

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

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◆◆◆ New Year ◆◆◆

The NEW YEAR breaks upon our view,
The old year fades from sight.
Its joys and sorrows we passed through
Remain in mem'ry's light.

Upon a threshold stand we now,
Of halls before untrod;
Oh, therefore let us humbly bow
Our hearts in prayer to God.

Throughout the old year witnessed we
His miracles of grace,
And looking back we plainly see
Where shone His smiling face.

What heights of joy, what depths of pain,
What peace and conflict sore,
What lessons learned of loss and gain
Shall echo evermore.

Not to the swift, nor to the wise,
The Bread of Life is given,
But to the poor who lift their eyes
Each day to God in heaven.

Trust Him whose everlasting arm
The ages wax not old,
To keep thee safe from all alarm
And in His bosom hold.

Throughout this coming year be found
His glorious will to do,
And in His strength and grace abound;
The Lord will see you through.

—Leslie Busbee

"Letting Go"

I have just finished reading a sermon on "The Art of Letting Go." Part of it, at least, I feel like passing along. So as I write, I shall also quote.

The preacher spoke of the beauty of the grace of forgetting and of the fine art of letting go, at the right time, of some of the things we grasp, or that fall to our fortune in life. We have, in the cities, the trash cans, in the offices the wastebaskets, and everywhere there is a dump; but mentally and spiritually how much useless and very harmful matter we shove back on the shelves and handle over and over. "Whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report—things of virtue and praise—may be stored up for future planting and cultivation, but let us dump the useless waste."

How many people I know would be so much healthier in spirit if they would make better use of a spiritual wastebasket! It just means to dump the trash that hinders the victory that you should have; it may be a bad habit, a grievance, prejudices, bad company, heavy heart burdens—anything that discourages, saddens or brings darkness instead of light.

"Clouds shut out sunshine. Fear weakens. Gloom depresses. Anxiety warps the judgment. Let the art of letting go come to our rescue. The speech of the apostle falls upon us: 'Brethren! This one thing I do, forgetting those which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.' (Phil. 3:13-14). Which shall we let go? The past or the future? The encouragements or the discouragements? We can not hold both the good and the bad.

"Unnecessary and unpleasant recollections are good things to let go.

"Do you have hours when the only possible thing, apparently, the only right thing to consider, is something that gnaws the heart and frets the mind? Ah, the things that ought not to have been! How many hours we have toiled the past year! What burdens we have borne! What griefs have fallen upon us! What losses we have sustained! Shall we, then, keep open the sepulcher of the old year, weep above it, and ask our friends to keep flowers of sympathy upon it?

"Heart wounds are good things to let go. *They are inevitable.* . . . If we remember all slights, if we number all wounds, if we stop to think of every tingle of inward pain, we shall be most miserable. . . . for treasuring these in memory, we shall be letting go the sweets, the joys, the chances of friendship and service that make life a joy to ourselves and to others.

" 'Go bury thy sorrow.
The world hath its share
Go bury it deeply,
Go hide it with care.

" 'Hearts growing weary
With heavier woe
Now, droop mid the darkness—
Go comfort them, go.'

"Let go of prejudices that blow fogs between us and our neighbors; fogs that conceal the real character and shut out any possible brightening of the soul life of another. If there is warmth in our souls, it fails to reach them. We are chilled in the damp and irritated by the fog that lies between us and them."

Let us be especially careful to have fair judgment, mercy, and love to keep the way clear between us and the discouraged souls around us. Those who are on their feet and climbing should reach out a hand to the fallen.

"When over the fair face of friend or foe
A shadow of disgrace shall fall; instead
Of words of blame or proof of thus or so,
Let something good be said."

Dear friends, how short is life! Can we hold on to the grievances? Some people so hug their sorrows that I am sure when the end comes they will be sorry to let them go. The end will come. Now is the time to "let go" of all rubbish and hardness and unpleasantness. Cast it out to where it belongs and in its place make room for beauty, purity, joy, light, truth, and life. Which do you choose?

—By Mabel C. Porter

Taken from *The Gospel Trumpet*, 1914



Is your heart bereft of comfort and cheer? Here is something to give you hope and assurance.

"Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding." Isa. 40:28.

When trials and troubles come our way we can let our problems seem greater than our Creator. The enemy of our soul is constantly trying to undermine our faith and confidence in God, as he is jealous of God's goodness and His great love toward His creation. God will not leave us nor forsake us, for He neither slumbers nor sleeps. Yet, the thoughts that come to our mind tell us, "It's not working out like I thought it would. Things are moving so slow, I don't know how I can wait much longer. Does God really care?"

Yes, my friends, God's love for you is proven every day. "In Him we live, and move, and have our being." (Acts 17:28). There is something about human nature that takes for granted everything God so bountifully bestows upon us. God, in His great wisdom ("There is no searching of His understanding."), sees what is best to come our way to draw us closer to Himself. Even though we are daily loaded with benefits, we might not ever give our Creator a real heart-felt prayer of thanksgiving if we didn't learn to appreciate His many blessings. We learn to love God and comprehend more of His great love towards us, only when we have gone through adverse circumstances.

"I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search." Ps. 77:6.

Dear ones, God wants us to make diligent search of our heart. Adversity will cause us to do this. When we have laid bare our heart to God, and told Him He can have His will and way with our life, God will give us a "song in the night." There is no sweeter song sung, than when the heart is hurt and bleeding, yet wholly and completely surrendered to God—and resting in Him.

Your soul cannot sing "songs in the night," till it has ceased its own struggles to see and know and understand. There is no searching of God's understanding, for His ways are much higher than our human ways.

Our soul can sing this precious song when we fully believe and rest in our Creator.

Songs in the Night

As we travel along on life's pathway,
If dreary the road seems or bright,
We shall find that our sorrows are blessings.
Our God can give songs in the night.

Let us go then with singing, not sighing;
His love fills the darkness with light.
Thro' His grace we can bravely meet all things,
Our God can give songs in the night.

Tho' the road may be rough where we journey,
His heart planned the way that was right;
If we trustfully follow His leading,
Our God can give songs in the night.

Chorus:

Songs in the night in spite of our fears.
Songs in the night thro' the long, long years;
If we but follow His steps aright,
Our God can give us songs in the night.

Yes, dear ones, God wants you too to sing this song. "If we trustfully follow His leading, our God can give us songs in the night."

Yours for the Kingdom, —Carol Cole

Some Thoughts Concerning Faith (Hebrews 11)

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; . . . For consider him that endured . . . lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." (Heb. 12:1-3).

The very essence of the Christian life is faith. Without it, the Bible says, "It is impossible to please Him." (Heb. 11:6). It is by faith that God has chosen to reveal His Son in the earth (through "the Church, which is His body) because faith strips a man of all his natural abilities and causes him to rely upon God alone for his salvation.

The apostle Paul walked in all the strength of religious piety, as a leader among the Jews, but it led to his ruin, and even led him to fight against God. It was when God struck him and laid him low that salvation came to Paul. Stripped of all that he had before cherished, he now cried out, "It pleased God to reveal His Son in me." Gone was the position he had held among the Jews, gone was the doctrine that he had lived by, gone was the intellectual theology to which he had given such diligence. This "Pharisee of Pharisees" had now

become a "fool for Christ" and it would be by faith that he would forevermore live, instructing others that, "being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." (Rom. 5:1-20).

Presently we live in an age in which the true meaning of faith has been greatly distorted, and as a result, faith is largely nonexistent. Satan has unleashed all his deceptive powers to cloud and pervert true faith. He has introduced revolutionary new doctrines, putting faith's performance back into the hand of man, which has resulted in self-worship.

Beloved, it is one thing to be deceived, but it is quite another to reject the correction of the Lord. If we are not truly walking in faith, let us cast ourselves upon God. If we will but humble ourselves before Him, admitting our weakness, we shall surely ". . . obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb. 4:16.

For the "Bride of Christ" to come forth in all the splendor of the Lord, she must return to a life of devotedness, and total dependency upon the Lord Jesus. We must deal openly and honestly with the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to expose hidden areas of darkness within our hearts that would hinder His work in us. No matter what avenue we would choose to follow in attempting to achieve oneness with Christ let us remember, "As it is written, the just shall live by faith." (Rom. 1:17).

Let us look now to the book of Hebrews and see what lessons are to be learned from this "great cloud of witnesses" as they triumphed by faith.

It is written of these men and women of faith that they, "subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions," etc. It is also written that they "had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, were stoned, sawn asunder, tempted, afflicted, tormented. . . ." It is written that they "obtained a good report through faith." In seeking to obtain this same good report there are revealed in this eleventh chapter of Hebrews, some keys—or laws—that will lend wisdom as to how this was accomplished in them, and may be accomplished in us also. We would like to just touch on a few of these keys here, trusting that God will awaken your hearts to search out for yourselves the deeper meaning of His life of faith in you.

"Noah, being warned of God, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by which he condemned the world." (verse 7). Let us bring to mind three distinctive things here concerning Noah: Noah, being warned of God. . . . The

(Continued on page 10.)

FAITH AND VICTORY

16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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Single copy, one year\$1.00
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This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21, and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ-the same gospel that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for the body. James 5:14-15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way as the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read 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

The century of the nineties used to seem a long way off, but here we are, already beginning 1991. Soon this decade will be over. It should give all of us an urgency to be and to do our best for God. In Proverbs 29:18 we are told that where there is no vision the people perish. The coming year will soon be over, and for us to be spiritually flourishing at the end of it, it is essential that at this time we take sight on some worthy pursuit to accomplish. There are many things around us that need the attention of a godly life, but if God does not show us anything else to do, let us determine to broaden the bounds of our heart to take in more of Him and His graces.

To succeed at anything, it must first be investigated. As the spiritual darkness envelopes the world, there are many crying for help. However, we will not be aware of this unless we listen and strain our vision. I am satisfied that there are some uncharted waters that need to be plied for God. May every child of God be enough in tune with the Lord that they can hear the voice of the master Navigator.



This issue is going to press early because of the Christmas holidays and the Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting which began here in Guthrie on Dec. 21.

We would like to thank all who have written words of appreciation for the *Faith & Victory* as well as Christmas cards. Quite a few of these letters are not printed in the paper, and some are not personally acknowledged, but they are not overlooked. Your financial support and spiritual backing is what has made it possible to continue printing gospel literature.



As many of our readers may have heard, Sis. Anita Williamson, of Loranger, LA, was tried for negligent homicide in the death of her son, Loren, who passed away with leukemia. On Nov. 29 a hung jury was declared. She is scheduled to be tried again during the week of Feb. 25, so your prayers would be appreciated.



It was very unexpected to hear of the passing of Bro. Virgil Patton of Anadarko, OK. The Lord took him home in his sleep on Dec. 10. Bro. Patton demonstrated a great love for the things of God and lived a sacrificial life. We offer our condolences to his wife.



We will soon have in stock, bound volumes of the 11 issues of the *Faith and Victory* paper for the year of 1990. You may receive the book for \$2.00

each. This covers the price of the book as well as the postage and handling. Also soon to be in stock are the 1990 *Beautiful Way* books for Juniors (52 papers for the year) at \$2.00 each.



Prayer Requests

OH—"My dad (Donald Payne) has been experiencing chest pains. Please pray that he will be completely healed by the power of God."

—Michael Payne

KY—"Remember me in body."

—Sis. Mary Hughes

NC—"I am a 72-year-old woman who has a son that drinks and gives trouble."

OK—"Remember my sister and me in prayer."

—Sis. Juliette Lounds

OH—"Remember my son-in-law, Dennie Hicks; he is unable to walk."

—Juanita Blankenship

TN—"We still need prayer for healing—my sister's grandson who has MD, and for myself."

—Kathleen Willis

AR—"Please remember me and my family in your prayers."

—Jewell Russell

TX—"Sis. Nellie Lovell desires prayer for a high cholesterol problem."

TX—"I am nearing my 90th birthday and am not very well. Please pray for me."

OH—"Pray for my brother, John Browning; he has cancer."

—Juanita Blankenship

WV—"Please pray God will take over for me and give me the touch I have need of."

—Gladys Morgan

AL—"Remember my brother and son."

—Jeanette Mooney



Partial List of Items Available for Sale

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God's Gracious Dealings by Fred and L. D. Pruitt. This enlarged seventh edition is a history of this gospel publishing ministry in the Church of God for the past 60 years, as well as a record of the work of the Church at large. Contains 496 pages, including more than 100 pictures in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.50.

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MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

HOLLY HILL, SC REVIVAL REPORT

Greetings in Jesus' dear name. We had a few nights of services, and God poured out His Spirit upon the meeting. We had a candidate for baptism, which was carried out on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 25.

Please pray for all who are sick, including my wife.

Love always,

—Bro. Utson Platt

LORANGER, LA ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

The Loranger Assembly Meeting was blessed, and we thank the Lord for His presence. The

messages, for the most part, were for teaching and stirring the saints.

The meeting was exceptionally well attended. Saints came from FL, OK, MS, AL, OH, WV, MO, and 22 flew in from CA. Most of all, the Lord answered prayer and anointed the services.

—Nelson Doolittle



From The Mailbox . . .



FL—Dear saints: Greetings of love in the most precious name of Jesus. I am so thankful today for the tender love and mercies He bestows upon me daily. Truly He is the only One who can bring complete deliverance and satisfy the longing in a hungry soul. I love Him today and have a deep desire to always please Him with my life. "The end of all things is at hand." I surely want to be one of His faithful few.

I am praying for you all.

Love and prayers, —Helen Underdown



IN—Dear Sir: I see my time has run out on my *Faith and Victory* paper. It is getting better and better. I just love it.

I am getting up in age. Next month I will be 85 years old. I am looking forward to meeting my Saviour.

God bless all who work in the Printing Shop. Pray for me, —Sister Emma Jordan



KS—Dear Bro. Wayne and workers: Greetings at this blessed time of the year when it is near our Saviour's birthday. I trust all are well and very much encouraged in the ways of God.

I feel very blessed because I am a child of God. Jesus' birth and death were not in vain in my behalf.

I truly love the Lord and still love to hear the Christmas story, and be reminded that Jesus' great love for us brought Him down from heaven to bring us redemption. I thank Him and I praise Him so very much. . . .

May God bless each one of you with a joyful and peaceful Christmas and continue to give grace and victory in the coming year.

Your sister in Christ, —Shirley Knight



CA—Dear Bro. Wayne and all the saints: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, our

Saviour and healer. I love Him and intend to follow Him all the way. Pray for me and my unsaved loved ones, especially my granddaughter, Pat, that I reared from a six-week-old baby when her mother died. The Devil is busy trying to destroy her soul, but God is able to deliver. . . .

Love in Christ,

—Sis. Ruth Donnelly



OR—Dear Bro. Wayne, and all at the Print Shop: Greetings in the dear name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus. We received the material that we ordered and the December *Faith and Victory* with thankfulness. We thank and praise the Lord for caring and dedicated workers to spread the gospel through books and tracts. We very often pray for God to supply every need, physical and spiritual, of each one there, and thank Him for His goodness and mercy to all who trust in Him.

God has been, and is, very good to us, and we are sure that "our light affliction" and sufferings in this life are "not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." We know that through complete surrender to God's will, obedience to His Word, the guidance of the Holy Ghost, and faith in the shed blood of Jesus, that we can conquer every foe and wear a "crown of life" when this life is over.

Please pray for us that we may accomplish the will of God each day of our lives as long as He gives us life here on earth.

Yours for Christ,

—Bro. Bill Busch



MI—Dear Bro. Wayne, and all the Lord's faithful workers: Greetings in the blessed name of Jesus. I pray you are all doing well. I thank all of you for your good prayers. I feel some better and praise God for it.

Now as the Christmas season is almost here, we again think of our precious gift, Jesus, the Son of God. How wonderful to have such a gift. I'm so thankful I know our Jesus. Some people don't know Him. They think Christmas is just for having a good time. If they knew Him like we do, they would think differently.

I pray all of you will have a very happy holiday season and rich blessings in body and soul.

Much love and prayer, —Sis. Olive Gettersen



Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

OK—Dear Bro. Wayne, servants of God at Faith Publishing House, and saints: I feel con-

strained by duty and love to testify of God's saving grace and His great love to me.

Oh, I can't praise Him enough for saving my soul when I came to Him. Although it has been almost 40 years ago, the joy is still there, the desire is still keen, and the determination is strong.

A few nights ago, after hearing a message on "Searching," I entreated the Lord to search my heart as David of old. "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Ps. 139:23-24. I wanted to know just where I stood with Him.

In the early morning hours I was awakened with song #120 in *Evening Light Songs*. "I am fully saved today, All my guilt is washed away, And the love of God is flooding all my soul; For His grace abides within, Since I've been redeemed from sin, And the precious blood of Jesus makes me whole. I am fully saved today, And I'm in the narrow way, Walking with my blessed Saviour hour by hour: Tho' the way seems sometimes drear, And the hosts of hell appear, I shall ever conquer by His mighty pow'r."

Dear ones, I did not have these words memorized. The Lord brought them to my mind to assure and comfort me. Praise God! "I am in the narrow way; And no evil can betide, For I'm walking by my Saviour's side." The evil is the false ways, the false prophets, the winds of doctrines, seducing spirits, etc. (Eph. 4:14).

The next night the Lord brought to my mind song #204 in *Evening Light Songs*. "The narrow way is now so plain, I'm hid away with Jesus; That fools shall never err therein, I'm hid away with Jesus; The gate that's strait is just before, Which, when we reach we'll sigh no more, Our sorrows then will all be o'er, I'm hid away with Jesus." "I'm dead to sin, alive in Christ, I'm washed in His blood." Thank the Lord!

I want to say how much I appreciate the *Faith and Victory* paper and all the efforts being put forth at the Lord's Print Shop, by the printed page, to spread the gospel to every corner of the world.

Last month's issue was such good soul food. Every article and testimony was rich. May God bless all those who obeyed God's voice to take the time to write.

Dear ones, take courage. Strive to enter in at the strait gate. (Luke 13:24). Be amongst those who will enter in.

Those of you who are in foreign countries, be true, no matter what the cost. We're praying for you. Do pray for me.

Your sister in Christ, —Sylvia Busbee

TX—Greetings of Christian love in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord: Thanks to all who prayed for my eyes. I went and had my eyes examined to get new glasses and was told there was only one little speck of cataract on my right eye. I thank the good Lord and everyone who prayed. About two years ago when my eyes were examined, I had cataracts on both eyes. The Lord is still hearing and answering prayer.

Love and prayers,

—Nellie Lovell

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LA—I want to thank all the dear ones who have prayed several months for me during a serious illness. God was so good to answer prayer and bring me through it all. It is so wonderful to be able to trust our heavenly Father who knows all our needs. He will never let us suffer more than we are able to bear, so we need not fear, but have peace and rest while waiting for His help. He knows our needs and He makes no mistakes.

I want to thank all who sent cards and notes during that time too. I didn't realize so many knew and were praying. May God richly bless everyone of you is our prayer.

With Christian love,

—Nadine B. Smoot

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FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS



From India . . .

Nov. 28—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: We are facing a number of problems in India, but we are safe under the wings of the Almighty. Many are killed in the religious fightings. It is the third prime minister who is ruling us within 11 months. The scarcity of petrol and diesel is making public life worse and worse.

Last week we had a special gospel campaign in a place where there are only Roman Catholics, Muslims, and Hindus. The effort was very encouraging.

On December 9, 1990 we are going to have a special gathering of the saints from different parts (near Kothomangalam). The purpose of the gathering is to encourage the saints. It is the darkest area in many senses. It is a village near the forest area, and people do not have any idea of what the gospel is. We started the gospel work there about one year ago. Now there are a few souls saved. On

the 9th we are going to give baptism to them. The baptism service will be in a river near there. This is to make known to the people there what baptism is. We will preach before the baptism to the public. It will be the first baptism service in the history of that place. After the baptism service, we will have feet washing and the Lord's Supper. We are very covetous of your earnest prayers for the success of it.

Yours in Christ,

—P. D. Mathunni

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Question and Answer

by

Ostis B. Wilson.

Question: Please explain and discuss Isaiah 66:17.

Answer: Isaiah 66:17 reads thus: "They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the Lord."

We must remember that the history of the human race presented a pretty dark and ugly picture until Christ came into the world and "they that sat in darkness saw great light." (Matt. 4:16). Nearly all the world was steeped in pagan, heathen, idolatrous darkness. God had gathered out a small nation of people (Israel) which were the "fewest of all people" (Deut. 7:7), for Himself, and the remainder of the world's peoples were in this dreadful condition. But a prophecy of hope for all these poor benighted souls appears in the latter part of Isaiah 66:19 where it says, "They shall declare my glory among the Gentiles. The Gentiles were all the people of the earth except the Jews (Israel), whom God had chosen out of the nations to be His own peculiar people, to reveal His glory through them. But the long range importance of this prophecy was Jesus Christ, the Son of God, whom God sent forth into the world to manifest His glory unto all the peoples of the world.

Now with this little introduction to the subject, let us return to Isaiah 66:17, the principal text for the discussion. This verse has to do with the sacrifices and worship of the heathen idolators and their system of worship which was quite elaborate. They "sanctified" and "purified" themselves (the same things that God did for His people in their sacrifices and worship)—to sanctify and purify them. But these people offered abominable

sacrifices on their altars (swine's flesh and the mouse) and ate these things, all of which God had declared to be an abomination and forbidden. (Lev. 11:1-44). They had groves planted in the high places and altars set up among the trees, and apparently offered sacrifices to different gods upon these separate altars. The text says, "behind one tree in the midst." The margin says "one tree after another." I think this would describe it better because there were always groves where the heathen worshipped and offered their sacrifices. The Lord said at the close of this verse that all their abominable sacrifices, and the abominable things they ate, and they themselves would all be consumed together in God's wrath. They set up their worship system pretty much like God's, with altars and sacrifices, and sought to accomplish the same results that God did in His people. But the sad and yet glorious fact is, that the kinds of sacrifices and worship which the true God prescribed had the effect upon the true worshiper of exalting him to a higher plane of living and more like God, while the heathen in his sacrifices and worship has the effect of transferring his own corrupt nature to his god because there is no life nor essence in his god to exalt and lift him up. So he sinks to a lower plane of corruption than he was. Someone (an atheist, I suppose) has said that God never created man in His own image as Christians believe; but man created a god after his own likeness and in his image. I accept this to be pretty much true of the heathen pagan, and in a measure of religionists in our day who have no exalted idea of Christlikeness in Christian lives.

Now I will refer to a few other texts which describe the way of the heathen to confirm what I have already said. In Isaiah 65:1-7 God described the condition of the Gentiles (pagans). In verse three He said they continually provoked Him to anger to His face; they sacrificed in gardens (Isaiah 66:17 says they sanctify and purify themselves in the gardens), they burn incense upon altars of brick (whereas God required that His altars be built of whole stones, Deut. 27:6), they eat swine's flesh and broth (or pieces—margin) of abominable things in their vessels (which God forbade in Leviticus 11), and they say "Don't come near me, stand by thyself; for I am holier than thou." God said these were smoke in His nostrils, a fire that burneth all the day. Yet He extended His arms to them and offered them salvation.

In Deuteronomy 7, God instructed the Israelites that when they entered into the Canaan Land they should utterly destroy the people that were there (verse two) and make no covenant with them. They were to destroy their altars, break

down their images and burn them with fire, and cut down their groves. (verse five). He said the reason for this was that the Israelites were a holy people unto the Lord their God (verse six) and the people of the land were not acceptable to Him, neither were their altars, their sacrifices, their groves, nor their worship. God still requires that same separateness today between the people who worship Him in spirit and in truth and the formal religionists who teach for doctrines the commandments of men and thus worship Him in form only.

Read also Ex. 23:20-25 (24); 34:10-17 (12-14); Deut. 12:1-4; II Kings 16:1-4 (4); I Kings 14:22-23, etc.

We see then how God hates idolatry and what an abomination it is to Him. We also see what an elaborate arrangement the heathen made for his place and system—high places, beautiful groves, and gardens, etc. It was all so abominable and obnoxious to God that He required every trace and memory of it to be totally obliterated. He even required in Numbers 33:52 that all their pictures be destroyed. Pictures had a strange and powerful fascination to them, so God required that all the pictures that would be a reminder or a suggestion of idolatry to them be destroyed.

In closing this discussion, let us think a little of our idolatry. Is it as much an abomination to God as theirs? The Bible says covetousness is idolatry. (Col. 3:5). To covet this world's riches and to desire more than God has provided us with of the material things of this world is a form of idolatry in God's sight. He hates that disposition of heart. His Word says, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: . . ." Heb. 13:5. Discontent is a grievous thing in the sight of God. We are instructed in I John 2:15 to "love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." James 4:4 says, ". . . Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. In Matthew 22:37 Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." In verse 38 He said, "This is the first and great commandment." Ah, folks, let us realize that this is the fundamental basic of holy living, and of our relationship with God—to love Him with all our being. Therefore, it becomes evident that to accept into our heart a love of the world, or any of the things of the world, (self love or a love for any thing that is not godly) is to set up a rival love in the heart which God detests and will not tolerate. From Luke 13:26 and 33 we see that father, mother, wife, children, etc., and yea, any thing we have can become an idol to us if we do not forsake it all for Jesus' sake. (See also Matthew 10:37). We

can not love any person or thing more than we love Christ without becoming idolaters. Quite a sobering thought, isn't it?



Some Thoughts Concerning Faith

(Continued from page 3.)

thought here is not that God was blaring out judgments to Noah. He was not saying, "Noah, I am warning you." The original meaning of the word carries a connotation of great "intimacy." God was simply informing His servant Noah of the impending destruction that was coming upon the earth. He was protecting Noah from the coming flood. The fact that God warned Noah suggests that Noah had a very close, and indeed intimate relationship with Him. Thus God was able to speak to him and make known His desires. John 17:3 says to us: "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." A personal relationship is the very foundation for all who would "know" the Lord, and be able to hear His voice.

The next thing we see is that Noah, "moved with fear." The Bible is not telling us here that Noah was "afraid" of God, but rather that he had great reverence for Him, and walked in devotedness to Him. There was a certain amount of fear of the judgments of God, but it was love for God that motivated Noah. It was that "holy fear" which has as its only purpose the pleasing of God. Reading in Psalm 25:14, the Bible says, "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him. . . ." We see this so very well in Noah. It was Noah who was "warned of God." This was so because Noah "moved with fear" and shared a close personal relationship with the Lord. We also must walk in the "fear" of the Lord if we are to know His "secrets." We must watch our lives closely, being acutely aware of the voice of God that guides us, and warns us of impending dangers. What is it to walk in the fear of the Lord? One of the best examples we may find is in Proverbs 8:13, "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth. . . ." It might be well here to add that, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." (Prov. 1:7).

Let us look now at the passage that says of Noah, "he condemned the world." Now, it was not Noah himself who condemned the world, it was (in every sense) the life of God in him. It was his intimacy with God, and obedience to Him, that so pronounced condemnation. As Noah tirelessly labored in constructing the ark, His devotion to the call of God became a source of condemnation to all who were around him. God had passed

judgment upon the land, but because the people did not "move with fear" they could not discern the "secrets" of God. These folks were far too busy pursuing the lusts of their own hearts to be concerned with the judgments of God. It is certain that Noah, as he walked in strict obedience to the Lord, was the subject of much ridicule and harsh treatment. But Noah had heard the voice of God, and that far outweighed the ridicule of the world, or the enticement of its pleasures.

The apostle Paul knew this same devotion to the Lord Jesus, for he said, "I count all things loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord . . . that I may know Him. . . ." (Phil. 3:8-10). Dear ones, because judgment has been passed upon sin, anyone who walks in union with, and obedience to God, shall "condemn the world." Indeed, the Bible tells us, "he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." (John 3:18). Yes, if we walk in the shadow of the cross we shall suffer ridicule, and we shall be thought "strange" and perhaps we may even suffer

physical abuse, but we too must "count all things but loss." As did Noah, we must walk

according to what God has "spoken" to us, and not by what is seen around us. Our devotion is to the Lord alone and the world offers us no hope, neither do we find fulfillment in its pleasures, "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:" Phil. 3:20.

There is one very vital point to be made concerning these saints. We very plainly read in the book of Hebrews (and throughout the Bible) of the conquests of these dear souls. We are told they "waxed valiant in fight," and we read that they "turned to flight the armies of the aliens." This is quite a testimony, and it would seem that these were indeed mighty men (and women) of faith. Yet there is a most startling statement made concerning them. In the midst of relating all their triumphs the Bible says of them that out of weakness they were made strong. My blessed friends, here is the essence of the Christ-life. Oh that the Holy Spirit would help us to see the beauty of weakness, the pure joy of lying helpless before the Lord Jesus, completely dependent upon His strength. These heroes of faith, that the writer to the Hebrews speaks of, were not "super-saints" who marched in a blaze of glory wherever they went. These were

ordinary (in the natural sense) people who learned the secret of submission unto the Lord. By their simplistic faith in the Lord Jesus they "confounded" the world. Indeed, the Bible tells us that the world "was not worthy" of them.

If we are to walk by faith we must humble ourselves, and we must allow the Lord Jesus to bring us to a state of helplessness. His desire is not to destroy us—"a bruised reed shall he not break"—but to bring us into union with Himself, that He might be "all and in all." To know the depths of the riches of Christ we must be brought to nothingness.

In writing to the Corinthians, Paul said this to them: "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:" I Cor. 1:27-28. Why? Why would the God of all glory reveal Himself in such a way? The answer is clearly found in verse 29 of

this same chapter: "That no flesh should glory in His presence."

Beloved, it matters not

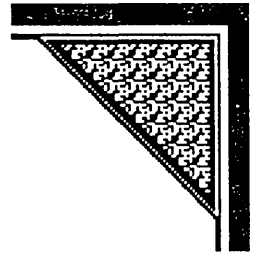
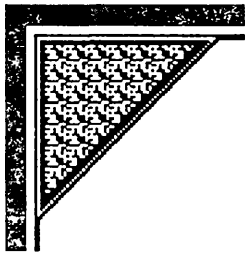
how good or noble our intentions, if what we do is done in our own strength it is of no value to us, or to God. We must learn once and for all that God desires that we forsake our own ideas, methods and means, and just give ourselves to Him. This is not meant to cause us to despair, but rather that we should glory in the Lord. It was the "strength" of the first Adam that led man into captivity; it was the "weakness" of the Last Adam that "lead captivity captive." The life of faith is one that is possessed by, and obedient to, the Holy Spirit. It is the life that takes no thought for itself but considers only the glory of God. Let us ever be reminded that "without faith it is impossible to please Him."

"How?" you may ask, "can I know that I am living a life of faith?" What has the Lord Jesus said? "Ye shall know them by their fruits." (Matt. 7:16). "... The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: . . . And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Gal. 5:22-25.

May the Lord bless His Word to our hearts,

—Bro. Jim Baxter

"These heroes of faith, that the writer to the Hebrews speaks of, were not 'super-saints' who marched in a blaze of glory wherever they went."



HOME LIFE

How do we as parents appear in the eyes of our children? We've often heard the statement about "child-rearing"—"More is caught than taught!" A few years ago, while I was still working full-time in our Christian school, I had an experience that still weighs upon my heart. I was dealing with a teenager who had some resistant attitudes towards my authority over him. We began discussing the problem, and I asked him if there was anything in my life that was a hindrance to him. After persuasion, he acknowledged, "You all give the impression that we are not allowed to have a bad day—but it seems that there are allowances when you all have a bad day!" I doubt that he ever realized the impact this had on my life, with my future dealings as a parent in my home and with students.

I'm reminded of the Scripture that says, "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." Col. 3:21. We certainly have a great responsibility to "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4). Are we requiring them to humble down, when maybe we should humble down first? Maybe they could "catch" the concept of humility better than being "taught" by a figure of authority standing over them with a pointing finger and voice of stern command. I have many memories of my daddy coming to me and asking forgiveness for losing patience or dealing unwisely with me. This left a real impact upon me, teaching me a living example and concept of true humility.

May God help us to keep humility balanced on the scale with our authority. Please pray for me.

—Janice Johnston

Power With God and Man

In Genesis 32:24-31 we find the account of Jacob facing the greatest crisis he ever faced. He is returning to his father's house with his family and possessions, and word has reached him that his brother, Esau, is coming to meet him with 400 men. Years have passed since Esau threatened to kill Jacob in retaliation for Jacob's trickery in stealing the birthright blessing. Jacob has lived his life, up to this time, living up to the name that was given him at birth when he as an infant babe reached out and took hold on his twin brother Esau's heel. The name Jacob means supplanter, one who takes by the heel, one who trips up or takes advantage of another through deception or treachery. Jacob had made his way by scheming and sly cunning ways of getting it over on the other fellow. He had reaped some of the fruit of such trickery when his father-in-law, Laban, had deceived him and caused him to be wed to the wrong woman, Leah, instead of her sister, Rachel. Jacob

had worked in sly art to beguile Laban of the strongest of the cattle and had grown wealthy. And then while Laban and his men were working at a distance, Jacob had stolen away with his family and goods to make this return trip to his homeland.

But now Jacob's bag of tricks was empty, and his resources of conniving and putting it over on others was exhausted. He did that which he should have been doing all the way. He turned to God in earnest prayer. He was alone, with everything dear to him across the brook, sent over ahead, while he sought heaven's help. There in the darkness, a man wrestled with him. It was a messenger of God sent to help Jacob. Jacob knew that this was God, and he was determined to hold on until the victory came. At last his perseverance was rewarded. "Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed." Jacob was able to go forth from that place a

conqueror. Thereafter, his life was different. He resorted no more to trickery and deceit. He was able, right after this, to meet Esau in peace and love.

This power with God and man is needed in our lives today. There are many people, like Jacob, who go through life making their way by deceit and trickery. Many people talk their way through life, pressuring and threatening, abusing and pushing. They have their way by putting others down. But sooner or later their resources are exhausted and they come to the end of their way. Too many times it costs them their life, as their deeds of deceit begin to return upon their heads.

God has grace and help furnished in His plan of redemption that will help us to be able to meet life's challenges and difficulties with love and peace. "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal," Paul said, "but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds." (II Cor. 10:4). We will meet many forces and influences along the way which we will need God's help to master and overcome.

We must have power with God, and we can have this through Christ and letting His mind be in us. Jesus went through this life and prevailed over every foe and prevailed with God. God brought Him out victorious from the grave after His enemies had silenced Him in the tomb. We can have this power with God. We can pray and have faith that God will honor and stand by us. Through the righteousness of the Saviour, we can prevail with God. His will can be carried out in our lives in every way. We can enjoy His presence and comfort. He will give us strength as our day requires. We need this power with God. We must keep the right attitude toward others, if we are to prevail and have good success. No one can be without humility and the right spirit and still make it with God. Let us seek His face daily for grace to serve Him acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

We need to have power with men. We are going to face many problems in dealing with our fellow mortals in life. There will be problems on the job, in the neighborhood, in the family, on the street, and in many other scenes of life. There will be conflicts and sore difficulties. God will help us to prevail and have good success in all of these things. We will meet with false spirits and erroneous doctrines. We will need grace to be able to conquer and be victorious. If we will seek God earnestly and let Him guide our lives and keep the right attitude and spirit, He has promised to help us to have power over men. Isaiah 54:17 is a promise for us. "No weapon that is formed against

thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord."

It meant much for Jacob to have his name changed from Jacob to Israel. It will likewise mean much for us to change our ways of pride and trickery to the meek and lowly ways of the Son of God. But it can be done if we will humble ourselves and be determined to take God's way. Let us be diligent to seek God's will in our lives, be humble and ready to acknowledge our true condition and need. God will give us power with Him and with man and we can prevail and have good success in our pilgrimage below, and we will be able to prevail over death and share in that blessed resurrection of Christ, who prevailed and overcame for us.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

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Covetousness

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"... Take heed, and beware of covetousness; for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." Luke 12:15.

Living life to the fullest, gaining much wealth, honor and fame, and never being satisfied with the things that are already in your possession is the picture that is drawn of the rich man in Luke 12. It is also the picture that many people of this world are painting today.

But there comes a time to face God. The rich man's soul was required of him that very night. How many souls will be on their bed of affliction before they realize that all their earthly treasures don't mean a thing? They have come down to die, and only then do they realize how precious Jesus' blood is. They understand now that real satisfaction can come only through His shed blood. When the soul is facing its worst fears, it is awakened to its need of God and His love.

Dear reader, this scene that is being painted by thousands of people year-in-and-year-out, does not have to be painted by you. Put your paintbrush down and allow God to have His way in your life. You will **never** regret it!

Let God show you something better than earthly wealth and honor. The Lord is able to show you a way that's better than the way of sin. He can show you a life of **real** peace and pure joy.

Why not let the Lord lead you into a life of true satisfaction, and show you that path in which death has no sting?

—Donna Johnson

Personality and Deity of the Holy Spirit

There seem to be among many professing Christians, those who fail to recognize and acknowledge the personality and Deity of the Holy Spirit. We do not consider this an unimportant subject. The Holy Spirit is either a Person and one of the "Godhead," or is *not*. "The doctrine of the personality of the Holy Spirit is of the highest importance from the practical standpoint. If we think of the Holy Spirit only as an impersonal power or influence, then our thought will constantly be, 'How can I get hold of and use the Holy Spirit?' but if we think of Him in the biblical way, as a Divine Person, infinitely wise, infinitely holy, infinitely tender, then our thought will constantly be, 'How can the Holy Spirit get hold of and use me?'"

There are four lines of proof in the Bible that the Holy Spirit is a Person.

The Characteristics of the Holy Spirit

1. All the distinctive characteristics of personality are ascribed to the Holy Spirit in the Bible.

These are knowledge, feeling, will, mind, love, intelligence, goodness, grief. Any being who knows and feels and wills is a person. When we speak of the personality of the Holy Spirit some people think we mean that the Spirit has hands, feet, eyes, nose, and so on; "but these are the marks, not of *personality*, but of corporeity." When we speak of the Holy Spirit as a Person, we mean that He is not a mere influence or power that God sends into our lives, but that He is a Being who knows and feels and wills. These characteristics are ascribed to the Holy Spirit over and over again in the Bible.

Knowledge.—Does the Holy Spirit have knowledge? Yes. In I Corinthians 2:10-11, we read, "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God." "The Holy Spirit is not merely an illumination that comes into our minds, but He is a Being who comes into our hearts, and reveals to us the deep things of God." "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**" John 14:26.

Will.—"But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will." I Cor. 12:11. "Here 'will' is ascribed to the Holy Spirit." We receive gifts according to the will of the Spirit; that is, as we consecrate ourselves to work for God the Holy Spirit imparts to us gifts according to *His* will. No, we can never get and use the Holy Spirit according to our own foolish wills; we must make a complete surrender of ourselves to the Father, and let Him send the Comforter into our hearts, who will work in and through us according to His good pleasure.

Mind.—The Holy Spirit has a mind. "And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." Rom. 8:27. Well, if the spirit of man has a *mind*, then it is certain that the Spirit of God also has a mind. It is God who "searcheth the hearts"; hence, He knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because He (i.e., the Spirit) "maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God," for man does not know the will of God concerning the saints, but the Holy Spirit *does* know, and He knows God's will in a universal sense. An impersonal influence has no intelligence, and hence can have no "mind."

Intelligence and Goodness.—"Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, and witheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst." Neh. 9:20. Here intelligence and goodness are ascribed to the Holy Spirit. This does not add any new thought to what has been said, but we bring it forth as additional testimony, and to show that the idea of this personality was established in the minds of the Old Testament writers. True, it was not so fully developed then as in New Testament times; but this weighs nothing on the negative side, for there are many revealed New Testament truths which were more or less obscure in Old Testament times.

Grief.—"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." Eph. 4:30. The Holy Spirit is a Person who comes to dwell in our hearts; he knows every thought, word, and action, and can be grieved at any unholy conduct. A blind influence has no *knowledge*, and therefore can feel no sense of grief. We have seen in a previous chapter that

the Holy Ghost is a distinct personality; for this reason He is frequently referred to in the Bible. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you?" (I Cor. 6:19). These words strongly imply personality. It is not the personal Father, nor the personal Christ, who is in us; these are in heaven. Stephen, as he was being stoned, looked into heaven and saw Jesus standing on the right hand of God. But it is said of Stephen that he was full of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 6:5). The Father and Son dwell in us, then, only in the personality of the Holy Ghost. "In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Eph. 2:22. This is plain. So we should be careful how we live before God, for His Spirit dwells in us and we are commanded to "grieve" Him not.

The Acts of the Spirit

II. *Many acts that only a person can perform are ascribed to the Holy Spirit.*

Speaking and praying.—"For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you." Matt. 10:20. Here speech is ascribed to the Holy Spirit. The disciples were told that when they should be brought before magistrates, they should not premeditate what they should answer; for, said Jesus, the Spirit will speak through you. Again, "The Spirit itself maketh intercession for us." (Rom. 8:26). "Pray in the Holy Ghost." (Jude 20).

Teaching and guiding.—The Holy Spirit teaches (John 14:26); guides "into all truth" (16:13); testifies of Christ (15:26); reminds of the past (14:26); hears the things God would have said and done, and shows them to us. (16:12-14).

The Office of the Spirit

III. *An office is predicated of the Holy Spirit that could be predicated only of a person.*

Another Comforter.—"We read in John 14:16-17, 'And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.' Here we are told it is the office of the Holy Spirit to be 'another Comforter' to take the place of our absent Saviour. . . . He told them He was going to prepare a heavenly mansion for them (John 14:3) and that when He had thus prepared it, He

was coming back for them; but He told them further that even during His absence, while He was preparing heaven for them, He would not leave them orphaned (14:18) but that He would pray the Father and the Father would send to them 'another Comforter' to take His place." Was this to be mere impersonal influence? If so, why could it not be felt while Jesus was yet with them? If this "Comforter" were only an "influence," how did it happen that when Jesus "went away" He did not simply leave this influence with them, rather than carry it all to heaven, and then send it back suddenly at Pentecost?

One at our side.—"This becomes clearer still when we bear in mind that the word 'Comforter' means comforter plus a great deal more besides. The revisers found a great deal of difficulty in translating the Greek word. They have suggested 'advocate,' 'helper,' and a mere transference of the Greek word 'paraclete' into the English. The word so translated in *Parakleetos*, the same word that is translated 'advocate' in I John 2:1; but 'advocate' does not give the full force and significance of the word etymologically. . . . *Parakleetos* means one called alongside; that is, one who constantly stands by your side as your helper, counselor, comforter, friend." While Jesus was on earth He was the helper, comforter, and friend of His disciples. They looked to Him in every time of trouble. He taught them how to pray; He stilled the tempest's wild commotion; He caught Peter as he was sinking in the boisterous sea. As He was about to go away He told them that He had many things yet to say unto them, but that they could not bear them now. "Howbeit," He said, "when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth"; as much as to say, "the things that I forbear teaching you now, because of your inability to bear them, the Spirit of truth, [the Comforter, the Holy Ghost] will teach you; He will reveal all these things to you, as you are able to receive them."

This work only a Person can do.

The Treatment of the Holy Spirit

IV. *A treatment is predicated of the Holy Spirit that could be predicated only of a person.*

"But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them." Isa. 63:10. It is impossible to rebel against and grieve a mere influence. In Hebrews 10:29 we read of the possibility

of doing "despite unto the Spirit of grace." Yes, my friend, you may resist Him and treat Him with such contempt and despite as to cause Him to leave off striving with you. "My Spirit shall not always strive with man." (Gen. 6:3). The Spirit of God has been known to leave a person forever. The Spirit of God Himself takes direct action either for or against us, according to our treatment of Him. "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." John 16:8. This is the work of the abiding Spirit of God in our hearts and in His direct appeal to sinners. Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Ghost. (Acts 5:1-5). Peter told them they had lied unto God. This is clear proof that the Holy Ghost is God—one of the Holy Trinity. Men may blaspheme against Christ, and speak evil of dignities and yet be forgiven; but he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness. (Matt. 12:31-32). If the Holy Spirit were no more than an unintelligible "influence," or "power," emanating from Christ and from God, how could blasphemy against this "power," or "mind," or "disposition" be more wicked than blasphemy against Christ? Let us not be deceived into believing that the Holy Spirit is not a personality.

The word "spirit" may sometimes be used with reference to influence, and doubtless is; but this has nothing to do with the fact that there is a personal Holy Spirit sent forth from God into men's hearts, teaching, guiding, blessing, helping, and comforting them. Nay, the fact that there is such an influence proves there is a Spirit Himself, who makes His power felt throughout all Christendom, and no doubt in all the world, in some degrees.

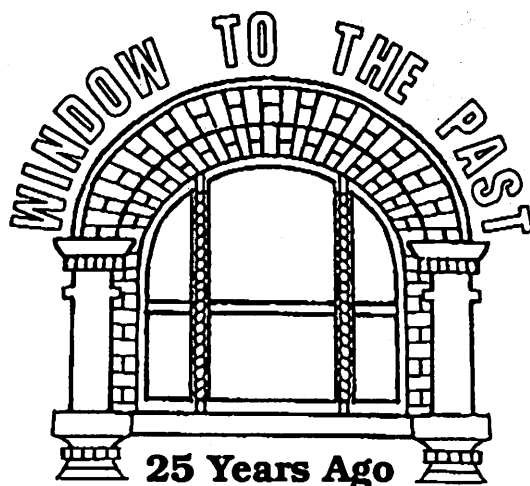
—J. E. Forrest

This article is taken from a book entitled *Errors of Russellism* by J. E. Forrest. It was originally printed in 1915, and at this time we are in the process of reprinting it. It should be ready the first part of January and can be obtained for \$3.00 each. Be sure to add 90¢ for the first dollar and 9¢ for each additional dollar of total order for postage and handling.

Keeping Silence Before God

Do you know what Father said: "Suffer and be still, and tell no man thy sorrow. Trust in God; His help will not fail thee." This is what Scripture calls keeping silence before God. To talk much of one's sorrows makes one weak, but to tell one's sorrow to Him "who heareth in secret" makes one calm and strong.

—Selected



Excerpts Taken From

January, 1966 *Faith and Victory*

"As the glory of the sunrise,
That dispels the darkest night,
May the dawning of this New Year
Burst anew with heaven's light.

"Days are coming, years are going,
Soon the wheels of time shall cease.
Let us crown our days with glory
Governed by the Prince of Peace."

—Selected

"On the night of Nov. 22 Bro. and Sister C. C. Carver gave the congregation at Guthrie, Okla., an account of their recent missionary journey to Nigeria, and Bro. Carver also recounted the experiences of his additional trip to India, emphasizing the fact that now the time is ripe for a harvest of souls in that great sub-continent.

"The native minister in India, in whose home Bro. Carver was a guest while there, is now actively taking the truth to those with whom he formerly labored. He is well educated, knows English and has offered to translate tracts and other gospel literature into the native language, have them printed and distributed to the people, provided that the funds are supplied for the printing. Though nearly 60% of the people in the state of Kerala, S. India can read and speak English, yet the gospel must be printed in the native language in order to reach the masses."

—Lawrence Pruitt