

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



Volume 63, No. 11 63rd Year Guthrie, Oklahoma \$1.00 Per Year Feb., 1986

Even So, Come, Lord Jesus

Behold, I come quickly,
And blessed the man
Who waits my appearing
And follows my plan.
Behold, I come quickly
With great a reward,
The faithful to crown whom
The world hath abhorred.
Behold, I come quickly,
Oh, Christian, sleep not
As others around you
Whose lives are a blot.
Oh, watch and be sober
As those of the day,
The hope of salvation
Before thee alway,
For God has not destined
Our spirits to wrath
Who earnestly seek for
The strait narrow path.
Thine eyes shall behold Him
Who hung on the tree
Descending from Heaven
For me and for thee,
While ten thousand angels
Escort from the sky
In pow'r and great glory
He bursts on thine eye!
Behold, I come quickly,
Oh, blessed is He
Who watcheth, and waiteth,
And yearneth for Me!
Who loves my appearing
And welcomes the sight,
Who walks in the rays of
My glorious Light!

—Leslie Busbee

Mixed Marriages

A wise man once said, and I quote: "If you, a child of God, marry an unsaved person, a child of Satan, you can be sure that you will have trouble with your father-in-law—the devil himself."

One of the greatest tragedies of today—one of the most critical problems we face is MIXED MARRIAGES—the union of believers and unbelievers. Every day, some Christian young lady or young man kicks over the traces, rejects the Bible teaching against the unequal yoke, and walks down the aisle with a person who has spurned the Son of God and refuses to live a Christian life.

"But I can't help it, I'm in love with him," Christian young ladies protest. "I don't want to lose him, so I'm going to marry him and try to win him over to Christ."

But is such reasoning sensible? Can you expect God to bless your disobedience? Can you expect your marriage to succeed when it already has two strikes against it? There are enough problems to solve in marriage without inviting trouble over religion.

I Corinthians 7:39 tells us to "marry in the Lord." That means to seek out a Christian companion, one with whom you can share your entire personality and life. As Nelson Veltman says, "It means to be one in the Lord. Your proposed mate may have 'all it takes' in personality, appearance, and like interests. Yet if he or she is not zealous for the faith, you will be separated 'in the spirit' although 'one in the flesh.' God's glory and your life are at stake! Obedience to the commands of the Lord brings Him great glory and endless happiness to your home. On the contrary, disrespect for your Father's Word dishonors God and mars your happiness. You have only one life to live on earth

and normally one mate to choose. Marriage is a life-partnership. Your home will be shaped directly by your choice of a companion . . . You are not on this earth to seek selfish joy. God placed you here to glorify Him. When both husband and wife are one in faith and spirituality, there is a symphony of praise ascending to God. Such a home is a bulwark for the Church and the work of God."

Some of you are unmarried young people. May I have your closest attention for a few moments? Let me tell you, after years as a pastor and counselor, that no person is worth the price of a mixed marriage. If you could see the tears I have seen shed; if you could hear the regrets I have heard from the lips of people who have married unbelievers; if you could know their loneliness and emptiness, you would never think twice about even dating an unsaved person. The Bible says that "the way of the transgressor is hard." You can't play with sin and expect to win. There is only one way to be happy in Jesus and that is "trust and obey."

Marriage is more than a handsome Romeo or delightful Juliet sweeping you off your feet. Looks fade, and personality can flicker and die. The lasting thing in marriage is mutual sharing of love and devotion.

I suppose all of you have heard of Mark Twain, that brilliant American humorist and author. Well, he fell in love with Olivia L. Langdon, a young lady who had been reared in a Christian home, and possessed definite religious convictions. Yet, in spite of her religious teaching, she married Mark Twain, who was far from being an ardent believer. In fact, he is generally considered an agnostic. Because of his love for her though, he did join in asking the blessing and took part in family devotions. But this did not last for long. One day Mark Twain burst out: "Honey . . . I don't believe in the Bible."

Little by little, his unbelief exerted a deadening influence on his wife's spiritual life. In a time of sorrow, he said, "Livy, if it comforts you to lean on the Christian faith, do so." She sadly replied, "I can't—I haven't any faith left."

This is not an isolated case. Mixed marriages take a regular toll. Marrying an unbeliever is asking for trouble. God help you, and your family, to obey God's Holy Word in II Cor. 6:14, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." May you not learn the hard way the tragedy of MIXED MARRIAGES. —C. B.
(Available in tract form.)

He who hides himself away in earnest, sincere prayer will manifest a spirit and life of Christlikeness when he goes forth to live with his fellowmen.

—Selected

Being Rich Toward God

When our Saviour was told by a certain man to speak to his brother concerning his share in the inheritance, Jesus gave us a warning to beware of covetousness: "for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." He went on to illustrate this thought by the account of the certain rich man who was trying to decide on what to do with the bumper crop and harvest that he was anticipating. Instead of thinking how he could share with others of his bounty, he decided to hoard it all up for his own security, never stopping to think that his own life might be coming to an abrupt end soon. "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" Then Jesus added, "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Luke 12:13-21.

Being rich toward God should be the concern of every living soul. In the wild race for riches and carnal security that holds the priority in so many around us we should get wise to the fact that these earthly things do not really make us rich toward God. Earthly wealth has a way of dominating the human heart and mind. It has a great tendency to blind the soul to the value of things that will really make us rich, rich toward God.

Let us think for a moment on this thought of being rich toward God. What does it mean to be rich toward God? Let us notice a few Scriptures on the subject. Being rich toward God is to possess those qualities of character and life that will improve, build up, and establish a relationship between us and Him. Now it is very evident that the Lord does not count material and financial prosperity very highly. It means very little to Him. The apostle Paul counsels us in I Timothy 6:10, 11, and warns us that the "love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." That does not sound like a very good thing to make one rich toward God, does it? Then he went on to say, "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness." These are spiritual treasures. Above this in verses 5 and 6 he spoke of men of corrupt minds who supposed that gain is godliness. He then stated what the real gain was. "But godliness with contentment is great gain." Following after these things mentioned above, without being dominated by covetous attractions will enable us to be rich toward God.

The epistle of James 2:5 states that God has "chosen the poor of this world rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love Him." It is an enriching experience to exercise living faith in the living God. Usually a wealthy man has very little knowledge of faith. He is usually relying on his wealth to pull him through, but a poor man is more apt to find the way of faith. Of course we want to also realize that the word "poor" here does not necessarily mean financially poor. It refers more abundantly to humility and meekness.

We need to avail ourselves of the opportunity in Christ to make ourselves rich in spiritual life and fellowship with God. Through the spiritual realm that Christ has opened up to us we can gain riches eternal. Farther on down in that same chapter, I Timothy 6, verses 17-19, we find some more good counsel. The rich in this world (and there are some people who are blessed to be wealthy) are charged to not be highminded, nor are they to trust in their riches (labeled accurately "uncertain") "but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate [or share]; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." Oh, can you not see what he is getting at here? These earthly treasures are not going to be any value to us when it comes to being ready to meet the Lord in death or at His final coming. We should be laying up in store spiritual victories and attainments in Christ. We should be enriching our souls with quality and character that is in the very image of Jesus Christ, Himself. These are the treasures that we can "cash in" someday for eternal life.

Jesus said in Revelation 3:18 for us to buy of Him (through faith and obedience) gold tried in the fire that we may be rich. Peter said that the trial of our faith was "much more precious than of gold that perisheth." I Peter 1:7. To make ourselves rich toward God we must be faithful in every trial or test to our faith and love. We must endure temptation. Peter also taught us to add to our faith virtue (manliness, valor), knowledge, temperance, patience (this one will make you rich), godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity. He said that if these things are in us and abounding, we will not be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of Christ. "For so an entrance shall be ministered to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." II Peter 1:5-11. May the Lord help us all to strive for those things that will make us rich toward God.

—Leslie C. Busbee

What Some Men Have Said About Happiness

"Happiness can be built only on virtue, and must of necessity have truth for its foundation."

—Coleridge

"Happiness is neither within us only, or without us; it is the union of ourselves with God."

—Pascal

"Happiness consists in being perfectly satisfied with what we have got and with what we haven't got."

—C. H. Spurgeon

"Happiness is like manna; it is to be gathered in grains, and enjoyed every day. It will not keep; it cannot be accumulated; nor have we got to go out of ourselves or into remote places to gather it, since it has rained down from Heaven, at our very doors."

—Tryon Edwards

"Happiness is a butterfly, which, when pursued, is always just beyond your grasp, but which, if you sit down quietly, may alight upon you."

—Hawthorne

"If one only wished to be happy, this could be easily accomplished; but we wish to be happier than other people, and this is always difficult, for we believe others to be happier than they are."

—Montesquieu

"The strength and the happiness of a man consists in finding out the way in which God is going, and going in that way, too."

—H. W. Beecher

"Few things are needful to make the wise man happy, but nothing satisfies the fool; and this is the reason why so many of mankind are miserable."

—Rochefoucauld

"Objects we ardently pursue bring little happiness when gained; most of our pleasures come from unexpected sources."

—Herbert Spencer

"The question, 'Which is the happiest season of life,' being referred to an aged man, he replied: 'When spring comes, and in the soft air the buds are breaking on the trees, and they are covered with blossoms, I think, How beautiful is Spring! And when the summer comes, and covers the trees with its heavy foliage, and singing birds are among the branches, I think, How beautiful is Summer! When autumn loads them with golden fruit, and their leaves bear the gorgeous tint of frost, I think, How beautiful is Autumn! And when it is severe winter, and there is neither foliage nor fruit, then I look up through the leafless branches, as I never could until now, and see the stars shine.' "

—Pope

If it makes no impression on a man to know that God will visit his iniquities upon him, he cannot blind himself to the fact that nature will.

—Selected

FAITH AND VICTORY

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend camp meetings), by Maybelle Pruitt, Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044 (USPS184-660).

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

Notice to subscribers: Whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your zip code number. The post office now charges 30¢ to notify us of each change of address.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES



Single copy, one year \$1.00
 Package of 4 papers to one address, one year \$3.00
 Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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 that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for 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. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way as the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 25:2; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

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

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

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

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 518, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044
 Office phone: 405-282-1479; home: 405-282-2262.

Postmaster: Please send address corrections to: Faith Publishing House, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044.

SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PAPER—1 YEAR FOR \$1.00

EDITORIALS

It is our desire that this month of February finds you enjoying the richness of God's presence. He is One who can relate to our needs and fulfill the longing of our hearts. He is a vibrant living Being who is touched by our humanity and is the personification of tenderness. Sometimes we feel void and dry in spirit, but our experience has taught that the spiritual blessings can once again flow by reaching out to God. The story of Hezekiah vividly portrays God's tenderness. God sent the prophet Isaiah to Hezekiah to instruct him to put his house in order, for he was going to die. Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed earnestly. His prayer touched the heart of God and before Isaiah could even reach the middle court, he was instructed to return unto Hezekiah and tell him he would live. To further illustrate God's concern, we find that just to reassure Hezekiah's mind, He worked the mighty miracle of making the sun go backward.

Jesus likened God's relationship to us as a father to his children. (Luke 11:11). Those who have children know the power in the pleading eyes of a compliant child. It makes a parent compliant! I like to think that as we humble ourselves before God, our pleas will have the same affect. How strong the desire of God must have been to reach down and deliver Christ from the suffering of the cross, but instead He turned His face away so the plan of salvation could be completed for our benefit.

Although the day is coming in which God's great wrath will be poured out upon a sinful world, we now live in a dispensation of mercy. Therefore, I urge you, if you feel your soul is in the desert of desertion, turn your eyes toward God. He is an oasis of refreshment.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Many of our readers desire to know the dates of the Church of God camp meetings scheduled for the summer of 1986. In the past we have printed as complete a list as possible in the March issue. To make that issue this year, we kindly request that your information be in this office by February 17.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

The article, "A Heritage Shared", printed in the January *Faith and Victory* is now available in tract form. It contains the personal testimony of how Sis. Thelma Sprague came to know the Lord. To obtain a free copy, send your request with a stamped self-addressed envelope. Quantities may be purchased at: 15 for 65¢ or 100 for \$3.00.

It was with sadness that we heard of the death of Sis. Dorothy Keiser on Jan. 18, 1986. For several years she labored in the mission field of Ghana, West Africa. Her passing is a real blow to the work there and her zeal and love for others will be missed.

At the time of her death she was in the United States for a brief visit. She became ill while attending the Pacoima, CA camp meeting and her condition steadily worsened.

Although Sis. Dorothy is at rest from her labors, the work in Ghana will be carried on by native workers. Pray for these Christian endeavors.

—Wayne Murphey

Partial List of Items Available

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

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

Christian Baptism, Feet Washing, and the Lord's Supper by H. M. Riggle. This excellent doctrinal book on the three ordinances of the New Testament contains 264 pages in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$3.50 each.

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

Evening Light Songs, shaped notes, with 512 pages in a cloth binding. The right hymnal for the Church of God. Price, \$6.00 each. A 10% discount is granted on orders of 12 copies or more placed at one time.

Birth of a Reformation—Life and Labors of D. S. Warner by A. L. Byers. A reprint with additional pictures of pioneer ministers. Cloth bound, 496 pages. Price, \$5.50 each.

Egermeier's Favorite Bible Stories. Thirty favorite stories with pictures for small children. Cloth bound, 128 pages. Size: 6 1/4 x 9 1/2. Price, \$7.95.

What the Bible Teaches by F. G. Smith. A reprint of the original 1914 edition, containing 576 pages in cloth binding. This is a book that should be in every home. Price, \$5.50 each.

Holy Spirit Baptism and the Second Cleansing by R. R. Byrum. Consists of 108 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, 75¢ each, or 3 for \$2.00.

Personal Experiences of S. O. Susag was written by himself, a Norwegian who had many marvelous experiences and answers to prayer as an early-day minister in the Church of God. 192 pages are bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.75 each.

A Religious Controversy by C. E. Orr. An 80-page, paper bound book presenting truths in an interesting manner. Price, 75¢ each.

Guided by the Unseen Hand by Murphey Allen. An 84-page book bound in a heavy paper cover relating many experiences and inspiring answers to prayer centering around the 44 years of Bro. Allen's ministry. Price, 75¢ each.

Food for Lambs by C. E. Orr in the German language. It consists of 127 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00 each.

Tim and His Lamp re-written by Fern Stubblefield. This excellent booklet of 52 pages for children and young people is bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 40¢ each, or 3 copies for \$1.00.

Harry the Newsboy and Other Stories by Isabel Byrum. 32 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, 35¢ each, or 3 copies for \$1.00.

Heart Talks by C. W. Naylor. Consists of 59 chapters with a different subject treated in each chapter. It contains 280 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.50 each.

St. Paul and His Gospel by G. P. Tasker who was an early-day minister and missionary of the Church of God Reformation. This inspiring book contains 88 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00 each.

He Lifted Me Out by Danny Layne. Just recently made available, this book contains 24 pages, including some pictures. Price, 25¢ per copy.

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

The Battle of Armageddon by O. B. Wilson. A clear exposition of this much misunderstood subject in an enlarged 24-page booklet by the author. Price, 20¢ each, or 6 copies for \$1.00.

Divine Healing for Soul and Body by E. E. Byrum. Available ONLY in the German language, it contains 282 pages bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.50.

Bible Humility by J. W. Byers. An excellent treatise of this subject in 32 pages with a heavy paper cover. The price is 35¢ each, or 3 copies for \$1.00.

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

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

Must We Sin? by D. S. Warner. This 24-page booklet records the supposed conversation between Bro. Light and Bro. Foggy on the sin question. Price, 25¢ each, or 5 copies for \$1.00.

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

The Cleansing of the Sanctuary by D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggle. Reprinted verbatim in 541 pages, cloth binding. Price, \$5.50 each.

Bible Readings for Bible Students and for the Home and Fireside compiled by S. L. Speck and H. M. Riggle. Originally published in 1902, this excellent volume contains 432 pages of Scripture references and comments on

many Bible subjects. Nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.50 each.

Remember Now Thy Creator. 16-page booklet of a sermon by Ostis B. Wilson, directed especially to young people. Price, 20¢ each, or 6 for \$1.00.

Memoirs of George E. Harmon, sponsored by Vera M. Forbes. This is a brief autobiography of our beloved Bro. George Harmon, a long-time minister in the Church of God, including the record of the memories of a few others who knew him. It will inspire your faith in God. Its 56 pages with four pictures are bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 60¢ each, or 2 copies for \$1.00.

A Saloonkeeper's Daughter Saved was written by Bertha Mackey. This 16-page pamphlet is an inspiring true story. Price, 15¢ each, or 7 copies for \$1.00.

Food for Lambs by C. E. Orr in the English language. This English version contains 168 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50 each.

The Hero of Hill House by Mabel Hale. A very interesting and inspiring true story, this book contains 224 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.00 each.

Lest We Forget by Sister Margaret Eck. 72 pages of many encouraging experiences with the Lord bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 75¢ each, or 3 for \$2.00.

Winning A Crown by C. W. Naylor. This book tells how to accept the plan of salvation and then goes into detail on how to keep the victory in every-day Christian living. It contains 368 pages in an extra-heavy paper cover. Price, \$3.50 each.

Write for a complete list of other excellent books in stock at this office and ready for prompt delivery.

For postage and handling, add 70¢ for the first dollar and 7¢ for each additional dollar of total order.

Mail Orders to—

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, Okla. 73044

A SPECIAL NEED



Bro. Gordon Humphrey, a minister of the gospel, has quite an old car with over 100,000 miles, and is having a lot of trouble with it. It is needing much repair work done, which will be very expensive to get it in running condition. We felt the Lord would be pleased to start a fund, (which we have done) and see about getting our Bro. and Sis. a new or a dependable car that would be serviceable in the work of the Lord. If anyone should feel burdened and desire to help in this urgent need, you may send your donations to: Bro. and Sis. Delbert M. Flynn, 6780 S. 97th W. Ave., Sapulpa, OK 74066. Any help toward this need will be greatly appreciated. The Lord will bless and reward each one richly.

Our telephone number is (918) 224-1465.

—Bro. and Sis. Delbert Flynn

INFORMATION NEEDED

I'm into the writing of **GOD LOVE YOUR HEARTS**, the life and labors of Bro. Sam Barton. I'm still actively seeking information from any of the *Faith and Victory* readers who would like to relate any incidents of his life. I will probably re-write whatever is sent to me to fit in with what I'm writing, so people do not need to be concerned about their writing abilities. Also, I would appreciate hearing of the weddings and funerals he officiated at. I remember him telling of a double wedding which he performed which was the largest he was involved with, but alas, I do not remember the people nor place nor date. I would greatly appreciate hearing from someone who can relate this. Also any photos, notes of sermons and/or tapes.

—Vesta-Nadine Robertson

BOOK WANTED

Bro. Adriel Bowman desires to locate someone who has the book, "History of the Church" by Wickersham, who would be willing to sell it to him. If you are such a person, write to him at: 13914 Emir Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342.

A BURDEN EXPRESSED

I have a burden concerning Bro. Paul Sorrell and family. They are very much in need of financial help in regards to paying for a wood heating furnace. They have been having to use a couple of small oil heaters which are not sufficient to heat but a small part of the house or the chapel area. This has forced them to hold church services in the front room of their home. The cost of the furnace and duct material will be approximately \$700.00. Also needed is a completely new floor in their utility and furnace room which will cost approximately \$300.00.

I am willing to donate my time and labor to do the carpentry work on this project. If each one will help as they are able, I believe that we can raise the needed expenses for this worthy cause. I know the Lord will surely reward you for your sacrifice. Send all donations to me at: Rt. 3, Box 625A, Prineville, OR 97754.

—Fred Gatke

Remember that charity thinketh no evil, much less repeats it. There are two good rules which ought to be written on every heart; never believe anything bad about anybody unless you positively know it is true; never tell even that unless you feel that it is absolutely necessary and that God is listening while you tell it.

—Selected

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

We do thank the Lord for how He blessed in our revival here in Ft. Lauderdale, in Dec. 1985. He sure sent ministers and gospel workers of His own choosing in answer to prayer. Many came to the altar for help. Some were saved from sin and the saints were edified. All praises to our God for it all! I surely received a blessing to my soul, Amen.

Saints there, and everywhere, please pray the Lord will save my unsaved loved ones. Also others here and elsewhere.

Yours in Christian love and prayers,

—Sis. Mattie B. Savage

In Memorial

Floy May Woolery, 78, Shawnee, died Oct. 31, 1985, in Amarillo, Texas.

Sis. Woolery was born January 2, 1907, in Beaver City, Oklahoma to John William and Sadie Wilson. Her family had homesteaded at Beaver City in a sod dugout. She attended school at Beaver City, and later in Cushing.

At the age of 18 she was working in the family hotel, "The Going Hotel" at Stillwater. There she met Walter J. Woolery who was working his way through Oklahoma A&M College, and they were married in 1927 at Stillwater. He died in 1976. She was a member of the Church of God.

Survivors include two sons, John R. Woolery, Midwest City, OK, Don L. Woolery, San Francisco, CA; two daughters, Mrs. Ruby Austin, Shawnee, OK, Mrs. Joyce Hice, Las Vegas, NV, one brother, Ed Caudel, Fort Scott, KS; two sisters, Mrs. Dovie Roland, Amarillo, TX, Mrs. Fern Johnson, Guthrie, OK; six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Services were held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 2, at the Resthaven Funeral Chapel, with Bro. Charles Smith officiating. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery.

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

Frances Gertrude Creel was born August 23, 1900 at Hayworth, OK. She was the daughter of Thomas and Sarah Herron.

On August 29, 1915 she was united in marriage to Elic Webster Creel. To this union was born six sons and four daughters. Her husband, one daughter, one brother and two grandchildren preceded her in death.

She professed her faith in Christ, and although, according to her testimony, she did not keep up with the Lord all the time, yet she kept

a tender heart and endeavored to draw closer to Him.

She departed from this life on December 23, 1985, at the age of 85 years and 4 months.

She is survived by six sons, Leroy Creel of Moore, OK, Chester Creel of Enid, OK, Elic Creel of Oklahoma City, OK, Ray Creel of Klamath Falls, OR, George Creel of Duncan, OK, and Halmon Creel of Monohans, TX; three daughters, Eldora Jennings of Guthrie, OK, Bonnie Sutton of Broken Bow, OK, and Fayon Weaver of Lane, OK; 26 grandchildren and 38 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in the saints' Chapel at Guthrie, Oklahoma by Bro. Leslie C. Busbee with burial in Watonga, OK Cemetery.

I am sending you a song in memory of all my brothers and sisters God has called home. It is to show my great respect for them and for the great encouragement they have given to me.

Just Think What It Will Be To Be There

As the days have come and they go
And time is swiftly passing by,
God is calling His children home
To live with Him beyond the sky.
One by one they're gathering there,
The last great victory won;
The giant of death forever conquered
Hopes fulfilled and heaven won.

Chorus

Oh, just think what it will be
To be with Jesus up there;
No more suffering, not ever,
No more sorrows, no more cares,
Robed in snow-white splendor
Wearing a star-filled crown,
Life crosses that have been so heavy
Forever there to lay down.

To set these feet at last to stay
On heaven's most holy land,
To be greeted at the threshold
By God's great angel band.
And in awesomeness there to behold
Gates of pearl, pure jasper walls,
And sing there while ages roll,
I am so glad I gave my all.

To walk through God's holy city
In all its splendor revealed.
Shouting throughout heaven's portals,
The joy they know and they feel,
And there thank Jesus personally
Whose love made possible it all.
The toils of the road there will seem
Nothing, no nothing at all.

Wayfaring pilgrims leaving here,
 Their footsteps so clear and plain,
 Just like Jesus did of Nazareth
 Heaven bound praising His name.
 Leaving here a great example
 For pilgrims still on their way,
 Pressing on each day to meet them
 Beyond the sunset one glad day.

—Golden Arbogast

Prayer Requests

CA—Remember Sis. Candice Rich, she is not well.

CA—"I have a sister who is very frail and suffering great pain." —Australia Kelley

OH—"Pray for my brother who needs a healing touch. Also pray for me."

—Essie Abbott

OK—Please pray for the healing of Coleen Probst.

MO—Still pray for Bro. Roy Blanchard.

SC—"My eyes are bad. Pray for me."

—Minnie Boulden

OK—Remember Maude Hornbeck for healing.

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

NC—Dearest Saints: I greet you in Jesus' precious name. I am saved and enjoying salvation that delivers my soul from sin. I want you to know that I am much better since you sent the anointed cloth. My trouble with my stomach is better and my arm feels like a different arm. It used to hurt so bad at the shoulder that I couldn't reach the back of my head. Now I can reach the back of my head and even my back. I do thank and praise God as He is my doctor. Continue to pray for me that I may get complete victory, if the Lord will.

Yours in Christ,

—Bunice Hope

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

OH—To God's Dear Children: It's been quite some time since I have written through the paper, but I want to say that my faith is anchored in Christ Jesus. Storms have come and trials severe, but God has been faithful to see me through. I have had several hard falls but God has spared me from broken bones. I had a very bad place start on my head about four months ago. It started growing very fast. Some were very concerned about it looking like a skin cancer. The Lord knows just what it was. The Lord reached down and removed this completely off of my head about three weeks ago. My faith has been tried many times, but the One who holds my hand has been faithful.

God's people are going to be a tried people and persecutions will come. I realize that the Church is going through a very deceptive and dangerous time and how we as the people of God need to have on the whole armor of God that we may be able to stand in these evil days. How we need the Holy Spirit in our lives to guide us in this precious holy way. We are only going this way one time and life is but a vapor and soon time will be no longer . . .

I love God's people and always want to be a part of the beautiful Church of God. May God stir our hearts to shine brighter for Jesus in these dark days we are living in. "Forward, forward is the battle cry."

In Christian love, —Bro. Earl Sharp

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

CA—Dear Sister Maybelle Pruitt: Enclosed you will please find a check for payment on the good gospel magazine—

I enjoy every one and of course the special articles seem to stand out beyond others.

This time in the January issue, the article "Higher Ground" caught my attention and I loved it all the way through as well as the rest.

The front page poems are always good. The brother who writes them surely has a very special talent from Heaven. The "New Year Meditations" is very timely and thought provoking.

In 1914 I found this wonderful way of our Lord. I was saved, even though my family said I had thrown my life away and gone with the rakings and scrapings of the world—

I soon was married to a fine young man who was reared in this way. We raised three children, trusting the Lord for healing of our bodies as well as all else. . .

I am still on the firing line and by His grace I mean to go on. I am now 85 years old. Oh, the Lord is so good!

In Christian love, —Stella M. Freeze

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

Canada—Dear Saints: Greetings to all. Although it's been awhile since I've written, I am still saved and thankful to be in my right mind this morning. Many would scoff at that statement, but I intend to go right on for God. We know that only in this way can we have peace, "which passeth understanding", and a sure guide through life as we trust in Jesus.

It surely is evident we are in the last days. The Christian way seems more and more contrary to the world. Our country has fallen far from the Godly standards of our forefathers. People feel they have outgrown good morals and principles, but we are still humans despite all the scientific advancement, and have need of

heavenly guidance. Many are ignorant to the fact that they have a soul, and their spiritual needs are forgotten in the "pursuit of happiness." People are in real darkness, being much influenced by spirits abounding in this world today. They are trying their hardest, but without Christ, it is in vain.

We are concerned for children growing up here in a near "heathen" state. My unsaved brother lost a friend this fall who surely didn't know the value of his soul. He was involved in a minor accident, but was in such a state of despair over the damage done he took to drinking. That, combined with pills taken for a headache (from the accident), resulted in his death. He was 23. An acquaintance of theirs, who had been in much trouble with the law over the years and had recently come through a serious accident himself, felt he was the one who should have died rather than the other young man. He eventually took his own life without knowing the true value of his own soul.

We are much burdened for children here and have started children's meetings twice a month. Our desire is to teach them that they have a soul and the basics of salvation. We want them to know how much God loves them and how important they are to Him. We desire your prayers.

We are thankful for each one who has travelled up here to minister to us over the years. We appreciate the sacrifice you all made. The letters and articles in the *Faith and Victory* paper are always such an encouragement and blessing to us too.

May God bless each one,—Phyllis Mader

From the Mailbox . . .

MI—Dear Saints at the Print Shop: Greetings in the wonderful name of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray this letter finds you all well and pressing on for the Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

We in Michigan are doing real good and still fighting the fight of faith.

God certainly has been good to us in 1985, even when things were getting dark God was able to sustain us and see us through. Praise His holy name. Things don't always work out the way we think they should, but, believe me God knows what is best . . .

We'll close now. Yours in Christian love,
—Brother Robert Randolph

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

SC—Dear Sis. Pruitt and Bro. Wayne: Greetings in Jesus name. I am so glad to know that

we have a Father that we can go to in time of need and He will grant our needs according to His riches in Glory. Praise the Lord. I love Him with all my heart, soul, mind and strength, and I am trying to serve Him to all I know and understand. I ask God for more understanding and grace. Keep me on your prayer list that I will stay humble and true before Him. That is my desire. I can't write much as you know I am 78 years old now, and don't have much longer on this earth. I want to be able to hear "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

We enjoy the paper and want to still get it. It helps me.

Yours in Him,

—Minnie Boulden

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

KS—Dear Readers of *Faith and Victory* and Staff: We are so thankful for the mercy and love that has been extended to us another year, and we are able to face 1986 with the portion of health He has given or blessed us with. Most of all we are so grateful for His abiding love in our hearts. We do enjoy His friendship and to know we are one of His little ones is such comfort in times of trial.

We miss getting to gather with His children on the Lord's day, but remember you all in our thoughts and prayers. We trust you hold us up in prayer too . . .

Our love, —Lavina and Ike Martens

—————o—————

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From Nigeria . . .

Dec. 12—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt and the Saints of the Most High: Greetings in the name of Jesus, the One who died on the cross that we might have salvation. He not only brought us salvation, but has taught us how to live after we have received the forgiveness of our sins and being filled with the Holy Spirit. He told His disciples, "My peace I leave with you". What a wonderful peace and stillness comes into our hearts when we look away from the turmoil of this world and the fearful circumstances that we are caught in at times! There is no peace that is compared to it.

Dear fellow travellers to that home above, hard times are ahead of us in Africa. Pray with us to love not our lives unto death. Plans so cleverly coined out of the wicked one to restrict movements of the saints and silence public preaching appear to be in the making. We shall be victims of witch-hunting proclivity in no distant date, but will by His grace look away from those problems and be still and quiet before

the Lord who is trusted to fight for us. Oh, what a calmness, quietness and stillness will fill our souls when we wait in His presence until we hear from Him. We are serving the same God that Moses served. "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today, and forever!"

We are feeling fine in the spirit and having in our midst a Captain who has never lost any battle. The walls of Jericho continue to be pulled down.

Ministers of the Church of God congregations in Nigeria held a meeting here in Kwale from Nov. 29th thru 30th. Doctrine which only is the basis of establishing oneness, was principally the major item for convening the meeting. It is therefore great and worthy of applause that we are blessed to understand and teach the same thing, especially as it concerns "sanctification". We need to be on fire for God. The life that has in it no fervency has little or nothing of God, while the soul that is vigorous in God is a soul full of power. "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire". Ministers from Tombia, Port-Harcourt, Owerri, Enugu, Benin City, Warri, Lagos, Kwale, Umuachi-Afor, Okpai, Obetim-Uno and Agidigbo attended the meeting. A resolution to hold a National Camp meeting every year in the month of November was carried.

We wish saints everywhere every good thing that the year 1986 holds in store.

Yours devotedly, —Titus U. E. Enu

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

From India . . .

Dec. 12—Dear Sister Maybelle Pruitt, Bro. Wayne Murphey and others in the Print Shop and the dear saints scattered abroad: Greetings of Christian love to you all dear ones from the saints in India. May God bless you all in the new year with new strength, might and power and new consecrations. We are thankful to God for His gracious dealings with us in 1985. We expect more testings and trials and tribulations in 1986, but the abundant grace of God is sufficient to get victory over all the persecutions.

By the grace of God, the church activities are in progress here. Now we are getting ready for our 20th General Convention at Karikkom on the third week of January 1986. We expected several saints from America to participate in the meeting, but none got the burden to come over this time. We need the prayers of the saints for the spiritual blessings and for the temporal needs and expenses of the convention. After this general convention we will have local conventions in other congregations also. The chapel building at Chalakudy is completed now and is ready for service.

We plan to conduct our monthly meeting at Nadukkunnu Dec. 25th. Please remember the needs of the new works started in Tamil Nadu. Let us see through the eyes of prayers every day.

Yours in His service, —John Varghese

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

From the Philippines . . .

Jan. 8—Our dearest Brother Hammond: It is an opportunity to greet you again in the name of Jesus. We received your letter full of love and care. We rejoice so much thinking of you and to hear from you again. The gospel work is moving nicely in spite of the financial crisis. Sometimes we cannot go out because we don't have gasoline. We have many plans to visit in the barrios and to open new areas of work but we don't have the means, but thank the Lord for His mercy. He gave us the determination to do what we can. Thank the Lord for spiritual blessings overflowing in our souls which is far greater than any material needs. We know He loves us so much that He gave His only begotten Son and died for our sake. There is no reason therefore that we cannot rejoice and have peace and hope in Him.

Our camp meeting ended in the morning of the New Year, January 1, 1986. I can say that it was the most wonderful gathering we had. The church building was full, especially on Sunday and the night before the New Year. The songs, messages and testimonies were anointed by the Holy Spirit. On Tuesday afternoon we had the ordinance of baptism of six souls, followed by footwashing. It truly blessed our souls to feel the love of the saints embracing each other. Brother Antonio Sarmiento came to the altar weeping for repentance and he expressed before the congregation his desire to be faithful unto death. Brother Teofilo Balmediano testified that he cannot find the truth in other churches so he is coming back to the Church of God. Our meeting was closed by a very fine message from Brother Moeses Madriaga. Three were ordained to the ministry in this meeting. Physically and spiritually sick came to the altar for God's healing for which we felt the power of God . . .

Much love, —M. S. Tangunan and saints

—————o—————

"You never get to the end of the words of our Lord. They pass into proverbs, they pass into laws, they pass into doctrines, they pass into consolations, they pass into hymns, they pass into poems, but they never pass away, and after all the use that is made of them they are still as fresh and inexhaustible as ever."

—F. E. W.

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Please explain Isaiah 51:4 (especially the last part of the verse); and also Daniel 12:7.

Answer: Isa. 51:4 is part of a passage referring to the salvation of Christ especially to the Gentiles. Verses 4, 5, and 6 contain the passage particularly to the Gentiles. The statement in the last part of verse 5 confirms this. It says, "The isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust". But who are the isles? It could not refer to Israel because they were in Canaan which did not incorporate any of the isles. Isa. 60:9 says, "Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far,". The 72nd Psalm through the 17th verse contains a prophecy of Christ's glorious kingdom and His salvation and verse 10 says, "The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts". In Psalm 2:8, God the Father says to Jesus Christ the Son, "Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession". The entire 2nd Psalm is a prophecy of Christ and His triumph and of His glorious kingdom. All these texts and many more sum up to the influx of the Gentiles into the Church.

The first 3 verses of the 51st chapter of Isaiah probably refers more particularly to Israel but there is a statement in verse 2 which also is important to this passage we are considering now. God mentions here about Abraham and how He called him, blessed him and multiplied him. The blessing that God pronounced upon Abraham was not for the Jews only, for God said unto him in Genesis 22:18, "And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;". Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, argued this in the 3rd chapter of Galatians. In verses 8 and 9 he applies the promise of Genesis 22:18 to the Gentiles through Christ who was that SEED. And in verse 14 he spells it out specifically "That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ."

Now I will consider particularly the last part of Isaiah 51:4, "And I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people", which is the specific part of the verse the question deals with. I consider all I have said before as important to a proper understanding, interpretation and emphasis on this.

First we will consider the term "Judgment" because that is the subject of this phrase. In Isaiah 42:4 it is said "He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law." Adam Clarke in his comments on this verse in regard to the term "Judgment" says that "judgment" takes on a great latitude of signification. It means rule, form, order, model, plan; rule of right, or of religion; cause, trial, sentence, condemnation, acquittal, deliverance, mercy, etc. He further says that in this place "it certainly means the law to be published by Messiah, the institution of the gospel." Then "judgment being set in the earth" would certainly refer in this text to the confirming and establishing of the law and government of God in all its latitudes and the full institution of all necessary facilities for the successful and efficient operation of the church, His kingdom, the promulgation of the gospel of Christ and the salvation of immortal souls to the ends of the earth. It would also mean the same thing in Isaiah 51:4.

In Matthew 12:18 it is said concerning Jesus that He would show judgment to the Gentiles. Verses 20 and 21 say, "A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory. And in his name shall the Gentiles trust." Here we see Jesus setting the judgment of God in the earth and see that that judgment is calculated to bring victory to souls. It will only bring condemnation if it is rejected by souls. Jesus came to save; not to condemn. Those were only condemned who loved darkness and rejected the light of the world, Jesus.

In Isaiah 51:4 it is said "I will make my judgment to rest." But what does it mean for His judgment to rest? Let me illustrate by a certain procedure in the courts of our judicial system. At a point in the trial the attorney on one side of the case (either one) will say to the judge "we rest". What this means is that we have presented all of our evidence, we have heard testimony from all of our witnesses, we have completed all of our argument, there is nothing more we can do to strengthen our case. From this point on, the disposition of the case rests with the jury or the judge however the case is being tried.

It is the same case with God. He said in Isaiah 42:4, "Till he have set judgment in the earth". He is saying the same thing here that He was saying in Isaiah 51:4. In one case He set judgment in the earth and in the other He made judgment to rest. It was through Jesus Christ that God set His judgment in the earth and it was confirmed in Him in all of its aspects. "But

God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8. God's judgments incorporate love, mercy, salvation, forgiveness and pardon the same as wrath, indignation and condemnation against sin and impenitent sinners. Jesus Christ absorbed the full measure of God's wrath and vengeance against sin in Himself at Calvary. But He also commended God's love or confirmed it to sinful men by His dying for us. God's judgment of mercy, love, pardon, redemption and salvation for every person of Adam's race from the river to the ends of the earth was set in the earth that day and confirmed in Christ that day. He tasted death for every man (Heb. 2:9).

Since full provisions have been made for mercy, pardon, redemption and salvation for all men; no one excluded, not a one; and it has all been confirmed. Qualified witnesses have been called and their testimony given, and all the evidence is in and the argument is completed and there is absolutely nothing more I can do to strengthen my case with mankind; therefore I rest and my judgment rests with me and is set in the earth through the preaching of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God for the full duration of the earth. The case now rests in the hands of the people of the earth as to how they respond to the overtures of mercy and love of God in Christ.

We read in Genesis 2:2 that at the conclusion of all of God's work in the creation of this material universe and every thing in it, God rested. Then God launched another project of the NEW CREATION. In this NEW CREATION He makes all things new (Rev. 20:5), and every redeemed soul in Christ Jesus is made a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17) and when it was all finished and completed Jesus said it was finished at Calvary (John 19:30). The plan of salvation was complete and finished and just a few days hence the church would be established as an efficient, operating body as the arm of God in the earth and the kingdom of God would be confirmed and established by the coming of the Holy Ghost. When God had finished the first material creation, He looked it all over and determined it to be "very good" (Gen. 1:31). Then He rested because it was all complete and nothing could be added to it; neither could any improvement be made upon it. Deut. 32:4 says "His work is perfect". Likewise, when He had completed His NEW CREATION (the church, the kingdom of God, the plan of salvation) He looked it over and was satisfied with it. Isa. 53:11 says, "He shall see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied". It was all complete and the sacrifice to confirm it was acceptable and

perfect. He said in Isaiah 4:4 "What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it?". It was all complete and perfect; nothing could be added to it nor any improvement made upon it so He rested having His judgment fully set in the earth and made His judgment to rest.

The second part of the question (Daniel 12:7) will have to wait until next time.

HOME LIFE



Needed: Obedient Children

Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right.

Ephesians 6:1

The general disrespect for authority today stems in part from a breakdown in the home. The root of rebellion often gets its start when parents do not guide their children in paths of truth, or when they fail to punish them in a kind and gracious manner for their waywardness. Obedience is basic to acquiring learning skills and becoming responsible citizens in society.

Anne Sullivan, who tutored the blind and deaf Helen Keller, once said, "I saw clearly that it was useless to try to teach her a language or anything else until she first learned to obey me. I have thought about it a great deal, and the more I review my actions, the more certain I am that obedience is the gateway through which knowledge, yes, and love too, enters the mind of a child."

A businessman who needed help advertised for a boy. When the paper came out, so many applied that he didn't know which one to choose. So he decided to run another ad, but this time it read: "Wanted, to assist in my shop, a boy who obeys his parents." Only two teenagers came. After a few searching questions he quickly recognized which one had the right qualifications.

We know that our children's peers will try to get them to engage in wrong or questionable actions. But as Christian parents, we should direct them in paths of conduct that will be

beneficial to them, even though at the moment they may not understand why. If they are taught to respect authority in the home, both the church and the state will benefit. Yes, there is a great need today for obedient children! —Selected

O parents, shape your children's lives
With love and gentle rod;
And teach them early to obey
The laws of man and God.

—Bosch

Being Led by the Spirit

We hear much talk today about the Holy Spirit. Some say that we know we have this Spirit if we "speak in tongues". Others say that if we have that Spirit we will be full of strong emotions that are manifested through jumping and shouting. It can be confusing to a person today as to how they are to know where the Holy Spirit is. There are many spirits in the world and there are some who pretend that they are the Holy Spirit which comes from God. How are we to know the difference between the false and the true? Our only sure guide is the Bible.

If we consider Elijah, an Old Testament prophet, we see that he had a similar problem; where was God's Spirit? "And [the Lord] said, Go forth and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake, a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire; a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it that he . . . went out." I Kings 19:11-13.

It was not in the great and powerful things that the Lord spoke to Elijah, but it was in a still small voice that God guided and directed him. We can take this and apply it to our own lives. When we are seeking God that He might reveal Himself to us through His Spirit, what are we looking for? God is Love. The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. God communes with His children quietly and gently. What is necessary is that we get very humble before God and let Him show us what we need to know, leaning not to our own understanding. Before God can really show us the fulness of being guided by the Holy Spirit, there is first required from us a death. So often, we go along in our own thoughts and ideas, considering this point and that point, discussing and meditating upon our own thoughts. We need to put to death our own understanding

and begin to pray, "Lord, give me the mind of Christ. Help me to think as You think, not as a weak human, but as Jesus." God can help us to be like Himself in both our minds and our hearts. Once we have committed the conscious act of refusing to follow in our own ways, God can begin to show Himself to us. Oh, the sweetness of being guided through life by the voice of a Holy God, but it is only through true humility that God will do this for us. If we insist before God that we are right in our own ways, He will not be able to work in us in the manner which He would like to. We are the clay and He is the potter. Clay is inanimate. It does not move of its own accord, it does not resist, but lends itself fully to the workings of the potter.

When the children of Israel were in the wilderness, God guided them, and showed them the way to go by the use of a pillar of cloud, and a pillar of fire. "And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night." Exodus 13:21-22. When the pillar moved, the children of Israel moved; where it stopped, they stopped. As long as they were obedient and humble children, God showed them the way. It was after they sinned against Him that He let them wander.

As long as we remain low before God and not lifted up in our own estimation, He will be able to use us and guide us. If we fall into the trap of following ourselves or another man, God will neither be able to help us or guide us, for by doing so we remove ourselves from under His sheltering arm.

We have a mighty King who is able to lead us through this confusing world. Though there be diversities of doctrines and teachings, Jesus will show us the true way. Amidst these perilous times that the Church is in, God will be our shield and buckler, and our guide, if we will wholly trust in Him alone, and let Him have His own sweet way in our lives.

—Elizabeth Redington

My Lord and I

I tell Him my troubles and needs,
I tell Him all my joys.
I tell Him all that pleases me,
I tell Him what annoys.
He tells me what I ought to do,
He tells me what to try,
We walk together each day anew,
My Lord and I.

—Marie Benson

You Tell Me I Am Getting Old

By P. S. W.

You tell me I am getting old, I tell you that's not so!
 The "house" I live in is worn out, and that, of course, I know.
 It's been in use a long, long while; it's weathered many a gale;
 I'm really not surprised you think it's getting somewhat frail.
 The color changing on the roof, the windows getting dim,
 The walls a bit transparent and looking rather thin,
 The foundation not so steady as once it used to be—
 My "house" is getting shaky, but my "house" isn't ME!
 My few short years can't make me old, I feel I'm in my youth,
 Eternity lies just ahead, a life of joy and truth.
 I'm going to live forever there; life will go on—it's grand!
 You tell me I am getting old? You just don't understand.
 The dweller in my little "house" is young and bright and gay;
 Just starting on a life to last throughout eternal day.
 You only see the outside, which is all that most folks see;
 You tell me I am getting old? You've mixed my "house" with ME!

The Blessing of Giving

To the Saints abroad and all the readers of the *Faith and Victory*. I am not a preacher nor do I consider myself an authority on the Word of God. But I have been raised up in the truth from my youth and heard the Bible read every morning and evening when Mother got us together for a time of worship and prayer. Since God saved me, I have studied the Word for myself and have proved God is true for myself. It is hard to tell someone something that you haven't experienced for yourself. You may be able to quote to them what God's Word says, but if you have had the experience for yourself, you are much better qualified to tell others.

As you might gather from the title of this article, I am going to say a few things about giving. Now as I said in the beginning, I am not a preacher, so you can't point your finger at me and say, "Oh, this fellow is a preacher and wants more money so he can drive a new car."

I would like to give you some of the Word of God on this subject. Now we are not talking about tithes, but cheerful giving. Cheerful means willing, as a willing helper. In 2 Cor. 9:7 it says, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." Now we will stop there for a little while. We hear many so-called preachers today telling folks that if they will give a Love Gift to God, that He will give it back to them several fold. This is false teaching. God doesn't owe you anything. In Matthew 10:8, Jesus said, "Freely ye have received, freely give." Although He has promised to supply all your needs, if you give expecting to get something in return, I'm afraid you will be disappointed.

The wisest man that ever lived once said, "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty." Proverbs 11:24. "And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." Luke 12:15. —Earl B. Bliss

An Unbeliever Convinced

On the third of November, 1876, in the Fourth Street Church, I preached a sermon on abiding in Christ. At its close, according to my custom, I invited any person present who was impressed with his need of Christ to meet me in the inquirer's room.

I found a young man there whom I judged to be about thirty years old. He was tall, stalwart, intelligent, and would have been fine looking but for a cloud that seemed to abide upon his countenance. His face seemed scarred and furrowed as though he had been through a life of battle with sin and care and had been terribly worsted in the contest.

I addressed him at once with a pointed inquiry, and almost the exact words of the dialogue that followed have been impressed on my mind.

"I take it, sir, that you are here to talk with me about your spiritual interests. If so, will you at once let me into the very heart of your trouble or difficulty? I am acting as a physician of souls; let there be perfect frankness between us; tell me your exact and worst symptoms, and I will do what I can to relieve them and help you to a cure."

"Well, sir," said he, "I suppose you would consider my case a desperate one. I am an unbeliever and a disbeliever—an infidel."

"But I suppose there are some things you believe. You believe the Bible to be the book of God?"

"No, sir."

"Well, at least you believe in a God?"

"There may be a God. I cannot say I believe there is, but there may be. I do not know."

"Then let me ask you why you are here. I cannot waste time in words of no profit. I hope you have not come here to trifle with me. And yet I do not see what you want of me if you do not believe in the Bible nor in Christ and are not even sure there is any God."

"I heard you preach tonight, and it seems to me that you must believe something—"

"You are quite right, I assure you," I interrupted.

"And it gives you peace and comfort."

"Right again!"

"Well, I don't believe anything, and am perfectly wretched; and if you can show me the way to believe anything, and to get happiness in believing, I wish you would."

"I understand you, and I would risk my own salvation, if necessary, upon yours if you will follow my prescription."

"Well, if you can help me, do it quickly, for I have been carrying this burden as long as I can. I live across the river in Windsor. I am a law student, but I am so wretched I cannot study or sit still. I wandered over here tonight and curiosity led me to remain and hear what you had to say, and one thing impressed me; that you have faith in somebody or something, and you are happy in believing, and my envy of you brings me here."

I had met and conversed with hundreds of inquirers, but never had met such a case before. I lifted my heart to God for spiritual guidance and again he broke out with an exclamation: "If you can do anything for me I wish you would."

"Tell me something to read," he said.

"I would have you read nothing but the Bible. You have been reading too much; that is partly what is the matter with you. You are full of the misleading plausible sophistries of the skeptics. Read the Word of God."

"But what is the use of my reading the Bible when I do not believe it to be the Word of God?"

I turned to John 5:39, and with my finger on the verse slowly read: "Search the scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me." "Now," said I, "If that means anything, it means that he who diligently searches the Scriptures will find

that they contain the witness to their own divine origin and inspiration and the divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ."

"Well," said he, "I'll read the Bible but what besides?"

I read to him Matt. 6:6, "Enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to the Father which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." "If that means anything, it means that if you sincerely pray to God He will reveal Himself to you."

"But of what use to pray to God if you don't believe there is a God?"

That was a puzzling question. But a thought flashed across me, and although I had never given this counsel to any man before, I gave utterance of it, for I felt guided.

"No matter," I replied, "provided you are sincere. If it be only feeling after God, if haply you may find Him who is not far from any of us. God will not disregard any genuine effort to draw near to Him. Go and pray, if only like the famous Thistlewood conspirator: 'O God, if there be a God save my soul, if I have a soul.'"

"Anything more?" said he.

"Yes," and I opened to John 7:17 and read: "If any man willeth to do His will he shall know of the doctrine." That means that if you act up to whatever light you have, you shall have more light. In God's school we are never taught a second lesson till we practice the first. "Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord."

"I have given you three texts already to ponder and study. I wish to add one more: Matt. 11:28-30: 'Come unto Me, all ye that labor, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest,' etc. That means that if you come directly to Jesus, He will give you rest. *Now notice these four texts:* One bids you read the Scriptures; one to pray in secret; one to put in practice whatever you know; and the last to come to Jesus as a personal Saviour."

"Is that all?" he inquired.

"That is all. Will you promise me to go and follow this simple prescription?"

"I will."

After kneeling in prayer together, he left me. Two weeks later, at the close of the service I gave a similar invitation to inquirers. The congregation was scarcely half out of the house when this same man came almost running toward me, with both hands extended and his face beaming: "I have found God and Christ, and I am a happy man!"

He sat beside me and told me the fascinating story. He had gone home that Sunday night, taken out from his trunk the Bible his mother had put there when he left home, had opened it

and knelt before the unseen God. He simply, sincerely asked that if there were a God at all, and if the Bible were the Word of God, and Christ His Son and the Saviour of men, it might be shown him plainly. And as he read and prayed and sought for light, light was given. He humbly tried to follow every ray and walk in the light, and the light grew fuller and brighter until his eyes rested in faith upon Jesus.

The grand penance for all ills of the soul is a personal acceptance of Jesus as a Saviour. But if there is any honest doubt that stands in the way, it may be removed by a sincere drawing nigh to God in prayer, and a sincere endeavor to live exactly according to the light already given. —Selected

Envy

The devil laughed an awful laugh
That reached the depths of hell,
The demons shook to hear his laugh
His mockery they knew well.

"I've tricked another soul," says he,
"A soul yet known by God.
I'll doom this soul eternally,
Weaning it away from God."

The Lord had blessed a fellow soul
With blessings great in number,
Then quickly to the other soul
The devil whispered murder.

"God never blesses me that way!"
"That blessing wasn't fair!"
So soon the devil has his way
And jealousy enters there.

No jealousy will be content
To stay a little thing,
But swells with evil so intent
That's soon a wicked thing.

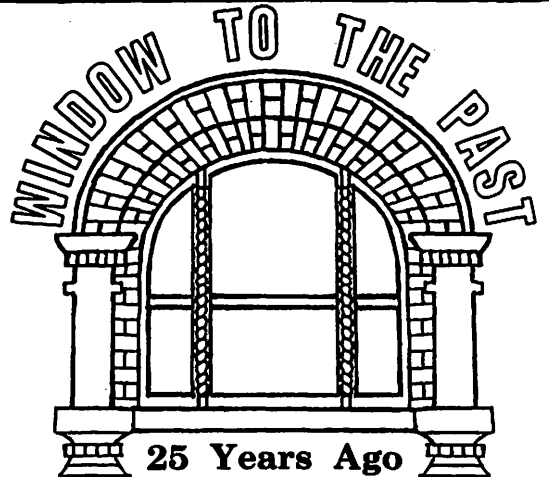
In comes hatred, backbiting, too
(The devil laughs again),
Then Jesus Christ steps in, too,
And offers peace again.

The soul repents from his mistake,
A wiser soul is he.
But to a need he is awake:
"I need a guide to lead me!"

The Father sends His Holy Spirit,
A witness voice divine,
To teach and shape the heart, and spirit
If the soul will mind.

The devil rumbles at this soul
The demons shake once more
With God within, so wins the soul.
The devil gives a jealous roar!

—Connie Sorrell



Excerpts Taken From

February, 1961 *Faith and Victory*

"God in His love and mercy for souls has so increased the output of the gospel truth from the Faith Publishing House that the office, wrapping and mailing rooms are far too small and inadequate to care for the increased work to be done. Therefore, we have a clearness from God to start the building of an additional room, size 20 by 22 feet. At present we have the cement footing or foundation poured for the new room." —Fred Pruitt

"If you want to do greater things for God, get close enough to Him that you can hear His great heart throbs for this lost world. If you will do this, you will come forth from your closet of prayer determined to do all that lies in your power for Him." —Lottie L. Jarvis

"As we all enter this new year, how careful we all should be to please the Lord, and guard our lives continually, and take every opportunity to do good and help our brothers and sisters to be strong, not wounding or crushing a soul in any way. It is human nature to feel proud when we conquer with our tongue, when we can get the last word, and put to silence those who oppose us. But this does not please God.

"Solomon says, 'Death and life are in the power of the tongue.' Yes, we can speak words of comfort and strength to our brother, or we can speak words that will crush, bruise and kill. No wonder David said, 'I will take heed to my ways that I sin not with my tongue.' "

—Margaret Eck