the Holy Scriptures.

"1. The Bible must be the invention of good men or angels, bad men or devils, or of God.

"2. It could not be the invention of good men or angels; for they neither would nor could make a book and tell lies all the time they were writing it, saying, 'Thus saith the Lord,' when it was their own invention.

"It could not be the invention of bad men or devils: for they would not make a book which commands all duty, forbids all sin, and condemns their souls for all eternity.

"Therefore I draw the conclusion—that the Bible must be given by divine inspiration." —John Wesley.

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 "Though beautiful may play the organ,
 And sweet may sing the choir,
 There's nothing makes heart melody
 But the Holy Ghost and fire."

"FAITH AND VICTORY"**16-Page Holiness Monthly**

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

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single copy, three months	\$.10
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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.

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FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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Phone No. BUTler 2-1479

EDITORIALS

Since sending out the March issue of the "Faith and Victory" paper we have received some encouraging letters from our readers who have been blessed in reading the articles on the Biblical Church of God. The pictures of the Church and the reading matter have opened the eyes of many to a far better understanding of what the true Biblical Church of God consists of and the manner of its operation in this world where there is so much Babel confusion. The early writers in the Reformation of 1880 on up to 1900 had a far better and clearer understanding of the Church than those who came later. If you will read the book entitled, "Cleansing of the Sanctuary" by Bro. D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggle you can see very clearly that they taught the truth of the Church in a deeper sense than others for it seemed as time went on many lost the deeper vision of the Church and drifted into sectarian ways and now are practically merged in the religions of the world and are more blind than those whom God had Bro. Warner to rain hailstones of truth upon, and thereby brought out a people who walked in the evening of time as in the morning Church.

It seems to be a great weakness in men to degenerate from the truth and arrange matters so certain ones can hold places of preeminence and thereby corrupt if possible the true spiritual body of the Lord Jesus Christ. They fail in this for the outcome is that they corrupt their own experience and drift back into darkness, taking along with them all who will hearken to their word and soft slimy compromising methods. If we, as the present-day ministers of God, do not keep firm against such slimy ways of Satan we will also fall back into dim light and drift on toward the worldly religions of today. Any man or company of men falling away from the true Biblical Church of God does not drag the Church down at all, for it still stands erect and firmly founded on the Rock, Christ Jesus, its head, whose head is God.

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The people in Africa are calling for the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and we are doing our utmost to supply them with Bible truth which, if believed, will bring salvation to their souls. Just recently we have sent twenty thousand tracts to South Africa printed in their own language besides many English tracts and booklets as well as hundreds of New Testaments. Something like a month ago we received 63 letters in one day from Africa and a few foreign countries asking for literature and Testaments. The Lord has made us able to supply these calls through the "Free Literature Fund." I do not mean to leave the impression that we get that many letters every day or every week, but some are coming in all the time and the 63 letters in one day was unusual. I do want to impress our readers with the fact that the call and need is great. While God is working with these people is the time for us to get the truth to them. The enemy is also busy in those countries, for the Communists are flooding the country with

their poisonous doctrine and are gaining some strongholds in those places.

I will quote from a tract in my possession which gives some truth concerning the work of the Communists. The title of this tract is: "Are Christians Sleeping While The Communists Plan To Take Over?" "It seems the time, money and even the life of Communists are controlled by their leaders. There is an imperative necessity for a new strategy which will send forth Christian literature (books, magazines, tracts, Bibles, and posters) NOW—before it is too late. We lost China, one missionary said, because we failed to give the gospel in literature, and the 30,000,000 adults who had learned to read in a recent ten-year period were given the poison of Communism instead of the Gospel of Christ. The Communists are flooding Africa today with their literature. It is capturing the imaginations and enlisting the sympathies of millions of Africans.

"Communism is also flooding other countries with millions of books and pamphlets filled with anti-Christian propaganda, and little is being done by the Church of Jesus Christ to stem the tide. One missionary said, 'It is a fact—most of the converts I know about in Japan came about through gospel literature.' A missionary leader in Latin America said, 'In recent months I have been astonished to find 90% of all converts in Latin America are either directly or indirectly the result of Literature Evangelism.'"

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Christians should be stirred to do something about the situation that confronts us today in getting the gospel to eternity bound souls. One U. S. Senator said: "We are apt to see Russian Communism extend her power to the whole world and our freedom eclipsed by a tyranny unspeakable." The Jehovah's Witnesses (falsely so-called) are growing exceedingly fast, and they are active and persistent in sending forth their anti-Christian doctrines by the printed page and thousands are being deceived and brain-washed in this deception.

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Moses was a type of Christ inasmuch he was the head of the literal children of Israel. They are referred to in the 3rd chapter of Hebrews and the 2nd verse as "Moses being faithful in all of his house," but the scripture goes on to say that Jesus was worthy of more glory than Moses, and that Moses was faithful in all of his house as a servant which testified of things which were to be spoken afterwards. The Word says, "But Christ as a son over his own house: whose house are we, [saved souls] if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."

The material that Jesus gathered to build his house or Church was God-fearing men and women that received Christ and fully accepted his gospel. The apostles whom He chose were foundation stones, with Christ himself as the chief corner stone. For three years and a half he was gathering souls together and building his spiritual house which Peter

speaks of in 1 Peter 2:5 as being and are built up a spiritual house, by whom spiritual sacrifices are offered up which are acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. On the day of Pentecost they were all together in one place and constituted his spiritual house or Church he had built. In sending upon them the gift of the Holy Ghost with the cleansing fire of the Spirit, the Church of God was set in order with the various gifts of the Spirit functioning in and through each member or "lively stone" in the building. When this was done, the Church was a complete unit, built and occupied. The Spirit of God began to add to it such as were being saved (Acts 2:47), and the number increased.

I see the Church of God today as a city set on a hill that cannot be hid, covered or destroyed. We could think of the Church today as likened to a man having fifteen sheep, which was his complete flock of sheep. In the spring there are ten lambs born, and then his complete flock of sheep would be twenty-five head. It could be likened to a city whose population is ten thousand souls. This city has all the officers it needs and is a complete city within itself. In ten years it grows to be a city of 100,000, and is still a complete city as it has all the officers it needs. Jesus built his Church, and on the day of Pentecost he occupied it by the Holy Ghost and set it in order, and there is no power on earth which can destroy it.

"Heli never can destroy the Church, built by the Savior's hands;

Upon the Rock, the solid Rock, Christ Jesus, still she stands.

Despite of persecution's flood, and gates of hell, forsooth;

She's still the Kingdom of the Lord, the Pillar of the truth."

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It is on record that in one week's time our children of America who have access to television saw 77 murders or 295 crimes of violence, including the murders, 78 shootings, 9 kidnappings, 9 robberies, 44 gunfights, 33 sluggings, and many other questionable things. To have children grow up with their minds poisoned with such wicked scenes is a shame and a disgrace to the American home. No wonder that the teen-age crimes are growing in leaps and bounds, and the parents of this generation will be held by our God as criminals in that great judgment day. By allowing a television to be in your home you are poisoning your own children and your neighbor's children and exposing them to the flames of future torment. In Phil. 4:8, we read, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." The things that you and your children get over the television cause you to think of every thing else but what the sacred Word tells you to think upon. What a shame for one professing Christ to have a television in his home and thereby feeding the souls of his children on the rot

and garbage of the world. I say again, shame on such professing Christians!

Bro. and Sister Ira D. Stover have taken over the pastoral work of the congregation here at Guthrie, in addition to the care of the congregation at Anthony, Kansas until the Lord provides a pastor for that place. They are well known among the saints, and have been in the ministerial work for many years and had much experience as a pastor. The Lord had burdened Bro. Stover for a long time for the saints here at Guthrie. He called the congregation together on the evening of March 19th for consultation concerning his burden as pastor. The members of the Church were practically unanimous in agreeing that God had directed them, and their services were accepted. I believe I can voice the sentiment of the congregation when I say—may God bless them richly in their work as pastors here at Guthrie.

Obituaries

Clay Jennings Manley, born Aug. 15, 1896 at Lead Hill, Ark., passed away Feb. 10, 1959 at his home, Vinita, Okla. He was united in marriage Oct. 14, 1920 to Lessie M. Pruett at Harrison, Ark. They moved to Vinita, Okla. in 1928 with two sons and one daughter. Another daughter was born to them in 1931.

Bro. Manley was born again in a revival meeting the saints conducted in March, 1954. He accepted the truth as God shined light on his pathway. Bro. David Madden baptized him. He never joined any church or put his name on any earthly record, but became a member of the church of God by a new birth and his name was written in the Lamb's book of life.

He leaves to mourn his loss his devoted wife; two sons: Eugene, Albany, Oregon, and Willard, Vinita, Okla.; two daughters: Mrs. Verma Cauthon, Wichita, Kans., and Mrs. Heldred Carpenter, Derby, Kans.; nine grandchildren; his mother, Mrs. Mirtia Manley, Harrison, Ark.; five sisters and three brothers, and many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services conducted by Sister Margaret Eck, assisted by Bro. David Madden.

Annie Wood was born Oct. 2, 1864 in Fall Leaf, Kans., and departed this life Thursday, Feb. 26, 1959 at Wichita, Kans. She was united in holy matrimony to Joseph Lee, Oct. 28, 1886. To this union five children were born, two sons and three daughters. Her husband and two sons preceded her in death.

She gave her heart to God at an early age. In 1915 she heard the gospel preached by the pioneer ministers of the church of God and embraced and loved the truth, and was faithful unto the end, trusting God for both soul and body. Her life was filled with deeds of charity and alms, praying and caring for the sick. She was a trustee in the congregation of the church of God in Hennessey, Okla. The Lord blessed her with a wonderful gift—the gift of miracles—and she used it to the glory and honor of God.

She leaves to mourn her passing three daughters: Mrs. Ethel K. Miles of Okeene, Okla., Mrs. Bessie L. Gordon and Mrs. Mary A. Williams both of Wichita; seven grandchildren; 19 great grandchildren, one great great grandchild, and a host of relatives and friends.

Sister Lee will be greatly missed by the saints and friends. Remarks by Sister Ada Davis and others. Sermon given by Ulysses Phillips. Interment in Parvin Cemetery, near Okeene, Okla. 2 Cor. 5:1-9; 1 Thess. 4:13-18.

CARD OF APPRECIATION

Mich.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—I thought I would write you a few lines. I have been sick. It was hard on me to lose my wife. She wrote her last testimony and I mailed it in the morning, then we did a big washing. Then we went to visit an elderly lady, came home about 4:30 and lay down on the davenport, and she just passed away without any struggle. Pray for me, I need it. I thank all the saints for their sympathy cards. "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." The Lord being my helper I mean to stand true. Mother did all of the writing so it is hard for me.

Your brother in the Lord, —Frank Brant.

A Special Offer

We have fifty 1959 Scripture Art Calendars in stock at present, and we are now offering, as a gift, one calendar for every three-year subscription to the Faith and Victory paper. Send in your three-year subscription along with \$1.00, and your calendar will be sent to you free and postpaid.

We are anxious to get this paper in every home and the Lord is depending on our readers to help us do this. Each of us should stir our own heart and make every effort to get the gospel to men and women by the printed page. This offer also includes your own subscription renewal. When sending in your subscription, be sure and mention the calendar.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Sister Grover desires the earnest prayers of the saints for the salvation of her daughter.

Bro. McMillan desires a Christian man, who is drawing Social Security, to live with him as he is unable to care for himself. The State will help some also. Anyone desiring to investigate this more may contact Bro. G. W. McMillan, 1023 N. Chicksaw, Okmulgee, Okla.

Betty Robbins of W. Va. desires prayer for her weak body. She has been very sick.

Notices

There will be NO 5th Sunday meeting at SAPULPA, OKLA., but will be one in May. —Bro. R. Madden, Pastor.

ALL-DAY EASTER SERVICES AT GUTHRIE

The all-day Easter services will be observed at Guthrie as usual—Sunday school and preaching services in the morning, basket dinner at the dining hall at noon, and the ordinances of feet-washing and the Lord's supper in the afternoon service. A hearty welcome is extended to all to be present in these services.

DECATUR, ILLINOIS ALL-DAY MEETING

An all-day meeting on the fourth Sunday, April 26th, will be at the Spitler Woods State Park pavilion, located about ten miles south east of Decatur, Ill. (North east of Mt. Zion, Ill, off Highway 121.) The building is en-

closed and has fireplace, if weather is chilly, and seats about 100 people. Bring your song books. For further information about this meeting or future meetings, write or telephone us at our new address: 1741 Kenwood Court, Decatur, Ill. —Bro. and Sister Herbert Probst.

ALL-DAY MEETING NOTICE AT DAYTON, OHIO

The saints at Dayton, Ohio will start having all-day meetings the second Sunday of each month, starting the second Sunday in April, the 12th. All lovers of the truth are invited to come and meet with us to worship God in Spirit and in truth. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Heb. 10:25.

Church of God chapel: 622 Tyron Ave., Dayton, Ohio. Pastor: William A. McCoy, 24 Belpre Place, Dayton 3, Ohio, Phone CL 3-5087.

ANNUAL SPRING MEETING AT BOLEY, OKLA.

Lord willing the annual spring revival meeting will be held in the saints' chapel at Boley, beginning April 17th through the 26th. Pray for the success of the meeting.

—Sister Ora Spears, Rt. 1, Box 109, or Bro. C. A. Wallace, Rt. 1, Boley Okla.

KALAMAZOO, MICH. MEETING REPORT

The Kalamazoo saints were praying for a revival and in answer to prayer God sent Bro. Vada McMillian and Bro. Ray Key to Michigan to hold the meeting. It started Jan. 21st, and lasted twelve nights. We feel much good was accomplished by this meeting. Several went to the altar for justification and several for sanctification. We appreciate the two brothers coming very much and may God richly bless them is our prayer.

—The saints in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

ARTICLES FOR SALE

Special Gift White Bible, approx. 3 x 5, No. 1WX.....	\$ 5.50
World Bible, approx. 5 x 7, gift boxed, No. 1121C.....	11.50
National Bible, approx. 6 x 9, large print, No. 451.....	7.00
National New Testament with Psalms, large print, approx. 5 x 8, No. 70	3.25
Larger Print New Testament with Psalms, stiff cover, No. 94	2.50
New Testament with Psalms, zipper, approx. 2 x 4, No. 64PZ	3.00
New Testament with Psalms, red letter, size as above, No. 64PRL	2.25
Cruden's Complete Concordance, 200,000 references	3.50
Egermeier's Bible Story Book, 640 pages	3.95
Egermeier's Bible Picture ABC Book, clothbound, 30 colored pictures, 64 pages	1.95
Smith's Bible Dictionary, 818 pages	3.50
Fox's Book of Martyrs	3.00
The Pilgrim's Progress	2.50
Birthday, Get-well, All Occasion, and Sympathy Cards, each box	1.00
The Corrupt Tree, by Mrs. Anna Marie Miles. A 40-page book, paper bound which is just off the press. Price is 25 cents, postpaid to you.	

Faith and Victory papers for 1958 are now bound in book form. Price is 60 cents, post paid.

Both books of 1958 and 1957 will be post paid for \$1.00.

CAMPMEETING DATES FOR 1959

(Particulars for each meeting will appear in later issues)

Hennessey, Oklahoma	May 29 — June 7
Jefferson, Oregon	June 19 — June 28
Hoffman, Oklahoma	June 26 — July 5
Hammond, Louisiana	June 26 — July 5
Monark Springs (Neosho), Missouri (National Campmeeting)	July 24 — Aug. 2
Guthrie, Oklahoma	Aug. 7 — Aug. 16
Myrtle, Missouri	Aug. 21 — Aug. 30
Dover, Oklahoma	Sept. 4 — Sept. 13

(Other campmeeting dates were not rec'd by press time.)

EXCERPTS FROM THE MAIL

Ohio—"At one of our meetings one of the ladies brought the January number and read one of the articles and also the poem. She said, 'I don't know where this little paper came from. C— did you send it to me?' 'I think I did send in your name for a six weeks.' She said she found so much truth in it after the first copies had been over-looked, thinking it wasn't anything for her, until she saw a familiar name and was very glad for the messages it contained."

—C. S.

Mich—"I want to write a little here about your paper, and again it is a very big paper for its size. We just wait from one month to the next to get the paper. We enjoy reading it so much. You will never know how much good it is doing for me. I love God and His cause."

—B. H.

Mo—"Sister W— sent me a year's subscription in 1943 and I still want to take it. It comes next to my Bible with me. I love the testimonies and everything in the little paper."

—N. H.

Testimonies

Ind.—Dear Brethren,—Please pray for my wife who is afflicted with what three doctors pronounce as cancer of the throat.

I received my first issue of your paper in January and already I feel that fellowship of the Spirit which exists only between true saints of God and it encourages me to know that there are yet a few who are preaching and practicing the old-time truths as taught by the pioneers of the Reformation. May God bless you in this great work.

Your Brother in Christ,

—Earl L. Bowden.

Tenn.—Dear ones,—Greetings to you all in the dear name of Jesus. I am thankful I can report victory in my soul this a.m. Jesus has been very dear to me during this affliction. Many times He has come to my rescue and how I do thank Him and all the saints for their prayers, cards, and letters of encouragement! Truly they are the salt of the earth. Bless their dear hearts.

I have a request for a very sick woman with a large family. She has had part of her stomach removed and replaced with plastic. She believes in the church of God. She wants to be healed so she can care for her children. If any saints there close can visit her, this is her address: Mrs. James Stafford, 18 Butler Street, Muskegon, Mich.

Remember us here that we will prove faithful and more will be saved. My desire is to be faithful unto the end. May the good Lord bless you there and the work.

Love,

—Mrs. D. L. Derrick.

S.C.—Dear ones,—The dear Lord has reminded me of my promise that I would testify for Him wherever I have opportunity. I had in mind to wait until I got well. But the Lord says now is the accepted time. I tell it to those around me but I must tell it as far as I can get it to go by any means.

On the third night of last July I fell and broke my right thighbone. I began thinking of someone to pray. I did not know of any saints near. I began making an alarm. The neighbors were with me in a few minutes. While waiting for the neighbors I was praying. It seemed like His face was right over me. When the neighbors got in where I was they asked me what they could do for me. I told them they might as well take me to the hospital. I was there in ten minutes. Because I had no saints to comfort me it seemed like the Lord was around me in every move that was made for me. When the time came for my bones to be set I prayed about all night and reminded the Lord about my weak heart. That dear face, seemingly, was right near me, and His voice said distinctively, "I'll be with you." The tears of praise flow as I think of that great and mighty God who is ever looking over His little ones who believe in Him, and how merciful He is to the poor and needy. He reaches His dear hand to those who need Him most. What a mighty God to serve and depend on! I hope it won't take too much space for me to tell just a little of how the devil tried me.

After my bones were set I was in a wheel chair on the second day and was feeling well. The doctor said I could be walking in six or eight weeks, and I felt like it, but that was too nice for the devil. He sent one of his agents to visit me with such impudent deeds and talk. My dear Lord seemed to speak so very clear and said, "You better fast and pray against the devil and his works." I certainly found this true. One, two, three diseases set in on me at a time. It seemed like the Lord completely made His departure. I could not get a prayer through to God at all. But I fasted and I prayed the best I could, and said, "Lord, I know I have not turned away from you, so please answer when you will." Then the devil said, "You've sinned against the Holy Ghost, and you need not try to pray for healing because you have no access to God." I listened to the lies of the devil and the many other surrounding discouragements. I had not one soul to confide my case to. So I just lay, and would say, "Please, Lord, have mercy on me." So I sent to the saints and openly and frankly explained the matter. They helped me rebuke the devil and his agents and their power and sent me an anointed handkerchief. When I received it I read my Bible and prayed. I had no special chapter in view, but opened my Bible and my eyes fell on the 11th verse of the 19th chapter of Acts, and then I read the 12th verse. So I took courage and it seemed like a great gulf or mountain had moved. I began to feel better and I felt able to pray. Then there came one of those kind who are, inwardly, wolves in sheep's clothing, and it took a period of fasting and praying and others' help to get that off. But the first test had made me more able to meet the other with more faith.

So I am thankful to the Lord for great victory over the devil and all his work. I have improved in health and can eat anything I want. I can walk across the house and I do believe the Lord will finish healing me. I don't take any remedies. My whole trust is in the Lord.

My right knee is partly stiff. I can bend it partly but not normally. I want everyone to pray earnestly for it that the Lord will heal the stiffness and also touch my thigh and hip so that I will be able to walk and do my own work. I also have a spiritual problem. I want every

saint to pray for the Lord to solve this completely and all financial needs to His glory. —Mary Jones.

—O—

Okla.—Dear saints everywhere,—I feel like writing my testimony for the paper to let all know what the Lord has done for me. I have been sick for the last two years with a bad heart, high blood pressure, and dropsy. I have not taken any medicine but have trusted the Lord all the way. He says without faith it is impossible to please God. I see without God I would be a failure. The Lord has brought me a long way. I have been in the way too long to give up or turn to man for help. Let us not give up but stay true to God. If it were left up to man I would have given up. But I am thankful I had my trust in God.

Yours in Christ,

—Sister Spears.

La.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and workers and saints everywhere,—It has been some time since I have written my testimony for the paper. I want everyone to know that I am encouraged in the Lord. I see nothing else but to "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." And press we must for there are many opposing spirits that would cause us to lose sight of the true way.

We were strengthened and encouraged and received much help in the fall revival meeting held here at Hammond. The Lord used Bro. Ostis Wilson, also Bro. Richard Madden who was with us in the latter part of the meeting. We all enjoyed their presence very much.

The work here at Hammond, La. has been without a pastor since Sister Key's resignation. One minister had felt a burden for the work here but has written me that the Lord had checked him, so he will not be coming as pastor. We believe that God is working to preserve the work at this place. God has laid upon us the burden of the work and we are now filling the office of pastor, at least until the Lord works out something else. I covet the prayers of the saints that I may have the wisdom which cometh from above and that we may have the gentleness of Christ in dealing with precious souls.

Christian love to all,

—Max F. Williamson.

Colo.—Dear Sir,—I am in the good fight of faith. I am enjoying the presence of the Almighty God every day. Jesus' blood has cleansed me from every sin.

I want to express my gratitude and thanks to you for sending me your tracts. I was very thankful to receive them. I have distributed all of them by the grace of God. I thank God for good people like you and I know it pleases the Lord to see the good work you are doing.

May God richly bless you.

Your friend in Christ.

—Glenn Shepherd.

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La.—Dear saints, Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I feel led to send in my testimony, and hope it will be an encouragement to some one. As many of you saints know, I've been afflicted for five or six years with a stomach trouble. Not many days would go by in all that time that I didn't have to vomit, and only the Lord knows the pain I suffered. I had made up my mind to trust Him, and to die trusting Him if He saw fit. For a while it looked as though He was going to take me, because I would go for days not keeping food on my stomach. When I first got sick, I weighed about 140 pounds, and went down to 97 pounds. Some of my friends told me that I was going to die unless I had my gall bladder re-

moved, because it would poison my liver and kill me. But I found it safe and well worthwhile to trust in the Lord, because He made these bodies, and surely knew how to take care of them.

While we were at the Guthrie Assembly Meeting this past December, I was prayed for several times and seemed to receive no help. But on the last Friday of the meeting the saints had special prayer for me, and I was healed. I surely never want to neglect to thank God for what He has done for me. I was rather hesitant to even request prayer that morning, because I had put in my request so many times, but I felt definitely impressed to request prayer again. Bro. Carver happened to be taking requests that day, and he told the congregation something of my sickness. They all seemed to get under a burden for me, and anointed and prayed for me then.

After service I was talking with Sister Fern Stubblefield, and she told me how the Lord had healed her of a bad stomach and how she just took it by faith. When the symptoms would come back, she would hold on to her healing. I decided that I, too, would do that, and not give up what I believed the Lord had given me. Praise His name, I'm still holding on! Later, some more sisters came to me and said that the Lord had witnessed to them that I was healed.

Saints, it was surely an encouragement to me. The concern of the children of God for one another is touching to watch, and so precious to be the recipient of. I truly appreciate all the prayers, kind words, and love that have been given to me by the saints. We need to be careful to always do and say encouraging things to those who are afflicted or in trouble, because it can help so much to know there's someone who cares.

I thank the Lord for all the many wonderful things He has done for me, and want to stay true to Him the rest of my life.

A sister in Christ,

—Mrs. Viva La Croix.

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Tenn.—Dear friends in Christ,—With pleasure I greet you dear ones in the precious name of Jesus this another day the Lord has made and also blessed me to see and enjoy. I am enjoying the good health and strength He has given to me. I feel very unworthy of the great love my dear heavenly Father bestows upon me every second of my life. May the Holy Spirit be the leader in this testimony that it will be to His glory and an encouragement to all who read it.

I just want to spread the love the dear Lord has proven to me in my affliction, since my leg has been broken. Some already know how He has blessed me in the past four months and the miracle that He has performed. I am walking on my leg. It has been said that I would always be a cripple, because the bone lacked about an inch coming together (as shown in X-ray) which would make that leg shorter than the other. But man sees only with his natural eye when God is left out of his life. They didn't know what a mighty God I serve. He is One who has all power in heaven and earth and is still in the healing business and still performing miracles. Oh, that more precious souls will come to know the power of my Saviour! I put out a washing today.

I love the dear Lord and His truth and desire to live where there will be no iniquity in my life that would separate me from God to where my prayers would not go through to Him. We need to live every second where we can pray a prayer of faith. At any time we might be called to pray at once for our self or some one else.

I have a burden for parents who are letting worldly things creep into their lives and homes, sapping out the

Spirit of Christ. Parents who have T. V. in their homes should move them out quickly and start a family altar. If only those who claim to love the Lord would spend as much time on their knees talking to God as they do being entertained by the T. V. there would be many souls born into the kingdom. Prov. 24 verses 33 and 34 say, "Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man." Oh, dear ones, let that not be the case of us. But we should carry the burden and have the strength to bring forth souls into the kingdom.

I thank each one who so earnestly prayed for me. It helped me to press on and I still desire prayer that the Lord will help me to be true unto the end and win souls for him.

—Sister Edith Gregg.

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Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and others,—I feel impressed to write to you this afternoon. I truly thank the dear Lord for salvation and His dealings with me. I thank Him for his great love and tender mercy extended to me through the past and for the blessings of the present also. Praise His dear name!

About ten years ago a condition came upon me which is hard to describe, but I will try to, briefly. It was similar in some ways to a heart condition yet different. Without any preceding symptoms or any warning of any kind I would instantly, completely stop breathing. There would be no choking, no smothering, no pain, nothing unusual except no breath. The source of supply seemed to be instantly and completely cut off or taken away. I didn't seem to exactly gasp for breath, but there was just one long severe struggle for the next breath and sometimes it was so long it seemed I would surely pass out before I started breathing again. I firmly believed if I had ever failed to recover my breath with that one great effort that it would have been the end of my life, for I couldn't have made another effort.

During the first few years of the trouble, there was about an average of one attack each month. There was never any sickness, dizziness, or any after effect of any kind. As time went on the attacks became more frequent. For about the last year there was an average of about one each week and they would occur mostly after going to bed at night, quite often when asleep. I would awaken struggling for breath.

After much prayer and meditation I became convinced it was no affliction or natural physical defect or natural condition but a definite imposition of the devil. He was trying to destroy life from my body but the dear Lord would not permit him to, praise the Lord. I was anointed and prayed for by the saints about the first of January and I felt assured in my soul that the Lord had undertaken in my behalf, and that the devil was defeated in his purpose.

Just two days afterward I took a bad cold which settled in my throat causing a tightness that was pretty bad. When going to bed that night the thought came to me that I was likely to choke to death during the night, which I am sure came from the devil. He was trying to scare me into doubting my healing. I resisted him in the name and power of God. I slept through the night and the next morning my throat was well. Praise the Lord! About a week after I was anointed and prayed for I had a light attack of the old trouble. Then about a week later I had another attack lighter than the one before, and about a week later one so slight it was hardly noticeable. That was the last. That was about six weeks ago and I don't expect to ever be bothered with that trouble again. Praise the dear Lord!

I have other problems, burdens, and needs which I have before the Lord and I expect Him to work them all out in His own time and way. When you go to the Lord in prayer, please remember me. —H. F. Severs.



III.—Dear ones in Christ,—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. We are encouraged and happy in the Lord, and so thankful to be serving such a mighty God. Jesus means more to us every day we live. He is the redeemer of our souls and healer of our bodies. Praise His precious holy name. If the world could really know the great love and wonderful power which He so freely manifests to all who will be obedient and fully trust in Him, oh, how the precious blessings would abound to every soul! " 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to take Him at His word." We are happy to say that His blessings do abound on every hand, and that we have been receiving some of these blessings both in soul and body, for which we give all honor and praise to the dear name of Jesus.

We want to tell for the glory of God, some of His dealings with us and how the Lord has been so faithful to us. We have never expected Him to fail in any way, but we are very thankful for His mercy, and for how He has led us in the truth, giving us faith to trust Him in spite of all the enemy could do to hinder. Through the years many times God has healed us and our children and loved ones. He has led us through the dark places and into the light. We are so thankful for the love He has given us for Truth.

It would take too long to tell even the special times when God has come to our rescue in a marvelous way, and manifested His power to heal in our family, but during the past year it seems that the Lord has allowed our faith to be tried even more than before, and we feel it has been a precious privilege to trust Him, and to add some more experiences to our testimony.

Last April, 1958, our daughter, Janice, (then 12 years old) had an attack of Rheumatic fever. She had temperature around 101, and suffered much pain in her hip joint at the beginning. After earnestly bringing her case to the Lord, and requesting agreement of some of the saints of God, she was free from any more fever and the pain ceased. A week later when she had another attack of pain in the other hip joint, her temperature was completely normal. After the second attack we had a doctor's examination, who diagnosed it as Rheumatic fever, and prescribed large amounts of medication. But our trust was in God, and we are happy to say that the dear Lord delivered her, without one bit of medication in any form, and that Janice made a quick and complete recovery, which was verified by a physician last August, as she had a physical check-up before school started. Last year she had much trouble with her tonsils, but since before the Rheumatic fever, she has not had one case of sore throat. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

We are writing this on the evening of the second day of March, 1959. Four weeks ago tonight, on February 2nd, our son, Kenneth, took his bed after having had symptoms of appendicitis for three or four days. He told us then that he had it settled in his heart to trust God all the way, no matter what happened, live or die. His suffering became very intense, though the Lord did give some relief at times. Early the next morning (Tuesday) we called to Guthrie, to be remembered that day in prayer and fasting, and that evening we called some other saints and sent a number of requests by mail. How it did strengthen our faith to know that many of the saints were praying with us. The Lord gave a definite witness of victory, which different ones expressed at this time.

On Wednesday evening Kenneth told me that he felt his appendix had burst, and described what had happened in such a way that convinced us there was little doubt but that it had burst. He said then that he was still not afraid to trust God, because he knew that He would take care of him, and that if the Lord did see fit to take him on, he was prepared and ready to go. We were so thankful that we knew the Lord had been dealing with him and preparing him for this experience. It was wonderful how God did give him grace to bear the pain. There was sweet assurance from the Lord that He would be with us and take us through the deep waters.

Around one o'clock Thursday morning (about six hours after he felt his appendix burst) he began to suffer so intensely that it seemed more than he could bear, and he told us then that he was closer to death than he had ever been before, and we knew it was true. We decided to call some of the saints again for a special agreement, and found our telephone out of order. It was precious how the Lord was so near to comfort and sustain, even while husband had to leave to get to a telephone.

Soon after husband returned from making the calls, we realized that death was very near. All we could do was to continue to search our hearts, commit all to the Lord and plead for mercy. How it pays to have a clear channel at a time like this! Suddenly the room was filled with the sweet presence of the Lord, so real and so precious. A soft glow of light was in the room as full assurance of His presence. As the presence of the death angel entered the room, there was no fear, and while Kenneth's pulse slackened until I could no longer feel it, his face became pale, and a rattling came in his throat, the Holy Spirit took over in a miraculous way, to rebuke death, as we called mightily upon the Lord, in the Spirit. Oh, how the precious Holy Spirit came to our rescue in that hour! The Spirit gave us full recognition of the presence of the death angel, as actually touching Kenneth's body; but as death was rebuked at that instant, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the hand of death was stayed, and the presence of death was gone from the room. Kenneth's pulse became strong and color came to his face as he began to weep and rejoice. He asked for us to sing the song, "Jesus has been so good to me," and helped to sing it all the way through. The praise and thanksgiving which we felt in our hearts at this time cannot be expressed in words. The sweet memory of this experience we trust shall never become dim to us, and by God's help we mean to be true to the blessed Holy Spirit.

Our faith was tested still further. During the next two or three hours the same experience occurred, except that the second time death was rebuked before touching Kenneth's body, the third time before entering the room, and the last time death was rebuked before coming 'near our dwelling.' What a mighty God we serve! From this time there was complete victory over death. There were many battles and much suffering yet to come, but God gave more grace and many times of rejoicing because of precious victories.

Kenneth's nerves, and no doubt the poison that was released in his body, caused him much suffering for two or three days, but the Lord came to his rescue many times, and by Saturday he was well on the road to complete recovery, and had a good testimony for all who came. His strength returned rapidly and on February 16th he was able to go to work. Now just four weeks from the time he was stricken, you would not know that he had ever been sick,—except to see how the Lord has blessed his soul in drawing him closer to Him, through this experience.

We do sincerely appreciate all the prayers of the saints of God everywhere. Also we appreciate so thankfully, those who made much sacrifice to come to us in our time of need. What a blessing each one was to us. It seemed the Lord knew just whom to send, at the right time for His purpose to be fulfilled. To God be all the glory and praise forever! Following is Kenneth's personal testimony. He is twenty years old.

In Christian love to all, —Herbert and Eva Probst.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ill.—Dear saints of God everywhere:—I would like to express to you the appreciation I feel in my heart to all those who remembered me before the Lord during my recent affliction. Surely my faith is increased and my determination strengthened to spend my life in my Master's vineyard, that I may reap the reward of eternal life.

The Lord had been dealing with my heart for some time before the affliction, and had prepared me to be able to suffer for His glory. How sweet it was to know all was well, at a time when I could not pray or comprehend many things.

The symptoms seemed to indicate appendicitis, and I truly feel that my appendix burst as I was sitting in a chair, listening to the Word of God, Wednesday evening, February 4th. I felt a sharp twang of pain in my lower right side and it seemed that hot poison was spread through my body. After prayer I arose to go back to bed and passed out momentarily. During that night I came to the borders of eternity. How blessed to be ready, for I could never have sought God in that condition.

I am now well in soul and body, and God receives all the glory, for no human help was sought. I am now living on the time that God has given me to work for Him. Pray earnestly that I may never fail of the grace of God. I feel the Spirit leading me into God's work. My desire is to remain humble and faithful to the calling which He is laying on my heart, and to ever walk in the light as it shines on my pathway.

Your brother in Christ,

—Kenneth Probst.

Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the dear saints at Guthrie:—Praise God for His dear children. It made me feel very humble and thankful when I got your letter with the anointed handkerchief. God's people are the dearest people on this earth!

Bro. and Sister Trotter and Sister Polk came out on Monday night, the same day my sister called you, and anointed me and prayed for me. I had a very good night's rest and was up all the next day. Then on Wednesday I had something like the flu, so had been sort of poorly on account of that. But God has heard prayer for me and I am taking my complete healing by faith. The song, "If you trust and never doubt, He will surely bring you out," has been on my mind and brought encouragement to me. God wants me to learn to take Him at His word and believe He will do what He says He will, even before the work is done. Pray for me that I can be all God wants me to be.

God has very graciously healed me of many ailments this summer (just past); among them a severe stomach disorder. I do so thank and Praise Him for the way He has so bountifully dealt with me. Twice there was flu in the home and God kept me from taking it. And if this was flu I just had, God has been very gracious and I was not severely ill like at other times when I have had it.

I thank all the dear saints for their prayers. God witnessed to my soul with these words, "I will not leave you comfortless, I will come unto you."

Much love,

—Gertrude Bunting.

Mo.—Greetings to all the saints in the name of our Lord Christ Jesus. Trust this finds all of you encouraged in Him, strong, in both body and soul.

I am most happy to report that Sister Margaret Dundas in Northern Ireland has her tape recorder. May I first of all thank each and everyone of you who sent in a love offering to help with the purchasing of it. She is very happy with it. Any of you who wish to send her any tapes of encouragement or sermons feel free to do so. The recorder has three speeds and will take 7 inch reels. Her address: 1 Harmony Place, White Abbey, County Antrim, Northern Ireland.

May the blessings of the Most High God rest upon each and everyone of you. I surely desire an interest in your prayers that the will of God be done in and by me.

Yours in Christ,

—Vesta Nadine Severs.

Mo.—Dear saints,—Greetings to one and all. May God richly bless you and comfort your hearts. We need much courage in these troublesome days we are living in.

I want to express my appreciation for the prayers of God's people offered in my behalf, and can say God has been very good to me. Last winter I was sick so much but have had better health this winter, for which I am so grateful. Praise His name! Also, God undertook for me when I was so near a nervous collapse last summer and fall, and helped me out. God also answered prayer in my mother's behalf.

I am now located out in the country from Neosho. My address is Route 4, Box 418, Neosho, Mo. I am close to Bro. and Sister Amos Porter's home. They are to soon have a telephone (Granby exchange) and will know how to get in touch with me.

I expect to be busy in the Master's service. Please pray for me.

Christian love,

—Ruth Murphey.

Minn.—Dear ones in Christ Jesus:—I am thankful for the Faith and Victory publication! God has definitely led me on and on since I surrendered my life to Him, and I find each step has been closer to him. The way becomes narrower as I walk down the line toward the goal. I am certainly a "come outer" for I see where organized bodies are led of man and not of God. Thank you so much for your wonderful messages in your little magazine. What a blessing it is to us who are "stranded" off by ourselves with no other source of fellowship except through reading its pages. I pray that some day, if God is willing, I may have the opportunity to live some where that I may be close to others in the real church of God, for surely there is strength in their fellowship.

I have many prayer requests and wonder if you will remember me when you pray? I need prayer for varicose veins and other things. There is nothing too serious, as God graciously gives me strength daily for my needs—yet I feel the need of your prayers. I have some definite unspoken requests which are very important.

I praise and thank God for all His loving mercies and have a desire to walk closer and be in the exact place He would have me to be, for nothing less than perfection is my goal and only as I die can this be accomplished in my life. God's blessings on you all.

Your sister in Christ,

—Mrs. Mildred V. Haas.

Ark.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—I want to testify again. Dear saints in Jesus' precious name, I am saved, satisfied, and sanctified. Thank God for his life's blessings to both soul and body. He is my all in all. Without Him I would be very lonely. He keeps me safe in His arms of mercy and love and in safe keeping, bless His holy name.

I just pray and keep praying. God will answer when He sees we are in earnest. It is so wonderful to have the peace, joy, and happiness of serving a true and never failing God. Keep praying for me, dear saints.

Yours in Christ, —Sister Richards.

o-o-o-o-o

Ohio—Bro. Pruitt,—Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus. I feel like it will be pleasing to the Lord for me to write and thank every one that prayed for me when I sent in my request for prayer. The Lord wonderfully healed my arm. Any one would have had to see it to believe it was as bad as it was. Different ones saw it and thought it was awful.

I do thank the Lord for the many blessings and for the victory in my soul over all the powers of darkness. My heart's desire is to be more like Jesus, and be faithful in what He gives me to do, and speak the truth in my heart. God is no respecter of persons. If we commit our ways to the Lord and let Him have His way in our lives He will work all things out for our good and to His glory. Jesus tells us, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." I love to search the scriptures and see if I am living to please the Lord. The Spirit that is in me agrees with the Word of God. I am trying to please the Lord and not man. If we love God we will keep His commandments and take His Word for our guide.

—Sister Lucy Lizar.

o-o-o-o-o

Mich.—Dear folks at the Faith and Victory office,—
"Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!"

I would like to have you put this in your precious paper. I love the Lord with all my heart and am searching out His will in my life. I came to Florida on December 8th, and the devil tried twice to take my life. One Sunday evening I began to feel uneasy in meeting. As soon as it was over I went to the car and waited for my son. He was not in any haste, so I asked the little boy to tell him I was sick. He still did not come and then the older boy went to tell him. I had been praying, but it just kept getting worse. My son took me home with him and had me lie down. I kept looking to the Lord, as it was an awful pain. I thought I might die, as I couldn't figure what it was. After a while I was better. I praised the Lord. After a while it came back again, but after some more prayer I felt all right. I had to pray alone, as I was in St. Petersburg and didn't know anyone to call. But I called on my God and He answered. Praise His wonderful name!

On our way to Florida I was riding with my son, his wife and two sons. The roads were slippery. Son drove the truck, and his wife was driving the car. She is a very good driver, too. We were between Wabash and Warsaw, Indiana, when suddenly a large semi-truck and trailer loomed before us. The car seemed out of control. It frightened Mary so that she slammed on the brakes. That is supposed to be the worst thing to do, but she felt it was the only way to save our lives. The car went for the ditch. It rocked back and forth, and it seemed we would tip over. But I had perfect confidence in my God. I cried to Him to not let us tip over. God undertook and allowed Mary to jerk the car back on the road with two wheels and the other two in the ditch. I felt like shouting, "What a mighty God we serve." I made no secret of the fact that God had spared our lives. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Do pray for me that I may do whatever the dear Lord wants of me. I want to be true and steadfast. I

was saved when a young girl, but had lots of wrong teaching.

—Nellie L. Hofstra.

o-o-o-o-o

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie,—Greetings in the Lord. I am still giving out some tracts I got at the camp ground. I also visit the sick. The lady I visit who is in a wheel chair (told about in the Jan. testimony) now prays every day and it looks like she will soon walk after many years of not being able to. I would like your prayers that God will help me to be able to do and go where He leads me. I got a letter from a lady asking prayer, as she is sick with anemia. I have been talking to her of the Lord.

I was talking to a lady who went to meeting with me one Sunday. She told me her brother was sick from an operation of some kind. That night I dreamed someone at this lady's house needed help and that the time was getting short for that party. I will send some "Faith and Victory" papers to that house, and some "Beautiful Ways" too. The time is short and the devil is working, but the Lord is working too, praise His name!

In the 93rd Psalm it says, "The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves. The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea." Times when the devil came as a roaring lion, God was right there and stopped him. God lets him go so far, then stops him. I've found it so as I trust God all the way. We serve a wonderful God who cares for us. We are His children and He loves us.

A lady tried to get me to take something for trouble in my knee, but I told her God would take care of it. It is now about four hours later. My knee is almost well. I know it will be well by morning, as God has cured me of sicknesses that doctors can't cure like: diabetes, cancer, and lung trouble. He is my doctor. Nothing is too hard for Him, when His children trust Him. Praise God, how I love this way and all His saints. Pray for me.

—Bertha Lindberg.

o-o-o-o-o

Okla.—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I want to give my testimony. We are serving a mighty and prayer-answering God. Praise His sweet name! A few nights ago I was sitting in meeting when all at once I got real sick. My husband said I looked over at him and said, "I am sick." He then asked me if I wanted prayer and I said, "Yes." So they prayed and the Lord healed me at once. Then I got real numb and they prayed again and the Lord touched my body again. Oh, what a mighty God to serve and put our trust in. I thought I was saying "good-bye" to everyone: I felt like I was just flying. Oh, praise His sweet name!

—Mrs. Oliver Lovelace.

o-o-o-o-o

Ill.—Dear saints,—We want to take this means of thanking each one of you who so earnestly prayed with us for Nancy when she was so sick. May God richly bless all of you. Surely we thank and praise our God for His mercy to us in healing her. It has made us draw nearer to him. Thank the dear Lord for the grace He gives us to go through these trials with complete victory! It almost seems as though this is trying one to the limit—when it looks like one of one's beloved children might die. But still we can completely trust our God for everything. Our God is very near and full of tender mercy. Praise His holy name forever! —Arthur and Vivian McClain.

o-o-o-o-o

Ill.—Dear saints everywhere,—Greetings of love in Jesus' precious name. Surely it is a mighty God we are serving! He has shown Himself greatly through my

recent illness. On February 13th I took severe chills during the early morning hours. I became very dizzy and my head hurt very much. I didn't feel that this condition was serious so I attended classes. During the day this condition became worse and I began to wonder if I could make it through the rest of my classes. The Lord helped me through.

The weather was very damp and this didn't help the situation any. By three o'clock that afternoon I felt so bad that I could hardly keep a standing position. I hadn't felt like eating anything all day and after Mother had driven me home I still couldn't force myself to eat. My throat didn't bother me too much until Sunday or Monday. It became so very sore that I could not force myself to swallow. In order for me to eat we would have to pray for the Lord to help me get some food down. Each time the Lord wonderfully took the pain away and I was able to swallow liquid.

I had fever for approximately three days. At times my ears hurt very much. The Lord wonderfully took all the fever and ear aches away after prayer. My nerves became very bad and I could stand very little noise. February 19th, during the night, I had great difficulty. I was very tired and when I would go to sleep the muscles in my throat completely relaxed. When this happened I would lose my breath and had to be shaken in order to wake me enough to catch it. This happened every night until the Lord healed my throat. By the 22nd, my tonsils had swollen completely shut. The Lord had taken most of the hurting away but when I tried to swallow it almost choked me.

The 23rd of February the Lord gave us the victory and my tonsils broke and ran. The swelling went down and they returned to normal size. I could eat chunks of pineapple immediately afterward. From then on I was able to eat what I wanted. What a wonderful God we are serving! I cannot thank Him enough for healing me and helping me everyday!

The Lord helped me to live a saved life at college. He worked it out so I could wear a skirt and blouse for Physical Education instead of short sleeves and shorts. I also didn't have to wear anklets which were required. The Lord also worked it out for me to be at home when I was ill instead of having to stay in the university's infirmary. Shots are required to enter the university but the Lord stepped in and I didn't have to take them.

Young people, take courage, you can stay saved and live for the Lord anywhere, if you have the desire in your heart and do what the Lord tells you to do. You will have battles but there is victory for you. God will not let you down.

It is precious to me what the Lord has taken me through this year. The symptoms lead us to believe that I had severe tonsillitis and quinsy but the Lord has wonderfully healed me.

I want to thank the saints everywhere for their prayers and the cards and letters I have received. I appreciate each one. I also want to thank the saints who were so wonderful to come to our home. I truly appreciate it.

Christian love, —Nancy McClain.

Tenn.—Dear saints and sinner friends,—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. This evening I am encouraged and on my way to obtain the crown that awaits all the overcomers in Christ Jesus. Heaven will be worth all the trials and tests of this life. They will seem as nothing when we enter into the glories of the blessed. I surely want to be one among the overcomers on that great Judgment Day.

I want to say to all the unsaved, that the Lord is satisfying and there is no more thirsting for worldly pleasure once you enter into life (Christ Jesus). God's people love you, and also the dear Saviour and the angels in heaven. So don't let the devil cause you to think no one cares for your soul. The dear saints are begging the Lord for mercy unto you while you are out enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season which will not last. Be wise, give your life to Jesus. It is the wisest choice.

I do thank the dear Saviour today for being so patient and long suffering to mankind. It is not His will for any one to perish. No more Egypt for me. He's everything any one could wish for: saves from sin, keeps from sin, and a great healer of all disease. He has promised to supply all our needs. There is nothing too great or too small for Him.

For the glory of God I want to tell a few things that He has done for me. My little girl was crying with the earache and the dear Lord healed her after prayer was offered three times. Sometimes we have to pray more than once. One night she vomited several times through the night and didn't want anything to eat the next day. That evening she told me the reason she wasn't eating was she was fasting and praying. She is four years old. She always asks me to anoint and pray for her when she gets sick. I do so desire the saints to pray that the Lord will give me more wisdom and an understanding heart to teach my child which God has entrusted me with. I do so desire to please Him in my life.

He has been so good to me. We had a hen which was sick and wouldn't eat. I tried to make her eat by putting food in her mouth, but she wouldn't, so I remembered in God's Word where not even a sparrow fell to the ground unless our heavenly Father took notice. I prayed and also felt like she would get all right. Later I took her some food and she ate a few bites and got better. Today she is as well as ever, thank the dear Lord.

He is not only a healer but also helps His people to find things. My boy borrowed a gun and didn't remember what had become of it. The owner was wanting it back. I went to God in prayer about it and he brought to my mind to look in the car under the back seat. I did so and there it was. What a mighty God we serve. This fall I had my canned vegetables in our smoke house and I wanted to bring them in the house before the weather got to freezing, but I misplaced the key. I asked the Lord to help me find it and after this I found it in a drawer with some clothes. Before I found it though, I took a hammer and hit the lock and it came open so well that it didn't break. There isn't a problem but what the Lord can't solve.

The dear Lord has helped me since I have been sick. I have gained more strength and do not suffer near as much with my heart and arm. I still desire prayer that I'll be true to God until life ends.

One in the body of Christ, —Nora Clayton.

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

Mo.—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am still saved and encouraged to live for God. God has surely been good to me. I had a little sore break out on my ankle. It hurt very bad for such a little place. I could hardly walk. Then it began spreading fast. Soon it was larger than a silver dollar and so painful I could not walk at all. Bro. and Sister Abbott came to pray for me. They stayed under the burden with us and anointed me and prayed for me several days before we got the victory. On Friday evening the Lord undertook for me by giving me relief and taking away the pain until I could sleep and rest as long as my foot was on the bed or in a

chair. The following Sunday was our all-day meeting at Myrtle. A number of the saints were praying for me. The Lord sent some of His ministering servants down to my home and they anointed me and prayed again for my healing. We just stood on His Word, St. John 14:14, "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." Praise the Lord the sore has completely healed up and I can walk around in the house. Praise the Lord, I am happy to be on two feet again.

Although I limp some I desire your earnest prayers that I can walk without limping and that God will completely heal me of sugar diabetes. Jesus said He would heal all manner of sickness and diseases. Praise His name! We know this isn't too hard for Him. I want to thank all the saints for your prayers in my behalf.

Your sister in Christ,

—Bessie Sorrell.

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

Okla.—Dear readers of the "Faith and Victory,"—May our God bless you. I have been thinking of writing for some time and I have been praying about it. I desire to do the will of the Lord in all I do.

I have had a desire to live for the Lord since I was a child. I remember one time in my life when the devil talked to me and had me thinking about not trying to live right before I was ever saved. I don't remember how old I was. He showed me pretty things in worldly dress and I told my mother. Right away she let me know I couldn't dress like the world. I don't remember all she said, but she must have been displeased with me and so I decided differently right away.

At the age of 16 years we went to a camp meeting and the dear Lord talked to my heart and I gave my heart to Him. Thank the Lord He saved my soul and I have wanted to live for Him ever since. I have made too many failures, and although I went to Him in repentance, they caused me many heartaches. I look back with regret. I would be glad if I had never failed the Lord in any thing, but I'm thankful for the desire He has put within me to keep striving to live for Him. That is my greatest desire tonight. He has been very good and precious to me. I love Him and don't want to displease Him in any way.

Now, one thing I got into was double marriage and that was not an easy thing to get out of. We studied about it and took Matthew 19:9 for a scripture for our case and some seemed to think it was all right. But I should have stopped before I went into it. Oh, dear ones, don't take a chance on a thing like this. It is not as easy to get out as you may think. We went on, and the Lord blessed us by healing our bodies and the children's. Oh, the Lord has been so good to us. Time went on. We would hear some preaching against our living together and some didn't encourage us to separate. We loved each other, but we wanted to live for the Lord. It was no easy thing to separate unless we really knew. So there we were. We would decide one way a while and then the other. It was very hard to give the one I loved up.

It was some time before we became as clear as we should have been, even after we were supposed to be separated. But by the help of our Lord we got clear of this even while living in the same house with our children. We felt we should be baptized again and were. Now I ask all the saints to forgive me for everything wherein I have failed.

And now, young people, I beg you to please stay clear of such things. Don't get into anything where there is a shadow of a doubt. You who are in double marriage will be better off if you will just get clear of the thing and stay clear. By the help of the Lord, you can do it.

The Lord has surely blessed me. He can just take

care of everything. It means more to gain heaven than anything in this life, and it means more in this life to have the Lord than anything else. I love the Lord and by His help I'm going to live for Him. I have no desire to turn back to this world and its ways.

May God bless every one who may be in the condition I was in. Thank the Lord for deliverance! May I say as I am about to close, you who are clear, keep clear! Christian love,

—Leona Green.

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

Okla.—Dear saints everywhere,—I am very glad I am saved. I received the blessing in June of 1958. I was baptized later on and then sanctified. Praise the Lord! I have had many blessings since I have been saved although I have been discouraged over some things. Yet, I realize that has to be, for if the Lord didn't chasten us he wouldn't love us. I know we have to go through trials and tribulations in this world because Christ went through many things for us. 2 Tim. 4:8, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Dear saints, I am trying to live the life the Lord is calling for. Please pray earnestly for me; my husband, and children. Sometimes the way looks a little dark. I keep on praying then and it brightens up. In January of this year my arm hurt so I could hardly use it. For two days and nights I kept praying and on the third day I was able to use it to clean house. I just thank Him lots for blessing me since I have been saved. He took vile words out of my mouth and foolishness. Praise the Lord for saving me!

"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matt. 4:4. Again in Heb. 12:11, "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."

Dear saints, I feel better living this true life for Jesus. I didn't realize how slack I was living until I really gave up to be saved. It is a joyous life to live when one knows he is serving the Lord. I ask the dear saints to pray for me that I may keep encouraged.

With love,

—Fannie Henderson.

BIBLE STUDY

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

April 5, 1959

WHAT GOD CAN DO WITH ONE MAN

Printed Portion:1 Samuel 7:5-16

5. And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the Lord.

6. And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured it out before the Lord, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the Lord. And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpeh.

7. And when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together to Mizpeh, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Philistines.

8. And the children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the Lord our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines.

9. And Samuel took a suckling lamb, and offered it for a burnt offering wholly unto the Lord: and Samuel

cried unto the Lord for Israel; and the Lord heard him.

10. And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: but the Lord thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel.

11. And the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Philistines, and smote them, until they came under Beth-car.

12. Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Eben-ezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.

13. So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Israel: and the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

14. And the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron even unto Gath; and the coasts thereof did Israel deliver out of the hands of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

15. And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.

16. And he went from year to year in circuit to Beth-el, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places.

Memory Verse: God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way. 1 Samuel 12:23.

Practical Truth: God can do much with one man if he is wholly consecrated to Him.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Samuel was given to God by his mother. She took seriously the fact that God had intrusted into her hands a little life. "Year by year ... she went up to the house of the Lord." The influence of a godly, praying mother cannot be measured.

Samuel believed in the true and living God so strongly that he was able to convince others. "Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might." Eph. 6:10. God wants us to not be a weakling but be strong; not in our own strength but through Christ. Believe God's Word and act like it.

Samuel asked the Israelites to put away their strange gods and repent. As they gathered together, praying and fasting the devil was stirred. The devil is against all righteousness. When you start praying, fasting and seeking for a closer walk with God, the devil is stirred. But do as Samuel did. He CRIED unto the Lord. As you hold fast to the Lord and He gives you the victory, that makes you stronger and you will then be able to help others.

God is calling for more vessels to work through. As the preacher said, "God can't use any vessel in the vituals." The vessel he uses must be pure, firm and strong so His Spirit can have full possession. Oh, for more consecrated men, women, boys and girls. The influence of godly people who believe God and take Him at His Word is great.

April 12, 1959

ISRAEL'S FIRST KING

Printed Portion: 1 Samuel 10:17-27

17. And Samuel called the people together unto the Lord to Mizpeh;

18. And said unto the children of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, I brought up Israel out of Egypt,

and delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all kingdoms, and of them that oppressed you:

19. And ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations; and ye have said unto him, Nay, but set a king over us. Now therefore present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes, and by your thousands.

20. And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was taken.

21. When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was taken, and Saul the son of Kish was taken: and when they sought him, he could not be found.

22. Therefore they enquired of the Lord further, if the man should yet come thither. And the Lord answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff.

23. And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward.

24. And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the Lord hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.

25. Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before the Lord. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house.

26. And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.

27. But the children of Belial said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

Memory Verse: Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you. 1 Samuel 12:23.

Practical Truth: National leaders should be men of worthy character and with such abilities as fit them to cope with the problems which they must face.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The words that stand out in our lesson are, "he hath hid himself among the stuff." Saul had previously been anointed as king by Samuel. He knew when the thousands gathered there that day that he would be honored. His humility was great. He even hid among the baggage before the results were pronounced. Samuel referred to this incident by saying to Saul who later became puffed up, "When thou was little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the Lord anointed thee king over Israel?" (1 Samuel 15:17.)

Saul did not live in the gospel age but he had grace to live up to the teachings given us in the parable in which Jesus said, "But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Luke 14:10, 11.

Humility is the opposite of pride. This grace enables us to have faith in God. It is humility that helps us to be patient amidst the trials of life. It is the grace that enables one to be contented to be little. "He that is greatest among you shall be your servant."

April 19, 1959

SAUL'S TRAGIC FAILURE

Printed Portion 1 Samuel 15:17-26

17. And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the Lord anointed thee king over Israel?

18. And the Lord sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed.

19. Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the Lord, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the Lord?

20. And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and have gone the way which the Lord sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

21. But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the Lord thy God in Gilgal.

22. And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

23. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

24. And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

25. Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the Lord.

26. And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

Memory Verse: Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice. 1 Samuel 15:22.

Practical Truth: Serious moral failure often follows when people begin to disobey God.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Partial obedience such as Saul's is not real obedience at all. A German submarine commander told how he learned the position of a submarine because a sailor lit a cigarette on its deck. Many lives were lost and a valuable cargo because someone did not fully obey the black-out order. Tragic results come from just partially obeying.

Eternal salvation is only for those who obey. Heb. 5:9. We can never enter heaven unless we have learned obedience. Stubbornness and rebellion is a sin and is never admired by others. Why is it so important that we learn to obey? It is not until after we have obeyed that God can trust us with a fuller revelation of Himself, or can teach us newer and greater lessons, and can give us the rewards which He delights to give. We read that the Holy Ghost is only given to them that obey him. Acts 5:23. Only when we have learned to obey can God trust us with the gifts of the Spirit.

The cancer of disobedience will bring many sins into one's life. Saul became insanely jealous of David and hunted him like an animal. Saul's end was tragic all because he had not learned the lesson of obedience. "What shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" 1 Peter 4:17.

April 26, 1959

THE RISE OF DAVID

Printed Portion 1 Samuel 18:5-16

5. And David went out withersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

6. And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.

7. And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

8. And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?

9. And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

10. And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand.

11. And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice.

12. And Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him, and was departed from Saul.

13. Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.

14. And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the Lord was with him.

15. Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him.

16. But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

Memory Verse: The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart. 1 Samuel 16:7.

Practical Truth: What a person does when popularity comes affords a significant test of his character.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The Bible says, "Rejoice with them that do rejoice." Rom. 12:15. It is hard for the natural man to see some one else receiving the honor that he feels is due him. Only those who are filled with the Holy Spirit can truly rejoice in the Spirit with those who do rejoice. The Bible says, "one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it." 1 Cor. 12:26. This is a close life. How do we feel when we see the Lord blessing a person and using him more than it seems He is using us? How do we feel when one is prospering in material things? Can we rejoice with him?

Let us look at the difference between David and Saul. Saul let his position cause him to be puffed up and have a sense of importance. The Bible says David "behaved himself wisely in all his ways." Even after he killed the giant, I'm sure he still felt no more important in the world than he did when caring for his sheep. He knew God had worked through him and it wasn't he. The popularity that was given him did not cause him to take the honor to himself but he gave it to God to whom it belongs. But on the other hand Saul felt David was taking honor from him and his jealousy ripened into a deadly hatred and he carried it as long as he lived. Prayer will keep this from happening to us.

—Mrs. Marie Miles.