

FAITH AND VICTORY

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Guthrie, Oklahoma

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New Year's Greetings, 1982

Brighter days and greater blessings
May the New Year bring to you!
Deeper depths of grace possessing
In the holy way so true.

Onward, upward ever moving,
Growing in His love divine,
Ev'ry Christian grace improving,
Measure to the gospel line.

See how God has been beside you
Through the year that's passed and gone,
How He's faithful been to guide you
As a father does his son.

We are swiftly passing, passing
Through this realm of vanity
T'ward the goal of life e'erlasting
Over in eternity.

Some will end their earthly labor
During this New coming Year;
Let us live to serve our neighbor,
Seek to comfort and to cheer.

Will we leave behind a witness
Of the Saviour's pow'r to save?
Will our lives declare a fitness
For that Home beyond the grave?

Jesus came our ransom paying
As a minister to be,
All the Father's love portraying
So our souls could be made free.

His example let us follow,
Be a servant unto all;
And this New Year let us hallow
By obeying now His call.

Brighter days and greater blessings
Thus will come this year to you:
More of Heaven's wealth possessing
In this holy way so true!

—Leslie C. Busbee

The Triumphs of Faith

"By faith, Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." Heb. 11:5.

Enoch was the only man before the Mosaical era that was translated to heaven. God's secrets are always known best by those closest to Him. Enoch knew the Lord. The Biblical account of Enoch is very short, but in that short verse is a world of meaning. "And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years." His fame consisted in one thing—he walked with God. We read of no great exploits that he did; we do not know that he had great wisdom of learning, but we do know that he walked with God.

Some people would feel themselves highly honored to be near the king or the president or to be a high counselor or officer at some court; some count it an honor to be friends and companions of great and wise men: but if that be an honor, how much more an honor to walk with God. Enoch pleased God and he knew it. He had a testimony from God to that effect. What could be more soul-satisfying than to have a testimony from God that He is pleased with us?

Enoch walked with God by faith. That is the only way in which we can walk with God—"That Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith." No doubt in that three hundred years Enoch had many trials and tests. Doubtless at times God seemed afar off and his prayers seemed unanswered, but notwithstanding all this, he walked with God. His daily cares and toil, the sorrows and joys of his life, did not turn him from his one set purpose of walking with God. His life called for great decision. He lived in a godless age. So wicked were the people that God destroyed them afterwards with an awful flood, but his dark surroundings did not cause him to lose sight of God.

Enoch walked with God. Is that your experience, dear reader? Calmly reflect on your mode of life, how often you talk with God, and how near you really are to Him. What was possible to Enoch is certainly

possible now. We can walk with God by faith every day of our lives.

A man's character becomes to a certain extent like those with whom he associates. By walking with God we may expect to become like Him. Oh, let us walk with God though the world forsake and despise us! When Christ talked with the two disciples as He walked with them on the way to Emmaus it is said that their hearts burned within them. How our hearts burn within us and glow with heavenly joys when we by faith walk and talk with God!

—A. L. Byers

A Gift For Jesus

"Come, come unto me," said a gentle voice within. "You are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

"Pst-st-st," said a roaring voice. "Don't listen! Think of what all you'll have to give up. It's just not worth it!"

Thus was the conversation going on with a young 14-year-old girl one Christmas night after the gospel had been preached in the Assembly meeting. She had served the harsh voice too long and knew that his wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23). But what about the gentle voice? Well, she would find out, so she yielded and went to the altar and gave her heavy burden of sin to the Lord that night. He put a peace within her heart; such glorious peace! And up in heaven the Lord rejoiced because one lost lamb was found. (Matt. 18:12-14) The young girl took up her cross to follow Jesus, and she found out she had nothing "to give up" but what she was tired of and ready to get rid of. "I tried the road of sin and found its prospects all deceive; I proved the Lord and joys abound more than I could believe! His yoke is easy, His burden is light, I've found it so—I've found it so! His service is my sweetest delight, His blessings ever flow!" This song rang in the heart of the young girl, for truly she found HIS YOKE IS EASY.

The devil was disgusted with the young girl, but had not given up on her. He came rushing in like a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8), and the young girl found her spirit indeed was willing, but her flesh was weak. (Matt. 26:41) When water baptism was offered, the young girl felt the need, but . . . "What foolishness to lower yourself down under water before a crowd of people!" the devil said. "What will they think? This isn't so necessary—just a form." And although she silenced that voice, its influence had sway and she was not baptized. Oh, what a terrible mistake! Once more the devil wanted to slither in like a snake to nestle again in her heart. This took some of the joy from her heart, and it was harder yet for her to testify for the Lord. The young girl had tasted the freedom in salvation (John 8:32), and now she knew a justified life brought peace with her God (Rom. 5:1). She was determined to keep that peace within. She went to the Word of God for guidance concerning baptism. Matthew 3:13 told her of Jesus' baptism; then she read where the Ethiopian was baptized by Philip (Acts 8:27-39). Many are the Scriptures encouraging and

teaching baptism. One day her Bible opened to Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." The young girl decided the devil was not going to cheat her any more. That spring she was baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Such strength and victory she gained after doing the holy will of her Father! She had testified to all that she served her Creator. The devil was so astonished that he was speechless for some time. Praise the Lord!

However, the devil was still around, and his hatred for the young girl had increased. He heaped trials and persecutions on her, trying to make her stumble and lose her testimony. The devil is sly and strong. The young girl often found her newly gained strength giving out to leave her crushed under the railings the devil lashed upon her mind. But in her heart, the peace was still there, and again she went to the Holy Bible for comfort. There she found it.

"Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" (Acts 19:2) That was what the young girl needed! Now that she had given up sin and had made clear through baptism her desire to serve the Lord, she needed yet another work of grace—a preserving power to help her better withstand the wiles of the devil. She needed holiness, purity, perfection; she needed sanctification. "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly." 1 Thess. 5:23. Now that she had given her load of sin to the Lord through repentance, her heart was peaceful, but she needed a guide to lead her into more perfection. She had given the Lord the ungodliness and worldly lusts in her heart when she repented (Titus 2:11, 12), but now the Lord was asking for the good, sacred heart and life He had so freely given her. He wanted her to present herself to God as a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1), where she could "be a vessel unto honour, sanctified and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work." 2 Tim. 2:21.

The young girl read in 1 Thess. 5:23, 24, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." The Lord promised to be faithful to her; would she be faithful to Him? The Lord dealt with her in such love that it was not hard for her to see her need of consecration, and she yielded very soon to His wooing. Such happiness and joy followed her consecration when the Lord sanctified her! Now she had obeyed the will and plan of God! And as a gift, she had received the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38)

When the next Christmas came around, a young 15-year-old girl rejoiced over the salvation the young 14-year-old girl had received a year ago that day! Now instead of giving the Lord a load of sins, this Christmas the young girl gave praise to her Lord and Savior. Her heart was in a condition to now say with the angel and heavenly host: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men," for truly she had that peace within her heart.

—Connie Sorrell

Can We Be Holy In This Life?

Is holiness a Bible doctrine; and is holiness for us in this life? A large majority of the professed Christians have decided that holiness is not for Christians in this life. They hope to be holy in the world to come, but while here in the flesh, they say we are sinful and not able to live holy.

We do not claim to be in the spiritual body while we are yet in the flesh: We are changed from a natural body to a spiritual body at the resurrection, but that is all the change that will take place with every child of God at the coming of the Savior. Those that live in sin and will not believe in holiness, but expect to be made holy at the last day, will find, when it is too late, that they have made a fearful mistake.

In the first place, would God command us to do something, or be something that we could not do or be? If we confess our sins He will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Isa. 55:7. We see here that the sinner must forsake his wicked ways and even his unrighteous thoughts, before he can get mercy and pardon.

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." Eph. 1:4. God's plan was that His people must be holy. When He made Adam and Eve, he made them not only good but very good. When they did what He told them not to do, they could no longer remain in the presence of God. "... By one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one [Christ] shall many be made righteous." Rom. 5:19. The prophet Isaiah in speaking of Christ's kingdom on earth, says: "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those; the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein." Isa. 35:8. The people of God are traveling from earth to heaven on the way of holiness; the unclean can not travel over this road, it is for the redeemed. God calls His people to this holy way. "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness." 1 Thess. 4:7. When? In this life or the one to come? "Being then made free from sin, ye become the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness." Rom. 6:18, 19. Paul said, for them to yield their members "now" unto holiness. We cannot yield our members and change our life after we have died and passed into eternity; it is now or never.

Some people say that it is unscriptural and unreasonable to claim to be holy. "I beseech you

therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, *holy*, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Rom. 12:1. This holy sacrifice of our bodies is a reasonable service. "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Cor. 7:1. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world." Tit. 2:11, 12. The doctrine of serving God with the spirit and serving the devil with the flesh, is contrary to the Word of God. We must be holy in thought, word, and deed. —C. S. Wyatt

Walking With God

A Christian dwells in a heavenly place. He is no more groping about amid earthly things, but he lives above. With his hands he attends to temporal things, but with his heart, he is attending to heavenly and eternal things. A Christian is "raised up." His life is on a higher plane than when in sin. He then walked amid earthly and sensual things; now he walks with God. He is raised up to an heavenly place and there sits with Christ. No place can be an heavenly place except God be there. Then if a Christian dwells in an heavenly place, he dwells where God dwells. Being a physical creature, he, in that sense, dwells here below. He must needs attend to the things that pertain to physical existence. But his soul being filled with the Spirit of God and the elements of heaven, in a spiritual sense, he dwells amid heavenly things—he walks with God. When his heart begins again to attach its affections to earthly things, he loses love and delight in heavenly things. He can not love God and love the things of the world. God is the object upon which the Christian fixes the affections of his heart. The Spirit of God that dwells in him and in which he walks, draws his soul up to heaven as the needle is attracted by a magnet. The eagle sometimes goes down into the vale, but she builds her nest high on the rocky cliff. The Christian walks upon the earth, but his home and rest is in God. "Return to thy rest, O my soul."

Christian, have your walk with God. So live in the Spirit that thy heart will often be uplifted to God in praise, thanksgiving, and adoration. When filled with the Spirit of God, there will be close attachment to the heart of Him. A sweet heavenly awe will thrill the soul as we dwell in His presence. In the early morning and in the twilight hour, there will be a holy quietness and a sacred silence in the soul before the majestic presence of God.

—C. E. Orr

The Lord is not valued at all until He is valued above all.

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 other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044 (USPS184-660)

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Write for prices on larger quantities.	

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 service 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; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Freewill 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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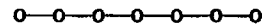
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EDITORIALS

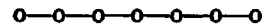


A HAPPY NEW YEAR'S GREETING TO ALL OUR READERS, and may this New Year of 1982 bring you abundant spiritual joy and prosperity in the service of the Lord!

This January issue of the new year goes to press and in the mail just prior to the beginning of the 75th annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting here in Guthrie. The first service will be held Christmas night, Dec. 25, and continue daily through Jan. 3, 1982. A large attendance is expected if the weather remains favorable.

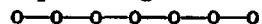


Time is swiftly passing, and the New Year of 1982 is dawning. It is the mercy of God in extending time in the hope that many more souls everywhere will hear the gospel of Christ, believe it, and turn to Him with their whole heart before time runs out. The Apostle James asked the question: "What is your life?", and he answered the question in these words, "It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." Jas. 4:14. For those few who live a hundred years, it is "a little time," and for the many others their time is much shorter. The brevity and uncertainty of this life should serve as a warning to every soul to make their calling and election sure with God, and be prepared to meet Him in peace.



With the blessings of the Lord, the gospel work moved forward by the pulpit and press with many victories during the past year. Many profitable tent meetings and campmeetings were held, and much gospel literature in the form of tracts, papers, and books have gone out to the home and foreign fields. May the gospel seed germinate, grow, and produce an abundance of good fruit in the hearts and lives of honest souls.

By faith and trust in God, we look forward to a continuation of God's blessings upon His Word and work in this new year of 1982, or as long as He extends time. Jesus commanded His disciples, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, . . . teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you," and then He gave them the promise, "And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28:19, 20. The end of the world has not come yet, so He is still with us according to His precious promise which cannot fail. Let us ever move forward in God's work with faith and confidence in the all-prevailing name of Jesus.



At this office there are in stock about 400 different titles of English gospel tracts and a number in Spanish to be sent free in limited quantities for careful and prayerful distribution. Write for a free 4-ounce sample to read and pass on, or enclose in your letters. One gospel tract may result in the salvation of many souls.

Beautiful 1982 Wall Calendar with Scripture . . .

This 1982 Wall Calendar has beautiful nature scenes in color for each month with Scriptural emphasis. Size 7¼ by 13½ inches. Price, \$1.30 each, plus 70c for postage and handling, which is a total of \$2.00, postpaid to your address.

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Bound Volumes of 1981 Papers Available . . .

Bound volumes of the eleven issues of the **Faith and Victory** papers for 1981 are now available at \$1.00 each, plus 65c for postage and handling. Also ready at this time are the 1981 **Beautiful Way books for Juniors** (52 papers for the year) at \$1.00 each, plus 65c for postage and handling. Send your orders TODAY!

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What Are the Dates of Your Campmeeting? . . .

Many of our readers would like to know the dates of the Church of God campmeetings for the year of 1982 so they can pre-arrange their vacations to attend these meetings. Those who have this information, please send in the campmeeting dates by Feb. 15, 1982, so we can publish the entire list in the coming March issue.

The dates of the next National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri, are set for **July 23 to August 1, 1982**. Watch for other coming campmeeting dates in the March issue.

The next Oklahoma State campmeeting to be held here at Guthrie, Okla., is scheduled for **May 28 to June 6, 1982**, Lord willing.

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Some of the out-of-print books scheduled for reprinting in the near future are: "**Harry the Newsboy and Other Stories**" by Isabel Byrum, and "**Heart Talks**" by C. W. Naylor.

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The Second Century in the "Evening Light" . . .

The "Evening Light" restoration movement of the Church of God is in its second one hundred years. Let us reaffirm and ever maintain those precious Bible truths which brought forth this glorious restoration movement in this "evening time" of the gospel day. The pioneer ministers and saints staked their lives, fame, and fortunes on these sacred doctrines. In fact, numbers of them actually sold their farms and property, and went forth to carry these Bible truths to the ends of the earth. God's Word which they preached was confirmed with signs following. Today we need more of that zeal, consecration, sacrifice, and love for the truth which they demonstrated in their lives. An aged saint, Sister Carrie Winn, of the Guthrie congregation used to say many times, "There is not a dead stone in the building." May the Lord spiritualize and energize all the members of His spiritual Temple, the Church.

The doctrines of divine healing, sanctification, holy living, and the unity of God's people are being attacked and contested more than any other in these last days. Gog and Magog are gathering their hosts

and encompassing the camp of the saints in preparation for that last, climactic, death punch; but, all praise to God, divine intervention will destroy the adversaries and preserve His holy remnant.

The songwriter D. S. Warner expresses the need of the hour in these words:

"Who will suffer with the Saviour,
Take the little that remains
Of the cup of tribulation
Jesus drank in dying pains?"

"Who will offer soul and body
On the altar of our God?
Leaving self and worldly mammon,
Take the path that Jesus trod?"

"Oh, for consecrated service,
'Mid the din of Babel strife!
Who will dare the truth to herald
At the peril of his life?"

"Soon the conflict will be over,
Crowns await the firm and pure;
Forward, brethren, work and suffer,
Faithful to the end endure."

Let us ever hold up the shield of faith, move forward in the mighty name of Jesus, and see the end with sweeping victory.

—L. D. Pruitt

In Memorial

Sis. Lydia Jantz, aged 83, passed to her eternal reward on November 19, 1981, at her home in Midwest City, Okla.

She had been a faithful child of God for many years, being in meeting as much as possible, and writing to encourage others. She will surely be missed among those with whom she worshipped. Bros. Archie Souder and Ed Wilson officiated at the funeral service. Burial was in Okla. City.

Note of Thanks

The Timmons and Mogness families would like to take this means of thanking the Church of God at N. E. Third and Phillips, Oklahoma City, and each and every one who sent cards, letters, and performed other acts of kindness at the time of the death of our loved one, Billie Martin. Billie was the grandson of the late Sis. Ophelia Lefford of the Green Pastures-Spencer, Oklahoma area.

Your love will always be remembered.

ONE LIFE

One life for Christ is all I have,
One life to do my part,
One life to give my very all,
With all my soul and heart.

—Edward M. Brandt

Prayer Requests



Fla.—Pray for Bro. Roy Blanchard who is suffering chest pains with heart trouble.

Ohio—Pray for Sister Annie Chestnut who is sick and desires earnest prayer for her healing.

Tex.—Sister Velda Ellis requests prayer for her daughter who is ill in the hospital and a son in the mental institution.

Colo.—Sister Addie McEndree asks prayer for strength and healing to her body, and for her unsaved children and grandchildren.

Okla.—Pray for Sis. Tennie Bailey who is suffering with heart trouble.

Wyo.—Bro. and Sis. W. L. Coffin desire prayer for several requests they have before the Lord, and especially one long-felt desire for a true work of God to be started in Sheridan.

Illinois—Pray earnestly for the healing of Bro. Curtis McEwen who is suffering with heart trouble and sinus headaches. He is so lonesome since the Lord called his wife Home last May.

The undersigned talked to Brother and Sister Hargrave in Goulds, Fla., on Dec. 16, and they want to report to the Church that the prayers of the saints are effectual in their behalf. The court trial, in which the authorities are seeking to obtain permanent custody of their 12-year-old daughter Rachel on medical charges, has been postponed indefinitely. No doubt this is the route the Lord is using to drop the charges altogether and leave Rachel at home with her parents where she is now. Rachel is attending school. Let the Church continue to pray for Bro. and Sis. Hargrave in this fiery trial, and that the Lord will miraculously heal Rachel of the injury caused by the brain surgery which was performed over the protest of her parents.

Let us ever hold up the shield of faith in God, for faith is the victory. —Lawrence Pruitt

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

Kerala, S. India (Nov. 18)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and the saints there and abroad: We send our greetings of Christian love to all of you in the precious name of Jesus Christ, "who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." (2 Cor. 1:4)

Thank you very much for your kind letter dated Nov. 2, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude and appreciation.

The rain is slowing little by little, and we have started again to conduct outdoor meetings. We are now getting ready for our 16th general campmeeting on our Karikkom Bethel campground which starts on the 6th of January, 1982, and continues five days. We invite the earnest prayers of the saints in America for the many spiritual blessings, and also for the supply

of the temporal needs of the meeting. We thank God to know that Sister Dorothy Keiser got a visa to come to India and participate in this campmeeting. We are more than glad to welcome more saints from America to India.

By faith we started to print the second edition of the *Evening Light Song Book* in our native language which consists of 300 songs. We need more funds to get it finished. Please join with us in prayer for this matter, also.

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh." (2 Cor. 4:7-11)

God has kindled a flame in our hearts to make us beacon lights for Jesus and His truth. Spurgeon once said, "Lamps do not talk, but they do shine. A light house sounds no drum, it beats no gong; and yet far over the waters its friendly spark is seen by the mariner."

We earnestly pray for the healing of your body. Let us exchange prayers.

My wife sends her special love to Sister Maybelle and all the sisters in America.

Yours in the Lord's service, —John Varghese
(Editor's note: In July, 1979, a fund was started to purchase a van for Bro. John Varghese to use to transport gospel workers in that vast mission field of India. In more than two and one-half years that fund has risen to only \$3,289.20 at the present time. A new or used van will perhaps cost at least eight to ten thousand dollars in India. This note will give our readers an idea of the large amount yet needed to carry the project through. Let each one ask the Lord what He would have you to do for this worthy project. You may send your free-will offering to this office, and specify its purpose. —L. D. Pruitt)

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (Oct. 26)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints of God: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus—the Rose of Sharon, and the Lily of the Valley.

Thank you for your letter dated Oct. 4, 1981, with its enclosure which is noted with great appreciation. With the financial aid received for the chapel fund, we proceeded to purchase more of the material for the chapel roof here at Kwale. May the Lord richly bless every donor. The construction of the building is progressing well, with the Kwale brethren co-operating wholeheartedly. We have no doubt that the Lord will continue to provide the needed funds to finish the chapel.

The called here in Kwale are pressing on faithfully for a higher calling, realizing that the higher the calling the harder the discipline fitting one for it.

One way to show our gratitude for being in a country where we may worship openly and have the means to attend the various places of worship, is to financially support the missions overseas. Since I do not know where the need is greatest in our overseas missions, I am asking you to distribute the enclosed as the Lord leads you.

May God continue to bless the work being done at the Print Shop, for it brings so much encouragement to the family of God, of which I am so thankful that I am now a part. The fellowship shared through the efforts of all who contribute is so wonderful.

Our prayer is that God will continue to bless His family in a way that is best, and that we all realize and recognize the fact that HIS way is best.

Christian love, —Barbara Campbell

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Wisc.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: Greetings in Jesus' name. We think of you often and pray for you every day.

As we approach another Christmas, our thoughts turn back to the time our Saviour was born in a manger in a stable in the town of Bethlehem. What a lowly way of coming! We are so thankful for His coming, and that He reigns in our heart. . . .

We are well, and always busy. I am in my 86th year, and Elsie is in her 84th. Time is running out for us, but we are so thankful for all the blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us.

Enclosed is a check for the missionaries.

With love, —Bro. and Sis. Frank Dietrich

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Okla.—I am very thankful for the blessings of the Lord, and thankful for the saints of God and their prayers and concern for one another.

I have been thinking back how poorly my dear companion was in October, 1980. She had gone down in health until it looked very much like her end was near. Many prayers had gone up for her. I thought of what it would mean to be without her and I really became concerned. I would be up praying with her during the night when her suffering was so severe. One night when I was fasting and praying, she was suffering. This was about midnight. I was by her bed praying, but could not get through. It seemed that my prayers would not go anywhere. I dressed and went to the kitchen where I could be alone. I read and prayed until I prayed through. I went back to her bed, knelt and prayed with her, and she went to sleep. I went back to bed, but the bed could not hold me. I got up, dressed, and walked the floor, praising the Lord. I finally went to bed about 3:00 a.m., and slept until morning. That was the first day of November 1980.

From that time it seemed she only grew worse. She had a breaking out that looked terrible. On February 11, we went to the doctor to see what this was. He examined her, and said her heart was her main problem, and that it would get worse. The breaking out was caused by the veins bleeding. The

heart was not circulating the blood through her body. He was ready to start treatment, but we told him we were trusting the Lord. He said he would not interfere since this was our belief, but he thought it was not a very good belief.

I still held on to what the Lord had given me the night of November 1. I don't know just when the change came, but she began to improve and gain weight. Now one year has gone by. She is still not completely well. She can't wear shoes, and her hands are drawn and twisted. She has some complications yet, but, oh, I thank the Lord for all He has done! It is so precious just to trust Him. I know He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think.

We appreciate all the saints' prayers that have gone up for us. I want to always be faithful to Him.

Yours in Christ,

—Hyrum Ray

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

Okla.—Dear saints: It has been awhile since I have given my testimony through this paper.

First, I want to say that I feel unworthy of God's mercy and love to me. Salvation is so real and precious. As I recall my life, I can never remember anything being as important to me as salvation. My heart was fixed in my youth, through my mother's (Mabel Melot) teaching and her own love for the Lord, the saints, and her vision of God's one true Church. I have told my mother many times that the heritage of her teaching me to turn to our great heavenly Father for every problem was worth more than gold. We may not understand God's dealings in our lives, but we know beyond a doubt that He knows what is best. We see things so differently. I often desire to see my life as Jesus sees it, and then I would know better how to please Him. In our human weakness, if we don't fix our heart to serve Him or die, Satan will get an advantage and destroy our faith in God, His children, and the Church. Since the "just shall live by faith," no matter how weak we feel, nor how dark the storms appear, we cling to the "Old Rugged Cross." How unworthy I feel to bear the cross! The cross for each of us means giving up whatever is dearest. The hardest burden to bear is our step upward to heaven. God does not see our heartache as we feel it. He sees the end result. He is answering our heart-rending cry, "Lord, keep me faithful, so I can make heaven my home in eternity."

It has been fourteen months since the Lord called our daughter, Colleen, to Himself. For two weeks prior to that day, she spent on her own in re-dedication and reconsecration in preparation for her Home-going. She was only sixteen, but she often thanked me for teaching her about the importance of salvation above all earthly things. Colleen would say how glad she was to have a pure vision of the Church of God. She thanked me for taking her to church services regularly, for helping her study the mysteries of the Bible, and teaching her the meaning of prayer as our weapon over our daily problems. I am thankful that I took time to read and pray with my children while they were growing up.

I thank the Lord for better health than I did have. For about twelve or fourteen years, I reached death's door several times, and scarcely saw a day without pain. My pain was severe and then less severe, so raising a family was a difficult chore. My love for God and for my family carried me through. I felt like Job many times, especially this past year.

One night my battles of heartache seemed to overwhelm me, when about 11:00 p.m., the phone rang. It was long distance from a dear sister with a burden for me. Since she had no way of knowing the severity of my battle, my heart rejoiced as she gave me Scriptures, such as Isaiah 54, as special comfort and strength. This has happened through several dear sisters when I begged the Lord: "I can't find any other words to pray. Can someone out there share my sorrow and have a burden to pray for me?" Each time the Lord saw the test was enough, and gave relief and courage to overcome. Praise the Lord! As the song says in "The Best of the Trade," "I traded my sins for salvation, I traded my sorrows for joy . . .," what better can we wish for!

I know each true saint of God has been in the fiery furnace as time seems to be rolling fast to eternity. "Heaven will surely be worth it all," and by the Lord's sufficient grace and my weakness in leaning heavily on God's perfect strength, I hope to see the end of this Christian race; "he that endureth to the end shall be saved," and "weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

Let us pray for one another to keep faithful, since our soul is the only valuable possession we are responsible for. I desire to meet the great Judgment Day with joy and not with an excuse. Pray for me.

Christian love,

—Wilma Meek

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and co-workers: We surely do appreciate the gospel material there at the Print Shop. So much other material of today is not worth reading.

We have felt impressed to send in our testimony to answered prayer. It all began one morning when we first woke up. Our daughter, Shavon, age four, had a slight earache. We comforted her, and told her she would feel better in a while. It began to get worse. The Lord impressed us to anoint and pray for her. We did that, but oh, our hearts were about to be stirred. So often we call on God in prayer with little or no feeling of concern or reverence; almost as if duty bound, but not from the heart. Such was the case as we prayed for our daughter, and such was the answer. She grew worse. As we began to see our error, we became more earnest in prayer. God began to ease the suffering. Soon she began to complain that her other ear hurt. I asked how the first ear was, and she said, "Fine." So we began to battle with the other ear. We prayed and labored in prayer for an hour or so, but she grew worse. The Lord was blessing us in prayer. It was surely led of the Spirit. The Lord impressed again to anoint. We obeyed. We prayed and prayed over her while she suffered. All of a sudden, the Lord sent the

witness to our soul that she was healed. We began to sing, cry, and shout the praises of God, though she still complained of pain. We explained to her that God had heard and healed her; that it was just the devil. We began to rebuke the devil. She prayed also. It's precious to see your children pray and call on God because you've trained them to trust God. The pain moved into her cheek. I told her the devil surely gave himself away when he moved it there. We still rebuked the devil. It was now about 12 noon. We had been laboring in prayer three to four hours. She went to sleep for about five to ten minutes, then woke up and told me the pain had moved to her jaw. We still held on to the witness. But soon the enemy began to try to make us doubt because she was still suffering. But thank God, He came in and told us to not look at her suffering, to pay no attention to her crying, that He had done the work. Thank God, our faith mounted up. We claimed an hour's sleep for her, and she soon was fast asleep. When she awoke an hour later, the pain was gone. Praise God!

We talked about all that had been done. She was so impressed with how long we had to pray before she got relief. She finally told me, "We were winning, weren't we, Mommy?" She could hardly wait for her sister and brother to get home from school to tell them all about it. We hope it will carry a lasting impression on her mind.

I wonder how many of us ask God for something with so little burden as we had done in the beginning? How many pray until the witness comes? Then how many pray though all hell comes against them, until they receive what has been witnessed? May God help us all, is my prayer.

Yours in Christ,

—Sis. Sheri Rich

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Florida—Dear saints: These are perilous and trying times for us. If we haven't been running for our life, we need to start by shaking off all that is ungodly and not of Christ Jesus.

Eph. 6:11, 12, exhorts us to "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Dear ones, we must be careful of what we say about or how we look at our brothers and sisters. We must remember that the Creator created you and me the way we look.

Pray for me that my faith in God won't fail, and that I will serve Him with my life.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Betty J. Parks

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Va.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the saints: Greetings in the name of our precious Lord and Saviour. I love Him and my heart's desire is to please Him, to keep His commandments and laws. He has done so much for me. He found me lost in sin and lifted me out and set my feet on the solid Rock. Praise His name! I think of the song that says, "No turning

back; the cross before me, the world behind me." My soul has found the rest that I longed for. Christ filled the part that the world could not fill.

The Lord has been so good to me. I could never praise Him enough for His goodness and mercy. For eight years I prayed about going to the Monark Springs campmeeting at Neosho, Mo., and I knew one day the Lord would work it out for me to go.

Things looked dark eight years ago. When I got saved, the persecutions came hard, as my husband opposed my life for the Lord. The Lord was so near to me during those trying times. Whenever the trials came hard, I'd go to my place of prayer and pour out my heart to the Lord. He was always there to help and comfort me. One night I was crying and pouring my heart out to the Lord, and He gave me a vision of an enamel water pot that was full of steam. The steam would push the lid off the pot. For a period of time, this went on—the steam pushing the lid off, and the lid coming back down on the pot as the steam cooled a little. After a while the pot cooled off completely; all the steam was gone. The lid never came off again. The Lord made me to know that the pot represented my companion, and that one day he would be just like the pot. God would take all the steam out and bring him to a cool state.

A couple of years passed, and things got worse until one day my husband left me. At that time my consecration was tested. I thought I had my husband consecrated until the Lord showed me otherwise. For two weeks I couldn't read or pray; I'd just cry when I tried to draw my mind in to read or pray. I couldn't put my husband on the altar; therefore, I went down in defeat. For a month I was away from the Lord and in an awful state. I felt like I'd lose my mind. I wanted to live for the Lord, but I couldn't seem to turn my husband over to the Lord. I came to realize how much I really wanted to go to heaven, and if I was ever going to get there it would have to be God's way. I began to cry out to the Lord to help me turn loose of my husband. I came to the place where I could say, and mean it with all of my heart, that I loved the Lord more and wanted to live for Him even if it meant giving up my husband whom I loved very much. I asked the Lord to forgive me for what I had done and asked Him to give me grace to take my stand. The Lord filled me with boldness and grace, and I took my stand against the devil. Oh, praise the Lord! The days following that consecration were rough. I was much tried, but the Lord brought me to the land I enjoy today.

After I made that consecration, the Lord began to witness to me that my husband would never leave again. Things looked dark, but he didn't leave. God began to move everything out of the way. Even the divorce lawyer suddenly died. I'm so thankful that the Lord only required me to make the consecration, and then He allowed me to have my companion. I can never praise Him enough for His goodness and mercy. The pot is cool today; all the steam is gone.

Flowers have replaced the bruises, and "I love you" instead of hurting words. My home is better than it has ever been.

Also, my hope and dream of eight years came true this past July when I walked on the Monark Springs campground in Missouri. I believed to see that day. I knew God would give me the desire of my heart, and going to Monark was that desire. He moved mountains and hills, and I found myself enjoying that good campmeeting. Praise His name! How I cherish the days I spent there!

Pray for me, as I love the Lord and intend by His grace to make heaven my home.

Christian love,

—Nancy Wagoner

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear saints of God: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. The Lord so wonderfully healed me of a rather large spot that had been growing on my arm for several years. It didn't hurt, so I decided to have a doctor look at it. He wanted me to go to the hospital to have it removed. Instead, the Lord did the surgery, as one morning last spring the Lord caused it to fall off while I was asleep. I was so surprised that I could hardly believe what I saw. It just didn't seem real. There it was in the bed. Praise the Lord! It would have cost me quite a sum of money to have gone to the hospital. The song says, "It's no secret what God can do."

Several years ago, the Lord healed me of another bad condition. The Lord has been good to me down through the years. I mean to trust Him all the way. I like this humble way of life. The Scripture says, "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and He shall direct thy paths." . . .

I realize we are living in the last days. The Bible surely is being fulfilled. . . .

Please remember me and my unsaved ones in your prayers.

Your Sister in the Lord,

—Sally Williams

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Md.—Dear ones in Christ: I have so much to thank and praise the Lord for. First, God chose me to be one of His six years ago. Truly, serving Him grows sweeter as the years go by.

I can never thank and praise Him enough for many prayers answered; one, about a year ago when my son, his wife, and two other couples went on a trip to ride the rapids, a very dangerous sport. The two women fell overboard. My son jumped in and saved his wife; then he saved the other young woman even though she fought him off. On that day I suddenly felt a great urge to pray, but I did not know what had happened, but felt that there was trouble. God so wonderfully answered prayer. It was truly a miracle. My son was just getting over a very serious operation, but God so blessed him that there were no after effects. God is still on His throne and is hearing the cries of His own.

May God bless each and every one who labors to carry the gospel to the lost, and also to encourage the saints. So many of us are isolated. We depend on

gospel literature for much of our help and encouragement to fight the battles of daily life.

In Christian love, —Sis. Lillian Wright

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ont., Canada—Dear ones in Christ: I am thankful to the Lord for full salvation and for victory in my soul. The Lord is also the Healer of my body. To the glory of God I will mention how the Lord healed me.

In the beginning of this year of 1981, I had some pains in my joints. I did not know what it was, but it was in my fingers, arms, and shoulders. It could have been arthritis. I asked Sis. Betty Friessen how it started with her arthritis, and she said in the joints. The devil painted many dark pictures for me, and said, "What will you do when you are all crippled up and become helpless? Who is going to care for you and your family?" We prayed about it, and I also requested prayer from the saints. It continued for quite some time, but all at once the pain was gone. I was so occupied that I did not realize that the pain had left me. But my faith was tested. After quite some time the pains came back again. The devil wanted me to doubt my healing, but I resisted the devil in faith, and said, "I am healed." Praise the Lord, all signs of this affliction are gone.

On Nov. 21, 1981, I got pains in my stomach, which moved to my back. It continued to get worse. When I checked with my hand where the pain was, it felt like an ulcer or a growth. Between 8 and 9 o'clock, I went with my husband for a walk. On certain movements it became more painful. When we came home I said to my husband, "Let us pray." When my husband prayed, I noticed a healing power, like a hand striking, over the painful spot and it felt like someone was striking it away. . . . I know the healing was done at the time of prayer. The Lord confirmed His Word: "That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father." The next morning all the symptoms of sickness were gone. When I asked my husband to write the experience down, the devil at once brought the pain right back again. But I ignored the devil, and he had to flee. Thank God, I am healed! It is so wonderful to trust the Lord. —Martha Oppel

THERE'S A BRIGHT TOMORROW

In all of our lives some sorrow will come,
Some heartbreak, some burden, some pain,
But for every committed child of Christ,
Every sorrow becomes glorious gain.
God gives sweet peace and rest for the soul;
His love shines through like the sun.
His mercies in trials and grace for the test,
Mean victory is ours to be won.
Fail not precious soul, trust fully in Him,
For He our faith shall renew.
Though skies may be dark and hope may be dim,
Praise God for seeing us through!

—Edward M. Brandt

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: What was the significance of the veil in the temple being rent in twain from top to bottom when Jesus died on the cross?

Answer: This question bears some relationship to the question in the December issue, as it is clear that the temple which was the center of the Jewish religious system and of their worship stood complete and intact with both of its veils right up until the time Christ yielded up the ghost (died) on Calvary's cross. Therefore, it is further confirmed that the Jewish system had its standing and was valid until then, and that it ended abruptly right there.

Matt. 27:50, 51, says that when Jesus yielded up the ghost (died) the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom. That veil divided between the Holy Place and Most Holy Place in the temple. Behind this veil in the Most Holy Place is where God Himself chose to dwell on the mercy seat between the cherubim (Ex. 25:17-22). Read verse 22 in particular. 1 Sam. 4:4, says that God dwelt between the cherubim. Heb. 9:7, says that the high priest was the only one ever permitted in this Most Holy Place, and he only one time each year, and he was to sprinkle the blood of the sin offering as he went. Then verse 8 says, "The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing." But when Jesus died, the veil was rent, and God moved out of that place never again to dwell in a temple made with hands (Acts 17:24). He was through with that temple and its religious system and worship forever, and it was left desolate without its inhabitant (God)—Luke 13:35. It came to an abrupt end, and from henceforth Jesus would dwell in the "Greater and more perfect tabernacle which the Lord pitched and not man." (Heb. 8:2 and Eph. 2:20-22). Also, He dwells in the individual hearts of true believers (read 1 Cor. 6:19-20 and 2 Cor. 6:14-18, especially verse 16).

Also, there is another very significant point to consider in this. Those two compartments in the temple which were divided by this veil signified two experiences of divine grace in the hearts of believers in this New Covenant: namely, justification and sanctification. The second compartment represented a second experience or work of grace in the heart (sanctification). But Heb. 9:8, says that the way into this part of the temple was not made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. In other words, it was not possible for people to obtain an experience of entire sanctification and perfected holiness under the law, nor by its sacrifices. But when Christ died, this veil was rent and the way was opened up for all true believers to enter right on into this experience and be filled with all the fulness of God, and have the love of God shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Ghost, and to be perfected in

holiness, and to live his life in the constant and continuous presence of God. Heb. 13:12, says that Christ suffered, died, and shed His blood that He might sanctify the people with His own blood. Since the price has been paid, the provision has been made, and the blood has been shed for this purpose, we are admonished in Heb. 4:1, not to come short of it. So let us all not loiter around nor hesitate, but move right on in and possess the promised land and obtain the fulness of the blessings of the gospel of Christ.

Overcoming Intemperate Habits



Liberty and freedom are so precious to all of us, but especially the freedom our dear Lord gave His life for. In Isaiah 61:1-3, we read of the office of Christ prophesied. "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound." The Lord has helped me to see that we can be bound by many things—sins, appetites, evil desires, passions, fear of man, unbelief, doubting, wavering, half-heartedness, and many more, but Christ shed His precious blood that we might have glorious freedom from all. Maybe some of these we may not necessarily call sin, but they are put on us from the devil and will rob us of victory.

One of the definitions of bondage is: "Subjection to some force, (power to control) or subjection to some compulsion (an irresistible, repeated, irrational impulse to perform some act)." At one of our young people's meetings a young lady asked that we pray for her because she was bound by rock music. In my heart I prayed, "Oh, God, please help us to be able to help her." It seemed the Lord spoke to my heart and said, "You can never be a help to her until you get victory over what you are bound to." I knew what He was referring to—compulsive overeating; something I had battled for quite some time. He helped me to see I had just as much problem as a person bound to tobacco or alcohol. Any frustration, disappointment, or less, would send me to gorge on whatever I could find. Then after I was miserable, I would be very unhappy with myself for failing again. Then instead of taking my frustrations to the Lord in the first place, I would cry out to God for help, and would try to do better by dieting and exercising for a few days. But before I would realize it, I would be back in the same old rut.

Often I would think of the song, "The Savior can solve every problem, the tangles of life can undo. There is nothing too hard for Jesus; there is nothing that He cannot do. The Savior can break sin's dominion, the victory He won long ago. In Him there is freedom from bondage, He's able to conquer the foe." Oh, how I knew this to be true when He saved me, but now I was telling the Lord He just wasn't helping me with this problem I was bound with. The

dear Lord spoke so plainly to my heart, "I'm right here waiting whenever you are willing to turn it all over to me, and not try to work it out in your own way." So I became very still and quiet, and thought about that. How true! I had been battling in my own strength. "Lord, I'm ready for you to take charge of my appetite. Help me understand how to get victory over habits." Oh, how simple God's truths are!

I'm sure most of the saints know what He showed me. The steps to get victory over habits are the same steps you must make to get saved. First, we must come to the realization we are helpless to overcome by ourself, then call on God for mercy and help, and ask Him to forgive all our past failures, then make the **determination** to forsake the habit (the same as being determined to forsake sin when we get saved), to do it no more by claiming His many promises of deliverance and liberty. Then we must believe. Read Luke 1:74, 75, I Cor. 10:13, II Tim. 4:18, II Pet. 2:9, John 8:32, II Cor. 3:17, and Gal. 5:13, for just a few promises.

We heard a message this summer on the three "t-ions" that are so important to keep a victorious experience with God. **Direction, motivation, and determination.** God supplies the first two, but only we can supply the last one. When we get saved, we can go through all the right steps, but if we lack determination to forsake sin and go all the way with God, regardless of what may come or go, we will soon be a backslider.

I now realize that lack of determination, to go along with God's willingness to help me, was the cause of all my failings. So I carried my burden to the Lord, saying, "Here it is, Lord. I've tried in my own strength; now I take my hands off, and am determined to believe your promises and trust You for the future." And, oh, what a glorious blessing and relief! The burden and load were gone. I felt like I did when I had gotten saved. Joy flooded my soul and I started singing, "Glorious Freedom!"

From experience when I got saved, I knew there would have to be a daily maintenance on my part if I were to keep this victory, by watching, praying, and resisting the devil when the temptations come. It is up to us if we want to go back into bondage.

I read a tract entitled, "Resist the Devil," published by Faith Publishing House. It was so precious—just what I needed. I recommend it for anyone bothered with temptations, or with having your faith tried when in afflictions, pain, or sickness. Part of this tract reads: " 'Resist the devil and he will flee from you.' James 4:7. This is a truth that God declares in His Word. Then our protection, deliverance, and safety lie in knowing how to overcome the devil. We read in I John 5:4, 'This is the victory that overcometh . . . even your faith.' Rev. 12:11, says, 'They overcame him [the devil] by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony.' Faith in the blood of Jesus and what God has said in His Word, when used in testimony against the devil, will always cause him to flee. God has always given everybody just what

they believe for, and faith, the blood, and the testimony drive out the evil things. Use these against Satan whenever he attacks you in spirit, soul, or body, and know that they rob Satan of all power to put anything on you or to keep anything on you, because God, who cannot lie, says these things overcome the devil every time. Praise hastens victory. Believe the thing is done, and praise and rejoice—not because it is going to be done, but because it is done, even though you neither feel nor see it.”

We can make it, if we take it one day at a time.
Praise God for victory! —Norene Harmon

“Need of Reserve”

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The natural man whose affections are set upon the things of this world, instinctively plans and works to “lay up money for a rainy day”; that is, aside from the daily living expenses, he sets apart as much as possible, that he may have it to draw from in time of sickness, or to support himself when he grows old. To those who know not how to trust God, it seems a great necessity to be prepared for a future day. It is not the object of this article, however, to say to what extent the Christian should do this. Let him ever bear in mind that the Lord is his shepherd, he shall not want.

Just as the natural man feels the need of reserve money for cases of emergency, so the spiritual man feels the need of reserve strength and power with God, to be able to cope with the battles of life. What sailor goes out to sea on a foggy morn, without having first been out on a clear day to acquaint himself with the dangers along the line? Or what soldier enters the battlefield without having first taken special military training? You answer, “Not one, except it be in a case of sheer necessity.” Then, what Christian is capable of entering upon the battlefield against sin and Satan, without first having some qualifications and equipments? It is true that same virtue which makes him a Christian, also gives him at the same time, sufficient equipment to begin the battle; but unless he steadily accumulates a reserve, he will soon be overthrown and unable to stand. But how is this reserve to be accumulated? “Take ye heed, watch and pray.” Mark 13:33. In the secret closet with the world shut out, and alone with God, is the place to gain this reserve strength, power, and grace, while upon the daily battlefield of life is where the reserve becomes a necessity. Our enemy, the devil, is so subtle and cunning that sudden, unexpected provocations often assail us, and were it not for the renewed strength of the inner man, received fresh from the throne of God, through prayer, the provocation or temptation would be too mighty for the Christian to face. Consequently the banner of Christ would be dragged in the dust, and the bearer thereof be captured in the battle. Thank God for the sure plan of safety and victory. By facing bravely, and by conquering in each day’s conflicts, one is thereby settled and grounded more firmly in Christ, the solid rock.

There comes a time, when seemingly the *fierce* battles cease for a few days or weeks, with only an occasional skirmish here and there. This is an ideal time for securing fresh supplies of spiritual weapons as a reserve. Some one has said: “Get your bearings on a clear day,” that is, when things are going smoothly, when no special trial is on; when you are encouraged and on the mountain top, and your feelings say that you will never again look sad or downcast when going through a trial; this is the time to locate yourself in the spiritual realm, and get it settled beyond doubt that you are saved and sanctified. This decision, with a clear knowledge of your relationship with God, is the reserve that you will need when war is again waged. “Many a great battle turns at last on the reserve. The struggle is perfectly balanced, and victory is uncertain. Then one side or the other brings up its reserve, and instantly the question is settled.” Life’s battles and crises are determined in like manner, oftentimes by the reserve, or the absence of reserve. No life is a dead level of experience from cradle to grave. The days are not all bright; the course is not all smooth; the experiences are not all easy. We must be assailed by temptations and by spiritual foes, where victory can be gained only if we have reserves of resistance to call into action. We must all stand before tasks and duties which will altogether baffle our ability, if we have no more strength to draw on than we have been using in the common duties of the common days. “Blessed are they who have learned to draw on the infinite resources of divine strength; with the fulness of God as reserve they can never fail.”

—Gloria G. Hunnex.

Temptation



Temptation: Alluring, enticing, the state of being tempted. A song says, “Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin; each victory will help you some other to win.”

It is not a sin to be tempted. Christ was tempted in all points as we are, but He did not yield to the Tempter. Instead, He said, “Get thee behind me, Satan.”

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.” James 1:12. According to the foregoing Scripture, we find that temptation is something to be endured, not something to be enjoyed, but to be endured. It is something to resist, to stand against, and to oppose.

To be tempted is to be enticed to do wrong. Jesus taught His disciples to pray, “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” Matt. 6:13. No, it is not a sin to be tempted, but it is a trial or test, and sometimes the test is hard, but we have the promise that the Lord will not let us be tempted above that we are able, but will with the temptation make a way of escape that we may be able to bear it.

James tells us in the beginning of his letter (James 1:2-4), "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." By close observation we find that the joy is not in the temptation, but in knowing what the temptation would work out for those who endure. Paul tells us that "No chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." Heb. 12:11.

While the purpose of temptation is to try one's faith and stability, yet "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." James 1:13-15. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezek. 18:4b.

No, it is not a sin to be tempted, for Christ was tempted of the devil, but He overcame the devil because He would not yield to any of his suggestions, nor stoop to accept any of his offers. Where the sin comes in is when one yields to the evil allurements. "Heaven is a holy place . . . sin can never enter there." Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you.

We are all exhorted by the Word of God to flee also youthful lusts that war against the soul. "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

I cannot conceive the idea that it is God's plan for anyone to just expose himself to temptation, but he should watch and pray lest he be ensnared by the wiles of the devil. Gird up the loins of your mind, use the Sword of the Spirit, and keep ready to fight the enemy of your soul. That is how Jesus overcame, and He left His words of encouragement, saying that, "As I have overcome, so shall ye overcome." He is the One who can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, as He was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb. 4:16. God said to the Apostle Paul, "My grace is sufficient for thee." Blessed is the man that endures to the end.

—Ulysses Phillips

Wake Up, and Run to the Light

Some people have fallen asleep spiritually, and when awakened to their real condition find themselves in spiritual darkness and that they have followed a wrong path that had led them away from the highway of truth and righteousness. The light is still shining in the distance, but they have lost sight of it for a time and need to make a desperate effort to repossess their former treasure. —E. E. Byrum

"Ye Shall Find Rest"

In Matt. 11:28, 29, we read the invitation given by Jesus, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." This is a precious invitation offered to all mankind; to the man burdened down with guilt and sin, to the one heavily laden with trouble, and to the one who is laden with the cares and problems of life. After an individual comes to Jesus with his burden of sin and finds soul rest from that burden, there are other things that can bring a lack of rest to the soul. Again and again Jesus repeats the invitation to the child of God, "Come unto me . . . and I will give you rest."

In Mark 4:36-41, we read of Jesus and His disciples crossing the Sea of Galilee in a ship. A storm arose and the waves beat into the ship. Jesus was asleep on a pillow. They awoke Him saying, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" Jesus arose and rebuked the wind and there was a great calm. Fear robbed them of their rest of mind and soul, but they went to Jesus and He took care of the matter. He chided them, however, for their lack of faith saying, "Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?"

In 1 Pet. 5:7, we read, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." Again in Phil. 4:6, are the words, "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Anxiety and care bring a lack of rest, but as we lay those anxieties and cares before the Lord and trust them with Him, the result is inward rest. "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:7.

Mary was troubled when the angel appeared to her saying, "Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." The angel understood her troubled mind and continued, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God." Then he disclosed to her the plan of God for her life—that she was to bear a son and His name would be called Jesus. After inquiring how this was to be and receiving the explanation from the angel, she humbly submitted to God's will. "And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." Fully accepting and submitting to the will of God in our life brings rest. Faith in God's Word brings rest. Mary had confidence in God's Word as it was disclosed to her by the angel. Likely she did not know how it was all going to work out for her concerning Joseph, but she could rest on the Word of God. The Lord was with her and she was to fear not. Others might not understand and perhaps cast her name out as evil, but she had the Word of God to stand on and give her comfort and she could rest right on.

She arose and went with haste to a city of Juda where her cousin Elizabeth lived and saluted her. As Elizabeth heard Mary's salutation, she was filled with the Holy Ghost and said, "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy." No doubt Mary's heart was encouraged and strengthened as she heard those words, and she responded, "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For He hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden." Luke 1:42-44, 46-48. Humility of heart brings rest. "For I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Heb. 13:5. Contentment brings rest. Paul testified to the Philippian brethren, "For I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: . . . I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:11-13.

Reaching out too far and going beyond the will of God in temporal things can bring a lack of soul rest; also, placing greater importance upon the temporal things. When Jesus visited the home of Mary and Martha, Mary sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. Here was an opportunity to learn more from the lowly Lamb of God and that was of greatest importance to her. Martha's first concern was for the temporal and she was "Cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me." By placing greater importance upon the temporal, it led to an excess—"Cumbered about much serving." She became overtaxed with her work and vexed with her sister because she didn't help her. Jesus replied to Martha, "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: but one thing is needful; and Mary hath chosen that good part which shall not be taken away from her." Luke 10:40-42. Had Martha chosen that good part first also, and sat at Jesus' feet, her soul would have been filled. Then she would have been in a better condition spiritually, and likely wouldn't have bothered with "much serving." Perhaps then Mary would have joined her sister in the needful preparation without Martha even asking and she would have had rest in her soul. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness."

Let us take earnest heed to the invitation given by Jesus, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest" all along our earthly path of life and then some day take our flight to that eternal land of rest.

—Fern Stubblefield

Unity: What Is It?

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Psalms 133:1. "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Eph. 4:3. "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Eph. 4:11-13.

The Bible teaches unity; but what does Bible unity include? First, the standard of Bible unity demands unity in doctrine. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine." 2 Tim. 3:16. The New Testament is the doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ. Nearly all creeds admit that the Scriptures "contain all things necessary for doctrine and practice, and whatsoever cannot be proven by them is not to be accepted as Christian doctrine." "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." 1 Tim. 4:16. "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; . . . from such withdraw thyself." 1 Tim. 6:3-5.

Bible unity demands that all God's ministry and teachers and people have one doctrine, one theory. Is this possible? "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you." 1 Cor. 1:10. "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth." John 16:13. Paul believed it possible to speak the same thing, as far as Christian doctrine is concerned. It is accomplished by each one's receiving and being led by the Spirit into all truth. It is evident that the Holy Spirit is able to interpret His own work, and if we will humble ourselves to let Him teach us, He will teach each one of us the same thing. If, then, I teach baptism, and another teaches against it, we are divided in doctrine, and one of us is wrong and is not led of the Spirit. If one teaches sanctification, and another does not, but rather ridicules those who profess to have the experience, there is division of doctrine, and one is out of harmony with the Spirit of truth. We might mention other doctrines of the New Testament that are interpreted differently by different teachers, but the foregoing will suffice.

Creeds have been formulated to specify what doctrines certain bodies of people believe. No two creeds can be exactly alike. They differ sufficiently to keep them from being one. There are many creeds, most of which are written; however, some are not. The creed, or doctrine, or discipline of the church that Jesus built, is the whole New Testament. It leaves nothing out; it adds nothing.

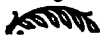
The Church is named in the New Testament the "church of God"; that is the name the inspiration of the Spirit gave to God's Church. In order to be one in doctrine we must all have just the one name, the name that the discipline of the New Testament Church gives us. If I should gather together a body of people and organize them into a church, and call it, say, The Progressive Saints' Church, make rules for admittance, etc., I should be acting contrary to the New Testament; and everybody who joined that church would be out of line with the New Testament in this respect, because the New Testament is opposed to division among God's people. It would be no more wrong for me to organize a church and name it, than for any other man, or set of men to do so. However good their intentions may have been, sect-makers made a mistake, and everybody who joined the sects made a mistake, for the New Testament recognizes only one church—the "church of God."

Some may wonder how we can ever see alike on all questions pertaining to the Bible. I can tell you. If you will follow the advice you will find that we all can see alike on matters of Christian doctrine.

The first necessary thing to do is to be willing to learn and do whatever the Bible teaches. Jesus says, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." John 7:17. A brother, in the course of a conversation with several gentlemen on matters of doctrine, one time remarked that the Bible forbade the wearing of gold, etc., as adornment. 1 Tim. 2:9, 10. "Oh!" said one, "do you think the Bible means not to wear gold? I don't." Another, having a private opinion on some other point, objected to obeying a certain Scripture because he did not believe in it. And so on; as the Scripture texts bore on their idols they one by one refused to believe that those texts meant what they plainly stated. So it is with many people. What keeps them separated is their pet ideas, idols, unscriptural opinions, sins, etc., to which they cling in spite of Bible doctrine to the contrary. Such people will never get together unless it is on some "broad platform" which will let every one believe and act as he pleases. But such is not Bible unity. We must give up every unscriptural opinion, and every sin, and be perfectly willing to believe every word of Scripture, and obey every command, and let the Spirit of truth lead us. Then we will be able to come into the unity of the faith.

—R. L. Berry

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus



May the riches of God's blessing rest upon his children everywhere is my prayer. I am glad to testify to the goodness of God toward me, unworthy one, in His great healing power He has applied to my body. Praise and thanks be unto our Lord Jesus who forgiveth all our sins and healeth all our diseases. Surely we have a wonderful God, a loving Heavenly Father who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities and hears the cry of His children.

A day was set apart for fasting and prayer for my healing. After an anointed handkerchief from a brother in Guthrie, Okla., was applied and prayer offered, my goiter was touched by healing power, but the swelling and breaking out of my arms and hands remained the same as before. The next morning when I awoke, the swelling was gone down, the skin all wrinkled, and oh, how I rejoiced and praised the Lord for it. After two days, the disease returned with the burning and itching that went with it, but the dear Lord gave me resisting power and faith to overcome it, and the next day it was gone and has not returned. The goiter kept decreasing until there was only a small lump left on one side and I thought that day would be the day of my deliverance. I got my eyes on the lump and waited for it to disappear. Then a cloud of darkness came over my soul and the lump seemed to get larger and discouragement overcame me and I knew not what to do, but cried and wrestled in prayer until morning. Then the dear Lord spoke peace to my soul and showed me how I had gotten my eyes off Him and His promises and encouraged my soul so I could hear the words in the German tongue, and these words ring in my ears: "For the word of the Lord is right, and all his works are done in truth." Psa. 33:4. Again the words of Jesus, "If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7. I could believe His word, as I knew I wanted to abide in Him and do His will. Thus I was encouraged and faith took hold of the promises; darkness had to leave and I could rejoice in the Lord again for my healing. Praise be unto Him.

Oh, dear afflicted ones who are seeking healing of the Lord, I pray this may be a lesson and a warning to you. Don't let the devil cheat you of your healing, but let us look steadfastly to the Lamb of God who has borne our sins and afflictions upon the cross. Jesus said, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth," and in Isa. 55:10, 11, we read, "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Surely God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the prophets, and all who obeyed and believed His word He blessed and healed all of their sickness and disease, for it is written, "I am the Lord that healeth thee." See Ex. 15:26. When Jesus came, the words of the prophet Isaiah, 35:5, were fulfilled where it says "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped." Oh, I praise the Lord for His Word which is yea and amen, and that He has established me on His Word, never to doubt Him any more. I have had tests and trials since, but the Lord is my victory, so that I can be a living witness for Him in this dark world. Many do not believe in divine healing, even if they see it with their eyes. One man said, "We know your goiter is gone, but nature has got much to do with it." He knew very well that I did not use any medicine, but he was not willing to give God the glory. Oh, how glad we should be that the dear Lord ever found us worthy to draw our hearts unto Him and that we can trust Him for soul and body!

—Fred Stahnke