

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



Light in the Night

'Twas in the shadow of night that a bright star came into being. The rays of that lone star glowed in a quiet stable where one couple was awake. Praising God, and perhaps weeping with joy, they witnessed the first coming of Christ into the world. He was flesh and blood, warm and small. He needed help, and doubtless He cried for it. But bundled in those swaddling clothes lay the potential Being of a future man who would do the work of God.

The world knew not of His coming, because it was night and the world was asleep. However, in the radiant glory of heaven, the angels were singing praises to Him. Then shepherds on a hillside were aroused by the singing. They believed the angels' glad tidings, and in the silence of a slumbering world, they quickly went to the stable where God's Light had come.

Three wise men also were alert. They followed this star for a long time and they too found Christ in the humble dwelling, and fell on their knees to worship Him. Now with such a wonderful secret, the wise men hurried back to their homes.

Thirty years later, and thus a man, Christ declared, "I am the Light." (John 8:12). Many believed and benefited from His healing and teaching, but most of the world loved darkness rather than light. They took Him and hung Him on a cross. A thick cloud of blackness swept over the world. Dull ears, ignorant minds and stony hearts were not sensitive to spiritual truths.

Again while the world slept, in the early morning hours of the third day, God sent an angel to roll away the tombstone so that His Light might come forth in full glory and power. One, two, three, 11 or more, then 500 persons saw our resurrected Christ. He talked with them; He ate with them; He was alive! After 40 days, before their watching eyes, Christ ascended into the clouds of heaven above. He reigns at the right hand of God, interceding for

Have a happy holiday season -- because of Christ!

the sins of the world, answering our prayers.

Now the souls of men and women can take in the Light. There is power and glory in the light of Christ. It is spiritually awakening. Sin and misery vanish when the Light comes into a soul. It is wonderful that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16).

Today we are in the evening time. The second coming of Christ is near. He will not come as a babe this time, but He will come in the clouds with power to execute judgment. The world shall melt in fervent heat, and the wicked shall burn likewise. It will not be so with the righteous who have been purged by God's holy Light reigning within. These shall be clothed in white and receive their crown of eternal life.

In the twinkling of an eye, so shall be the second coming of Christ. No one knows when, not even the angels, but when the last trumpet sounds, everyone will awaken to face eternity.

Will you be found awake in the night, following the true star of hope like the three wise men? Will you rejoice with the angels when you hear them announce the coming of Christ as did the shepherds? If you believe in the first coming of Christ, if His death and resurrection has put a light in your soul, then you will be drawn unto the Son of God when He comes the second time.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell



The Wonder of His Love

We all respond to the words, "I love you." It opens up our own heart to love in return. Real true love knows no limits or boundaries. God has proven His infinite love to us all down through the ages. He's proving it today, and He'll prove it in all time to come.

Many people of the world have now heard that God gave His very best to save the lost from an eternal death by freely giving His only well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ. But how many really grasp the true wonder of God's love? The definition of wonder is: the feeling of surprise, admiration and awe aroused by something strange, unexpected, incredible; a miracle. This wonder is a gift He wants to give us. God has designed for us to use this gift every day of our life, through Jesus, our Intercessor. This gift is not anything tangible or that we can see, because it "is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." It is the wondrous gift of **faith**. One song writer wrote:

"The gift of faith no limit knows,
Save God's unbounded Word;

It triumphs o'er its giant foes,
And glorifies the blessed Lord."

Are we using this wonderful gift of faith as much as God has intended and designed for our lives? Do we want to please God? How our heart answers these two searching questions will prove how much we really love God. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. 11:6.

Ponder this verse and let it become a portion of your heart and mind. Real faith moves only at the impulses of His love. If we persist in our own feeble efforts, it will hinder and mar God's plan for us.

David was an outstanding example of faith in God, who moved "at the impulse of His love." This man had loved God with a fervent heart since his youth. As a lad, David had been a devout shepherd of his father's sheep. There were many lonely days spent in this manner, but David learned something that is essential to all of our lives: "The wonder of God's love."

No doubt David learned to enjoy his occupation as he took his harp to play and sing praises to God. It not only bonded the sheep to him, but bonded his own heart to God. I like to imagine David enjoying the beauties of nature as he played and sang. No doubt it caused his heart to reach out for more of God. God who is love, responded by filling his heart with wonderful heavenly thoughts. This closeness to God created a great faith in David. The Bible tells how he fearlessly killed a lion and a bear to save his father's sheep. Later, he went "in the name of the Lord," to kill Goliath to save God's people. But the most outstanding incident was when he **withheld** from killing King Saul. David was by faith, conducting himself at the impulse of God's love. David would not touch the Lord's anointed. His faith was so rooted and grounded in God, that he knew God was well able to work out this most terrible situation of King Saul's insane jealousy.

David was a man after God's own heart. Can we not also be after God's own heart? Every provision possible has been made. Jesus descended from the glories of heaven. After He had suffered and died for our sins, He arose triumphant from the grave. He had told His disciples He would send the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to lead and guide us through every aspect of our life. Surely our faith can mount up with eagles' wings when we consider "the wonder of His love."

God was willing to send His only Son, Jesus, to a condemned world. And wonder of wonders,

Jesus was willing to become flesh and blood that He might save mankind.

Dear reader, your heart can leap for joy within you, when you think about "the wonder of His love." We can be redeemed by love Divine through Jesus Christ, with the gift of faith that knows no bounds.

We are nearing the close of the year 1990. Let us purpose in our hearts through the coming years God sees fit to give us, that we will be children of God after His own heart, enjoying "the wonder of His love" — the gift of **faith**.

In Christ,

—Carol Cole



Wise Unto Salvation

Paul spoke to Timothy in II Timothy 3:15 that from a child he had known the Holy Scriptures, "which," he said, "are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." This kind of wisdom is the only real wisdom that will profit a person. To be wise in the world and its ways and thoughts is not true wisdom. Through the instruction, correction, doctrine, and reproof of the Holy Scriptures, the Bible, we can learn the way of true and godly wisdom.

It is for one's own advantage and profit to seek the wisdom which is from God. Job 28:28 declares that the fear of the Lord is the beginning (or foundation) of wisdom." We usually think of a wise person as one who acts and speaks in ways that are profitable, beneficial, constructive, and helpful to himself and others. Just say, for instance, you bought an automobile for a very fair price, and that car turns out to be a very serviceable vehicle for many miles and years with very little trouble. You would say, "That surely was a wise investment." Any move that one makes that proves effective in avoiding trouble or difficulty and brings a better situation in life would be called a wise move.

It is possible for a person to advance in worldly knowledge of financial and business matters, guiding his affairs and decisions to where he becomes very well noted for his advice and counsel in these things. People call him a wise man, and he is sought out by many for his advice in such matters. All of this is good in its place. But this kind of wisdom is just for this present life and its benefit. We need a greater wisdom than this. We need to be wise in matters that pertain to our eternal welfare and position. Jesus spoke in Luke 16:8 about a steward and the wisdom he showed in preparing for the losing of his job by befriending others with the goods he still had in his control.

His lord commended him for his actions, and Jesus pointed out that "the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light." A person in pursuit of wealth and fame of this present life is very careful, diligent, perseverant, watchful, and industrious to attain his goals. If we would be equally wise in pursuing spiritual wealth and nearness to God as the person who has their heart set on being rich, we would be much farther up the road than many of us are.

Listen to what Paul said in Ephesians 5:15-17: "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." The word "circumspectly" means guardedly watching in every direction, weighing every angle, taking every possibility into consideration, not overlooking anything. The main thing that the carnal minded soul fails to consider in his plans and decisions is the eternal phase of things. In Luke 12:16-21 Jesus told about the rich man who laid up treasure for himself, and was not rich toward God. This man had a large bumper crop coming ripe, and he was pondering what he was going to do with it. He did not have space in his graineries for the incoming crop. He made a very, very unwise decision. Instead of thinking of the welfare of his soul and others, he decided to tear down his present barns, and build greater barns, wherein he would bestow all his fruits and goods. He would then be able to take his ease, eat, drink, and be merry, comfortable in the security of plentiful wealth. "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" This man was a fool. He failed to take stock in things eternal.

Listen to what God speaks in Jeremiah 17:11: "As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool." It will be terrible to find out too late that one has been a fool! It does not have to be that way with you, my dear friend. Earnestly seek with all of your heart through humility, prayer, and searching the Scriptures, for the path of wisdom. Seek the balanced dividing of the Word of truth. Seek to be wise, not in your own estimation, but in the favor of God and His salvation which is by the faith of His Son, Jesus Christ. Seek it with all of your heart!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee



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FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

Editorials

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 Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, OK 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 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.

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The close of a year is generally a time for reflection on the past and for pondering the future. And well this should be when we think of how quickly the years pass. It brings a distinct reality to our attention that time moves all things from the scene of action, and what we hope to accomplish must be done while time gives space. The writer of Ecclesiastes understood how time ties the past with the future into one short span that will soon pass, when he wrote, "That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past." Eccl. 3:15.

Take a look at your life and you will realize that the direction in which you turned your attention in the past is where you are now. It is important to keep our affections upon the riches in God's vast storehouse of grace, because soon our future will all be counted as past and God will judge us by where we are standing before Him at that time. This appointed time will catch many unaware. Jesus very vividly portrays this thought in the story of the ten virgins. The cry of the bridegroom's approach came at midnight, a time when it was nearly impossible to find a place that sold oil. The coming was also so sudden that there was little time for this pursuit. How like death this is. The midnight hour of life is the most difficult time to make up for our lack of preparation. Our attention then is taken up with hurried business, weeping and farewells, and minds many times are clouded with pain. And death does not wait for us to pay the price required to obtain the favor of God.

In the sad narrative of the five foolish virgins, Jesus pointed out that the grace of God cannot be borrowed. It can only be obtained directly from the owner, who is God Himself. Some may have the feeling that all will turn out well because their parents possess this grace of God. Although godly parents may steer us in the path of righteousness in our youth, the important consideration is how we have directed our footsteps since life has been in our control. We must have a personal relationship with God ourselves.

The five foolish virgins would not be considered as having committed wrong. In fact, they would be those who did many good things. They would compare well with the church at Ephesus, zealous in their religious works, yet letting their first love leak out. (Rev. 2:1-4). How sad it would be to come to the end and look back at a trail of confusion and broken hearts we had left behind because of a lack of love, and have to look God in the face without His grace in our hearts.

When the future of this coming year is past history, let us be sure we are still in the way of grace, for that will help determine how our soul will be weighed when the final conclusion is made.

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We have had many requests for the 1991 wall calendars and are almost out of stock. However, we hope to have a new supply soon, and those who order immediately should receive them in time for Christmas.

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We have recently printed an updated order list of the books and tracts we keep in stock. A free copy is available upon request.

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Those who wish to place an order or call in a prayer request from anywhere in the United States, may now do so by using our toll free telephone number which is: 1 800 767 1479. This number is normally answered only during regular business hours.

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It was a real surprise to hear of Sis. Cassie Sell's sudden passing on Nov. 21. Sis. Cassie and her daughter, Viola Weir, are part of the chain of many past workers at the Print Shop. Writing of her in the book, *God's Gracious Dealings*, Grandfather Fred Pruitt states, "Sister Cassie Irwin was a precious saint of God and was loved by all the saints in the congregation, and the entire Faith Publishing House family." She will be missed by many.
—Wayne Murphey

Prayer Requests

KY—Sis. Nancy Miller would appreciate your continued prayers.

Can.—Sis. Elizabeth Friesen has a serious illness and needs the prayers of the saints.

KY—"Remember me when you pray; I have needs and problems."
—Juanita Evans

LA—"We want you to still pray for us all."

—N. P. Futch

AL—"Remember Emmett in prayer; he isn't feeling well."
—Sis. Pearlina Gerald

MO—"Please help me pray for Bro. Bill Casgrove; he has cancer and is in need of prayer."

—Sis. Eathel Hill

LA—"I have some unspoken requests, also I need prayer for my back."
—Sis. Joyce Davis

OH—"Please remember my lost loved ones in your prayers."
—Kathryn Johnston

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"Learn to smile. Cheerfulness is just as cheap as a frown and it makes others happier, which will make you feel better toward others." —Sel.

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

MISSOURI STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

The Missouri State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God was held Oct. 10-14, 1990 at Myrtle, MO. We want to report with much thankfulness that the meeting was richly blessed of God. A sweet spirit of heavenly solemnity prevailed in the services. The Lord so anointed the singing on Saturday that the song service turned out to be an altar service. There was much joy and singing on earth and in heaven that night because of the lost who returned to the fold. The whole meeting was very special, and our souls were enriched and blessed. We prayed much and earnestly for the success of the meeting, so now we thank God for answering our prayers. Also, we appreciate all who came and helped to make the meeting a success, or who were not able to come, yet prayed for the meeting. The Lord was faithful to us. Praise the Lord!
—Harlan Sorrell

JEFFERSON, OR ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

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We would like to thank the Lord for blessing our 1990 assembly meeting here in Jefferson, OR. It was well attended by both the Gladstone and Jefferson congregations. There were several outsiders who visited and we trust the Lord blessed the hearing of the truth to their hearts and understanding. Bro. Vada MacMillian was here from Missouri and was faithful to break the bread of life to us. One good thought was that there are thunderings and lightnings (judgments and counsels) proceeding from the throne of God—but it is a throne of grace.

Our desire is to contend earnestly for the truth once delivered to the saints, in a spirit of true meekness and love. "More like Christ, my heart is praying. More like Christ from day to day. All His graces rich displaying, while I tread my pilgrim way. . . ."

In Christ,

—Sis. Elizabeth Redington

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

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The 84th annual Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Guthrie, OK, Dec. 21-30, 1990. We extend a hearty welcome to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U. S. A.

Understanding that every service of the Lord is vital, we are seeking the Lord to send Spirit-filled ministers filled with the sweet anointing of the

Lord. Also, we desire the Lord to send anointed singers to sing anointed songs unto the Lord. We ask the saints to join in our burden for souls, praying for all to receive the help needed.

The chapel and campground facilities are located on the corner of 6th and West Warner Streets. All who come will be cared for. As usual, the expenses of the meeting will be met by freewill offerings. Any contributions may be sent directly to the State Treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, Rt. 6, Box 797, Guthrie, OK 73044. For further information, you may contact Bro. Carl R. Shaffer, 5322 S. Sooner Road, Guthrie, OK 73044; phone, 405/282-1954.



TERMITE EXTERMINATION COOPERATION NEEDED

Dear cabin owners at Monark: In a few days you will be getting a letter from the trustees of the National Campground, letting you know the cost and details of a professional spraying of your cabin for termites.

I hope you will not just lay this aside as though it is some kind of a flier. This is very important to you, since termites have been found on the campground. I urge you to cooperate with the brethren by making haste in this matter.

—Bro. Leo McIntosh



From The Mailbox . . .



CA—Dear workers at the Print Shop: We send greetings of Christian love your way. I trust the Lord is blessing each one in a very special way. We are thankful for the many blessings the Lord bestows upon us from day to day. We do thank and praise Him for it all.

We are still here in California with our three girls, and were with them all on two of their birthdays this past week. They all have some heavy burdens. We ask an interest in your prayers.

With Christian love, —Eunice Cole



Can.—Dear Bro. Wayne, co-workers and saints everywhere: We send greetings of love in the precious name of our Lord and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. We have been to some of the camp meetings this summer, and the Lord has blessed our souls and lives. Everywhere my wife and I went, the Lord was working wonderfully. It was worth all

the effort we made to drive the distance. We have been much encouraged by the dealings of our Lord Jesus. . . .

In St. Luke the 6th chapter, from verse 27 down, Jesus is talking about our conduct as saints in this earth. "Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you. Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." We call this the golden rule. Oh, what a blessing it is, dear saints, to live like this, not only to love our enemies, but much, much more our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

We are somewhat isolated here in Canada where we live, but by the grace of God we are going on faithfully, and standing on the Rock which is our Lord Jesus Christ. "And now abideth faith, hope, charity (love) these three, but the greatest of these is charity (love)." It is sad that there are such who know the Bible to a point, but alas, godly love is not their innermost ingredient. The Lord Jesus is asking of us no more than to live a holy life right in this present world. And we will have all His grace to do so.

Dear ones, we are grateful for your work for the Lord in printing the Word of God. Keep up the good work. It will be all worth it.

In the love of Christ Jesus,

—Bro. and Sis. George Schroeder



MS—Dear friends, brothers and sisters everywhere: I am still in the battle, but slowly gaining in Jesus' name. Praise God.

I really cherish the little *Faith and Victory*. I am sacrificing a little offering. I am concerned about those who haven't had the glorious privilege of knowing Jesus and His ways as we Americans have. . . .

May God give you dear full-time workers the best He has for you.

Christian love,

—Ethel Lowery



GA—Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: I thank you for the good work you do for so many people. I thank God for His salvation through Jesus Christ.

Please pray for my brother, Tommie Ricks. He has been very sick, but is better. Please remember me also.

Yours truly,

—Sister Mary Johnson



MI—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in the dear and sweet name of Jesus to all of you. I pray all is going well in the Lord's work.

I haven't been feeling well for going on seven weeks. My left arm started hurting one day whenever I moved it. But I thank the dear Lord for keeping the pain from getting too bad. I have been praying He will heal me soon so I can do more of my work and not feel so tired.

The pain makes me think of when Jesus went to the cross to die for us. How terrible His pains must have been, but He took them for our sins.

May God bless each and every one of you richly in body and soul. —Sis. Olive Gettersson

Honduras—Dear saints at the Print Shop: I greet you all this morning in Jesus' precious name. I love the Lord and want to love Him more. I really enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory* paper. I find so many encouraging words in them. May the Lord always bless you all there at the Print Shop.

My husband and I were both saved in the year 1984. We were joined together in holy matrimony in the year 1985. God has blessed our home with three fine sons, and we praise the Lord for all His goodness unto us. We trust and pray that we will always be together, living a holy life to please Jesus.

I would like to request prayer on my behalf. I have been having physical problems for years. I know God can heal me. I believe with all my heart He can. I desire the saints to bear me up much in your prayers.

May the blessing of God ever be yours to enjoy. —Sis. Brenda Grant

OH—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings to you and all the dear saints there at the Print Shop. I truly thank the Lord for salvation and being a part of the family of God. I am encouraged to press the battle on in the midst of the trials and afflictions that I have.

I really enjoy the *Faith and Victory*, *Beautiful Way* papers, tracts and other good literature that you all send out. Some of the people in my building seem to enjoy reading the literature also. . . .

Please continue to pray for all of us here in Akron, and remember all of our loved ones who are not saved yet.

With much love, —Sis. Janice Shaw

CA—Dear friends: Please do not stop my *Faith and Victory*. I do not know what and how I would feel if you would stop mailing it to me.

I have reached the age of 76 years. I can still read and understand your paper, as well as the Word of God.

Keep me in your prayers. —Bessie L. Mills

KS—Dear Bro. Wayne: How quickly time moves along. Another year is almost gone. Truly we are steadily advancing to eternity. May people get in a hurry about their souls if they are not saved. May the saved hold fast their integrity with God. Life is serious and we trust that people everywhere will face reality and seek and find the truth. I am ever so glad I found Jesus and the one true way. I am very much encouraged to press on to glory and get my crown.

May God bless all of you at the Print Shop.

Christian love, —Sis. Shirley Knight

IN—Dear ones in Christ: I hope all is well. Please pray for me and my family. I am not so well, and my son isn't either. I know God is able to heal. Also remember my unsaved loved ones, that they will get saved before it's too late.

—Sis. Dessie Wilson

LA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings this lovely morning. We are still saved and pressing on in the service of our Lord. We are both doing very well at present. Some days are better than others, but we have no complaints. We do love the Lord. He is so good to us.

We trust everything is going well there at the Print Shop. You are in our daily prayers. We look forward each month to receiving the paper.

God bless all, —Bro. and Sis. Max Williamson

CA—Dear Brother Wayne Murphey and dear ones at the Print Shop: Greetings of love. . . .

I am keeping saved and living for my Lord, who is blessing Elmer and me. This month we celebrated our 66th wedding anniversary together. I will be 87 on the 31st. We are happy and well, loving each other more as the days go by.

I have placed my hand in God's and know that He will lead me to that home He has prepared for His loved ones.

Love and prayers to all of you. Remember us in your prayers. —Sister Lucille S. Allen

“God is not dead. He, like some people everywhere, has not been employed.” —William DeBolt

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

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NM—I would like to thank everyone for their prayers since the publication of my prayer request in the *Faith and Victory*. My arthritis is much better. Please continue to pray for me. I also have an additional special prayer request. I am so glad I'm a part of the family of God. —Doretha Harden

CA—Dear saints at Guthrie: Just a line to thank all of you for your prayers sent up to God for me. I am getting along real well, but it will take a while for me to heal completely. I am not a young woman, as I will be 75 years old on March 24 of next year. So thanks again for your prayers. I wanted to let you know I was doing all right. Keep me on your prayer list, that God will help me.

Sincerely,

—Velma Paschall

OK—Dear saints: Once again we are nearing the time of year when we all celebrate the birth of our Saviour. As we endeavor to live for the Lord, daily thanking Him for our blessings, we realize how beautiful His birth really was. Because of Him, we can have great peace in our souls.

We feel the Lord would be pleased for us to testify of His goodness to us. On Sept. 19, George and our two employees were setting the poles, starting to erect a barn. They were having great difficulty digging the holes, as some were in sandrock. They knew they must hurry on the last hole as it was starting to rain. The auger was too slow digging, so George laid across a pole on top of the auger, holding onto a nearby fence with his hands. Pushing with all his strength, he forced the auger into the sandrock. The pole was set. The rain came down. They drove home, which was over an hour's drive.

When he got home, he complained of a sick headache. He ate very little supper and was soon in his chair. Before long he had a high fever and was hurting in his stomach.

George wanted to sleep that night in his chair. Around 4 a.m., I was awakened by his groans. He then told me he knew he had injured himself and told me what he had done. I had prayer for him. Around 6:30 a.m., I called several of the saints for prayer. Our workers soon came to work, and George felt he must get them started on a job we had begun at the airport near our home. I begged him not to go, but he had given his word and signed a contract on this job. He felt the Lord would help him. He soon returned home for me to go with him for lumber and steel in Oklahoma

City. He was so sick and I wanted to be with him. It seemed I prayed continuously for him. Driving our truck hurt his stomach, so when we returned he brought me by the house to get the car. He wanted ice cream for lunch, so I followed him there to eat.

He then left to take the load of building material to the job site. I was delayed shortly, but when I arrived home, approximately three minutes later, I was shocked to find him in his chair in total agony. I fell on my knees praying. He looked at me and said, "Honey, we have trusted the Lord for a long time. Whatever happens to me now, I want to trust the Lord." I realized he was very near death. I tried to call our pastor but he wasn't home, neither were my parents. I called Bro. Wayne at the Print Shop, asking him to bring Bro. Bob Wilson and come quickly. I then called Bro. Tim Huskey, asking him to please hurry. He lives a mile down the road, and I knew he would be here soon. Then I called Sis. Jane Saltee, asking her to call the local saints for prayer. I didn't have time to call anyone else, as George was suffering greatly. Thank the Lord for the saints! We have a dear congregation! I know many prayers went up to our Lord. The brothers started coming. As the word spread, different ones came, also my parents. The suffering seemed to be more than he could stand at different times. George would say he loved me, but it was all over. He couldn't take the pain in his right side and stomach area.

Around 4:45 the Lord gave relief, an almost sudden touch. He went from agony to thanking each one for coming, but telling them they could now go home. We were so thankful! It wasn't until after everyone except my parents had left, that George told us he knew nothing of what he had said or even who was there until the relief came.

That night his fever went up. We had a rough night, as he suffered greatly, and again seemed to know me, but nothing else. Once again the Lord gave relief when the pain was so intense.

We were thankful for the weekend. The pressure of the need to work did not bother him.

We have been so concerned about his stomach that we had given little thought to his head hurting behind his left ear. We soon realized this was just as serious. Apparently he had strained so hard he had injured something in his head.

He is slowly recovering, thank the Lord. He is very limited in his daily work, as lifting or stress causes pain in his stomach, which soon is followed by a high fever. He has had a few days with no pain, for which we are very thankful.

We are so thankful for the good employees the Lord has given us. This helps both of us so much. We have had a lot of time with no work, but now

it is quite the opposite. This puts a lot of pressure on George. We know the Lord will help him with this too.

We thank each of you for your prayers and for all the love you have shown us, not only in this trial, but during the past three years. It is a wonderful blessing to be in the family of God. Please continue to pray for us until the healing is complete.

We love each of you,

—George and Juanita Montgomery

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From the Philippines . . .

Oct. 20—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings of Christian love to you, and all the children of God in the U. S. May this letter find you in the best of health.

I thank our Lord for His grace and love, and for keeping us safe day and night. I love the Lord and want to please Him by preaching the gospel wherever I go. May the Holy Spirit of our Lord guide us and lead us always in the right way of salvation.

Please help us pray that our country, the Philippines, may be blessed by God with peace, joy, and love to every Filipino. . . .

Love in Jesus, —Nonilon Capuyan

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Nov. 19—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey, and workers in the Print Shop: Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus.

The recent calamities that occurred in the Philippines by the typhoon "Rufing" and "Susang" have caused great damage to our country and the death of several people. But thanks to the Lord God Almighty, we are safe in Jesus' name, the name that always protects us in every incident that happens.

After the typhoon had passed, we were surprised that when we talked about the Scriptures to people, they were very attentive to listen, unlike before the typhoon. So, sometimes calamities are a sort of reminder to the people that God is omnipresent and omniscient. The Lord said, "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things." Isa. 45:7.

Yours in Christ, —Bro. Leonardo Salvaña

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From India . . .

Nov. 15—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear brothers and sisters in America: Greetings to you all dear ones again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ.

One of our pastors, Bro. C. M. Iyyukutty, passed away on Nov. 2, at the age of 64. He was a faithful servant of God, and was pastoring the congregation at Athani. He was a gifted Christian poet, and he wrote many songs which we use in our services. His departure is a big loss to our church, but God is able to fill up that gap. He has a wife and nine children. We invite your prayers for that bereaved family. We have the desire to start a fund to support that family. We invite your cooperation also in the contribution to this fund.

Our 26th General Convention will be conducted in the first week of January, 1991. The presence and prayers of the saints in America are invited for this convention.

Though there are many problems and oppositions, the church activities are moving on with considerable progress. If the saints in America want to do anything for India, do it now, because the time is very near when the door is going to be closed. Our prayers are for you.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

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From Mexico . . .

Dear brethren: Greetings in the holy and precious name of Jesus, our beloved and precious Saviour. I am desiring that the blessings of God be on all those that serve and love Him. I start this letter with much love and gratefulness to our God for how marvellous He has been in our lives, and in the work here, also for His benefits that He has bestowed on us. We have not been able to write because we have had so much work. We purposed to have the buildings ready for camp meeting, and we were able. Blessed be the name of our God! The people would not have been able to fit in the place we had. The new chapel measures 58 x 39 ft., besides the kitchen and dining rooms. There are also three apartments (rooms) for old people to stay in. There are some here who need this very much. I ask your prayers for them.

We have been visiting some brethren that live about 259 miles from here. We have had beautiful services there and five have been saved. Please pray much for them. I went there the first weekend of our camp meeting, hoping they could come back with me to the meeting. They weren't home when I arrived, but someone sent for them and they came, bringing two persons I did not know. They said, "We have been reading our Bible, but we don't understand it. Please explain it to us." At that moment the Lord gave me a burden and an inspiration. I preached right there outside their house. They said, "We can't go to the camp meeting, but that doesn't matter, for we want to be saved right now!" So right there, outside of their

house, they knelt, crying and praying for salvation. Praise the Lord! The Lord sent me many miles for this purpose. (Acts 8:26-39; 10:33-35). Great is our God! We have also had more saved here. We will keep working for the Lord until He calls for us.

I had a great desire to be with you in your meeting. I was praying and am praying for all the saints, that we keep faithful and united. The Devil wants to separate the children of God. However, he is already defeated, but if only he would acknowledge it. Someday we will receive our prize if we follow God. Those that follow man have their reward, also. May the Lord help you in everything.

Your brother in Christ,

—Mayarino Escobar and family



In Memoriam

Clarence Pugh, born Oct. 11, 1898 in Jasper County, MS, passed from this life on Oct. 18, 1990, at the age of 92 years.

He was married to Leona McNeil on Nov. 17, 1917, and to that union were born eight children; four sons and three daughters, and an infant which preceded him in death. Also preceding him in death were his parents, his wife, two sons, and one daughter.

He is survived by two sons, Herbie Pugh of Pasadena, TX and Calvin Pugh of Louin, MS; two daughters, Mrs. Ellen Stringer and Mrs. Elveta Gingell of Bay Springs, MS; two sisters, Mrs. Annie Brady and Ms. Flora Ruth Pugh of Bay Springs, MS; 24 grandchildren and 48 great-grandchildren.

Bro. Clarence was saved in about 1935 and had been a member of the Zion Hill Church of God congregation for about 55 years.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Bob Forbes and Minister LaVon Hollifield, with a special eulogy given by a good and long-time friend, Mr. Ed Ulmer, with burial in the cemetery next to the Zion Hill Church of God chapel.



Mary Lee Gaines Thomas was born Dec. 27, 1943 in Tulsa, OK to Bro. Manyes and Sis. Almata Gaines. She attended school at Dunbar, Carver, and B. T. Washington. Mary also attended Langston University.

She worked for Getty Oil Company for 17 years and also for the U. S. Postal Service.

She was married to Claude W. Thomas, Jr., and to this union one son and one daughter were born.

Mary was a sweet person, well loved by those who knew her. She loved to give and was so willing to forgive.

Mary was gloriously saved in 1986. Her testimony of how the Lord saved her was a blessing to those who heard it. She showed fervent love to God and His people.

Mary quietly passed from this life, Oct. 29, 1990 at 5:45 p.m.

She leaves to cherish her memory: one son, Kevin Dwayne Thomas, Dallas, TX; and one daughter, Kimberly Thomas Stevens of Lisle, IL; two brothers, Manyes B. Gaines and Rozell E. Gaines of Tulsa, OK.

Mary's natural parents preceded her in death, but God gave her another mother, Theresa Gaines and four other sisters, Barbara Hughes, Jacquelyn West, Frances Andrews, and Oleta Whibby; one son-in-law, James Charles Stevens of Lisle, IL; two sisters-in-law, Ruth Gaines and Geraldine Gaines of Tulsa, OK; two aunts, Edith Sherman, Bakersfield, CA and Ruth Shehee, Pacoima, CA; one uncle, David L. Douglas, Tulsa, OK, nieces, nephews, cousins, saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Charles Lowe.



Cassie Marie (Marler) Sell was born on Jan. 10, 1911, the eldest of seven children, to Frank and Katie Elder Marler at Kime, MO.

In her youth she gave her heart to the Lord and became a member of the Church of God, by the new birth, and lived dedicated to the Lord the remainder of her life.

It is marvellous how God leads honest souls to truth. In 1920 the Marler family moved into an old house, and Sis. Katie Marler found a *Faith and Victory* paper there. She saw the Church of God and was led by the Holy Spirit right on into truth. The Marler family lived somewhat isolated for many years but have stood firm for the truth.

On Jan. 11, 1930, Sis. Cassie was united in marriage to William S. Irvin. To this union one daughter, Viola, was born. He preceded her in death in December 1936. She and Viola moved back with the Marler family.

Sis. Cassie and her daughter, Viola, attended their first camp meeting in 1944, at Monark Springs, MO.

In the year of 1955, Sis. Cassie went to Guthrie, OK to join her daughter in devoting her time and talents to helping at the Faith Publishing House. After some time she returned to help care for her mother.

Her life was greatly enriched by the large loving family of Loyd C. Wilson after they were married

Nov. 8, 1964. This union lasted eight years when God saw fit to take Bro. Loyd on to glory in December 1972.

Sis. Cassie moved back to Senath, MO to live with her brother, Willard, and her mother, Sis. Katie Marler, who preceded her in death in January 1978. She was also preceded in death by an infant sister, Elsie Katherine; a 3-year-old brother, Elmer; and one brother, Leonard Marler, in December 1988.

Sis. Cassie moved to an apartment at The Golden Rule Home in 1984. On June 1, 1987, she was married to a long-time friend, Bro. Ralph Sell, who proved to be a devoted companion up to the very end. This also added two more step-daughters to her family. God granted Sis. Cassie's desire to go quickly, so as not to be a heavy burden on her loved ones. She slipped away Nov. 21, 1990, from The Golden Rule Home, to join that heavenly throng.

She leaves to mourn her passing, her husband, Ralph Sell and daughters; one daughter, Viola Weir; one grandson, David Will Weir; two brothers, Louie and Willard; two sisters, Ruth Rachels and Virgie Flynn; one sister-in-law, Mary Marler, and one aunt, Blanche Layton. Many will miss her loving cheerful ways.

The funeral service for Sis. Cassie was held in the Church of God chapel at Shawnee, OK on Nov. 23, 1990. It was conducted by Bro. Merrill Smith. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery at Shawnee, OK. The graveside service was conducted by Bro. Carl Shaffer.

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Daniel Solomon Hiebert, 71-year-old Vinita, OK resident, died Thursday morning, Nov. 22, at his home. He was born June 15, 1919 in Homestead, OK, to Abe J. and Susie (Ratzliff) Hiebert. He was retired from American Can and was of the Christian faith. He was preceded in death by his wife, Beulah D. Hiebert, on Feb. 13, 1982.

In Daniel's latter years there were some things about his life he was not satisfied with, and he made changes. He expressed his appreciation for the gospel by passing out many gospel tracts.

The family includes two sons, Ronald Hiebert, of Hot Springs, AR, and Jim Hiebert, of Kansas City, KS; two sisters, Martha Classen, of Fairview, OK and Anna Severs of Neosho, MO; one brother, Leo Hiebert, of Wichita, KS; also a special friend, Doris Dutton, of Vinita, OK; five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in Vinita, OK, officiated by Bro. Wayne Murphey. Burial was in the Fairview Cemetery, Vinita.

Question and Answer

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Please explain I John 3:9.

Answer: This text reads, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

The first part of this verse interposes little or no problem. Numerous Scriptures make it clear and plain that one who is born again (born of God) is delivered from the power of sin and enabled through the power of God to live a holy life free from sin. Matthew 1:21: ". . . He shall save his people **from** their sins." Luke 1:73-75, "The oath which he swore to our father Abraham, That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life." Romans 6:14, "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are . . . under grace." This makes it clear that the grace of God breaks the power and dominion of sin in the life of the person who receives it. Romans 6:17-18, "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin. . . ." This text makes it clear that when one obeys from his heart the Word of God and complies with its terms and conditions, he is set free from sin.

But the second part of this verse is a source of much controversy. We cannot interpret this to mean that one who is born again, saved, born of God, cannot possibly commit sin or even return to a life of sin if he so chooses. This would do violence to numerous Scriptures which teach to the contrary. II Peter 2:20-21 says, "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them." II Peter 3:17 says, "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness." In II Peter chapter 1, beginning with verse 5, a number of Christian graces are cataloged which

the Christian is diligently to add to his Christian life. Then verse 10 says, "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." Verse 9 says, "But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he **was** purged from his old sins." These verses make it clear that only through diligent pursuit of the Christian life and cultivation of the Christian graces in one's life can he maintain his experience and that one who fails to do this will fall from his own steadfastness and forget the experience he had with God at one time.

We are to understand this part of the text as applying to a present, up-to-date, continuing experience and relationship with God, "because he **IS** [present tense] born of God." He has the seed of God (God's Word and Spirit) abiding in him and he cannot sin as long as he is in this state. It does not mean that he does not possess the power, right or privilege to commit sin, but sin is contrary and repulsive to his nature and to the principles of light and truth that are in his soul and he cannot do it for that reason. It is the same as we would say about a man of irreproachable character and integrity: "That man cannot lie, cannot steal, cannot commit any of many other enormities in the catalog of sin and unrighteousness," not because he does not have the power and ability to do such things even as other men do, but it is so foreign to his character and life and the way we know him. Perhaps this thought is best stated in the words of Joseph to Potiphar's wife in Genesis 39:9, "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" He had the power to do that thing even as other men, but it was so obnoxious and repulsive to his pure character that he just could not do it, but fled from it.

Also, it must be understood that he cannot purposely, knowingly do evil while the seed of God (the Divine principle and truth) remains in him and he **IS** born of God; for as soon as he consents to the evil and turns from the light and truth, this seed of God departs from him and he has departed from the holy commandment and is no longer a child of God.



"Pray and read, and read and pray; for a little from God is better than a great deal from men. There is nothing that so abides with us as what we receive from God; and the reason why Christians at this day are at such a loss as to some things is because they are content with what comes from men's mouths, without searching and kneeling before God to know of Him the truth."

—John Bunyan

HOME LIFE



It is all in vain to preach of truth
To the eager ears of trusting youth,
If, whene'er the lad is standing by,
He sees you cheat and he hears you lie.
Fine words may grace the advice you give,
But youth will learn from the way you live.

Honor's a word that a thief may use,
High-sounding language the base may choose.
Speech is empty and preaching is vain,
Though the truth shines clear and the lesson's plain.

If you play false, he will turn away,
For your life must square to the things you say.

He won't tread the path of your righteous talk,
But will follow the path that you daily walk.

"Not as I do, but do as I say,"
Won't win him to follow the better way;
Through the thin veneer of your speech he'll see,

Unless you're the man you would have him be.

The longer you live you will find this true;
As you would teach, you must also do.
Rounded sentences, smooth and fair
Were better not said if your deeds aren't square.
If you would teach him to live to his very best,
You must live your life to the self-same test.

—Selected

While Christ was here upon this earth He loved us and led us to love the Father in heaven. He

taught us that prayer is our avenue to our Father, who will abundantly give us all things that we have need of. In Luke 18, He told a parable with the meaning that "men ought always to pray, and not to faint." Philippians 4:6 instructs us to "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." From this verse we understand that our prayers should include both our requests and thanksgiving. In order for our personal life for the Lord to be a success, we must keep our avenue of prayer to God open with both petitions for help and praise for all of the good things which He has given us.

As this is true of our personal life, so is it true of our family life. Under the law, the Israelites were told that "these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Deut. 6:6-7. While our children are small they should be taught to pray. This should be done, not only by words, but by our example.

There is an old motto which says: "The family that prays together stays together." This may not be true all of the time, but family prayer is a strong bond for a family.

—Kathleen McMurrin



False Security

Have you ever seen a child who had to carry a blanket around? Trenton, our young son, has thoroughly enjoyed the closeness of being rocked to sleep, but I can tell he is turning to other things for a sense of security; a pillow or blanket, a bottle or stuffed animal. How useless these would be in the face of real danger. The stuffed animal can't carry him to safety should the house catch on fire. The bottle can't continue to give him nourishment once it is empty. I thought that we as people, and even saints, can wrap ourselves in a false security instead of being held in the arms of God.

We can decide we're doing so much for the Lord. We visit the sick; support the ministry; teach a Sunday school class, etc. What was it the Pharisee prayed? "God, I thank thee that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers. I fast twice a week. I give tithes of all I possess." (Luke 18:11-12). The religious world will tell you, "You're a fine Christian. Why, you don't drink alcohol or smoke. You are faithful to your spouse. You are a good moral person." But, if you do not keep your life totally in the hands of God, all you have is a security blanket of self righteousness.

The Bible tells us our self righteousness is as filthy rags. The Pharisee covered himself with his goodness, but the publican faced himself, threw down the security blanket of self righteousness and said, "Lord, be merciful to me a sinner." The Lord's arms went around that man and he went home justified.

The Devil wants us to get secure in the fact that I look like a Christian, or that I testify and rejoice in church services. While the Bible gives us guidelines for our outward appearance and our conduct in services, He **never** wants that to become our salvation. We can hug the security pillow of outward show to hearts and fail to dig out the attitudes and dispositions that cast a shadow over our life for God. Jesus said, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ye **ought to have done and not to leave the other undone.**" Matt. 23:23.

There was a man who came into my mother's store who was quite a religious man. He felt he could prove he was living close to the Lord because God had answered his prayer for a Mercedes. The Devil just loves to get us secure in our temporal life and make us feel a false security in our souls by causing us to think that God wouldn't be blessing us if we weren't saved. How sad! Jesus, many times, warned people about the deceitfulness of riches.

What is true security? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. That is the only thing that will stand the judgment shock. The blanket of self righteousness, pillow of outward show, and the bottle of temporal riches will ease our conscience and rock us to sleep. The only true security is to be hidden under His wings, guided by His eye and safe in the arms of a dear Saviour. —Sis. Anita Adams



Equality of Men and Women in the Church

This is a feature which, of all the religions of the world, belongs to Christianity. In heathenism women are regarded as greatly inferior to men and generally have little or no place in religion. But among the Jews, even the laws of Moses made special provision for women, and they were honored and respected; some of them even rose to positions of prominence, as Deborah, a prophetess . . . she judged Israel at that time." (Judg. 4:4). She also led the armies of Israel to victorious conflict. (Judg. 4). Christ delivered one of His greatest sermons to a single woman by a well-side in Samaria (John 4); and a woman was the first

messenger sent to proclaim the great fact of the resurrection. The apostle Paul distinctly recognizes the equality of women with men in the words: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, *there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*" Gal. 3:28.

This equality of women with men in the apostolic church extended even to official positions.

1. As *deaconesses*. The original Greek of Romans 16:1 clearly shows that Phebe, a woman, was a deaconess of the church at Cenchrea. Now, "the office of a deacon" was a distinct, public *official position* in the church, and its candidates were publicly ordained by the laying on of the hands of the apostles. (I Tim. 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-6).

2. As *ministers*. Nor was the ministry of women limited to temporal affairs. We read in different texts of Priscilla and her husband Aquilla (the name of the woman usually standing first), and find that on one occasion they jointly took Apollos, a powerful minister of the gospel, and "expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly." (Acts 18:26). The first sermon concerning the Christ was preached in the temple to the people of Jerusalem by Anna the prophetess—a woman. (Luke 2:36-38). The Samaritan woman whom Jesus met at the well-side went into her city and proclaimed Christ to the people with the result that "many of the Samaritans of the city believed on him *for the saying of the woman.*" (John 4:39). On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit of God was poured out publicly upon the women, and they prophesied in the presence of the wondering multitudes. (Joel 2:28-29). Philip the evangelist "had four daughters which did prophesy." (Acts 21:8-9).

Now, what does it mean to prophesy? The primary signification of the term is *to speak forth*, to tell out the message or the mysteries of God. Its secondary meaning (in some respects the outgrowth of the first) is *to foretell future events*. Paul clearly shows that the "gift of prophecy" is to "understand all mysteries, and all knowledge." (I Cor. 13:2). To prophesy, then, is to proclaim the mysteries and knowledge of God. The same apostle declares that redemption itself was a "mystery," "the hidden wisdom . . . which none of the princes of this world knew"; and yet it is revealed to us by the Spirit of God: "*which things also we speak*, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth"; for "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he

know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (I Cor. 2:7-14).

No one can deny, without twisting the Scriptures, that the prophecy of which Paul speaks is nothing else than the Holy Ghost public preaching of the gospel itself when the church is "come together in one place." (I Cor. 14:23-24).

The great Tertullian, after the apostolic age, recognizes this same equality of men and women in the Word: "Together they pray, together prostrate themselves, together perform their fasts; mutually teaching, mutually exhorting, mutually sustaining. *Equal are they both found in the Church of God.*" —Part IV, Book II, Chap. 8.

—F. G. Smith



Hiding the Royal Seed



"By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment." Heb. 11:23.

Notice in this Scripture that the Hebrew writer is dealing first with the faith of Moses' parents. By faith they hid Moses for three months and were not afraid of the King's commandment. The question then arises, Where did his parents get their faith? The answer to this question is found in the previous verses of Hebrews the eleventh chapter, where so many remarkable examples of faith are mentioned. The one always mentioned, and noteworthy, is Abraham. More attention is given to his faith than any of the others, and this is not meant to take away from the wonderful faith of the others. He directly fathered Israel. Moses' parents had the same faith as Abraham, who had the same faith as Noah, who had the same faith as Enoch, etc. If we continue on down the line after Moses and his parents, we come to other noteworthy examples of faith, and in the twelfth chapter of Hebrews this line of faithful saints buds out into Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. The quality of the faith of Abraham is the same quality of the faith of Jesus, and we are the offspring of the faith of Jesus.

Our concern in this lesson is, however, the faith of Moses. Because of the faith of his parents, he was hidden for three months. We understand this to mean that he was protected, figuratively speaking, from the world during his earliest years. In the narrative of the story found in Exodus, we also find Moses, after his adoption into the Pharaoh's household, with his mother, serving as

his nursemaid. (Exodus 2). He still had the proper nurturing.

Note also the Scripture says that he was a proper child. The Greek word for "proper" means "handsome," "fair," or in other words of a good constitution. This then was a precious child to be protected from the death squads and the worldly career at Pharaoh's court. He had abilities and qualities that were saved for God, not for the world.

It is so necessary for us to obtain this same wisdom when it comes to our own children. If they are going to be effectually used by God, and the truth protected and preserved through them, they are going to have to be hidden from the world's influence during the early years of their lives. If not, the world will kill whatever effectualness they would have in God, or the world will groom them for worldly service and careers. Remember, when the court of Nebuchadnezzar observed the ability of the Hebrew children, they set them aside for service at the court. Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king's meat or his wine. The world still uses this tactic when it sees children "in whom is no blemish." (Daniel 1). The state then charts their directions for life by serving them its meat and wine, and service to God is nowhere in the consideration.

The example of Moses is not the only example of this wisdom of hiding children. In the eleventh chapter of II Kings, we find the ambitious Queen Athaliah usurping the throne of Israel by destroying all the royal seed. However, one of the king's sons, Joash, was not slain because he was hidden by his aunt in the house of the Lord. Not only was the child placed in the house of the Lord for six years, but on the days of his presentation he was surrounded by hundreds of guards. Athaliah was killed, and Joash became king. He did that which was right in the sight of the Lord all his days. Just as Moses was valued as being precious, so was the child Joash hidden, being of the royal seed.

The world that we are presently living in contains the wicked spirit of Athaliah, and the same spirit of destroying royal holiness is present. The leaven of wickedness and ungodliness pervades just about every institution. There was a time when godliness was more pervasive than it is now, but in many places it does not exist at all. One of the places where this destructive, humanistic spirit exists is the government school system of our nation. Humanism, which means that religion where man is relegated to the position of God, and God is made nothing, dominates the general curriculum of our nation. It is difficult to believe that at one time the Bible was the main textbook in the school and 100% of the learning was centered

around God. Today it is just the opposite. The truth is that presently almost 0% of the curriculum would support real Christianity and uphold Christ as the sum of all things to children. Then it is no wonder that we have the moral decay in our society manifested in the promiscuity, pornography, rampant divorce, materialism, delinquency, drugs and the immorality of television.

It has been estimated that a child spends 13,000 hours in school from grade one to grade 12. During that time the child is flooded with material which does not associate the origin of life to God and is taught by many teachers who do not believe in the absolutes of the Scripture and who have no moral values based upon the Bible. After 13,000 hours of such influence, this influence is bound to have effect somewhere in the life of the child. At the least, it will create a doublemindedness in most children. We teach them the Bible, and the public system presents an opposing view. The end result many times is confusion.

The Scripture says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6. The word for "train" in the Hebrew was translated "touch the palate." When the Hebrew mothers weaned their children, they touched the palate to get them to swallow. This means that the time to teach children about God is when they are very young. Furthermore, one source has said that the correct Hebrew interpretation for "when he is old" is "while he is growing old" he will not depart from it. So this means he will not depart from it even though he is growing older. In the training of the child, then, he is to be protected from material which would cause him to err from the ways of God. Proverbs 19:27 says, "Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge."

A position many times taken is that our children need to be exposed to good and evil so they'll be prepared to handle the reality of the world. The apostle Paul told the Romans, "...yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil." Rom. 16:19. A practice in the plant world also teaches us the same lesson. A practice used many times in greenhouses where plants are cultured, is to allow the plantling to grow under the protection of the greenhouse. Then after it has matured, place it on the outside where it can face the elements of nature and survive.

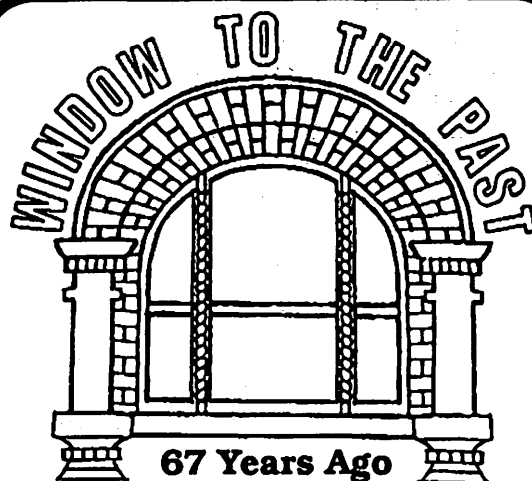
"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;" Heb. 11:24-25.

The fruit of hiding the child, then, is rewarded in the child refusing the world and choosing to suffer affliction with the people of God. The parents of Moses, by faith, hid the child, and when he came of age he refused the world. The faith of his parents produced the faith of Moses. Under the same kind of diligence and faith, should we expect less? Also remember the Scripture says to "train (touch the palate) the child early and when he is growing older he'll not depart from it. (The Scripture in Proverbs 22 does not mean he'll stray out into sin and then when he is old, he'll come back.)

We need to recognize that certain events have occurred in modern history which greatly have affected the world that we live in. Some of the philosophies and beliefs in our land today are judgments and plagues that God has sent upon our earth. In other words, "because they received not a love for the truth, God shall send them strong delusion." (II Thess. 2:10-12). The anti-God philosophy dominating our land today has been long developing from eighteenth and nineteenth century theories and beliefs of men who rejected the truth. Darwin, Freud, Marx, and Owens are among some of these names. Their ideas have infiltrated the twentieth century and have been picked up by men who would shape the destiny of our country, including its educational, social, and political systems. We have not been invaded by a visible foreign power and led captive, but because America has rejected the Truth we are in a worse kind of captivity, one that binds the mind and hence the soul.

We have seen a slow, stealthy change from traditions that God honored to atheistic and humanistic traditions, and few recognize it. In this phase of the battle of Armageddon, the conflict is truth vs. error, and the battle is for the mind and soul. The people of our generation are so captivated by these trends that they are prone to every kind of ungodly influence and are accepting everything the enemy sells, including abortion, modern women's liberation theories, sexual sins, occultism, Eastern religions, etc.

God has carefully preserved the Truth through its battles throughout history. True holiness has been handed down to us and is the root of all that is right. True holiness is also the only glimmering hope in the midst of this darkness. We cannot allow the minds of our future generation to be affected by the plagues of Egypt. The few whom God calls to a position of a sacrificial life for God are becoming real exceptions, and who knows whether they have come to the kingdom for a time such as this? (Esther 4:14). —Keith A. Fuller



The following is a partial list of expenses that were paid for the Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting in 1923.

For house to use as dining hall.....	25.00
Six bales of straw.....	1.80
800 pounds of coal.....	4.40
Wood (approx. 2 ricks).....	4.40
Cabbage.....	1.65
Beef.....	12.25
Soap.....	.20
Gas bill.....	7.65
Water bill.....	1.00

The following ministers were given offerings totalling \$94.00. Bro. H. Robinson, Bro. Helm, Bro. Jake Spears, Bro. Forbes, Bro. O. B. Wilson, Bro. S. T. Walker and wife, Sis. Yeaman, Bro. Ulysses Phillips, Bro. Crawley, Bro. Paul Lamb, Bro. and Sis. Llewellyn, Bro. Hiebert, Bro. W. H. Shoot, Bro. Glasgow, Bro. Winn.

In a business meeting prior to the meeting, the following people were appointed to these jobs: Bro. Andrew Baker to meet the trains, Bro. Winn, Bro. Glasgow, Father Baker and Bro. Pruitt to see about getting the dining hall and fuel, Bro. Davis to get a load of straw, Bro. Robert Longley to build fires and to see to the chapel, Sis. Celena Lacue to oversee waiting on the tables and take care of the collection boxes on the tables, Bro. Glasgow and Bro. Davis to buy the groceries, Bro. Winn to receive provisions that are sent in.