

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



Volume 56, No. 7

56th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35¢ Per Year

October, 1978

The Members of Christ



Wondrous message of the Saviour,
Graven on eternal stones:
"We are members of His body,
Of His flesh and of His bones."

For He has redeemed forever
Us from vanity so dim,
And has granted us a closeness
Just to walk and talk with Him.

"Far above the world's confusion,
Walking closely by His side,"
We can be in sweet communion—
His beloved and holy bride.

As a man a wife securing,
All his love and own to be,
So our Jesus His affection
Shines on us abundantly.

'Twas our sins He took upon Him,
'Twas our sorrow that He bore;
For our sake He went to Calvary,
So that we would sin no more.

He ascended into heaven
To the Father's own right hand,
And He sent the Holy Spirit
To enable us to stand.

Intermingled all together
Are the saints with His delight,
And sweet fellowship is flowing
While we're walking in the Light.

Lo, He cometh soon to take us
From this world of sin and strife:
May we be accounted worthy
For that great eternal life.

Wondrous message of the Saviour,
For our vict'ry it atones:
"We are members of His body,
Of His flesh, and of His bones."

—Leslie C. Busbee

Some Truths About Sanctification



"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." Phil. 4:8.

New Testament sanctification means purity of heart, an experience attainable in this life; and preparation for the world to come. This should inspire all to obtain this grace. It is uplifting and profitable to have our minds ever upon those things that are elevating and refining. The unregenerate mind is constantly prone toward that which is earthly, and often that which is sensual and detrimental to the wellbeing of the soul. We are naturally disposed to be what we think. If we think wrong we will act wrong, unless the thought is instantly banished from the mind. If we think right we will act right, if the thought is held. The great trouble with the world today is it thinks wrong. The thoughts of God are plainly given us in His Word, where we can find worlds of beautiful things to occupy our minds as long as we live on earth. The more we engage our minds on these things, the more will we act the thoughts of God and prove to men that we have been with Jesus. The standard of purity in thought and life is found in Jesus. He left us an example in every walk of life where He associated with humanity, that is truly worthy of our following. Among the beatitudes we have this precious one, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." It is not only that we shall see Him in the glory world, when our eyes shall behold the King, but with a pure heart and pure thoughts, we see God continually. We see Him in everything that is good, for from Him comes every good and perfect gift. With the thoughts of God in our pure hearts and minds, our lives are certain to become like the pattern. The image of God becomes impressed upon our spiritual and moral nature to the extent that the Christ-life becomes manifest through the physical. The members of the physical are but the servants of the spiritual within. To the extent that we yield our will and thoughts to the things that are pure and holy, we will act accordingly.

It is good therefore, to develop our minds toward those things that build up and edify. Nothing is more effectual in reaching this standard than to have the standard experience—sanctification. In fact, the Christian experience will never be satisfactory until that standard is obtained. A pure heart, necessarily means a pure life, and what is more to be desired than this? What is more comforting than to have continually the precious consciousness that the very heart is pure and clean?

This standard of purity in heart and life must necessarily become recognized on the part of those around us. Men may persecute us and say all manner of evil against us for Jesus' sake; but the bitterest enemy needs but to become acquainted with the humble child of God to find that in every walk of life he is above reproach. He can be scrutinized from every viewpoint and when all is done, there can justly be nothing evil said of him.

The very character of Jesus is planted in the pure heart. This does not mean that we are entirely free from *human faults and weaknesses*, but that our hearts are free from *sin*. The precious blood of Jesus has cleansed us from all sin and keeps us clean.

Beautiful indeed is such a life of purity and holiness, and yet this standard is not beyond the reach of any. It matters not how unfortunate may be our human dispositions, where the heart is pure, everything unlike Christ can be overcome and banished. This is not done by any single act, nor at once, but as we progress in this life of purity of heart, all these natural dispositions that are unpleasant and unfortunate can be brought into subjection and disposed of as we follow on in this heavenly way.

It is comforting to the soul to know that the heart is pure. The very thought of it brings us upon a higher plane of spiritual meditation. To think of the things that are pure, holy, honorable, lovely, honest and of good report brings these beautiful principles out into action. They not only brighten our own life but reflect upon those around us, making us a precious sunbeam of blessing to those with whom we associate, wherever we are. This poor dark world needs just such people. Selfishness, greed, pride, and envy, rule the lives of the multitudes. It is the part of the child of God to demonstrate the things that are good and commendable, which the grace of God can manifest out of a pure heart.

Everything in the world is degenerating, spiritually and morally considered, and unless there can be that which is better, shown to the world by the people of God, then the gospel will be of no effect, and the false religions of these last days can boast themselves as equal with the gospel. How comforting to know that heaven has designed a plan to purify the heart of man, and plant the Christ-character within, which lifts us up to the heavenly plane of righteousness, peace, and joy. This is sanctification. It is begun in the grace of justification, and completed in this precious second grace.

—J. W. Byers

Meekness is that grace which enables us not only to receive injuries without having any feeling of revenge, but to have a desire to do good to those who are responsible for the injuries.

—C. E. Orr

Saints Are Kings and Priests

We pen a few lines for the glory of Him who "loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood." Rev. 1:5b. Verse 6a reads, "And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father." Notice, "Made us kings." Oh, glory! We, His saints, are kings sitting on thrones of glory, reigning over everything that proceeds from "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience." All of us, God's children, are priests reigning in His kingdom, filling our place in His body, the Church, as we daily toil in His vineyard performing the duties expected of us by Him who has "set the members" in the body, as it has "pleased Him." Eph. 4:11 reads, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers."

All ministers of the gospel are prophets in the meaning of I Cor. 14:3 which reads, "But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort." Dear brethren, we are prophets. Therefore, God expects us to do the work of a prophet. Let us examine the work of the prophets of old time. God told Isaiah, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." Isa. 58:1. Jeremiah was told, "See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant." Jer. 1:10.

Dear fellow ministers, every movement within the Church, beginning with God's chosen nation, the children of Israel, on down through the annals of time to the present day, has failed to continue to build according to the pattern, failed to keep holding up the true standard, and failed to always be examples of the believers. Surely the Scripture is true, "The people of thy holiness have possessed it but a little while: our adversaries have trodden down thy sanctuary." Isa. 63:18. This is what follows in every movement when the leaders fail to warn the people of coming danger, go to sleep spiritually, and begin to partake of the unclean things themselves. When this takes place, our adversaries come in and pollute the sanctuary. Yes, "the gates of hell shall never prevail against the Church." God will always have a remnant. Nevertheless, with every fall that could have been avoided many souls are lost—lost forever to suffer eternal woe.

The enemy of all good is working overtime to try to destroy everything that God has His approval upon. He wants to bring division in this "last reformation," knowing that if he can succeed, many souls will be lost. Dear brothers, there is "death in the pot," if we do not stand together as one man upholding the old standard that has proven true and has brought great victories in the early days of this reformation, as well as in the days of the apostles.

In spiritual unity there is life. This is set forth in Psal. 133. "To dwell together in unity" we must "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called." When we do this, we will be living and preaching the truth of God's Word that brings life. Jesus said, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." John 6:63. Read Psal. 133:2,3. "The precious

ointment" that Aaron was anointed with is a type of being anointed with the Holy Spirit which brings abundant life. Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10. The dew of Hermon "and the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion" brought natural life to the grass and plants of the mountains. Natural life throughout the Bible is used to represent spiritual life. The 133rd Psalm ends with these words: "Even life for evermore." Praise God! When we have unity, we have life and power from on high to live lives that please God. Division always brings death. Think of the thousands of souls who have died in the sect groups. The pale horse and rider of Revelation was followed by "Death" and "Hell." This symbol represents division in the denominational sects.

Dear ones, let us have life and the more abundant life by all of us walking in the light as He is in the light and speaking the truth of God's Word, being led by the Holy Spirit. When we yield to the temptation to partake of something, or endorse that which is offensive to our spiritual leaders, we are encouraging division. Let us endeavor to be like the Apostle Paul, "Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend." I Cor. 8:13. Jesus said, "Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!" Matt. 18:7.

May God bless all the dear saints, and help us in these last days to so live that others may have life which shall never end.

Your brother,

—H. P. Huskey

Spiritual Guidance

You have given yourself to the Lord to be His wholly and altogether, and you are now entirely in His hands to be moulded and fashioned according to His own divine purpose, into a vessel unto His honor. Your one most earnest desire is to follow Him whithersoever He may lead you, and to be very pliable in His hands; and you are trusting Him to "work in you to will and to do of His good pleasure." But you find a great difficulty here. You have not learned yet to know the voice of the Good Shepherd, and are therefore in great doubt and perplexity as to what really is His will concerning you.

There is a way out of all these difficulties to the fully surrendered soul. I would repeat *fully* surrendered, because, if there is any reserve of will upon any point, it becomes almost impossible to find out the mind of God in reference to that point; and therefore the first thing is to be sure that you really do *purpose* to obey the Lord in every respect. If however this is your purpose, and your soul only needs to know the will of God in order to consent to it, then you surely cannot doubt His willingness to make His will known, and to guide you in the right paths. There are many very clear promises in reference to this. Take, for instance, John 10:3,4, "He calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice." Or John 14:26: "But the Comforter, which is the

Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." Or Jas. 1:5,6: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

With such declarations as these, and many more like them, we must believe that divine guidance is promised to us, and our faith must therefore confidently look for and expect it. This is essential, for in Jas. 1:6,7, we are told, "Let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord."

Settle this point then, first of all, and let no suggestion of doubt turn you from a steadfast faith in regard to it, that divine guidance has been promised, and that, if you seek it, you are sure to receive it.

Next, you must remember that our God has all knowledge and all wisdom, and that therefore it is very possible He may guide you into paths wherein He knows great blessings are awaiting you, but which, to the short-sighted human eyes around you, seem sure to result in confusion and loss. You must recognize the fact that God's thoughts are not as man's thoughts, nor His ways as man's ways; and that He alone, who knows the end of things from the beginning, can judge what the results of any course of action may be. You must therefore realize that His very love for you may perhaps lead you to run counter to the loving wishes of even your dearest friends. You must learn, from Luke 14:26-33, and similar passages, that in order to be a disciple and follower of your Lord, you may perhaps be called upon to forsake inwardly all that you have, even father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife, or it may be your own life also. Unless the possibility of this is clearly recognized, you will be very likely to get into difficulty because it often happens that the child of God who enters upon this life of obedience, is sooner or later led into paths which meet with the disapproval of those he best loves; and unless he is prepared for this, and can trust the Lord through it all, he will scarcely know what to do.

These points having all been settled, we come now to the question as to how God's guidance is to come to us, and how we shall be able to know His voice. There are four ways in which He reveals His will to us—through the Scriptures, through providential circumstances, through the convictions of our own higher judgment, and through the inward impression of the Holy Spirit on our minds. Where these four harmonize, it is safe to say that God speaks. For I lay it down as a foundation principle, which no one can gainsay, that of course His voice will always be in harmony with itself, no matter how many different ways He may speak. The voices may be many, the message can be but one. If God tells me in one voice to do or to leave undone anything, He cannot possibly tell me the opposite in another voice. If there is a contradiction in the voices, the speakers cannot be the same. Therefore my rule for distinguishing the voice of God would be to bring it to the test of this harmony.

—Selected

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FAITH AND VICTORY

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend campmeetings) by Lawrence D. Pruitt, assisted by Marie Miles and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

Notice to subscribers: Whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your Zip Code number. The post office now charges 25¢ to notify us of each change of address.

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

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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 restoration and promulgation 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 sinful world and entire devotion to the services and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

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 teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 25:2; 1st Chron. 29:9; II Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Free-will offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House.

A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

In order to comply with the Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

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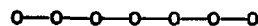
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For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people. Hebrews 8:10.

EDITORIALS

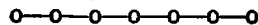


TIME, WITH ITS SWIFT AND SILENT WAY, has brought us to the summer's end. The rains and cooler temperatures bring the touch of autumn. The campmeeting season is about over for this year. Joy abounds in heaven and on earth among the righteous for the many souls who were saved in the tent and campmeetings. Yet it is so sad to note that numbers rejected the gracious gospel invitation and now their lamentation is: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20. God's Spirit may extend time and deal with these souls another time or many times, but He is not obligated to do so. God's mercy is great, not willing that any should perish, but that all would come to repentance. As long as the Lord extends time, the good news of salvation through Christ must go forth to this sin-cursed world of mankind. In 2 Cor. 5:20 the Apostle Paul expresses the position of the Church in this ministry of reconciliation in these words: "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

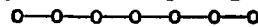


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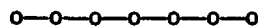
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"Evening Light Songs," the 512-page Church of God hymnal, is now in stock for prompt shipment at \$4.00 per copy, plus 65c for postage. Also, the 432-page book, "Bible Readings for Bible Students," by Speck and Riggle, is available in a cloth cover at \$5.00 each, plus 65c for postage.



We trust the Lord blessed in a mighty way in the campmeeting scheduled to be held west of Shell Lake, Wisconsin, from Sept. 23 to Oct. 1, 1978, at the "Old Country Church." Bro. Duane LaVeau is the local minister whose address is R. 1, Shell Lake, Wisconsin 54871.



Bro. Titus Enu, native pastor in Nigeria, West Africa, left by plane from the Oklahoma City airport on September 8th to return to his homeland after participating in the various season's campmeetings in the States for more than three months. A recent

telegram advised us that he arrived safely with thanks to the Lord. Pray for the progress of the mission work in that great field as well as for the "regions beyond" where they have never heard the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ who "tasted death for every man." What will we do to meet the challenge?

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Pardon this delayed report that Sister Sandra Whitson of Jasper, Alabama, has been helping here in the correspondence and mailing departments of the Lord's Print Shop since the last of June, 1978. We do appreciate her consecration and service in the Lord's work, and may He reward her abundantly. She has a cordial welcome to the Faith and Victory family and to the Guthrie congregation.

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The last of August, Sister Eldonna Rhoades, who has been working here in the correspondence and mailing departments since Jan., 1976, expressed that her burden had been lifted for this phase of the Lord's work. Accordingly, she has taken a job with a local manufacturing plant. May the Lord ever reward her for her services unto Him, and bless her present and future activities in His will and order.

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Ministers' Meeting Begins October 17 . . .

A general ministers' meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at the chapel here in Guthrie, Okla., beginning at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 17, 1978, and continue as long as deemed necessary. This meeting is called and announced by the agreement of a number of ministers in several states for the purpose of considering and advancing the welfare of the work of God in general. The ministers are urged to attend. Come praying, expecting the Holy Spirit to guide and direct in these deliberations.

The dining hall and dormitory facilities close to the chapel will be available to the ministers. Offerings for the support of these facilities would be gratefully received, and they should be sent directly to the State treasurer, Sister Frances Deforth, R. 5, Box 1, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

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Christian School Opened in Guthrie . . .

By the blessing and direction of the Lord, The Path of Life School, whose primary purpose is Christian education, began in Guthrie, Okla., on September 5, 1978, with eleven students whose parents are members of the Guthrie Church of God. The pastor, Bro. Leslie Busbee, is the principal of the school, with his wife, Sister Sylvia Busbee, and Sister Charlotte Huskey as teachers or supervisors. Through the summer much work and preparation was done by the principal and teachers, as well as members, young and old, of the local congregation in redecorating the school room, building and painting desks (booths) and cabinets and shelves for books. The school is sponsored by the local church and held just north of the chapel in the dining hall, the use of

which was granted by the State trustees. This particular educational system permits each student to advance as fast as he or she is able to learn, and the text and workbooks are Bible-oriented. Devotionals are held each morning where there is prayer and Bible reading. The teachers receive no salary, and we pray the Lord to bless them richly for this volunteer service. Bro. and Sister Wayne Murphey are the secretary and treasurer of this school project. Their address is 1210 W. Noble, Guthrie, Ok. 73044. Any financial help would be gratefully received. At least, please pray that this Christian school will prosper and redound to the glory of God.

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"To be contented in every circumstance of life is a light that shines the dark away."

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Word was received that our dear Sister Ether Hines of Hudson, Mich., went to be with her Lord and Saviour on her 87th birthday, Sept. 16, 1978. Our deepest sympathy is extended to dear Bro. Floyd Hines and their children in their loss which is surely heaven's gain. May God speak those needed comforting words at this time of their bereavement.

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Another shipment of 10,000 pounds of printing paper was delivered to the Lord's Print Shop on Sept. 5th. The gospel by the tracts, papers, and books must continue to go forth to the world until the Lord of the harvest says it is enough. We certainly appreciate those who are so faithfully co-operating in this gospel literature ministry, for your reward will be great in heaven. —Lawrence Pruitt

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Partial List of Items Available

Birth of a Reformation—Life and Labors of D. S. Warner by A. L. Byers. A reprint with additional pictures of pioneer ministers. Cloth bound, 496 pages. Price, \$5.00 each.

Prophetic Lectures on Daniel and the Revelation by F. G. Smith. It contains 260 pages in heavy paper cover. Price, \$3.00 each.

What The Bible Teaches by F. G. Smith. A reprint of the original 1914 edition, containing 576 pages in cloth binding. This is a book that should be in every home. Price, \$5.00 each.

The Revelation Explained by F. G. Smith. Reprint of 1906 original edition (fourth reprint), plus two 17x22 inch wall charts in two colors. 464 pages in nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00 each.

Personal Experiences of S. O. Susag was written by himself, a Norwegian who had many marvelous experiences and answers to prayer as an early-day minister in the Church of God. 191 pages are bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.75.

The Last Reformation by F. G. Smith. Just recently made available, this reprint edition contains 256 pages. Nice paper binding is priced at \$3.00 each, and the cloth binding is \$5.00 each.

Bible Readings for Bible Students and for the Home and Fireside compiled by S. L. Speck and H. M. Riggie.

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The Christian Church; Its Rise and Progress, by H. M. Riggle. Bound in cloth cover, 488 pages. Price, \$5.00.

Evening Light Songs, shaped notes, with 512 pages in a cloth binding. The right hymnal for the Church of God. Price, \$4.00 each.

The Cleansing of the Sanctuary by D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggle. Reprinted verbatim in 541 pages, cloth binding. Price, \$5.00 each.

Life's Golden Gleanings by Ruby E. Stover. She records many experiences of her childhood, and how God answered prayer in marvelous ways in her family and through the years in the gospel work. 94 pages in nice paper cover. Price, \$1.00.

Adventures in the Land of Canaan by R. L. Berry. An instructive allegory of true-to-life experiences in the grace of sanctification. 128 pages in paper cover. Price, \$1.00 per copy.

Echoes From Heaven—a new song book of 195 songs in shaped notes. In a heavy paper cover, this song book is priced at \$1.75 each.

Christian Baptism, Feet Washing, and the Lord's Supper by H. M. Riggle. This excellent doctrinal book on the three ordinances of the New Testament contains 264 pages in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$3.00 each.

Life's Story and Healings by Sister Nellie Poulos. This is a reprint of her first book, plus additional material. This volume contains 160 pages with a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50 each.

Must We Sin? by D. S. Warner. This 24-page booklet records the supposed conversation between Bro. Light and Bro. Foggy on the sin question. Price, 25c each, or five copies for \$1.00.

Holy Spirit Baptism and the Second Cleansing by R. R. Byrum. Consists of 108 pages in heavy paper cover. Price, 75c each, or three for \$2.00.

Bible Humility by J. W. Byers. An excellent treatise of this subject in 33 pages with a heavy paper cover. The price is 30c each, or four copies for \$1.00.

The Double Cure, or Redemption Twofold by D. O. Teasley. This book should enlighten the reader on the two works of grace, and correct the thinking of those who deny the cleansing element in sanctification. 160 pages of large print in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50.

Beyond The Tomb by H. M. Riggle. This excellent book of 288 pages deals with man, his present and future, in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$4.00.

Lest We Forget by Sister Margaret Eck. 72 pages of many encouraging experiences with the Lord bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 75c each, or three for \$2.00.

God's Gracious Dealings by Fred and L. D. Pruitt. This enlarged Seventh Edition is a history of this gospel publishing ministry in the Church of God for the past sixty years, as well as a record of the work of the Church at large. Contains 496 pages, including more than 100 pictures, in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00 each.

No. 2 Stereo Song Record by the Phillips Evening Light Singers. Eleven songs by the Phillips family—Bro. Paul Phillips and his six children. On the cover for the record is a large picture of the singers. This record No. Two may be ordered from this office or purchased directly from Bro. Paul Phillips, 1220 Wabash Street, Wichita,

Kansas 67214. The price is \$6.00 each, plus 75c for postage and handling.

Stereo Song Record by the Evening Light Gospel Harmonizers. The twelve songs, just recently recorded, are sung by seven California gospel singers and composed by one of the singers, Bro. Philip Matthews of Fresno, California, who is also sponsoring the production of this record. Price, \$6.00 each, plus 75c for postage and the handling.

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FAITH PUB. HOUSE, Box 518, Guthrie, Okla. 73044

Contract Signed for a Church Boarding Home for the Elderly Members

The late Sister E. Coral Johnson was a member of the Guthrie Church of God. Prior to her departure to her eternal Home in 1964, she made a substantial bequest in her will to help establish a Church of God Boarding Home in Guthrie. It was not to be a nursing home with all its government restrictions, but a Home where able-bodied, elder saints could live and have their meals served to them at a common table for all. Over the years it was hoped by the administrators of her estate that this Home could be constructed on the planned church campground whenever it was relocated from the present flood area. Up to the present, the land for a new campground has not been found. However, recently Bro. and Sister Robert Benson, who live one-half mile northwest of Guthrie city limits, offered for sale their rather new home with five acres, which would be suitable for a good start on the Boarding Home. It has four large bedrooms, 3½ baths, 2520 sq. ft. of floor, walled with stone, central heat and air, and a 30 by 60-foot finished basement with bedroom and bath, plus space for more rooms. The attached double garage could be remodeled for two more bedrooms. The Oklahoma State trustees met in a duly called meeting on Sept. 9th, considered this property for the proposed Boarding Home, and then signed a contract to purchase it for the price of \$63,000.00, provided the money could be secured. We have until Oct. 9th to close the deal, and then get possession not more than 45 days later. Unless the money is supplied by that date through contributions or low-interest loans from interested parties, we will have to take a conventional loan of \$39,000.00 at 10 percent interest to go with the amount that we have on hand. If the Lord directs you to help on this worthy project, either by gift or loan, please contact promptly the undersigned editor or Bro. Bob Sallee who is the secretary-treasurer of this particular project of the church. His address is 916 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044, phone number 405-282-1376.

—L. D. Pruitt, State Trustee

In Memorial

Ether (Tuttle) Hines, who was born in Witt Springs, Ky., on Sept. 16, 1891, to Isaac and Fannie (Witt) Tuttle, departed this life to be with the Lord at the Provincial Nursing House in Adrian, Mich., after a lengthy illness on Sept. 16, 1978, which was her 87th birthday.

Sister Hines was a member of the Church of God on earth and now a member of the heavenly family above.

On Sept. 22, 1920, Ether Tuttle was married to Floyd Hines in Irvine, Ky.

Surviving are her husband, Floyd Hines, of the home in Hudson, Mich.; three daughters, Mrs. Howard (Lois) Olson of Niles, Mich., Mrs. Francis (Naomi) Myers of Waldron, Mich., and Mrs. Gaylord (Marjorie) Hanna of Delaware, Ohio; a son Leo of Defiance, Ohio; a sister, Mrs. Rosa Hartsock, of Batavia, Ohio; nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held at the Eagle Funeral Home, in Hudson Mich., with Bro. Curtis Williams officiating. Interment was in the Maple Grove Cemetery at Hudson until the general resurrection.

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CALIF. STATE CAMPMEETING REPORT

We thank the Lord for how He blessed in the Calif. State campmeeting in Pacoima. We appreciate all who labored in and prayed for this meeting.

The truth was preached under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Many came forward throughout the meeting for spiritual help.

Our hearts rejoiced that the Lord sent several out-of-state saints and ministers to be with us. It was a good meeting from the first day until the very last.

We pray that all who attended may profit by the Word of God that was preached. —Sis. Wynema Clay

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REPORT OF BOLEY, OKLA., CAMPMEETING

The saints at Boley, Okla., give thanks, praise, and honor to our dear, blessed Lord who so wonderfully worked in the Boley campmeeting this summer. The spirit of the meeting was precious!

We thank the Lord for the ministers and workers He sent to help in the battle against sin. The Word of God was preached under the anointing of the Holy Spirit which convicted hearts and some sought spiritual help, and others healing of the body.

We were blessed to have with us Bro. Titus Enu, a native pastor in Nigeria, West Africa, whom the Lord used in expounding the Word of God. Again, we want to thank all the ministers and dear saints that laboured in the meeting to help make it a success. "To God be the glory for it all!" Praise the Lord!

Yours in His great name, —Katherine Williams

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PROFITABLE TENT MEETINGS IN LOUISIANA

La.—Dear Bro. Pruitt, saints there and abroad: Greetings of Christian love in the precious name of Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Saviour in whom

we have abundant life, healing of the body, and deliverance from sin and the powers of Satan. We praise God today for salvation and for all the benefits which the Lord daily bestows upon us. We are happy in the Lord and are determined to keep pressing onward and upward toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. We are not discouraged in the least. "Victory shall be our chorus, victory our watchword and song; Jesus is marching before us leading His army along." We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.

We thought that we would write of how the Lord has blessed in the tent meetings that we have been permitted to have in our area in the last few weeks.

Our first meeting began on August 11th, and continued through August 20th. The tent was located about two blocks from the entrance to the campground in Hammond, La., in a predominantly Negro residential section. We had felt a burden for a meeting of this type for quite some time and the Lord brought it all about at the right time. (As you may know, in recent months the Lord has added a few precious colored saints to our congregation at Hammond to help us reach out for more souls and to inspire the congregation.) The Lord sent Bro. H. Hargrave and family from Goulds, Fla., along with quite a large number of saints of his congregation, and also Bro. and Sis. Lewis Williams, and other saints from Wichita, Kan., Bro. Norman Simpson from Tulsa, Okla., and Sis. Hazel Clark from Los Angeles, Calif., to help us in this meeting. Then God opened up the "windows of heaven" and poured us out a rich blessing. Several souls were at the altar for salvation during the course of the meeting and five followed the Lord in baptism. Two services each day were held during the main week of the meeting, along with children's meetings, street meetings, and personal visitations.

The truth went forth with power and authority under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and every service was a rich blessing. All the saints in this area, both at Oak Grove and at Hammond, were edified. The fellowship and unity of the saints proved to be a blessing to all. One young man was saved and delivered from dope and smoking marijuana, and he disposed of all his dope and a hand gun which he had. The last service of this meeting closed with victory, lasting until about 11 p.m. on Sunday night, August 20th, and will be long remembered by all that were in attendance.

The second tent meeting began on September 1st, continuing through Sept. 10th, and was located approximately ten miles west of Hammond, La., near the small town of Albany. We had been praying about two years for a meeting in this area, and again the Lord's timing was right, as He had been working prior to this meeting in bringing about certain situations and conditions in preparing hearts for this meeting. The Lord never makes a mistake. From the beginning, the tent meeting was anointed by the Holy Spirit. The truth went forth with rich anointing as the sounding of a trumpet, sounding forth to the saints (the Church) a warning of the days and times in which we are living, and the great need there is today in our standing firm in the truth and fighting the good fight of faith, with a constant and continuous pressing our way forward against all the opposition of the devil, holding

a true, steadfast position. Warnings were sounded against lukewarmness, and sinners and backsliders were warned to flee from the wrath of God. The Church was stirred and the Lord worked in a wonderful and mighty way to deal with souls, and quite a number of souls were at the altar for help, and several souls were saved. Each service seemed to increase from night to night with interest and attendance; and above all, the outpouring of the blessings from the Lord were in the services. The tent was filled and running over at times. There were ten that followed the Lord in baptism on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 9th, and on Sunday, Sept. 10th, we had three services, with the ordinance services of feet-washing and the Lord's Supper in the afternoon, which proved to be a special blessing to all in attendance.

The Lord sent Bro. Carl Shaffer, Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons, and Bro. Curtis Williams to be with us in this meeting, along with the local ministers in this area.

This was a very special meeting in that the Lord was working to bring more of His precious saints together in the unity of the spirit and faith, to strengthen and edify His spiritual body. We praise the Lord for what has been accomplished in these two tent meetings!

Please remember us in your prayers as we do you, and pray for the work at Hammond, at Oak Grove, and for all the saints in this area.

Yours in the work of the Lord,

—Bro. Bob and Sis. Dorall Forbes

AUTUMN REVIVAL AT DAYTON, OHIO

A fall revival meeting will be held, Lord willing, at the Church of God chapel located at 622 Tyron Ave., Dayton, Ohio, beginning Oct. 20, 1978, and continuing as long as the Lord directs. Services will begin nightly at 7:30 p.m. For further information, contact John Gutwien, 4008 Garden View, Dayton, Ohio 45431. Phone number 513-426-8159.

OKMULGEE, OKLA. REVIVAL

The revival meeting date for Okmulgee, Okla., is set for October 16th through the 22nd, 1978, Lord willing. Service will begin each night at 7:45 p.m. There will be day services on Saturday and Sunday. Lodging will be provided on the grounds with space for campers.

For more information, call or write Bro. Woodrow Warren, pastor, 810 N. Porter St., Okmulgee, Okla. 74447, phone number 1-918-756-6425. —Erma Johnson

AUTUMN MEETING IN WICHITA, KAN.

The fall meeting at Wichita, Kansas, will be held, Lord willing, on Oct. 27th to Nov. 5th, 1978, and you are urged to attend these services at the Church of God chapel, 1701 N. Ash, Wichita.

These are troublesome times, but God still has all power. We will be depending on the Holy Spirit to lead in all things and send the ministers of His choice.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Lewis Williams, 2643 N. Spruce, Wichita, Kansas 67214, phone number 316-264-8481. —By Shirley Knight

REVIVAL AT HOLY HILL, S. C.

Bro. Egbert Allen will hold a revival meeting, Lord willing, at the Church of God chapel near Holly Hill, S. C., beginning on Oct. 26th, 1978, and continuing as long as the Lord leads. Everyone is welcome to attend these services.

Your Brother in Christ,

—Hudson Crummie

REVIVAL MEETING AT JEFFERSON, OREGON

A revival meeting will be held, Lord willing, at the Church of God chapel near Jefferson, Oregon, beginning on Sunday, November 5th, and closing on Sunday, November 12th. On the first Sunday, Friday, Saturday, and last Sunday, there will be three services daily. All are cordially invited to attend these services. Bro. Tom Melot of Guthrie, Okla., is expected to hold the meeting.

Directions to new chapel: Go to the Texaco Service Station at the north edge of Jefferson, turn right on Marion Road for about ¾ mile, then turn left on Sheldon Road ½ mile to chapel.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Ostis B. Wilson, 6505 N. E. Sunset Drive, Albany, Oregon 97321.

REVIVAL AT HOFFMAN, OKLA.

The annual autumn revival meeting at the Church of God chapel in Hoffman, Okla., will be held, Lord willing, on Nov. 7th through the 12th, 1978. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. We will appreciate your presence and your prayers.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Woodrow Warren, 810 N. Porter, Okmulgee, Okla. 74447, phone number (918) 756-6425. —Sis. Lorene Payne

ALL-DAY MEETINGS AT ENID, OKLA.

The congregation at Enid, Okla., sends out a welcome to attend the all-day meetings which are held each 4th Sunday of the month. Sunday school and morning service begin at 9:45 and the afternoon service at 2:00. The chapel is at the corner of Hemlock and Independence. Come and be with us to worship the Lord and to teach and admonish "one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

For further information, contact Bro. John Sisk, 1605 S. Adams, Enid, Ok. 73701, or Bro. L. D. Chrisman, 2019 W. Main, Enid, Ok. 73701.

WORK DAY ON NATIONAL CAMPGROUND

The annual fall work day on the Monark Springs National Campground at Neosho, Mo., is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 4, 1978. The purpose of the work day is to prepare the grounds and buildings for winter and do other routine maintenance.

All that feel a burden for this work are invited to come and help. If you cannot come, please pray that the Lord will bless the efforts on the campground.

—By Jim Wall

"Fear and Faith are not fellow-travelers."

ACT UPON FAITH

We are simply to believe what God says He has done for us, and act upon it, taking our blood-bought liberty just as the slaves of the South did after the Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln. Suppose the slaves had judged by the evidence of the senses, saying, "I don't feel any different; I can't see any change; all my surroundings are just the same as they were." Would that be faith? It was faith only when they acted on the freedom which was already theirs. —R. R. B.

Prayer Requests

Okla.—"Remember me in prayer as I am not well."

—Lizzie Jordan

Mo.—Remember Sis. Helen Allen in prayer. She is in a pitiful condition, but still is expecting healing and her trust is firm in the Lord. Nothing is impossible with our God.

Okla.—"My stomach is swollen and I am so miserable."

—Anna Barber

N. Y.—"I am very seriously ill and I am asking the saints to fast and pray for my healing. . . . I had a heart attack and my left side is very weak. . . . Pray that God will deliver me from all of these many diseases."

—Sis. Ella Hemphill

Tenn.—"God really answered your prayers as I have slept so very good the last two nights which is the first time in weeks. . . . Please pray now for my hearing."

—Mrs. May Ralston

Ark.—Sis. Della Anchultz needs healing and is fully trusting in the Lord.

Mo.—Continue to remember Sis. Vena Sell who is still holding on for healing.

S. C.—Pray for Brother Ed Driggers who is in a nursing home as a result of several strokes. His mind and speech have been affected and he needs much prayer.

Ind.—Pray earnestly for Bro. Earl Bliss who is frail and weak from intestinal trouble.

What a great privilege it is to pray. What do people do who do not have contact with God? Oh, how sad it is that so many seem to lean upon the arm of flesh for their help! We are blessed of all people, as our trust is in the Lord. God never makes a mistake. God knows all about our bodies and can heal us. We need to hold a steady faith in God.

"If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" Matt. 18:19,20. What precious Scriptures these are! Notice Jesus said where two are together in His name He is in the midst of them and if those two agree together, asking Jesus for something, He is right there in their midst to answer. How precious! We need not think of Him as being far away or that He has to do some magical thing, or that it takes Him so long to hear, but He is "in the midst of them." He is right there! Oh, may God help our faith to take it all in! What a wonderful Saviour we have! Believe and receive from Him what you have need of, and hold your faith steady, knowing He has heard.

—Sis. Marie Miles

MISSION LETTER FROM OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO

Dear Bro. Lawrence and Sister Miles: I greet you in the holy and precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only mediator between God and man, Jesus Christ, through whom we have an entrance if we abide faithful and keep His Word.

Brethren, we give thanks to God who is over all things because He has been very good to us. He has blessed us greatly with His presence in the work. The Word says that all things work together for good to those who love God, and thanks to the Lord, He has never left us nor forsaken us. To the contrary, every day that passes, we feel the fullness of His power. We feel more needy of Him because we are in the last days, and we as Christians also need to be more united, so that discouragement will not come to our souls. May the Lord help us.

This week, a Jehovah's Witness came and we talked for a long time. Poor things, I feel a burden for them in my soul for the fact that they do not believe in the Trinity, in salvation, in the kingdom, and even sadder, when I invited him to pray and he didn't want to pray with me because he simply did not believe. There are many errors in the things they say, because they do not recognize the truth. He is going to be with me the 1st of October and is bringing his chief to discuss the subjects of the Trinity and salvation. . . . Well, brethren, nothing will work if I have the truth unless I live in it, and if I do not look to the Holy Spirit. As I have told you before, I desire that this be for edification, and not for contention. The Lord help us in all.

Brethren, thank you much for your letters and offerings. We are very thankful to God and to you. Pray for the brethren and for all the work here in Ojos Negros, and principally for us and for me, because I feel poorly, but I am trusting in God.

With much Christian love,

—Mayarino Escobar and family

SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

Dear ones: Greetings in the loveliest name that we can know—Jesus! Oh, how blessed to know, love, and trust in Him!

We are so very grateful to the Lord for sending us help in getting out the Spanish literature. He has burdened several to help in one capacity or another and my heart is melted in gratitude to Him and them. It is encouraging to know that others are carrying a like burden and are willing to help share the load. I also want to thank all who are praying for and supporting the Spanish work, here and in Mexico.

By the help of the Lord, all 52 lessons of children's material were gotten off to Mexico and South America, all taped messages from the Ojos Negros, Mexico, campmeeting sent out to everyone on the tape ministry line, many tracts and articles are further along in preparation for printing, and all orders for tracts filled. How we do thank Him!

Yours for souls in Mexico,

—Sis. Opal Kelly, 919 W. Mansur
Guthrie, Okla. 73044

From the Mail Box . . .

Okla.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: We appreciate the good work you folks are doing. We trust God will reward you each abundantly. We are praying much for the work there and everywhere. Be much encouraged, as God is still on His throne and doing everything we will let Him do—just as He always has.

Yours in Christ, —Don McIntosh

Kansas—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings in Jesus' name. I am very much encouraged, with a greater determination to stand firmly against the devil. I have no time for him whatsoever and desire greater power to be able to resist him whenever necessary. It is wonderful to have the greatest power that exists dwelling in us and we can, by faith, use it.

Well, the campmeeting season has ended, and we pray that all of those who sought salvation will make a full consecration and hold on to God for dear life because it is a matter of life or death. May they see the necessity of living for God, and may they get a full experience so they can see what the abundant life is. I wish more people would make a full surrender at the very beginning, then there would be much less backsliding. If people would only have a vehement desire to go to heaven and come to the full realization that heaven will surely be worth it all, I believe they would keep saved at any cost. Well, may more people seek for understanding and depth.

Christian love, —Shirley Knight

Tenn.—I appreciate the encouraging letter you wrote. I also enjoyed the *Faith and Victory* paper. The testimonies are really good. God has blessed me through your prayers. I remember all of you in my prayer. We are surely living in the last days. It is so wonderful to know the dear Lord. He is helping His children through to victory.

May God bless all of you at Faith Publishing House.

—Mary Williamson

Ohio—I am enclosing a check to help with the cost of the work you are doing there at the Faith Publishing House. I can't send as much as I would like as I'm on a fixed income, and have sickness in my home, but I like to help when I can. I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper so very much. It is a real blessing to me. Continue the good work you are doing for the Lord.

In Christian love, —Edith Kauffman

Oregon—It was my privilege to attend the Neosho, Mo., campmeeting this year. It had been eight years since I had been able to do so. Lucille Trimble and I flew from Portland to Tulsa, Okla., where we were met by Sister Ruby Stover, who took us in her car to the meeting. It was my first flight and I enjoyed it very much. It was truly a wonderful meeting. I saw 82 at the altar one night and most were young people. The truth went forward with power and authority on God's Word, and it was truly like sitting in heavenly places. There were many lovely songs sung by good gospel singers. The Lord touched and healed my back, with which I had been suffering over two months. The weather was nice and there were cool breezes most of the time. I had a lovely place to stay at the home of Bro. and Sister Vada

McMillian whom I have known many years. It was in the country where it was so quiet and comfortable. It was a meeting I will long remember, and do thank God for it all.

Christian love to all, —Sis. Grace Jones

Calif.—Dear Sis. Marie: We are happy in the Lord today as we follow where He leads. The way to heaven is the only happy way. It is like a song we used to sing, "Sweeter As the Years Go By." Truly, His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

I feel like the Apostle Paul who said that, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." Truly He is our all and in all. He supplies our needs and keeps us encouraged to press the battle on. "The toils of the road will seem nothing when we get to the end of the way." He goes into the furnace with us just like He did with the three Hebrew children.

I want to hear Him say, "Well done," when my work is finished for our Lord. We need the tests and trials to make us strong soldiers for Jesus.

May God bless each of you in the office as you labor for Him.

Christian love, —Letha Reece

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the name of Jesus.

Since I saw you last I have been able to read *God's Gracious Dealings* and also to attend a tent revival in Hammond, La., with Bro. Herschel Hargrave. It was a privilege to meet your relatives there. Many children and some parents were saved during a series of street meetings in the daytime. It was like what we read of Bro. D. S. Warner and his co-workers as they traveled through the towns in a wagon, singing and preaching the gospel. The Lord blessed us greatly as we rode in the back of an old Chevrolet truck, singing and rejoicing through the town and preaching the Word of repentance toward God.

Yours in Christ, —Norman Simpson

Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the holy name of Jesus. I am still saved and living for the Lord. I went to a few of the campmeetings last summer. I wish I could have come to Guthrie.

May the dear Lord bless all of you at the Print Shop. Pray for me.

—Norman Robinson

Pa.—Dear laborers in God's vineyard: I thank and praise God for victory in soul and body through the precious blood of Jesus.

I so much enjoy reading every word in the *Faith and Victory* paper. I am an aged widow, so I seldom get to any services. My strength and soul food come through reading God's Word, and the gospel papers and tracts sent through the mail. Praise God, for filling my life, heart, soul, and mind from His bounteous supply from heaven.

Please keep my name on the mailing list.

—Sis. Mary Lou Fick

We can take none of our earthly treasures with us when we die. If we wish any of these things in heaven we must send them on before death. —C. E. Orr

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

La.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings in the sweet name of Jesus. He surely is precious to me. I love Him because He first loved me and I mean by His help and grace to live for Him all the days of my life. I know I can by His help, as we know we cannot do anything without the Lord. We couldn't even get our breath if it weren't for Him.

He has been so good to me this week. I had something wrong with my back and could hardly get around without pain. We called Sis. LaVern Manuel and she came and prayed for me. The other dear saints were praying, too. The dear Lord heard and answered prayer and I began to amend. This is the fourth day and I hardly have any pain at all. I surely thank and praise our God. We know He is still healing His trusting children.

He had also given me added strength to attend most of the Myrtle, Mo., meeting, and also the Hammond, La., meeting. Both meetings were precious and I enjoyed them. I could say amen to every message I heard. The tent meeting at Albany, La., started last night. I was able to attend and enjoyed the good Word of God, and I felt better after the meeting than I did before the meeting. The dear Lord is so very good to unworthy me and I do appreciate it with all my heart.

May God bless you and all the laborers there in the Lord's Print Shop, is our prayer. We enjoyed Sis. Mary Murphey's article in the paper about "Self-Searching Thoughts." I also enjoyed the other articles.

With love and prayers, —Effie Miller

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Calif.—Dear saints: I would like to give my testimony of God's dealings in my life. I have been saved for almost seven years, and I'm sorry to say it was an up and down experience, but praise God, He has lifted me up and I'm standing on the solid Rock now for the old-time truth.

God gave me three dreams when I was a sinner that caused me to seek Him. I had wanted my husband to get saved first, so when I got saved he could hold me up. God saw it differently.

In my first dream, my husband and I were standing outside at night and the heavens were exploding and hitting all around us. I knew it was the end of time and I was lost. I woke up afraid, but soon dismissed it from my mind. In the second dream my husband and I were out in the hills, and in the distance we saw an atomic bomb go off. All I could think of was that the heat wave would hit us any minute and I was lost. I also dismissed this one from my mind. In the third dream my husband and I were outside, and on the horizon were great walls of fire. I knew I was lost forever. After this dream I got saved. Through the precious dealings of God and His dear elders I'm saved today. The thing that stands out to me in all those dreams is that my husband was with me, but when it comes down to the end of time it is yourself alone that counts. Months later I found the Scripture that reads: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall

be burned up. II Peter 3:10. It matches the dreams that I had and I'm convinced I saw what it is going to be like at the end of time.

After years of praying, my husband is now saved. Praise God! He has been saved almost two years. A few weeks ago my oldest daughter was saved. God also gave her a dream about the end of time which prompted her to seek Him.

Through the years God has healed us of many things, some very serious. He has comforted our hearts through trials and tests. We thank him for everything. They are stepping stones to higher ground. We love Him for everything He has done in our lives. If sinners could only realize how wonderful it is to serve God—the peace, joy, and love beyond all human understanding! There is nothing in this life that brings more happiness than God's presence.

Saints, I believe God has a work for me in this life and I need your prayers. My husband, Bryan, our four children and myself send our love and prayers to the saints everywhere. Praise our Lord for His dealings with us!

—Sis. Sheri Rich

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La.—Dear saints: Greetings of love to you in the name of our precious Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We surely do thank the Lord for victory in our souls today. The Lord is so good to us, to make a way for our salvation and sanctification.

We would like to thank the Lord in a special way for how He blessed our family this past week-end. Our youngest son, Mark, got hurt while he was hauling hay. At first we were informed that his arm was broken, but decided later that the shoulder was out of joint. This happened about 5:00 p.m. Sis. LaVern Manuel and Bro. Bob Forbes anointed him with oil and had prayer. The Lord gave some relief, but the shoulder was still out of joint. We encouraged Mark to trust God, which he did. When he made the decision, that was when the victory was won. Praise God! The shoulder was still out of joint, but the battle was won! Mark called us at 5:00 a.m. the next morning and the shoulder had popped back into place. Praise the Lord! We had a prayer meeting at 5:00 a.m. It surely pays to trust God.

Yours in Christ, —Doyle and Cynthia LaCroix

THE RAINBOW

There is a rainbow after the storm—

Oh, ye soldiers of the cross, look up!

This is a token of love from Him;

His disciples must drink of His cup.

He was wounded for our transgressions,

This Jesus of Gethsemane.

He freely gave His life a ransom,

That all men might be free.

Then by faith we will accept Him

As our all on the altar we lay;

The swift moving shadows of evening

Are changing our night into day.

—Mrs. Charles Reese

—o—
"By believing and acting on the Word of God, everything that belongs to us in Christ, becomes available at once."

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: I do not understand Matt. 12:31,32. Please explain.

Answer: First, I will insert this passage: "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come."

The first question to be determined to intelligently discuss these verses is, "What is blasphemy?" Webster defines "blasphemy" as "To speak in an impious or irreverent manner of; to speak ill or to the prejudice of; to use insulting or abusive language." Further Webster defines *blasphemy* as "evil or profane speaking and irreverence of God, derogating from His power or attributes; the expression of defiant impiety and irreverence against God or things held sacred."

Jesus discusses this matter of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit in Matt. 12:31,32, Mark 3:28 and Luke 12:10. The entire context of these Scriptures, which is helpful in understanding and would be good for the reader to read in this connection, is Matt. 12:22-33; Mark 3:22-30; and Luke 12:10. In all these Scriptures we find Jesus using this language, "He that shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him, but whosoever shall blaspheme the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world nor in the world to come." We see here that Jesus uses the terms "speak against" and "blasphemy" interchangeably, and this corresponds with Webster's definitions given above.

Then, to blaspheme the Holy Spirit would be to speak impiously or irreverently of Him and His power and operations or to hold that attitude toward Him. It is specified in Mark 3:30 that Jesus spake these words "Because they said, 'He hath an unclean spirit,'" thus downgrading and derating the Holy Spirit and attributing work which could only be done by Him to the devil. Adam Clarke says that it is evident that this and nothing else is what is meant here. I agree that it is.

Let us keep in mind all the time that we are discussing something very specific here and we should discuss it in a specific way and not in any general terms. If we speak in reference to "The sin against the Holy Spirit" let us specify it as "blasphemy" with an understanding of what that term means. All unrighteousness is sin and all sin is against the Holy Spirit and is grievous to Him. The common category of sin such as pride, foolishness, an evil eye, uncleanness, backbiting, malice, evil speakings, tale-bearing, gossip, slander, deceit and all such else as may be mentioned in the Word of God are against Him only in the sense that His nature is that of absolute holiness and consequently all unrighteousness and unholiness are grievous and a vexation to His holy nature.

Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit stands alone in a category all by itself and is declared to be the only unpardonable sin and, therefore, should be referred to

in a very specific way and not be mentioned in connection with any of the common catalog of sins mentioned in the Bible. Blasphemous words against the Holy Spirit is the worst kind of sin and is unpardonable. Jesus said, "All manner of sin shall be forgiven unto men." Blasphemy against God, a sin immediately touching His name and honor shall be forgiven. Words spoken against the Son of man shall be forgiven even as it was to those who reviled Him at His death, many of whom repented and found mercy. "All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men," said Jesus, "but he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him in this world nor in the world to come."

What is meant here is the individual who knowingly, with a fixed purpose and full exercise of his own will, maliciously opposes, defiantly blasphemes and speaks impiously and irreverently of, and despises the person of the Holy Spirit and His operations.

Matthew Henry comments on this point: "It is adjudged in our law that an act of indemnity shall be construed in favor of that grace and clemency which is the intention of the act. Therefore the exceptions in the act are not to be extended any further than needs be. The gospel is an act of indemnity. It is necessarily construed in favor of grace and clemency and its terms are extended as far as they possibly can be without reacting against God's justice and holiness, in order to make room for every one possible to be made partakers of its mercy and benefits, and the one and only exception is the person that blasphemes the Holy Spirit and should therefore be construed in the narrowest sense. This one exception, and it a somewhat narrow one, is made not because of any defect in God's mercy; not because He does not love those who are guilty of it; not because he who becomes a blasphemer of the Holy Spirit was originally overlooked in the "Whosoever will" invitation; not that he was one singled out by Almighty God as an object of contempt and one to be punished from the beginning; but because to be guilty of it inevitably leaves the sinner in infidelity and impenitence." End of quote.

Now the question remains, "Why is the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit so eternally fatal when all other blasphemy can be forgiven?" Jesus said, "All manner of sin and BLASPHEMY shall be forgiven unto men." Note: this statement of Jesus included all manner of BLASPHEMY. Jesus moved right on to say in the same verse, "But the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men." Why this distinction? The answer is rather simple when we understand the nature of the God-head, the plan of salvation and the unfolding of divine revelation of Himself and His truth unto man.

The God-head is a Trinity composed of Three in One—God the Father, God the Son, (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit. These three have all cooperated together in the plan of salvation in their various roles and capacities. God devised the plan of salvation and sent His Son into the world to confirm it and then sent the Holy Spirit into the world to execute it. God had a dispensation in which He dealt with man directly and personally. Men in general did not understand God and consequently were not true in their allegiance to Him. Then He dealt with men in a more indirect and

impersonal way through the law and the prophets and in different types, shadows and figures tried to reveal Himself more clearly to men through the types and rituals of the law. Though they did not understand Him and love and serve Him as they should, He was merciful unto them and longsuffering with a purpose to send His Son, Jesus, into the world to reveal Himself fully in Him and perchance men would be convinced of their error and turn to Him. Heb. 1:3 declares the Son to be the "Brightness of His glory and the express image of His person." Col. 1:15 and 2 Cor. 4:4 declare that Christ is the "Image of God." In John 14:9 Jesus said, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." Col. 1:19 says that all fullness dwelt in Him. Therefore it was a part of the mission of Christ to reveal God to mankind in a full and complete sense and to bring men to God.

Many were gained and brought to God through His revelation of God to them, but in general they did not understand Him nor believe in Him either. That was not necessarily fatal because there was still another Who was to come and reveal Christ to them in a full measure and convince them of the error of their ways. This was the Holy Spirit. Jesus said in John 16:14, "He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you." Also He said in John 16:8,9 "... He will reprove the world of sin ... because they believe not on me." We see here it was the work of the Holy Spirit to reveal Christ to men and convince and convict them that they had missed the mark and erred greatly in not believing in Him and accepting Him. All who accepted the witness of the Spirit and were convinced of their error and humbled their hearts to Him and acknowledged their sin were granted repentance and were saved. Paul was one who had been a blasphemer but obtained mercy when convinced of his error through the operation of the Holy Spirit. I Tim. 1:13. There were many more.

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity and completes the God-head. This is His dispensation in which we now live and it is the last one. God's Word said in Acts 2:17, "And it shall come to pass in the LAST DAYS, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh"; and Peter declared that that happened on the Day of Pentecost to be a fulfillment of a prophecy found in Joel 2:28. But the Holy Spirit was to be poured out upon all flesh in the LAST DAYS. Therefore these are the LAST DAYS and the last dispensation of time. There is no other to come after the Holy Spirit to accomplish any thing more in the salvation of men. This is IT! It is now or never! All who fail to be convinced of their error in rejecting Christ through the convicting power and influence of the Holy Spirit but continue on in their unbelief and blasphemy are now, and were then, sinning against the last remedy for sin and are left without pardon. The Holy Spirit is the last agent of conviction and the last means of access to God. Jesus said, "No man can come unto me except the Father which sent me draw him." But the Holy Spirit is the agent through which God draws men unto Himself and without His drawing, convicting power we cannot get to God at all.

Since the Holy Spirit is the last remedy for sin and the last means of access to God, to despise and irreverence Him leaves one without any other source of help

and means of access to God and consequently doomed. To blaspheme Him inevitably leaves one in total and permanent impenitence and consequently unforgiven and therefore eternally condemned.

CORRECTION, PLEASE

In the September issue, the second sentence in the last paragraph of the answer should have read as follows: "Therefore it seems to me it could not be said that the Scriptures say it in so many words that 'God was made flesh and dwelt among men,' but it also seems to me that the whole tenor of the Scriptures on this line teach that this actually happened."

It was our error in failing to follow the author's copy. Please excuse us. —Editor.

Neglect Prayer Meeting and Miss Sunday School

Writer's note: Satan has succeeded in getting many professing Christians to miss Sunday school and neglect prayer meeting. We saw a chapel completely unattended on a Wednesday night not long ago. Some live many miles away and cannot attend. God understands each situation.

In the following discourse we will use two names: "Neglect Prayer Meeting" and "Miss Sunday School." We will refer to them as "he" and "she." They represent individuals.

Miss Sunday School and Neglect Prayer Meeting both meant well. They professed salvation. Miss Sunday School claimed to be filled with the Spirit, or "entire sanctification," as she had heard it called. Neglect Prayer Meeting felt it was too far above the human comprehension to have the Spirit of God dwelling in the heart and guiding the intentions. He had dismissed it, saying, "Maybe in later years; besides, I don't understand it now." They were both in error, but justified themselves from different viewpoints.

Neglect Prayer Meeting would speak up in Sunday School. He made efforts to prove his point, and let others know he was well informed. He had his say on items of church business. He could quote the first four words of Romans 12:11, "Not slothful in business." The rest of the verse had left his memory. It reads, "fervent in spirit; serving the Lord."

Miss Sunday School did not have any interest in church affairs. She just didn't have time to do anything like that. She usually stayed up late and caught up on her sleep on Sunday morning. After all, that was the only time she got a full night's sleep.

Perhaps these two would have been satisfied with their slothful experiences. However, it seems God has a way to awaken souls. A man called, "Preacher Warning," felt inspired to hold a revival meeting where they attended services. The first night he wrote a question on the chalk board that made several folks restless. It read: "If everyone in this congregation were just like me, what kind of a congregation would this be?" Bro. Warning saw eyes often glancing at the board, so he left it there for the rest of the meeting.

Miss Sunday School knew that if everyone were like her, there would not be any Sunday school. Neglect Prayer Meeting thought about himself. He remembered once, when he was fishing on a Wednesday evening, that he had thought about going to prayer meeting but it seemed he caught one fish after another, which was something that just doesn't happen every day.

As they both read the board, Satan whispered, "You do have to pay for your home." "You'd just go to sleep if you went regularly." So, they justified themselves, thinking, "We do go to campmeetings and revivals."

Preacher Warning had come to deliver a message of warning to slothful souls. Scriptures were explained, so that they knew they were in error. Bro. Warning said, "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; . . ." Isa. 28:10. "One must obey God's guide to morals." However, he explained, "When one is tired of sin, fully repents, receiving a witness that God has fully forgiven, there is such a great desire to do right that one will long to be with other redeemed souls and receive counsel from others who are more established in the Word. The Bible is God's recorded precepts and lines." Bro. Warning went on to say, "After one is converted, there is a longing in the soul for a yet deeper walk with God. It is called 'sanctification,' or the act of fully surrendering one's will, and receiving the Holy Spirit. He is a personal guide, comfort, and strength to a soul. Without the Holy Spirit one can never fully please God. A person filled with the Holy Spirit will naturally be eager to meet with others who have the same experience. The genuine fellowship of God's people is automatic, as they meet and feel the calm, yet joyful spirit of others." Bro. Warning reminded the assembly that "David of old, who was a man after God's own heart, said one time in Psalms 122:1, 'I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.' It is written in Hebrews 10:25, 'Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as you see the day approaching.' God is very displeased with a neglectful experience. God said to the church at Ephesus (Rev. 2:4), 'I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.' Again He said to the Laodicean church (Rev. 3:15, 16), 'I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.' Jesus said in Matt. 15:8, 'This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.' " Bro. Warning said, "Only a heart experience will stand at the judgment day."

Conviction fell upon the listeners as Heb. 2:1,2, and 3 were read: "Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression, and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?"

Miss Sunday School and Neglect Prayer Meeting both fell at the altar for pardon of their spiritual conditions and sought for their needed help. They asked God to help them be better examples to the

unsaved and to restore the zeal for spiritual things more than for materialistic ambitions. It was wonderful to see their changed countenances as they prayed and arose from the altar.

Preacher Warning said he had one more verse of Scripture to read before the meeting closed. Amos 6:1, "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, . . ." He said, "Some are calling, 'Lower the standard! We can reach the unsaved if we would dress, and be more like the world.' They say, 'Away with the old paths, as we are in a different age now. The things that were practiced 50 years ago are not for us now.' To those who are calling for such, the reply is sounded back by the gospel trumpet even louder and always firm. 'We will not, at any cost, ever lower the standard of truth. We will earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3), because nothing else will stand.' We want genuine experiences far more than popularity. You must bring up your lives to the precepts of truth and principles or be eternally lost forever." Bro. Warning then closed the meeting.

The next Sunday morning and also on Wednesday night, Miss Sunday School and Neglect Prayer Meeting were there and on time. They could hardly wait for their turn to testify. Thereafter, they were called "Attend Sunday School" and "Attend Prayer Meeting." They proved faithful to their new names.

—Paul Sorrell

The Delight of Prayer

*"Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer
That calls me from a world of care;
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare,
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer."*

Some things have a beauty and power that time or familiarity cannot destroy. This is true of the above lines. This morning at an early hour, I heard some voices ringing out this sweet old hymn. It thrilled my being with a blessed secret power. I wonder if all the dear children of God find the hour of prayer as full of delight to their souls as they would like, and as it should be. We clearly understand from the Bible that it is the Christian's privilege to find delight in prayer. The poet who penned the following lines speaks in harmony with Scripture, and with Christian experience:

*"My God, is any hour so sweet
From blush of morn to evening star,
As that which calls me to thy feet—
The hour of prayer?"*

The psalm writer said, "My meditation of him shall be sweet." This is one phase of prayer. Meditating upon the love, glory, and providence of God may be properly termed the prayer of meditation. This can be sweet to the loving heart. The disciple who leaned on Jesus' breast says, "Our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full." I John 1:3,4. Fellowship is

communion; it is companionship; it is familiar intercourse; it is prayer.

Those who have full fellowship with God, have fullness of joy. The Christian life is a life of faith; but it is none the less a life of joy, real conscious joy. Christians do not live by feeling, but they have feeling. Because they live by faith, they have feeling. We fear there are many who do not find the delight in prayer for which their souls long. To them the closet hour is one of struggle, of emptiness, of insensibility; no rapture, no joy, no ecstasy, that should flow in the soul that has communion with God. It is not personal magnetism, or enthusiasm that brings joy; but it is the communion of a living soul with a living God. There will be seasons when prayer seems so little like talking with God; He seems not to be present, but these need not be so frequent as the seasons of heartfelt communion with Him, the seasons when the mind loses sight of things material in its consciousness of the presence of God.

Instead of being a season of joy, of delight, of pleasurable emotion, of effulgence, of the beaming down of light, splendor, and beauty from heaven to the soul, of the sweet revelation of God, prayer is too often a season of dull stupidity, the mere fulfilling of a duty and a duty which cannot be denied is oftentimes irksome. We do not mean to chide anyone who may find it so difficult to pray in his closet, but we want to help you. The prophet gives this promise from God to those who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him and to love His name and keep His covenant. "Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people." Isa. 56:7. The promise is that God will make us joyful in the house of prayer. Not a place of irksome duty, not a place of mere ceremonial form, not a place of dull insensibility, not a place devoid of emotion, but a place of joy.

One reason why secret prayer is so often dull and tiresome is because the devil makes it so. You may think the devil does not concern himself about your having a delightful talk with God, but he does. It fills him with fear and rage. He knows his kingdom will suffer loss if you get very intimate with God. The rejoicing of God's children makes Satan uneasy. He does all in his power to make prayer dull and unenjoyable to you. He tries to make you listless, to catch your thoughts away, to allure you by the things of the world.

Another reason why prayer is so uninviting to some is because of a lack of faith. A faith that sees God, that hears God, that makes God real, is needed when we come into the secret closet. Faith makes God consciously present. Feeling is not faith; but there is a feeling in faith; or, in other words, faith produces feeling. "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing." Sometimes we find it difficult to pray. I suppose the most spiritual find it so sometimes. There are different causes for this, but the principal one is the antagonism of the devil. God permits this for your good. Do not worry about it, but resist the devil and exercise faith in God.

Still another reason why some do not find more enjoyment in prayer is because they pray so little. If you would keep a relish for secret prayer, you must pray

much in secret—as much as circumstances will permit. When prayer is a delight to our hearts, we will be often found engaging in prayer. Somehow we will engage in that which we love. If you have a friend you love dearly, you can find time to be with him. At the large camp-meeting, two friends who love each other and between whom is especial congeniality, will find each other. If they want someone else they must search for them, but they find each other without searching. If we love God and enjoy prayer, it will not be hard to find Him.

—C. E. Orr

"Have No Power Against Me"



Jesus was brought before Pilate after being tried before Caiaphas, the High Priest, and the Sanhedrin. Since the Jews considered even the touch of a Gentile as a legal defilement, they would not go into the praetorium or "hall of judgment." Therefore, Pilate, a Gentile, came out of the hall to them. This was a great condescension on his part, since he was the Roman governor. After hearing the Jews stress that Jesus Christ was an enemy of the state, he was not convinced.

"Art thou the King of the Jews?" Pilate asked Jesus.

"To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice," Jesus answered.

Pilate had Jesus scourged by Roman soldiers. A platted crown of thorns was placed on His head and they put a purple robe on Him. Pilate then brought Jesus out before the Jews and said, "Behold the man!"

"Crucify him! Crucify him!" cried the Jews, and Pilate was afraid.

"Whence art thou?" asked Pilate of Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. "Do you not know that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?"

"Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above," Jesus answered. (John 18:28-40; 19:1-11).

Jesus was in the center of God's will. God had a purpose for His coming into the world and He was fulfilling that purpose. He knew that there was a cup of suffering for Him to drink, and He said, "The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" What perfect submission! He was not afraid of Pilate, nor did He feel that Pilate could do anything to Him unless it was permitted of His Father. He was resting in a higher power than what Pilate had. Although Pilate had earthly power to put Him to death, Jesus knew he could not do that unless His Father permitted it to be. Yet, even though Pilate could kill His body, he could not touch His soul. The sin of the Jews and Pilate brought to pass the killing of Jesus, yet by the time it reached Jesus it became the will of God for Him. Jesus did not recognize Pilate's power to touch Him, or His life, only as God permitted it.

Most of our trials come from people. They are generally the result of someone's sin, mistake, failure, or carelessness. They come in various ways, but by the time they get to us, they are God's will for us. No power can touch us unless God permits it, if we are God's child and living in the center of His will. "We know that all things work

together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Rom. 8:28. God has a purpose in each of our lives, as we submit to Him and obey His Word. Therefore, everything that touches our life "works . . . for good." Oh, can we not see it? Or do we see just the problem, the sin of others, the fault or the failures of those whom we love which wound us? We need to look higher, as Jesus did when He was before Pilate and His life hung in the balance. "Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above." "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Rom. 8:31. God has control, and the angels that encamp all around us have to step back before anything can touch us. (Psa. 34:7). By that time, it surely has to be the will of God. Then if it is the will of God, it must be perfect and right. Surely, we must look higher than the circumstances and see God in everything. "I will say of the Lord, he is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust . . . Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night: nor for the arrow that flieth by day . . . For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." Psa. 91:2,5,11.

The sin of the brothers of Joseph caused him to be sold into Egypt, where he suffered much before he was brought up as ruler in Egypt. God had a purpose in his life, and as he submitted to God, that purpose was brought to pass. When his brothers were filled with grief over their sin, Joseph said, "But as for you, ye thought evil against me: but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive." Genesis 50:20.

To really accept this truth takes out the murmuring against people, and all rebellion. It brings the soul into the hands of God where there is perfect rest. We should continually live in a joyful attitude because we know without a shadow of a doubt that God has perfect control of our lives.

—Sis. Marie Miles

Our Failures

Time is short and we cannot waste it in brooding over past failures. We have a faithful God, a perfect Saviour, and the Holy Spirit has been given as our comforter and guide, and why, if we have made failures in the past, should we fret over them, thus losing precious time that might be spent in glorifying God and comforting those in need of comfort? If we have repented of our sins, if we have believed God and been accepted of Him, He will help us, by His grace to rise above all the past, for He says He will forgive our sins and remember them no more forever against us.

Should we still have some failure or fault through our humanity to overcome and the Holy Spirit points it out to us, it is evident that God is interested and desires that we be rid of that fault or failing, which ever it may be, and He is ready right then to give us grace to overcome if we will, by faith, take it. When God is interested we should be interested and not turn lightly away. We should not be discouraged because a failure has been brought to our notice, but be thankful that we have seen it and that God has not permitted us to go on blindly in it. We should then become so concerned about it that with the whole heart we will seek God's

help to remove it. By His Spirit He searcheth the heart and in His love and mercy shows us our needs and in His faithfulness helps us to be overcomers.

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." Isa. 60:1. "Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established." Prov. 16:3. "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." John 15:2. God in His love desires that we be perfect in Him, that we may have right to the kingdom prepared for us; for nothing impure or unholy can enter there. God is so concerned for our spiritual welfare that He will not let us go on in a fault or failing, but by His Holy Spirit will point it out and in His compassion and faithfulness will help us to get above it. By faith in God we can have victory. "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons." Heb. 12:6-8. God in His love shows us wherein we are weak and at fault and does not leave us alone to conquer, but if we believe and obey, He will, by His Spirit, direct and help us and bring victory and encouragement to the soul. "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." Rom. 8:15.

The heart that with a sincere purpose seeks to know and do the will of God will not be left to battle alone, but will have the support and comfort of the Holy Spirit directed by our loving Saviour and approved by a merciful and faithful God.

God, through His Spirit, manifests Himself to those who love Him. We find these words of Jesus in John 14:21-23, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. . . . If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." We need fear no evil then while God abides with us; but, that we might serve Him out of a pure heart and be perfect before Him, He will purge and cleanse us and direct us in the way of life everlasting.

—Ida M. McCoy

URIM AND THUMMIM

"There has been much speculation as to just what the Urim and Thummim actually were. (Ex. 28:30). The word *Urim* comes from two Hebrew words which are not proper names, but are plurals which denote modes by which Truth was given. *Urim* denotes Light. Josephus, a Jewish historian who lived in the days of the apostles, wrote that the Urim and Thummim were two stones that glowed when victory was imminent or were dark when defeat was near. (Ant. 3:75). At any rate, we find that when kings would learn from the Lord, they came to the priest who had the Ephod, and here they inquired of the Lord. It was then, through the Urim and Thummim, that the answer was given."

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