

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



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### Don't Trouble Trouble

Don't trouble trouble  
Till trouble troubles you.  
Don't you look for trouble;  
Let trouble look for you.

Don't you borrow sorrow;  
You'll surely have your share.  
He who dreams of sorrow  
Will find that sorrow's there.

Don't you hurry worry,  
By worrying lest it come.  
To flurry is to worry,  
'Twill miss you if you're mum.

Who feareth hath forsaken  
The Heavenly Father's side;  
What He hath undertaken  
He surely will provide.

The very birds reprove thee  
With their happy song,  
The very flowers teach thee  
That fretting is a wrong.

"Cheer up," the sparrow chirpeth,  
"Thy Father feedeth me;  
Think how much He careth,  
Oh lonely child, for thee!"

"Fear not," the flowers whisper;  
"Since thus He hath arrayed  
The buttercup and daisy,  
How canst thou be afraid?"

Then don't you trouble trouble,  
Till trouble troubles you;  
You'll only double trouble,  
And trouble others, too.

—Author Unknown

### Our Space

(The following article is adapted from a message preached at the 1986 Oregon Camp Meeting, and is continued from last month's issue.)

Look in the third chapter of Revelation, 20th verse. Again, it's an old familiar text, and yet it rings so true. Listen to what He says, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Notice how he started. He didn't start out saying, "Oh, I have a wonderful, wonderful banquet prepared. I have a wonderful provision made. All I am waiting for is an opportunity and I'll be more than glad to share it with you." The very first thing He said was, "I have come to the edge of your perimeter, and I knock. I pay you the respect of the dignity of your consent. I am here asking to be allowed entrance, but you have the right to refuse or to accept according to your own desire. This is given to you and I will not violate that. You look at the wares that I have if you would like. You see what I come offering you, willing to present to you, willing to bring in and sit down and share with you. I will give you of the fullness that is mine and I will receive what you can bring to the table and we both will sup together and I will be able to help you out with your problems; you will be able to partake of the bounty that I have to give. But unless you open the door, the provision will go on by."

Do you remember the story of the young man who came to the Lord in good spirits? He felt he had everything going his way. He asked the Lord, "Now what can I do to have eternal life?" The Lord started naming it off: "You keep the law." "All this I have done from my youth up." He was feeling better all the time. But the time came when the Lord looked right to the bottom; He saw exactly

what the trouble was. He said, "This is what is hindering you from having entrance, or from coming into my presence where we can partake of the same provision together. You take care of this situation, and everything will be all right." The young man turned and walked away. "Give up my riches in exchange for this?" He was still in possession of his space and he was not willing to open the door for someone to come in and share. Oh, dear ones, I think about the Saviour as He stood there.

where the trouble is. There could be something wrong in the manner in which you are governing the space that you occupy. You are dissatisfied with it, not pleased with its results. It doesn't bring to you the peace and satisfaction that you expected it to bring. You may say, "There is nothing wrong with me, somebody else is causing this to happen." Nine times out of ten it will work this way. "If so and so would just let me alone, I could be at peace." If you find that peace, that satisfaction,

*"If you are occupying your space and you are staying in the bounds that are ascribed to you, and I am occupying my space and staying within the bounds that are ascribed to me, that law of space says there won't be any conflict."*

It said He loved that young man, but He stood there in faithfulness to his perimeter and watched him walk away unsaved. That takes something, doesn't it? The Lord is not going to impose on your or my perimeter any more than He did on his. If we are not willing to yield the space that is ascribed to us to Him, we can just go on and conduct it as we see fit. To me this is solemn thinking.

I would like for us to turn to the book of James. This apostle wrote some things that to me are real profound. He writes some things that cause me to conclude his depth of thinking was so far beyond mine that I'm just not able to comprehend it. Listen to what he said in the 4th chapter. "From whence come wars and fightings among you?" Let's rephrase that a little bit to where it makes better sense to us in our relationships with each other. "From whence come conflicts and disputings among you?" Now if you are occupying your space and you are staying in the bounds that are ascribed to you, and I am occupying my space and staying within the bounds that are ascribed to me, the law of space says there won't be any conflict. When you see trouble arising, and confusion and disturbance beginning to show up, somebody is getting out of his space. Somebody is trying to occupy space that is not under his jurisdiction and perhaps someone else is responding in kind with an opposition that goes along with that in the physical world, and it can produce havoc. Space is a valuable thing; space is a critical thing. Space falls into our hands and we become responsible for the space that is given to us. "From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?" The reason you may not get along with somebody else is a pretty good indication that you are not getting along inside yourself. There is

that provision that the Lord was willing to bring in when you opened the door, others can do what they want to, and you will still be at peace in your space. I know this is right.

"From whence come wars, from whence come fightings and disturbances and conflicts and contentions among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?" What is the first thing that the Lord starts out to do when He takes up His abode in our hearts? It is to get rid of the source of those lusts, desires, cravings and those attitudes and opinions that cause men to be carnal. He came to remove that. When our space is occupied under the influence of His guidance, it doesn't have things that hurt, destroy, wound and tear. All of that is taken out and that space is made pure. He said, "Ye lust, and have not: ye kill." When you get to the place where you are willing to see folks destroyed, that is a horrible thing.

"Ye lust and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war. Ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss." When you look at the situation and decide that there is nothing wrong with you, and it's other people that need to be changed, you will direct the thrust of your prayer in that direction. "Lord, you change this one, and you help that one, and you get this one out of my way," and all of that. He said you ask amiss. You don't receive because you ask amiss. You want to know the peace, joy, and satisfaction that goes along with a well-managed and well-regulated space that is ascribed to you? You find the peace that He can bring to that space and all the rest of this will take care of itself.

Why do men like to dominate space that belongs to somebody else? It's pride. It's a struggle

for power. I remember when I was a lad, a good many years ago, along about Christmas time one year, I got what I had been wanting since the time I was just a little fellow. My folks always purchased for me bib overalls with the suspenders that come up over your shoulder, and I hated them. I vowed to myself, "If I ever get to be a man, I'll never buy another pair of bib overalls." I have bought one pair since then. Christmas time came along and they wanted to be good to me. They made a concession, and bought me a pair of waist overalls. They called them bell-bottoms then. From about the knee down they flared out like a bell. And on the side there was a little triangle about five or six inches up and four or five inches wide at the bottom, that they had sewed a bright red strip of cloth on. You wouldn't believe how much faster I could run with that red flashing on the side. This made me stand out in the crowd, see, and when I could stand out in the crowd, and they would say, "We want to play tag," I could say, "No, let's play something else," and they would listen to me. It was influence over other people. It won't take long and other people will look at that influence and they will begin to know the influence of envy. You see what we have working now? I'm not willing to take my place in the crowd; I want to stand out in the crowd. "From whence come wars, strugglings, conflicts among you?" Oh, dear ones, Jesus told His disciples way back there before the Holy Ghost ever came, "This shall not be so among you." You be willing, in the humbleness of your heart, in the dedication of your space to Him, to be willing to go on the level of your brethren and to become just a face in the crowd. Our attitude to God should be, "If you just let me be in the midst and be saved, that is all I need. That is all I ask." When we begin to function with the thought in mind, "I'm going to

space, demanding that I do this, or that, or the other thing? No, it comes more like a suggestion. It comes more as an appeal, just like the knock at the door when the Lord wanted in in the first place. "Do you hear the appeal that I make to you? And if you do, are you willing to yield to its influence? And if you will, this problem will be solved and you can overcome and your space will be clean of all of that, and my blessings again will fill you through and through." You can just as easily push that influence away. "No, I'm right in what I have done, and I will not yield an inch. I'll stand right here. Somebody's gonna have to push me around to get me to move." Here is the conflict.

Notice this: "Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud." The man who desires to be in control over somebody else; the man who wants to be heard in every dispute that arises; in every discussion that is given; the man who wants to be there and be seen in every situation; the one that is trying to maneuver others into his pattern of thinking, God resisteth. But He giveth grace to the humble. Are we always careful to see to it that we give as much consideration to our fellow and the administration of his space as we want him to give to us and the administration of our space? You know what we are talking about here? Do unto others as though you were the others. That's The Golden Rule. "Submit yourselves therefore to God." Submit yourselves to imposing influences around you? No. You sit down and sup with your Saviour which you invited into your perimeter. You partake of what He brought into you, that He bequeathed to you, that He gave you the right to go and partake of, and you let those around you do what they want to. But the peace that you can know with Him will so neutralize that influence out there until it will have no effect on you and

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*"The man who desires to be in control over somebody else; the man who wants to be heard in every dispute that arises; in every discussion that is given . . . God resisteth."*

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outdo somebody else. I'll preach longer and louder than he did," we have already started in the wrong direction, haven't we?

Do you think the scripture saith in vain, "The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace." If I find in my heart that I am looking at somebody and I feel a little envy in my heart, there is grace to take care of that. There is an answer. There is a solution. Does it come encroaching on me and crowding itself into my

your experience. We can go on and live saved right in the midst of strong persecution, if we will get ahold of this truth.

Did you ever read Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*? They didn't exactly go to heaven on a bed of roses. You think what it would be like to be there in the midst of the crowd like Stephen was. He had done everything he knew to invite these that he loved and cared for to come and partake of the peace

(Continued on page 13.)

## 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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Notice to subscribers: Whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your zip code number. The post office now charges 35¢ to notify us of each change of address.

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

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Single copy, one year .....\$1.00  
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 Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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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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### FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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## EDITORIALS

As time continues on we are made to realize more the wonder of life. There are blessings and trials to be experienced and through them both, a proper way to travel. Life is wondrous, as well as a mystery, and God is the only One who can properly show us how to live it. When the disciples faced the mystery of prayer, they asked Christ to teach them how to pray. (Luke 11:1). As we continue to encounter life, we should always have a prayer to God that He would teach us how to live.

The apostle Paul opened up an interesting perspective on life when he wrote, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me. . . ." Gal. 2:20. As these three thoughts are lived in a proper balance, we find the healthy fulfillment God intended for us.

There are some whose testimony only goes as far as "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live" as if they are surviving the experience. If the "I" is surviving, then it has not been crucified with Christ. Neither does it mean incorporating Christ into our lives with the "I" remaining dominant.

It is also possible to fall into a mind-set of being able to see only the "not I" in this verse. It is like the tale that is told of the 12 wise men of Gotham. They went fishing one night and as they sat on the bank, they began counting to make sure they were all there. The first counted and made it to 11, forgetting to count himself; so did each of the others. "Alas," they cried, "one of us is drowned," and they all rushed down to the stream. We should all say to ourselves, "I am only one, but by God's grace I am someone and will fulfill my place by the side of God in His vineyard."

"But Christ liveth in me." This is self-replacement, which is the secret of a productive life. One musician told how that when he first began to play, his chief thought was "I." Later on, he came to include Mozart with himself, "I and Mozart." Still later, it came to be "Mozart and I." But in the fulness of his powers, his one thought was "Mozart."

To learn how to re-live the life of Christ, not in location or time period, but in spirit, is the way God intends us to face life. "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him." Col. 2:6.

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We are grateful for those who have sent us material for printing in the *Faith and Victory*. The good that is accomplished through the paper is due to the interest you have shown. Although we edit material to be as concise and nonrepetitive as possible, there are still contributions that sometimes do not make it into print.

We also want to thank the saints who make the printing of the gospel possible through their monetary support. We are assured that those who are behind the scenes, God will reward openly. (Matt. 6:4).  
—Wayne Murphey



## Prayer Requests

CA—"I always appreciate any and all prayers offered in my behalf. I have many physical and spiritual needs."  
—Reba Voltz

IA—"Please pray for us. We both have things wrong with us."  
—Charles Mason

OK—Sis. Loraine Payne needs the continual prayers of the saints.

CA—"I have a serious condition in my ears."  
—Hazel Clark

OK—"I need your prayers."  
—Sis. Bessie Patton

OH—John Browning needs a touch to his body.

CA—"Please remember me in your prayers; I had a bad fall and hurt my back."  
—Mildred Vaught

OH—Bro. and Sis. Jesse Garrett have a very serious unspoken request concerning the health of a loved one.



## 1991 Camp Meeting Dates

Goulds, FL—April 5-14

Myrtle, MO—May 8-12

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, OK—May 24-June 2

Tulsa, OK—June 7-16

Green Bank, WV—June 14-23

Jefferson, OR—June 14-23

Loranger, LA—June 28-July 7

Fresno, CA—July 5-14

National at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO—July 19-28

Bakersfield, CA—Aug. 2-11

Ensenada, Mexico—Aug. 4-11

Durham, NC—Aug. 11-18

Duncannon, PA—Aug. 11-18

Boley, OK—Aug. 18-25

California State at Pacolma, CA—Aug. 23-Sept. 1

## MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

### WICHITA, KS REVIVAL

The Spring 1991 Revival Meeting in Wichita will be held, Lord willing, April 12-21. We are looking to the Lord to work according to His will.

All are invited to attend. If you cannot attend, please pray that God will anoint, convict, deliver, save and heal. We are so glad that He is still on His throne and we are boldly asking for great blessings.

The church address is: 1701 N. Ash, Wichita, KS 67214; phone (316) 267-9582.



### SHREVEPORT, LA REVIVAL

Lord willing, Bro. James Bell will be in Shreveport, LA for a revival April 10-14. There will be special singing on Saturday night. We desire the Holy Spirit, your presence, and prayers. For further information contact Bro. Jerry Melot, (318) 938-7233.



### BOLEY, OK SPRING REVIVAL

Lord willing, the Spring revival of Boley, OK will be held May 3-5, 1991.

We extend a hearty welcome to all nations to attend this meeting. Service will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 3. On Saturday evening, service will begin at 6:45 in order to give more time for congregational singing. There will be all-day services on Sunday.

We are looking to God to send the ministers and workers of His choosing. Come praying the Lord will give a Holy Spirit filled meeting.

For further information call Sis. Anna Mae Thompson, (918) 667-3648, or Sis. Katherine Williams, (405) 235-2270.

Prayerfully submitted,

—Sis. Katherine Williams



### MISSOURI STATE CAMP MEETING

The Missouri State Camp Meeting held at Myrtle, MO, will begin, Lord willing, on Wednesday, May 8, and continue through Sunday, May 12, 1991.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend. We are praying and expecting the Lord to give us a special visitation this year, and to send ministers of His choosing to labor in this meeting. We trust all who can will come and share the blessings of the Lord with us. We are praying for the Lord to make this a time of special refreshing for the saints, as well as a time when sinners will see their need and be born into Zion. Please join us in prayer for the meeting's success.

Please come prepared for possible cool weather. The campground phone number is (417) 938-4682.

For further information, contact Bro. Paul Sorrell, Rt. 1, Box 1195-B, Thayer, MO 65791, phone (417) 264-7060. —Bro. Harlan Sorrell

## CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The California State Camp Meeting at Pacoima, CA, will be held, Lord willing, Aug. 23 through Sept. 1. The chapel location is 12312 Osborne Place. The chapel phone is (818) 899-9021.

Accommodations will be provided to all who attend. The expenses of the meeting will be met by freewill offerings. We are confident that all who come expecting a blessing, and are in humble readiness for it, will not be disappointed. We urge

every saint of God to make a special effort to support the meeting in attendance, and particularly with prayer.

For further information you may contact Bro. Robert Sherman, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA 91331, phone, (818) 896-7593, or the Sunset Guest Home, (818) 899-2022, or Bro. James Pierro, 11316 Glenoak Blvd., Pacoima, CA 91331, phone (818) 896-5331.

—James Pierro



## FROM THE READERS . . .

KS—Dear Saints: We want to express our love to each and every one. Our desire is to be a blessing and encouragement to all.

We were blessed to read of the different healings in the paper last month, and have felt I too need to honor the Lord by telling of His love to us.

I was awakened around 1:30 a.m., New Year's morning, with a laborious heartbeat. I got up and sat in a chair the rest of the night. I prayed for the Lord to help me, as at times I felt like I would pass out. I did some searching of my life, and began to tell my husband of some of the things he would have to see about in our finances. For most of the day, to just walk across the room would bring more labor to my heartbeat. It was as if I had been in a footrace and was out of breath. Along towards evening, I called a saint sister, and told her my situation. She began to tell me how much the Lord loves us and prayed for me on the phone. The Lord touched me. It was so precious. Since then my thoughts have been on how good it is to have God touch us. It brings joy to the soul and a blessing that we will not soon forget. The Lord loves to do for those who love Him. He knows all about us, and cares. The words of this song came to me:

"There are days so dark that I seek in vain,  
For the face of my Friend Divine,  
But though darkness hide, He is there to guide  
By the touch of His hand on mine.

### Chorus:

"Oh, the touch of His hand on mine,  
Oh, the touch of His hand on mine,  
There is grace and pow'r in the trying hour,  
By the touch of His hand on mine.

"When the way is dim, and I can not see  
Through the mist of His wise design,  
How my glad heart yearns, and my faith re-  
turns,  
By the touch of His hand on mine.

"In the last sad hour, as I stand alone  
Where the powers of death combine,  
While the dark waves roll, He will guide my  
soul,  
By the touch of His hand on mine."

Thank the Lord for songs that bring comfort and cheer.

We have so much to thank the Lord for. How earnestly we prayed concerning the war situation, and feel we need to thank Him for stopping it. We need to pray that the Lord will awaken our nation to their duty and responsibility to God. I am thankful for the freedom He has given us, most of all for the Light of the gospel that we can be free from sin.

May the Lord bless each of you as you journey through life.

Love,

—Sis. Inez Beisly



LA—Dear Bro. Wayne, and faithful co-workers: Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is so sweet to be in His precious will.

We were blessed to be in the assembly meeting at Guthrie again last Christmas, and the Lord richly rewarded us. We were able to drive out to the new campground site and see the great work of preparing a place for the Lord and His people to gather together.

May the Lord richly bless all that have had a part in this project. A building of this nature has been needed for quite some time. We appreciate the dedicated workers who are organizing and helping in carrying the great work forth for the cause of Christ. I understand that the outside of the building is nearly complete, but there is much work to be done on the inside, as well as completion of the parking area.

Our heart's desire is for everyone who is of a willing heart to have the privilege of contributing, and having a part in this great work.

This work is too great for man. It is a work of faith—trusting God to supply the materials, services, money, etc., for this work through His consecrated vessels in the Lord. He is well able and willing to supply the needs of those who trust Him.

In turning to Exodus 35, we see the readiness of God's people to offer their services and provisions to build the tabernacle. "And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the Lord commanded, saying, Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord; gold, silver, . . . And every wise hearted among you shall come, and make all that the Lord hath commanded; . . . And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the Lord's offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments. And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing hearted and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered offered an offering of gold unto the Lord. And every man, with whom was found blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, and red skins of rams, and badgers' skins, brought them. Every one that did offer an offering of silver and brass brought the Lord's offering: and every man with whom was found shittim wood for any work of the service, brought it. And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen." Ex. 35:4, 10, 21-25.

The Lord's offering of a willing heart was diversified. Some gave money, others their services, others gave things that were necessary for the tabernacle. This was an on-going effort of the people of God working together for a common cause in providing for the tabernacle. We want every one to have liberty in giving whatever you want to contribute for the "tabernacle."

"And they received of Moses all the offering, which the children of Israel had brought for the

work of the service of the sanctuary, to make it withal. And they brought yet unto him free offerings every morning. And all the wise men, that wrought all the work of the sanctuary, came every man from his work which they made; and they spake unto Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the Lord commanded to make. And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing. For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much." Ex. 36:3-7.

No doubt, there are many who are not unaware of this work and the great expense involved to complete it, and would love to have an opportunity to express their gratitude toward the Lord's work if it was made known. We trust this will give everyone opportunity. —Bro. Frankie Millis

**Editor's Note:** Anyone wishing to give may contact the Oklahoma State Treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, Rt. 6, Box 797, Guthrie, OK 73044.

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AR—I enjoy reading the magazine. I believe like it says, that our Lord is coming soon. Do pray for my son and son-in-law overseas. They were in war just before it ended. May they yet come home soon. Pray for my husband and other six children that the Lord will save them. —Mrs. J. E. Dale

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OK—In last month's paper I had a testimony of how the Lord had given me a touch to my body, but at that time my eyes were still bothering me. I would like to report that the Lord has healed them, and thank everyone who prayed for me.

—Sis. Frances Perkins

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MO—Dear ones at Faith Publishing House: Greetings in Jesus' name. I thank the Lord for His love. He has been so good to me.

Through the month of January the weather was not very good here. With the snow and ice, there were several days at a time that I could not get out, even to get my mail. Being 83 years old, and living alone, I was afraid I might fall and not be able to get back in the house. I was comfortable since the electricity was not off except for a few minutes at a time.

I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper. May the Lord bless you all for working for Him so faithfully.

—Sister Mamie Butcher

— — — — —  
MI—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in the dear name of Jesus! I pray all is going well with all of you

dear ones in the Lord's work. Yes, we have so much to thank our great God for, as He pours out His rich blessings upon us each day. Praise His dear name.

Thanks so much for the prayers. I am feeling better, but my arm still needs some healing.

When I read all the good saints' letters in the *Faith and Victory* paper, how the Lord still heals, it is very encouraging.

As the blessed Easter season is almost here, it reminds us of Jesus' love for us, how He died for our sins and made us free. Praise God for His dear Son. . . .

All my love and prayers, —Sis. Olive Getterson

OR—Dear Bro. Wayne and fellow workers: Greetings in Jesus' name! I thank the Lord for His peace and joy in my soul.

We do enjoy so much the *Bible Lessons* of this quarter. They have been so rich as we studied them with those who worship with me here in my home. We thank the Lord for His truth. No one needs to be in question of what His Word means.

I enclose an offering for the needs that may be present at the Print Shop in memory of my husband, Dan Kroker.

Yours in His service, —Sis. Mary Kroker

LA—Dear Bro. Wayne and saints: Greetings to you in the lovely name of Jesus, that name that is worthy of all honor, praise and glory. He suffered and died for all sinners, and made it possible for all to have salvation, and a home in heaven when we leave this world.

I love Him because He first loved me. It is so wonderful when we can feel that love swelling up in our heart for Him and all His people, till it flows out in tears of joy.

We also have tears of joy from blessings received in reading the testimonies and articles in the *Faith and Victory* paper each month. It is hard to lay the paper down till I have read it through. Then I read it again later, giving more time and attention to what I read. . . .

May the Lord bless the work and all the workers there is my prayer. —Myrtis Flynn

CA—Bro. Wayne: Greetings of love in the mightiest and sweetest name there is—Jesus! Truly the governments of the nations are on His shoulders. He rules over all His creation. "Oh that men would praise the Lord for His wonderful works to the children of men!" (Ps. 107:31). Only He could have brought the Gulf War to an end so quickly. Let us continue to send up a sweet savor of thanksgiving and praise. . . . —Mella Viser

CA—Dear Bro. Murphey, and co-workers at the Print Shop. We are thanking the Lord for His love and goodness to us. We surely enjoy the *Faith and Victory* so very much.

David says in Psalm 16:11, "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." That Scripture is my testimony. I find His presence is as real as His pathway which goes before us. That we would serve Him in all sincerity is my desire. May the Lord bless your work and labor of love is my prayer.

Yours sincerely, —Bro. Edward V. Davenport

OK—Greetings in Jesus' sweet name: We are much encouraged to live for the Lord. We are praying for all the saints and those who are lost, that they will get saved.

Our Heavenly Father has really helped me since I fell and hurt my knee about three years ago. We asked for prayer, and God has blessed me.

Your sister in Christ, —Sis. Estelene Cramer

OK—Dear saints abroad: We give thanks to the Lord of the sabbath for His great encompassing arms of mercy and love unfathomed.

We recently experienced another miracle in the birth of our second child. At the most trying moments we experienced the presence of the Comforter through calmness and security. I appreciate the plan of simple trust. I am also appreciative of the saints who were praying for our welfare. God surely has been good to us; Lisa is recovering rapidly and Alison is healthy. Thank the Lord for all His many benefits!

From the heart, —Bro. Galen R. Kelly

IN—Remember us in your prayers. Several have that awful cold or flu that is going around, and my sister had a heart attack and a stroke two weeks ago. I know if it is God's will He can heal her, but if not, I believe she is ready to go. Remember my unsaved loved ones.

—Sis. Dessie Wilson

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne: May God bless each of you there in the office as you work for the salvation of souls. Time is going by so fast, so we must keep very busy helping sinners to see their need of our precious Saviour. I couldn't make it through one day without Jesus.

Continue to remember my eyes and also a hurting in my left side.

Give my love to all the saints there.

Christian love and prayers. —Letha M. Reece



GA—Please pray for my brother and his wife; they both have a lot of health problems. Also remember my son who is in the Navy, and not just him, but all the enlisted boys, that they can come home soon.  
—Beatrice Rogers

CA—Dear saints: I greet you all with Christian love. We are so thankful to be in a nation where we don't have to hide and run from falling bombs. I sure do thank our dear Saviour for all He has done for us, and that He is still watching over all. Praise His name.

It seems things sure point to Jesus' soon coming. I want to please Him in every walk of my life each day and be sure all is well between Him and I in that day.

We sure do love and appreciate Bro. Busbee's *Bible Lessons*. To me, they are next to reading the Bible.

I have some unspoken requests.

Love and prayers,

—Lois and Harold Underwood

OR—Dear Bro. Wayne: I appreciate the paper I receive each month and look forward to it.

I am hoping this year more out-of-state saints and ministers will come to our June camp meeting. It seems fewer have been coming in the last couple of years. I know plane and bus fares are higher, as well as gas, but we pray God will give some the desire to come to our meeting and the means to do so. We give you a royal invitation and will see that you have a comfortable place to stay. . . .

Christian love and prayers,

—Sister Grace Jones



## FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS



From Bendel State, Nigeria . . .

Feb. 8—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and saints of the holy family: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Praise Him forever!

The church is marching forward with the addition of more believers. We are experiencing spiritual growth in a most encouraging way, with faith in the living God. We hail Zion, the glorious metaphor of the Church of God. All the saved are in Zion, the beautiful city of God. It is that New

Jerusalem which came from God out of heaven, spoken of by John the Revelator in chapter twenty-one. It is a present experience of the true Church built upon the Rock against which the gates of hell can not prevail. Amen.

We are holding firm to the truth, and enjoying divine contact with the throne above. Economic problems continue to restrict movement, but the Lord who holds the future shall forever be trusted for a way out.

The Persian Gulf War is engaging our attention in prayer for the Lord to assert His supreme opinion. . . .

Yours in Zion,

—Titus U. E. Enu

From India . . .

Feb. 20—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey, and dear ones in the Print Shop, and dear brothers and sisters scattered in different parts of America: Greetings to you all in the holy name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

We pray God to bless and guide all the rulers and governments of all nations. The spiritual and moral needs of our nation are tremendous at this time. A thousand years before the coming of Christ, God gave a very wonderful promise to King Solomon. "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." II Chron. 7:14. We earnestly pray for a peaceful settlement of the problems in the gulf area.

Our congregations in India are moving on fine with the Divine commission. Last week I got a chance to visit our congregations in the north.

At present we face some urgent needs for which we look to the Lord.

Our prayers are for the saints in America.

Yours in Him,

—John Varghese

From Rivers State Nigeria . . .

Feb. 27—Dear Bro. Murphey: I send greetings of love in Jesus' name once again to all the dear ones that render service in the Lord's printing business. May our good Lord reward each of you for a job well done. . . .

I have written to Bro. Pah of Liberia, but haven't gotten a reply yet. The Church here concerns herself so much with their plight and prays for them often. As recently announced by Nigeria's news media, the warring factions of Liberia are yet to cease fire, and so Nigerian soldiers are being sent to Liberia to keep peace.

You'll be glad to hear that the Church registration exercise as demanded by the Nigerian government has reached a successful conclusion.

Our good God bestowed much grace upon His Church without which the registration exercise wouldn't have been successful. Do join us and let us exalt God's name together for His marvellous works.

Last December we took the gospel message to Odioama, Bro. F. Naths-Igbani's home, for the second time. God who sent us out, led us safely across all the large rivers, both in our going and returning. The response of the villagers to the gospel truths this time was more encouraging than the first time we visited them. Although none requested baptism, the gospel seed was sown for four days with the anointing of the Holy Ghost, and without interference. Also, the printed message was distributed freely. We are thankful to God for the way He worked through us, and we pray Him to crown our little efforts with prosperity.

A boy in our midst, Obomate Obene by name, became born again and was baptized on Sunday, the 17th. Three others requested to be baptized this same month, including a married lady and two girls. Lord willing, they will be baptized early next month. . . .

God be with you all, —Bro. O. B. Alalibo

From the Philippines . . .

Mar. 18—Dear Brother Wayne Murphey: Greetings to you with Christian love, peace and joy in the glorious name of our Lord Jesus and Saviour.

I do praise and thank our Lord's almighty power for bestowing upon us mercy and world peace. Our prayers for peace have been answered by our Lord.

I find the Lord is always at my side while preaching the gospel. I met groups of people who are thirsty for spiritual help as I was traveling on the outskirts of the city of Gingong. Some of them had spiritually lost their way, but I was able to win their hearts and now they are eager to hear the Word of God.

May our Lord bless you and keep you all in His care.

Your brother, —Nonilon Capuyan

From Mexico . . .

Mar. 20—Beloved brethren: We write this letter with much love, giving thanks to the Lord for His great blessing that He has shed in the work. We have truly had some beautiful church services. New people are coming to the services, and the

brethren are very encouraged and consecrated to the Lord.

We are also having services in Mexicali which is about 250 miles from here; also in McFarland, CA, which is about 350 miles. God has blessed us much there. Please pray that we can fulfill all the Lord wants us to do. This is our purpose, desire, and prayer.

We thank the Lord for the way He has blessed in the construction of the chapel. Much money has been invested.

We have 70% in advances, but I know the Lord is faithful to provide when it is for His work, and it is His will.

We want to help the poor and have a home for the old. Here it is much different. The government doesn't provide for the elderly.

The purpose and responsibility is great, but greater is our God. With Him nothing is impossible. He commands us to be faithful and not faint. We desire your prayers, and if anyone has a burden to help financially, please do, and the Lord will bless you richly. Offerings can be sent to Mayarino Escobar, A. P. Postal #284, Ensenada, B. C. Mexico, or Edith Cole Lara, P. O. Box 824, Thermal CA 92274, or James Huskey, 2988 Washington St., Lemon Grove, CA 92045-3008.

We will be having our camp meeting Aug. 4-11, 1991. We give a cordial invitation to all those who want to come. All are welcome, but we especially need ministers. Lord willing, there will be plenty of accommodations. Don't worry about food or a place to sleep. Pray for the camp meeting and for all we need to finish the facilities.

Yours in Christ,

—Bro. Mayarino Escobar and family

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## Question and Answer

by

Ostis B. Wilson

**Question:** When or how did the Devil come into existence? Did he always exist as does God, or did God create him? Also, will you please explain Isaiah 45:5-7?

**Answer:** This question of the Devil's origin often comes up and seems to never be resolved conclusively in people's minds. This is possibly due to the fact that there is no direct Scripture stating when and how he came into existence; also the widespread teaching in Christendom today that he was once a bright angel in heaven whose

name was Lucifer and he became exalted and lifted up with pride and through jealousy and envy started a rebellion in heaven in which he was the loser and was cast out of heaven and came down to earth. All of this doctrine is based on a misunderstanding and wrong conception of certain Scriptures. If the questioner in this case will purchase the booklet *Was the Devil Ever in Heaven?* from Faith Publishing House, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044, it gives a concise treatise on all those Scriptures.

I, personally, cannot conceive of a holy God creating an unholy Devil. That runs avers and contrary to the principles of truth set forth in the Holy Scriptures. Also, the idea of jealousy and pride ever getting into heaven and producing a rebellion and war up there is entirely foreign, to my thinking. If it were so, how could we have any assurance and find comfort in our hope in Christ of eternal peace, happiness, joy, and security, which are the things that prove an anchor to our souls in our times of temptation, trials, and sufferings in this world? If such a thing ever at any time got into heaven, could we have any definite assurance that it could not happen again?

As to the idea of God creating the Devil, I will refer the reader to a few Scriptures which in my mind presents an impossibility of this ever having happened. Jesus said in His sermon on the mount, in Matthew 7:16-18, "Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit." In James 3:11-12 we read, "Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh." Again we read in Job 14:4, "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? no one." All the foregoing Scriptures are saying the same thing; viz., that an infinitely holy God could not possibly have created an infinitely unholy Devil, and all Scriptures bearing on this subject confirm this. Again in Genesis 1:31 we read, "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good."

Could it be then that God created the Devil a holy and righteous being and he fell from that into a degenerate, corrupt and vile being afterward? For the following reasons, I hardly think so. Jesus said to certain of the Jews of His day who were disputing with Him (John 8:44), "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth

in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." In I John 3:8 we read, "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. . . ." We see, then, that he was a murderer, a liar, and a sinner from the beginning. He started out that way and has never changed. In regard to the beginning we read in Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." That is as far back as we can go with any degree of certainty. Every thing before that is purely speculation. I would advise you not to try to delve into that. Now if that is the Devil's beginning or if he existed back before that point in time is really not important. This is the first time he appears on the scene of action. He used the serpent to seduce Eve and through her, subsequently, to seduce Adam, and from there started the corrupt stream of sin in all its categories; all the misery, ruined lives, all sickness, grief, sorrow, and trouble that the world knows or ever has known. So he was an evil being, a murderer, liar, and sinner, at the time of beginning that we know anything about.

Now in concluding this part of the discussion, I would admonish every reader that you not waste time trying to figure out where the Devil came from nor how he got here, but rather recognize that he is here now in very real form and just settle it in your hearts to steadfastly resist him in the faith and "Give no place to the Devil" lest he gain some advantage of you and seduce you, too.

Now a few thoughts and Scriptures on Isaiah 45:7, ". . . I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things. Evil has a meaning of moral evil (sin). But we could never think of a holy God ever producing or creating that. He gave His only Begotten Son, Jesus, to save us from that, so we could never rationally, reasonably think of Him creating that. But there is another meaning to evil such as famine, pestilence, war, and various kinds of calamities which God at various times has used to bring judgment upon people (even His own) because of their sins and injustices, etc., to punish them and bring them back in line with Him. In II Chronicles 20:9 Jehoshaphat prayed, "If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help." In I Kings 8:33-34 Solomon prayed at the dedication of the temple, "When thy people Israel be smitten down before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee, and shall turn again to thee, and confess thy name, and pray, and make supplication unto thee in this house: Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them

again unto the land which thou gavest unto their fathers." This is one of the things for which Jehoshaphat prayed for and classified as *evil*. God decreed the overthrow of Nineveh for their wickedness and sent Jonah to pronounce judgment on them. He did not want to go on that mission so went the other way. After Jonah had spent three days and nights in the belly of a great fish which God had prepared for that purpose, he decided to go, and he did go to Nineveh and began to announce in their streets the message, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown." The result was astounding! All the Ninevites, from the king on down, turned from their evil ways and repented and called mightily on God, and God saw and heard their repentance and turned from His purpose and spared them. Jonah 3:10 says, "... And God repented of the *evil*, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not." The *evil* in this case was the destruction of the city of Nineveh by whatever means God chose.

Job referred to all his trouble and grief—the loss of all his animals, children, and his physical affliction, etc., as *evil*. In Job 2:10 he said to his wife, "What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive *evil*?"

There are numbers of other Scriptures on this line, but I will go no further with it now. These are the kinds of *evil* God creates and uses for His purpose in chastising nations, cities, individuals, etc., for their sins, and to correct those wandering off-course from the straight and narrow way. But never moral evil. God forbid.



## In Memoriam

**Emma I. Whipple**, daughter of Leopold Joseph and Lucie Amelia Matrix Decocq, was born Aug. 6, 1901 near Corsicana, MO, and passed away Jan. 2, 1991 at Fairfax, MO at the age of 89 years, four months and 27 days.

She was united in marriage to John Whipple, Dec. 16, 1923, at Webb City, MO, and to this union two sons were born.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John, in December 1982, one infant son, her parents, four brothers, and two sisters.

She is survived by her son, Wayne, of the home; one brother, Louie Decocq, Wheaton, MO; three sisters, Eunice Cole, Granby, MO, Fay Herrel and Tressia Leonard of Purdy, MO, and numerous nephews and friends.

At an early age she was converted and was a faithful member of the Church of God these many years.

She and her husband farmed and gardened all their lives. She loved her garden and raised many beautiful flowers, until her health forced her to give up gardening. She was a housewife all her life and will be greatly missed by all those who knew her.

Funeral services were held in Mound City, MO, with burial in the Maple Grove Cemetery, Oregon, MO.



**Cora L. Summers** was born Mar. 23, 1908 in the State of Arkansas to William and Annie Miller, and departed this life on Feb. 23, 1991 in Los Angeles, CA.

She was united in marriage to Theodore R. Summers on Mar. 12, 1929. To that union one son was born. Fond and precious memories of her will live on in the hearts of her husband and son.

Two sisters, Fannie Anderson and Essie Grant, preceded her in death.

She leaves to cherish her memory a devoted husband, Theodore; one son, Dale; one sister, Savanah Williams; and a host of nieces, nephews, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were officiated by Bros. Calvin Hobbs, Kenneth Hobbs, and Sis. Olive Davenport. Interment was in the Inglewood Park Cemetery, Inglewood, CA.



**Arthur E. Johnston** was born on Dec. 17, 1914, to Frank and Clara Johnston in Salina, KS, and departed this life on Feb. 18, 1991, in Springfield, MO at the age of 76 years, two months, and one day.

He was united in marriage to Alice Lucy Gossard on Aug. 31, 1939. To this union five children were born.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Carl Ray; two brothers; and three sisters.

He is survived by his wife, Alice, of the home; three sons and their wives, Ed and Jan Johnston of Seymour, MO, Ben and Linda of Columbia, MO, and Steve and Janet of Ashland, MO; one daughter and her husband, Rosalie and John Samons of Green Bank, WV; ten grandchildren; three sisters; as well as many other relatives and friends.

He made his peace with God several years ago. He was active in the church services and Sunday school the day before he passed. His friendliness and cheerfulness will be missed by all. Our loss is heaven's gain.

Funeral services were held in Willow Springs, MO and officiated by Bros. Mart Samons and Sid Williamson.

**NOTE OF THANKS**

We want to express our appreciation for all the flowers, phone calls, and gifts of money; but most of all we appreciate the love, concern, and prayers. There is nobody like the people of God. You have certainly portrayed His love to us. May God bless each of you.

—The family of Arthur Johnston

**Our Space**

(Continued from page 3.)

that he knew in his heart, and watched them reject it and rise up in violent rebellion and gather up the stones and begin to hurl them at him. He looked at them and saw the hatred in their eyes, the vengeance in their expressions, and at the same time was able to say, "Lord, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing." That is peace in that jurisdiction, isn't it? May we have that same kind of peace. "Submit yourselves therefore to God." There is where you will find that peace. "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts ye doubleminded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." Isn't that a wonderful formula? The best part of it is that it works. It is not just a theory, it will work.

Every individual of normal intelligence who comes to the age of accountability, has bestowed upon him the responsibility of his own space to do with as he sees fit. None of the rest of God's creation seems to be like that. All of the rest of His creation is functioning under some kind of regulation laid down for them. But for you and I, individuals of intelligence, who can comprehend and understand, and know the difference between right and wrong, there is given to us an option. You can select whatever you want, and you can allow whatever you want within the bounds of your perimeter, but listen to this. This is the tenth verse of the fifth chapter of II Corinthians: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." You remember the text we read in the beginning? He said the thing is in your lap, but understand that the final disposing of it is going to be of the Lord. He is going to step in. The time will come when He will call everyone of us into judgment to stand accountable for what we did with the space that was ours, and that determines the destiny of our eternity. This is important, isn't it?

"For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." You are going to meet the One who gave you the right to handle your space and give an account. That space belonged to Him to start with. He gave it to you and I, and what did He say, "Occupy till I come." Then He gave us a right to do with it what we want. Oh, I'm glad for the day when I found it in my heart to say, "Lord, I'll open this door just as wide as I can get it and invite you into my bosom to sup with me, that I might sup with you, and in partaking of that heavenly nutrient, you will bestow on me the knowledge and the understanding to know how to direct my space that I might get along with my fellows here in this world and meet you in peace at the end of the way."

**Offering our Firstfruits to God**

by

John Booher

This article is written with a prayer that every Christian may desire to give himself wholly to God. We can scarcely comprehend the importance of presenting our "bodies a living sacrifice." The impact of our doing so, or our failure to do so, will be felt by our families, the church, and the world. Its effect will reach into eternity.

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, . . ." Acts 2:1. What was the day of Pentecost? By definition it means, "the fiftieth day." Historically, it was the fiftieth day after the second day of the Jewish Passover. Biblically, it was a day coming after the Passover. "Observe the month Abib, and keep the passover." Deut. 16:1. Then, in verse nine, "Seven weeks shalt thou number unto thee: begin to number the seven weeks from such time as thou beginnest to put the sickle to the corn." It was also concerned with new harvest of grain. "When ye be come into the land . . . and shall reap the harvest . . . ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, . . . And ye shall count unto you . . . from the day ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths. . . . Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the Lord . . . they are the firstfruits unto the Lord." (Lev. 23:10-17). It was called "the day of firstfruits, when ye bring a new meat offering unto the Lord, after your weeks be out." (Num. 28:26).

The day of Pentecost was a day when the Jew would come with a grateful heart, bringing the first

of his fruit unto God. "Thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, . . . and go unto the priest. . . . And thou shalt speak before the Lord thy God, A Syrian ready to perish was my father, and he went down into Egypt, . . . And the Egyptians evil entreated us, . . . and we cried unto the Lord . . . And the Lord heard our voice . . . and brought us forth out of Egypt . . . And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land, which thou, O Lord, hast given me." (Deut. 26:2-11). Pentecost was for God's people. It was a day to remember deliverance from Egypt's bondage, a day of rejoicing in the goodness of God's provision. "And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the Lord thy God hath given thee." It was a day of warm appreciation, and offering to God the first of the new fruits. God has always been pleased when we offer to Him our first things. (Gen. 4:4).

The day of Pentecost was a day of offering a new meat offering of the firstfruits unto God. What does this Old Testament type mean to the Christian? "As for the oblation of the firstfruits, ye shall offer them unto the Lord: . . . And every oblation of thy meat offering shalt thou season with salt; neither shalt thou suffer the salt of the covenant of thy God to be lacking from thy meat offering: with all thy offerings thou shalt offer salt." Lev. 2:12-13. "For every one shall be salted with salt." Mark 9:49. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Rom. 12:1. Oh, dear follower of Christ, do you begin to grasp the meaning of Pentecost? "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire." Matt. 3:11. The new meat offering of firstfruits was to be salted with salt. Jesus said that every sacrifice would be salted with salt. Paul besought fellow Christians to present their bodies a living sacrifice. John the Baptist said that Jesus would baptize us with the Holy Ghost, and with fire. Child of God, you who are redeemed through Jesus' blood, do you realize that "ye are not your own," by that "your body" and "your spirit" are God's? (I Cor. 6:19-20). Have you had your day of firstfruits? Have you offered yourself up entirely to your God?

Pentecost, the offering up of our life in sacrifice to God, is for the Christian. A sinner cannot offer himself in sacrifice to God. "But whatsoever hath a blemish, that shall ye not offer: for it shall not be acceptable for you. Blind, or broken, or maimed, or having a wen, or scurvy, or scabbed, ye shall not offer these unto the Lord." (Lev. 22:20, 22). As a sinner we had no "fruit" to offer God. "What fruit

had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed?" (Rom. 6:21). The sacrifice that God will receive from a sinner is "a broken and a contrite heart." (Ps. 51:17). The prayer of the penitent is joyous to God. "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." (Luke 15:10). Dear sinner, God will hear your prayer of repentance. But of the Christian, those already washed from their sins (Rev. 1:5), God longs to hear the prayer of consecration.

"Jesus has taken my load of sin,  
Such love no tongue can tell;  
Then should I not resign to Him  
My life and all my will?  
Reason and justice, my debt of love,  
Demand that I should be,  
Body and spirit and all I have,  
Devoted, Lord, to thee.  
Holy, dear brethren, we must be holy,  
Living before the throne;  
Self and possessions,  
All must be truly,  
Given to God alone."

—D. S. Warner

There is a rest, a peace, a joy that God gives to us when we come to Him in repentance for our sins. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." And yet, Jesus bids us come still further, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matt. 11:28-29. Jesus releases us from the yoke of sin and gives us rest. Now He holds out before us another yoke. This: "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (v. 30). Will we not accept this yoke? What is a yoke? It is "a bar or frame of wood by which two draft animals are joined at the heads or necks for working together." How clear the Scriptures are! We were yoked with Satan; we wrought with him, perhaps for many years. At times the yoke was so hard. We would not want to speak of the terrible things we did while yoked with Satan. But Jesus has set us free! Praise the Lord! Now another yoke appears. Jesus is in one side. Will we fully yield our life to Him and become a worker together with God? (II Cor. 6:1). As the "older work-horse," He knows the way of service. We have much to learn. He will gladly teach us. "The Holy Ghost . . . he shall teach you all things." (John 14:25). But we can not receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost until we offer ourselves a sacrifice, give our all to Him, and welcome His yoke, His full control in our lives.

One may well say, "I gave my life to Christ when He saved me from my sins." There is indeed

a yielding of our life to Christ when we come in repentance. That yielding involves an abhorrence of sin, turning from sinful living, and yielding to a life of righteousness. Herein is a wonderful change. Sinful things pass away and a new life of right living begins in us. (II Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:4). Abiding thus in Christ, He commences to teach us the things of God. We grow in grace. If we prosper in Christ as we should, we will be yielding ourself to Him more and more. This is good, to the extent we follow Christ, and yet, can we not see that the lives of the apostles, the life that characterized the early Church, was more than this? They were not just good men who had turned from sin and were living upright lives. They were this, but they were more.

"For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be truly sanctified." (John 17:19). To sanctify means to consecrate. Jesus consecrated His life to the will of God to the fullest measure, and He called for His disciples to do the same. The consecration that Jesus is asking of us is not a turning from sin. This we have already done. It is an offering up of our entire life in living sacrifice to God. We may need to leave our comfortable home, close friends, good position, and things dear to our heart. We may need to forsake the pleasant life that we had planned for ourself, to take on Christ's yoke of service. A peaceful country life may have been our dream; a busy life of toil may be Christ's yoke, but it will be "easy" and full of "rest."

Perhaps the strongest appeal to this consecration lies in our profession of being "a Christian," a follower of Christ. He was our example. We profess to follow Him. Jesus was baptized; we are baptized. Jesus washed feet; we wash feet. Jesus prayed; we pray. Jesus left heaven's riches and became poor, a servant, that we through His poverty might be rich, and we. . . what will we do?

"Jesus left a home of dazzling splendor  
For this sinful world, with sorrow dim,  
Humbly filling the place of a servant,  
And He calls us all to follow Him."

—Clara M. Brooks

Jesus' life was lived to do the Father's will, and ours. . . is it lived to please our flesh?

Jesus is calling for a consecration of our life!  
Will He hear your prayer?

"Lord, Jesus, look down from thy throne  
in the skies,

And help me to make a complete sacrifice:

I give up myself, and whatever I know—

Now wash me, and I shall be whiter  
than snow."

—J. Nicholson

Have you offered your firstfruits to God?

## Disappointment and Confusion Can Dim Your Vision

by

Elaine Dunn

Lately I have had a lot of thoughts concerning the two who walked to Emmaus the day the risen Lord appeared to walk with them. (Luke 24). For some days I have tried to walk that road with them; just to hear their conversation and sense the feelings in their very being! Oh yes, we may say, "Why were they so blind?"

Friend, how many times have you been just as blind? I will admit I have walked the same road those two walked! As they walked and talked it over, there was disappointment in the fact that their King had been killed. Their hope, their strength, and their Light was suddenly all gone, and yes, fear must have arisen. Not only did fear and disappointment fill their minds, but also confusion, because that day the tomb was found empty, angels appeared to those at the tomb saying, "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen."

As the two walked, they had a lot to talk about. Luke 24:15 says, ". . . while they communed together and reasoned. . ." Friend, have you ever been really disappointed, fearful, or confused, and the more you talked it over and reasoned, the worse everything seemed? I feel I can fully understand the place these two were at.

However, although their vision was dim, that flame in their hearts had not gone out, for as Jesus explained His Word to them, their hearts did burn within them. God's Word always adds fuel to that flame in the heart. The two were so hungry to hear the Word they just wanted Jesus to come in and stay with them. And He did. Their eyes were closed so they couldn't see Jesus until He blessed and gave them food to eat. Then they recognized Him. Oh friend, only blessed food from God can open our eyes and understanding. Now do you realize our responsibility? "The lips of the righteous feed many." (Prov. 10:21). What we feed and how we feed is the means of our eyes and understandings being opened! I feel there are many walking down the road of life with a live coal in their heart, but with so much confusion, fear, and disappointment that they can't really see or understand. Let us give out to mankind the food that has been blessed by God. Souls need help everywhere!

If you are walking, trying to understand and reason it all out, my advice to you is, keep the live coal and burning desire in your heart for the right answers. And no matter what has dimmed your vision, just be assured Jesus is still walking right



with you, and in His time He will give you food richly blessed if He has to hand it to you Himself! God has a way to feed His people! I can say that from experience. Once I was real low and so hungry, and God had a child of His to send me tapes that were preached a few years back. It was what I needed at that time; it gave strength.

May this little article give courage to those whose vision is dim, and may it challenge righteous lips to feed many. And may we all remember that no matter the conditions, Jesus still walks hand in hand with those whose hearts still burn within them.



## Lift Him Up

by  
Wanda Atnip

This morning I read in Matthew where Jesus had performed a miracle and told the benefactor to tell no one.

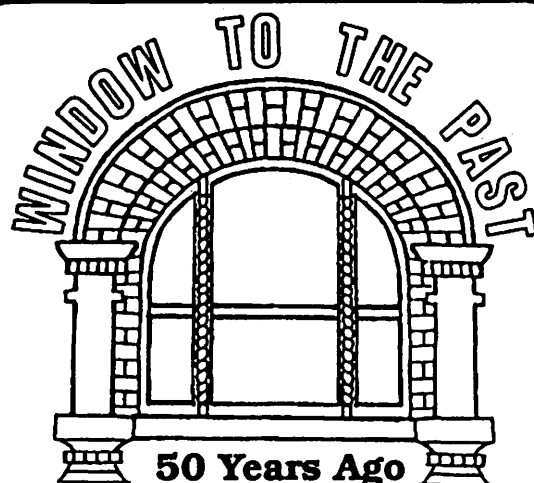
While reading this, many incidents came to mind of people telling what they've done or what their children have done or what they are. The story of what Jesus has done and what He can do is what the New Testament is all about. He sent His disciples out to preach and teach the salvation story, not to promote themselves. Today, are we possessing a meek and quiet spirit, or are we trying to publicize ourselves?

One expression says, "Leave your mark." In other words, let others know what you've done or what you can do. The Lord is looking for someone who is willing to tell the gospel story, putting the Saviour on the front headlines. We should make sure we don't exalt ourselves but do all we can at every opportunity to tell what Jesus has done, giving honor and glory to His name.

There is a temptation for people to want to sit on the front line to be heard and seen and to oversee, telling more of what they believe and what they did, than the wonderful story of Jesus. Then our assemblies become uninspiring to a hungry and thirsty soul waiting for the good Word of God (the story of salvation). We appreciate the true ministers of God who display the Saviour in their hearts and lives; those willing to take a back seat, if need be, letting a meek and quiet spirit proclaim Jesus, His blood, and a salvation free from sin.

There are several places in the Bible where Jesus said, "Go, and tell no one." In such a passage of Scripture, I find a Saviour who did that which no other before or since could do, and with a spirit so humble and meek that He desired no publicity. Do we possess this likeness of Christ?

I love moments alone with the Lord. Here's where He communes with the heart and soul.



## Excerpts Taken From April, 1941 Faith and Victory

"On Sunday, March 23rd, Bro. Hyrum Ray and Sister Geneva Bailey, two of the office force in the *Lord's Print Shop* were united in marriage. The wedding took place at the saints' chapel. The ceremony was performed by our newly ordained minister, Willie C. Murphey. Frances Edna Pruitt of Guthrie and Alton Stubblefield of Shawnee stood up with the couple as bridesmaid and best man.

"This wedding ceremony was a surprise to most all the saints that gathered at the chapel. While we were standing and singing the song entitled, 'Behold the Bridegroom Cometh,' the bridegroom with the bride and the two witnesses came marching in and took their seats in the front and the congregation began to realize that two were soon to be made one in holy matrimony.

"Bro. and Sister O. B. Wilson of Shawnee, Okla. were visitors with the saints on this day. After the wedding ceremony was over, the Lord used Bro. Wilson in breaking the bread of eternal life for our souls. His subject was, 'Seeing God,' or 'The Lord Being Real in Our Souls.' The saints all enjoyed this message very much. When meeting was over, twenty-five or more (mostly young folks) were seated in the home of Faith Publishing House to a table spread with food for the body, arranged by Sister Pruitt.

"All the saints joined in wishing for this newly wedded couple a long and happy, useful Christian life."