

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

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Offer Thanks

When Paul, out on the stormy sea,
Looked up in dark despair;
When all seemed lost, appeared to be
Beyond all hope and care—

Came down the angel of the Lord
And stood by him one night,
Inspiring him to faith afford
That all would turn out right.

In presence of the weary crew
He offered thanks to God,
And bade them courage to renew
Amid the dashing flood.

Consider giving thanks just then
In the perils of the sea;
With faith triumphant o'er the din
Of fear and death's decree!

Are we not now by waves of strife
Sore toss'd and peril press'd?
Is not the holy lamp of life
By evil fears distress'd?

Yet in the midst of all the maze
Of earth and ways of men,
We still can sing the Saviour's praise
And have His peace within.

He rides above each stormy blast,
He reigns up there on high;
And we shall triumph at the last
And live to never die.

No harm can come to those who trust,
Who will His truth obey;
He guards His pilgrims of the dust
Along life's narrow way.

So let us offer thanks to Him
Who is our Shield and Light;
Press t'ward the goal through shadows dim,
And triumph for the right!

—Leslie C. Busbee

Doing Something Worth While

We all like to feel that what we are doing counts for something; that it is really worth while. We like to see practical results. We know that much labor is lost in the world, and we do not want ours to be lost. The ordinary things of life seem to amount to so little. They are not spectacular; no one pays very much attention to them; and we naturally feel that when we do something we want it to be something that people can see and that they will think is worth while, and something that we ourselves can feel is worth while. Some think: "If I could just preach, I shouldn't mind working for the Lord. But, oh! I can do so little—nothing worth while at all, nothing worth the effort. What can my feeble efforts accomplish, anyway?"

Others think that if they could go to a foreign land and work among the heathen, draw people to Christ there, send back home great reports of what they have accomplished, have their names published in the paper, and have people talking about them, then that would be worth while. But since they are only ordinary people and can do only ordinary things, it seems to them that it hardly pays to try. They will just follow the line of least resistance and do things the easiest way. Of course they want to do what they can for God, but they want to do something really worth while.

And now, reader, what is really worth while in life? Is it only those things that make a great show? Is it only those things that the world counts great? A sister said to me recently in a letter, "I used to think that I could do nothing worth while, but I have found that just simply living salvation before people is a great work." Now, that sister has learned a wonderful lesson. She has found a truth so great that most people do not recognize it as truth when they do find it. It is one of those truths which has the peculiarity of seeming small and insignificant though it is the very fundamental of truth.

Just simply living salvation before people—yes, that is what counts, and it counts more than anything else. That is one of the very greatest things that an individual has ever done in this world. Talk is cheap, and many people can talk all day and say

scarcely anything either. Some people can sway great crowds by their eloquence, they can accomplish wonderful things, but still they can not live salvation, or, at least, they do not. There is no power so great in this world as the simple power of a holy, quiet life. The sister mentioned can never hope to do great things as other people might count them. She is in frail health; she is isolated from other saints and cannot attend meetings as can many others; she has not the ability to preach or to do anything very great, as greatness is usually reckoned; but she has learned the great fact that she is not shut out from doing a grand work.

If all God's people could learn this lesson—if they could learn that it really counts just simply to live right, just simply to be an ordinary every-day Christian; if they could once get that thoroughly fixed in their minds and hearts—it would glorify their lives, it would exalt the common service, it would shed a halo over their lives, and they would not feel discouraged.

When Moses was at Pharaoh's court, I suppose he thought that he was doing something really worth while. He amounted to something there. But when the Lord let him be driven, or rather frightened, away from that court and he went out into the wilderness, I suppose he thought his occupation there was hardly worth while. Why, what was he doing, anyway? Just taking care of the sheep, leading them out in the morning to the pasture, bringing them back to the fold at night, seven days in the week—just doing this and nothing more. I suppose it did not look very big to Moses, but it did to God. God thought it worth so much that he kept him at that work for forty years. Then Moses, at the age of eighty, when it looked as if he were about done with this world, was called to go do something for the Lord. That forty years in the wilderness counted now. It had given him experience that helped to qualify him for the work to which God had called him. He came out of there worth while because he had done something worth while in those years. He had learned about God—oh, so many things he had learned! Now he was ready to put that knowledge into practice.

Sometimes we have wilderness periods in our lives, when God lets us be shut up in a corner, as it were, and do the little things that do not seem to count. But they count on us if they do not count anywhere else. There is one thing—and just one—that stands out above all other things in the human life, and that is faithfulness. No matter what our life may be, nor where we may be, nor what is our situation, if we are just faithful it is sure to count, and to count a great deal. That is one thing that you can do: you can be faithful to the Lord. You can do what He wants you to do. You can live pure, holy, undefiled, and keep shining every day, no matter what the circumstances may be. Just remember to keep shining. That is the thing that counts. Keep living clean and as God wants you to live. If you do this, He will know where He can find somebody who is faithful when He wants something else done. But ever keep this before you: there is no greater nor more necessary work in the world than putting the truth of God into visible form in a pure and quiet life. —C. W. Naylor
(Taken from the book *Heart Talks*)

Gateways to Hell



One night several years ago, I dreamed that someone was trying to cause me to lay down the truth which the Lord had revealed to me, and just before waking up I made this statement: "I don't want to make a gateway to hell for souls." That lingered upon my mind for days. I thought about the Scripture that says, "And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it [the Church]." Matt. 16:18.

We are always confronted with the enemy of our souls. Many times the enemy would like for us to let the standard down. I heard a minister say many years ago that every generation lowers the standard, but not so in the Church of the living God. We need to seek after the old paths. Do we want to make a gateway to hell for people who need to be taught the old pathway?

Pride is manifested in dress and outward adornings—shortening of the dress and sleeve lengths, and lowering of the neck lines. I have been most grateful for a mother in Israel who didn't sympathize with me in the wearing of lace. At the time, I just couldn't see any wrong in it, but yet my conscience was pricked because of my Godly upbringing. Let me encourage every mother to be discreet, look into the future and see where this would lead your child. Do we want to lower the standard and make a gateway to hell? Isaiah 28:1, reads, "Woe to the crown of pride," and verses 14, 15, read, "Wherefore hear the word of the Lord, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem. Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement. . . ."

Several years ago the loose, immoral, rebellious, hippy fashion came on the scene with the young men letting their hair grow long and the young ladies letting theirs down. Our mothers, in the days gone by, taught young ladies to work in keeping the home, cooking, and sewing. She taught us to wear long hair, but it wasn't practical to let it hang loose; therefore she taught us to put it up.

Dress and proud attitudes are not the only ways in which pride is manifested. Even though one may be dressed outwardly, yet the inward manifestation of pride is often exposed. This is hard to deal with; yet if we uphold it we are making a gateway to hell for souls. Many parents are so careless with their children. Just yesterday a woman told how a little child was abusing some equipment in a laundry where she was working. The woman corrected the child, and the mother was ready to fight. This is the spirit in the world. It has lowered its standards. So often parents are ready to come to the defense of their child in wrong doing. This is not in the Church of God. We would only be making a gateway to hell for the child. Our children are our responsibility, not the Sunday School teacher's, or the minister's.

Some say the television is educational. Yes, it is for sin and vice. Worldly friends used to tell me when I was young that shows were educational, but in what way? Do we want to be the leader and cause others to follow us in many other amusements of the world? What are we going to do at the great judgment bar of God when He presents the Word of God to us? In 1 Cor. 10:31, it reads: "Whether therefore ye

eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

Many are living careless lives and getting into adulterous marriages. Are we going to sympathize with the flesh and lower the standard just because it involves some of our own loved ones, and thereby blind our own eyes and make a gateway to hell for souls?

Much more could be said, but I feel I have delivered my soul. We don't want to see anyone go the ways of the world and make a gateway for others. May we all be challenged to a closer walk with God. I desire your prayers that I will be careful and look to myself, and that I keep a real divine love of God in my heart for souls. We want to live the doctrine of God and keep the truth in righteousness. It is possible to have the truth and hold it in the wrong attitude in unrighteousness.

May the Lord bless your souls and keep your hearts from evil.

Yours for the truth and souls,

—Sister Inez Beisly

The Will of God

"To the general assembly and church of the first-born, which are written in heaven . . ." God is calling to His people.

Jesus came to earth to do one thing, and that was to do His Father's will. Jesus, in His prayer in the garden, said, "Thy will be done." When teaching His disciples to pray, He taught them to say, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven." Matt. 6:10. Jesus said in Matt. 12:50, "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." Then in Matt. 7:21, He says, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

It becomes apparent that in order to make heaven my home, I must do the will of God for me. How can I know God's will unless I study God's Word and apply myself to understand?

In 2 Peter 3:9, we read that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. We see that God's will is that all men be saved. What then is God's will for me after I am saved and living to all I know and understand? When Jesus sent out the seventy, He said, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." Luke 10:2.

Sometimes God prepares servants for His work in ways that can only be seen when we look back. I think of David. God was preparing him to fight Goliath when He helped him fight the lion and bear. During the forty years Moses spent in the desert, God was preparing him to lead the children of Israel through the wilderness. God prepared Joseph by allowing many tests and trials to come his way, but in the end, he was in the position to save his family, God's people, from starvation.

One could say that in all these cases God could have worked in a different way. He could have prevented Goliath from ever being in the army. He could

have withheld the drouth and lead His people a different way, but He didn't. He chose men to help fulfill His plan.

We have many good songs in our songbook which challenge us to be sure we are in God's will, fulfilling the plan He has for our lives, endeavoring to pay the great debt we owe to mankind. One song says, "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe." Another is entitled, "The Debt We Owe," and another, "Have We Done What We Could?" We also sing, "Where He leads me I will follow. I'll go with Him all the way."

Jesus said in John 12:24, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." If we live according to God's will, we will bring forth fruit.

"Freely ye have received, freely give." Matt. 10:8.

"Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in. . . ." Luke 14:23.

"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." Matt. 11:15.

—Kinney Farris

The Cross of Calvary

Some folks today want to be shown just how much they are loved.

They need a sign or a miracle to happen to them. I don't know how much more they need to see Than the blessed Jesus hanging on the cross of Calvary.

Chorus:

Calvary, oh, the blessed cross of Calvary!

O praise His name! His precious name!

He did it all on the cross of Calvary.

Folk today are centered on, "What's in it for me? Will I be hurt or disappointed in any way?"

What about the hurt that Jesus felt with the nails in His hands,

And how disappointed when so few follow His commands?

If there were no more miracles and healing divine, If there were no special feelings of love sublime, Wouldn't it be enough to serve Him throughout eternity

Because He did it all; He paid it all on the cross of Calvary?

—Cilicia Frazier

BE KIND WITH CHRIST IN MIND

May I speak a little kinder,

May I love a little more,

May I act a little sweeter,

And show more mercy than before.

Every kindness done to others

Is a kindness done to Thee;

Christ-like love for all my brothers,

May the world see in me.

God of grace and God of goodness,

Teach me to be ever kind,

Always gentle and forgiving,

With the Saviour first in mind.

—Edward M. Brandt

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EDITORIALS



With thanksgiving and praise to our heavenly Father, we send greetings of Christian love once again to you. Once again we near the time of the year that has been set aside for thanksgiving to God for the blessings of the past year. I appreciate the recognition, respect, and reverence our founding fathers had for God in that they issued a proclamation establishing one day out of the year (the 4th Thurs. of Nov.) as a national day for giving thanks to God. But is one day of thanksgiving out of the year sufficient? A thousand times, no! Every day is a day of thanksgiving to the true Christian. "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. **They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." Lam. 3:22, 23. "Sing unto the Lord, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods." Psa. 96:2-4. "I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psa. 34:1. Praise the Lord!**

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Guthrie Flooded Once Again . . .

Due to heavy rain in Guthrie and the surrounding areas (more than 8 inches in 24 hours), the city of Guthrie (mainly the west side) was flooded on Thursday night, Oct. 20, 1983. Though the water did not reach record height, this was one of the most damaging floods on record. Civil defense sirens were sounded near 9:00 p. m., and in less than ½ hour water was several feet deep in the flood district, trapping many people in homes, on rooftops, and in trees. There was some loss of life, but the count has not been confirmed at this time.

The water reached a height of 36' in the Church of God Chapel located on the camp ground at 6th and W. Warner, and a height of 48' in the dining hall. A considerable amount of the Path of Life School (temporarily located in the dining hall) furnishings were damaged, along with dining tables, doors, and pews in the chapel. We are truly grateful that the Print Shop and Bro. Bob and Sis. Irma Sallee's house next door were not flooded; however, if sandbags had not been placed at the doors, there would have been about 4" of water in the Print Shop. There were several inches of water in Sis. Opal Kelly's house located across the street from the Print Shop.

Although damage was considerable and there has been much work involved, we realize we still have very much to be thankful for. Things could have been much worse, but God's mercy was extended once again.

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In His infinite wisdom, the Lord has seen fit to release another soldier of the cross from duty. Bro. Murphy Allen was called to his eternal home on the evening of Friday, Oct. 14, 1983. There have not been any great monuments erected or buildings named in his honor, but to this writer, and no doubt to many others, his godly life truly stands as a monument. Memories of my early childhood include Bro. Allen and his family. In the years that followed, to me his life was a true example of humility and a steadfast.

unwavering faith in God, standing firm and true for the doctrines and principles of the Church of God. Bro. Allen has passed into the eternal world where there is no sickness, pain, or death. What healing could be more complete?

Dear fellow pilgrim, let us press on with the same determination, zeal, and steadfastness exhibited by our brother. In so doing, we, too, shall gain the same eternal reward. "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." Rev. 3:21.

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Another faithful saint of God, Bro. E. A. Loftis of Prattville, Ark., was called from this life to his eternal home on Wed., Oct. 5, 1983. It brings sadness to our hearts to have to part with our beloved brethren and sisters, but we are thankful for the victory they have gained and humbly submit to God's will. We pray the Lord will comfort and sustain the bereaved families at this time.

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Word was just received that on Wed., October 19, at 6:30 a. m., Rick Powell was involved in an auto accident which resulted in the taking of his life. His funeral was Sat., Oct. 22. We pray the Lord will bless the family with the comfort and strength needed at this time. Rick's wife, Carol, is currently residing with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Powell, at 2112 28th St., Gulfport, Miss. 39501. —Randall Flynn

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CORRECTION:

In last month's paper it was reported that the folder which had been used for many years in folding the *Faith and Victory* was purchased in the late 1940's. However, after more research we have found we were mistaken. In a *Faith and Victory* editorial for January, 1937, it reads, "We have recently heard from the company through which we are getting the paper folder to fold the *Faith and Victory* paper, and they say that they will soon have it ready for shipment and we may get it installed in time to fold this January paper."

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Bro. Mart Samons held a revival at the Guthrie chapel which began on Oct. 9, and continued through the 16th. The attendance was good and the response of souls to the gospel was encouraging. We trust there will be lasting effects from this endeavor for the spreading of righteousness. Bro. Mart left to begin a meeting in Neosho, Mo.

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A shipment of 5,000 pounds of printing paper has been ordered, of which partial shipment has already been received. The cost of this will amount to nearly \$3,000. Although this seems a great expense, we realize that nothing is too expensive for the sake of the gospel. We are confident that souls will be blest by the gospel and consequently we cannot hesitate to continue to publish it. We thank those of you who have helped in the past and pray that God's blessings will rest upon you.

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"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in

truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him." John 4:23.

God has always desired those who would worship Him in spirit and in truth, and He is still the same today. In fact, it is the only kind of worship that He will accept.

The world attempts to worship God in many human forms. A charismatic movement is sweeping our land. Those disgusted with cold formalism have introduced a new and appealing mode of worship. Many attempts are made to get the crowd "involved." One of those methods include having the congregation repeat phrases over and over to see how loud they can become. These are sometimes called "Jesus Cheers." Another is to instruct everyone to greet those about them with an embrace or a handshake—regardless of sex. These things fall short of being true methods of worship. We believe in being friendly to others, but when we meet together it should be for the purpose of receiving good to our souls and learning how we may better please our heavenly Father. Our concern should not be to worry about getting others "involved." If an individual is moved by the Spirit of God to do or say something, then it will be appropriate, if not, then it is best to remain silent. Let us exercise care lest our worship become less than pure before God. As the flesh enters into our worship, it kills the true Spirit of God in our presence.

—Wayne Murphey

In Memorial

William Reece Fox was born on Sept. 24, 1906, to John William and Martha Lee Fox. He was the eldest of a family of eight sons and two daughters. Bro. Fox departed this life from his home at Marion, Ky., on Sept. 26, 1983, at the age of 77 years and 2 days.

At the age of nineteen, Bro. Fox was united in marriage to Velda Marie Kirk in Elizabethtown, Ill. To this union four sons were born. This union remained steadfast for more than 57 years.

Bro. Reece Fox was born into the Church of God some forty-five years ago. He accepted the teachings of the Church, and was faithful to preach and live by them unto the end. Some of his last words were: "Praise the Lord!" and "Amen." He was pastor of the Church of God at Blackford, Ky., for many years, and also maintained a radio program for several years.

Bro. Fox leaves behind his devoted wife Velda; four sons, William and Bobby of Marion, Ky., Marion of Lansing, Mich., and Dorsey of Murray, Ky.; ten grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two brothers; and a host of other relatives, saints, and friends.

The funeral services were conducted at Marion, Ky., by Bro. Mart Samons assisted by Bro. Gordon Humphrey.

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Murphy Allen was born on January 17, 1915, at Norwood, Mo., and departed this life on October 14, 1983, at his home in Springfield, Mo., at the age of 68 years, 9 months, and 27 days. He was the youngest son of Rosco and Carrie (Thompson) Allen.

He was united in marriage to Natalie Norene Burke on July 23, 1935. To this union four daughters

and two sons were born. One daughter, Shirley Ann Allen, preceded him in death in 1956. His parents also preceded him in death—his mother leaving him while he was a baby. His uncle and aunt helped rear him until he was a teenager. Also preceding him in death were two sisters, Amy Garner and Mayme Delaney; and one brother, Perry Allen.

Bro. Allen gave his heart to God in 1933, and lived a faithful life to God. He was called to the ministry in 1937. Since that time, he lived unselfishly and gave his full time endeavoring to further the gospel. While lingering on his bed, he was constantly concerned about other people and the gospel work in general, right up to the day he passed.

Those remaining to enjoy loving memories of him are his devoted wife, Natalie; three daughters, Mrs. Carol Sorrell of Myrtle, Mo., Mrs. Janice Johnston of Springfield, Mo., and Mrs. Jeanie Samons of Arbovale, W. Va.; two sons, W. D. Allen of Bixby, Ok., and Terry Allen of Springfield, Mo.; sixteen grandchildren; two brothers, Egbert and Lawrence; and many other relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were held on Oct. 17, at the Greenlawn Funeral Home, Springfield, Mo., with graveside services and interment at the Church of God cemetery at Myrtle, Mo. Services were conducted by Bros. James Bell, T. V. McMillian, H. A. McMillian, and Mart Samons.

Note of Appreciation

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for all the flowers, food, offerings, and especially the love, concern, and prayers extended to our family during our dear loved one's sickness and death. The saints have been so precious to us and we love you every one. May God bless you.

—The family of Bro. Murphy Allen

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

WICHITA MEETING REPORT

The Lord truly blessed us with a good meeting again for which we do thank Him. The Word was rich; it was a blessing and a help to souls. The saints were much encouraged and rejoiced as God blessed our souls through the songs as well as the messages.

May we all take heed to the Word we heard so we will not let it slip. We appreciate all the saints who came to help in the meeting, and we feel they were blessed, too. Let us all be sure (as we heard in the meeting) that our sins are covered.

—Shirley Knight

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REVIVAL TO BE HELD IN LOS ANGELES

The annual fall revival of the Church of God at Los Angeles, Calif., will convene, Lord willing, on Sunday, Nov. 27, at 10:30 a. m. (Sunday school at 9:30), and continue nightly through Sunday, Dec. 4, 1983. On Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 3 and 4, there will be three services each day, with a special service of singing on Sat. night at 7:30. A warm welcome is extended to all. Come praying for the success of the meeting.

For further information, please contact our pastor, Bro. Alvin Lucas, at 918 W. 62nd Pl., Los Angeles,

Ca. 90044, phone (213) 759-3962, or Brother T. R. Summers at 711 WL. 85th St., Los Angeles, Ca. 90044, phone (213) 752-1135. The chapel is located at 1381 Walnut (corner of Walnut and Naomi Streets), phone (213) 745-9474.

—Sis. Leon Phillips

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REVIVAL SCHEDULED AT GOULDS, FLORIDA

The Church of God congregation at Goulds, Fla., is planning to hold a revival, Lord willing, November 20-27, 1983. Services will be held each night at 7:30 p. m. A hearty invitation is extended to all to attend this meeting. We desire an interest in your prayers for the success of this meeting.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. H. H. Hargrave, at 22345 S. W. 117th Pl., Goulds, Fla. 33170, phone (305) 258-4102.

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CAMP MEETING SCHEDULED AT ORLAND, CALIF.

We had a business meeting recently and decided to have a five-day camp meeting in May, 1984. The dates for it will be May 23-27, 1984, Lord willing. The details will be given to you later.

Pray with us that we will be able to have a glorious meeting in the Lord, and that souls will be saved.

—Leetha M. Reece

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NEW TAPES AVAILABLE

Dear saints: We in the Ontario congregation feel the need to, Lord willing, begin a tape ministry for the edification and upbuilding of all the saints. We want to make available the tapes we have accumulated thus far on a rotating basis. At present, we have over 100 tapes available which include messages by Bros. Danny Layne, Mart Samons, Ostis Wilson, Sis. Beverly Reed, and others, plus tapes from the 1983 camp meetings at Pacoima, Calif., and Chilliwack, Canada. For a complete list of tapes available and instruction on how to order, please contact Bro. Ray and Sis. Betty Garges at 3910 Minerva Ave., Los Angeles, Ca. 90066, or phone (213) 397-1170.

Prayer Requests

Okla.—Remember Bro. Gene Beisly in prayer for the healing of a very annoying skin irritation.

Ohio—"I need help in body and desire prayer when you think of us."

Calif.—"Please remember a very urgent request."

—Earl Sharp

Mo.—"Do not forget to pray for me. My trust is in God."

—Sis. Goldie Knapp

Ala.—"Keep me on your prayer list."

—Sis. Frances Everhart

Ohio—"Pray for my wife's salvation."

Ind.—"Pray that I will be able to find work."

—Rodney C. Mullen

Ala.—"I have a very special unspoken request. Do help me pray about it."

—Sis. Pearlene Whitson

Okla.—"I have several urgent requests. Only God can work them out."

—Maybelle Pruitt

Let's not forget to carry a burden for the lost. There are many of the saints' children who have turned their backs on God and gone the ways of the

world, grieving the hearts of their parents and the saints. Many of the saints who have gone on, left this world with a heart broken with grief over a wayward son or daughter. May we who remain be faithful to hold the unsaved before the Lord in fervent prayer. God is not willing that any perish, but that all would come to repentance.

—Randall Flynn

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

As last month's *Faith and Victory* went to press, 350 pounds of Spanish tracts were delivered to my door by Faith Pub. House. Needless to say, there was much to do to get these 101 different tracts placed alphabetically among those already in the shelves and files, but this really made a larger variety of tracts to be distributed, and I was made happy by the thought. When time came for payment, the money was there; no one knew it was to be paid but the shop workers. The Lord provided it right at that time through some of His children. How I do thank Him and them!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the young people of Guthrie, and anyone else who helped, for getting everything of value in the house up where nothing was damaged in the recent flood, and for cleaning the mud out of the house before I got there. May the Lord richly bless each of you. There were at least three inches of water in the house from the flood.

I was in Okla. City in the revival meeting the week of the flood, also helping in the care of my mother, when I received word that Guthrie might have a flood. Not one time did the Lord let me get worried about it. I said, "Lord, it's your work, not mine, and I know whatever you permit, good will come out of it." I believe that's exactly what has happened. To my knowledge, there is not one tract missing or in bad condition, praise the Lord!

Continue to pray that this work go forward and for someone to carry it on when the Lord releases this servant.

Yours for lost souls, —Sis. Opal Kelly

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MISSION REPORT FROM OJOS NEGROS

Baja Cfa., Mexico—Dear saints: We greet you in the holy and glorious name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, desiring that this finds you in good health and enjoying the rich blessings of God.

Appreciated brethren, this letter comes with much love for all the saints, giving thanks to God for His love, grace, and power. How precious it is for all of us to feel and express all God has done for us! I want to give Him thanks for the great blessing He has poured out on the work, and for the burden He has put in our hearts for lost souls who go about without comfort or hope. Thanks be to God for all.

We have been having good services and visitation, and the Lord has blessed in all. The brethren are much encouraged in their spiritual lives, and this is also an encouragement to us. We do not believe that we have done anything except what we must do. We need to love and serve Him with all our strength until

He calls us into His presence. Please pray much for us that we will not be fragile, but let us have an exchange of prayers that we may all be stronger in the Lord.

Thanks to the Lord, the house-chapel in Chapultepec is bought for the work of God. Altogether it cost about \$5200. It lacks windows, lights, water, and remodeling of the roof, and thanks be to God we only lack \$1700 of paying it all. . . . Anyone who cares to contact someone concerning the work here, please contact Sis. Edith Lara.

Brethren, I desire to give thanks to God with all my heart. I had an accident in the pickup. The bar from the steering wheel to the worm broke loose, or you might say the pickup was without power to steer. All of the suspension broke loose and was bent, but nothing happened to the motor. The most important thing is that I was not hurt at all. When the steering broke loose, the truck was between two hills and not on a precipice. The pickup stopped and I got on my knees and gave thanks to God for all.

I have some special requests. Pray much for the work in Mexico, especially here in Ojos Negros, La Huerta, and Chapultepec that God will send a worker with a burden for that place. I desired to go to Chiapas this month but was not able to. The Lord knows why.

Many thanks for the offerings for the work in Mexico. We appreciate it with all our hearts. May the Lord richly bless each one who supports the work of God.

With much Christian love,

—Mayarino Escobar and family

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REPORTS OF MISSION WORK IN GHANA

Okla.—Dear Bro. Flynn, workers, and saints everywhere: Once again I come your way with Christian love and in Jesus' dear name.

In Ghana churches are required to register with the government, and must be approved before missionaries can enter the field. When Bro. Jim Akwasi went to the Deeds Registry to register the Church with the government, he found that the registration of churches had been suspended since 1982. He was not able to get the Church registered, but as soon as they resume registration of churches, he will do so. However, they did give him the go-ahead for the Church to continue operating in Ghana.

Just recently the Church in Akunadan-Ash held a three-day outside meeting with really good salvation work, and they are planning another three-day outside meeting at Afrancho. Pray for these evangelistic efforts that lasting good will come out of them.

Bro. Jim writes that some of the hymnals and children's chorus books have arrived. A young brother in the congregation with teaching ability has been teaching some of the songs to the congregation. This brother goes back to school in Kumasi soon. . . .

In particular, they are needing 50 Bibles in the Twi language. I will be glad to see about this need if anyone should feel burdened to help with the cost. I would like to take them with me when I go in Jan.

When I consider conditions all over the world, I am made to know that I will need God every step of the way—going and coming, entering into Ghana, my

May God help us all to have a greater burden for souls, and a clear vision of the truth. Many are called Church of God (in name only), but the spirit they labor under gives them away. God's Spirit is not a harsh, driving, or domineering spirit. Oh, how much

damage this kind of spirit can cause! . . . Division is a work of the flesh and will keep us out of heaven if we pull away from the true body of Christ. . . .

I'm sending in some names to put on the mailing list for the *Faith and Victory*. May God bless you and keep His hand upon you.

Your saved brother through the blood,
—Earl L. Sharp

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Mo.—Dear Sis. Maybelle and all at the Print Shop: I'm so thankful for the gospel through the printed page. It has been a blessing to me down through the years. I'm thankful that my mother kept the *Faith and Victory* paper coming to our home ever since I was a young teenager. I have always loved to read it, and still look forward to receiving it each month. The gospel tracts and books all tell the gospel story; and the good gospel songs we have in our song books each have a message of truth. We love our Bible and in it we can find food for our souls.

I pray the dear Lord will bless all His people everywhere, and help the unsaved to turn to Him while time is still extended. Jesus shed His blood for all.

Love and prayers to all,
—Cassie Wilson

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N. C.—Dear Bro. Randall and co-workers: Greetings to each of you from N. Carolina. We are so thankful to the dear Lord for His many blessings to us. Surely, He has been mindful of us and we don't have to look around very much to see His love and compassion for His children.

I take note of the seasons, and October, I think, is one of the prettiest months we have here in the Blue Ridge Mountains with all of the different colors. Only the God that loves us so much could create so much beauty for us to see; words cannot describe it. That is one of the reasons we want to do all we can for Him. I pray that He will let me be worthy of the price He paid for me.

We certainly are living in evil times, so we want to look up, for our redemption draweth nigh. We are much encouraged to press on. We desire prayer that we will remain faithful to the end.

Christian love, —Bro. and Sis. David Lottahall

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Mich.—Dear Bro. Flynn: We send greetings to you in the name of Jesus our Lord. To Him be honor and glory for ever. Amen.

It has been some time since we have written to the Publishing House and sent our support; however, we have not stopped praying for the work there. We hope this finds all of you there well and encouraged in all things.

We are encouraged to press on and do His will. It is wonderful to serve a true God that never changes. As it is written, "With whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." . . . We can say for sure that God's promises are true. He has been to us all that He promised He would be.

Our prayers are with you and all the workers there. We believe you are doing a good work for the Lord. Please remember us in prayer at times when you think of us. We will pray for you each day.

In Christian love,
—Bro. and Sis. Milford Parsons

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Calif.—Dear saints: I am so thankful to the dear Lord for keeping me saved. This year marks thirty years I have been saved, and I'm so happy in the Lord. As the song says, "Through the tests of life I have peace from heaven." Thank the Lord.

The camp meetings for 1983 have come and gone. I can say that God worked in a special way in every meeting that I attended. The Lord blessed me to be able to attend some of all the Calif. meetings. I would like to testify to some of the messages God sent our way. It was most glorious!

Several messages dealt with our submission to God, His will, and His way. I appreciated learning how God blesses every soul that will submit to Him, and how we are to be flexible and never hold out for our own way. I have learned through experience how blessed our soul is when we submit to God. If we hold to our way, we will miss a blessing.

We also heard about God's abundance of grace. If you are traveling, you watch your gas gauge. While traveling this Christian life, we must stop at the grace station and refuel. Grace is free as the air we breathe, but we have to be humble to get it.

Another message we heard was about our original form. God is not pleased with us operating in our original form. We must be changed by God. You don't have to do anything to conform to this world, but just fail to be transformed.

There was one message about you and you and you. God wants you! If you want to see a better example in the Church, you be one. . . .

Then we had a message about letting God have our "all." God wants us: our time, talents, and money. I surely received a greater stir in my heart this year. I mean by God's grace to make a deeper consecration to God. I want to be wholly surrendered to God's purpose and plan.

In every service souls sought help at an altar of prayer. . . . On the last Saturday of the Pacoima meeting, thirty-five were baptized. Some were very young, some were teenagers, and some were older people, but all were so happy in the Lord. . . .

I would also like to testify to God's healing power. One morning, as I was finishing breakfast, something suddenly seized me in my chest. I couldn't straighten up. I thought, "Oh, Lord, is this it?" The devil said, "If you go lie down, you will die." I went to another room and started calling on the Lord. I said, "Devil, I'm not afraid of death; I'm ready to meet my Lord." I got some relief and was able to make it to the bedroom. The Lord blessed me to be able to ease down on my knees and there I prayed. In a few minutes I was better. I was able to finish dressing and take the grandchildren to school. I still was not able to get a deep breath, but I kept praying as I went. . . . By the time I got to school I was able to straighten up and walk. By mid-day the Lord had taken it all away. I give God all the praise. I really believe I had a light heart attack—God knows.

I truly thank Him and give Him all the praise; He is a wonderful Saviour and I trust Him soul and body.
Your sister in Christ, —Naomi Jennings

Miss.—Dear Sis. Maybelle and saints everywhere: In divine, Christian love we greet you after a span of silence.

After so very long, I am gradually and surely getting my mind strengthened and on the Lord. Greatest praises to the great "I Am", Jesus, and so many, many thanks to everyone who have so effectively and fervently prayed so many times and so long for me. Some have gone on to Glory. I have experienced, with longsuffering, 1 Peter 4:12, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial . . ." No human tongue can put into words the anguish of it. Nay, there is nothing too hard for God. Praises and thanks are finding their place in my heart again. I'm believing to be able to live a reasonably normal life again.

With thanks and praise, —Ethel Lowery

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La.—Dear saints: Greetings in the name of the precious Lamb that was slain on the tree, in whose blood there is deliverance and forgiveness of sin. I surely thank the Lord for being saved. I was deep in sin . . . and needed to be delivered. I'm so thankful that Jesus died for me. I was lost, without hope, wretched, blind, and totally undone, but while we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly. Praise God! At one time I didn't care about anything. I didn't realize I was lost, but thought that if the Lord would come I would have a chance to talk to Him and tell Him a long story, and maybe He would have mercy on me and that would be it. . . . I used to have thoughts that . . . when I die I would never live any more. But praise God for John 3:16! It is a comfort to the heart to know this, and even more to believe it.

I used to doubt God, the father of my Saviour. I stayed this way for a number of years—up and down, up and down, until my life was just miserable. I would read God's Word and be encouraged for a couple of days, and then I wouldn't read a morning or two and then it would seem that my whole day would just be a disaster. The brethren counseled, prayed, and tried to encourage me. I would go on a couple of days and then right back into the same up and down way of life again. Bro. Keith Fuller told me about the book *Christian's Secret of a Happy Life* . . . and highly recommended it. . . . I began reading it prayerfully that God would bless me as I read. God did every time I read, but the old doubts were still hanging around. . . . I was encouraged by some things I read and discouraged by others. I came to a portion about doubts, and it brought out some things that were absolutely true to my situation. I've been encouraged ever since. I was particularly encouraged by the part which says that sometimes it may seem that you are turning down your best friends; no matter how plausible it may be, you must simply say, "I dare not doubt; I must trust. God is my Father and He does love me." Do not argue with doubts; cut them off; pay no attention to any of them; tell God that you trust Him and that you intend to go on trusting Him. Believe when you don't feel like it. . . . These among many more portions have been an encouragement to me. Doubts have tried to overtake me again and again, but my unchangeable declaration is "Though

he slay me, yet will I trust him." . . . "I mean to go right on until the crown is won." By God's help I've committed all things to Him. If anything troubles me, I take it to God and leave it there. . . . I've handed every doubt over to God and I rest completely on His Word. There are many more things to tell of God's merciful dealings with us, but we feel a need to stop. God has done so much for us we want to thank Him continually.

We love all of you at the Publishing House, and we trust God will bless abundantly His work there. Remember the sick in a special way. We thank the Lord for healing Bro. Louis Kimble's arm. We are still looking to the Lord for Sis. Doris Jones' healing. . . . The Lord healed my son Tuesday morning. . . . We are also prayerfully stating that God has touched my wife's body, too.

Pray for us,

—Bro. James Kimble

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Va.—Dear ones at the Print Shop: It has been awhile since I've testified of the Lord's goodness to me. I feel that I should give Him the glory that is due Him. If we praise the Lord in all eternity we still cannot praise Him enough for all of His goodness, love, and mercy. Praise His precious name!

Today finds me still pressing on, by the grace of God, toward the goal that is set before me. Without His keeping grace, where would I be? Oh, how I praise the Lord for the grace He daily bestows on me!

I'm listening to the singing I recorded at Monark this past summer. My recordings of the saints' song service are about all I listen to for entertainment. These tapes are new every time I listen to them. I receive such a blessing from listening to them. The words of the songs and the spirit in which they are sung cause me to rejoice whenever I hear them. I often think, "I don't need a mansion in Heaven; just let me hear the saints singing for all eternity. Surely, that will be enough!"

I would like to share with you how the Lord worked it out for my boys and me to attend the Monark meeting. Two years ago was our first time there. We had prayed for several years believing that one day we would be able to go. The Lord has never failed me, and proved true to me again and worked it out for us to go. My husband told me I could only go the one time and that I could not go again until our boys were grown. I got under a burden about the situation here as it grieved my heart to think that my children were deprived of being with other saved young people, and that I was kept from those who meant so much to me. The Lord inspired me to have special prayer concerning this matter and to remain in prayer until I prayed through—and that I did. The Lord witnessed to me that He heard and would honor my request. When I told my husband, with full assurance, that the boys and I were going to Monark again, he didn't put up a fight. He asked when we were going. Glory to God, there is power in prayer! Now he has agreed to let us go every other year whereas before we weren't even permitted to go. Whenever I think about all the Lord has done, I get so happy; my soul must rejoice!

Our car was giving some trouble—a problem we'd

had for quite some time. I knew I couldn't take it to Missouri in that condition. Charles had taken it to a couple of different places, but they couldn't find the trouble. The time was nearing for us to leave, and still the car was not fixed. I sought the Lord about it, believing He would help Charles fix it. The week before we were to leave, Charles pulled the car off the carport and worked a couple of hours on it. It was getting late, and Charles said he had to give it up. I was standing by the car, looking to the Lord not to fail me. I looked into the star-lit night and said, "Lord, I'm counting on you." I had no sooner prayed when Charles put his hand on a vacuum hose and said that he had found the trouble. Charles had checked that hose several times prior to this, but the hole was located on the back side of the hose in a place that made it difficult to find. After a year of looking, the Lord showed us where it was. He fixed it just in time. The Lord is always on time; He never fails. Praise His holy name!

I would like for the saints to pray for my dear companion. I'm looking to the Lord to save him.

Pray for us. I love and appreciate all of God's dear people.

Yours in Christ, —Nancy Wagoner

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Okla.—Dear saints: Recently, in a study of Ex. 33:1-10, where God had cut the Israelites off without hope, I was reminded of when I first got saved. I believe I got a taste of the way the Israelites felt. By sharing it, I trust that someone will receive help.

I had done something contrary to the teachings of the Church. I asked the Lord to forgive me, but for eight months I didn't forgive myself and therefore, would not believe the Lord had forgiven me. At the end of that eight months a couple in the congregation where I attended, said: (please note the lack of love and wisdom) "You have done the unforgivable and can never be saved."

I could hardly see to drive home for the tears. When I arrived home, I was afraid to die, but neither did I want to live. Oh, the anguish of my soul! Each time the remembrance of their words came, I would be in a new paroxysm of grief. I prayed, I cried, but to no avail.

I got quiet before the Lord and decided to try to find some consolation in the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit caused my Bible to open to 1 Cor 4:4b, and the words came out to me as though they were in three dimension: "**He that judgeth me is the Lord.**" I cried again, but this time my tears were those of joy. That answer had come straight from heaven to my soul. I fell to my knees, asked forgiveness even for my unbelief, and thanked the Lord over and over for the answer.

I don't know if there was anyone in the congregation in our recent study who needed this, but, though I was prompted to tell it, I didn't, and in just a few minutes I almost had a heart attack. I say that to say this: When we are prompted of the Lord to do or say something, a reproof and chastisement are in order if we do not obey.

I was prayed for and the Lord healed me, but how much better it would have been had I been obedient. This morning He brought this thing to my

mind clearly, and I felt He wanted me to share it this time.

Personally, I have been thanking the Lord today that my suffering is on time's side of eternity. I truly thank the Lord for His faithfulness to, and His mercy for us, His children. I want to be faithful unto the end.

—Sis. Opal Kelly

HOME



LIFE

A Word to the Boys

For a long time we have felt the need of a message for the boys, as the boys are among the most interesting and important classes. I will tell you why, boys, because you are to become the future men of tomorrow.

We older people should be very much concerned about the boys—and we are; that is why this message is written. There are many snares to entrap the feet of the young.

There are broken-hearted parents who go down to the grave in sorrow because of a dear boy who drinks, etc. Perhaps he is the only stay of their old age. Another, instead of being a stay to his widowed mother, tramples on her heart which is already crushed with deep sorrow.

Boys, consider. Could you only see the great army of criminals and "down and outers" all together, along with the broken-hearted wives, mothers, and children! My dear God, what a picture! Do you know, boys, that these bloated-faced, red eyed, half-crazed men who are the cause of all this suffering, were once as innocent as you perhaps are now? You have no thought of becoming like them. Not one of them reached this place in a single bound or step.

The first downward step of many a boy was disobedience to parents. For his associates he chose wicked boys who used tobacco and swore. He thought it was manly to do these things and followed them right in their steps—down, down, down.

Boys! Boys!! Beware!! Do not take the first step in this downward course, for the end thereof are the ways of death. If you have commenced this way, **STOP NOW!—BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!!** Don't let Satan entrap you any further. Ask God to help you and have the courage to say, "No." God will help you if you ask Him to do so.

Dear boys, will you give this earnest thought? Look around you and notice the people who drink. Then look until you find a young man with a strong body, clean clothes, clean lips and teeth, and rosy cheeks. His very actions say "no" to all bad habits. It

is said that if a bell should toll every eight minutes, it would toll the death of a drunkard. Boys, get Christ in your hearts. He will fit you for life and fit you for heaven.

—From an interested mother

(Taken from a 1932 *Faith and Victory*)

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Often the question is posed, "Where did Jesus go when He died?" When I read Eph. 4:9, where it says, "He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth," it seems to be talking about hell. Where do we go when we die? I know it's supposed to be a resting place (Abraham's bosom), but what about the Scripture which speaks of Jesus returning with His saints on the last day? I had assumed that the unsaved would go straight to hell; but it speaks of the ocean, etc., giving up its dead, and the dead being judged, and then put into hell. I would appreciate any ideas or Scriptures on the above.

Answer: First, it is my understanding that Eph. 4:9, does not refer to Jesus going into hell or even to the grave. Let me insert the full context here. "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)" Eph. 4:8-10. This passage refers to Jesus ascending into heaven. But it also states that He first descended into the lower parts of the earth. It must be evident that He would have to descend before He could ascend into heaven because He was in heaven as the eternal Word of God before He came down to earth at His incarnation. This passage refers, as I understand it, to the condescension and exaltation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The "lower parts of the earth" in this text would refer to the depths of His condescension down to the poorest of the poor and the lowest of the low that His redemption might reach all people from that level clear on to the top. He did not come to a king's palace; He did not sit upon a king's throne; He was not arrayed in royal robes. But He was born in a stable, cradled in a manger and during His life-time here had no place to lay His head, nor possessed anything of earth. Surely this could be described as the "lower parts of the earth".

1 Cor. 15:47, says, "The first man was of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven." The first man was Adam; the second man was Jesus and the text says He was from heaven. John 3:13, says, "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven." Jesus said again in John 6:38, "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." But Jesus also said in John 6:62, "What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?" All these texts and others teach us that Christ was in heaven before He came to earth; that He came from heaven to earth and when His mission on earth was accomplished, He returned to heaven from earth and

the One who descended is the same One who ascended.

Phil. 2:7, declares that Jesus totally divested Himself (emptied Himself) of all His glory and oneness with the Father and became as a servant and was made in the likeness of men. This was truly a great descension for the Lord of glory. But verse 8 says He humbled Himself even more and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross which was very ignominious. But verses 9-11 declare how God highly exalted Him because of this and set Him at His own right hand far above all others. (Eph. 1:20, 21). Paul was speaking of the same condescension and exaltation of Christ in Phil. 2:6-11, and Eph. 4:8-10, as I see it.

Now we will notice some Scriptural references to hell whereby we may be able to answer two questions in one—where Jesus went when He died and where the unsaved go when they die. "Hell" in the New Testament, is translated from two Greek words—*Hades* meaning "not to see," and refers to the unseen or spirit world which is the place of departed spirits after death; and *Gehenna* which refers to the lake of fire or eternal abode of the damned. In Acts 2:27, Peter referred to a prophecy concerning Jesus in Psalms 16:8. "Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thy Holy One to see corruption." Some have supposed from this statement together with 1 Pet. 3:19, where it mentions preaching to the spirits in prison, that at the time of Christ's death He descended into hell and preached to the souls there and offered them a chance of salvation. But do not be misled. Had that ever happened, there would not have been a single soul left in there. Every soul there would escape from that place if they had opportunity. Here *hades* is the word from which "hell" is translated and refers to the place of departed spirits after death and it was into this invisible spirit world (paradise) that Christ entered at the time of His death. He said to the penitent thief on the cross, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43. Another reference is made to this same thing in Acts 2:31. "... His soul was not left in hell. . . ." (*Hades*).

In Luke 16, we have the story of the rich man and Lazarus. In verse 23, it is said that the rich man lifted up his eyes in hell being in torments, etc. Again the word here is *hades* signifying the place of departed souls after death and not *gehenna* which refers to the eternal abode of the damned. He was to be cast into that place later on after the judgment. There are four places in the book of Revelation which mention "Death and hell," and in each case the word is *hades*. They are: Rev. 1:18; 6:8; 20:13; and 20:14.

In the following texts, the word "hell" is translated from the Greek word, *gehenna* meaning the lake of fire and eternal abode of the damned: Matt. 5:22; 5:29; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15; 23:23; Mark 9:43; 9:45; 9:47; Luke 12:5; and James 3:6. However, since all the question at hand has to do with the term *hades*, and can be answered within that framework, I will not take up time and space with this phase as it lies outside the area of the question and is not necessary.

It seems that *hades* (the unseen, invisible spirit world; the place of departed souls after death) has two parts to it which are equivalent to the "right hand"

and "left hand" (Matt. 25:33)—a place for the saved and a separate place for the unsaved, and the term is used without respect to misery or happiness, peace or torment.

Let me say in regard to Jesus bringing all the saints who sleep in Jesus with Him when He comes to judgment (1 Thess. 4:13-18); that the same power of God who brought the soul of Jesus Christ back from paradise to enter the resurrected, glorified body of Jesus; that same power can gather out the departed souls of all the saints who are there and bring them to enter their resurrected, glorified, spiritual bodies and then catch them away to meet the Lord in the air and so shall they ever be with Him. In fact, that world will be entirely vacated and emptied at that time and both the righteous and wicked, saved and unsaved will be gathered out and brought to judgment, and everyone will receive the reward of his deeds. Hades will have no more purpose then and will utterly be destroyed and pass out of existence.

God's Dealing with the Sinner

By Earl Langley

"He hath not dealt with us after our sins." (Psa. 103:10)

I was called to the home of a very discouraged old gentleman one time to discuss the prospect of salvation with him. He had been a prominent and successful attorney in New York City who had spent his entire adult life with the serious application of his mind on the business of his profession, and, sadly, no consideration at all, so he admitted, for any thought of future welfare related to his eternal destiny. He was quite unsure about the resurrection and other final events pertaining to human life. He was very sure, however, that if there were a heaven he was wholly unprepared to go there. But he did expose an overruling consciousness of retribution which dominated his thoughts as I talked with him, pointing him to the Savior to the best of my knowledge. Professionally, he had earned success and distinction in matters pertaining to law, but his brilliance related only to that and to the affairs of this life. He was sadly remiss in the knowledge of God's Word.

Perhaps no other law of life is so relentlessly held to by the modern mind than is the fixed law of retribution—that sin is followed inevitably and inescapably by its due penalty. And isn't it true that by quoting some of the most emphatic Scripture we discover that just such solemn assurances are bound upon our minds? Let us notice Ezekiel 18:4: "The soul that sinneth it shall die"—a most positive statement of fact from the sacred Word. Or, "They have sown the wind, and shall reap the whirlwind" (Hosea 8:7); and haven't you observed this pattern of personal behavior, perhaps even among some of your own acquaintances? And how about this warning right from the New Testament—"For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23)? Also, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption" (Gal. 6:7, 8); and, "Sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (James 1:5), and many others. Such teachings have the power to fill us with a silent dread as they

summon before our minds some of the conspicuous sinners of time and present them to us in a procession of shame—such for example as Jacob, Saul, David, Solomon, down to and including Judas: and even you and I have felt the sting of sin's shame.

The element of truth in these teachings is not to be denied, but it is truth set forth so openly, with no redeeming quality and with no relation to other overwhelming Bible truths. For, you see, it is not altogether true that every sin finds its just penalty. It is not altogether true that a man's sins always finds him out. It is not true that a man always pays the uttermost farthing. Paul was stating a fact of nature when he taught that "Whatsoever a man soweth" that, and nothing but that, shall he reap. If he plants oats, he will reap oats and not corn or wheat. But isn't there something essentially missing here in Paul's statement? Ah, yes, we haven't heard him through. He continues the thought: "But he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap everlasting life." (Gal. 6:8). Somewhere, then, between the sowing and the reaping, another law has entered in to change the scene—the law of life: the law of liberty; the law of Christ. It is an absolute fact of experience that men do sow and never reap at all. Also, a man may reap where he has not sown and gathered where he has not strawed (Matt. 25:24). So, somewhere between a man's sin and the full penalty applied enters in the providence of God with a full assurance that "he hath not dealt with us after our sins."

Yes, it is a terrible truth that our sin sets in motion blind forces of retribution. Every man is aghast when he becomes aware of how far-reaching is the range of a single evil deed. But God comes to the rescue of man with a higher spiritual law to overcome and to conquer the law of sin and death. God enlists the law of mercy to repel the law of sin and of judgment. He counterworks the law of retribution by the law of love and repair. "Where sin abounded," says the great apostle, "grace did much more abound." Wonderful! Let's thank and praise Him again and again that one of His outstanding attributes is "Mercy!"

Nevertheless, let us not overlook the fact that there is a sense—a state of conscience where a man's sins finds him out ruthlessly. The events of a man's years may be left behind him, but in the disability of his conscience, the defects of his character, the torture of old practices and desires, the sin and error of the past with which his mind is dyed, he shows that his sin is finding him out. Deepest of all tortures is the sense of things done which can never be undone—these are the unanswerable accusations of the past, the breach between the soul and God.

Isn't it a fact that we need something more than just sweet providence as a correcting law? Ah, yes, we need that precious grace of Christ. We need that forgiveness and that renewal of the inner man which is proclaimed in the gospel and wrought out in the cross of Christ. We need to have the breach closed—the wound healed. We need the guilty conscience cleansed. We need to have the fearful consequences of sin removed far from us—forever. We need to have that terrible alienation from Him reversed and His fatherly love and care restored. We desperately need

the fruits and rewards of the cross, and we do adore Him for such sacrificial atonement. Our praises shall ever be that "He hath not dealt with us after our sins."

Little Humble Me

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Phil. 4:13).

"I"—One personal pronoun that should never look big in my eyes.

"can"—A positive adverb saying there is permission and there is ability.

"do all things"—What a large area this covers! Who can do all things?

"through Christ"—Here is the door through which the answer must come. (John 10:9).

"which strengtheneth"—In the door there is abundant strength.

"me"—Who can do all things? Little humble me who came through the door, Jesus Christ.

What a blessed Scripture to meditate upon! Because Jesus lived on earth, died for our sins, and now is sitting at the right hand of God interceding for us, (Heb. 7:22-28) we can have the faith to remove a mountain! (Matt. 17:20) Be strong, stay true to the Lord, and never, no, never get "under the mountain."

Tests, trials, disappointments, and pressures on every side may come, but through Jesus there is strength for us. We can overcome! Never once let the devil get a wedge into your mind that *this* trial is just too big and there is no way . . . no, don't even "reason" with the devil. He was a liar from the beginning.

Also, with worries and pressures weighing on our minds, too often we come to the Lord with a demand: "Dear Lord, I want you to please do so and so *now*! Then the Lord doesn't answer our prayer as fast as we think He should or maybe not in the way we thought He should, and we become disappointed and discouraged. The devil wants us to lose faith in our own prayers.

Let us always take each trial to the Lord in prayer. Get His mind and His will about the matter. It may take many hours of prayer through several days (maybe weeks, or months), but the Lord has an answer to every trial we meet. It is our duty to get close to the Lord, learn His will about it now, and submit to it. If we will only submit it all to the Lord's hands when we pray, then He can give us the strength we need to overcome each trial every step of the way. The closer our walk with the Lord, the easier it is to obey His voice. He has peace and contentment for us right in the midst of hard trials; but first, "I" must become "me".

"I" must come through the door in order to gain strength for every test, trial, and problem that life may bring. Little humble me can do all things because Jesus Christ has abundant strength for little humble me. The strength is there forever. Amen.

—Connie Sorrell

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

I don't know what I'd do without God for it is in Him I have a real sense of purpose—a reason for living.

—Shelia Hawkins

Satan's Barnacles



After Jesus' baptism in Jordan, He was immediately led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. There, after forty days of fasting, the devil came with some peculiar temptations. First, our Saviour was urged in His great hunger to turn the stones into bread, since He was God's Son with all power. Failing in this temptation, Satan took Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple and urged Him to demonstrate His power and prove God by casting Himself down. But Jesus was too wise for him and again defeated him with the Word of God. "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." Then Satan showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and after Christ viewed these, Satan declared: "All these will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me"—a lie on the very face of it, for the kingdoms of earth are God's and God enthrones whom He will. (1 Chron. 17:11, 12).

But Jesus again answered, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." Matt. 4:10. Notice, the devil did not require Jesus to cease to serve God, but just to divide His service—just to fall down and worship him. Oh, the cunning craftiness of the devil!

He comes to God's own little ones today and says, "Just serve me a little,"—not in that many words, nor in all his satanic garb. He has learned increased cunning in these hundreds of years, but he is seeking our service. He would induce us to divide our attentions between God and himself, especially between God and himself dressed in the garb of the world.

God and the world are eternal enemies. There is no friendship between the two. The very friendship with the one puts us at enmity with the other. You cannot be friends with both. My little girl finds at school that if she is friendly with one group of girls, another group will have nothing to do with her. So it is with the friendship of God and of the world. We must either love the one and hate the other, or cling to the one and despise the other (Matt. 6:24).

Satan keeps trying to get us to overcome this God-fixed enmity. He knows a little of the world will sever us from God's power, just as Samson's shorn locks left him powerless.

God wants our whole service. "Thou shalt serve the Lord thy God;" thus far Satan accedes, but "and Him only shalt thou serve." No doubt some would reason thus: Oh, no, that is fanatical; it puts us in a "strait-jacket," it hinders our influence with men. We can serve God; yes, that is all right; go to church and pay the preacher and do good works, but let that be about the extent of your service. Then have a good time and enjoy the world's diversions.

Satan had one man going his way when he told another Christian, "I go to the show or theatre once in awhile for a treat." A treat! Think of it! God's own separated ones finding a vile, filthy, vulgar, ungodly show or theatre a treat! God pity their daily food if that was their treat. That man's service was divided, sadly divided. He was serving God with his lips perhaps on Sunday, but his heart was far from Him.

Christian, if you are where such worldly things are a treat to you, you need to plunge into the fountain again.

I understand that barnacles, small sea animals covered almost all over with shell, attach themselves in such great numbers to the bottom of ships that the ships are greatly hindered, and sometimes have to put into port to have these troublesome, progress-hindering barnacles removed. They cling tightly and it takes real force to remove them. The devil has life's sea full of barnacles, ready to attach themselves to every human craft that sets sail for the heavenly shore. Some of these barnacles are large and offer great hindrance to our heavenward progress. Others are almost too small for us to think worthy of our notice; but each adds its hindering weight. Each deters our progress. Each diminishes our prospect of finally reaching heaven's shores.

There are covetous barnacles. When these lay hold of a soul, they close up his pocketbook to God's calls so that only a few pennies can squeeze out when dollars should roll out. They get one's eyes off Jesus and the eternal prize and on to earth's wealth and treasures; they cause one to cease their bold race heavenward and turn aside, sometimes into really unlawful and dishonest and tricky ways, in order to add to their store or bank account. These barnacles make men covetous, selfish, avaricious, grasping. God free us from all these soul-destroying barnacles!

Then there are fashion barnacles. Satan has them everywhere. They endeavor to fasten on the plainest of saints and get them to decking like the world. As these, one after another, attach themselves to our bark, we change from an humble, modestly dressed saint, unadorned except with the meek and quiet spirit which is priceless in God's sight, to a woman of the world, adorned in the world's trappings, low neck, little or no sleeves, indecent-length skirts, jewelry of all kinds, laces, embroideries, etc.; paint, rouge and lipstick, bobbed hair, and all that fashion dictates. God helps us to steer into port and get free from these modesty-destroying barnacles.

The devil has barnacles of many brands besides the two already named. Barnacles are foreign creatures that do not pertain to the ship. The devil's barnacles are any weight or sin that would attach itself to us. Barnacles hinder the ship's progress, and so do Satan's barnacles. They may be seemingly small—just a little neglect of prayer, a little carelessness in performing one's duty, unkind words, evil surmises, selfishness, pride, the fear of man (when God alone should be our fear), a little self-seeking, desire for pre-eminence, jealousy, envy, backbiting. They seem little, they seem not to weigh heavily on our conscience, our spiritual sky is but a little darkened it seems; but little by little they slowly but surely weight us down until when a severe gale assails us, our ship flounders and is lost—lost to God and heaven, gone to the bottom because of the barnacles! God help us!

If I mistake not, I believe that these sea barnacles do not like fresh water, and when a ship steers into fresh water they soon drop off. They are out of their element. O beloved, God has a stream fresh from heaven, that stream from Calvary's fountain into which if we plunge we are made clean. All the

devil's barnacles drop off when we dip afresh in the stream of life.

How is it with you? Have some of Satan's barnacles become attached to your bark, weighting you down and impeding your progress? Go straight to God, let the cleansing stream, the fountain opened in the house of David for sin and uncleanness, again bathe your soul and the barnacles will slip off. Praise God! They cannot stay near Jesus. Then keep that stream flowing in your soul and it will keep you free from the devil's barnacles. God can keep us clean. "Therefore, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus."

—Selected from the tract *Satan's Barnacles or Divided Service*

The Proof of Our Redemption



Paul, in the letter to Titus, gave us assurance that we could and would know that we have been redeemed by the shed blood of God's only Son. In the second chapter and through verses 11-14, it is made clear. God's grace that bringeth salvation has appeared unto all men. Grace will teach us that we are to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. We are to live soberly, righteously, and godly now—not by and by. Being a sober child of God means that we conduct ourselves in such a way that no reproach is brought upon our Savior. Neither do we by our conduct turn those away who are seeking the Way of life. We do not live in pomp or ceremony, but as we are guided by the Holy Spirit given unto us by our heavenly Father. By living righteously and godly we abstain from sin and the lusts of the flesh.

There are men who are teaching that man does not know when he sins. The Word of God teaches us that we do and that God also knows. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden, they knew that they had done wrong and tried to hide from God. The prodigal son knew, for when he came to himself, he said, "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee." Luke 15:18. Judas knew that he had sinned when he betrayed Christ for 30 pieces of silver. He went to the priests confessing, "I have sinned." Their answer was, "What is that to us?" The Gentiles knew when they had done wrong. Read Romans 2:14, 15. But the times of this ignorance is past and God commandeth all men to repent.

Jesus Christ gave Himself for us for a purpose, and it was to redeem us from all iniquity; to purify or make holy a peculiar people whose zeal would be in good works. Being redeemed from sin, old things are passed away and all things are become new. We are new creatures created by spiritual birth in the image of God and His Son. When Jesus was here on earth He was tempted in all ways and did not sin. This was the example that He set and we are to follow in His steps. We are not redeemed to continue in sin, but are made free from sin and are given the power to overcome the temptations of the devil. We are to use our zeal in good works that the kingdom of God and His Church may shine as a beacon all around us.

Many teach and claim to believe that if they accept Jesus Christ as their Savior that any sins they commit thereafter will not be held against them. Don't you believe this! God's people who were brought forth from bondage sinned in the wilderness and God's wrath was about to be poured out upon them. Moses made this plea for them: "Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written." Ex. 32:32. God gave His answer in verse 33—"And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book." Sin is an abomination in the sight of God. It drove Adam from the Garden, and it will cause God to remove your name from the Book of Life. —Elias McCart

God's Power to Save, Heal, and Lead by His Holy Spirit

(In Memory of Sis. Katie Marler)

As a young wife and mother, Katie Marler felt the Lord's dealings with her and found the wondrous blessing of salvation at an altar of prayer. Not having been reared with a religious background, she sought the Lord to guide and lead her in His way. She felt the Lord leading her to have family worship and to return thanks at the table. And as she read different things in the Bible, she accepted them as God's will for her.

Having been in poor health for some time and not having the means to go to doctors for aid, she realized that she was going to have to get all of her help from God. One day while on her way to get water from the spring, she knelt beside the path and poured out her heart to God for the help she was in such great need of. God blessed her in such a way that she came away rejoicing that she could trust God live or die.

One day, after having moved into another house, she found part of a *Faith and Victory* paper and read what she could. She found it to be teaching the same doctrine as the Bible taught. She began to question people living nearby as to where the paper came from and was told about it. She started receiving the paper and corresponding with Bro. and Sis. Fred Pruitt. The Lord showed her to stop attending sectarian meetings and taught her day by day how to live and how to love souls. Her burden was heavy for her family. She prayed many prayers and shed many tears for God's mercy to her family. Her burden didn't stop there, but she was busy visiting her neighbors, telling them of God's love, and giving out papers and tracts to all she could. She took advantage of every opportunity to tell people of God's love and His power to save and heal. She was called to the bedside of those who were seriously ill; God honored her faith and prayers many times and spared the lives of people. She was always ready and willing to go help souls no matter what time of the day or night.

Sis. Katie was isolated for many years, yet she kept true to God's way and teaching. She was faithful to teach her children morning, noon, and night of God's Word, always having family worship every night no matter who was there. The oldest daughter, Cassie, got saved at a young age and she was a

source of comfort and encouragement down through the years. Then Sis. Effie Miller received the light that God revealed to her through Sis. Katie's visits. The three would meet together as often as possible and talk, sing, and pray; God blessed them richly.

About the year of 1939, the Lord sent Bro. and Sis. Darius Gibson to Senath, Mo., for a few night's meeting. They were a real encouragement and blessing—not only to the three saved ones, but to the families and no doubt to the few outsiders who came to hear the messages. We felt so humbled to be in the presence of these saints. Bro. Gibson answered all of our questions with Scriptures from the Bible. We all enjoyed hearing the many experiences of God's working for them. After that, other saint ministers began to come.

Sis. Katie was seriously afflicted many times and was near death's door more than once, but God raised her up. She never got discouraged in trusting God. There were two outstanding miracles that God performed in two of her small grandsons. One grandson had T. B. of the spine when he was about 2 ½ years old. The parents were not saved and trusted him in the hands of the doctors. He did not get any better but rather grew worse. Some of the saints were requested to stop by sometime and pray for the child. After two ministers and their wives prayed, the child was healed of this T. B. germ and sore; the child grew to be a man and is yet living. Again, in later years, another grandson was run over by a car when he was about 2 ½ years old. There wasn't any breath in him when he was picked up. Blood was coming out of his nose and ears. The parents being saved, trusted God. God instantly came on the scene and worked in a marvelous way to show His mighty working power to heal. The enemy was stirred up and there was a real testing time, but as God is always true to His trusting ones, overruled and showed His power so that others who heard and saw what took place could see clearly God's power to heal.

Sis. Katie lived and witnessed for God in the same community for over 50 years. She took down on her sickbed in the fall of 1977, and remained faithful unto her entrance into Glory on Jan. 13, 1978. Just a few hours before her passing, she was seen lying on her back with her eyes looking up at something more glorious than the natural eye could see. She was trying to clap her hands with a look of rapture on her face. Her passing was easy. Her works still follow her, and we don't sorrow as those who have no hope. By living true to the Lord, we expect to be with her again someday. She lived trusting God and died trusting God. I believe the Lord could say of her as He did of the woman in the Bible: "She hath done what she could." —Virgie Marler Flynn

RULES FOR TODAY

Do nothing that you would not like to be doing when Jesus comes.

Go to no place where you would not like to be found when Jesus comes.

Say nothing that you would not like to be saying when Jesus comes.

—Sel. by Dorothy Bridges