

FAITH AND VICTORY

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Ready

"Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: ..." Luke 12:35-37. Here are some of Jesus' own words concerning us keeping ourselves ready continually for His coming.

First, "Let your loins be girded about." This would imply a readiness for action. The children of Israel were instructed to eat of the Passover meal with their loins girded in readiness to depart immediately from Egypt. (Ex. 12:11). It could also imply a readiness for laboring.

"And your lights burning." In Matthew 5:14, 16, Jesus said again, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." First, we need to have a born-again experience of salvation that is bringing forth the fruit of righteousness in our daily lives, and not just a profession.

"And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately." He wants us to continually keep ourselves in a condition of readiness for His return. If there has come any failure on our

part, in any way, we should go to God immediately, confessing it to Him just like it was, not excusing ourselves nor accusing ourselves. This brings us in the proper attitude of heart so that God can deal with us. Sometimes what may seem to us as having been a failure on our part is only an accusation of the Devil. If we have sinned, then we should immediately return to God in godly repentance and not continue to harden our hearts by impenitence.

David sinned grievously in committing adultery. He failed to humble down and return immediately to God, confessing his sin. The result was that he became involved in committing more sin, hardening his heart. He evidently lived some months in this condition, not ready to meet God and his conscience condemning him. However, when God sent the prophet, Nathan, to uncover his sin, then David did humble down in acknowledgement, confession, and godly repentance. He sought the Lord until he knew of a surety that he was forgiven and had good contact with God again. He told the servants concerning the child that had died, "I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." (II Sam. 12:23).

The words of a song say:

"Nothing between my soul and the Saviour,
Naught of this world's delusive dream;

I have renounced all sinful pleasure,
Jesus is mine; there's nothing between.

Chorus:

Nothing between my soul and the Saviour,
So that His blessed face may be seen;
Nothing preventing the least of His favor,
Keep the way clear! let nothing between.

Nothing between like worldly pleasure;
Habits of life, though harmless they seem,
Must not my soul from Him ever sever,
He is my all, there's nothing between.

Nothing between, like pride or station,
Self or friends shall not intervene;

Tho' it may cost me much tribulation,
I am resolved, there's nothing between.

Nothing between, e'en many hard trials,
Tho' the whole world against me convene;
Watching with prayer and much self-denial,
I'll triumph at last, with nothing between."

If we persevere in keeping the way clear, then when our Lord comes for us at our earthly journey's end, we can welcome Him as John said, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." (Rev. 22:20).

"Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching." (Luke 12:37).

—Sis. Fern Stubblefield

Fruit Inspecting

Friends, it seems today I hear a lot who seem to think they are real good fruit inspectors. They use the Word of God where it says: "Ye shall know them by their fruits. . . ." Matt. 7:16, and "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." Matt. 7:20. Yes, those words of Jesus are so true; we can inspect what we can see. But that is as far as man can go, ". . . For the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." I Sam. 16:7. We can see the outside of a fruit, if it be sound or rotten, but we can't see the inside. Near the heart is where things can hide to cause us to rot from the inside out, instead of from the outside in. Usually the bruised fruit, the places we can see, comes from being mishandled. A drop or pressure on an area can start the rotting process. So if our eyes can see something rotten, could it be from how we have handled it?

Just recently I was taught a real lesson with some fruit, and the message went deep into my heart. I would like to share it with you.

We had a beautiful fruit basket given to us, and there was one big beautiful apple that tempted me every time I looked at it. Oh, it looked so tasty; big, red, firm and shiny. If I had been a fruit inspector I would have put that one in the "A" group. I could hardly wait for the first big bite. Was I ever surprised! I cut it open to find the inside was mostly rotten. All around the core was gone and it had spread throughout the apple. These were the sober thoughts that filled my heart: "You looked so good and solid. A 'number one' in my eyes, but I just couldn't see your inside. Down by the core, or

near the heart, was where you were bad; where no one could see." Then I thought seriously. "How many souls would I look over and judge to be firm and good. But only God could see inside, near the heart, to know if it was firm or rotten." My whole spirit shuddered as I thought, "Jesus, if you took your knife of love and cut **me** open so I could see clearly all the inside, just what would I find there?"

As I stood in deep thought I was reminded of some more fruit. Earlier we had bought some oranges, and they were the saddest looking things. They didn't look tasty and weren't tempting at all. But at last I got the nerve to try one. To my great surprise, inside that ugly outside was the sweetest orange I ever tasted. My thoughts went to where Jesus said, "Judge not, that ye be not judged." (Matt. 7:1). My judgment would be oh, so poor.

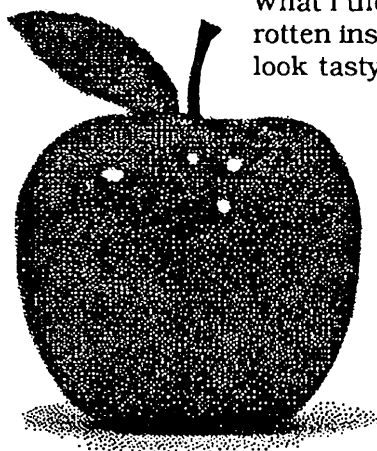
What I thought was a nice good apple was all rotten inside, and the orange I thought didn't look tasty was the sweetest. Then I remembered Jeremiah 17:9: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

Yes, dear friends, we can tell some things with our eyes, but with these simple thoughts in mind, can we **really** inspect fruit? Have you ever inspected wrong? Don't you think it would be better to gather fruit instead of inspecting it?

Let's remember one thing. In gathering fruit, to mishandle it, can cause bruises and rotting. So our **real** need is to let **Jesus** fully inspect us that we be qualified to work in gathering His precious crop of Golden Fruit.

In His service,

—Elaine Dunn



Who Are We?

Often, when I meet with new people and begin to speak to them of religion, one of the first questions asked is, "To what church do you belong?" As soon as I reply, "The Church of God," the next question is, "What do you believe?" Now this gives me a great opportunity to witness to them of Christ and His Church. I begin by expounding a little more on the first question—"To what church do you belong?"

Christ wants us to understand that His Church is spiritual, and that it belongs to His Father, as He stated in John 17:10-11. "And all mine are thine . . . keep through **thine own name** those whom thou hast given me. . . ." Even though Christ paid for the Church with His own blood (Acts 20:28), He asked the Father to keep her in His own name.

Now if the Church belongs to God and Christ purchased her with His own blood, He is the only one who can admit members. If we would look into the Word of God we will find the way in which He admits them. In John 3:3, Jesus said, ". . . Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." In Acts 2:47, we are told, ". . . the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." The **only way** into the Church of God is through salvation, and we are told how to obtain this in Romans 10:9-10. So we see that when a person repents he becomes a member of the Church of God. This means that they become part of a great institution, whose names are written down in heaven. (Heb. 12:22-23).

Now let us address the second question, "What do you believe?" In thinking about this question, my mind goes to the song we so often sing—"The Church's Jubilee" (song number 6 of *Evening Light Songs*). The second verse says, "The Bible is our rule of faith and Christ alone is Lord, All we are equal in His sight when we obey His Word; No earthly master do we know, to man-rule will not bow, But to each other and to God eternal trueness vow."

That verse should sum up what we believe—the Bible is our rule of faith. Paul told Timothy that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God. (II Tim. 3:16). So if all the verses in the Bible are given by God, we should obey each and every one of them. All of our questions we ask about salvation and God, can be and should be answered by the Bible. The Bible teaches us how to be saved and how to live every day. It tells us about God and His plan for man to live righteous and holy before Him. The Word teaches us how we must be inside and out. If we will obey it we can have eternal life, and if not, the Bible also tells us about a hell prepared for the ungodly. So you see, we don't have to depend on

someone's idea of what the doctrine of the Church should be, for we have the Bible.

Let us return to the blessed old Bible, and fashion our lives according to its teaching. When we do, we will have the doctrine of The Church of God.
—Bro. Clarence Campbell



Living the Christian Witness Before Your Muslim Neighbors

Witnessing to a Muslim requires a thorough understanding of their customs and beliefs. These are just a few guidelines that will help you into a deeper study of these people who need the truth of the gospel and the saving grace of Jesus.

Be constantly in prayer

It is the Holy Spirit who wins men to Christ. Seek His guidance and power for each individual person and circumstance.

Be a genuine friend

If you really care, show it. Share your time and help when you can. As someone once said, "Preach Jesus, and only when necessary use words."

Ask thought-provoking questions

Ones that show you care about them: "Do you expect to go to heaven? What does the Koran teach about forgiveness? May I show you what the Bible teaches?"

Never denigrate Muhammad nor the Koran (their holy book)

This is as offensive to them as speaking disrespectfully about Jesus or the Bible is to us.

Present your beliefs wisely

Show what you believe through your actions rather than reactions.

Reason, don't argue

Argument may win a point, but lose a hearing ear.

Use the Word of God

Muslims respect sacred books—even the Law of Moses, the Psalms and the Gospels. Start with Matthew and Luke.

Persevere with patience

Muslims have a lot of rethinking to do when confronted with the gospel. Give the Word of God time to work in their hearts.

—Taken from *News Brief*

FAITH AND VICTORY

16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend camp meetings), by Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, OK 73044 (USPS184-660).

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES



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

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

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

That which is foremost on the minds of many people today is the war being waged in the Middle East. Fought halfway around the world, we are distanced to a great extent from the horror of it. The main concern of our society is most keenly felt by those who have loved ones serving in the armed forces. One of the responsibilities most heavily borne by our government is the financing of the war. The news media is engrossed in ferreting out and reporting every detail, and seemingly the greatest impetus of the ecclesiastical leadership is figuring out how to fit these events into prophecy. Every one of these things is of interest, and will to some extent affect Christians, but where should our main focus of the war be?

There is an Aesop fable that tells of a youth who on a hot summer day hired a donkey to carry him from Athens to Megara. At midday the heat of the sun was so scorching that, feeling faint, he dismounted to rest himself in the shadow of the donkey. Thereupon the driver disputed the place with him, declaring that he had equal right to it with the other.

"What!" exclaimed the youth. "Did I not hire the donkey for the whole journey?"

"Yes, indeed," said the driver, "you hired the donkey, but you did not hire the donkey's shadow."

And while they were wrangling the donkey took to his heels and ran away.

Everything connected with the war is as insignificant as a shadow when compared to the value of souls slipping by those who should have a concern for them. This includes not only American soldiers, but Iraqi, Kuwait and all other nationalities involved. The driving force behind the Church today should be to spread the news of Christ, who will save people from the eternal consequences of sin.

It is staggering to the mind to consider the amount of hardware used in the war. In less than a week over 8000 explosives were dropped. The manufacturing plants will be busy replenishing the materials that are used in this great undertaking. Christians too are involved in a warfare. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Eph. 6:12. We should not withhold anything that is at our disposal to defeat the grip sin has on people.

We have been busy here at the Print Shop, publishing literature we believe can have an impact on souls. And we are thankful for those who are faithful in buying the literature and dispersing it, and we are looking for more who will be willing

to be carriers in dropping these truths in strategic places where they will have an effect on those who read it. The war effort is using planes to deliver the assault. The Lord needs people to disperse the truth. If you would send us the names of those you think might appreciate this paper, we would be glad to put them on the mailing list for a year, for one dollar each.

There is a difference in a literal and a spiritual warfare. In a carnal effort, force is the persuasion used to bring the enemy to its knees. In the spiritual conflict, it is love that will break the hardest heart. This is the rudiment that we are functioning under, and we would appreciate all those who will enter into this with us in any way.

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We have not heard from Bro. Josiah Pah or any of the ones from Liberia for some months. The civil war there has taken a number of lives, and we would ask that you remember in prayer the saints who are in the midst of this turmoil.

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Many of our readers desire to know the dates of the Church of God camp meetings scheduled for 1991. In the past we have printed as complete a list as possible in the March issue. To make that issue this year, we kindly request that your information be in this office by Feb. 20.

—————
Some *Evening Light* song books have been returned to us which the Post Office found loose in the mail. We have no way of knowing who they were sent to, and no one has written concerning them. If these could be yours, please notify us of how many you may have failed to receive.

Prayer Requests

OK—"Please pray for Sis. Margie Johnson of the Four Corners congregation; she has a serious affliction on her body." —Sis. Margaret Eck

MO—"My gums are still sore. Please pray for God to heal them." —Sis. Eathel Hill

WV—"Please pray that I might be truly saved." —Steve Douglas

MO—"I am greatly in need of healing." —Herb Paarman

OH—"I need prayer for different requests." —Loretta McKenzie

KS—"I have some heavy burdens I desire prayer for." —Opal Bradley

TN—"Please remember us in your prayers; we have a problem that the Lord knows all about." —Carey and Grace Boyd

OH—Sis. Juanita Blankenship's brother, John, still needs prayer.

OK—Sis. Icylee Tillman desires prayer for her grandson who is giving problems.

OR—Ruth Britow needs help in body.

CA—Continue to remember Sis. Letha Reece's eyes.

OK—Bro. Max Dean, Sis. Aneca Wall, and Sis. Brenda Wilkins, of the Guthrie congregation, are in need of physical healing.

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

We thank the Lord for His faithfulness in sending His Word with power and authority throughout the meeting. We appreciate the Lord sending Bro. Danny and Sis. Angela Gellenbeck and family; they were a great help. Two adults and two children were saved, and three souls followed the Lord in baptism. Many received help at the altar, and healing blessings after prayer. We thank you for your prayers. —Sis. Wynema Clay

REVIVAL AT BAKERSFIELD, CA

The saints at Bakersfield, CA, extend a warm welcome to all to attend the annual revival to be held, Lord willing, from Friday night, Feb. 8 through Sunday night, Feb. 17, 1991. In addition to nightly services, plans are for a daytime service at 1:00 on weekdays, with three services on the last Friday and on each Saturday and Sunday.

Please pray for the success of the meeting. We are expecting the Lord to send ministers of His choosing. The chapel address is 1802 Virginia Ave., phone (805) 395-9314.

For further information, contact Bro. Robert Mays, 421 S. Brown St., phone (805) 325-2730, or Bro. Archie Sherman, Jr., 3400 Rayborn Way, phone (805) 871-1636. —Janice Herring

INFORMATION NEEDED

I am gathering information on the history of the Church of God—particularly those congregations in Oklahoma and California. Anyone who would like to donate and/or loan items such as pictures, obituaries, documents, etc., may mail them to: Bro. E. Ivy, P. O. Box 188766, Sacramento, CA 95818. Of special interest would be *Faith and Victory* yearbooks between 1940-1960.

GUTHRIE CHAPEL PROGRESS REPORT

As we enter into the second month of the new year we feel it needful to give a progress and status report to the saints on the construction of the chapel and dining hall on the new Oklahoma State Campgrounds here at Guthrie, OK.

In December the electrical contractor we had engaged approached us with an offer the building committee felt like was a special favor from the Lord. The offer was to provide all material for the job at his invoice cost plus carry the labor expense on his books for several months. This would provide inside work for his men on days when the winter weather was severe, save the church considerable money on materials, and give the saints more time to meet the expense of this phase of the project.

Also during the month of December Bro. Clarence Bennings delivered most of the heat and air units to the job site. He has tentative plans to return in February to start setting the units and installing the duct work.

Another job that needs to be completed before the spring rains set in is a storm sewer system to take roof runoff water away from the building and parking lot.

A partial payment has been made to Bro. Clarence Bennings for the heat and air equipment. The present balance in the building fund will cover the cost of the electrical materials purchased to date. Beyond that we must continue to pray and wait upon the Lord to move upon those whose hearts and means are fully consecrated to Him.

We appreciate your continued prayers and support. Interested parties may address their correspondence to: Church of God, c/o Brenda Wilkins, Route 6, Box 797, Guthrie, OK 73044

—Bro. Bob Sallee for the Campground Relocation Committee

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From The Mailbox . . .



AR—Dear Christian friends: Seasons come and go, and so do years. Aren't we thankful that we are privileged to see 1991? I am sure the Lord will not lead us into anything in this year that He will not see us through. His love is great and "He will care for me," for "I am His child," and "I want to love Him more." I guess everyone is back in the routine of work and things since the holidays; we are.

We are saddened about Sis. Samons, but God's will and wisdom is best. He will help make adjustments, which are not easy.

Due to the weather, we have missed several services. I don't like to miss a one, as each service brings a blessing.

I have some burdens that only God can change and help.

We appreciate the *Faith and Victory* paper, and thank God for all your labors there. May God bless all of you.

Love continues on and on, —Sister Lou Bray

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SC—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and saints: It has been quite a long time since I have written or testified for our Lord in the paper. Praise His name, my soul is happy that I can report victory over the enemy and all the imposing powers of this old wicked world. We realize the enemy of our souls does not pamper us because of our age. He only uses a different method of trying to cast us down. I was 90 years old on Nov. 26., but I do not feel it is time to let up on my prayer life.

The Lord has whispered the words to me found in Isaiah 53:5. I cried out, "My precious Lord, give me strength to fight the battles of life." I'm here in Aiken, SC. I have been here almost a month. I have visited several churches, accompanied by my Lord, with tracts and the faithful little paper, *Faith and Victory*. I have received only courtesy, love, and accepting of the tracts and papers. We need your prayers, saints. There is a great work to be done here.

—Sis. Hazel A. Clark

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OR—Dear ones at the Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' name. This is to let you hear from me and to give praises to our Saviour for His love unto me. He is all I need to make it from this earth to heaven. I want to come closer so that He can use me anytime and anywhere.

Your sister in Christ,

—Naomi Jones

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OR—Dear Brother Wayne, and the folks at Faith Publishing House: Greetings to all. God has been so good to us. When we have pains He takes them away; when sorrows come He comforts; when finances have been short He has brought in the necessary amount. I am so thankful for all the comforts we have in a modest home. Our Lord provides for His own.

My heart aches for those who aren't privileged to learn of our Saviour.

May He guide each one of His children in our prayer.

—Sis. Doris Busch

OK—To all the dear saints: By the grace of God, I desire to exalt the name of our Lord and Saviour. The first verse of song number 53 in the *Evening Light Songs* reads, "Let the gates of praise be opened. . . ." Psalm 24:7-10 reads, "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; [What kind of gates? Gates of praise.] and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle." Verse nine repeats the same commandment and the same result follows, "The King of glory will come in." Verse ten says that the King of glory is "The Lord of hosts." So we desire to lift our heads and bless the Lord. He is reigning in our hearts today giving us victory over sin and all the imposing powers of Satan.

This world is full of wickedness, hatred, envy and strife, but we still have much to lift up our heads for and to sound forth the joyful praise, for our Lord saves and keeps from sin. Many false preachers in this world are encouraging people to live in sin, teaching people that they cannot keep from sinning, and saying that no matter what one may do that once saved you are always saved. They teach that a time will come when the Devil will be bound, and only then can they be free from sin. These teachings are promoting the degrading morals of our country, but praise our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for the victory we can have in this life. We can be saved and live a life free from sin, for He gives us power to deny ". . . ungodliness and worldly lusts, [that] we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." Titus 2:12.

Thank God for a salvation that sets us free, where we don't have to lie, hate, nor commit fornication or adultery. I am happy for the 60 years of happy married life to one husband. I can testify that I have never had a desire for another. Christ Jesus has blessed our marriage. Many preachers are deceiving people and easing the conscience of men and women who have divorced their first husband or wife to marry another.

We have so much to lift our heads and praise God for. We can sing the good songs of Zion and praise His name. As we do this, we have the promise that the King of glory will come in; the Lord Almighty; the Lord strong in battle. Oh, bless His holy name, He has never lost a battle. They tried to take His life so many times, but He escaped many times until His hour was come, then He said, "I lay down my life, for I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again." (John 10:17-18). He is truly mighty in battle.

Just recently the Lord blessed us here at Four Corners with a precious gathering of the saints from different congregations. We all came in Jesus'

name to sing praises unto God, our wonderful King of glory. Oh, how we were blessed as we lifted up our hearts and sang His praise. The following Sunday the Lord so wonderfully blessed with a good message on "Filled With the Spirit." It was truly anointed by the Holy Spirit, and our souls rejoiced in the truth.

I know the King of glory is real, for I can feel Him in my heart. I am rejoicing in His love, as I love Him above all else. He is just the **same today**. Praise be to His holy name. —Sis. Margaret J. Eck

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OH—Dear Bro. Wayne and all the saints at the Print Shop: Even though the world is disturbed by wars and rumors of wars, we praise God for the peace and joy we have in our soul today! We trust this letter finds everyone well and encouraged to live for God. God has been blessing here in Dayton to the saving and encouragement of souls. We had a glorious revival meeting two weeks ago and God saved sinners and sanctified believers. Many received help to their souls. Praise God!

God has been so good to us since we gave our heart to Him. We could never praise or thank Him enough for what He has done; He made us a new creature in Christ Jesus and set our feet on the solid rock. Thank the Lord. We are encouraged to press the battle on to win that heavenly crown He has prepared for everyone who loves Him. Pray for us that we will always be found doing God's will.

Your brother in Christ, —Larry Abbott

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FL—Bro. Wayne Murphey: I thank the Lord for the *Bible Lessons* and the *Faith and Victory* paper. I don't want to be without them. I receive so much help from the *Bible Lessons*, and the *Faith and Victory* papers are so encouraging. Sometimes I get one of the old papers and reread them. I appreciate this truth.

I am requesting prayer for an affliction in my right ear. I know nothing is impossible with God. I thank the Lord I have seen my 78th birthday.

Love and prayer, —Sister Kathleen Williams

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AL—Dear Bro. Wayne: We send this letter in the love of God, trusting that you and yours have had a blessed holiday season, and that you are encouraged in the Lord as we step into yet another year. May His peace be your portion daily as you seek to know and serve Him.

Just today I was reading in the September 1990 issue of the *Faith and Victory*, when I was struck by something that was written. Speaking of God being "most willing to impart manifold bless-

ings to His people," it went on to say that "the richest vein of His favor is encountered at the foot of the cross. This is where we meet God."

As I considered this matter of the cross, the Lord brought to my mind the Scripture which says, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32. I began to see afresh that as the Holy Spirit conforms us to Christ, and causes us to walk in accordance to His will, Christ is lifted up in the earth. If each of us shall allow the Spirit to lift up Christ within our own life then He will draw all men to Himself. Christ can only be lifted up when "self" is no more. This was the heart of John the Baptist when he said, "He must increase, but I must decrease." John 3:30. For the true saint this thought is just glorious! To the world the cross would seem harsh, and only cruel, but their understanding has been darkened by the prince of this world. But to the saint of God it is the place of blessing, honor, glory and thanksgiving. For it is at the cross that self is conquered and the Lord Jesus is revealed in His fullness. Glory to God for this blessed cross!

Dear brother, I must share with you again the wonderful results we are hearing from those with whom we share the little book, *The More Abundant Life*. Time and time again we have heard folks tell us of the great blessing God has bestowed upon their hearts through this book. I confess also that it has been one of my favorites. We thank the Lord that He has preserved this message, and that His Spirit still continues to bring "more abundant life" through its pages. We thank God for His humble servant, Bro. C. E. Orr, through whom He was able to reveal this word; and we thank Him also for you beloved saints who continue to bring it forth in print. May the manifold blessings of God be yours in all things. . . .

Please know that we are earnest in our prayers for you all. Indeed, there are few any more who are willing to raise the standard, which is "holiness unto God." We rejoice to know that there yet remaineth those who are true to Him. Give our love and prayers to all who are there with you, and to the saints everywhere, who are kept by the Spirit of God.

In Christ the Lord, —Bro. Jim Baxter

KS—Dear Bro. Wayne and others: Greetings in the new year of 1991. I hope all are looking upward and looking forward to being continually blessed in their soul and spirit during this year. I am very much encouraged and still so thankful to be a child of God. It is simply thrilling to think of the great position we are in when we are saved, and I just love serving my Lord. I realize there is no

other sensible way to live, and that Life is in Christ. I only wish I had the secret to getting all people convinced that living for God is great and such an intelligent and wise thing to do. I can truly say that "I wouldn't take nothing for my journey now and I must make it to heaven somehow."

Sincerely yours,

—Shirley Knight

IN—Dear Bro. Wayne and workers at the Print Shop: Greetings to you in Jesus' name. I want to thank the Lord for His lovingkindness and His tender mercies to me, and for how He let me live to see His Birthday [Christmas] again, knowing that He is the unspeakable gift that the Father gave to the world.

I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper; it is food to my soul. . . .

Yours in Christ,

—Mattie C. Black

OK—Dear friends and loved ones: As Feb. 17, the third anniversary of the death of our daughter, Lori, nears, our hearts are filled with great emotions. We miss her greatly, yet we will always thank God for permitting us to have Lori for 25 years, for our son-in-law, Mark LaCroix, and our dear little granddaughters, Holly and Heather, whom she gave to us. She was truly a precious daughter.

Recently the following poem was found which she had sent to her Aunt Maxine and Uncle Loren Busbee on the anniversary of the death of their daughter, Jan, who was 15 years old when she was killed in an automobile accident. Lori and Jan were very close cousins. Never could we have dreamed they would be resting together, both so young.

We did not know Lori had sent this poem. Now it is as if she is sending it to us. We would like to share it with you in memory of our beautiful Lori.

—Bro. George and Sis. Juanita Montgomery

God's Child

"I'll lend you for a little while,
a child of mine," He said,
"For you to love the while she lives,
and mourn for you when she's dead.
It may be six or seven, or
twenty-two or three,
But will you, till I call her back,
take care of her for me?
She'll bring her charms to
gladden you,
And should her stay be brief,
You'll have her lovely memories
as solace for your grief."

I cannot promise she will stay,
 Since all from birth return
 But there are lessons taught down there
 I want this child to learn.
 I've looked this wide world over
 in search for teachers true,
 And from the throngs that crowd life's lanes,
 I have selected you.
 Now will you give her all your love,
 Nor think the labor vain,
 Nor hate me when I come to call,
 To take her back again?"
 I fancied when I heard them say,
 "Dear Lord, thy will be done,
 For all the joy thy child shall bring,
 the risk of grief we'll run.
 We'll shelter her with tenderness,
 We'll love her while we may,
 And for the happiness we've known,
 Forever grateful stay.
 But should the angels call for her
 Much sooner than we've planned
 We'll brave the bitter grief that comes
 And try to understand."

—Author Unknown

*May God Bless You
 All on this Day.*

*Love : Prayers,
 Shi*

MI—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in the blessed and sweet name of Jesus: I pray all is going well with all of you in the dear Lord's work. I hope all of you had a nice Christmas, and may God richly bless all of you in this new year.

I thank the dear Lord for all of your good prayers. I do feel better, but I am still waiting for the complete healing.

Please remember the Norman Simpson family. They are having it very hard as Bro. Norman has lost his job and neither of them are well. . . .

All my love and prayers, —Sis. Olive Getterson

OK—Dear Bro. Wayne, and other workers at the Lord's Print Shop: It was so good seeing you dear ones at the Guthrie meeting. My soul was truly blessed in the services. I am much encouraged in the Lord to press on in Jesus' mighty name. . . .

Dear ones, keep pressing on. Keep faithful. Your labors of love are not in vain in the Lord. We

love you all and are praying for you there.
 We love you each one, —Sister Theresa Gaines

LA—Dear ones in Christ: We trust all of you are encouraged in the Lord. **We are.** We mean by His help to make more progress, spiritually, in this coming year, than the one just past. We don't know what we will face in the future, but we are sure if we hold fast to the Lord He will see us through.

The enemy of our souls paints pretty dark pictures sometimes, but we are thankful we can look past these things to the bright hope that we have in Christ.

May God bless the work there is our prayer. We do enjoy reading the good articles in the paper.

—Sis. Lula Williamson

OK—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings of love in the precious name of our dear Lord and Saviour. My wife and I are grateful to God for how He is blessing us. We both love the Lord and He is so precious to our souls.

—Your loving Bro. and Sis. George H. Adams

AL—Dear Bro. Wayne and workers: I trust this finds everyone well and happy in the Lord. We are better, all praise be to God for His love, mercy, strength, and grace He shows us each day. I love Him more everyday. I can never praise Him enough for what He has done for me and all humanity.

Today is the deadline for the United States to go to war. We are praying hard if God sees fit He will intervene and not let it be, but if He doesn't, that few lives as possible will be lost. Anything is possible with God. We do need to do much praying for the whole world.

Much Christian love and prayers,

—Bro. Emmett and Sis. Pearlene Gerald

LA—Dear Bro. Wayne and co-workers: Greetings in Jesus. I praise the Lord for victory through Christ, our Redeemer. We are glad to know that the Lord always proves to be a help in time of need, and we need Him so much! Bro. Goldsberry still suffers much pain and weakness and is very ill. We are so very thankful for all the prayers of the saints that are continually going up for us and for all the love God shows to us through His dear people.

I am thankful that the dear Lord gives me strength to care for my husband and keeps us both encouraged in Him. Praise the Lord!

We pray always for each one of you and your work for the Lord.

In the love of Christ,

—Bro. and Sis. B. Goldsberry

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CA—Dear Bro. Wayne and the workers at the Print Shop: I will try to write a few lines. So many things are happening in our world today. If we don't believe in Jesus, I don't know where we would be.

I would like your prayers for my unsaved family, and myself. I lost my companion Dec. 5, and there is surely a lot of adjusting that has to be done. Financially and otherwise I need your prayers to help me go on and do what the Lord would want me to do.

My love and prayers are with you and the workers there, also for this wicked world. It seems not many want to hear about God. I will close for now.

Christian love,

—Sister Doris Pihaylic

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OK—Dear workers at the Print Shop: I am sending a check in memory of my late husband. [Bro. Virgil Patton who passed away in Dec. 1990.] I want to share what I have in helping to send literature to poor hungry souls what time I have left here. The way things look we may not have long to work, God only knows.

I am very lonely, but God is giving me strength to carry on. I pray you can carry on the good work you are doing until the Lord comes.

I need your prayers, —Sis. Bessie Patton

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

MO—Dear saints: The Bible says in Revelation 12:11, "And they overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; . . ." I surely want to give a testimony for the Lord for what He did for me.

The last part of September we took a trip to visit my brother, Jim, and family, in Washington. About the time we arrived my left ankle began to swell. After a few days my leg, from the knee down, was swollen and had considerable fever in it. I could not walk or hold my leg down without pain. The Devil began to try to paint some dark pictures, but I thank the Lord for His encouragement. A few days before this, the Lord had given me a blessing in a song, # 130 in *Evening Light Songs*. It says, "Strengthened by the mighty power of heaven, We

shall conquer, we shall conquer; Till the raging foe afar is driven, press the battle on." Also the Lord gave me a Scripture, Proverbs 30:5, ". . . He is a shield unto them that put their trust in him." I did not know what the cause was of the swelling and fever in my leg, but it seemed serious. We called some of the saints back home for prayer and I thank the Lord He did answer prayer. The swelling and fever did not get any worse, and by the time we started home it was some better. The day after we arrived home was Saturday, a work day on the campground at Monark Springs. I was able to work there all day without any pain or soreness. I went back to work on Monday without any problem and haven't had any problem since. I surely thank the Lord for being a present help in time of need. I also thank the saints for their prayers and concern for me.

—Bro. Mike Hightower

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CA—Dear Bro. Wayne: On Dec. 12, my son was driving me back home from leaving my car to have the muffler repaired at a muffler shop, when a 62-year-old woman ran a red light and my son broadsided her. There were minor damages to her Lincoln Continental, but it totaled my son's car. He and I both were hurt. My left hand is broken, but seems to be healing slowly. I also received bruises, pinched nerves, etc. It could have been much worse. Our guardian angels were watching over us.

My cold is better. God is so good to answer prayer. No matter what trials, injury, or illness comes along, we can still say, "It could have been worse."

I pray your loved ones, you, and those at the Print Shop are well.

God bless,

—Sis. Helen Carson

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VA—Dear brethren: I know a letter to you is long overdue. I have been wanting to write, but life has a way of keeping me busy with many cares and duties.

I am encouraged to live for the Lord. I love Him with all my heart. He is precious to me. How could I ever repay Him for His goodness and mercy?

This past year I became too busy and too involved with the cares of life, and began to lose spiritual ground. The Lord in His great love and mercy picked me up and turned me around. He loved me too much to allow me to be lost. My heart swells with love and devotion. My greatest desire is to please Him in my life. Please pray for me that I will be faithful.

My heart was deeply saddened by the loss of Sis. Verna Samons. I needed her, but the Lord in His wisdom saw it best to take her to be with Him. She was like a mother to us younger sisters. We have lost a very special person. Her life is a challenge to me and will be a testimony for years to come.

May the Lord bless each one of you richly.

Sincerely, —Sis. Nancy Wagoner

MO—Dear saints: We want to thank and praise our wonderful King for not only His saving and keeping power, but also for His healing power.

Around Thanksgiving time, we heard Sis. Maxine Busbee's personal testimony of how the Lord healed her of arthritis. A few days later my middle finger on my right hand started hurting severely whenever I would reach to open a door, pull clothes out of the washer, etc. The gripping action that we often take for granted, caused sharp pains in my main finger joint. The following Wednesday night, I requested prayer for my hand. Bro. Veda McMillan earnestly petitioned the Lord to clear up the apparent arthritis in my hand. And thank the Lord, He healed my hand! On Thursday, I was working about the house as I normally would without any trace of pain. The Lord had to stop me and remind me of what He had done, because it was an instant touch and I did not even notice when the pain had left. After testifying in our local congregation, the Devil tried to bring the affliction back on me one day. I just held a rebuke against the Devil and told him that the Lord had healed me. That time was the last that I was bothered with it. We truly praise our wonderful God.

On Dec. 8, the Lord worked another miracle in our behalf. I somehow closed my left thumb in the car door. I had to open the door to get my thumb out. It naturally hurt a lot, but the Lord allowed it to ease down shortly. As badly as I had smashed it I just knew that I would lose my thumbnail, and was dreading the thought, but the Lord did not even allow it to turn black and blue. My thumb was numb and tingly for about a week, but the nail never loosened. To me, this is just another one of God's miracles. Isn't it wonderful to serve such a wonderful God!

During my little battles, Clifford also tore, pulled, or hurt something in his upper abdomen while driving some metal posts. It concerned us that it might be serious, as it pained him most of the time. However, once again the Lord came to our aid and touched Clifford's body.

Our faith has not only been encouraged by these recent definite healings, but also by the reading of God's Word. "So faith cometh by hear-

ing, and hearing by the Word of God." (Rom. 10:17). The story of young David's faith has challenged me to let my trust soar up to God and just see how He can work when one's life is in His care.

Your servants in Christ,

—Vonda and Clifford Cole

OK—Dear saints and readers: Greetings to you this beautiful morning in the lovely name of Jesus. Truly He is so precious to me. Jesus has done so much for me; saving my soul, helping me in the pathway of life and guiding me in His ways.

This year is my 45th spiritual birthday. God was so wonderful to help me find the way to my Lord Jesus. I was not raised in a Christian home. Consequently I had no religious training, but there always seemed to be in my heart a longing or yearning for a better way to live. I didn't know how or where to go, or whether there was a better way. When I was 18 I met Ralph, who was to be my husband. He was saved and helped me understand that there was a much better way to live. He introduced me to Jesus, and I gave my heart to Him, endeavoring to please Him with my life. Of course, there have been many trials and tribulations along the way in these years. But Jesus has always been there to give me a song or Scripture to bring courage to carry on with strength and to live for Him. I am counting my blessings and am very thankful to be in my Saviour's care.

God has been my healer in these many years. This summer I had a case of shingles. The Lord cared for and healed me. It wasn't an instantaneous healing, but I am now well once again. When the pain was so severe I called others for prayer, and God brought relief from pain and helped me to sleep. During this time of affliction the Lord helped me see where I could measure up to His Word in a more perfect way.

Dear ones, to those who are suffering under the hand of affliction, I encourage you to press on. I know sometimes the way grows dark and discouragement comes, but God is a refuge and strength in this life. He will never leave you nor forsake you. His Word promises this. (Heb. 13:5).

If there is a soul out there in the highways and byways of sin that may be reading this, look to Jesus. Tell Him your heart's desire. Ask Him to forgive you and cleanse your heart from sin. Believe that He will and does forgive you. Then walk free from sin and you truly will be a child of God. I know this to be true, for He did this for me and He is no respecter of persons. (Acts 10:34). There will be peace and joy in your heart, knowing that you are on your way to heaven.

Your sister in the Lord, —Sis. Dorothy Wilkins

AR—Dear saints: This letter of thanks is long overdue. I am sorry. I surely want to thank all who prayed for me while I was sick, those who visited, called, sent cards, letters, and flowers. The deep concern I felt through those acts of love was overwhelming. We have asked God to bless each of you many times. It is very humbling to be on the receiving end.

On Jan. 7, 1990, as I was getting ready to go to church, a sudden pain filled my head. It began to worsen later, centralizing at the base of the brain. When I would try to sit up or get my head higher than one pillow, the pain would be excruciating. There was less pain lying flat. I have never felt so helpless; not able to do anything but lie there. Thank God, He was always there to bring relief. The congregation here was with us day and night, praying and helping in many ways. Even though they are my relatives I believe it would not have been any different had I been someone besides family. Their love and prayers meant so much to me. On the 12th, about 4:00 in the morning, God witnessed to us and gave the healing touch. I began to mend from that hour. On the 19th, Dub got a hospital bed so I could push a button to raise and lower my head. On the 29th I was able to sit in the recliner and look at the bed. My, that was good to be looking at the bed instead of being in it! I have and feel a real thanksgiving to God for His mercies to me as each day I am able to get up and go to the duties of the day.

Many do not believe God heals today, but God has done many wonderful things for me since I have been saved. He has answered prayer many times, sometimes instantly. He does answer prayer. I am glad we can depend on Him. I want Him to be able to depend on me. I know this was for my good. Pray for me.

We love and appreciate all of you there at the Print Shop and are praying for you.

—Sis. Nellie Henderson

Foreign Mission Reports



From the Philippines . . .

Dec. 5—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: I greet you with much love, peace and joy in the matchless name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings. I praise and bow to His greatness and power.

Just after the typhoon, Rufing, I had to repair our rented house, due to some destruction. Since

that time I have tried to visit our sisters who suffered calamities done by the typhoon. Thanks be to God, they were alright. We made frequent group prayers with Bible studies to strengthen our faith in God.

This week I will be leaving for Butuan City to visit our brothers and sisters there. I am doing all I can, with the presence of the Holy Spirit, to preach the precious salvation to everyone, for our Lord's coming is very near.

Our prayer is that God's almighty power will strengthen all of us to serve the Lord with sincerity, devotion and trust.

Yours in the body of Christ, —Nonilon Capuyan

Jan. 9—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and all of the Lord's servants in the U.S.A: Greetings in Jesus' name. We thank the Lord for all His blessings in everything, for the goodness of the Holy Spirit in all our endeavors for His gospel.

Due to the events in the Gulf Crisis, people everywhere in the Philippines are praying. Even those who have not prayed before, for fear of the war that might be realized any day now. According to Job, "The fear of the Lord is wisdom and to depart from evil is understanding." Because of the tension in the Middle East, people are busy praying with hope to stop the conflict. We know God's Spirit is stronger than the hearts of the world's inhabitants. . . .

Yours for Jesus, —Bro. Leonardo Salvaña

From Nigeria . . .

Dec. 6—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and all the faithful in the Church: Greetings in holy Christian love, the tie which binds God's holy family together. It is only Divine love that can transform a treacherous heart into a palace worthy of the King.

The Lord is making His name felt through His vessels stationed in Africa. We are launching out at the command of the Master of ocean, earth and sky, into the deep, and letting down our nets for a draught. It is victory unexcelled as our affections continue to be set on things above where the Lord Jesus is sitting at the right hand of power to shower blessings upon the inhabitants of Zion. Faith has proven the words of our Lord recorded in Matthew 7:7.

The light shining on the holy hill of Zion is being seen from afar. At Kano City, in Northern Nigeria, comes a Macedonian call which has received the sanction of the Lord. A team to be led by this writer might leave Kwale for Kano in February, 1991, to show the souls gathering there the way to Zion. Saints are requested to pray for its

possibility, effectiveness, and the filling of us with His mighty Spirit and fire to overflowing, so as to be able to water God's garden and raise to life many drooping and withering plants in dire need of watering.

The annual thanksgiving service of the Kwale congregation has been fixed to take place Dec. 16, 1990. A huge attendance is expected.

Let us watch and pray and see the end with victory.

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

From India . . .

Jan. 10—Dear Brother Wayne Murphey and dear brothers and sisters scattered in different parts of America: We send our new year greetings to you all again in the sweetest name of Jesus.

Our 26th General Convention came to an end last Sunday with many blessings and victories. God sent preachers with anointed messages and many got saved, sanctified, and baptized. The attendance was good. We got a few new souls to the church. Women's meetings, young people's meetings, and minister's meetings were all blessed with good attendance and with spiritual food.

We pray earnestly for peace in the Eastern Gulf area. 125,000 people of India are working in different parts of the Gulf. Our Lord is at the gate now. "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still." Rev. 22:11.

May God bless you all.

Please continue to pray for India. We desire to conduct conventions in local congregations also.

Yours in Him, —John Varghese

Question and Answer

by

Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Please comment on Ezekiel 11:19-20.

Answer: Ezekiel 11:19-20 reads thus: "And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God."

Before entering into a discussion on these verses, let me couple them with some similar verses. "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean; from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them." Ezek. 36:25-27.

These two passages refer to the same situations. The Israelites, by consorting with the heathen nations around them and engaging in their idolatrous worship and immoral practices, had incurred the wrath of God. He caused them to be overcome by the heathen nations, carried away and scattered among the nations. But He was not willing that they remain in such a condition. In these passages He offers hope to them that He would gather them out of the nations (Ezek. 36:24) and that they would dwell in the land He had given to their fathers. (Ezek. 36:28). Also read Ezekiel 11:16-18. We read in II Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." It is evident He never intended to cast them off forever. Jeremiah 3:12 says He would not keep His anger forever. Oh, how wonderful it is to know that God is merciful, and will not hold His anger and continue to punish us on and on, when we acknowledge our transgression, repent and plead His forgiveness and mercy. So it was with the children of Israel. When they had sinned and God punished them by allowing them to be taken captive, He was still offering them mercy and proclaiming He would gather them out of the nations where they had been scattered, and return them to their own land where they would be one people again.

In these verses God is announcing that He will change their hearts and put a new spirit within which would cause them to walk in His statutes and keep His judgments. He could then dwell among them again and be their God and fight their battles as before.

But there are more to these verses than that. That was the short range fulfillment of the prophecy. The long range fulfillment and terminus of this prophecy extends beyond their time into this gospel age of full salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and our faith in the merits of His shed blood to make an atonement for our sins.

Let us realize that Israel after the flesh is a type of Israel after the Spirit. Many of God's dealings

with them and His relationships with them were a type of His dealings with us and His relationship with us in the Spirit. This is confirmed in Romans 2:28-29 where it is said, "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God." Circumcision in the flesh was a cutting off of something. The circumcision in the Spirit is also a cutting away of something from the heart. We read in Colossians 2:11, "In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in **putting off** the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:" Ephesians 4:22-24 says, "That ye **put off** concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye **put on** the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." The New Testament abounds with many Scriptures describing this work of salvation.

The verses we are considering in this question deal with the heart, so let us consider a little now what the heart is. "Heart" is defined in the dictionary as (1) a. Emotional constitution, disposition, or mood. b. Capacity for sympathy or generosity; compassion. c. Love; affection. (2) Inner strength or character; fortitude. (3) A person esteemed as lovable, loyal, or courageous. In short it is the sum total of the affections and passions that motivate and control all the activities of an individual's life. Proverbs 4:23 says, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Jesus, in His teaching, said in Mark 7:21-23, "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornication, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man." Again Jesus said in Matthew 12:35, "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things."

In this last text the two hearts are presented as for what they are, and what comes out of them and are manifested in the lives of those who have these kinds of hearts. In the verses we are discussing in this question, there are two kinds of hearts presented—the stony heart and the heart of flesh. The heart of stone is a hard heart that is entirely irresponsive and impervious to the Spirit of God, His admonitions and will. Consequently, that individual cannot perform the will of God in his life. The salvation that Christ provided for hu-

mankind through His sacrifice and shed blood provides a change of heart—the taking out of that hard, irresponsive, impervious heart and replacing it with a heart of flesh that is responsive to the voice of God and His will, and can be actuated by His Spirit. One of the verses being considered in this discussion says God will remove the old stony heart and give us a new heart (completely renovate and change that old corrupt, defiled nature) and change us from nature to grace; and then give us a new spirit to actuate the new affections and passions that flow from that new heart of flesh. And more, it says that God will give us His Spirit (the Holy Spirit which will cause us to walk in His statutes, keep His commandments and do them). This is the full and free uttermost salvation—justification and sanctification (filled with the Holy Spirit) that is provided for us in Jesus Christ our Lord.



In Memoriam

Verna Mae Samons, age 58, went to be with the Lord on Dec. 28, 1990. She was born March 25, 1932, in Floyd County, KY. She was the daughter of the late William and Susie Estep.

Verna was born into the Church of God, Nov. 2, 1957, and remained faithful until the end.

Survivors include her husband, Mart Samons; three sons, Stoney, of Mayfield, KY, Toney and John of Greenbank, WV; three daughters-in-law, nine grandchildren, one sister, six brothers, and a host of saints and friends from coast to coast. She will be missed by us all.

Services were at the Church of God, Green Bank, WV, with Bros. Ed Wilson, Curtis Williams, and Keith Fuller officiating.

Her children arise up, and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all." Prov. 31:28-29.

My wife may not have excelled them all, but she was surely at the top of the list. She was a true and faithful wife for over 41 years. Thirty-three of those years she was a true saint of God. I know we will all miss her; me most of all.

Ever since she was a young girl she wanted to go to heaven. I have heard her say it many times. Well, she is there, safe at home. It was hard to give her up, but she wanted to go. Her last request was for us to pray the Lord would send an angel to take

her home. And He did. Her last few hours were quiet. We talked together right up to the end. She quietly went to sleep in Jesus.

The Lord had shown her 3 or 4 years ago that she was going to have to suffer some. I remember her telling the Lord that if it was for His cause she was willing. When her affliction was first discovered she lay awake all night. That night she got the victory. We decided to put it in the hands of the Lord. Every time when she would start suffering severely, God would touch her and relieve the pain. He was so real to us through the whole thing. She was so patient. Not one time did I ever hear her murmur or complain. She never found fault with God nor felt like she was getting a bad deal. She was a special person.

The Lord witnessed to me on the 20th of Nov. that He was going to take her. When I asked Him why, He said He had a special love for her.

I want to thank all the dear saints and our many friends for standing with us through this. It has humbled me to see the love and burden that was carried; the many prayers, calls and cards by the hundreds. Your gifts and offerings will always be remembered. May God richly bless you each one and reward you a hundredfold.

I know I will have some lonely days ahead, but I have never felt God's presence any more than I have the last couple of months. He is walking right by my side. Praise His name!

Let us all keep steady as we go and live so that when we have to go we can go where she is.

Much Christian love,

—Bro. Mart Samons and family

Effie Mae (Hampton) Miller, daughter of Noah James and Mary Wells Hampton, passed away Friday, Dec. 21, 1990 at her home. She was a native of Blogett, MO, and a resident of Loranger, LA. She was 88 years of age.

She gave her heart to the Lord in her younger years. Her life has been the "lighthouse" that has drawn many of her children and grandchildren to the Lord. She loved the Lord supremely.

She is survived by four sons, Joe H. Miller, of Aurora, IL, Gerald Miller of Colliersville, TN, Bobby Miller of Warner Robins, GA and Darius Miller of Loranger, LA; four daughters, Mary Hope Flynn and Cynthia LaCroix of Loranger, LA, Sybilla Humphrey of Nowata, OK and Aquilla Sorrell of (Continued on page 16.)

14 ^aWe know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. ^aHe that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death.

15 ^aWhosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that ^ano murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

16 ^aHereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

17 But ^awhoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of *compassion* from him, ^ahow dwelleth the love of God in him?

18 My little children, ^alet us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

(Bible text shown in actual size.)

Ps. 34:15 22
Prov. 15:29
Jer. 29:12
Mat. 7:8
John 8:29 22
John 6:29 23
Mat. 22:39 23
John 13:34
Eph. 5:2
ch. 2:8, 10 23
John 14:23 24
John 17:21 24
Rom. 8:9 24

CHAP. 4 AD 90

Jer. 29:8 1
Mat. 24:4
1 Cor. 14:29 1
1 Thes. 5:21
Rev. 2:2
Mat. 24:5 1
Acts 20:30
1 Tim. 4:1
2 Pet. 2:1
1 Cor. 12:3 2
2 John 7 3
2 Thes. 2:7 3
ch. 5:4 4
John 12:31 4
Eph. 2:2
John 3:31 5

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West Plains, MO; one brother, N. B. Hampton of CA; one sister, Ruby Gozzell of Poplar Bluff, MO; 33 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Cecil C. Miller; three sons, Cope, Max, and Howard Miller; also one brother, Richard Hampton.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Gordon Humphrey. Burial was in the Oak Grove Cemetery at Loranger, LA.

NOTE OF THANKS

We want to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, food, phone calls, and prayers during the illness and passing of our dear mother.

—The family of Sis. Effie Miller

— — — — —

Nora May Smith, daughter of Isaac Thomas and Milley Jane (Massey) Smith, was born Feb. 2, 1902 in Anthony, KS. Nora grew up in Anthony, attending the Anthony schools, and in 1944 she moved to Pomona, CA to make her home. She worked at the Crystal Cafeteria for 31 years until retiring.

She was a member of the Church of God of Pomona, CA, and had a great love for the Lord. She did many things to help the cause of God.

Nora passed away Friday, Dec. 28, 1990 at her home in Pomona, CA, following a brief illness. She was preceded in death by her father and mother.

She is survived by two sisters; Pauline Patterson of Anthony and Marie Robertson of Wichita, KS; nieces and nephews; other relatives and many friends.

Funeral services were held Jan. 4 in Anthony, KS, officiated by Bro. Wayne Murphey. Interment was in the Burchfiel cemetery.



Yesterday is in the past and forever gone, Sinner friend should the death angel have called, what would have been your end?

Lost and undone would have been the judgment cry. Salvation was near, but you passed it by.

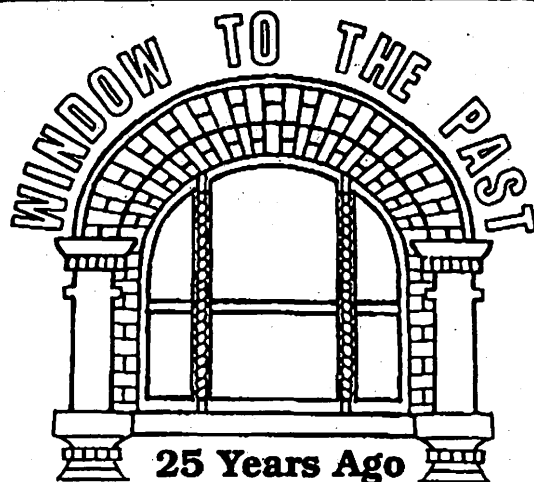
Tomorrow is in the future, we look to, with good intent to get right with God and His Son whom He sent.

But procrastination is the Devil's best tool and many there are that follow this rule.

The present is now—Today is the day of salvation decreed of God, since the day of creation.

Harden not your hearts, as in the day of provocation for today is the day of full salvation.

—Irving Clements



Excerpts Taken From February, 1966 Faith and Victory

"The saints in the state of California have made application to the Corporation Commission of the state of California for a permit to issue a series of Church Building Notes to obtain money to complete and equip the Home for the aged members of the Church of God in this western area which is now being built on the Church of God campground in Pacoima, California."

—Ostis B. Wilson

Sis. May Carver's Report on Nigeria

"We found ourselves among a very sweet and warm-hearted people, eager to learn more about the Word of God. When we went to the various missions, of which there were seventeen, we were welcomed with smiles and much appreciation, and were showered with gifts, which we felt was a great sacrifice to them.

"We were visited by the elders of the local village, who welcomed us, and told us they appreciated our coming. The elders of Ukpom village gave the land for the mission there, and told us they would give more land if other buildings were needed. They also said the Church of God mission had been a help to the village.

"Cecil took every opportunity he could to talk on the doctrines of the Bible. We were visited day after day by ministers and other workers of the missions. One afternoon all of the ministers came together to ask questions on the Bible. He also was able to bring a message at the missions we visited."