

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



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Pray! Christian, Pray!

I know not how, nor when, nor where,
But this I know—God answers prayer.
I may not have big gifts to spend
Some laborer to the field to send;
Nor strength to go, His love declare,
But I can touch the throne in prayer.

O Lord of harvest, give us then
A praying church, and praying men,
And women too, who hear the cry
Of souls in darkness, doomed to die!
Give vision and the heart to dare
To grip the altar's horns in prayer.

We need not walk where men acclaim,
Ascribing honor to our name—
Enough to know we have a share
In God's great harvest through our prayer.
Hold on in faith and persevere,
This know, that God will surely hear.

Up there in heaven we'll see some day
The rich rewards of those who pray,
Then to your knees, O Christian, fall,
And cry to God who loveth all—
Those "other sheep" to gather in,
Lost and condemned in paths of sin.

Life's day is fading, night draws nigh,
And shadows creep across the sky,
No time for tranquil dreaming now!
Awake! O Church, and lowly bow,
For God is calling, pray! O pray!
In this last hour of waning day.

Yes, "watch and pray," the Saviour said,
"Quickly I come," the clouds o'erhead
Bespeak the lateness of the hour.
Draw ye upon God's matchless power.
Take heed! Beware! Be strong! Be pure!
He cometh soon! Of this be sure.

—Anonymous

Positive Works of the Spirit

The inspired writer informs, "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." (Acts 1:8). Notice well he says **RECEIVE**. Now it happens there is a vast difference between receiving the power and getting under the power. One means one thing, the other means quite another. We feel safe to state without fear of contradiction from any source whatever, that not one instance is recorded in the inspired word of God of any one falling "**UNDER THE POWER**" upon his or her reception of, or baptism with the Holy Spirit.

True, many quote the instance of Saul while on his way to Damascus but let it be remembered that at this time Saul was far from seeking the Holy Spirit and much farther from the spiritual condition required for his reception. He was on his way to persecute "the Church of God", that blood-bought institution purchased for the price of Calvary. He had murder in his heart. (See Acts 9:1-9) He "persecuted [those of] this way unto death", (Acts 22:4) and "verily thought with myself that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus", (Acts 26:9) that same Jesus whose place the blessed Holy Spirit came to fill and to take. Yet, beloved reader, this was the spiritual condition of Saul at that very time when some try to tell us he fell "under the power" for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

Had he received the Holy Spirit on this occasion, we should have clear proof the Holy Spirit was directly opposed to Jesus but thank God one must **FIRST** be lined up with Jesus before the Holy Spirit will condescend to come to him for the purpose of taking up his abode. Jesus and the Holy Spirit are one and work in harmony.

The very fact that Paul having been called Saul before his conversion and Paul after is

evident proof that at this time he was not in condition to receive, neither was he a candidate for the Holy Spirit, for up to this time he was known by no other name but Saul. The fact was that when he came in direct contact and face to face with that Jesus whom he persecuted (by persecuting the disciples and followers of Jesus) it was more than he could stand up against, hence he immediately repented, became submissive to the powers of conviction and the living Christ who humbled him to the dust before his associates, showed him how blind he had been at which time he became a converted man, turned about face and now in place of persecution he humbly, with "trembling and astonishment" said, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6). "And THE LORD said (no chance for counterfeit) arise and go into the city and it shall be told thee what thou must do". (Vs. 6). After time sufficient had elapsed for Saul to "go to the city" and for the Lord to talk to his servant Ananias and for him to get to Saul with the message "be filled with the Holy Ghost" and for which purpose Ananias "put his hand on him" (Vs. 17), he like all other Holy Spirit seekers received "inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith", (Acts 26:18), and he himself later stated. "Sanctified by the Holy Ghost", (Rom. 15:16), as stated by Paul himself.

Reader, the Holy Ghost does not throw men and women either separately or promiscuously on the floor or ground, under a power or spell of some kind, for He is too much of a gentleman for that and does exactly like He would inspire others to do "decently and in order", (1 Cor. 14:40), as Paul himself plainly states in his argument on the tongues question.

Whosoever the Son makes free He "shall be free indeed". (Jno 8:36). We ask where is the freedom when one is rendered helpless, his senses taken away and he controlled like a mere machine? Where does his power come in when in reality all his powers are taken away and he lies absolutely and entirely helpless for hours at a time as is sometimes the case?

The writer has yet to meet one solitary person who has been "under the power" who when held rigidly to the Bible definition of Holy Ghost baptism could say absolutely and definitely that he or she was just sure or absolutely certain he had the Holy Spirit at all. Of course all attempt it and put up a big fight until cornered. But, nevertheless, in spite of all the deception of the devil the Holy Spirit when once having taken up his abode in the heart really and truly does give "power". "Power over all the power of the enemy". (Lk 10:19). Power to live holy, "soberly, righteously and godly in this present world". (Tit. 2:12). Power over sin in this

life. (I Jno. 3:8-10). Power to become a living "epistle known [for the Christlikeness] and read of all men". (2 Cor. 3:2). Power to witness by real example to the grace of God.

The thing that is needed is not for men to fall or get under the power but for the power of the Holy Spirit to get under men and lift them above the sins and snares and pitfalls of the enemy. This, beloved, is exactly His mission.

Too many seek "the power" for the power itself, where the proper thing to do is to seek the Holy Spirit, not for the power so much, but for the Holy Spirit himself. Once receive Him and one need not to borrow trouble about His power, for where the Holy Spirit has taken up His abode in these human temples there is sure to be power.

Boldness

When we say the Holy Spirit gives boldness to the one who has received Him this must not be mistaken for brazenness. It is one thing to be bold to live for Christ while it is quite another thing to be brazen and impudent and rude and saucy and behave with insolence or effrontery.

It is more than evident that all this latter goes with some individuals and movements of modern time who revel in a sort of superior baptism.

We have all, no doubt, heard from some sources that every Holy Spirit filled person no matter how timid his or her natural makeup would at once become bold enough to get up before any crowd of people or to go out on the sidewalk and loudly proclaim the gospel. Through this wrong conception all too many conscientious saints and Spirit Baptized ones have become discouraged and filled with doubts and fears until hardly knowing where they are, they become chronic altar seekers.

He may when he comes give boldness like he did to Peter (Acts 4:8-11) to stand up before the multitudes and declare of Jesus "whom ye crucified", "Crucify afresh" daily. (Heb.6:6). But should he not do this, beloved reader, be content with the Holy Spirit himself and He will use you where He best sees fit to do so and where you may be of the greatest service. Peter was naturally impulsive and outspoken. Not all Holy Spirit baptized people become preachers, neither do all lose all their natural timidity and become loud and boisterous and brazen. Take the Holy Spirit as he comes, be satisfied with those gifts which He may see fit to bestow upon you.

Comfort

You have desired comfort? Well none can comfort just like the Holy Spirit. This is one of his missions. (Jno. 14:16, 17). But do not carry

this too far and come to believe you may always FEEL like you are on the mountain top for when one is in the valley is when he needs comfort and that is just the time the Holy Spirit comes to the rescue. He is expert at the comforting business having had centuries of experience and is master of the most discouraging or sorrowful tests through which one may be called to pass.

Teach

As a teacher He does not make one to know immediately, upon his reception all things, neither does He give one with His incoming a superior knowledge, but He does help to learn and is a wonderful teacher to those who are willing to sit under His tutoring. (See Jno. 14:26). But He cannot, neither does He even attempt to teach those who already (in their own mind and opinion) "know it all".

When one has once become filled with the Spirit, then and not until then is he in a condition to really learn.

Guide

To be a guide is one of His main attributes and office works. "He will guide you into all truth." (Jno. 16:13). The trouble with men today is, they have become too stubborn and headstrong to wait for the Holy Spirit to guide but have caught up with the mad rush of the age and are trying to set pace for the Holy Spirit that He may be compelled to follow after and confine Himself to their particular belief. Too many have set the goal and fixed the end of the race at the tongues stake, and are now trying to believe that all Holy Spirit power runs to, and converges in speaking in tongues.

All too many have taken it for granted they had the Holy Spirit cornered and fenced in, and now must usurp His powers by acting as guide themselves to lead others to the little corner, but the majority of those who have been thus guided by man, could, were it possible for them to take in the real situation at a glance, find out the Holy Spirit is not there at all for He refuses to be guided. **He Himself is the guide.**

No need to talk about the Pope of Rome attempting to usurp all the powers of guidance when the world is full of individual, popish guides having attempted to usurp the powers of the blessed Holy Spirit.

Unity

We are now led to one of the more important works of the Holy Spirit, that of unity. Certainly if the Holy Spirit is to be guide at all and more especially a safe guide, guiding to the whole truth, He surely guides into unity. And this

unity is more than organic unity in which are found quarreling, strife, envy, hatred, malice, backbiting, etc. He leads to a unity which makes Holy Spirit filled men and women one with each other as Jesus and the Father are one. (See Jno. 17:9-23). And we do not mean maybe. The Holy Spirit actually does this. This does not mean that actual Holy Ghost people have to contend and put up with and fellowship every spirit of any nature whatever providing they just profess to be filled with the Spirit. Holy Spirit filled people can and do have harmony and unity and fellowship.

Preserves and Seals

"Sanctified and preserved", (Jude 1), is another work of the Spirit. "Sealed with the Holy Spirit", (Eph. 1:13). "The Holy Spirit of God whereby ye are sealed", (Eph. 4:30).

Preserved and sealed is a wonderful state and so long as the seal remains intact is a safe state in which to be. The trouble is that too many are guilty of breaking the seal, then after the seal is broken continue on with the same outward profession. This is one of the big reproaches brought upon God's work today.

—Fay Martin

(Taken from *The Holy Spirit vs Modern Tongues.*)

A SPLENDID EXAMPLE

"Hard work means nothing to a hen. She just keeps on digging worms and laying eggs, regardless of what the business prognosticators say about the outlook for this, or any other year.

If the ground is harder, she scratches harder. If it's dry, she digs deeper. If it's wet, she digs where it's dry. If she strikes a rock, she works around it. If she gets a few more hours of daylight, she gives us a few more eggs. But always she digs up worms, and turns them into hard-shelled profits, as well as tender, profitable broilers.

Did you ever see a pessimistic hen? Did you ever hear of one starving to death, waiting for the worms to dig themselves to the surface? Did you ever hear one cackle because the work was hard? No, indeed. They save their breath for digging, and their cackles for eggs. Success means digging.

Universal Engineer, Jesus, says, "... My Father worketh hitherto, and I work." John 5:17. "... Work: for I am with you, saith the Lord of hosts." Haggai 2:4. "... This we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies." 2 Thess. 3:10, 11.

—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).

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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.

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

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EDITORIALS

With this issue, the *Faith and Victory* begins its 66th year of publication. We give thanks to God for His enduring grace toward this work over the years, and to God's people for faithfully supporting it.

The following are excerpts from the editorials of the very first *Faith and Victory* which explain the burden with which this paper was begun.

"Several years ago we were troubled about parties wanting meetings and were praying much about going to hold them, during which time one night the Lord gave me a vision. In the vision, I was up preaching to the people and they became restless and one called out, 'We would rather read your literature;' another said, 'Send us more literature', and recently, after God had given us a fresh revelation of the sufferings of Christ and of His blood as a covering for sin, a heavy burden settled down upon me for people that had not heard. As the burden got stronger it came to tears and groanings and about all we could say was, 'They have not heard!' Finally the Lord spoke and said, 'They shall hear; and the heavy burden lifted and my soul was filled with joy and gladness.

"We care not to speak or write as the Scribe and Pharisees, but as the oracles of God, as of the ability which God giveth, that spiritual food may be imparted to the needy souls, that sick souls or lame souls may be nursed, that lambs may be given milk-food, that those who are of age may be given meat in due season as the Holy Ghost works in and through the members of the body of Christ."

—Fred Pruitt

We are dedicated to this same cause. We are unaware of how long Christ may delay His coming, but we are encouraged to do as Jesus said, "Occupy till I come." (Luke 19:13). Jesus' purpose in saying this was to enlighten the people that there would be a space of time before the fullness of God's kingdom was established and they were not to despair in the interim. Now is a time when we need that encouragement also. Although many hearts are hardened to the gospel, we never know how much good we may accomplish by continuing to take full advantage of the means which God has given us to spread His Word.



Thanks to each one who responded to the need expressed in last month's paper for Bibles to be sent to foreign countries. We feel confident

that they will be thankfully received by those who have requested them.

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To our knowledge Bro. Stan Lingar, whose testimony appeared in the January *Faith and Victory* still has not been officially notified of a new execution date. Continue to support him with your prayers. He has received a considerable amount of correspondence from the saints. We appreciate the love and interest our readers have expressed and shown in his behalf.

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We were greatly saddened at the passing of Sis. Lori LaCroix on February 17, 1988. She was used of the Lord in many capacities to help others. Many may remember her as editor of the *Lamp of Youth*. Her life will be a beacon of goodness in the remembrance of those who knew her well.

Those who wish to express sympathy may address her husband, Bro. Mark LaCroix, at 8742 Central Rd., Warrior, AL 35180.

Prayer Requests

IL—"I would like for you to remember me and my family; some of us are not well."

—Elsie Offerman

Mexico—"Please pray for my daughter Lois; she needs healing. Also pray for Sis. James' two daughters who need special help from God."

—Phyllis Dobson

FL—"Please pray for me. I have eye and ear problems. My son had a nervous breakdown; remember him. Also a fifteen-year-old granddaughter needs salvation."

—Flora Knight

MI—"I desire your prayers. I have been sick for about four years and my trust is in the Lord."

—Lillie Roberson

Nigeria—"Please pray for the salvation of my mother and her physical healing. She is suffering from bad eyesight."

—Emmanuel Dokubo

MS—"Please remember me for healing."

—Sis. Lowery

MO—"Please remember me, my daughter, and sister in prayer."

—Thelma Halbrook

OK—"Please pray for me. I have some afflictions which are so painful."

—Lorene Payne

OH—"Please remember Evelyn Burton. She has cancer and has not long to live. I am burdened for her soul."

—Juanita Blankenship

CT—"Please pray for me and my sister."

—Emma Williams

CA—"Please pray for a young man's salvation."

—Sis. Amelia Smith

IN—"Please pray for me, also for my sick daughters and my unsaved loved ones."

—Mary J. Rogers

Canada—"Pray for us, especially our children. We trust the Lord will grant our youngest son full victory."

—W. Froese

KS—"I have arthritis and a pinched nerve. I'm in need of prayer."

—C. M. Waller

OH—Dear Bro. Murphey: I am a manager with "Friendly's Ice Cream". Recently the Friendly stores here in the Columbus, OH area have been getting robbed and the workers beaten up. One 16-year-old boy was even stabbed in the back. Police feel that there is a gang that is responsible for all of the robberies and beatings, but they just can't catch them.

I believe that the prayers of the saints will cause these robbers to be caught and will keep others from being robbed and hurt by this group, whoever they are.

I'm asking that you and the saints in your area would pray a prayer of faith and deliverance that these people who are robbing and hurting our stores be caught and stopped and that no one else be hurt by them.

Thank you so much, —Michael L. Payne

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MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

Camp Meeting Dates for 1988

Goulds, FL — April 15-24

Missouri State at Myrtle, MO — May 4-8

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, OK —

May 27-June 5

Jefferson, OR — June 10-19

Green Bank, WV — June 10-19

Tulsa, OK — June 10-19

Chilliwack, B.C., Canada — June 20-26

General Southern at Loranger, LA —

June 24-July 3

Fresno, CA — July 1-10

National at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO

July 15-24

Durham, NC — Aug. 14-21

Boley, OK — Aug. 21-28

California State at Pacoima, CA —

Aug. 26-Sept. 4

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WICHITA, KS MEETING NOTICE

Lord willing, the Wichita, KS spring meeting will be held April 15-24. We want the meeting to be led and controlled by the Holy Spirit. We desire to see souls saved and the saints edified and blessed. We are praying that the Lord will burden and anoint the ones He desires to work in the meeting and bring the Word. We desire the prayers of the saints that

all will be done to the glory of God. The chapel is located at 1701 N. Ash. For further information you may contact Bro. Keith Marsh, 501 Topaz, Wichita, KS 67209, phone (316) 722-8114, or Bro. Lewis Williams, 2346 Spruce, Wichita, KS 67219, phone (316) 264-8481.

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GOLDEN RULE HOME ANNIVERSARY

The 26th Anniversary for the Golden Rule Home will be observed the 9th and 10th of April, 1988.

Lord willing, there will be a Gospel singing in the chapel Saturday evening. The chapel address is: S. Beard Street and Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK. There will be services in the chapel Sunday morning the 10th and a basket dinner in the dining room of the Golden Rule Home. In the afternoon a service will be in the dining room of the Home. Every one is invited to come spend the weekend with us. We will be praising God for His mercies to us.

For information call (405) 273-7106 or 275-6686.

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The Path of Life Christian School of Goulds, FL is having a school retreat. We extend a hearty invitation to Christian schools and home schoolers of the Church of God. The retreat is planned for April 13 and 14. We also extend a welcome for all to stay for the camp meeting which will be April 15-24. If you are interested in the school retreat, you must contact Bro. or Sis. Hargrave by April 1 at the latest. Their home phone number is (305) 258-4102. The number at the school and church is (305) 251-3873.

—Bro. and Sis. Hargrave

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A NOTE OF THANKS

We wish to thank each and every one of you for all the phone calls, cards, flowers, food, visits, help, prayers, and all the other acts of love during the illness and loss of our dearest mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She expressed many times while she was still with us how very much she appreciated it all, as do we, her family. She is, and will be missed terribly by us all. She was faithful to the very end, praying constantly and was a wonderful example to all. Her main request for her funeral was the song, "He'll Understand and Say Well Done." We believe with all our hearts that He did. May God bless each one of you.

With our deepest appreciation,

—The family of LaVern Manuel

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From the Mailbox . . .

CA—Dear Sis. Maybelle: We greet you lovingly in the precious name of Jesus. I trust that as you receive this that all is well with you in both soul and body. I have had some hard trials of late but feel that God helped me through them. I am so grateful for all the benefits of salvation.

There has been more sickness in our home than usual and again it seems that is going away, little by little.

We have gone quite often to Mexico of late and plan to go again this weekend. We feel quite encouraged with some and heavy-hearted with others. We haven't gone down to where Bro. Mayarino Escobar lives for quite some time now. We saw him at the meeting in Pacoima. We hope to go soon. We always need your prayers. We want to be faithful to God.

With Christian love, —Sis. Edith Lara

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

CA—Dear Bro. Murphey and workers at the Print Shop: I greet each one with Christian love. We trust everyone is encouraged to press on from conquest to victory, as we are in a pressing way.

I am glad my heart can say, "Amen" to His will, although it may mean a real battle in my soul. I am thankful that His grace is sufficient. Praise the Lord.

With Christian love and prayers,

—Sis. Agnes Huskey

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MO—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings to all at the Print Shop. I thank everyone who prayed for me. God hears and answers our prayers. I give Him all the praise for He is worthy to be praised. I am so glad I can call on Him and He will take care of my needs.

I hope all is well with you all. May the good Lord bless you in every way is my prayer.

With Christian love, —Sis. Eathel Hill

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OH—Dear saints of God: Remember us always in your prayers, for God is our trust. We are saved and sanctified to sin no more.

I have learned that He abides in the hearts of people who are not ashamed of His death and suffering. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matt. 11:29.

—Sis. Helen Thomas

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

MO—Greetings to all the workers at the Print Shop and all you dear readers: I have learned many precious lessons along life's way.

Many times I have made mistakes, but God was so merciful to me and would lead and guide me in the right way. My heart is full of thanksgiving and praise for my Maker.

Many of you will remember me writing in the *Faith and Victory* paper last December of God's wonderful help and sustaining grace during our time of bereavement. I am glad to report that God is still helping and continues to give health and strength to my body.

I was so dependant upon my dear husband Paul, yet God saw fit to take him to Himself last June. Paul had mentioned to me from time to time that he didn't feel like he would be here very much longer. He said it with such conviction that I knew God must be preparing us. I would shrink from the thought as I had never experienced grief in my immediate family. I had never seen anyone die, nor did I think I could stand it; so I brought this burden before the Lord. I received an assurance that He would not let more come upon me than I could bear. God's Word has proved true.

Although I have children living with me at home, and all are sweetly saved, I still feel so empty sometimes. When I think I can't stand it any longer, God's love will envelop me. I have cried out to God in my distress and I have experienced such close communion with God I could almost hear His audible voice. He has given me words of comfort and I want to stand on them.

In the Bible we can read where Job went through much more than any of us have ever encountered; yet he held his integrity with God, and God rewarded him abundantly. That was put in the Bible for our encouragement, along with many other instances. We *must* read God's Word and commune with Him to keep our spiritual life renewed lest we forget God's goodness to us and fall into divers snares.

In "that last great day" I want to hear the Lord say to me, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant . . . enter thou into the joy of the Lord." In order to hear these precious words of eternal life, I will have to press my way. By God's grace I intend to do this.

Dear reader, the most terrifying and awful words to be spoken will be said on the Judgment Day by our Lord. If you have spurned His mercy or tried to justify something in your life, you will hear the dreadful words, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Matt. 25:41. Men will cry for the rocks and the mountains to fall on them to hide " . . . from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of his wrath is come; and who

shall be able to stand?" Rev. 6:16, 17. Only those washed "with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." 1 Peter 1:19.

Dear reader, if you have doubts of your salvation, flee to the throne of grace and ask for mercy while there is yet time. It is too risky to wait for another time. The devil will clamor for your soul all the more if he sees you are concerned, but cry all the more for mercy, and God will save you to the uttermost.

Yours for Christ,

—Carol Cole

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OK—Dear Ones: It is with much praise and thanksgiving to our God and appreciation to you, His people, and our brothers and sisters in Christ, that we send greetings of Christian love. We have long intended to get in our testimony of some of the wonderful things God did for us in 1987.

It was in May that God so wonderfully blessed our home with our daughter, Cynthia Ann. Everything went so outstandingly well until about a week after her birth, and then I began to collapse emotionally and physically. The enemy of my soul tried to take advantage of my weakened physical condition and put such a horrible cloud of depression over my mind. I felt like I was bound in a deep tunnel, unable to go about my everyday duties with a clear mind. But God was so real to me through all of this and never failed me once during all this time of illness and adjustment. Before the baby's arrival, while waiting for the day, I spent time brushing up on some memory Scriptures. The one I had worked on the most proved to be the very one I needed to fight the enemy during this time. It seemed that God was just preparing me for the battle ahead. Isn't that just like our God? Many were the times I applied my memory verse, "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." Luke 10:19. I knew the devil was a defeated foe and I just kept claiming that fact. There were times God would let the cloud be lifted for a season, and oh, I thought help had finally come, but then it would return again and again. One day I was reading in Isaiah 41:10 where God said to fear not and what a helper He would be, and so forth. Then the next few verses were about our enemies and how they shall be confounded and perish. Then I read the twelfth verse and my heart sent out a plea to God. "Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought." Oh, this

was what I so longed for! I wanted to have complete, lasting victory, and not be finding that horrible feeling again. This became my plea to the Lord, and this is just what He did! The Lord so blessed and healed me that by mid-July I was able to be back out on the road in the gospel work with Carl. Several days after we had left home, I found my mind subconsciously trying to find that horrible feeling, and I just couldn't find it! It just wasn't there any more! Praise God! God had answered my plea. On this trip we were gone from home a little over three months. When the time began drawing near for our return, I found myself facing a fear of returning to our home, fearing that I would find that horrible depression there. But God is faithful and the devil's a liar. I arrived home still healed and after being home I often stopped and noticed that my mind was clear and normal! Oh, how thankful I am and how good God is!

It was in August that God saw best to permit another battle in our lives. While we were at the Myrtle, MO camp meeting, Carl began having some stomach pains. After this meeting we went to the Duncannon, PA tent meeting. Again he began having stomach pains, and by Thurs. afternoon, the 13th of August, it became very severe. After several hours of much discomfort he got some relief. He drank some milk and this seemed to help, so on Friday about noon he asked for some more, hoping that it would give some relief again. But within a few minutes the pain seemed more than he could bear. The Lord had given Carl some Scriptures about suffering with Him and also about waiting on Him. Carl felt like the Lord was letting him know that he would have some suffering to do and would have some waiting to do before healing came. But we must admit that we really didn't think of it as being as long or as serious of an affliction as it ended up being. So, this Friday he suffered for quite some time before getting relief. While the ministers labored in prayer in the travel trailer where we were staying, the saints were so faithful to stay under the tent continuing in prayer, being in no hurry to dismiss and serve the noon-day meal. How we appreciate their love and concern. God heard prayer, and by Sunday he was much improved.

We thought the worst was over. This was the last day of the meeting, and by later afternoon everyone, except for the dear ones who lived in this area, had gone. Carl thought that we'd stay over a few more days to rest up and gain his strength; then we, too, would go on our way. But by evening he began having some pain again. He suffered almost all of Monday night. We called Bro. Samons in the early mor-

ning hour for prayer. By morning, he got some relief, but by this time his nerves were getting weary. We were needing someone to help us. It wasn't long until the phone rang and Bro. and Sis. Samons of Green Bank, WV were calling to offer to come and get us in their van and bring us to their home. Surely this was an answer to prayer! By Wednesday evening we were settled in their home. Carl made the trip quite well, but that evening signs of infection set in. For several days he was very sick. God was so very good to us. We cannot thank God enough for all He has done.

After being at the Samons' three weeks, he had gained enough to where we felt clear to start towards home on the 10th of September, driving as far as Morehead, KY where Bro. and Sis. Curtis Williams live. He made the trip really well, but the next day he had his first backset. About noon he began having such severe pains in his right side. This lasted for about an hour or more until God just instantly touched him. This took a lot of his strength that he had, so we knew that we didn't need to try going home again for a few more days at least. Some thought that the travelling had caused the backset, so flying home was suggested again. It had been suggested while in West Virginia, but it just didn't seem to work out. This time we began to seriously consider it. We decided that all three of us would fly home and we made arrangements for our car to be driven home by some of my family. The date was set for Sept. 23 for us to fly home. Carl was improving, and had gained back the strength he had lost in the backset, as well as more. The time came for our car to be driven home. We kept back only a very minimum of things to tide us over, as we were to fly home five days later. Then on Monday before we were to fly on Wednesday, Carl had his second backset. This time the pain wasn't quite as extreme, but it lasted for several days. By Wednesday he was some improved, but not enough to take the chance of flying home. Since we couldn't get any leadings to step out by faith and go ahead and fly, we just resigned to God's workings. Now here we were about a thousand miles from home with only a very limited amount of clothes, etc. One day Carl quoted the Scripture to me, "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." 1 Tim. 6:8. Well, we had food and we had the essential raiment, so we had enough to obey this Scripture! We knew that the Williams' were scheduled to be coming to Oklahoma City in the latter part of October, so we soon resigned to stay until then. By the end of October he had improved so much that he was healed.

It has been a rather strange affliction, but God knew all about it and never failed us once. There were times when Carl felt he couldn't bear any more, and I noticed that when he got to this point, God never failed to bring relief. I remember one time in his last backset when it seemed that Carl was just not getting relief and I was growing weary in battle, I heard Carl say something about how he didn't know how much more he could take. I took courage, as I knew that help was coming! It wasn't long until God had touched him again. God was so good to be right in the battle with us.

Our hearts have been melted with all the love God has shown to us through His people. We certainly appreciate all each one has done for us. The many cards, phone calls, love gifts and concern are each one appreciated. We also appreciate all that the dear ones in Pennsylvania did to help us, then Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons opening their home so freely to us for three weeks. We felt the love of God so warm there as the congregation was so faithful to stand by us. We were in the Williams' home for over five weeks and also felt the warm love of God there. The family of God is a wonderful family. We have found it so real this past summer of 1987, not only in Carl's illness, but also during mine. We are so unworthy of all you have done. May God bless each one richly.

When we left Kentucky to come home, we had in our minds that we would be home a few days, and then get back out travelling in the gospel work. But God laid a burden upon Carl's heart to serve as pastor of the Guthrie, OK congregation. We are so insufficient within ourselves, but we are thankful that we are serving One who is the Chief Shepherd. We are leaning heavily upon Him. We desire your prayers.

Temporarily we have moved into Bro. Leslie Busbee's house in Guthrie. Our Guthrie phone number and address are shown below. We still have our post office box in Oklahoma City too.

Christian love,—Carl and Rebecca Shaffer
417 N. 11th Street, Guthrie, OK 73044, phone
(405) 282-4551

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

FL—Dear Ones: Greetings in Jesus' name! I just want to give a word of testimony of the healing of the cough I had been suffering with for nearly three months. God is still in the healing business. I do want to thank each and every one who prayed for me after my request for prayer.

I have other needs in my body but God has been so good to me always, and I have a greater

burden for lost souls, especially those of my loved ones.

Christian love,

—Leora Frink

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OR—Dear Sis. Maybelle and Bro. Wayne: We greet you today in the almighty, all-powerful, all-sufficient name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. He is the Son of God and God has committed all judgment unto Him and He has all power in heaven and in earth. We hope this finds you and all of yours well and all going well your way.

Evelyn called back there and other places for prayer when she was very sick and suffering very severely the week before last. She had symptoms of rheumatic fever and she said it was frightening to her when she remembered what her son Jim went through for weeks when he had that a few years back. But the Lord had mercy on her and touched her very definitely a week ago last Saturday night. Her fever broke, and her pain stopped all in a little bit. Her strength is more slow in coming and there are still several things she can't do yet because of her weakness in her hands and wrists, but she is gaining in that way also. Thank the Lord for His mercy on her.

The Lord did a great thing for me, too, this last Friday night in answer to the prayers of the saints. My left leg had a slight hurt in it all day Thursday. I was conscious of it being there but it was not severe and I never paid any attention. I got out and walked about a mile that day and it was hurting more when I got back and continued to get worse as night approached. By then I knew I had some trouble. On Friday it was a full-grown trouble. Evelyn had a cane here of her father's and she got me that and I walked with that through the day because I just could not stand on that leg. I laid on the divan in the living room a while that night and when I went to get up I really had a difficult time. It took me quite a little bit to get up at all and when I did make it up, I couldn't do anything but just stand there and lean on my cane for a couple of minutes or so before I could take a step. Then I did take a step and got straightened up, and after a few steps I could walk all right.

Evelyn called around to the saints here for prayer in my behalf. I went on to bed and the Lord touched me, but I never knew when He did it. I just discovered when I went to get out of bed on Saturday morning that I could get up just pretty easily and without much pain. I walked with the cane on Saturday until noon or a little after; then I put the cane up and walked on my own for the remainder of the day. I went

to service twice on Sunday. I left the cane at home and walked all around the chapel and have been going ever since. Just about every trace of that trouble is gone. I surely thank the Lord for hearing and answering the prayers of the saints and having mercy on me, too.

I'll close now with Christian love and prayers from —Ostis B. and Evelyn Wilson

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From Ghana . . .

Jan. 12—Dear Sis. Pruitt and workers at the Print Shop: Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who has made us what we are today.

For Jan. 1-3 we went to organize a great revival at Wenkyi, Bro. Marfo's town. Bros. Francis Owusu, Duah, and I met Bro. Marfo. The group there was ready to receive us.

On the first day we prayed during the night. The following day saw us erecting a shed for the Sunday worship. We prayed and fasted and the brethren there were greatly encouraged.

The Sunday service brought a crowd of people and some came to believe and others were greatly strengthened.

We realize that they need directions and instructions in the Bible and Church worship. We have therefore decided to let one of our brothers here go there for some days at the end of every month.

Please pray for the Wenkyi Church and ours here.

Yours with the Lord, —William Kusi
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

From the Philippines . . .

Jan. 30—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey, Sis. Maybelle Pruitt, and the dear saints all over America: Loving and holy greetings to you through the glorious and precious name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I have focused my service to the Lord in Gutwan City. So many times I have been going to and from this place, because I know many need my help there. There have been many hungry and thirsty souls who have accepted the Lord, especially at the outskirts of the city. In the city I have sown the Word of God to several groups of people.

In Gingoong City our work to the Lord is going well and fine.

Brother and Sister, I thank you again for the *Faith and Victory* paper.

Your brother, —N. Capuyan
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Jan. 14—Dear Sis. Pruitt and all workers at the Faith Publishing House: Greetings to you

all. Happy New Year and may the peace and hope that is in Jesus Christ, our Saviour, be with you again throughout the New Year of 1988. It is my prayer that your work may prosper in love to keep the unity of all the saints and that more souls be added to the fold of Christ.

Our camp meeting on Dec. 30-31 was very encouraging. I felt the glory of heaven when I heard the group sing praises to God. Brothers and sisters from different places came to attend. This was our biggest group in all of our camp meetings.

Again we say thank you so much, dear saints for your wonderful love for us in the Philippines. We wish you a happy work for the Lord in 1988.

With my love, —Matias S. Tangunan
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

From India . . .

Jan. 22—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt, Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to you all again in the glorious name of the almighty Lord, Jesus Christ.

Our 23rd General Convention closed with many blessings and victories. The preachers preached anointed messages and many were saved, sanctified and eleven men and women were baptized. Morning Bible Studies, day meetings, night meetings, street meetings, women's meetings, young men's meetings, ministers' meetings, etc., were all blessed services. On the evening of the last day we had ordinance service, also. Saints from four states attended the convention. Please pray for the blessings of other local conventions, also.

My wife is having some problems with her heart. One of the valves of her heart is not working properly. Blood circulation and heart beats, etc., are not in regular order. She has breathing problems, also. She worked hard in the kitchen during the General Convention to prepare food for many people.

With love and prayers, —John Varghese
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

From Nigeria . . .

Jan. 26—Dear Sis. Maybelle and the saints of God: Greetings in the precious name of the Lord Jesus.

We had confrontations enough in the year 1987, some of which were instigated from without, the most major being against heathenism. Humble application of divine weapons won the Church applause victory.

We took off in the right direction this year. It was deemed worth doing to go afresh to Calvary to see Christ broken for us and we

came away willing to be broken for Him. No struggling, no tarrying, but simply giving Him each sin to cleanse in His precious blood. We accept from His hands the free gift of His fullness, and allow Him to work through us. As we shall walk along with Him, He will avail Himself always to fill our hearts continually with the water of life.

The Lord Jesus is our victorious Lord and we praise Him that He is still victorious.

Humbly yours in His service,

—Titus U. E. Enu

In Memoriam

Lorena (Spaght) Christian was born on February 6, 1922 in St. Louis, MO, to the late Samuel S. and Mattie F. Spaght, and passed from this life on December 21, 1987. The first of five children, she attended elementary and high school in Omaha, NB. She resided briefly in St. Louis before moving to Wichita, KS where she was joined in holy matrimony to the now deceased Henry Christian.

To this union four daughters were born: Shairy L., Bessie M., Rochelle M., and Wanda J., all of Wichita. To mourn her passing she leaves the daughters; one sister, Pearline of Chicago; one brother, Samuel E. of Wichita; two grandchildren, two nephews, other relatives, and a host of friends and acquaintances.

Memorial services were held in the Church of God chapel at Wichita, KS, on December 26.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

August Elhard was born near Lehr, ND on July 12, 1903, to Jacob and Louise Elhard. The third youngest in a family of nine children, he quickly learned of a life of hardships on the family farm. He was raised in a German Christian home and attended a country school to the fourth grade.

On Dec. 1, 1925, at the age of 22, he married Martha M. Schlecht in Napoleon, ND. Together they resolved to carve a future out of the barren North Dakota plains. While farming near Burnstead, they were blessed with a son, the first of five children.

By 1934 the Depression had taken its toll on the local community. In search of better times August and Martha, with three small children, moved to Custer, MT. Full of hope they labored for nearly a year before settling in the Little Big Horn Valley north of Crow Agency, MT.

Soon after moving to Big Horn County, the Elhards began holding church meetings in the

log house they called home. With little formal education, August learned to preach from the same German Bible with which he had taught himself to read. Gladly he would witness to friends and neighbors concerning their faith in Jesus Christ, his Saviour and Lord.

In his later years, August enjoyed working with his wife in their flower garden and helping around the farm.

He died early Wednesday morning, Jan. 27, 1988 in his home at the age of 84.

The legacy of hope and love that remains is witnessed by his wife, Martha, and a son, Leo, both of Crow Agency; four daughters, Sylvia Pomeroy-Rice, Laura Joy-Brock, of Billings, Dina Hartley and Jeannette Richard, of Worland, WY; 16 grandchildren, and 24 great-grandchildren.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Lori LaCroix was born in Upland, CA on Oct. 25, 1962, and passed from this life on Feb. 17, 1988, at the age of 25 years, three months, and 23 days.

Lori attended schools in several different states and graduated from the Cashion, OK high school as the valedictorian of her class. On April 18, 1981 she married Mark LaCroix. They made their home in Guthrie, OK where their two children were born. In October of 1986, they moved to Alabama where she resided until her death.

Several weeks prior to her death, Lori wrote a letter expressing her wishes and the feelings of her heart. The following are excerpts from the letter: "I, Lori Renee LaCroix, got saved in Dec. 1978 at the Guthrie Assembly Meeting. I fully gave my life to the Lord and consecrated to His will a year later at the Guthrie Assembly Meeting. I loved the Lord and wanted to work for Him and make heaven my eternal home. This was my goal in life. I thank God for being raised by my parents to know the truth. God was looking over me and blessed me with this wonderful privilege.

"After I got saved at 15 and grew up, I would have a longing in my heart to meet Jesus. The song comes to my mind, 'Bright Anticipation'. 'I am waiting, I am longing for the summons to come. . . .' Many times I would sing that and really long—even at my young age. I didn't understand myself. I guess the Lord was preparing me.

"Faith was never a hard thing for me to get hold of. I got it as a child and let it grow. Well, it's been tested and tried. I never gave it up. The Lord had His way. I loved the Lord and my

heart said, 'Amen' to His will. Don't be sad . . . rejoice . . . I made my goal! Amen."

Lori was a compliant child and brought great joy to her parents. She was a good wife and mother. Her radiant countenance endeared her to all those she came in contact with. She will be greatly missed by all.

She was preceded in death by one brother. She is survived by her husband, Mark, of the home; two daughters: Holly and Heather, both of the home; her parents: George and Juanita Montgomery, of Guthrie; one brother and sister-in-law, Randy and Denise Montgomery, of Sumiton, AL; one sister and brother-in-law: Julie and Ricky Herron, of Hayden, AL; her grandparents: Mr. and Mrs. Max Dean, of Guthrie, OK; two nieces and three nephews; and parents-in-law: Mr. and Mrs. Doyle LaCroix of Loranger, LA; and many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held in Guthrie, OK on Feb. 23. They were conducted by Bros. Mart Samons, Leslie Busbee, and Wayne Murphey. Burial was in the Summit View Cemetery in Guthrie, OK.

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: The discussion today will constitute Part 2 of the discussion of the question last month. The question was: "Will you please comment on John 14:1-3, together with 1 Tim. 3:15?"

Answer: The discussion last month was altogether on the eternal kingdom of glory; the eternal abode of the saints with Christ in heaven itself and their resurrected, glorified bodies being the "many mansions" that Jesus referred to in John 14:2.

My purpose here now is to discuss a present reality which is just as real as the eternal phase discussed last month. It fits in just as well with what Jesus said in these verses which may have even been a direct reference to this present reality, though I hardly think so. In the face of the conditions and His going away from them, I feel He was encouraging them to know that there was an eternal world far removed from all the trouble, sorrow, suffering, disappointment, etc., that we will encounter here, where we could go and dwell eternally with Him if we would be faithful unto Him until death. In Rev. 2:10, Jesus said, ". . . Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." I feel that

was the primary comfort Jesus was offering them here.

I will here insert 1 Timothy 3:15. "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." I will also insert a few Scriptures here to establish the use of the term, "house" as used in the Scriptures and what it means. In Ruth 4:11, we read, ". . . The Lord make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel. . . ." "Israel" was Jacob, and Rachel and Leah were his two wives. From them came all of his children and these children constituted his house (household). Luke 1:27 says that Joseph, to whom the virgin Mary was espoused, was of the "house of David". Luke 2:4 says that Joseph was "of the house and lineage of David". This makes it clear that the whole line of David's posterity constituted his house. In Joshua 24:15, Joshua said, ". . . as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." His house was his family or household and he could speak for them. 1 Timothy 3:4 gives one of the qualifications of an elder or bishop as "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection. . . ." This text spells it out that his house was his family. The Bible abounds with texts of this nature which makes it perfectly clear that a man's house was his children and their children to many generations.

It is the same here. The house of God is His household, or His children. "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." Gal. 3:26. It is certain that every person who is saved from sin by faith in Christ Jesus is a child of God in the family of God. This is God's household which is declared to be the Church of God (1 Tim. 3:15). Heb. 3:6 says, "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we. . . ." The redeemed saints make up the house of God. In Eph. 2:19, Paul declares the whole company of redeemed saints to be the household of God. Isaiah 53:8 asks, ". . . Who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living. . . ." But verse 10 makes it clear that out of His death a seed or generation would come forth who would declare His generation; millions and millions and millions of us. Rev. 7:9 refers to "a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues. . . ." Ah, saints and brethren, that illustrious company, that innumerable company is us. We and all the others who have been redeemed by Jesus' blood and become children of God by faith in Christ Jesus throughout this gospel age of time make up the generation of God who declare His generation.

Now let us see how this all relates to John 14:2, in regard to many mansions in the house of God. We have already seen by Scripture that the house of God is God's household, family, or children, who have been saved by faith in the merit of the all-atoning blood of Jesus Christ. This makes up the Church of God in this dispensation of time. But Eph. 2:22 says that we are "builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." 1 Pet. 2:5 says, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house. . . ." Then we go to Heb. 3:6. "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we. . . ."

These texts all refer to the collective Church of God as being the house of God. But the house or family of God is made up of saved men and women, boys and girls. (Heb. 3:6). There are numbers of other texts confirming this thought. In this great house (2 Tim. 2:20), there are many other houses (mansions) all enveloped in this great house. In other words, the entire Church of God, or body of Christ, is composed of many members. "For as the body is one, and hath many members . . . so also is Christ." 1 Cor. 12:12. 1 Cor. 12:27 says, "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." Eph. 1:22, 23 declares the Church to be His body. But since His body is also His Church, then it must be clear also that every saint is a member of God's Church, dwelling in that "great house". (2 Tim. 2:20). But we are all houses, too, as I shall show by the Scriptures.

1 Cor. 3:16 says, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" 1 Cor. 6:19 says, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you. . . ?" These texts and others refer to the individual saints as temples, buildings, houses, and mansions indwelt by the Spirit. In Ezekiel, chapters 40 through 47, we have recorded a vision Ezekiel had of a man with a measuring reed measuring the temple and all the appurtenances thereof and other things. In chapter 40, verse 5, he measured the outside wall and it was one reed broad and one reed high. He measured the threshold of the gate (verse 6) and it was one reed broad. In verse 7 he measured each little chamber in the building and each one measured one reed long and one reed broad. How surprising this is! How could this be that each chamber in the building and the gate be as large as the whole building? A good understanding of God's plan of salvation and the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts and lives of all who are saved and then indwelt by the Spirit will make this clear.

By reading Heb. (9:1-9, 25; 8:1, 2; and Matt. 16:17, 18, we see that all these Scriptures com-

bine together to build the case and establish the fact that that Old Testament temple with its system of sacrifices and worship was a type or figure of this New Testament temple (a spiritual house) with its spiritual sacrifices (1 Peter 2:5), and its spiritual system of worship (John 4:23, 24). Now with this in mind, let us take special note of these measurements of Ezekiel's vision and see what they tell us. The whole building measured one reed broad and one reed high. Then the threshold of the gate measured one reed or the length of the entire building (40:6). In John 10:9, Jesus, the gate or door, measured the size of the same size of the entire building because He fulfilled every principle of righteousness and truth upon which the Church of God is built. He dwells in it and fills every nook and corner of the building.

But the main thing in connection with our question is the little, individual chambers in the temple and that they measured one reed long and one reed broad (verse 7); the size of the entire building. Now if the building was a type of the New Testament temple or Church of God, and the Scriptures clearly establish this to be true, then what would the little, individual chambers in the building represent but the individual members in the Church? Surely this is a proper conclusion. The measuring of the size of the whole building indicates that whatever is the standard set forth in the Scriptures of holiness, righteousness, truth, victory, and grace for the Church of God, is the standard of life for each individual member of the Church. In this respect, every individual member is as big as the whole Church. But God through His Spirit dwells in the individual members (1 Cor. 3:16). Therefore, every blood-washed saint is a mansion (not a shack or cabin or slum area anywhere around) in the language of the text (John 14:2) in our question. Throughout this gospel age of time there are many of us—millions and millions and millions of us who have been washed from our sins and made white in the blood of Jesus. We have been clothed in spotless, white robes which is the righteousness of saints (Rev. 19:8), and we are fulfilling the will of God in our lives according to the standard set for us by our example, Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 2:21). We are the many mansions in "my Father's house"—which is the Church.

We hear much about the grace of giving, the grace of patience, and many other good graces, but who ever heard of the grace of thinking? When we learn to think twice before speaking, it becomes a most profitable grace indeed.

—Selected

HOME LIFE



The Power of Example in Child-Training

"Your actions speak so loudly that I cannot hear what you are saying," is often quoted with reference to the dealing of adults with each other; but too few apply the principle of the proverb to their experiences with children. There are no minds so susceptible to influences, no eyes so keen at watching, and no ears so dull to mere precept as those of children. The power of example to make lasting impressions cannot be measured. Good authorities maintain that environment, far more than heredity, determines what children shall be. Much experience corroborates this testimony. How responsible, then, is the parent to always do right. For the little imitators are unconsciously being shaped by the mental and moral mold provided for them by those about them.

Parents generally want their children to be kind and courteous, patient and truthful. Comparatively few, however, put forth the requisite effort to make them so. When moralizing, scolding, or boxing of ears fail of the desired result, too many parents are ready to inquire helplessly, "What more can I do? I have talked and punished too, but it's all of no use."

Very true. It is all of no use, for the children, too often seeing that the parent does not abide by his own teaching, conclude that the teaching is not very essential. Punishing a child for doing exactly what father and mother do is not a procedure very well calculated to instill a deep sense of justice or of respect for the parent.

What value can Johnny put upon absolute truthfulness if he should see Mama (the best person in all his little world) kiss Mrs. Jones, and hear her say, "How delightful of you to pay me this little call," and then at dinner hear her

tell Father that "that horrid Mrs. Jones called today"? Neither should the child be blamed for giving way to fits of anger when his wishes are crossed, if he sees frequent manifestations of anger in his parents or guardians.

It will be a little difficult for Mary to understand exactly the quality of justice if she is arbitrarily commanded to wash the dishes when it is Jane's turn, just because it is easier to compel Mary than Jane to do them.

James can hardly be expected to be a model of chivalry if Father habitually fails to offer Mother the easy chair or to hold the door for her to pass. The lad might think politeness a rather one-sided affair, expected only of children, if he is commanded to say "please" and "thank you" when no one says it to him.

In a certain family where two romping, robust youngsters lived, it was a point of honor never to refuse to do anything if asked politely to do it, unless there was a very good reason for not doing so. Then the reason must be explained and the excuse accepted. The elders held themselves rigidly to this policy, and the boys almost never failed.

An apology for a mistake in judgment, an error in punishing or for harsh-speaking, for anything, in fact, that one is ashamed of in his conduct toward a child, will not lose the child's respect. On the contrary such a course will cause the child to be thoughtful and tender toward you and others. Two boys were one day trying to harness a horse. The older lad was too short to reach the horse's head easily, and on this particular occasion she refused to take the bit. The boy was impatient. The younger lad made a suggestion. Quick as a flash came an angry, cutting reply. Then as quickly, "Oh, pardon me, John. I did not mean that." His elders had done the same with him. Example had taught him that he could not be a gentleman and intentionally, without good and sufficient cause, wound anyone's feelings.

Sympathize with your children and they will be sympathetic toward you. Nothing will harden and make defiant-some natures, break the spirit of others, and estrange all from you like sarcasm and sneers. Save those for your own blunders and faults, but never wither your children's souls with them.

In short, show toward your children the same deference and kindly attention that you want them to show you. In very rare cases will they disappoint or fail you. It will take some pains and effort, some thoughtful planning, doubtless much looking above for wisdom and power; but nothing worthwhile was ever done without an expenditure of effort. And what is

more worthwhile to you than the retaining of the love and respect of your children?

—Selected

God is Our Refuge

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." *Psa. 46:1*. David had found this to be true in his own life and spoke from the abundance of his heart. These words and the verses following it in Psalm 46, have been a source of comfort and help to many others down through the years. As they have turned to God in their trouble, they, too, have found Him to be their refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

After Adam and Eve had disobeyed God and sinned, God said, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." *Gen. 3:15*. God knew that sin would bring much trouble to mankind down through the years and that they would find help only as they turned to Him. He gave this promise that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head and that the serpent, or devil, would bruise His, Christ's, heel. Paul tells us in *Gal. 4:4*, "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman. . . ." Christ was the seed of the woman and in Him this promise was fulfilled.

We can see that God had more than one purpose in sending His Son into the world. One purpose was to become the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. *1 Pet. 2:24* reads, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness. . . ."

In order to provide a perfect sacrifice for sin, God sent an angel to a virgin named Mary, and revealed to her that she would conceive and bring forth a son. "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest. . . . Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." *Luke 1:31, 32, 34, 35*. Mary responded by submitting to the will of God.

God had revealed through Isaiah that Jesus would be "despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. . . ." No doubt He began even as a child experiencing

grief and sorrow, because God's plan involved being born of a virgin. Truly Jesus was "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief." In experiencing these troubles He can understand perfectly what we experience when we meet them in life. He learned how to look to His Father in these sorrows and griefs, and overcame every one of them, revealing to us that we, too, can overcome as we look to God as our refuge and strength.

Jesus' whole purpose in life was, "not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." *John 6:38*. In doing God's will Jesus met with many different difficulties and troubles. Sometimes as He obeyed and trusted His Father, God delivered Him from His adversaries. We can see through these experiences how God can and will deliver us when it is His will. At other times, it was not God's will to deliver His Son, but rather He let Him suffer, and supplied Him with the needed strength.

In the garden of Gethsemane Jesus said, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." *Matt. 26:38, 39*. Here He was experiencing great trouble. He knew what lay ahead for Him and the flesh was shrinking back. After praying He found the disciples asleep; even Peter, who had told Him that He was ready to go to prison and to death with Him. He was left alone with His burden and deep trouble. Again He sought His Father who was His only refuge and strength. Then again Jesus found the disciples sleeping, and again He went back and prayed, agonizing before the One who was refuge and strength in trouble. Power was given to Him. He prevailed. God proved to be His refuge, a very present help in trouble. This time the help came by God giving Him the full help and power that He needed to go through every trial and test that He met with right up to the end of His life on the cross.

As we read of what Jesus met with and how victoriously He responded, we are encouraged to know that God will be a safe refuge and strength to us also in all that we meet in life.

—Fern Stubblefield

WHY AM I HERE?



To bring honor and pleasure to the Creator. *Rev. 4:11*.

To respond to His offered salvation. *Matt. 11:20*.

To carry out His Great Commission. *Mark 16:15*.

To pay our debt to lost souls. *Romans 1:14*.

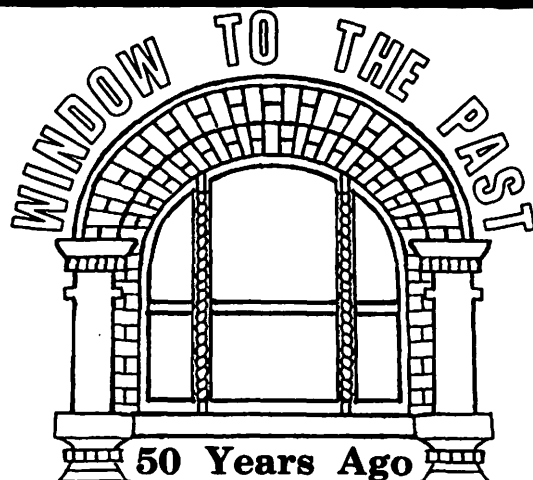
Only One Book

Of books men write ten thousand score;
 Of modern and of ancient lore;
 Of culture and philosophy;
 Of science and geography.
 They write of poverty and wealth;
 Of sickness and of gaining health.
 One may find books in ev'ry place
 That deal with beauty, love, and grace.
 Some deal with man, and all he owns;
 Some guess the age of buried bones;
 And others still would train the mind;
 Yea, there are books to serve the blind.
 Books! Books! in ev'ry language known;
 For children, and for men full-grown;
 Books that intended to inspire;
 Books that were cast into the fire.
 Some books brought men both wealth and pow'r
 While others lasted scarce an hour.
 Books have been written overnight
 To stir the despot's latent might;
 Books that both name and place a star;
 Books have brought pestilence and war;
 Books to amuse and entertain—
 Yes, men write books to make books plain.
 And books may come, and books may go,
 But who the end of books can know?
 Books meant for truth that blind the soul,
 Books that obscure the heav'nly goal;
 Books that excuse men's sin and lust,
 Books even worship forms of dust.
 Of all the books on shelves and press,
 I must in honesty confess
 None have I found unwav'ring true,
 None that is old, yet always new
 Save that which came from God's own hands;
His Book alone my love commands.
 And should I lose all books of earth
 My loss is not a penny's worth;
 But let me have God's Book divine,
 And all the wealth of heav'n is mine.
 All books combined can never be
 What God's own Word doth mean to me.

—J. T. Vellinga

“The Bible contains more true sublimity, more exquisite beauty, more pure morality, more important history, and finer strains of poetry and eloquence, than can be collected from all other books, in whatever age or language they may have been written.” —William Jones

“The Bible is one of the greatest blessings bestowed by God on the children of men. It has God for its author; salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture for its matter. It is all pure, all sincere; nothing too much; nothing wanting.” —John Locke



Excerpts Taken From

**March, 1963 *Faith and Victory*
 40th Anniversary Edition**

“I would like to say a few words in behalf of the 40th anniversary. I'm so glad God gave me the privilege of working at the Lord's Print Shop. The four years spent there were years of learning, not only with the machines and office work, but also of the secrets of Christian living—in getting along with others and of faith and endurance.”
 —Sylvia (Forbes) Busbee

“When I was only 14 or 15 years old I began reading the paper that my grandmother had sent to us. It surely was instrumental in awakening me to the need of my soul. What a wonderful change came into my life when I left the proud, sinful broad way which leads to destruction to walk in the humble, straight and narrow way which leads to life everlasting and is full of joy, peace and happiness.”

—Evodna (Thurman) Marler

“I have been reading the *Faith and Victory*, tracts, and books sent out from Faith Publishing House since I was a young girl, more than 30 years. They have been a blessing and food to my soul. I was thankful for the privilege of working in the Faith Publishing House for a while, and thankful to see how God supplied the needs almost more than I could believe. Yet I know all things are possible to them that believe.”

—Cassie Irvin

I want to say I received one of the first *Faith and Victory* papers printed. I lived at Branson, CO at that time and have taken the paper ever since.” —Emma Busch