

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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JESUS CHRIST:

the condescension of divinity, and the exaltation of humanity.

From The Manger To Glory

Behold the Christ, the Son of God—
The little holy Babe,
Was born in ancient Bethlehem,
And in a manger laid.
The shepherds came with haste to see
That which had come to pass
Around them there had shone a light;
They found the Child at last.
He grew to manhood, and for right,
And for the truth He stood.
And for His Father's business,
He went about doing good.
He healed the sick, the blind, the lame,
And cast out devils, too;
And when the lepers came to Him,
He cleansed them through and through.
He taught against all kinds of sin,
And every evil way.
The Pharisees did hate Him, then,
And sought the Christ to slay.
At last they nailed Him to the tree,
His blood for sin was shed.
The guiltless for the guilty died,
And suffered in their stead.
His task complete, His work was done;
They laid Him in the tomb,
But early on the third day morn
He rose to life again.
Some blessed day He shall return—
Oh, what a blessed thought!
To take the blood-washed nation home
He with His blood has bought.

—Ulysses Phillips

The Music Of His Name!

When we think of music, we think of sounds which are pleasing to the ear, and bring an uplift to the heart. Music does not have to be restricted to musical instruments and the voices of singing, for we can hear music in a gently flowing stream of water, or in the wind blowing the leaves in a soft gentle breeze. Anything that we enjoy listening to is music to our ears. Just to hear the name of a person whom we love very much brings a thrill to our hearts and is music to our ears.

I want to tell you of a person whom at just the mention of His name makes a good feeling of trust and security come over you, and will be music to your ears. His name is JESUS! You can have complete, total confidence in Jesus, because He gave completely of himself for you and for everyone.

As the Christmas Season draws near, our hearts and minds are drawn more than ever to the wonderful name of Jesus! The name of Jesus is so precious that several other names are used to describe Him in the Bible. Several songs have also been written using the different descriptive names.

Let us think about the different names, and it will surely bless your heart and cause music to ring in your very soul.

1. Bright and Morning Star

The morning star is so bright that it can even shine forth in the early morning hours when the darkness of night has receded and the dawning light begins blotting out all other stars.

We know Jesus was the only One in heaven

that was counted worthy to be used as a sacrifice, thus to be the light of the world. All glory and honor are due to our precious loving Saviour.

2. The Lily of the Valley

3. The Rose of Sharon

The life of Jesus surely sent out a sweet fragrance, and enriched the lives of everyone who recognized and acknowledged Him to be the Son of God. Jesus went about doing good, healing the sick and oppressed, and forgiving sins.

4. The Lamb of God

He was the perfect sacrifice, without blemish, who did no sin, and who laid down His life as meekly as a lamb, though His heart was broken.

5. The Lion of Judah

In the flesh, Jesus was a descendant from the tribe of Judah, from the house of David. Though Jesus was meek as a lamb in manner, His heart and faith in His Father was strong and steadfast—valiant and courageous and fearless as a lion. Praise God, Jesus' power has broken every chain and fetter of sin!

6. The Messiah or Immanuel

The expected and prophesied King and Deliverer of the Jews.

7. The Lord

8. The King

We recognize Jesus as having all power and authority to whom service and obedience are due. Though Jesus is all powerful, we can see His great love manifested to us as we continue with the descriptive names.

9. Our Priest

A priest is a mediatory agent between man and God. Jesus' qualifications are perfect, as He willingly became flesh and dwelt among us without sin. Jesus understands all our passions, the pressures, temptations, and the frailties of our physical bodies. We can have perfect confidence in our mediator and bring anything and everything to Him.

Jesus' birth and kingdom are foretold in Isaiah 9:6, "For unto us . . . a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called:

10. Wonderful,

11. Counsellor,

12. The mighty God,

13. The everlasting Father,

14. The Prince of Peace."

This Scripture was foretold many years before it came to pass. Thanks be to our God, Jesus did come and establish a kingdom, a kingdom that far surpasses any earthly kingdom. This kingdom is in the converted hearts of mankind. We have the privilege of Jesus ruling

and reigning in our hearts and lives today. Oh, it is peace, joy and completeness! Just the mention of His name is music to our ears! He is:

15. The Good Shepherd

16. Our Saviour

17. Our Redeemer

18. Our Master

19. The Christ

20. The very Son of God!

21. The Bridegroom

If your heart is full of the love of Jesus, you will be glad to see Jesus come as the Bridegroom, when He comes back for His Bride. (The Bride are those that have Jesus living and reigning in their hearts, and have been washed in His all-atoning blood.) Please read Matthew 24 and 25. Herein are Jesus' own Words concerning His coming back as the Bridegroom. The Scriptures explain how the Bridegroom will be our:

22. Righteous Judge

Can you face the judgment shock? When God has decreed that time shall cease and eternity to begin never to end, Jesus will be our righteous judge. Every provision possible has been made for our salvation, but if we trample God's mercies and refuse to let Christ reign in our heart, we will hear Him say these dreadful words: "Depart from me, I never knew you." The day of mercy will be forever past. Consider the awfulness of being unprepared to face the judgment! Think of the horror, hopelessness and the remorse of being cast into outer darkness where there is weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth, doomed, forever! Jesus pleads for you to watch and be ready for His coming. Don't wait too late. Call upon the sweetest name ever known—Jesus. There is redemption, power over sin, and peace and joy just waiting to be released if you will only call, repent, and believe upon His precious, holy name. Then you too will say, "There is music in His name!"

Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb,

—Sis. Carol Cole

The Lily Of The Valley

Song of Solomon 2:1 says, "I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys." Life has its peaks and valleys, but what a comfort it is to know that in the low times of life, Jesus is the Lily of the Valley. As the Lily of the Valley Jesus is able to brighten up those difficult times of our life. "Giant Despair" would try to get us to throw up our hands and just quit the Christian race, therefore we must watch out for discouragement, gloom, pessimism and depression. These joy robbers would like to gain admittance into your heart and life. Rain does not fall on

just one roof alone. We all have our problems, but the Lord offers His saints a sympathetic ear and the opportunity to cast our cares upon Him. You cannot successfully face the giants of life alone. No one understands like Jesus! Allow the Spirit of God to minister to your life and give you the emotional support you need. Many poor souls live under an awful strain and feel emotionally mangled. This is why we need a divine Comforter to help smooth and soothe the rough spots of life.

Christianity is a muscular religion. There is tremendous power in the gospel which is able to make us "more than conquerors through Him that loved us." (Rom. 8:37). "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations." I Peter 1:6. So even though we may be bombarded on many sides by difficulties, and they are weighing on us, it is still possible to greatly rejoice in the God of our salvation. Disappointments and difficulties can be God's training camps that teach us how to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. There is such a thing as emotional burn-out. We can allow the black clouds of anxiety to block out the sunshine if we are not careful. These things can even have a bearing on our physical well-being. Cheerfulness and peace of mind are powerful elements of good health. Prayer can bring sure relief when you are under a heavy load. Low views can limit you to little victories! Break out of the rut and realize we serve a mighty God who is able to utterly overwhelm our little problems with His helping grace.

Fear is one of the greatest inventors around. Fear has large eyes that are very adept at manufacturing imaginations that can have us dreading the future and what it might hold, but "God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (II Tim. 1:7). Perfect love is able to cast out fear. Let's have a trustful heart in the true and living God. Never forget that in the final analysis, the Lord has global control. He rules in the kingdoms of men and in the heavens above. His awesome power has not diminished one iota from what it was thousands of years ago. God will never let anything come to you that He and you cannot handle together. "In prosperity our friends know us; in adversity we know our friends." In the adversity of life there is also "a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." (Prov. 18:24). That friend is Jesus, the Lily of the Valley.

God does not have favorites in the sense of being a respecter of persons, but He does have intimates. He wants to be intimately acquainted with every facet of our lives. Your bank account may run out, your husband may run out, or

your wife may run out, but Jesus won't run out! Lo, He'll be with you even to the end of the world.

He that toucheth you, toucheth the apple of His eye. Saints are the apple of God's eye. Our life is resting on a tried and proven foundation that won't crack nor crumble. You can pile all the pressure of your cares and sorrows on it, and yet it will prove to be the Rock of Ages. Life is a grindstone, and whether it grinds a man down or polishes him up depends on the stuff he is made of. May the Lord help us to be made of the right stuff. The Lord is looking for good soldier material. Resistance tends to strengthen our spiritual muscles.

Let's not approach the future with a gloom and doom outlook. Blow away the black clouds and don't be a gloomy pessimist. A sunny disposition will work to the glory of God. It is possible to experience a smiling depression. You can be smiling on the outside and yet be hurting down on the inside. Dark feelings can hang heavily over you and squeeze the joy out of your life if you let them. Jesus is the Rose of Sharon. Are you more taken up with the thorns than the Rose? Rather than making our main focus the thorns, or problems, let us make our main focus the Rose, which is Jesus. We want to be looking to the Author and Finisher of our faith and keeping our eyes on Jesus. When it comes to the Lord, we need to be the clinging vine type. Cling to Him with every fiber of your being. Don't allow anything or anybody to separate you from the love of God. We can have a can do attitude, realizing the champion of righteousness is on our side. If you visualize a failure, you can tend to create the conditions that produce failure. Don't go around with a defeated attitude. One reason we should be positive in our outlook and think upon things that are lovely is because thinking determines life. "Sorrow looks back, worry looks around, but faith looks up." Luke 21:28 says, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." The Lord is the One who is able to lift up heads that have been hanging down, and He is able to revive a spirit that is drooping and downcast.

Night brings out the stars. This is true in the earthly realm, but it is true in the spiritual realm as well. Even though we are living in a time when this world is enveloped in a great deal of spiritual darkness, that just means that your light can shine all the more brightly. The cure for a gloomy outlook is to grasp hold of the bright promises of God's Word. God's promises are as sure as the One who made them. Don't

(continued on page 11)

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, OK 73044 (USPS184-660).

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

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES



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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 Ex. 25:2; I Chron. 29:9; II 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. All donations are tax deductible.

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

We send Season's Greetings to all of our readers. We trust as this time of year brings reflections on the birth of our Saviour, you will be given cause to have joy flood your soul and warm affection for your fellowman.

What does God's gift to man mean? The answer is as wide and varied as every blessing that a child of God enjoys. Of course the greatest thing is eternal life, which Christ's death upon the cross brought within reach of every human being. However, just as a child has a great longing to enjoy a gift as soon as he has knowledge of its existence, we as adults feel a need to obtain blessings in this present life in order to feel a fulfillment of that gift. And there are many things that we enjoy now due to God's gift to the world.

A thought once expressed declared that although we cannot control the length of our lives, we can control the width and depth. This is an ability we can attribute directly to God's goodwill toward man.

The width of one's life is its influence upon others. Christ's death was one in which He conquered Satan and passed that same power to all who ask. We have the ability to rule our bodies and thereby have a positive influence on those who come in contact with us. It was said of an individual, "One could not go wrong in her presence." Perhaps this sounds like an unattainable, idealistic life, yet it is one that we would do well to have as a goal. Here is another testimony given of someone. "I can never again see life in the way I saw it before I knew him." It took Zacchaeus only a few moments in the presence of Christ to vow to give away much of his riches and live differently. What does our influence accomplish in the lives of others?

We never know how far-reaching a life dedicated to God will be. A London boy, many years ago, ran away from home and became a seaman. One day, passing a church while on leave, he entered and gave his heart to Christ. Later he became a preacher, and his message inspired Thomas Scott to enter the ministry. Scott in turn inspired William Cowper, who wrote many hymns. Cowper inspired William Wilberforce, who was the catalyst of a great revival. The influence of our lives may seem limited, but the effect can be large.

The depth of our life is our understanding of it, thus determining how much enjoyment we derive from living. If you play a game and do not understand the rules of play, the fun of the game is greatly diminished. Likewise, there are many in this world who are ignorant of the rules of life and thus the enjoyment of life is lacking.

The basic insight to living which Christ reveals to the righteous is the purpose for living. Notice the opinion of Joseph Krutch who was an agnostic. "There is no reason to suppose that man's own life has any more meaning than the life of the humblest insect that crawls from one annihilation to another." Since life's enjoyment hinges upon our knowledge of its purpose, you can see how much pleasure Joseph Krutch got out of it.

Perhaps the cause of many of the ills of the world are similar to the advice one friend gave to an anxious parent concerning their children. "Maybe," the friend suggested, "you have tried to give them too much to live with and not enough to live for."

God has made it possible, but we must work at understanding the depth of life. All of our faculties must be tuned to understanding. We must want to know the mysteries of life, and how we can be a better person. There should be a desire in us all to want to know how to be exactly what God would have us to be so that we will be a perfect light for Him. One verse says, "...what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." Micah 6:8. This is an all-encompassing verse, and we need God's help to understand how to fulfill it. In fine tuning our lives it even affects our manners. I recently heard someone bring out the thought that manners are minor morals. These things may seem of little importance, but they are worthy of consideration.

In order to derive the full benefit of the gift of salvation we should ask God to help us understand more about the purpose of life and how His gift to man relates to it. He will be faithful to reveal these things as we have the capacity to retain that knowledge.

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We still have in stock 1990 wall calendars. The calendar has a colorful nature scene for each month, measures 7¼ x 13½ inches, and sells for \$1.00 each. Also please include \$1.00 for postage and handling.

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We will soon have available for sale, bound volumes of the 11 issues of the *Faith and Victory* paper for the year of 1989. The price is \$1.00 per book, plus \$1.25 for postage and handling. *Beautiful Way* books for Juniors (52 papers for the year of 1989) will also be available for \$1.00 each, plus 90¢ postage and handling.

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On November 4, a number of young people from the Guthrie congregation, along with Bro.

Phillip and Sis. Rosi Gellenbeck, Sis. Esther Hightower, Sis. Lori Marsh, my wife and I, canvassed the town of Anthony, KS with the *Faith and Victory* paper. We felt that the Lord blessed our endeavors and pray that the effect of sowing the Word will bear fruit in the future.

We would like to make more people aware of the existence of the *Faith and Victory*. This is where our readers can be of assistance. If the Lord gives you a burden to share the *Faith and Victory* with your community, and you would like to sponsor an advertisement in your local newspaper, we can provide you a "camera ready proof" which can be taken to your newspaper office. The proof will help you determine the cost of printing. If you choose to have the advertisement run, at your request we will be glad to inform you of the response we receive from your town.

—Wayne Murphey

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Prayer Requests

LA—"Remember me in prayer, also my daughter, Alice. We also have some unspoken requests."

—Nyda Hale

WV—Continue to earnestly pray for Sis. Verna Samons in her affliction.

AR—Sis. Mary Foster's grandson has a physical problem which is a great concern to them.

TX—Sis. Janice Ray has a need in which she desires God to give her victory.

AL—Sis. Jeanette Mooney is experiencing persecution and desires God to sustain her.

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A NOTE OF THANKS

I wish to thank everyone for their genuine expressions of love and concern during my sickness. They have all been an uplift to my spirit: the phone calls, visits, letters, get-well cards and flowers, but most of all your prayers. May God richly bless each one here in the Guthrie congregation and all the dear saints scattered abroad. I'm still in the battle, but victory is ahead.

Holy love,

—Alton Stubblefield

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INDIA TRIP PLANNED

Lord willing, Bro. Richard and Sis. Oleta Madden and Bro. Jon Busbee will be leaving on January 7, 1990 for India, and be gone approximately a month. They will be laboring in the area of India in which Bro. John Varghese lives. Bro. Richard has a burden for these people as he made a previous trip there several years ago and knows first hand of their needs.

This trip will also be a great encouragement to Bro. John Varghese as they will be there during the time of the Silver Jubilee Convention. Bro. John has been writing, desiring someone from America to attend. He has some special programs and projects planned for this convention to reach out to the souls of India.

Pray for this missionary group that their labors will be effective in seeing souls saved and the work of the Lord promoted.

If you would like to help with the expenses that will be incurred by the airfare and the needs they find in India, you may send your donations to this office: Faith Publishing House, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044. Be sure to designate that it is for the India trip, and we will pass it on to Bro. Madden. We would remind our readers that all checks made out to Faith Publishing House are federally tax exempt.

Campground Relocation Progress Report

By the help of the Lord phase three of the campground relocation project at Guthrie, OK is underway. On November 21 the red iron steel structure was delivered to the building site and immediate erection began. By the time most of you receive this report its erection should be near completion. Following the erection of the skeletal steel structure will come the placement of the exterior walls between the red iron main frames. Then comes installation of entrance doors and windows and last will be the laying of face brick on the exterior walls. We would be so thankful to be able to get all of phase three completed before winter sets in in real earnest.

As mentioned in the last report this is a project of faith. We are trusting the Lord to supply the finances needed to meet the expenses of this project. God is honoring our faith. At present approximately 60% of the finances needed to complete phase three has been supplied. This should cover the cost of the steel structure and its erection. The 40% balance still needed should cover the cost of material and labor for the exterior walls, entrance doors, windows, and brick work.

We are made to rejoice when we consider how much the Lord has helped us so far and the confidence we can have that He will see us through to the end. We are also thankful to each one who has been considerate of the need here and has shared in our burden by sending offerings to help out. God bless each one for your generous consideration.

Those desiring to make a contribution to

this project may do so by making their check or money order out to: Church of God, and mailing in care of Brenda Wilkins, Route 6, Box 797, Guthrie, OK 73044. —Bro. Bob Sallee for the Campground Relocation Committee

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

HOLLY HILL, SC MEETING REPORT

I would like to report on the meeting we had at Holly Hill, Oct. 8-15. God did bless in a mighty way. There were souls that were sanctified and others that moved up to higher ground. We are thankful for the saints' prayers and the ministers who came. God did bless His Word.

Pray for us,

—Bro. Utson Platt

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1989 LORANGER, LA ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

The assembly meeting was exceptionally well attended and a number of the Lord's ministers were present. The Word was anointed, and sicknesses were healed. Certainly the spirit of the meeting was rich. Here are some quotes from the services.

"The standard of the world is to worry. We don't have to bow down to that."

—Bro. Mart Samons

"Lord, I love you because you forgave me."

—Bro. Salvatore DiDio

"I'm burning every bridge behind me. I'm not coming back the same way. I'm going up."

—Bro. Emmett Gerald

"The Scriptures teach the way of living and the most comfortable way of dying."

—Bro. Jerry Gossard

"The great I Am has given us a commission."

—Sis. Marsha Corteway

"Joseph refused to be troubled in his troubles."

—Bro. Donald Sharp

"Take heed that no man deceive you. . . . If any of us are deceived here tonight, it will be because of some man. Satan uses people to deceive people."

—Bro. Curtis Williams

"The end of the book of Acts is unlike the end of any of the other books in the Bible. God expects His Church to continue the book of Acts."

—Bro. Mart Samons

The coming of the Lord is near. Let us be sure and prepare.

—Report submitted by
Bro. Nelson Doolittle

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OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 83rd Annual Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Guthrie, Oklahoma, on December 22-31, 1989. A hearty welcome is extended to all.

The chapel is located on the corner of 6th Street and West Warner Avenue. The dining hall and dormitories are located in the same block for your convenience. All who come will be cared for. The expense of the meeting will be met by freewill offerings.

We are praying that the Lord will send Spirit-filled ministers to preach the Word under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. We are in the last days and need you to come praying with a burden for God to save souls, sanctify believers and heal the sick. There are urgent needs in each of these areas.

Please send all contributions for the coming meeting directly to the state treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, Rt. 6, Box 797, Guthrie, OK, 73044.

For further information contact Bro. Carl Shaffer, P. O. Box 21343, Oklahoma City, OK 73156, phone (405) 771-4522. The chapel phone is (405) 282-5499.

From The Mailbox . . .

MS—Dear ones at the Print Shop and saints everywhere: Greetings in Jesus' sweet name. Another year has come and almost gone. We are swiftly passing to eternity. I'm glad I can say I'm saved and sanctified and kept by the power of His Spirit. Praise His name.

I am so burdened for the unsaved. There is so much sin and deception in the world today. It is so sad to see people deceived. I pray a lot for the unsaved.

One of the greatest needs in the Church is sanctification and cleansing of the heart. The pure in heart thinketh no evil. It is so good to be justified, but oh how we need to be sanctified. It is hard to live a holy life without it.

Some of the saints here are sick. Please pray for them. I will soon be 81 and I am not doing good. I can't walk very well and I have other troubles.

Please pray for me and my unsaved loved ones. I'll be praying for you.

Your sister in Christ, —Novella Pugh

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KS—Dear Bro. Wayne and others: Praises be unto our God from whom all blessings flow. I truly thank God for His many blessings and benefits unto me. I really do love my Lord, and I find His service sweet. One song says "salvation is the sweetest thing." I have personally found that to be so.

In another song are the words, "I have promised Him that I would serve Him until I die, I am on the battlefield for my Lord." Surely we

have battles to fight, but winning is so great and rewarding. I am thankful for the privilege to fight for the truth and the right. I believe in being of good courage and I mean to go right on until the crown is won.

Christian love, —Sis. Shirley Knight

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CA—Dear Sister Maybelle: Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I thank the Lord for salvation, and am very encouraged in the Lord. Every day I am thankful for the blessings the Lord bestows upon me. I can truly say I count it all joy when I fall into divers temptations. I can rejoice and be exceeding glad. "All things work together for good to them that love God." (Rom. 8:28).

God will never leave us nor forsake us, and He can turn the evil things that come against us into good. He puts a wall of salvation around us and nothing can harm us. Therefore I rejoice greatly in Him.

I am very happy in the Lord. He fights all my battles for me, and I am contented with such things as I have. God is my Father and I can always depend on Him. My greatest desire is to live for the Lord all the days of my life.

Please pray for me, —Geneva Norling

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AR—Dear ones at the Print Shop: Thanks for your prayers for me and our daughter recently. We surely appreciate every one of them that was sent up for us. I am home and getting around on a walker by the Lord's help. Thanks again.

Love sincerely, —Vera Dotson

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MS—Dear saints: Greetings in the name of Jesus to each and every one!

This is long overdue, but we would like to express how our hearts were inspired in the meetings that we attended this summer. We attended the meetings held in Greenbank, WV; Akron, OH; Fresno, CA; and Monark Springs, MO.

The Word of God was brought forth and preached in its fullness by the Holy Ghost. Many souls were awakened to the truth.

In the Akron, OH meeting souls were saved and 25 were baptized. My sister, Malissa, was also saved and baptized in this meeting. We gratefully acknowledge and thank the saints for their prayers along this line. We had often requested that she would be saved and we appreciate the Lord saving her.

We learned so many things in these meetings. Some special points that we remember are: being sober-minded, the real and true value of

divine healing and keeping the standard that God has given us. This so encouraged and strengthened us in our souls to press on and appreciate salvation more and more. Oh, how our hearts were so encouraged by the Word of God!

We do so look forward to continue in the Master's service as a real, true and humble servant.

Pray for us. We need your prayers.

In Christian love,

—Sis. Jennifer Pomerlee

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OH—Dear saints: We greet you this morning, thankful for another day God has made. We trust all are well there. My family and I are pretty good. I happen to be having a cold at this time.

I had the privilege once again to take in the last half of the assembly meeting at Jefferson, OR. The Lord was faithful to give us some real deep messages. It was good to be there. Much prayer is needed for the unsaved.

Love and prayers, —Sister Violet Thomas

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Testimonies And Answers To Prayer

LA—Dear ones at the Publishing House: We do thank the Lord for your labors of love in reaching lost souls through the printed page. We do enjoy receiving the paper each month.

I hurt myself in October of 1988, while in North Carolina harvesting our crop, by lifting heavy bags of clams. I suffered much and wasn't able to do any lifting without pain. I went up to be anointed and prayed for in the Assembly Meeting in Loranger this year and the Lord healed me. I haven't had any trouble with it since. Before, I couldn't lift my tool box or pick up my two-year-old son without pain. Now I can hold both of my boys in my arms. I can do everything I did before I was hurt. Praise the Lord for divine healing. . . .

May the Lord bless all of you there and keep you encouraged to press the battle on. We love you all dearly and want to see the Lord's work go on and everyone prosper in their souls.

—Bro. Frankie Millis

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LA—Dear saints: I have so much to thank the Lord for. He has been so good to us that I could never thank Him enough for His blessings.

Last year our son, Mark, stepped on a rusty nail. We knew that complications could arise from his injury, but we took it to the Lord in prayer. He completely healed his foot with no sign of infection. A few months later he stepped on a rusty fish hook. Again, the Lord healed

Mark's foot without infection. What a privilege it is to be able to trust the Lord!

The Lord has recently healed my body, too. I was sick for about six weeks, and during that time the Lord was faithful to bring songs and Scriptures of encouragement to remind me of His faithfulness and healing power.

Surely we serve a mighty and loving God. I desire to be faithful to the Lord.

—Cheryl Doolittle

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

MO—Dear Bro. Murphey: I greet you and all the saints at the Print Shop in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. This day finds me pressing on the upward way toward heaven. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; . . ." Rom. 1:16.

My son's house recently caught on fire. Cecil and his family were all asleep. Their neighbor saw the smoke and woke them up. I thank God He kept His hand on them and protected them from burning. They and their neighbors put the fire out and saved the house, but they need a place to stay. Please pray that they will find one.

—Sis. Eathel Hill

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FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From Nigeria . . .

Oct. 12—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt and saints of the Most High: Greetings in the glorious name of the Lord Jesus, heaven's perfect apostle, the sent One by the Father, (John 3:17), who captured the admiration and adoration of countless numbers and bound them to himself with bands of steel. All glory and honor unto Him forever, Amen.

The Lord is still sending forth laborers into the vineyard. We count ourselves privileged to be the means of guiding outstretched hands of the lost to the truth of the Saviour of mankind. The lamps in our possession are blessed to have oil in them and will by His grace shine until the break of day.

The congregation at Kwale, from August 7-13, met daily at 5 p.m. for heart contact with the throne of God. The result was uplifting. Praise God.

Excessive rainfall adversely affected the cultivated crops this year, particularly the yams, and had to be harvested before schedule. Yet, our peace is not disturbed with the thought of survival. The Lord is the Omnipotent One and more than able to furnish a table even in the wilderness for His people. "Let not your heart be troubled." (John 14:1).

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

From the Phillipines . . .

Oct. 23—Dear Brother Wayne Murphey and Sister Maybelle Pruitt: Greetings to all workers in the Print Shop. I hope you are all fine in the Publishing House.

I am always thankful to the Lord for the numerous blessings we have received. We give thanks for the loving care of the saints who diligently and faithfully help the mission work here in the Phillipines.

The work is fruitful in spreading the gospel from Misamis Oriental to Bukidonom Province, in the high Lauders towns of Mindauao. I always pray to the Lord to give us more strength to carry the gospel and to find lost souls in more places.

May the Lord Jesus bless you to print more papers to feed more souls for the gospel.

Yours in Christ, —Leonardo Salvana

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

From India . . .

Oct. 24—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt, Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear saints everywhere: Greetings of joy and peace to you all again in the marvelous name of Jesus Christ.

I have gone through the *Faith and Victory* paper and thank God for the reports of revival meetings in different congregations in America. We also had a very wonderful revival meeting at Karikkom last week which ended with good results and response. Also we had a blessed ministers meeting. The church activities are going on fine in the north and south of Kerala State, and also in Tamil Nadu.

Finally, God helped us to buy a new vehicle for our transportation. But there is a loan from a bank which we have to pay off within one year by installments. Please pray for this need. Your prayers and support are essential.

I was very sorry to hear about the earthquake in San Francisco, California. Surely our Lord is at the gate now. Let us lift up our head and wait for His appearance. As in the days of Noah and Lot so shall it be at the second coming of our Lord.

With love and prayers, —John Varghese

—————o—————

“The love of a godly man is unmixed and full of kindness and good will. A godly man will rejoice in the welfare of his worst enemy. You may treat a godly man as cruelly as man can be treated and he will show you a kindness in return. A godly man will not will, or desire, or rejoice in anything but good toward all men. A godly man hath nothing but goodness and godliness to give to all regardless of what may be given unto him.”

—Selected

In Memoriam

Lillie Bell Crisp was born October 3, 1910. She was the daughter of Clayborn and Daisy Payne, who both preceded her in death.

She was called to rest on Thursday, June 22, 1989. She was 78 years old.

At an early age she moved to Akron, OH with her parents. It was there she met and married Homer Crisp, and to this union four children were born. In 1950 our heavenly Father called him to rest.

Sister Crisp spent the greater portion of her life in Ohio, where she confessed a hope in Christ.

In 1965 she moved to Tulsa, OK where she worshiped with the Church of God. Here she remained until death.

She leaves to cherish her homegoing, one daughter, Clara Grimmert of Tulsa, OK; two sons, Adolph Crisp of Tulsa, OK, Gilbert Crisp of Cleveland, OH. (One son, Alfred Charles Crisp preceded her in death.); two sisters, Sallie Kirkwood of Cleveland, OH, and Alberta Bruner of Akron, OH; one brother, Melvin Payne of Akron, OH; fifteen grandchildren (one preceded her in death), eight great-grandchildren, a host of nieces, nephews, saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Woodrow Warren and Charles Lowe.

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Ina Wilbanks Brown, the dear, faithful and saintly wife of Bro. J. Howard Brown, of West Monroe, LA, left this earthly life to be with the Lord, September 19, 1989.

Sister Ina was a native and lifelong resident of Ouachita Parish. She and Bro. Howard had been married 66 years. They were both born again, of the Spirit, at an old-fashioned brush arbor meeting in their young married life and served faithfully in the church throughout the years.

God blessed their home with three sons, Tony, Max and Kenneth. Kenneth preceded his mother in death in 1956, as a saved young husband and father.

Sister Ina supported the truths of the Bible and was faithful to be there at the chapel to worship with the little band of saints. “She hath washed the saints’ feet.” (I Tim. 5:10).

Ina’s surviving sisters are: Nova Bonnett, Eunice George, Dorie Wood and Ottis Banks, all of West Monroe, LA, Iva Fowler, The Woodlands, TX, and Lois George of Chicago, IL; a brother, Doug Wilbanks, West Monroe, LA; ten grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was conducted at the Kilpatrick Funeral Home in West Monroe, LA. The officiating ministers were Genevieve Carver and Leon Sims. "It Is Well With My Soul" and "What A Day That Will Be" were sung by Jonathan and Cindy Carver and Arnett and Genevieve Carver.

Burial was in the Walnut Grove cemetery, West Monroe, LA.

Ina's husband, Bro. Brown, is 88 years old and this loss to him has been great. We ask for your prayers that God will be his strength and comfort as he walks on alone.

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: This is a continuation of the article in *Faith and Victory* in the October issue on the subject of teaching and training our children.

Answer: In that article I gave a quote from Adam Clarke. I here insert another quote from his commentary. "He who understands the way of God should carefully instruct his household in that way: and he who is the father of a family should pray to God to teach him, that he may teach his household. His ignorance of God and salvation can be no excuse for his neglecting his family: it is his indispensable duty to teach them; and God will teach him, if he earnestly seek it, that he may be able to discharge this duty to his family. Reader, if thy children or servants perish through thy neglect, God will judge thee for it in the great day."

Abraham faithfully taught his household, which included Lot, the principles of upright living and righteousness; also the entertaining of strangers and hospitality to travelers. This paid off good dividends in later years with Lot and his family. When the angels came to Sodom at evening, Lot, looking for opportunities to show hospitality to strangers and travelers and help to the needy as he had been taught by precept and the example of his Uncle Abraham, went right out and urged the men to come under his roof for the night. This proved to be the saving of his life as well as his two daughters' lives. Way over in the New Testament, reference is made to this in Hebrews 13:2, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." The principles of righteousness and upright living continued to direct Lot's life so that he was not drawn into the evil, corrupt way of life which was prevalent

all around him, but it was obnoxious and vexatious to him. He had been taught better than that. Peter referred to him in II Peter 2:7-8, "And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)"

I insert here another quote from Adam Clarke in regard to Lot. "He and his family . . . alone were free from the pollution of this accursed people. How powerful are the effects of a religious education, enforced by pious example! It is one of God's special means of grace. Let a man only do justice to his family by bringing them up in the fear of God, and He will crown it with His blessing. . . . This is your work that is the Lord's. If through your neglect of precept and example, they perish, what an awful account must you give to the judge of the quick and dead? It was the sentiment of a great man, that should the worst of times arrive, and magistracy and ministry both fail, yet, if parents would just be faithful to their trust, pure religion would be handed down to posterity, both in its form and in its power."

Before passing on from the discussion of Abraham and Lot and his family and the relationship between them, let me point out and emphasize this point. Abraham was a man that lived very close to God, and God was well pleased with him, and his sacrifices were acceptable to God. Consequently, he stood in a place with God where God would and could accept his plea in behalf of his kinsmen (Lot and his family) as the hour of destruction approached for the city in which they dwelt. It seems that in the narrative related in the 18th and 19th chapters of Genesis that the Lord himself and two angels with Him appeared in the form of men to Abraham and he entertained them. After they had eaten the meal that was prepared hastily for them the two angels went on their way, but the Lord tarried and made known unto them what He was going to do in the destruction of Sodom. He knew that Abraham had kinsmen down there and he would not carry out His purpose to destroy the city without letting him know about it. Then Abraham began to plead with the Lord to spare the city if 50 righteous people could be found in it. The Lord agreed to that. Then Abraham asked that if 50 couldn't be found if He would spare it for 45; then 40, then 30, then 20 and finally 10 and the Lord accepted his petition all the way, step by step, and agreed to spare the city if 10 righteous people could be found there. That would surely cover Lot and his family. Abraham was pleading for their lives and the

Lord knew it, but the Lord was pleased with his life and faithfulness and his sacrifice was acceptable to God, so he was qualified to plead in their behalf. But, alas, all of them had not maintained righteousness, so there were not enough to save the city. But watch it now. The two angels spent the night in Lot's home and in the morning told him to go to his married children and tell them and their families to get out quickly because the destruction of the city was imminent. They would not go, so the angels took Lot and his wife and their two daughters and told them to hurry and get out of there because they could not do a thing until they had gone out of the city. (Gen. 19:22). Abraham had made an acceptable plea for the lives of Lot and his family, and his family and the angels made certain that Lot got the message and was gone from there before the destruction fell. This can all be traced to the acceptability of Abraham's life and his sacrifices before God

Ah, parents, grasp the urgency and the importance of our own lives being well pleasing to God and our sacrifices acceptable to Him. It is very important that we have a good relationship with God and a life well pleasing to Him so that our sacrifices will be acceptable in defence of our children and in behalf of their salvation.

(To be continued in next issue)

HOME LIFE



The Christian Home

Nothing can come so near symbolizing heaven on earth as a home. A father and mother and a family of children can be a miniature heaven beyond that of anything among men. More real, true, genuine happiness can be had in the home than anywhere beside. Home comfort can be made a little sweeter than any other comfort. It is good to have Jesus and heaven with us everywhere, but nowhere is it better to have Christ and heaven than in the home. There is nowhere among Christians that

the devil will work harder to bring in discord, interruptions, trials, contentions, impatience and sin than in the home.

We speak, not censuring, but sympathetically when we say that too many Christian homes are not as they should be and could be. They are not as bright a reflection of heaven as they could become. There are many reasons why this is so. Many a dear, God-fearing husband and wife, father and mother, are not finding the love, holiness and happiness in their homes that their hearts crave. Things arise to mar the peace, to interrupt the joy, to destroy the sweet aroma of love, and they long to have things better than they are. They make resolves and decisions and efforts to have things better, but they do not get much better. It is only through the goodness and mercy of God that they do not give up in despair. Let us say to you, never give up, you can win, you can have it more satisfactory. You will not get where there will never be any trials, but you can get where these trials will not be very frequent and where they will be greatly weakened.

Some homes are more heavenly than others and yet they are Christian homes. There are many professed Christian homes where things have come to such a state that they are not worthy of the name Christian, but there are those in which there is not as much of heaven as there might be and yet they are not wholly rejected of God. You try but you do not succeed. Let me say, cease your trying. Pray more; pray to God. Feed on Christ, assimilate Him, bring Him into your life and cross words and cold feelings will flee away. A power and love will come into your life that will give you victory. You are leaving Jesus too much out of your home. Let there be more sitting at His feet. More of Christ in you is your hope of success.

—C. E. Orr

The Lily Of The Valley

(continued from page 3)

despair: even the sun has a sinking spell every night, but it rises again in the morning. When the resurrection comes, a brighter day is going to dawn eternally for God's children. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." (Ps. 30:5). How many people are frightened, lonely, disillusioned, and almost at the breaking point? They need to get their eyes off of their problems and get their eyes on the One who can solve their problems. The Lord is an expert at unraveling the tangled messes of life. Spending time with the Master can elevate your thinking and quality of life. Keep yourself

submerged in Christian thought. "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly." (Co. 3:16). Keeping our minds stayed on Christ can bring a wonderful sense of serenity and tranquility.

When life kicks you, let it kick you forward. Take life a day at a time, and God will give you the grace you need at the appointed hour. Don't fret over the future; only one link in the chain of destiny can be handled at a time. Isaiah 40:31, says, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." The Lord is able to give you strength proportionate to your trials and problems. There is no reason that we have to live down in the valley of self-pity, feeling sorry for ourselves. Life is too short to spend all of our time licking wounds. The more time you spend wallowing around in self-pity, the less time you have to be a blessing to this lost and dying world. When moods control us, life can be a yo-yo. The devil is liable to get somebody to backslide over discouragement who would never have just gone and committed some gross sin, and yet the end result is the same. If you backslide, you backslide, regardless of what the cause may have been. Let's valiantly fight the good fight of faith to the end of the race. Where are you on the happiness scale? Many people would register high on the misery scale. To worry, fret and fear can make you genuinely miserable. Try to get your eyes on others so you can be a help to them. When a man is wrapped up in himself, he makes a pretty small package. The daily grind of life can wear you down if you don't constantly refuel with fresh supplies of God's grace. The Church of God should be a power-house where a sluggish spirit can go and get recharged. Divine assistance can energize us and encourage us to press on the upward way.

Isaiah 43:2-3 says, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour. . . ." We don't serve a part-time Lord, and He is just a prayer away. He is always accessible and available. You are valued by God and you are someone special. You do not need to walk through a lonesome valley all alone, for the Lily of the Valley is there to brighten up your situation. When the enemy would come sweeping in against us like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord is able to lift up a standard against him. That standard is the Word of God. At just the right moment, the Lord can drop a precious verse of Scripture in our mind that will encourage and bless our soul. In football, good blocking is very important

if a ball carrier wants to gain much ground. If we want to gain much ground spiritually, we need to be good blockers. Resist thoughts that would try to cast you down into a rut of discouragement and despair; bring your thoughts into captivity to the obedience of Christ. There is a joy robber on the loose whom we must steadfastly resist in the faith. "I am the rose of Sharon, the lily of the valleys." You are not alone, and you are not forsaken. In regard to Jesus, remember that this is one Rose that the bloom will never come off of. Our future can be bright with anticipation because we know that "our Redeemer liveth." (Job 19:25).

—Bro. Jerry Gossard

A Sweet Rest

I would like to share with you some of the joy and tranquil peace I have in my soul. Not long ago the Lord came to me by His Spirit and renewed and imparted a special joy. I believe that every saint of God ought to hold sacred this joy and knowledge in their walk with God, simply because it is the very essence of God's plan of salvation in the soul.

The blessing came from God through the thought of being at rest. Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. I thank God for giving me this rest in my soul. This sweet rest comes from being free from the law of sin and death which worked in my members. That body of sin has been destroyed out of my life. I no longer have to lie, steal, or lust after forbidden fruit. My bondage has been broken and I am free. The sin that made me feel ugly deep down inside has been purged by the precious blood of Jesus. The sin that made me wish that I didn't exist, that made it hard for my soul to live with itself, that made my soul labor and become heavy laden has been forgiven and destroyed. I am not the man I used to be. I have been born again. I am a new creature in Christ. Old sinful things are passed away. All things are become new. A new and living way has been opened unto me by Jesus.

Dear ones, my soul found it hard to live with sin and the devil. He is a very hard taskmaster. But sin and the devil have been destroyed out of my life. Jesus now dwells inside of me and I find Him very compatible to live with. Unlike sin and the devil who brought anguish, bitterness, emptiness, loneliness, etc., Jesus brings rest, peace, love, joy and all the divine blessings of God.

It is so wonderful to be clean, beautiful and pure inside. This is the rest that the children of

God have. Many people are seeking for this rest and do not really realize what they are seeking for. I can look back in my life and there were times that I had a desire to visit some of the places that I lived when I was a small child. For some reason there was a special feeling in my heart for those places. I remember going back to one place that I had lived. However, that special feeling was not there; I looked but did not find it. At the time, I really did not know what I was looking for. After I was saved, Jesus opened my understanding. It wasn't the locality that meant anything. It was the purity of heart and the innocence that I possessed as a small child living at those places. It was at a time before sin had become imputed and had taken its toll in my life. My soul was craving that rest, that purity and innocence.

I believe many, many people are just like that. Their souls crave for that special feeling of being beautiful, clean, and pure inside, yet they do not recognize it. Many are searching for that something special in companions, material possessions, and even religion, but they do not find it in those things. Nothing this world has to offer can satisfy the soul. Even when people do actually attain riches, position, etc., it only brings temporary enjoyments to the flesh. They soon awaken to find that all they have are broken dreams. It isn't really what they thought it would be because, "unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure." (Titus 1:15).

Does your soul ever cry out, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" Jesus is the only One who can bring life into the dead soul. He is the only One who can take that ugliness out of your heart and make you beautiful, pure, holy and clean inside, thus giving your life meaning and your soul rest.

"Sweet Rest In Jesus"

In Jesus I've found a sweet rest
From sorrow, from toil, and from care;
In Him I am happy and blest
For He all my burdens doth bear.

Chorus:

Oh, how happy am I, With my Saviour so nigh!
I have found sweet rest on Jesus' dear breast.
I came to the Lord for release,
When burdened with guilt and with sin;
He cleansed me and gave me His peace,
The Spirit to witness within.
All glory and praise to thy name,
For what thou didst suffer for me;
For saving my soul when I came,
And gave myself up unto thee.

—Bro. Bob Wilson

Awful Effects Of Sin

History tells us of the fall of empires, the burial of cities, and the overthrow of governments. Daily papers record the failures of industrial enterprises, and of broken homes; but the Bible speaks of the ruination, by sin, of the priceless souls of men. Overthrown governments have been known to recover their former prestige and power, industrial business again becoming solvent; but history nowhere records that there is any hope of recovering the lost opportunities of the person who dies in sin and rebellion against God.

Sin Disappoints

How beautiful, indeed, is the picture that Satan holds before the young man or woman! How sweet seem the forbidden pleasures, and how smooth the sea of life! The hidden rocks, the sharp thorns, and the deceitful pleasures are not seen, and if so, are not clearly recognized; and like a ship with sails unfurled, driven before a stormy wind, many a young life is thus driven and dashed against the rocks and is lost.

Some time ago a mother heard her little four-year-old girl shouting with joy, and looking out of the window, was horrified to see her little darling tossing her cap towards a large rattlesnake that lay coiled, and was savagely striking and rattling loudly. With every spring the huge reptile came nearer, and the child, unconscious of her danger, screamed louder with delight. The frantic mother ran out of the house and she was just in time to see the child stumble and fall. Grasping a garden rake, which was nearby, she killed the snake thus saving her little one. The mother grasped her child, but was surprised to hear her say, "You are a bad mama, for you killed my pretty plaything." Thus it is with sin. It looks nice and seems enticing, but oh, it ends in death. Sin is a monster and a subtle deceiver. Its promises are great, but it never fulfils its pledges. It leads mankind away from the paths of virtue and never satisfies.

Destructive In Its Effects

The destructive work of sin can be read on every page of the world's history. Because of sin, ten cities were destroyed at one time, and the inhabitants destroyed or dispersed. Sin caused the death of Jesus Christ, and it has converted this world upon which we live into a vast cemetery. Sin is the cause of all the broken homes and raving maniacs that are in the world today. It is robbing the earth yearly of its manhood, and sapping the virtue from earth's womanhood. It strikes the youth as lightning strikes a young, green tree, and strips it of everything lovable and desirable. Like a vast tornado, sin

sweeps through the country and city and leaves in its wake millions of wrecks of broken vows, neglected opportunities, and lost souls.

Sin A Disorganizing Force

By sin man was separated from God in Eden, and with each passing year has been still further separated from his fellow man. Sin has thrown the machinery of the moral world out of harmony: duty, which was intended to make men happy, is undone; self-sacrifice, which was to make men better, is little thought of; and worship, which was designed to satisfy the soul, has to a large extent become cold, formal, and meaningless. Sin is not local, like a toothache, but is organic, and defiles the whole body. The prophet Ezekiel cried out to lost, indulgent humanity, as follows: "Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin." (Ezekiel 18:30).

—J. Grant Anderson

Building Our House

"Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?" Isa. 66:1. May we think soberly on this verse. God made everything and us, but His dwelling is to be in the hearts of the people He created, so that means we are to build a place, a house, for the Lord to live. He asked, "Where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?" What kind of house do you think the Lord would deserve? Surely a King should have the best, don't you think? It should be something clean, solid, and peaceful.

Now let's look at the house we are building. Each day we are working on His house. We choose each day whom we will serve. Let me ask this, Would you really want Jesus to live in and know your whole heart as His dwelling? Have all the little corners been cleaned fit for a King or are there hidden parts of the heart you wouldn't want Jesus to see in full light?

Have you ever watched carpenters at work? Some take pride in having a clean, quality job that will last; others don't care, they just slop it up to get finished. Some work till the job is done, others just work to get it done—a big difference.

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon the house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of

mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it." Matt. 7:24-27. Friends, if we want something solid for Jesus to live in, it must be built on the rock, because only solid material will stand the strong storms of life. Jesus just wouldn't want to live in any dwelling that wasn't solid, because **strong storms will hit us all.**

When the 135 m.p.h. winds of Hurricane Hugo hit Charleston, SC, the older buildings built back in the 1800s stood the blast. Anything not solid fell and great was the fall. The paper stated that back in the 1800s they built things to last. How about our house? Have we built on the Rock with God's Word as our blueprint? When the rains, floods and high winds hit our house, will we stand true and faithful, or will we have a great fall? The material we use, and the way we build our lives will show forth clearly in the raging storms. When the storms pass by, will we still be standing? If so, we will be stronger for the next blast, and Jesus will still be calmly settled in the house we built for Him.

During Hurricane Hugo, there was a house taken from its foundation. Both the house and the foundation were left intact, but the house was moved several hundred feet. It was such a smooth move that even the dishes in the cabinet remained unbroken. That is like "our little house." The hard winds may blow us around but no real harm will be done. Remember this verse: "Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:" Prov. 9:1. Friend, if we are wise we will build solid and sure!

Our house should also be a peaceful habitation. "And my people shall dwell in a peaceful habitation, and in sure dwellings and in quiet resting places." Isa. 32:18. Jesus will only dwell where peace lives. Isaiah 66:1 asks, "And where is the place of my rest?" To rest there must be peace and quiet. How about our house, could Jesus rest there? Are you at peace and rest with yourself, or are you a restless soul?

After looking over our house, would it be safe or scary to live there? Maybe we need to remodel or build a completely new dwelling for King Jesus to live in. If we build a good, clean, safe, solid, peaceful house for Jesus out of our lives, then when it comes time to leave this life we will find Jesus has built a home for us, not made with hands, where we can live and enjoy heaven forever! What kind of carpenter are we in building a house for the "carpenter's Son?"

—Sis. Elaine Dunn

Rightly Dividing The Word Of Truth

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Tim. 2:15. I have been thinking about how powerful the Word of truth is and how important it is that it be rightly divided. Paul said it was the power of God unto salvation. (Rom. 1:16). Think of how powerful that is. It can take a corrupt, sinful man who is bound with envy, hatred, jealousy, unforgiveness, covetousness, love of the world, and all other sins, wash him and make him white as snow. The Word of God can change our very nature and make a new creature out of us. This is a powerful force and it should never be handled lightly.

Paul likened it to a two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow and said it was a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Heb. 4:12). There is nothing more powerful than that. Oh, how we need to rightly divide it. I believe that is why the qualifications of a bishop, or minister, are to be blameless, vigilant, apt to teach, one that ruleth his own house well and not a novice. (I Timothy 3:6). Those who are to divide the Word of truth are to attain to some strong qualifications.

II Timothy 2:6 says, "The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits." All of the confusion in the religious world, the sects and creeds, are caused by not rightly dividing the Word of truth. Jesus said not to take anything away from it, and we sure don't need to add anything to it. But this is where most of the problems arise. In our eagerness to get the Word out, we can feel we must add more to it or dramatize it. We are also prone to get our own opinion involved. There is also a danger here of getting self involved. We can draw attention to our own selves trying to come up with something new. I would say there has been more confusion over this than any other thing; trying to make the word mean more than it was intended to.

There is also the danger of taking away from the Word of God and causing souls to be lost. Jesus said, "The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him [man] in the last day." (John 12:48). This same judgment is also to those who preach His Word.

I have been saved almost 32 years now, and it seems the hardest part of the Scriptures to rightly divide is about the outward appearance. There seem to arise so many differences of opinions and personal ideals. I have not heard very many messages preached on outward ap-

pearance, but what personal opinions were involved. Why can not we just take the Word for these things. It is very plain and simple. The Bible says we should adorn ourselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness, and sobriety. (I Tim. 2:9). Now that doesn't seem to be hard to understand. The word modest means: shy, reserved, not displaying one's body; quiet, humble in appearance and style. We ought to be able to take that and know what kind of clothing to buy, and how we should appear before God and man.

These thoughts were impressed upon me and I hope they will be a blessing to someone. We love all of our dear family of God. You mean so much to us. We are going through the greatest trial we have ever faced. But we are expecting God's Word of truth to see us through. Thank you for all your love, cards and prayers.

I would also like to thank each of you dear saints for the beautiful cards we received for our 40th Anniversary. It was a precious occasion to have so many of the dear saints with us.

Let us all keep steady as we go,

—Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons

The Greatest Men Of History Have Recognized The Bible As Supreme Authority

"I have always said, and always will say that the studious perusal of the sacred volume will make us better citizens, better fathers, and better husbands."—Thomas Jefferson

"What a Book! Vast and wide as the world, rooted in the abysses of creation, and towering up behind the blue secrets of heaven. Sunrise and sunset, promise and fulfillment, birth and death, the whole drama of humanity all in this book."—Heinrich Hein.

"If I am asked what is the remedy for the deeper sorrows of the human heart, I must point to something which in the well known hymn is called 'the old, old story,' told of an old, old Book and taught with the old, old teaching which is the greatest and best guide ever given to mankind."—William E. Gladstone.

How logical is the place the Bible occupies! Naturally the father would speak to his children, and the Bible is just such a book as we would naturally expect from a heavenly Father. There is no disappointment in it anywhere, and best of all it answers, so marvelously, all our questions.

Then too it is in perfect keeping with the other two sources of information. Its message and nature's message are perfectly harmonious. Science and Christianity perfectly harmonize, when both are correctly interpreted. It interprets

and illuminates the revelations of the human spirit. All blend in one. We feel, then, perfect confidence to go to the blessed Bible. It is God's Book. It is authoritative. It lights our way. We learn to love it more than our daily food. How perfectly wonderful it is that we have such a marvelous revelation from God. How we should appreciate it!

Rockinghorse Christians

Rowland Hill, the great evangelist and preacher, once visited a home and saw a child rocking a rocking horse. After watching the little boy for some time, he said, with his natural wit, "He reminds me of certain Christians. There is plenty of motion, but no progress."

Such "rocking horse" Christians are in evidence everywhere in the professing Church. They are running hither and thither; they are taken up with much service: social service, charitable service and service for different kinds of improvements. There is almost a perpetual motion in churchism today. But where is the real spiritual progress? Like the child on the rocking horse, there is no progress; and sometimes with all the motion, getting nowhere, the rocking horse instead of remaining stationary, slips back. Real spiritual progress is not achieved by continual motion in Christian service. It is conditioned on two things: the first is prayerful, daily study of the Bible. This takes time. We do not mean the mere reading of a chapter each day, but the meditation on what God has spoken. Such intense meditation means listening to God. It is in this we keep in fellowship with our Father and our Lord. There can be no spiritual progress without an earnest, prayerful study of God's Word. A believer may belong to every society in Christendom, be foremost in every Christian service, but if he neglects the real study of God's Book, he is and remains a rocking horse Christian.

The second condition is prayer. In our long Christian experience we have found that the best incentive, the greatest encouragement to prayer is listening to His voice, as He speaks to the heart through His Word. Thus the two go together. Only as we spend much time on our knees speaking to Him in worship, in thanksgiving, praise, supplication and intercession, do we make real progress.

Far be it from us to discredit Christian service. But the genuine Christian service is the result of spiritual progress. Are you a rocking horse Christian? —Selected

"Holy indignation is not carnality."—Selected



Excerpts Taken From
December, 1964 *Faith and Victory*

"I have been getting the *Faith and Victory* paper for quite awhile. I really thank the dear sister who made it possible for me to get it. May the Lord bless her for it. The little paper is very encouraging to me each time I read it. The whole world needs to read it, for it's all the true Word of God held up as it should be."

—Mrs. Lois Averett

"Ever since my return from camp meeting, I have been deeply impressed to write my experience for the *Faith and Victory* paper. For some months before camp meeting my life became so burdened with care, sickness and pain that I could not seem to keep the victory in my soul. . . . The blessed heavenly Father guided me to the camp meeting at Dover. What a glorious awakening it was! It brought me back to my first love. Oh, the wondrous love of God! Oh, the tremendous reality of it! It fills the soul with joy and puts a song in the heart, which is far, far beyond earth's greatest treasure. 'What is man that thou art mindful of him,' I have cause to exclaim! Brother Phillips remarked that it was the best meeting in forty years. It was the sweet unity of the Spirit, and the divine love among the saints."

—Sister McFarling

"Dear one, have you been bitten by the serpent of discouragement? Are the trials, the problems and battles hard and long? Did you not know that discouragement will lead to sin? Sin then will lead to death to the soul. Then look to Jesus and live. There is help for you in God."

—Sis. A. Marie Miles