

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



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Since You Have Been Away

Dear friend, we have a message true
To send your way today;
For many days and years have passed
Since you have been away.

The Saviour you rejected then
Still pleads for you today:
His open arms have never closed
Since you have been away.

His love that once you knew and felt
Surrounds our hearts today;
It seems much richer, sweeter now,
But you have been away.

The songs—oh, yes, the same sweet songs
They sang when you were around
Still make the saints rejoice and shout
Upon the old campground.

So many “old-time” ministers
Who preached the “old-time” way
Have, one by one, gained their reward;
Since you have been away.

The torch they carried firm and true
Passed down to us today;
For now it is a younger crew
Who preach and sing and pray.

So now that you are old and spent
With hopeless future gray,
Once more look to the folks you loved—
Before you went away.

The welcome mat is on the step
And our door wide open today;
We know how ’t feels to come back home
After being so long away.

For the prodigal soul who’s weary and tired
As he winds his homeward way
Will be met at the door by the Saviour, Himself,
With a “Welcome home, to stay!”
—Angela Gellenbeck

A Praying Mother’s Reward

From the lips of a young man the following story of unexcelled beauty was related to me a few short years ago. It is the old, old story of prayer and its undying power. He told me of his godly mother who lies beneath the red clay of a Georgia cemetery awaiting the call of the One who said, “I am the resurrection and the life.” He related how that he and two brothers had to march off to the Second World War bidding goodbye to their little Christian mother. She promised, through parting tears, to pray for them every day. While they fought on far-flung battlefields many thousands of miles from their little home in Georgia, their hearts were encouraged at mail call when a letter more precious than gold would reach them. She would tell them how that every day she made her way to a special place of prayer up in the woods across the road from home. She told how that each time she would take a stone like Jacob of old and place it there as she prayed for her boys to be spared because none of them were saved. The days passed and the stone monument of prayer grew and grew.

Then one day her boys returned one by one from the land of living death—God had heard and remembered the prayers of that wonderful little mother of the hills.

But as is so often the case, the boys went on in sinful ways, forgetting how good the Lord had been to spare them from the very gates of hell. But that precious one had prayed also to save her boys at any cost.

One day mother didn’t feel so good, then little by little her health faded and she went to be with Jesus. Her only regret was that her precious boys were yet unsaved, but she flung around them the cloak of one last prayer and was gone.

The funeral was over and with laden footsteps they returned to a home that would never be the same again. How lonely the vacant rocking chair!

The boys seemed to think of it now more than ever of how mother had written and told them of her place of prayer up in the woods. They had never been up there but now there seemed to be a magnetic drawing toward that holy place. They searched for it for awhile and at last found it. Never has an earthly throne been so sacred as that spot. They could see where her knees had rested so many times while she talked to Him about her boys. And there before that monument of stone those three boys knelt in penitent prayer. Tears flowed down the young man's face as he told of how mother's God came into their hearts.

Perhaps even now, dear reader, the voice who long ago called your name in prayer has been silenced. But their tears and prayers for your soul are fadeless treasures that live on. I wonder even now if the Lord is not seeking to answer that earnest prayer prayed in your behalf. Please open the door of your heart and let the Saviour in!

—Selected

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"Every Man To His Tent"

(A MESSAGE GIVEN BY BRO. CLIFFORD WILSON ON JANUARY 12, 1986)

(Continued from last month.)

When the time comes that Satan is able to instill some kind of unwholesome idea or attitude in us, whatever it may be, the sooner we get rid of it the better off we will be. It will take a force, a power, a strength, a campaign against any of these to defeat them and to route them out. Don't ever allow Satan to tell you that if you will let this thing coast it will cure itself. Sin has never found its own cure. Sin has never come to the place that it says, "This is enough." The further it goes, the bigger it gets; the more it demands. The more you allow, the more it will demand. The more you give, the more it will receive. Lord help us to recognize, to realize and to be able to take the proper actions within the proper time.

Now look at II Samuel 20:14, and let us follow this thing a little further. "And he went through all the tribes of Israel." Take this background with us now in the seventh verse, "And there went out after him Joab's men, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, and all the mighty men: and they went out of Jerusalem, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri." This was a concentrated effort. They had in mind to take

care of this malady that had arisen. "And he went through all the tribes of Israel unto Abel, and to Bethmaachah, and all the Berites: and they were gathered together, and went also after him. And they came and besieged him in Abel of Bethmaachah, and they cast up a bank against the city, and it stood in the trench: and all the people that were with Joab battered the wall, to throw it down." When we allow things like this to get entrenched in our minds, and in our hearts, it begins to take some battering to break it down. Ever notice that? Somebody gets the idea fixed in their mind, "Well, the church is not what it used to be, everything is gone down, everything is changed, it's not holding anymore." It is hard to change that idea. You can bring evidence after evidence after evidence, but it always turns back to this: "Well, here's this, here's that and there are other things." Sometimes you cannot say or deny that they are not there, yet you have to recognize that these things are most often found in those lives that are not sincerely living like they ought to live. For the man that is actually abiding by the requirements of the gospel, his life is above reproach. No wonder the Scriptures tell us to mark the perfect man and to behold the upright. Go around looking at those things that are less than they ought to be and it isn't long until you have got your head down. Remember this: the doctrine is still there; the pattern is still laid. There are still people that are living for the Lord and as long as we can follow this gospel and it brings us into holiness, that is accepted at the end of the way. What more could we ask? We have the light of life within our own souls. All we have to do is follow it. I don't have to drag the crowd with me. I have to walk that way myself. If I do that I can receive the prize at the end of the way. Then that is important. I wish everyone would do that, yet I have to know that that won't always be the case. But for me, I can live as near as I know how to please the Lord and receive His blessing and meet Him in peace at the end of the way.

And he said that they have cast up a bank and it stood in the trench and all the people that were with Joab battered the wall to throw it down. I'm glad that they were concerned enough to do something about it. I think we ought to everyone be concerned enough when we detect anything like this in our lives to begin to take some action against it, don't you? "Then cried a wise woman out of the city, Hear, hear; say, I pray you, unto Joab, Come near hither, that I may speak with thee." Here is a woman now within the citizenry of the city that is besieged, and she wants to talk to the com-

manding general. I have something I want to say in your ears. "And when he was come near unto her, the woman said, Art thou Joab? And he answered, I am he. Then she said unto him, Hear the word of thine handmaid. And he answered, I do hear. Then she spake, saying, They were wont to speak in old time, saying, They shall surely ask counsel at Abel: and so they ended the matter. I am one of them that are peaceable and faithful in Israel: thou seekest to destroy a city and a mother in Israel: why wilt thou swallow up the inheritance of the Lord? And Joab answered and said, Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy. The matter is not so: but a man of mount Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, hath lifted up his hand against the king even against David: deliver him only, and I will depart from the city. And the woman said unto Joab, Behold, his head shall be thrown to thee over the wall. Then the woman went unto all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and cast it out to Joab. And he blew a trumpet, and they retired from the city, every man to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem unto the king." Think of what this story is telling us. There is a means of deliverance so that everything doesn't have to be destroyed. There is a way of wisdom to where a malady can be cured, a fault can be corrected, a mistake can be adjusted to where the whole thing doesn't have to perish.

She cried out to the general. They had set up their entrenchments, their fortifications were already erected. They had gone in to tear the whole city down to get one man. Here was a woman that stepped forth and said, you don't have to destroy the whole thing, we're faithful too. Oh, listen, there is in every honest heart that yearning and that desire that reaches out for the truth, for the right, for the holy. That influence is sufficient in strength, sufficient in grace and sufficient in understanding to be able to rise up and recognize where the trouble is, get rid of the trouble and still preserve the experience. It is possible, isn't it? This verse of Scripture teaches me so.

She told this general, you don't have to tear this whole thing apart. If there had not been somebody there to make that sacrifice and take that action, then there would be nothing left but to destroy the whole thing. There is within us that which appeals to the just, to the truth and the right. Think of our Sunday school lesson this morning. Wisdom cries, understanding speaks, its appeal goes out. You are tolerating a thought that is leading you in the wrong direc-

tion. This thought tells you that the Church is gone, that it is not what it used to be. Saints are not like they used to be. It is telling you falsehood and you are listening. Wisdom appeals, and here is the plea that goes along with it. There is a means to correct this and for everything not to be totally destroyed. There is deliverance; there is a way out, but what is it? You go to the trouble, get to the seed of the thing and decapitate it. Take its head off. Leave it no means of endurance, no way for it to continue. Take its head off and get it over the wall, get it clear outside, and you can be delivered and the city can be spared.

Dear ones, the Church of God is not going down. There will be folks who won't live like they ought to live and if you want to look at that you can get discouraged and begin to protest with the rest, "Every man to his own tent. There is nothing left anyway." But if you are willing to hold to the truth, continue in the teaching of God's Word, measure your life to the fullness, you will find lots of people still living holy in Israel yet today to all they know and understand. If they make a mistake, they are more than glad to correct it. They are more than willing, even glad for the opportunity. If they did something that they realize later that they should not have done, they will be the first one there to correct it. That is righteousness, isn't it? Think about it.

"Then she spake, saying, They were wont to speak in old time, saying, They shall surely ask counsel at Abel." Right here in this city where we are, there was a time when we lived to such virtue until people came and asked counsel of how to live for the Lord. She treasured that, she valued that, and she still lived to that. "They shall surely ask counsel at Abel: and so they ended the matter. I am one of them that are peaceable and faithful in Israel." This is the crying need of the church today. Let us every one be more faithful, more peaceable, more dedicated, more yielded. When we recognize symptoms of things that are not what they ought to be, let us not let it develop into a stronghold. It doesn't have to go to a defended city. Just as sure as we begin to tolerate a little of this, it won't be long until there will be somebody else around talking the same kind of language. Then, the first thing you know, you will lock arms together and now the thing has begun to root and to fortify and to become a defended city. The next thing you know you have got a crowd, there is a big discussion, a big pulling apart, a big separation, folks looking

(Continued on Page 12)

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16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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SUBSCRIPTION RATES



Single copy, one year \$1.00
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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 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.

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EDITORIALS



"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses." I Tim. 6:12. These are words that not only encourage, but enjoin a great responsibility on us to be steadfast in battling the forces of evil. Not only should we be triumphant in our personal lives, but we should be a willing vessel for God to use in the fight to rescue those bound by Satan.

When David went out to fight Goliath he was the recipient of some very abusive comments. Goliath descriptively defined what he intended to do to David. Neither was it idle boasting for Goliath seemed capable of accomplishing everything that he said he would. David replied, "And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands." The knowledge that the battle was the Lord's is what sustained David in the conflict. He was aware that the God who loved righteousness would prevail, yet he was willing to let God accomplish it through him.

We are not in this fight simply for the sake of fighting. We are in it because we have a cause at heart; it is to lay hold on eternal life and to see righteousness prevail in the earth. It is not difficult to discern those who are in it just for the fight. Much of the time they are at odds with others. In God's army there are no free lance fighters. We are not fighting our own little war, but we are fighting in the white horse calvary. Some soldiers are known as mercenaries. They hire out to whatever country will pay them the most. Likewise, there are some people who will take a stand on whatever side will bring the most approval and praise of men. Such an individual usually plays both sides, sometimes at the same time. This is not how God's army operates.

"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with charity." I Cor. 16:13, 14. Charity puts God into the fight. I read a quote once that declared, "We dare not fire the Lord's cannons with the devil's powder." We cannot further the Lord's cause by wrong motives such as hatred, malice, envy or jealousy. Not only will it not work, but it is counter productive.

David faced Goliath with a calmness and confidence. Let us face the problems of each day with a similar faith. This will cause the giants to fall and God's name to be glorified.

Once again we are facing the summer months and campmeeting time. We hope you will be able to attend some of the meetings and receive a renewal of spiritual strength. Pray that souls will be saved during this time and that the Holy Spirit will soften hearts to receive salvation.

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It was a privilege to be with the saints in Neosho, MO for a few nights of meeting during the middle of April. It was a blessing to enjoy the fellowship of the Lord together, and the warmth and hospitality shown was much appreciated.

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We have renewed our stock of "What the Bible Teaches". If you have been waiting to order it, you may do so now. All of the back orders for this book have been filled and mailed out.

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compiled and arranged it, has included such songs as, "He's Still Working On Me", "Happiness Is the Lord", "Hear No Evil", "Jesus Loves Me", "Jesus Loves the Little Children", "Something Beautiful", "How Do I Look To Jesus", "Isn't He Wonderful", "The Birds Upon the Tree-tops", "Only A Boy Named David" and "How Did Moses Cross the Red Sea".

Covered in heavy paper and featuring a color photo of children on the front, the song book contains 115 songs and presently sells for \$2.00. Please add .70 for the first dollar and .07 for each additional dollar of the total order for postage and handling. There is a limited number of this first edition available. With the printing of the next edition the price will increase, so you may want to place your order immediately.

—Wayne Murphey

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Camp Meeting Dates for 1986

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, OK —

May 30-June 8.

Green Bank, WV — June 13-22.

Jefferson, OR — June 13-22.

Tulsa, OK — June 13-22.

Oakland, CA — June 20-29.

Chilliwack, B.C., Canada — June 21-26.

General Southern at Loranger, LA —

June 27-July 6.

Fresno, CA — July 4-13.

Akron, OH — July 6-13.

National at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO

July 18-27.

Missouri State at Myrtle, MO —

July 28-Aug. 3.

Bakersfield, CA — Aug. 1-10.

Duncannon, PA — Aug. 10-17 or as the

Lord leads.

Durham, NC — Aug. 10-17

Boley, OK — Aug. 17-24

California State at Pacoima, CA —

Aug. 22-31

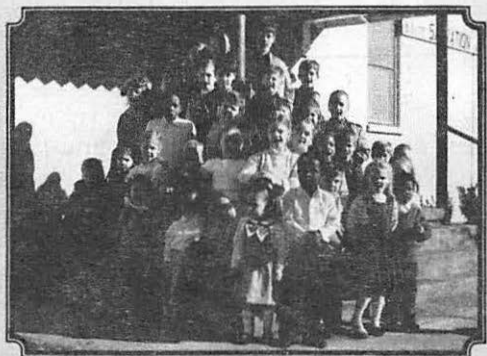
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In Memorial

George Abbott was born February 8, 1915, and passed from this life April 1, 1986, at the age of 71 years.

He leaves to mourn his departure his devoted wife, Sylvia; eight sons, Samuel, David and Daniel, all of Bristow, OK, Donnie and Lonnie, both of Depew, OK, Joe, Ft. Worth, TX,

LITTLE PEOPLE SING UNTO THE LORD



The songbook for children which we have been working on since the summer of 1985, has been completed. It is entitled, "Little People Sing Unto the Lord". Sis. Patricia Bell, who

John, Walkersville, MD and Michael of the home; four daughters, Jane Johnson, Okla. City, OK, Sharon Mann, Waxahachie, TX, Amanda Nedlose and Mary Chambers, both of Bristow; one brother, Jimmy Abbott, Dumas, TX; two sisters, Francis McDonald, Weatherford, OK, Mildred Cox, Mannford, OK, and many other friends and loved ones. He was preceded in death by one son, Jeremiah, in 1975, and one brother.

George Abbott was united in marriage to Sylvia Juanita Birge, March 19, 1938, in Drumright, OK. He has been a lifelong resident of Bristow, OK. He attended church services at the Sapulpa Rd. Church of God, and proved to be a real brother in the Lord.

Funeral services were conducted in Bristow on April 4, 1986. The officiating ministers were Bro. Richard Madden and Bro. Don McIntosh. Interment was in the 44 Cemetery, Bristow, OK.

Dear Saints: Words cannot express the thanks for all the kind deeds of love and kindness shown to us in the loss of our loved one. Thank you each and every one for all the prayers, cards, phone calls, offerings and food. Our loss is great but thanks be unto our God we have such a wonderful family of saints to help us bear our grief. Heaven is a little more dearer to us knowing our loved one is there waiting for us.

God bless all the dear saints everywhere.

—Sis. Abbott and family

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We have received word of the death of Sister Mary Ellen Worley of Fresno, California. She was born February 11, 1880 in Spring Creek Rapids Parish, Louisiana and passed away quietly February 6, 1986, with heart failure. Her daughter, Helen, wrote to us that she had good health, although near 106 years of age.

Sister Worley was quite a writer and often she wrote to the Print Shop and sent many names to be put on the *Faith and Victory* mailing list. We missed her letters when she was no longer able to write to us.

She left one son, Carl of Los Angeles, CA and two daughters, Mrs. Helen Markus of Fresno, CA and Mrs. Ella McCain of Louisiana, nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren to mourn her passing.

—Maybelle Pruitt

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It is good to sing about a mansion in glory or in the sweet by-and-by, but it is better to be revealing heaven and the way there by a godly life.

—C. E. Orr

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

HUNTSVILLE, ARKANSAS SINGING

We plan to have a singing, Lord willing, on Saturday, May 17, 1986, at 7:30 p.m., at the Upper Wharton Church near Huntsville, AR. Everyone is welcome.

—Wanda Evans

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GOSPEL MEETING

The saints of Coffeerville and Water Valley, Mississippi will be holding a five day gospel meeting, Aug. 27th through Aug. 31st, at the American Legion Hut in Coffeerville, Miss. Services will be nightly at 7:30 and possibly in the afternoon as the Lord leads. The meeting will close Sunday afternoon.

We are praying for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and a refreshing from heaven upon these services. We welcome all who are searching for truth and hungering for righteousness to come. Lodging and meals will be provided on a freewill offering basis for all who come. You may send any offerings to Sis. Sandra Polk, Rte. 3, Box 182, Coffeerville, Miss. 38922. For further information, please contact Sis. Sandra Polk at (601) 675-2989, or Bro. Louis Kimble, 305 N. Laurel St., Metairie, Louisiana, or LaDolia Fuller at (504) 246-2187, New Orleans, Louisiana. Directions: if you are coming from the south take the Coffeerville exit off Interstate 55 to highway No. 7. Come all the way to the red light in Coffeerville, Mississippi. The building is located on your right four blocks after the red light. If you are coming from the north, take the Water Valley exit off of Interstate 55. Follow Rte. 32 to Water Valley to Rte. 7 and head south on highway 7 to Coffeerville. The building is on the left just as you enter the city limits.

—Sis. Sandra Polk

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NOTICE

Our Vacation Bible School theme this year is; "The Word of God", and our workbooks are almost ready. If anyone would like to have some mailed to you, let us know. This project has proved to be a wonderful missionary and an outreach work among children. We plant seeds in the hearts of hundreds of children each year.

Thank you, —Sis. Annie Bell Allen

P.O. Box 18104, Dallas, TX 75218

Phone (214) 398-9095

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Are you as earnest in doing things for God as God is in doing things for you? Are you as earnest in working for God as the devil is in working against God?

—C. E. Orr

Prayer Requests

AR—Sis. Johnnie West needs special prayer for a serious affliction.

MT—"Bro. August Elhard has an open sore on his left leg and it does not heal. Also, his left eye is bad." —Sis. August Elhard

MI—Sis. Anna Flagel needs special prayer for depression.

AR—"Please pray for me and my unsaved loved ones. My uncle Sam Steele needs prayer."

—Wanda Evans

KY—"I have a special need."—Gladys Dyer

LA—"Juanita Wallace, my sister, is very bad with cancer and going down fast. She needs prayer for soul and body." —Lois Abbott

NC—"Pray for me and my family; a grandson needs special prayer."—Sis. Carrie Boddie

MO—"Bro. Roy Blanchard needs prayer."

—Sis. Blanchard

CA—"Remember my sister in prayer. Pray for me and also two nephews."—Amelia Smith

CA—Still remember Helen Carson in prayer for complete healing.

AL—"I have several urgent requests."

—Sis. Pearlene Whitson

TX—"Please pray for me."

—Sis. Jewell McCaskill

MI—"Please pray for me and my family."

—Sis. Hazel Burton

LA—"I fell and hurt my ankle bad, please pray for me." —Sis. Beulah Johnson

OH—Sis. Juanita Blankenship needs special prayer.

WV—"Please pray for my healing or whatever the Lord wants." —Sis. Avis Tinsley

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FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From Rivers State, Nigeria . . .

Mar. 13—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings to you, Sis. Pruitt and all the other dear ones of the Print Shop through the love of our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ.

It's a pleasure coming your way at this time after much delay which I regret and plead for your pardon. I have been some how busy these few days and so was unable to write at the time I should have done. Thank you so much for your encouraging and interesting letter. However, we felt shock and sadness arising from the news about Sis. Dorothy Keiser's passing away to eternity. We had no hint about her ill health before the news. We know that we have lost a determined minister who took her missionary journey to Africa . . .

An evangelical team from Tombia and Port

Harcourt was used of the Lord to take the precious gospel to a town called Okporowo—Ogbakiri, situated between Tombia and Port Harcourt. The team left on the 28th of Feb. and delivered the gospel that evening, and the evening of the following day. We took off to our homes early Sunday morning (Mar. 2, 86), to attend services. However, two brothers were left behind to further admonish and encourage those who accepted the gospel of our Lord. The afternoons were used mainly for personal witnessing from house to house with magazines being given out. The Lord indeed did a marvelous work. We are encouraged to take another trip in the near future. A young man who belonged to a denomination was at the meeting the second day with his four children. Before the altar call, this man gave a wonderful testimony to the power of God's Word.

He had come with a sickness which had plagued him for some time. He felt as if fire was burning in his body but he had to endure it while the preaching was going on. It got to a point he forgot himself. By the time the preaching was finished, the sickness was gone. Praise God! He testified in his dialect and all the people were praising God and the man went home happily. A good number of souls were converted and it looks as if God is going to open a mission there. Please pray for this work.

Yours in the Lord, —F. Naths-Igbanibo

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Feb. 28—Dear Saints of the most high God: Greetings to every one of you in the name of the holy child Jesus, our Lord and healer.

This testimony is an expression of my deep appreciation to our Father in heaven whom I have seen recently through His healing power in my body. I have been in the ministry in answer to God's call for about 35 years as a native preacher in my community and its environs. I have witnessed God's power of healing and wonder working in response to my prayers, but the Lord saw it fit to leave me in the furnace, stimulated by a particular sickness in my body, so that He might perfect His strength in my weakness.

I contacted this sickness about 40 years ago. Then I was in the kingdom of darkness and that was my prize for serving her king well. I took in poison through my mouth and was rendered strengthless sometimes. It would appear I was going to give up any moment but the Lord would have mercy on me. I pursued cure for my body with all vigour but to no avail, rather it grew worse. The devil began to put more afflictions into my body. I was eventually recom-

mended for operation. This was done but could not help the situation. It was when the sickness had grown so bad and I had been helpless that the Lord came with a call to serve Him. Initially I could not understand and reacted poorly to the call, but the Lord insisted and assured me that He was going to heal me. I gave in and entered into the service with the affliction but my faith now resting in the Lord.

The Lord has remained faithful to His promise of healing me. He touched me and this sickness that had hitherto withstood all other methods of healing was subdued by the Lord. Praise God! Though some times I could experience some form of afflictions, my trust had always been in the Lord to clear everything.

In response to the prayer of the saints, the Lord is putting more strength into my hitherto dead body which has passed through many hazards to above 70 years. But for my age, I should say the Lord has fully restored my health for more work.

My prayer is for God to continue to renew my strength as He did to Caleb of old, so that I can labour for Him with renewed vigour. We have much work to do here with few labourers and that worries me much. It is my desire to see that many more souls are converted to the Lord at different places before He calls me away to His promised abode.

I thank all the saints for their concern, prayer and words of encouragement as a result of my affliction. Your continuous prayer is still very much my need.

Yours in Him, —B. Ben Taylor

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From Bendel State, Nigeria . . .

Apr. 4—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt and the chosen ones: Greetings once again to all of the holy family in the holy Christian love, and may this divine bond keep us united in Christ.

Thank you for your note under which the death of Sis. Dorothy Keiser was announced to us. Her passing, despite the degree of depression it has brought in its train, especially to the brethren in Ghana, can be accepted as the perfect will of God. Sis. Keiser was a brave soldier who fought courageously unmindful of difficulties and disappointments. She has left in Ghana and in us all a remembrance of herself that shall never die. Let there be prayer of sincerity to be made by the saints for continuity of attention to the Lord's work in Ghana. The brethren in Ghana need the co-operation of us all and to be visited with increased frequency by ministers of divine equipment, who with endowment of power from on high, will put to

flight in Jehovah's might all opposing forces of evil. Jesus, as the slain Lamb of God, will finally destroy Satan's works in Ghana and reign there supreme.

Ministers of the entire congregations of the Church of God in Nigeria, met again in Kwale on March 15th, for action on matters arising from the ministers' meeting held November 29th thru 30th, 1985. There is still, as discovered, a negligible few in the midst who sell honour and truth, barter away their souls for money, sacrifice religion and any hope of heaven for material gain. "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent" (Rev. 2:5).

We are very much alive spiritually and so children of the day, and moving on as divinely directed.

Yours in His service, —Titus U. E. Enu

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From the Mailbox . . .

MS—Dear Ones there at the Print Shop: I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* Paper very much.

I don't see how you can print a paper like this and mail it out for just \$1.00 per year. I know the Lord will bless you for your labor of love.

I still love the Lord. He is so good to His children, although there are some things hard to understand. I thank Him for every blessing.

I have lost four loved ones in the last six months; my husband, T. W. Keller, Sr., a brother-in-law and a son-in-law. Still the joy of the Lord has overshadowed the sorrow and I do praise Him for being so close to me in this hour. Remember me in your prayer. —Flora Keller

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

CA—Dear Sister Maybelle Pruitt, all workers at the Print Shop and all God's children everywhere: I just want all of you to know I am yet saved, sanctified, satisfied and encouraged to press on to glory.

I thank all of you for your love and prayers. God is so good to me at 87 years. I can't ask for anything more. Continue to keep me in your prayers and love at all times.

Your sister in Christ, —Flora B. Davis

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

TX—Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord: I am still living for the good Lord so that when He comes I can rise and meet Him in the air and ever be with Him. Oh, how wonderful that will be. Yes, the love of God is greater

far than tongue or pen can ever tell. I am truly glad and thankful He loved us enough to give His Son a ransom for us.

Christian love and prayers,—Nellie Lovell

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OK—Dear Sisters and Brethren, Greetings:

Please come to the throne of God in Jesus' name for my needs in serious afflictions. I want to be kept in the spirit of prayer and intercession with Jesus in all the needs of His work on earth. God will prepare the temple for His abode if we will but make an absolute and unconditional surrender of the temple to Him.

—Sis. Ada Scanlon

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MT—Greetings to all the Saints here and abroad: We praise the Lord for the blessing of His Word far and near. Thru the reading of *Faith and Victory* paper we get acquainted with the truth.

Saints loving the Lord, praise Him even when our burdens become hard to bear and sickness befalls us, as well as old age.

We praise the Lord for His goodness to us to be alive at this Easter season. It is good to hear the messages preached about the wonderful work of Jesus amongst the crowds of people; how He healed the sick, blind, crippled, lame and all kinds of diseases. We can be reminded He is just the same today and that we can come to Him in prayer and faith and trust Him for all our needs and sufferings.

We want to request the prayers of the dear Saints to remember August Elhard, my beloved husband, who has had trouble with his left leg going on five months. Also his left eyesight, besides a continual cough which bothers his rest at night and also in the daytime.

Let's continue to pray for each other to be able to be better workers in the Lord's vineyard.

—August and Martha Elhard

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MS—My brother, Warner, and I live alone as we have never married but we are older now and have afflictions so need prayer. I have arthritis so bad and suffer much. I get little sleep at times. Also it is hard for me to get around. Please remember us.

I am not able to write much any more to send offerings to different ones.

—Dorothy Bridges

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

WA—Dear Saints: We feel impressed to make you aware of our burden here in Seattle. For some time we have sought the Lord concerning

a chapel to worship in as we have been worshipping in our pastor's home for almost a year. The Lord has blessed us with a building, however, it is in need of repair and at this time we are unable to support the burden alone. We rejoice in the fact that the Lord has supplied our need of a chapel and we look to Him to supply all our needs according to His riches in glory. If any would feel the burden to help support the work here, please send any contribution to: Church of God, c/o Bro. Charles Taylor, 5503 32nd Avenue South, Seattle, Washington 98118.

Yours in Christ, —Bro. Darrell Johnson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

FL—Dear Friends: At times I can't see too good as I will soon be 78. I am glad I can see to read the *Faith and Victory* paper. I have to read along as I can as my eyes are so bad at times it is hard to read much at a time. I am thankful I can see as good as I can.

God has been so good to me I can't ever thank and praise Him enough.

I am getting to where I can walk some without my walker now. I live alone but I am glad and thankful I can still do my cooking and wait on myself.

Yours in Christ,

—Flora Knight

—————o—————

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

OH—Dear Sis. Pruitt: Greetings of love in the precious name of Jesus. O what a wonderful, loving Saviour and Friend we have!

We surely do appreciate and thank the Lord for all of our dear Brothers and Sisters at the Print Shop who so faithfully work for the Lord. May our heavenly Father continue to bless and prosper His work there. We know that He takes note of each one's labor of love and will reward each one accordingly.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Lord for what He has done for me. I have had a real battle for the past 17 years with severe nerve problems. When the problem first started I wasn't saved. I believe that the Lord used this affliction to draw me to Himself. O Praise the Lord for the goodness and mercy of God!

When our third child was about 10 months old I got saved. I had been raised a Catholic and didn't know anything about salvation. It seemed to me at the time that our dear Lord just cleaned me up, picked me up in His arms and carried me in His bosom. Oh, how much I loved the Lord and wanted to please Him in every way. The Lord was gentle and kind enough to teach me through His Word, the *Faith and*

Victory paper and other saints who were living close to God. I was especially grateful for the letters that I received from Sis. Marie Miles and also all the prayers of the saints here and other places.

As I moved along in my Christian journey I still had problems with my nerves from time to time. My husband who wasn't saved would put me in the hospital but the Lord was faithful to bless me and get me out. This went on for a number of years. Then one day my husband, who wasn't saved, must have gotten discouraged and fed up with my being "sick" and became involved with someone else. Well to make a long story short, he divorced me, leaving me with four young children to care for. The Lord was kind enough in all of this to cause his parents to befriend me and open their home to me and the children. Periodically I would still have problems with my nerves. I didn't understand why this happened and still don't fully understand it but one thing I did understand and know, and that was that God Himself had to intervene and come to my rescue if I was to be healed completely.

One day after being placed in the hospital again, the Lord brought the thought to my mind that I must give myself totally, completely and utterly to the Lord for time and eternity. Also that I must place my children, husband, possessions and everything else in His hands, and He would heal me completely, give me a well, sound mind and bless me abundantly in my soul and body also. Oh, how we thank the Lord for helping me to know what to do. Right then and there I did just that and O the calmness and clearness of mind that followed. I settled it in my heart that I was going to trust the Lord fully for soul, mind and body.

The next day the doctor and nurses wanted me to take medicine for my nerves. I told them no, that I was going to trust the Lord. Of course they didn't understand but they didn't force me to take the medicine as they had threatened to do. I know that was just the mercy of God. The Lord permitted me to stay in the hospital for about a month during which time I would continue to refuse the medicine. During this time I did a lot of reading and praying and I feel like the Lord really strengthened me soul, mind and body. I read many books written by some of the older saints and their experiences and how they trusted God and how the Lord blessed and took care of them. It really encouraged me that much more to trust God and hold to His unchanging hand.

Then one day they discharged me. The Lord then provided me with a small apartment close

to the chapel and the Christian school where I help out each day.

I really appreciate the goodness and love and mercy of God. He has assured me that I can lean on Him and He will take me safely through.

Please pray for me and all of the dear ones here in Akron and all of my loved ones.

With much love, —Sis. Janice Shaw

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

LA—Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ: I am very much encouraged and my faith is so high. I know that nothing is impossible with God through prayer.

I want to thank all the saints everywhere for the prayers that have been offered up for me in the past few months, and to let you know that the Lord is answering prayer. Things don't always work when and how we want them to, but if we believe and wait upon the Lord they will work out to our good. The road has been all up hill and rocky, but praise God, He has hold of my hand.

My younger sister and I were talking on the phone today and we feel that the saints need to get under a real burden for the Lord's work here. We need so much to hear the preaching of the Word and to have fellowship with other saints. We enjoyed so much the good singing last Saturday night in Jena, but was unable to go back Sunday. I need your prayers that I can keep the victory and measure up to God's Word.

Christian love, —Michael Goldsberry

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Please comment on 2 Thess. 2:6-11 with emphasis on the words "Only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way" and "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders".

Answer: First, let me suggest that the readers take your Bibles and read this entire passage so you can get a better over-all idea of the context being discussed here and I will not need to take up so much space inserting the full text here.

Matthew Henry in his comments at this place states that there are many who believe that the one referred to in the passage who was then letting and would continue to let until he was taken away was the Holy Spirit; but the

majority of commentators believed it to be the Roman Empire. I recognize that the Roman Empire with its Pagan religion which was in power when Jesus was here and through the early period of the Christian church at the time this passage was written stood as a deterrent to the Roman Empire under Popery (the Catholic religion) which is here described from coming in. In the 13th chapter of Revelation where the Roman Empire under Catholicism is symbolized by a beast having seven heads and ten horns, it is said in verse 2 that the dragon (in chapter 12 the Roman Empire under Paganism is symbolized by a great red DRAGON with seven heads and ten horns) and here it is said the dragon gave this beast (Catholicism) his power and his seat, and great authority. One of them followed the other; they were not on the scene at the same time and it is evident that Paganism had to pass off the stage of action before Catholicism could come in. I have no problem with that and no quarrel with those who hold that view. But I do have some problem in identifying this text with that view or at least limiting it to that view and my thinking runs more with those who believe this to be the Holy Spirit and my discussion will be along that line in general.

First, let it be remembered that Jesus instructed His apostles to not depart from Jerusalem but wait for the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4). This was to endue them with power from on high (divine Power) (Luke 24:49). This power was to be imparted to them by the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:8) and Jesus told them they would be baptized with the Holy Ghost "not many days hence" (Acts 1:5). This actually came to pass on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). Jesus recognized the full importance of this and told them to not go any where or do any thing until they received the Holy Ghost. He knew how futile all their efforts would be without the Holy Ghost. The apostles did not know it then (they could not possibly know it then) but they did later on and we must recognize that also and never attempt any thing in the work of the Lord without the unction, anointing, inspiration and guidance of the Holy Ghost.

The Church of God, the body of Christ, was builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit. The Holy Spirit indwells the body of Christ, the Church, and directs and supervises all its activities and doings. It was born and came into active being on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Ghost moved into it to dwell there and have charge of all its activities. This new creation of God—the one new man (Eph. 2:14) came forth a full-grown body just like the first man (Adam) that God created was a full-

grown, fully developed man fresh from the hand of God. So this new man, the body of Christ, the Church came forth fresh from the hand of God full grown and ready to do service for God and that very same day there were about three thousand souls saved and added to them through the power and operation of the Holy Ghost in those apostles (Acts 2:41).

The Holy Ghost is the supervisor and general overseer of all the work of God being carried on by the Church. It is by the Spirit that believers are baptized or inducted into the body (Church) and their unity and oneness is maintained by drinking into that one Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13). In 1 Cor. 12:7-11 Paul enumerates nine spiritual gifts placed in the Church for the profit of the entire body and declares it all to be a work of the Spirit. God through the Spirit sets all the members in the body as it pleaseth Him (1 Cor. 12:18) and through the Spirit God tempers the body together (1 Cor. 12:24) and verse 28 describes the different parts and phases of the ministry that God through the Spirit has set in the Church to teach, instruct and build it up in the most holy faith. The Holy Spirit was the predominant one and in supremacy in all the activities of the Church throughout that first golden period of its history and how glorious it was. The book of Acts gives the history of the Church and its work through the first few years of its existence. But we see the Holy Spirit in all those pages and all those doings until we conclude that book could have, with all propriety, been called "The Acts of the Holy Spirit" as "The Acts of the Apostles". Beautiful!

All the apostles and ministers were humble servants of Christ and of the Church. What if some were more useful and effective in their work that the Holy Spirit had called them to and qualified them for; none of them were seeking or desiring preeminence or authority over any of the others. They were just all busy doing what the Holy Ghost was working in them and letting every one else do the same. One historian said in describing the Church in its first golden period "The Christian church in its beginning was a community of holy brethren guided by a few of the brethren". How beautiful! In Eccl. 3:11 we read "He hath made every thing beautiful in his time." And surely God made a most beautiful and grand thing when He made the Church of God.

(To be continued next month.)

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Instead of seeking joyful experiences, seek to make others joyful, and you will have joyful experiences.
—C. E. Orr

HOME LIFE



A Prayer For Parents

Oh, God, make me a better parent. Help me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they have to say and to respond to their questions kindly. Keep me from interrupting and contradicting them. Make me as courteous to them as I would have them be to me. Give me the courage to confess my sins against my children and to ask them for forgiveness when I know I have done wrong.

May I not vainly hurt the feelings of my children. Forbid that I should laugh at their mistakes or resort to shame and ridicule for punishment.

May I not nag; and when I am out of sorts, help me, Lord, to hold my tongue. Blind me to the little errors of my children and help me to see the good things they do. Give me a ready word for honest praise. Help me treat my children as those of their own age. Let me not expect from them the judgment of adults.

Forbid that I should ever punish them for selfish satisfaction. May I grant them all their wishes that are reasonable and have the courage always to withhold a privilege that I know will do them harm.

Make me fair and just, considerate and companionable, so they will have genuine esteem for me. Help me to be loved and imitated by my children. Oh, God, give me calm and poise and self-control.

—Selected

"Every Man To His Tent"

(Continued from page 3)

down their noses at other folks. Then folks can't hardly tell whether to fellowship or not, can't tell where the truth is anymore. This leads to confusion, trouble and distress of soul and mind. We lose fellowship and we lose power. We lose our unity, we lose a great many benefits that could have been ours, all because we listened to the wrong influence.

When we recognize these things, let us be like this woman back there. We know what the truth is. We had this in our city. It has been in our rank and file. We have lived this through the years until it brought us a reputation. People came here for counsel. Now we have a problem, you put it in our hands and we will take care of it. What was the answer? Let us behead this thing and get this head over the wall and that will relieve the distress. When they got that done, when the thing was taken care of, what happened to the opposition; to the army that came to correct it? Why, it dispersed and went back. Oh, we want to get out from under the pressure, we want to get back in favor, we want to correct the problem. Let us get rid of the malady. Let us take care of the trouble. There will come a time if we tolerate these things long enough, maintain bad attitudes long enough, they will develop into bad conduct and produce bad actions. We begin to be harsh and to act rough to people. That is not in keeping with Christianity, is it? We will begin to do bad things to folks. We will look down our nose at people and belittle them and run them down, talk about them and all this kind of thing. If this goes on there will come a time when we will have to be made aware that this sort of conduct is not in keeping with Christianity either. The whole city is destroyed then, isn't it? Wouldn't it be much better to recognize it before it goes that far? Let us rise up within ourselves and say, we can see this problem and we will take care of it right here. Then, let us get busy on the thing and off with its head and get the head over the wall. Here is the evidence the job is done. If the head is outside the wall, the body of the thing cannot function any more, can it? If we have gotten rid of this out of our hearts, it won't show up in our lives any longer. The criticism will stop and the belittling will cease. The cutting down will stop also. Looking down our nose at folks will stop too. Why? Because the problem was beheaded, and the head gotten over the wall. Here is the evidence that the beheading took place, for here is the head! Oh, saints, I want to go to heaven. I want everybody

else to go to heaven that will, but I can't go for you and you can't go for me. We have got to do it ourselves.

Do you want the church to look like it ought to look? Look at yourself. Are you looking as you should? That is probably the most you can do to correct it. Do you want the church to act like it ought to act? Look at yourself. Are you acting as you ought to act? That is probably the most you can do to correct it. Do you want it on display to the world like it ought to be? What is your life portraying? There is no need to look at somebody else. You cannot change his life anyway. We are only able to adjust our own.

I read one time where somebody said to D. S. Warner, "You're running all up and down the country and back and forth preaching to hundreds of people all the time about how they ought to be saved. What are you doing for Christianity in the world?" He thought a minute and said, "I am living saved everyday." What better testimony can we give? We can teach what the Scriptures say, but unless we live it we have taught uselessly. If we can teach it and live it we have taught a gospel, a power that no man can deny. If one man can live it, any man can live it if he will. This is the kind of testimony we need to set forth in such a way that folks can look at our lives and have confidence. That is the desire of my heart. But most of all, I want a life that pleases the Lord.

I want to live for Him and do His will, I would like you to pray for me.

What Some Men Have Said About Example

"There is a transcendent power in example. We reform others unconsciously, when we walk uprightly."

—Madam Swetchine

"Men trust rather to their eyes than to their ears. The effect of precepts is, therefore, slow and tedious, while that of examples is summary and effectual."

—Lucius Seneca

"People seldom improve when they have no model but themselves to copy after."

—Oliver Goldsmith

"Though 'the words of the wise be as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies,' yet their examples are the hammer to drive them in to take the deeper hold. A father that whipped his son for swearing, and swore himself whilst he whipped him, did more harm by his example than good by his correction."

—Fuller

"So act that your principle of action might safely be made a law for the whole world."

—Immanuel Kant

"No man is so insignificant as to be sure his example can do no hurt."

—Edward Clarendon

"The innocence of the intention abates nothing of the mischief of the example."

—Robert Hall

"In early life I had nearly been betrayed into the principles of infidelity; but there was one argument in favor of Christianity that I could not refute, and that was the consistent character and example of my own father."

—Francis Quarles

"Live with wolves and you will learn how to howl."

—Spanish Proverb

"None preaches better than the ant, and she says nothing."

—Thomas Franklin

"Every great example takes hold of us with the authority of a miracle, and says to us, 'If ye had but the faith, ye also could do the same things.'"

—Friedrich Jacobi

What is Entire Sanctification?

The dictionary defines *Sanctification* as: "to set apart as sacred or holy: to hallow: to consecrate: to purify. Purification and freedom from sin."

In the Old Testament days it could only mean to set apart, to hallow or consecrate. Jesus had not come and died for sanctification. The Holy Ghost had not come in His own dispensation.

The second meaning is "purification or freedom from sin." In the New Testament its main meaning is to consecrate and receive freedom from inbred sin. Inbred sin is the sinful nature of which we are born. Adam, after sinning in the Garden of Eden, passed the sinful nature upon the whole human race.

Jesus came to free us from this. A person must be converted from all sins, or transgressions forgiven, and living a holy life to the best of their knowledge before they are eligible for sanctification.

Read the Gospels and the book of Acts. Jesus told the disciples to wait until they be endued from on high. (Luke 24:49.) In Acts 1:4, 5, 8—He commanded them to wait for the promise of the Father, the Holy Ghost.

The day of Pentecost was a Jewish holiday called the yearly festival of grain. It is easy to see why God chose that day to send the Holy Ghost to the 120 who were waiting. A gift was used (tongues, or languages) to spread the gospel around the world. There were people from every nation under heaven there. (Acts 2:5.) They took the gospel message home. Three thou-

sand souls were added to the church that day (Acts 2:2, 3, 4).

The pattern of two works of grace is continued throughout Acts. Acts 8:14 through 17, Peter and John prayed for saved people.

In Acts, ninth chapter, Saul was converted on the road to Damascus, or in the home of Judas before Ananias called him brother, Acts 9:17—Saul (later Paul) was filled with the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is not given to an unbeliever. (John 14:17.) You can be sanctified before you are baptized as Saul was, Cornelius and the other born again Gentiles in Acts 10:44-48. Acts 19:1 through 7, Paul found twelve disciples that had not received the Holy Ghost. He explained about John the Baptist's baptism and the new covenant that had come in. They were willing to be baptized again. They hadn't even heard of the Holy Ghost. Look how willing they were to listen. Look how Apollos in Acts 18:24-28 listened to Aquila and Priscilla. Do people listen today?

May every saved person in the world press on for entire sanctification.

In Christ's service, —Juanita Blankenship

One Work, Or Two?

In our enlightened days, many good people treat with scorn the doctrine of two works of grace. They usually ask the question, "Why doesn't God save us by one work of grace?" You could ask the question, "Why didn't God create the universe in one day?" Instead, we know he used six days, and rested the seventh. We should never question God, or His plan. What He has done, or what He does, is perfect and complete, without doubt.

When God made man, He made him holy, in His own image, upright, etc., but man disobeyed God's law, and sinned and fell from grace, or His holiness. "By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin." This was Adam. When man fell, he was a step downward from God. He was in sin and condemned. But God instituted a temporary, symbolical plan under the Mosaic law to forgive man's sin through the sacrificial blood of animals. Now, under the new covenant, we are saved by the blood of Jesus.

After Adam fell, he lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat Seth in his own fallen image—not in the image of God. Thus, this brought mankind one more step down from God, and two steps away from purity. David said, "In sin did my mother conceive me." Ps. 51:5. "They go forth speaking lies as soon as they are born." Ps. 58:3. So if you are two steps down, you must take the two steps back in order to get back on

the moral plane on which God had created him in the beginning. This is accomplished by the two works of grace.

The first work is that of being "born again" or saved by grace through faith and getting forgiveness of the committed sins. This is a "step." To be sure, it is in the right direction, but we are commanded to "go on unto perfection." Heb. 6:1.

But there is an "inherited sin" to deal with. Some call it the "Adamic sin"—but whatever, it is in the heart of even babies and all regenerated persons. Paul referred to such as being "babes in Christ," (I Cor. 3:1) for they still possessed the carnal nature inherited from Adam and his transgression, so "death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Romans 5:12. This carnality in believers was the thing John referred to when he said, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves." I John 1:8. When you compare verse 7, you will find that the man has been cleansed from ALL sin, both the Adamic, or carnal, and also the committed sin. It is both done by the power of the blood of Christ. He died on Calvary's cross to save from committed sins in justification, and also to sanctify and cleanse from the sin principle in the second work of grace. John, in the above scripture in verse 7, is referring to a man who has been sanctified holy by the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and the "old man" of sin has been crucified with his deeds. Self has been denied and put away, the Holy Ghost has come in and now abides in the body, which is the temple of the Holy Ghost. That old fleshly man and carnal nature must die. And he will die when the Holy Ghost comes in His sanctifying power. "To be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." (See Rom. 8:6-10). So, if you want to see God in peace (Heb. 12:14), you must get rid of that "old man."

Some one may argue, "I don't believe in holiness." That doesn't change it one iota. God is holy, and He has a Holy Bible, His Church is holy, and heaven is a holy place, and to get there, we must be holy and without blemish, or any such thing. (Eph. 5:27.)

How do we get the second work of grace? First, get the first work. Become converted, confess your sins, believe in Christ, be baptized in water by immersion, walk in the light. Read Luke 1:74-75 and I Thess. 5:14-23. You could not say that these brethren were not Christians, but they needed to be filled with the Holy Ghost, which is the second work of grace. "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God, by whom ALSO we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand." Rom. 5:1. The disciples were

first converted and then on the day of Pentecost they were filled with the Holy Ghost.

Have you received the Holy Ghost since you have believed? —S. S. Lilly

(Taken from Feb., 1959 *Faith and Victory*.)

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A Sense of Direction

An inbred sense of direction is a valuable asset. I'm glad my parents taught me the points of the compass as a child. Consequently, having traveled through half the states as well as into England and Ireland, this "sense of direction" has been a boon and stood me in good stead.

Now, I don't mean to imply that I've not been "turned around" a couple of times. "Being turned around" means, to me, that east becomes west or south. I know where I am, but the directions seem slightly askew. Generally such a condition only lasts briefly.

Years ago my sense of direction was twisted when in Guthrie because when I first entered it was night. The road evidently swung around so gently that, as a passenger, I didn't realize directional changes. Consequently for a week the sun always rose in the north! That was until I entered Guthrie in the daytime. Since then, I'm always on the right track there.

Once though I was lost; simple and plain. It was night and I was driving alone on some of the back roads between Tulsa and Sapulpa and all points west. It had been a number of years since I'd been on any of those roads. I lost all sense of direction as well as whereabouts and twisted and turned on those roads in "grand deluxe" style. The sense of aloneness, blackness and not having any hope of finding my own way out of that mess still is quite fresh in my mind. After driving many miles, and my frustration increasing because I couldn't find any landmark with which to identify my whereabouts, I happened upon a filling station which was still open and asked directions.

What was quite surprising were the directions given me. They just had to be wrong! Surely the person didn't know what he was talking about. I had the directions repeated, then I repeated the directions to him. The directions still seemed incorrect.

My conclusions were that 1) I could not possibly trust my own reasoning at this point. 2) I must take his directions on faith; faith that the person giving them knew what he was talking about, faith that I would come out at the point which I desired.

When all mixed up in mind, please get directions. Even when it "seems and feels all wrong"

to what you are currently experiencing, get directions. Follow those directions!

You know, when we are unsaved, we can not trust our own reasoning to get ourselves pointed in the direction required to get us to heaven. We need to get on the right road and headed in the right direction. Remember poor Pilgrim seeking the Wicket gate in *Pilgrim's Progress*? His sense of direction was malfunctioning. To him, as well as to others of the worldly mind, thoughts of God and salvation are all wrong, UNTIL they enter the Light. That Light will set their sense of direction on the proper wave length, beaming their very being toward God. Light brings understanding and comprehension of proper directions. Light brings comfort. It is so good to get "straightened out" in feelings and thinking. Light brings peace. Although living in the midst of turmoil, peace that abides is a blessed asset.

In my writing courses on fiction, we were taught to write our main character into a crisis, or corner, something which he/she could not get out of easily. Make the picture as black as possible, no way out that he/she could possibly imagine. At that point there's a conversion. The upside down world is righted, the point of no return is reached only to open up grand new horizons. A conversion.

Are you wandering around with no sense of direction or purpose, the needle bobbing wildly between the points of the compass confusing you on the exact point of north? You don't and can't trust your sense of direction. You are lost! The blackness and hopelessness of that situation! Have you reached that point where there needs to be a conversion . . . that point of "no return to sin"? Let God turn your world right side up! Let God forgive your sins! Let God open up new horizons for you! He is willing. Are you?

We were created in the image and thought of God. When we wander away from that point, then all sense of direction is gone. We must come back to our center. That center is God; Creator of the universe. God! Nothing else will suffice. It is true that we can not comprehend God, but we can apprehend Him, and apprehending Him brings us that peace, comfort and understanding. —Vesta-Nadine Severs

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Christlike living is to walk as He is walking. Do not think of His walk as being a walk of centuries ago, but of a present walking. He is right before us walking just like He wants us to walk. True Christian living is to be ready to place our feet in His steps on the instant of His stepping. —C. E. Orr

Don't Take the Risk

Just a few weeks ago the United States space shuttle, Challenger, exploded only seconds after being launched. Seven crew members were hurled into eternity, suddenly, and without warning. The people on board that shuttle were aware of the risk involved in riding in a space vehicle. Knowing the risk, they chose to go anyway, hoping nothing would go wrong and that they would return safely. They took the risk and lost their lives. If they could recall time and do it all again, no doubt none of them would make that choice again but it is forever too late. The decision they made has forever sealed their destiny.

While musing the deaths of the Challenger's crew I am made to think of the souls that are unprepared to meet the Lord in peace. Every moment they live in sin they are **risking** losing their souls in a devil's hell. The Scripture tells us not to count on tomorrow for we know not what tomorrow may bring. We can't count on the next moment because that could be the moment that death reaches out its chilly hand for our soul. We all have a moment somewhere in time at which we will die. As the hand on the clock moves forward, counting each moment, the time is drawing nearer to the moment of our departure. When we reach that moment we will die, whether we are ready or not. People die at all ages. Some die just when life is beginning, some live full lives, some die in the prime of life. No matter how young or old, we will leave this world when God calls for our soul. In a moment's time we will pass from life into eternity. If we are unsaved we will be eternally lost, without hope. Every moment a person lives in sin they are **risking** their precious soul.

Dear sinner, don't put off your salvation. Think what a moment might cost. A moment's delay could seal your doom. Never gamble with your soul. Sin is not worth the risk. If you take the risk and lose you can never recall time. You can never change your fate once it is sealed by death. "Seek the Lord while he may be found, today is the day of salvation." Don't put off your salvation, not even for a moment. Don't take the chance, **nothing** is worth the risk. Seek the Lord now, don't put it off.

—Sis. Nancy Wagoner

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The secret of a blessed life is to have all the expectations from God. He who expects anything from man comes short of the fullness of life. If a preacher or publisher has some expectations from those he is serving he comes short of holy living.

—C. E. Orr



Excerpts Taken From

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"In the 22nd chapter the Revelator shows where the life of the Church comes from, and calls it 'a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal.' (It is a cleansing flow). It proceeds out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. The writer states how wonderful the Church is and the many blessings to which the inhabitants of this holy city are entitled. Those with salvation become a habitation of God through the Spirit (Eph. 2:21, 22)." —Fred Pruitt

"Easter Sunday, on our way home from Myrtle, Mo. all-day services there were two car loads of us traveling together. My father and step-mother, my husband (Murphy) and little son, Terry, were in my father's car. My son, Wilbur, two daughters, Janice and Jeanie, and Sis. Viola Atnip and I were in our car following my father's car. It was raining, a 20 year old girl started to make a left hand turn off the road, just as we started to pass her. We hit her left fender with our right front fender. Our car left the highway over a steep embankment. The Lord's hand kept us on four wheels, (which we could have easily turned over three or four times). Sis. Viola and I were calling on the Lord to protect us, and He showed his mighty Hand right there. Praise His name! No one was hurt in either car. We can't thank God enough!"

—Sis. Natalie Allen

"It is alarming how children have been let go. The statistics show that in Aug., 1959 more than 8,000 youths under 21 years of age had been arrested for felonies in New York City since Jan. 1, 1959."—Sis. M. Miles