

# FAITH AND VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



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### Resurrection Springtime

Buds from branches bare are shooting,  
Spring at last is here once more;  
Nature's garments, newly suiting,  
Tell us summer's at the door.

We're reminded, oh, so sweetly,  
As this beauty we behold  
Of a truth portrayed completely  
That so often has been told.

Yes, it is the wond'rous story  
Of our Saviour, Christ, who died,  
And was raised by Heaven's glory  
After being crucified.

How His own in fear did flee Him  
In the garden-scene of gloom!  
How the world rejoiced to see Him  
Out of sight, and in the tomb!

Mocked, reviled, was He, rejected,  
Sentenced to the cross to die;  
From their fury unprotected,  
"Lord, forgive them!" hear Him cry.

As a corn of wheat in sowing,  
So our Lord was buried there  
To arise in power, showing  
His eternal Springtime fair.

Yes, our Lord and King is risen!  
Death could never Him contain;  
From the tomb's dark dismal prison  
Came He, evermore to reign.

How we welcome Spring's appearing,  
Yet, much more we hail the Son,  
Who, in all His love endearing  
All our hearts to Him has won!

Pour, O risen Son, thy glory  
Now upon our hearts today  
As we sing the old, old story  
And thy law of life obey!

—Leslie C. Busbee

### He Is Not Here

Early in the morning three women were making their way up a rocky hillside. They knew where they were going and for what purpose. They also knew that man had placed a large obstruction in their way. Each was asking herself how or who would remove the large stone that had been placed in the door of the tomb and sealed. When they arrived, a startling thing awaited them. The stone had been rolled away! There in shining raiment stood the messenger of God. He had at God's command rolled the stone away. He also had a message: "He is not here." No, He was not in the place where man had put Him. The servant of God had this comforting message: "Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. He is risen. He is not here."

As we come to our place of worship I often wonder what our reaction would be if a messenger of God were sitting at the door of the Church and said: "He is not here. He is risen. Men have crucified Him afresh, come, see the place where they have laid Him." The pure, simple, and holy teachings of Christ do not have a place in many so-called houses of worship. Pomp and ceremony have taken over, so there is no place for Christ. Again, "the Son of man hath no place to lay his head." The reason that He is no longer here is that in the man-made religion of today Christ would again have to say, "Ye have made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition." What man is teaching and believing and what Jesus taught are worlds apart. Now, as then, men would reject Him. Look what happened when He went into the synagogue at Nazareth. (Luke 4:16-29) "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." Those hearing the announcement of the fulfilling of the great promises of God were so enraged they rose up, led Him out of the city and were going to cast Him headlong over the cliff. It was not happening the way they wanted it to. Anything that upsets the status quo of what we want to believe is heresy and must be dealt with firmly and quickly.

He is not here because man has tried to entomb Him again with doctrine, rituals, theology, and they think they have rolled the stone of modernism over it.

But thank God, even though men crucify Him afresh, they cannot place the risen Christ in a tomb or bury Him in any manner. He is **RISEN!** He is near that we might have life and have it more abundantly. Go tell, not only our brethren, but the world that He is alive evermore. Tell the lame, the blind, and be sure to tell the sinner for it was for him He died. Seek Him with a humble and contrite spirit. Listen, He stands at the door and knocks. If you will open He will come in and change your life completely.

One time, men of Greece came to the followers of Jesus saying: "We would see Jesus." As lost and seeking souls come into our services looking for Christ, can they see Him? Does He shine forth brighter than the noon-day sun in our lives, our testimonies, and our daily living for Him? Or could it be that we are so steeped in forms, rituals, traditions, and creeds that He is no longer with us but is risen? He told the congregations if they as a people did not remain true to God's Word, that the candlestick (the Church) would be removed from among them. As the children of God through the new birth, yes, a new creature, old things are passed away and all things are become new, we have something to give the world. Let us prove that Christ is risen and lives in us by extending to a lost world the truth of God's Word for only the truth will make man free from sin.

—Elias McCart

## Sanctification

The Bible teaches it. The commission to preach the gospel to all nations embraces it. To Paul, Jesus said: "But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from Satan's power unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." Acts 26:16-18. At this time, (about A. D. 35) there were already sanctified persons in the Church of God. Saul of Tarsus had become a penitent, and he was now receiving from Jesus Himself his commission to go preach the gospel and to lead others into the inheritance among them "which are sanctified." Jesus had prayed (John 17) for the sanctification of His disciples. It is evident that they had entered into the experience and were enjoying its full benefits at the time Jesus appeared to Saul.

### Why Necessary

Sanctification is necessary, because in the experience of justification one does not receive a clean heart, the utter destruction of inbred depravity. In the unregenerated adult, one who has become accountable by age and knowledge of right and wrong and has accordingly fallen into sin, sin exists in two forms; inherited sin and acquired sin. Acquired sin is the result of inherent depravity. Justification frees us from acquired sin or actual transgression, but does not eliminate from the heart inherent depravity. Sanctification is the act of God's grace that does cleanse the heart from all inherent sin, and is a second and subsequent work. Justification is received

through *repentance* and faith; sanctification is received through *consecration* and faith. "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate." Heb. 13:12.

It is clear that this experience is designed for us here in this present world. Notice: "Paul . . . Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus." 1 Cor. 1:1, 2. Since, as we have already seen, we are sanctified through the blood of Jesus, this shows that sanctification is a cleansing and not a growth or any external or natural development on our part. Blood is always for atonement and cleansing. Thus we read; "Washed us from our sins in his own blood." Rev. 1:5. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:7. This certainly refers primarily to inbred iniquity, and we get the cleansing by walking in the light and fellowship of the truth; and he plainly says: "From all sin." Therefore none remains in any way to mar our Christian experience; but we are free indeed.

### Unity and Purity

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. . . . Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." John 17:17, 20, 21. Sanctification effects perfect unity among the people of God: divisions spring up from carnal hearts. (1 Cor. 3:1-3). From the fact that sanctification is the removal of this old hidden inner stump of depravity from the heart, we can easily see that all the pure in heart are one. "And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." Acts 15:9. "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, . . . For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" 1 Cor. 3:1, 3. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Gal. 3:28. Paul, then, attributes divisions to carnality. If, therefore, carnality be destroyed out of the believer's heart, the cause of the trouble goes; and with it, of course, goes the effect.

### The Sanctified Life

There is more fruit borne in this life than in the life of those who are only justified. In the sanctified life, the heart has been cleansed from that nature that causes pride, anger, jealousy, emulation, strife, fear, etc.; perfect love reigns within without a rival. All spiritual enemies that attack such a one must do so from without; for "all inward foes are surely slain." When one is sanctified, it is easier to exercise patience; humility increases; there is more boldness to testify for Christ; there is more grace to suffer and endure for God; greater kindness is manifested to others; the life is sweeter; joys, greater; hopes, brighter; faith, stronger; peace, more abundant; God is nearer; battles are more fierce; persecutions, greater; victories crown the holy with glory and honor, but he has on the whole armor of God and is able to stand.

—J. E. Forrest

(Selected from *The Gospel Trumpet*, 1911)

## Parable

"And he spake many things unto them in parables." Matt. 13:3. The word parable comes from the Greek *parabole*, which means a placing beside. It is therefore the placing of one subject by another as an illustration. It means a likeness, or an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.

"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins." One revised version says it is like ten young women. This could change the whole meaning of the thought. The word *virgin* means purity or undefiled. Whatever God uses to compare something to has to be the real thing. When Christ desired something to compare His relationship between Him and His Church, one of the things He used was a husband and wife. Therefore we know He only has one Church. If it were lawful for a man to have two living wives or husbands, then He could not have used a husband and wife to compare His relationship with His Church.

God, in His writing to the Church at Laodicea, reproved them for their lukewarm condition. He went on to say, "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire . . . that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear." Rev. 3:18. We know that the Lord was talking about being clothed spiritually, having on the robe of righteous living, "clothed with humility." 1 Pet. 5:5.

Many people wonder why we teach that our bodies should be clothed and why we teach that the sisters' dresses should be long enough to cover their nakedness. Some say that it is only a tradition that we dress the way we do. If it were only a tradition, then the Lord would never have used the word *clothed* to explain about us being clothed spiritually. Whatever He chooses to compare something with, it has to be the real thing. In the beginning the Lord made coats of skins, and clothed them. Gen. 3:21. The word *clothed* means "covered." Seeing then that the Bible teaches us to be clothed, how shall we clothe ourselves?

"In like manner also, that women [or men] adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." 1 Tim. 2:9, 10. One of the meanings of the word *modest* is quiet and humble in appearance, style. *Shamefacedness* means shy, reserved, not displaying one's body. *Sobriety* means sober, temperate, serious. "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning . . . but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." 1 Pet. 3:3, 4. As it is on the inside, let it be on the outside. The Lord teaches humbleness of spirit, quietness, reserve, and meekness in the spiritual life. It would only seem natural that He wants us to appear that way on the outside.

We know that we can't have things hanging on in our spiritual life: envy, jealousy, pride, stubbornness, laziness, carelessness. Let it be likewise with the outward man. This should take care of how we make or buy our clothes. They should be of a quiet, reserved, humble nature. This seems simple to me.

"Train up a child in the way it should go." When that little girl or boy gets big enough to wear a dress or boys' shirts and pants, that is the time to start dressing them. A little boy or girl won't be shy about their nakedness if they are exposed to it all of their young lives. We have tried to practice this for over 25 years with our children and ourselves. We write this with love and a burden.

"Steady as you go,"—Bro. & Sis. Mart Samons

## A Dangerous Doctrine

There is a popular religious teaching embraced by several religious movements claiming there is no hell for the wicked after death. Their teaching is that God is love, and that a loving God would not send anyone to hell.

God is love and He does not send anyone to hell. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. The Son gave His life on the cross to make a way for our salvation. If we love Him, we will keep His commandments.

These anti-hell teachers say that "hell" is the grave, which is one definition. Another definition is "lake of fire." It is this last definition that I want to look at from the teaching of the Word of God.

Read Luke 16:19, and on to the end of the chapter, regarding Lazarus and the rich man. In verses 23 and 24, it says that in hell the rich man lifted up his eyes and begged for a drop of water "for I am tormented in this flame." This request for water was denied. He then asked that Lazarus [who was in paradise] be sent to warn his five brothers "lest they also come into this place of torment." The rich man went there of his own choosing, and he was afraid that his brothers would also come.

The anti-hell movements teach that the above is just a parable. What is a parable? It is "a comparison of a possible event in life or nature; a moral or spiritual truth, as the parables of Christ." (Dict.) Read Rev. 20:13-15; 21:8; Matt. 25:41.

God has prepared a way for us to escape this place called hell (lake of fire), but He has left us as free moral agents to do as we please about His gift of love to us. He does not send us to heaven, either. We make our own decisions about this, too. Read Luke 15:11-24, especially verse 18, which says: "I will arise and go to my father. . . ." No one forced him to do so. Read Rev. 21:4, and find out some of the things God has in store for those who love Him.

"If a man love me, he will keep my words. . . ." John 14:23. "Come unto me, all ye that labour . . . and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28.

Thank the Lord for His love to us. While we were yet in our sins Christ died for us. It is not His will that any should perish, but that all come to repentance.

Your sister in the Lord, —Alice Rhoades

If evil be tolerated among God's people, the work of God will not prosper. If a person keeps company, by choice, with ungodly men, he will imbibe some of the wrong spirit and become affected. Only those who conform to the image of Christ will be saved in the end.

# FAITH AND VICTORY

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This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21 and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the same gospel which Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including the divine healing of the body. James 5:14,15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the 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.

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## EDITORIALS

We greet each of our readers, trusting that the love of God is reigning supremely in your hearts and lives. Time has once again brought us to the spring time of the year. The last day of winter here in Guthrie went out with a cold, snowy blast. The first day of spring was a warm, sunny day. As we experience the elements of nature, we have to acknowledge, as God did when He created them, that it is good. Now the trees are bringing forth new life. The grass is turning green, and the flowers are appearing. It reminds us of the renewed life that God can bring about in a dead, forsaken, sin-ridden life. The life of a Christian can be spring time year round. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Cor. 5:17.

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Our supply of the *Evening Light Song* books is completely depleted. We are now in the process of reprinting, but it may be another two or three months before the new books will be available for sale. We will announce in a future issue when they will be available.

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We are thankful for the help that God has given to Sis. Brenda Wilkins of the Guthrie congregation. Sis. Brenda was seriously ill and we are glad that the Lord spared her life. She is still quite weak and in need of your prayers.

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We want to take this opportunity again to thank each one for their support of this work. It is not only financial support that makes this paper what it is, but the testimonies, articles, and other correspondence are greatly appreciated. We are aware that there are many who are unable to assist other than by their prayers, but these are very vital to the work and let us know that we are not standing alone.

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### CORRECTION:

The March 1984 issue of the *Faith and Victory* paper contained an article entitled "The Holy Remnant—The Radicals" by Bro. Donald Sharp. It was erroneously stated in the article that the First Church of God is a member of the World Council of Churches. Bro. Sharp has since notified us that he would like this corrected. He had in his possession some material which he interpreted to mean that his assertion was correct. Since last month's publication, we have had official verification that the First Church of God is not a member of that organization.

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"Last night I paused beside a blacksmith's door  
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;  
Then looking in, I saw upon the floor  
Old hammers worn with beating years of time.

" 'How many anvils have you had,' said I,  
'To mar and batter all these hammers so?'  
'Just one,' he answered, then with twinkling eye,  
'The anvil wears the hammers out, you know.'

"And so I thought the anvil of God's Word  
For ages skeptics' blows have beat upon,  
Yet though the noise of failing blows was heard,  
The anvil is unworn—the hammers gone."

"Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." Mark 13:31. What a vain and futile thing it is to attempt to do away with the Word of God. I think of the infidels and skeptics of the past who did all they could to discredit the very existence of God. Time has rolled on and they are history, but still we have God's Holy Word. Catholicism attempted all within its power to remove the Word from the people, and yet it remains, changing the lives of all who will believe it.

Our legislators are struggling with the question of prayer in school. Many say that religion should have no place in public life. How warped people can become! This is one of the very places that the Word of God is needed. If indeed prayer is omitted from public schools, it will still find its way into the hearts of those who want it. It is like a mighty rushing stream that some puny man thinks he can stem the tide of by standing in its path.

John 1:14, tells us, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." When the Word of God appeared on the earth in the form of Christ, many people were angered because it condemned their profession. They sought both openly and secretly to do away with Him. No doubt some of them thought it a great victory when they saw the stone rolled in front of the tomb that held the body of Christ. Was this the end of the story? No, far from it! The Word of God arose the third day and filled the hearts of men and women. Three thousand souls were saved on that day of Pentecost. The stream gathered momentum, sweeping away the opposition. Puny man has been diligent to throw impurities in its path ever since, but those hindrances have been cast upon the banks of time, and the pure stream from the throne of God flows on, continuing to wash the vilest of sinners in its flow.

Christ gave the enduring promise that, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32. Saints, be diligent in lifting up the Word of God. It is here to stay whether you lift it up or not, but think of the joy on that crowning day to know that you are part of this victorious army. Sinner, stop your futile efforts and get over on the winning side. Only eternity will bring the full realization to you of how insignificant were your efforts to stand against the mighty workings of God.

—Wayne Murphey

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Bro. Donald Sharp has informed us of his new address. Anyone desiring to contact him may do so at: 822 Weinland, New Carlisle, Ohio 45344. Phone (513) 849-0239.

We become like those we associate with, and if in the secret closet we hold intimate conversation with Jesus, drink of His Spirit, gain His view of life, become filled with His love—we shall be conformed to Him. The measure of our conformity is the measure of our usefulness. Strive to represent Jesus to the world by close conformity to Him. —R. L. Berry

"No man ever stood so tall as when he stooped to help a child."

## Camp Meeting Dates for 1984

Goulds, Fla.—April 15-22.

Ojos Negros, Baja, Cfa., Mexico—April 16-22.

Orland, Calif.—May 23-27.

Oklahoma State Camp Meeting at Guthrie, Ok.  
May 25-June 3.

Holly Hill, S. C.—June 1-10.

Tulsa, Ok.—June 8-17.

Jefferson, Ore.—June 8-17.

Duncannon, Pa.—June 8-17.

Chilliwack, B. C., Canada—June 18-24.

General Southern at Loranger, La.—June 22-July 1.

Oakland, Calif.—June 22-July 1.

Prince George, B. C., Canada—June 27-July 1.

Greenbank, W. Va.—June 29-July 8.

Fresno, Calif.—July 6-15.

National Camp Meeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo.—July 20-29.

Missouri State at Myrtle, Mo.—July 30-Aug. 5.

Bakersfield, Calif.—Aug. 3-12.

Boley, Ok.—Aug. 17-26.

California State Camp Meeting at Pacoima, Ca.  
August 24-Sept. 2.

## In Memorial

Sister Carrie Roebuck Green passed from this life at her home near Louin, Miss., on February 22, 1984, at the age of ninety-six years.

She was a wonderful person and a great asset to her community, always wanting to help anyone who needed help. She opened her home to ministers and people who needed a place to stay. She read her Bible over and over, and would quote the Scriptures. . . . Just a short time before her death she told me she was dying. I asked her if she was ready to meet death. She said, "Yes, I'm ready to go."

She is survived by one son, Tom Green; three daughters: Novella Pugh, Louin, Ms., Joyce Harrison, Forest, Ms., and Fairra Green of Jackson, Ms.

Funeral services were held at Bay Springs Funeral Home with Bros. Austin Watson and Cecil Carver officiating.

—Submitted by Novella Pugh

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Sister Ella (Allen) McMakin was born to Ira and Mary Allen in Seminole, Okla., on August 20, 1902. She moved to Shawnee, Okla., as a young girl and lived there most of the remainder of her life. She passed from this life to her eternal home on March 11, 1984, at the age of 81 years, 6 months, and 20 days.

On January 22, 1922, Sis. Ella was united in holy matrimony to Bro. W. C. McMakin in Tecumseh, Okla. Bro. Willie preceded her in death on August 6, 1976.

Sis. Ella was made a member of the Church of God by the new birth as a young girl. She never did go for anything else in her spiritual living. She often said, "I was never in sectism and never will be—the truth is just what I want." She remained true to her walk with God. Through the many years of living for God, she and Bro. Willie were used of the Lord in a

mighty way in the song ministry. They often left their home and went with the ministers to help in revivals, camp meetings, etc., to take care of the lead singing, and their prayers and amen's were always an inspiration.

Sis. McMakin is survived by three daughters: Charlotte Dilliner, Mary Dunavan, and Wanda Billingsly, all of Shawnee, Okla.; two sons: Bill McMakin of Prague, Okla., and James McMakin of Oxnard, Calif.; two sisters; sixteen grandchildren; eighteen great-grandchildren; and other relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were held in Shawnee, Okla. with Bro. Willie Murphey leading congregational singing, and Bro. Charles R. Smith, Sis. Mary Lawson, and Bro. Orie Young officiating. She was laid to rest in the Resthaven Cemetery.

—Bro. Charles R. Smith

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Irving Clements of 1054 Sawyer St., Orangeburg, S. Carolina, was born in Rolla, Mo. to the late Elmer and Julina Clements. Bro. Clements passed from this life on February 13, 1984, at the age of 79 years.

Bro. Clements was a member of the Church of God. He was retired from Holsum Bakery Co., and was also a retired real estate broker.

Survivors include his wife: Mrs. Hettie Mae Perry Clements; two sons: Benny Clements of Leesburg, Fla., and John E. Clements of Orangeburg, S. C.; one sister; one brother; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Thompson Funeral Home with Bro. Gordon Humphrey officiating. Burial was in Crestlawn Memorial Gardens.

May the Lord bless Sis. Clements and children at this time.

—Bro. Gordon Humphrey

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Bessie Love Johnson was born in Minden, La., to Uriah Bullicks and Isabella Johnson, on Nov. 18, 1882, and departed this life in Pacoima, Calif., on February 11, 1984, at the age of 102 years, 11 months, and 7 days.

Sis. Johnson heard the teaching of the Church of God by Sis. Emily Turner, and she accepted it and trusted the Lord for soul and body. She was in the Los Angeles congregation for many years, and faithfully dedicated her labor and finances to the Lord. Her home was always open to the saints—both young and old. After retirement from work, it seemed she had a calling from the Lord to care for the sick and needy. She always taught young mothers to love and care for their children, and was known by many as "Mamma Bessie."

After her health failed in 1970, she moved into the Sunset Guest Home in Pacoima, Ca., where she resided until her passing.

Bro. Alvin Lucas, assisted by the saints, officiated at a graveside service on Feb. 16, 1984, at Lincoln Memorial Park, Compton, Ca.

—Wynema Clay

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Ruford H. Bennett was born July 29, 1931, and went home to be with the Lord on Nov. 9, 1983, at the age of 52 years.

Bro. Bennett became a member of the Church of God in Goulds, Fla., under the leadership of Bro. H.

H. Hargrave. He was a meek, kind, and thoughtful person who enjoyed making others happy.

His death leaves a void in the lives of: his devoted wife, Lydia; one son, Paul; three daughters: Georgette Judy, and Carla; four grandchildren; his father; one sister; four brothers; and a host of other relatives, saints, and friends.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. H. H. Hargrave. Interment was at Flowers Bay Cemetery, Roatan, Honduras.

#### Note of Appreciation

We, the family of the late Ruford H. Bennett, acknowledge with gratitude and appreciation the many acts of kindness bestowed upon us during our bereavement. May God bless you.

Christian love and prayers, —Judy Trepagnier

#### NOTE OF THANKS

We, the family of Roderick A. Powell, wish to thank all the dear ones who showed their love, kindness, and concern with cards, flowers, and offerings in our time of sorrow. May God bless each of you.

—The Powell family

### REPORTS AND NOTICES

#### TENT EVANGELISM REPORT

It is nearing the season for tent evangelistic work, and we desire the Lord to bless in this effort. The expenses incurred in keeping the trucks and other equipment ready will be worth it all when a soul hears the gospel and is rescued from a long eternity with the lost.

There are some new fields opening up. This should be on our hearts to pray the Lord of the harvest: "What would you have me to do?" and "Send others to carry the gospel message."

We appreciate those who from time to time remember the National Missionary effort by their support. May the Lord richly bless them for their faithfulness. I don't know how many are aware of the needs in the upkeep of the evangelistic equipment. There is insurance, tags, and tune-ups every year. Bro. Samons informs us that the tires are getting threadbare and was considering recapping them. We gave him \$400 to begin this process. Last year we sent \$300 to Bro. Kimble to help with the expenses needed for repairs on that truck, and it needed all of that and more. . . . It is too bad that the equipment isn't kept busy all summer.

We want to do all we can wherever we can to encourage this work. The Lord will provide, we know, if He can get willing workers. Pray for us. We desire to see fruit.

Love, —Bro. Ralph and Sis. Inez Beisly

[Bro. and Sis. Beisly are treasurers of the National Missionary Fund which is maintained for the operating and maintenance expenses of the equipment, and to help with the living expenses of the evangelists. This is a necessary and important work of the Church, and is worthy of the saints' support. All contributions should be sent to Bro. and Sis. Ralph Beisly, 407 Eldridge, Coffeyville, Ks. 67336.

—Editor]

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SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PAPER—3 YEARS FOR \$1.00

**ORLAND, CALIFORNIA CAMP MEETING**

The Orland Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, May 23, beginning at 7:30 p. m., and continuing through May 27, 1984, at the chapel located at the corner of "A" and Colusa St., Orland, Ca. There will be three services daily: 10:00 a. m., 2:30 p. m., and 7:30 p. m., on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

We extend a hearty welcome to all people to come and be with us. We are looking to the Lord to send ministers and workers of His choice to help in the meeting. Bring sleeping bags, folding cots, campers, and mobile homes, as well as bedding. Please phone Sister Loretta Harmon at (916) 865-3711, or Bro. Brian Rich at (916) 824-2824 in advance so arrangements can be made for your lodging. The meeting will be supported by free-will offerings.

For those coming from either the north or south on Interstate 5, exit to the east on California state highway 32 and follow 32 (which makes a jog one block to the right at old 99) to "A" Street, turn right and go one block. The chapel address is 731 "A" St.

For further information or directions, please call Sis. Loretta Harmon or Bro. Brian Rich at the above mentioned phone numbers. —Letha M. Reece

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**PRINCE GEORGE, B. C. CAMP MEETING**

The saints at Prince George, British Columbia, Canada, are planning a camp meeting to be held there at the chapel in Prince George, beginning June 27 and continuing through July 1, 1984. Pray for this meeting and the work of the Lord in this place, and come if at all possible as the Lord directs. If possible, bring bedding with you. For further information, contact Ed and Sue Shire, P. O. Box 563, Prince George, B. C. Canada, telephone (604) 562-2142, or John and Daisy Rabel, R. R. 7, Site 24, Comp. 35, Prince George, B. C., Canada V2N 2J5, telephone (604) 963-7093. —Daisy Rabel

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**REVIVAL AT SAPULPA, OKLA.**

A revival meeting will begin, Lord willing, at the Church of God Chapel on the old Sapulpa Road on Sunday morning, April 22, 1984, and continue through the remainder of the week, Lord willing. There will be two services each Sunday (morning and evening), and services each night during the week at 7:30 p. m.

Bro. Ostis Wilson plans to be in this meeting if the Lord wills. All are welcome to come; we will be glad to have you. —Bro. Richard Madden

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**ANNIVERSARY SERVICES**

The twenty-first anniversary services of The Golden Rule Home at Shawnee, Okla., will be April 7 and 8, 1984, Lord willing. There will be a gospel singing Saturday night, the 7th, at 7:30 p. m. at the Church of God Chapel on Gordon Cooper Drive (South Beard). Sunday morning services will be at the chapel with dinner served shortly after. Afternoon service will be at the Home on West Hardesty Road at 2 p. m.

God has given us 21 years of service to the elderly and afflicted of the saints and others. Pray that the dear Lord continues to bless and preserve this work.

For more information, write: The Golden Rule Home, Rt. 6 Box 10, Shawnee, Ok 74801, or call (405) 273-7106; Bro. and Sis. Charles Smith at (405) 273-8201; or Janyce Porter at (405) 275-6686.

—Janyce Porter

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**SPECIAL SERVICES AT MYRTLE, MO.**

There will be, Lord willing, special services at the Church of God Chapel, Myrtle, Mo., on May 5 and 6, 1984. There will be a special song service on Sat. night, May 5, which will also be open for testimonies, exhortation, a message, or whatever the Lord may give. There will be all-day services Sunday. We trust the Lord will send those of His choosing to help in this weekend meeting. —Harlan Sorrell

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**BOLEY, OKLA. SPRING REVIVAL**

Lord willing, the spring revival of the Church of God at Boley, Okla., will convene April 30, and continue through May 6, 1984. We extend a warm welcome to all nations to attend this meeting. Services will be held nightly at 7:30 p. m., and all-day service will be held on Sunday, May 6.

We are looking to the Lord to send Holy Ghost filled ministers and workers to help in the meeting. Come praying that the Lord will send a Holy Spirit filled meeting and that there will be a harvesting of souls.

For further information, contact Sis. Ora Spears at Rt. 1, Boley, Ok. 74829, phone (918) 667-3376, or Sis. Katherine Williams, at 905 N. E. 15th St., Okla. City, Ok., 73104, phone (405) 235-2270.

—Katherine Williams

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**Ministers' Meeting Rescheduled**

It has been decided that the national ministers' meeting of the Church of God (Evening Light) which was originally scheduled to be held in January 1984, has been rescheduled to begin on Monday, June 4, and continue through June 6, 1984. This is immediately following the Okla. State Camp Meeting which closes on June 3. The meeting will be held in the Church of God Chapel located at N. 6th St. and W. Warner Ave., Guthrie, Okla. The use of the camp ground facilities (women and men's dormitories and kitchen facilities) will be available for those who attend. Any contributions for the expense of this meeting should be sent to: Sis. Frances Deforth, 105 E. Industrial Blvd., Guthrie, Ok. 73044.

—Leslie Busbee

**ONLY ONE WAY**

A tourist asked at the service station the way to a certain town. The directions were carefully given. The tourist said, "You think this is the best way, do you?"

The service man replied, "It is not only the best way, but it is the only way."

The Bible is the only way to heaven. Do you live to all it teaches every day? Read the sixth chapter of Matthew over very carefully. Stop at verses 6, 20, 22, 28, and 33.

—C. E. Orr



## Prayer Requests

Kans.—“Do remember Sis. Jones. She has been suffering with her back for several weeks and can hardly sit up.”  
—Inez Beisly

Ohio.—“I have two afflictions on my body, and I am trusting God, knowing that He can move mountains. I desire prayer for these afflictions.”

—Earl L. Sharp

Pa.—“My eyes, ears, and heart are bad. Please pray for me to get stronger in body and soul.”

—Bernice McKenrick

Mich.—Bro. Earl Parsons needs prayer as he is not well.

S. C.—Sis. Edna Crummie needs prayer for healing of her body.

Ga.—Bro. Friendly Green and his wife are neither one well in body and they desire prayer for healing.

Tenn.—“Please pray for me; my body is very afflicted.”

—Anna Fredrick

Earnest prayer needs to be made in behalf of the dear people in Africa who are facing and dying from starvation due to drought. There are several countries in Africa, of which Nigeria and Ghana are two, being effected by drought. Ghana is one of the most seriously affected. According to published reports, thousands are dying every day from starvation; children are being abandoned because parents can no longer feed them; and it is predicted that thousands of people will receive permanent damage to their health because of starvation. Pray that the Lord will send the needed rain that the conditions of distress may be relieved. may be relieved.

We do thank and praise the Lord for each answer to prayer in behalf of His trusting children. There has been much sickness during this winter season, and some who were in a very serious condition, but the Lord has delivered and raised up those who were so seriously ill. All thanks and praise to our heavenly Father! The Lord has removed a serious looking growth which was on Bro. O. C. Porter's face for many months, and we rejoice with him for this healing; the Lord wonderfully healed Bro. Jerry Melot several weeks ago when he appeared so near death's door; Bro. Ostis Wilson is thanking the Lord for a healing touch to his body; Bro. Lewis Williams is rejoicing for what God has done for him recently; and there are many more who are testifying of God's gracious goodness to them. There are still many needs, however, and we want each one to be encouraged to hold fast to God and His unchanging Word—“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” Heb. 13:8.

—Randall Flynn

## Family in Need

It has been brought to our attention of a dear family of saints who are much in need. The mother has been seriously ill for a number of months, and the husband was not able to keep his job because of the care his wife required. He is now able to work, but has not been able to obtain a job. The family consists of seven girls and three boys, the oldest being a daughter fifteen years of age. This family is worthy of the saints' support. Contributions may be sent to this office, and we will be happy to forward them on.

—Maybelle Pruitt

## FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

### MISSION REPORT FROM GHANA, W. AFRICA

Ghana (Feb. 7)—Dear saints at the Print Shop, and scattered abroad: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus. In two days it will be one month since I arrived in Akumadan-Ash. The time has gone so quickly, and I am adjusting very well to the new world that I am in. I have started learning the Twi language and it comes very easily. . . .

At present, both congregations are using school rooms for services, and they are filled to capacity. . . . All services are interpreted, the Spirit of God is in the midst, and I am rejoicing at what God is doing and has done here. Surely, this is the time for Ghana to be saved, and I am glad to see the hungry souls come to the light and receive Christ into their hearts.

It is taking longer to get the mission house finished than we had hoped. Laborers don't work by the clock here. I am still living in a single room not too far from the building site. My things are still packed as I have no place to put them. As soon as the bathroom and two bedrooms are finished, we will move in and the rest can be finished as we reside there. . . .

I have had opportunities to witness to many about the true Church of God. Doctors, preachers, and laborers, many of different faiths, have promised to attend services. Some have already come and are returning. Pray for a harvest of souls through this missionary effort in Ghana.

As I write to you, I am well and contented where God has placed me. I dearly love the people, and they are responding—not only by word of mouth, but by their deeds of kindness, thoughtfulness, and care for me.

I would appreciate hearing from some of you. Mail service is so slow, but when the mail van comes in, it is good to hear from home.

God's and your missionary to Ghana,

—Sis. Dorothy Keiser

c/o Jim Akwasi Konadu Yiadom  
Box 44, Akumadan-Ash, Ghana, W. Africa  
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### MISSIONARY TRIP PLANNED TO THE PHILIPPINES

Okla.—Dear brethren at the Print Shop and all the saints: Greetings of peace and hope in the name of our dear Redeemer. I feel that the Lord would have me testify to all of His grace and love to us. He has so graciously kept us through many trials and burdens, and has brought us this far that we might trust Him forever. There is nothing in this old world that can compare with the glory God sheds upon His children day by day. Praise His name forever!

The Lord burdened my heart to return to the Philippines last winter, but my hip gave me much trouble. I prayed that God would find someone to go strengthen and encourage the brethren there. A young brother, Jeff Redington, has felt a burden to go in the service of the Lord. Bro. Jeff has a great burden for the work of the Lord; it is so good to see a young person stepping out into the mission work.

Saints, we still have a battle to fight against Satan, and the great commission is still active. I pray that God may stir the heart of every saint to carry a



burden for the spreading of the truth wherever He has placed us or wants us to go. There is no hope outside the truth. God is stirring hearts everywhere even though Satan seems to be doubling his efforts. It surely encourages my heart to see the saints deepening down in the Lord. There is surely a harder battle coming.

Bro. Jeff will be leaving the latter part of April as soon as he gets his passport and visa. I pray that I may be able to go with him as the Lord has given me relief in my hip, and if the Lord provides the additional funds I will go with him. The round-trip air fare is about \$1160.00 now, but is expected to increase April 1. Pray that God will be able to speak to hearts on this behalf.

Bro. Tangunan is hoping to close a deal for the land in San Jose soon. He has waited very patiently for a building to worship in. The lot has doubled in price since I was there; it is now about \$5200 for the lot. He has about half of that amount now, and we are hoping and praying for God to help us be able to finish this project while we are there.

The work is progressing in several countries now, and we pray that they all may get settled and established in the truth, and that the Lord of the harvest will send forth more reapers. May His name be glorified and His truth magnified in many more countries while there is yet time. —Bro. George Hammond

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#### SPANISH LITERATURE REPORT

We truly thank the Lord for His goodness to us in the continuation of this channel of His vineyard. He has been blessing the mailing out of literature to Spanish-speaking countries. The packages are being received, and that in itself is a blessing.

The way we know the literature is reaching farther and farther is that we are getting pleas for it from new sources, saying that certain tracts have come to their hands and they desire more. We know the Lord is doing this to send His Word into the far reaches of the earth. It is in compliance with His great commission, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. The white-winged messengers, as Bro. Lawrence Pruitt used to call them, can go many places that one person cannot go. Our place is to "sow beside all waters."

May the Lord, when He comes, find each of us at our post of duty with a true burden for souls.

If anyone in the States desires literature to be sent to their Spanish-speaking friends or acquaintances, or desire some for yourselves, please contact me at 1002 N. W. 90, Oklahoma City, Ok. 73114. Orders can be filled more promptly this way.

Yours for the salvation of the Spanish-speaking peoples of the world. —Sis. Opal Kelly

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#### MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India—Dear ones in the Faith Publishing House family, and the dear saints everywhere: We send our loving greetings to you again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ, in whose "presence is fulness of joy" and at whose "right hand there are pleasures for evermore." Psalms 16:11.

Thank you very much for your kind letter, and the enclosures were noted with much appreciation from the bottom of the heart. May God bless each donor for the Lord's work in India.

By the grace of God the meetings are progressing here. Once in awhile we get rain also. Last week I was in the northern region of Kerala to participate in meetings at Athani and Chalakudy. Most of our chapels do not have electricity. Night meetings are being conducted under kerosene oil lamps. We pray God for the finances to furnish these chapels with electricity.

In these days we pray God for a deepening spirituality in the Church. Without that deepening spirituality, the effectiveness of all our plans and evangelism programs will be reduced to a final and futile spiritual zero. Dr. E. Stanley Jones was right when he said, "Before we can go further, we must first go deeper." Someone else so challengingly said, "Revival is not going down the street with a great big drum; revival is going back to Calvary with a great big sob." We don't really need more high-powered personality behind the pulpit, but we do need more of the personality of the Holy Spirit upon the whole Church. . . . In this great task of winning souls, no one can be effective as an "onlooker." Soul-winning is everybody's job. Really constructive and abiding results stem from the deep moving of the Holy Spirit and the participation of the whole Church in the whole task.

Please remember the need of India in your earnest prayers. We do remember the Church of God in America in our prayers every day.

Yours in His service,

—John Varghese

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#### From the Mail Box . . .

N. C.—Dear brothers and sisters: We greet you in the loving name of Jesus our Savior. I pray you are all well and happy in the Lord's work.

We are most thankful for what our loving Father has done for us during the past year. He has blessed us in so many ways we can never thank and praise Him enough. I am sure that all of His true children can say the same.

We are so happy that we are children of the King. Our desire is to be everything that God would have us to be in this dark world of sin. We ask that you remember my wife and me in prayer as we pray for your good work.

May God bless and encourage you as you go forth spreading the good news to a lost world.

Your brother in Christ,

—Vono C. Baker

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La.—Dear brothers and sisters: I want to let you know how much I enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory* paper. I have subscribed to it now for two years, but I had read it before. . . .

Our background in the Lord began when we were little children with our parents. We have always been a close-knit family, and we were Catholic at that. (I am speaking of about 45 years ago, more or less.) We had a void within us, however. I know God saw our hunger. I can remember when Sister Katherine Key came over with her congregation, I assume, and she and the others would read and sing for us. The neighbors (all Catholic) thought we were strange to

allow these folks to come in. Sis. Mary Bush was in that group, and they gave each one of us a Bible. How little they realized they planted the precious seed that would grow, where as the years went by, one by one we were saved and began serving the Lord. . . . It is truly a joy serving the Lord. We learned that we could trust Jesus, His integrity, His faithfulness, and wisdom. He is a Master always working for us. And it all began when some dear saints took time out to tell us about God, because God's saving power was unknown to us.

In our lifetime, there has been disappointment, sadness, and loss of loved ones, yet we know He has been there at our sides through the years. . . .

Sincerely in Christ, —Louise LaMonica

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Wash.—Dear Christian friends: Just a few lines with this little gift to help in some way.

I really enjoy reading my *Faith and Victory*. I used to get Sis. Carrie Westrope's paper to read, but after she left I wrote to you for one myself. I get such a blessing from reading it. Every time I get my *Faith and Victory* I remember Sis. Carrie and that she really had faith in our Lord. I miss her so much.

God bless you all there. Pray for me as I pray for you.

Christian love, —Stella Dressler

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Miss.—Dear Sis. Maybelle: Greetings in Jesus' sweet name. Hope you are well.

I'm awfully sad and lonely. My dear mother passed away on Feb. 22. I know that you know how it is give up your loved one. It is so hard to bear, but I have a great consolation. She said over and over that she was ready to go.

Please pray for me.

Your sister in Christ, —Novella Pugh

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Nigeria—Christian greetings! Thank God for all your past supply of gospel tracts. We have distributed them in many places as we witnessed to the people. . . .

I don't know why Satan threatened me except because of heaven. He said, "You are not a child of God." Immediately I replied to him, "I am a child of God because Jesus Christ saved my soul, and I became a child of God. I know I am going to heaven in Jesus' name. Go away from me, Satan."

Your sister in Christ, —Sis. Janet Oyadiran

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Calif.—Dear workers at the Publishing House: We send Christian greetings of love in Jesus' dear name.

We are enclosing a small offering to be used to help in the great expense of carrying on the work there for the Lord. No doubt many souls have been saved through the efforts of all who have a part in that work.

May God bless you in all you do to further the cause of Christ.

With our love and prayers,

—Bro. and Sis. H. P. Huskey

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"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 Cor. 10:13

## Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Ark.—Greetings in the name of our wonderful Savior, the Lord Jesus, to all who read the *Faith and Victory* paper. "For in him [the Lord] we [the saints] live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device." Acts 17:28, 29. "For in him the Lord Jesus dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power. In whom also ye [or we] are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ." Col. 2:9-11. . . .

Everyone who is a member of the Church of God spoken of in Heb. 12:23, is my brother and sister in the Lord. Praise His wonderful name! I am so glad to be a member of the Church of the living God. The Church is the bride of Christ, and should do all things in His name. "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Col. 3:17.

We get much good from reading the *Faith and Victory* paper. We are so glad that the dear Lord has made us free from Babylon and the things of the world. . . . Oh, for a world-wide revival of Holy Ghost preaching that would bring most of our American people to God. It seems that the majority of the people of America are so sinful and wicked. We are now living in the last days spoken of by Paul in 2 Tim. 3. Denominations and politics are causing much sin and evil that is in the world.

We want the saints to pray for wife and me, as we both need a healing touch from the hand of the living God. Pray also that we may get closer to the Lord and do everything that we do to His glory. We want to be doers of His Word in our talking, thinking, actions, walking, listening, and seeing.

May the dear Lord bless and guide each of you in His work is our prayer.

Your brother and sister in the Lord,

—A. C. and Della Gilleland

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W. Va. (Mar. 3)—Dear Sis. Maybelle, workers at the Print Shop, and saints abroad: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. We're so thankful this a. m. to be a child of God and enjoying many blessings from Him. Truly, we do not know why more do not want to serve Him. We can surely say He has never failed us. Praise His dear name!

We are here at Four Corners [near Bluejacket, Ok], in a revival meeting. The Lord is blessing with His sweet presence.

Bro. and Sis. Wilson just received their March issue of the *Faith and Victory*, and I was looking over the dates of the camp meeting notices. . . . Ours will be held, Lord willing, June 29-July 8. We are looking to the Lord for another good camp meeting. We are looking to the Lord to supply the needs for a men's dormitory. There has been \$1600 given for this. We are very grateful to those who have given toward this need. The Lord has been so faithful to supply the needs there at Green Bank. Our camp meeting seems

to grow every year. We desire to make provisions for all who come. There has always been room for someone else.

Pray for the work there. We feel that the Lord is dealing with others in the community. We also thank the Lord for how He is blessing the Christian school there. The children all seem to love and appreciate it. The Lord has wonderfully supplied as the needs arise. Thank the Lord.

We are looking forward to a busy summer in the work of the Lord. We plan to have a tent meeting in or around Lansing, N. Carolina, in May. We feel the Lord is raising up a good little work there.

Remember us in your prayers that we will be faithful to God. We have no other desire but to please Him with our lives. May God bless each one is our earnest prayer.

—Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons

P. O. Box 127, Green Bank, W. Va. 24944.

Phone (304) 456-4469.

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Oklahoma.—Dear saints: Greetings this morning in Jesus' lovely name! How thankful we are for the many blessings of the Lord! We trust the Lord is blessing there, too, and caring for the work. . . .

The Lord gave us a special blessing of late in helping us with our car. We were traveling to the revival at Four Corners, and the car would not exceed forty to fifty miles per hour in speed. We requested prayer concerning this when we got to the meeting. The next day being Saturday, it was impossible to find a garage open here. Our next-door neighbor, who is a mechanic, was off work that day, and he told us to drive the car to his garage and he would check it out for us. He found the timing to be off, and a piece was missing which was causing loss of vacuum. When Gordon paid him, he said, "Do you know what I am going to do with this money? I'm giving it right back to you for the work of the Lord!" Thank the Lord for hearing and answering prayer. This was a blessing to our hearts in knowing that God cares for us.

Will close for this writing. May God bless all of you.

Christian love, —Bro. & Sis. Gordon Humphrey

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S. C.—Dear saints at the Print Shop and everywhere: Greetings of love to all in Jesus' name. I'm so thankful I accepted Jesus several years ago, and I find as I grow older I need Him more.

I lost my dear companion after 57 years together. That is an experience I had never had. It surely takes the grace of God to go on in a time like this. There is such an empty feeling without him. The Lord is with me and is giving me strength. Praise His holy name forever! Husband and I both loved the truth and the true Church. We loved the strict way, as God taught it that way.

We are in such perilous times. It's hard to get the truth to people. The devil is loose and he has so many blinded from the truth. We must keep the whole armor of God on to fight the wiles of the devil. Let's lift this true standard up and not slacken one bit; set our faces like a flint. We must be determined to stand firm and true for the truth. God comes first in my life and I want to be obedient to His sweet, still voice. I have lost friends and relatives, as the Bible says we

will, but I must go on regardless of the price. Pray for me that I will be steadfast to the true Word.

I desire your prayers at all times, and I do want to thank all who remembered me and my family in our bereavement. God bless each one is my prayer. I need your prayers for my family.

—Sis. Hattie Clements

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Kans.—Dear saints scattered abroad: Greetings in the love of Jesus. We are happy to be coming your way again.

Since we last wrote, the Lord has been blessing us with a touch of His love by healing our back. We are thankful that from a youth we were taught to trust in God for the healing of our body. I well remember when I was three years old that I was very sick with my stomach. Two ministers came by our place and saw me lying across a trunk with a pan on the floor. They asked my mother what was wrong, and she told them. They said, "We will pray for her and the Lord will heal her." They did pray for me, and that sick feeling left me.

Another time I was very sick and Mother took me upstairs to bed. It was very dark up there (especially to a little girl who was sick), and Mother laid her hand on my brow and asked the Lord to heal me and cool the fever. She comforted me by telling me the Lord would stay by me up there alone. As she left, I looked above my head and thought I saw a form in white. I was sure that was the Lord with me, and I was soon asleep; I awoke the next morning feeling well. Surely I want to have His presence with me in all my afflictions. I feel a safe assurance to trust in His love, mercy, and wisdom. They are from everlasting to everlasting. All through our lives the Lord takes note of our situations.

Pray for us that we will be where the Lord would have us to be. The song says, "Ready to go, ready to stay." Another song says, "Where Jesus is, 'tis heaven." How true.

May the Lord bless each of you.

Yours in His service,

—Bro. Ralph and Sis. Inez Beisly

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Kans.—Dear saints at the Print Shop and abroad: Greetings! My heart is full of gratitude for the wonderful plan of salvation. It is wonderful to be saved! I'm thankful that Jesus came looking for me. I was a captive, but He had mercy on me, found me, dealt with my soul for some time, and saved me.

I appreciate how the Lord hears and answers prayer, even in the smallest of matters. I thank the Lord for the sweet fellowship of the dear saints and for the love that comes down from heaven and flows from heart to heart—it is of God. "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Eph. 4:6. My heart is full of praise for being a child of the King, and for all His children being my brothers and sisters—all pressing "toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:14.

My mind reflects back on some of the saints that I had the privilege to know before they passed on to their blessed reward. I think about how they went through hard tests and trials, but I never saw them act indifferently or their love and faith waver in the

least. I desire with all my heart to follow their pattern. By the help of God I don't intend to retreat, but press harder. I want to be true to keep the pattern. A message that Bro. Fred Pruitt preached years ago in Bakersfield, Ca., comes to my mind. He told about the donkey on which Christ was riding into Jerusalem. The people were throwing their garments in the donkey's way, but he just kept going at an even pace—never slowing down, never jumping back. They cut palm branches and threw them in the donkey's path, but he just kept going the same way, never changing, not backing up, but going straight ahead. I believe that is the way the Lord wants us to be. I am thankful I have seen it work like that, and by the help of God and your prayers, I mean to be just like that example.

Yours in Christ, —Sis. E. Freeman  
o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

La.—Dear Sister Maybelle and co-workers: In the name of Jesus we greet you in tender love. We are still pressing our way forward for Jesus, and enjoying His many blessings in soul and body.

We want to testify to another healing touch from His bountiful hand. Right after Christmas, as I was working around in my "hobby room" the heavy stereo speaker fell on my foot and fractured the bone or bones, on top of my foot and badly bruised two of my toes. My foot swelled so badly and the pain was severe for several days. My toes turned black and looked as if they would come off. I had plenty of "Job's comforters" telling me that I had better at least go and have a bandage put on my foot. For weeks the pain would come and go, and my foot continued to swell, but finally the Lord came to my rescue and completely healed it. Praise His dear name! It hurts when I first put a shoe on, but then the hurting stops and I can walk without pain. I didn't do anything but look to the Lord and He healed it.

Also, we have looked to the Lord to protect us from the flu that is so prevalent everywhere. He has blessed us up to now and we haven't had it. How we do thank Him for His blessings.

We are looking forward to going to Shreveport for the singing and meeting on Sunday. It is always so blessed to meet with the saints, and we appreciate them more every day. How very thankful we are for the blessed truth!

Please pray for us. We have many needs before the Lord, and several souls on our hearts. May the blessings of God be upon each of you as you give your time and talents to Him. We pray for all of you continually.

In Christian love, —Sybil Goldsberry  
o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Canada—Greetings to the saints at the Lord's Print Shop, and dear saints scattered abroad: We are very thankful to the Lord for His marvelous works in our lives and how He has led unerring to the land we hold today. Surely we must say, "Is not this the land of Beulah?" Thank the Lord Jesus Christ for this great salvation!

I have been reminiscing lately of the precious times that I have had with the saints of God: of Monark Springs Camp Meeting; wonderful times at the Guthrie and Myrtle Camp Meetings; and many

other places of feasting times where the saints of God are. We have made many wonderful acquaintances with the saints of God and I would like to say as Solomon said: "Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves' eyes within thy locks: thy hair is as a flock of goats, that appear from mount Gilead." Oh, how I love the Church of the living God. God's holy people are free from every stain of sin, free from the spirit of the world, and free in the Holy Ghost.

Dear saints of God, let us hold fast together in one mind and one spirit, earnestly contending for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. . . . I love the body of Christ, and I wish not that any member should perish, but that all members function properly unto the edifying and building up of the Church of God; that each member be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. . . .

I thank God that I have found the true, visible body of Christ, my mother, the Church of God. Growing up nearly a heathen, not knowing Christ or what it means to be saved, I was born into the Church at a moment's time when the blood of the Lamb touched my sin-sick soul. Praise God! Now it is she (the Church) which has nourished me on heavenly food as I have been placed in her care just as a loving mother cares for her new baby which is so helpless. "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." Gal. 4:26.

I want to confess to the saints and everywhere else in this world that I am not looking for anything better, nor anything purer. How can you get any purer light when you have the sun?

Yours for unity and lost souls, —Mark Snell  
o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear ones at the Print Shop, and saints scattered abroad: Greetings of Christian love in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory." 1 Pet. 1:8.

I do thank God for salvation. I do rejoice in Him, knowing of a surety that my sins are all under the blood and that He has given me His Spirit to dwell within my heart. Psalms 118:24, says, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." I thank God for this gospel day when we can be truly born again and rejoice in His great salvation through Jesus Christ. My greatest desire in life is that His will might be done in earth (this earthen vessel of His) as it is in heaven.

Pray for me that I be a faithful and humble handmaiden all the remaining days of my life. He has been so faithful to me.

Your sister in Christ, —Fern Stubblefield  
o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

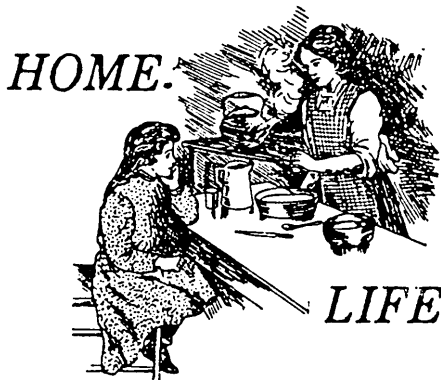
Canada—Dear brethren in the Lord: Greetings in the holy name of our Saviour Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Today I am especially grateful for the almighty power of God that keeps us on the upward track. The powers of evil are raging in fury against our eternal souls, but thank God for sustaining grace to overcome all things. It seems that I can see clearer each day the battle which we are in the midst of. The Lord has been using some of the dear ones here to fight against the devil directly by casting out spirits.

Praise God for a power which is able to work in us and through us to the casting down of strongholds. Yes, the strongholds of the enemy are being destroyed. The saints of God are marching forward with power and victory as they always have. Thank the Lord for the day-to-day trials and tests, for this is where the true victory lies—in the ability to conquer our own selves. Indeed, it is hard to die daily, but oh, the glory of being crucified with Christ and bearing our individual crosses. Praise God for perfecting grace.

We do appreciate your labors of love there at the Print Shop. . . . Please give our love to the dear workers and ask all to pray for the work here in Canada, that it might flourish under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Your sister in the Lord,

—Elizabeth Whittall



### Home Politeness

The habit of treating those who are nearest and dearest to us with discourtesy and disregard is one that clouds the happiness of too many homes. When we learn to be polite, not only as society people, but as husbands and wives, sisters and brothers, parents and children, we shall do well. No home can be happy wherein sarcastic speech and rude disregard of another's rights is the rule. When I see a young man bearing himself in company as though he were a prince of the royal blood seeking someone to share a kingdom of clover, honey, and Alderney cream, and I happen to know just how mean, disagreeable, and domineering he is at home, I long to arise and proclaim that the young man is a fraud. The girl who marries him will get mustard instead of honey, and skim milk rather than cream. The wares he carries are only peddlers' stock. Whoever judged of the fortunes of a merchant by the goods he shows? He may display diamonds on his inventory, but wear colored glass and pinchbeck. If you are looking for the prince, just test his home conduct before you accept him. Do not be guided in your choice by what he is in your home; find out what he is in his own home. Do not judge him by how he can turn a compliment, or be courteous; find out how he does things for his own family.

The great drawback to domestic felicity often lies in the fact that we get too familiar with one another. There should be a certain reserve even in the most intimate relationship. Members of the same family have no right to burst into one another's rooms with-

out knocking. I have no right to read the young person's letters without her permission, although I have the right to win her confidence so that she shows her correspondence freely. You have no right to obtrude your conversation upon your wife when she is in the midst of an absorbing story. An "excuse me" if the mother is forced to interrupt her children's prattle, is a better way to teach etiquette than out of a book.

When two sisters are discourteous to each other at home they sin against the code of etiquette just as truly as when they say rude things in public. The greater the worth of a thing, the choicer the care we give it; pursuing that line of argument, the dearer and sweeter the tie that binds us, the more considerate we should be in the handling of it. When I stab my fond mother's heart or wound my trusting child with a hasty word, eternity itself shall scarcely be long enough to extract the sting from memory.

Ah, me! It is an old thought often expressed, but it comes home with terrible force at times. What will we do with these poor, tormented hearts of ours, remembering by and by the unkind words our lips have uttered, when it is too late to make reparation; when love's opportunity is vanished forever, and out through the sunset gate of life the ones that we loved best have flown like birds flying straight to the bosom of God; when all our tears and each word of fruitless endearment are thrust back upon us like waves that beat against a wall of rock?

"Come back for one day, Mother," we will say, "just for one short day, that I may show you how fond and loving your child can be. Let me make that one day so sweet and precious that you will forget the many times when I have been harsh and brutal and 'nervous'."

But the worn and weary feet will never turn homeward again. The white and wrinkled face will never light with the old, tender smile at any call of mine.

"Fold your soft wings in my breast, little angel child," we say, "that I may spend more time with you, be more fond and patient, and never again sadden the sweet light in your eyes by a cruel word or hasty action." But the soft wing will never flutter back from the land whither the angels have beckoned it. Though we live to be grey-headed we can never outlive the memory of our careless anger with the child whom God hath taken.

See to it then, that we live each day as though it were last accorded to us to show we love the dear folks at home. Fill it full of beautiful service and tender homage. Let no rude speech strike discord through it, no frown darken it, no injustice mar it, but let its memory, with that of other days most like it, sweeten the bitter cup of death.

If I had known in the morning

How weary all the day

The words unkind

Would stay in my mind,

I said when you went away,

I had been more careful, darling,

Nor given you needless pain.

But we vex our own

With words and tone

We can never take back again.

—Selected

## Question and Answer Column

by  
Ostis B. Wilson

**Question:** Please comment on John 20:22: "And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost." I have heard that some people teach that is the way to receive the Holy Ghost.

**Answer:** First of all, I would like to say that there is no special specified way for people to receive the Holy Spirit. In Acts 19:6, the Holy Spirit was received through the laying on of the apostle Paul's hands. Again in Acts 8:17, they received the Holy Spirit through the laying on of the hands of the apostles Peter and John. These were the people of Samaria who had heard and believed the preaching of Phillip as he preached Christ unto them, and were consequently ready to receive the Holy Spirit. Again in Acts 10:44, as Peter preached Christ unto the household of Cornelius, they opened their hearts and minds to the Lord and believed the words they were hearing, and the Holy Spirit came upon them. In this case there was no laying on of hands nor breathing on anyone or any other kind of maneuver—just an open heart and mind reception of the Word as it was preached unto them. Also in the second chapter of Acts, verses 1 through 4, the apostles and their companions (about 120 in number) tarried before the Lord in fasting and prayer for about ten days; when the day of Pentecost was fully come, the Holy Spirit came upon them and filled all of them. In this case there was no one doing anything at all to anyone, but they were just all fasting, praying, and waiting as they had been instructed to do. Again in Acts 4:31, we read, "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. . . ." This was a company of about 5000 men who were all believers and were under persecution and threat; they prayed, consecrated, and dedicated their lives unto God and literally laid their lives on the line before God; He accepted their sacrifice and filled them with the Holy Spirit. In all these cases we see there is no specified way, or maneuver, or ritual for the receiving of the Holy Spirit but just meeting the conditions to make them eligible for receiving the Holy Spirit—consecration, dedication, obedience, and faith.

Also, I consider John 20:22, as a rather prophetic statement of something to come, and do not believe that the apostles received the Holy Spirit at that time for the following reasons. The first nine verses of the first chapter of Acts describe the last meeting on this earth between Christ and His apostles. In verse 4, He "commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father." Then in verse 5, He clarifies what He was referring to: "Ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence." It seems clear here they did not yet have the Holy Spirit at this time. Also Luke 24:49, is another Scripture which runs parallel with this one: "And, behold I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." Luke 24:36-56, contains a description of Christ's last

meeting with His apostles, and it is again clear that at this time they did not have the Holy Spirit.

The apostles were instructed in Luke 24:49, to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. But when was this to be? Acts 1:8, gives the answer; "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you. . . ." The infilling of the Holy Spirit is the source of this power to witness effectually for Christ, so again it is clear they did not yet have Him.

Jesus said in John 16:7, that if He did not go away, the Comforter would not come; but if He went away He would send Him. In John 14:26, Jesus declared that the Comforter is the Holy Spirit. Jesus had been gone back to heaven about ten days when the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost.

For all of these reasons I believe that Jesus' statement in John 20:22, was a kind of prophetic statement of something yet to come. His "breathing" on them possibly corresponds with the creation of Adam, and God breathing the breath of life into his nostrils and he became a living soul. In this case, Jesus' breathing on His apostles seems to have been a kind of symbolic imparting of spiritual inspiration and vision (without which no person can possibly be an effective witness and servant of Christ) to bring a quickening and regenerating grace into men's souls which these apostles did not realize and possess in its fulness until they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

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## Be Not at Ease in Zion

In these days of material abundance, it is so easy to be contented with the depths of spirituality that we have already reached. The enemy is fighting hard as we draw near the end of time and the day of judgment—often in ways many do not discern. In times past the devil fought the saints with physical oppression (during the dark ages), and in communist countries the dear ones there are yet waging that battle. Here in North America we are allowed freedom of worship. The severest persecution most of us receive is a "cold shoulder" from the world. Generally speaking, we live comfortable lives. Most have their temporal needs met and many have an abundance of material goods. It is not often that any of us go hungry because there is not enough food. We have good places to live and warm beds to sleep in, and our closets contain enough clothing to last us a few years even if we stopped accumulating now. We live in a society of material wealth, but there is yet a problem: we are set up for a very comfortable life here on earth. May God help us. These things are to be cared for and satisfy the flesh. The Scriptures tell us that "the flesh profiteth nothing" (John 6:63), and "they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh." (Gal. 5:24).

Each of us need to take a serious look at our lives and consider which we spend more time taking care of—our finite body or our eternal soul? How much time do we spend each day in reading the Bible, in deep meditation and communion with God, and in prayer, not only for ourselves that we would not be overcome by the cares of this world (Mark 4:19), but for the multitudes of desperate, lost souls who are dying all around us? What kind of soul burden are we



carrying? How often do we fast with a burden to draw closer to the throne of grace? We need to face reality and recognize that the enemy is causing many to lose spiritual ground. They think, "Well, I look modest enough; I try to go to meeting on Sunday; I trust God for my body; surely I am a saint." Dearest ones, we must ask God to show us ourselves as we really are—even the most spiritual ones need to do this often. The devil is fighting hard for our souls. We are in the midst of the battle of Armageddon (which false prophets say is literal and will be fought at a later date). Saints, we are on the battlefield now, fighting against unholy spirits and Satanic powers which are bent on deceiving us in some way. The enemy doesn't want a single one of us to make it through this time world with any victory at all. In Rev. 20:3, 7, 8, the Lord talks about Satan being loosed out of his prison for a little season to go forth and deceive. That is what we are up against now. All the legions of hell have been set loose, encompassing the camp of the saints (Rev. 20:9), and it is only through the purifying fire of the Holy Spirit that we will be able to triumph.

In times past, the enemy used many kinds of deception and persecution to try and stop the saints from living for God. It didn't work. The Church of God has always stayed true. Once the enemy saw that he couldn't stop this glorious army from marching forward he changed his tactics. Now he's trying to get everyone so comfortable and contented that we'll just fall asleep spiritually.

God has dealt with most of us along these lines at one time or another. People get stirred for awhile, and then fall back into the same old rut; God is patient and wakes them again and again. So often we miss what God has for us because our spiritual perception is dimmed by worldly cares. "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Prov. 29:18. This is exactly what the devil is trying to do to each one of us—dull us to the point where we are contented to shuffle along with no real thirsting after God's holy righteousness. Too many are going along in that manner. They are much like the five foolish virgins who didn't take along extra oil with them, and because of not thinking ahead and seeing their need, failed to enter into the marriage with the bridegroom. (Matt. 25:1-13).

Saints of God, wake up! Time is fast running out. Be wise; observe the signs of the times; get down on your knees and start rebuking the devil and his spirits of destruction. Be specific—rebuke the very spirits of lethargy, slothfulness, spiritual dullness, and any others the Holy Spirit reveals to you. When you get up shouting victory in your soul, keep that rebuke constantly in your heart. Be watchful for all the subtle devices of the enemy as he attempts to deceive you again and make you spiritually dull.

I have heard a respected minister of the Church of God teach about the parable of the ten virgins (Matt. 25:1-13) saying that they signify the Church in these last days, and that only one-half of these referred to as "saints" are going to make heaven. We need to make sure, regardless of the cost, that we will be in that number. To make it through, we are going to have to be totally devoted to the cause of God in this time world. It takes a continual dying out

to self and the things of the flesh. There are things which some are doing which they know are not helping them to crucify self, but in fact, promote the flesh hold. The Holy Spirit deals faithfully, but is rejected. These things are often referred to as "no harm" things, but in reality they cause great harm; and if allowed to continue, will eventually drag a soul to hell.

The Scripture says, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." 1 Cor. 10:12. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." 1 Pet. 5:8. "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." Rev. 16:15.

"The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence [assault, rage, fury, turbulence, severity] but the violent [passionate, intense, desirous, vehement, fervent] take it by force." Matt. 11:12.

May God help each one of us to gird up the loins of our minds and fight this battle with victory and honor in the name of Jesus, going forth conquering and to conquer.

Your blood-washed sister, —Elizabeth Whittall

## The Delusions of Satan

**Delusion:** "A deceptive fantasy involving the state of the mind. The word implies a tinge of moral insanity and instability: a serious disturbance in the seat of conscience causing one to err greatly in doctrine or principle. A deceptive confidence in believing something to be true when it is false. A faculty of the mind of one who thinks or imagines things of no value to be true when in reality it proves to be injurious . . . as in holding fundamental teachings of the church one persistently and perniciously clings to a theory, style of doctrine which carries no logic or basic principle."

### Types of Delusion

**The Fanatic:** The man with an iron hand bearing down with great stress and without compromise . . . extremely beyond reason, overbearing, close cutting or not cutting enough . . . erecting a twelve-foot boarded fence to keep the sheep in, but allowing a loop-hole or two to get out. His standard is so high that neither he nor anyone else can attain to it without stretching up to it, but failing to measure to it properly. He is sometimes a stickler and sometimes a tickler. One commentator said: "He is merciless to them who dare to oppose him. When he believes he has a truth the world ought to receive, he utters it without any care as to the manner of spirit of its proclamation. He has a duty to discharge and will do it at any hazards; believing if it makes things uncomfortable, everyone ought to "come and see my zeal for the Lord."

**The Compromiser:** Delusion's influence can come to easy-going souls who are willing to live at peace with anyone and everyone, regardless of what principles are stressed as being essential to close living. Such carefree folks are tempted to forfeit the standard of holy living to keep from losing loved ones and friends. Their worst complaint is against those they brand as "that fanatical bunch!"



**The Doctrinal Fiend:** The studious scholar; a real fiend in the school of dogma and every false doctrine named under heaven. He sits up late burning "midnight oil" in nocturnal doctrines to achieve victories in the field of arguments in heated battle. Full of babblings and redness of eyes, he tarries long at Babel's wine; zealously affected, but not for a good cause. He is right, of course, and all others are wrong. He cannot live or give a good discourse on the growth of grace, and the soul's divine appointment to humble submission.

**The Perfectionist:** Many are there that misconstrue Christian perfection in a sin free life. To those who glory in the flesh only, perfection is summed up in good morals; adhering to self-imposed rules—the kind that nourishes the outer man, but no grace afforded to the interior life. Well cultured in the eyes of the world, he is a perfect gentleman—showing no outward signs of frustration or ruffling; but within the caldron of his hidden temper, sparks of fire leap upward with the Old Man standing up on the inside.

**The Jokester:** Joking and jesting are a very witty form of entertaining others, and especially among comedian preachers who like to mix a bit of humor with a serious gospel to produce a good laugh. He is a jolly, exciting preacher who tickles the ears of his listeners with "church chuckles" . . . no harm, you know. How very clever is the devil in inserting his dead flies in the ointment of verity and truth. Many a good sermon has been spoiled by those who are supposed to be "in reputation for wisdom and honour." Lord, send us apothecaries who will compound the sincere ointment of truth with all gravity and love for souls.

**The Faultfinder:** Never a day of serenity from this awful malady, this man of suspicion bats an evil eye at all, and finds occasion to find fault in everything and everybody but himself. Confess your fault-finding one to another that ye may be healed.

—Salvatore DiDio

## Comments on Romans 8:28

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

For we know and are utterly assured of the fact that all things are presently (at this very moment) working together for good. The mighty combination of Jesus mixed in with my personal situation will always produce good for me. I am not in this life alone but in team with the God of creation. He takes my failures and makes them come out with beneficial results.

The verse is conditional, stating that the promise is to those who "love God". In John 14:15, Jesus said, "If ye love me; keep my commandments." Our love must be more than mental ascent to His existence or mere lip service. In a love relationship, intimate sharing is an evidence of true love. Thus, we must be on a clear channel with God. Sin separates us from God. We must confess it and forsake it altogether. By this our love for God is alive and growing.

Also, the promise is to the "called according to his purpose." This includes those who love God as mentioned above. What are we called to? And what is

His purpose? We are called out of sin; to forsake it and turn around and follow a new Master (Jesus). We are called to be disciples; that is, "disciplined ones." A disciple is merely a learner in submission to the master teacher. Qualifications for being a disciple are found in the Gospels. Surprisingly, many don't know them and others wish they didn't. We are called unto holiness: a beautiful communion with the Father and freed from the penalty and power of sin.

The "purpose" mentioned in the verse is the being "conformed to the image of his dear Son;" that in all ways we learn to do the will of the Father in all obedience with gladness of heart.

When we meet the qualifications of the verse we will have the absolute certainty that all things are being compounded into a master mixture for our ultimate good.

—Henry Willey

## Recognizing the Voice of God

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God. . . ." 1 John 4:1. There are many false spirits gone out into the world to deceive the very elect if possible. They are saying, "Lo, here is Christ, or there" to where an honest soul searching for the blessed truth of the gospel could become confused. But the Scripture said to "believe it not." Matt. 24:23.

The whole world is in a turmoil at this time. There are many "religions" all around. Even a child of God walking in all the light shone about him must be ever watchful and prayerful to ward off all the deceiving, false spirits trying to encompass the camp of the saints.

How do we recognize the false spirits from God's Spirit? How do we know that we are God's true people? Some of the false religions are very close to the truth, so where is the proof that they are false? It is very important that we know where we stand with God. We must examine our lives closely and make sure that they are measured to God's holy Word. The closer we are drawn to our precious Savior, the more we get to know Him. We will know His voice when He speaks. It will be distinct and above the rest. ". . . And the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers." John 10:4, 5. When false prophets try to make their way in, one who is tuned to the Spirit of God will discern it. Satan may try to camouflage it ever so well at times, but God's spiritually alert children will know it is the voice of a stranger.

Thank God for the precious Holy Spirit, our Guide and Comforter, to lead us through this sin-cursed world. We must be on our guard lest we get a little slack and lose the discernment to know when evil spirits of false teaching try to get in. God is faithful to lead and guide us, but we must do our part in keeping a constant contact with our Lord. Just a little carelessness will give the devil a chance to slip in unawares. By being consistent day by day, we can walk softly with the Lord, and by knowing Him better, we can quickly discern and know the voice of God. It will not be mistaken. But we must pay the price to be able to reach this place. We must be still and listen to Him speak. The Scriptures exhort us to "Be still, and know that I am God." Psalms 46:10.

—Lynette Sorrell