

FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant

Unto Him shall the
gathering of the
people be.

GOD IS
LOVE

YE SHINE AS
LIGHTS IN
THE WORLD.

JESUS
SAVES

The night cometh,
when no man
can work.

Volume 74, No. 4

74th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

\$1.00 Per Year

June, 1996

**God's Law
Written
In Our
Hearts**

Bro. Leslie Busbee

The Holy Spirit spoke by the prophet Jeremiah that He was going to make a new covenant in Christ.

"...After those days, saith

the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people." Jer. 31:33.

In Israel's time the laws of God were written on stone or in a book. They were read to the children of Israel from Sabbath to Sabbath. They were taught by mouth to their children day by day. But it is not enough to have the law written and taught in writing. God wants His laws written in our hearts and minds.

Psalms 37:31, speaking of the righteous says, "The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide." The prophecy of Jesus in Psalm 40:8 says, "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." In Psalm 119:11 it is expressed thus: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

The apostle Paul said to the Corinthian brethren, "...Ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart." II Cor. 3:3. The term "fleshy" here means tender, impressionable, and receptive. God cannot write upon our hearts His Word if we are not tender and submissive to Him. Many

people have too much else written upon their hearts and their hearts have grown cold and hard, set in their ungodly ways.

Romans 2:14-15 speaks about people who did not have the (written) law, but by nature did the things contained in the law, shewing the work of the law written in their hearts. There were people like Abel, Enoch and Noah who did not have the law of God written down, but sought God and became so affiliated with Him and His Holy Spirit that the holy laws of God were written in their hearts. Enoch set himself to please God and walked with God for three hundred years. He became so close to God that God saw fit to take him to heaven without going by way of death and the grave. He is still up there right now. And he obtained that blessing because he allowed God's Word to be written in his heart.

We have something to do about getting the Word of God written in our hearts. Proverbs 3:3 says, "Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart." We must read, study, meditate and hold the wonderful laws and commandments of God before us with love and adoration and worship. We must faithfully seek the Lord in prayer and daily commune with Him. We must keep filled with the Spirit and strive to obey His precious commands. When it is written in our hearts it is not hard to obey. We must have a desire and a hungering and thirsting for the Word of God. Many souls today are so taken

"We have something to do about getting the Word of God written in our hearts."

up with the cares of this life that the Word of God has little or no place in their hearts. What a mistake, a sad and costly mistake they are making! They are filling their hearts and minds with the moldy things of time and sense and will turn up to be paupers at the judgment with no foundation that will enable them to lay hold on eternal life.

People transgress the commands of God when they are not written in the heart. Israel had the laws of God written for them to read and hear, but they were not in their hearts, and they broke them time after time. Even Moses, after he had received the tables of stone with God's law engraved on them, broke them into pieces on the rocks because he saw that Israel had already broken several of those sacred laws. Today the Bible is so plain on different things, and yet people still go contrary to its teachings. The Bible teaches against adultery and fornication, but our society is cursed with these practices. The Bible teaches women to dress modestly. The Bible teaches that it is a shame for a man to wear long hair and that long hair for a woman is a glory to her. But when these precepts are not written in the heart, and we see what is happening. The Bible teaches many other things that people are going against today. It is because their hearts are not tender and open for God to write upon them His laws.

Let us take heed to the Word of the Lord. Let us humble ourselves and pray for God to take the stoney heart out of us and give us a heart of flesh that will walk in His commandments and do them. It is not hard to live the Bible way when it is in your heart. And the Spirit of God can write it in our hearts if we are submissive, willing and obedient to Him.



O WRITE THY LAW!

(Extension of Song No. 278,
Evening Light Songs)

O write thy law of pow'r divine
That gives to me an endless life
That like a candle I may shine
Amid this world of sin and strife.

Oh, may the hope of glory reign
Within the treasures of my heart
That loss and sorrow ne'er may stain
The truth down in my inmost part.

Let wisdom's precepts guide my soul;
Its voice within me ever speak:
I want to live in Thy control,
The strait and narrow way to seek.

O write thy law of modesty,
Not fashions of men's brazen shame,
But plainness and simplicity
Without the gold or silver fame.

O write thy law of faithfulness
Above the tide of doubt and fear
That I may trust and ever press
Believing Thou art ever near.

Inscribe Thy sweet humility
With lowliness and meekness, too,
Adorning my humanity
With all **Thy** beauty pure and true.

Impress the image of Your face
Upon my heart in tenderness;
Shine from within Thy holy grace,
My fellow man to love and bless.

Erase all strife and selfish aim
And write the precepts of Thy peace
To praise the beauty of Thy name
And help the wrath of man to cease.

My heart, O Lord, shall be Thy scroll,
To write the message of Thy love;
Oh, let it burn within my soul
Until I see Thy face above.

—Leslie C. Busbee



Reaching the Goal

Patricia Rhodes

"I started out to win this race, to serve the Lord and to look upon His face. Well, the way's been long and the way's been rough, but there's one thing for sure, I've got my mind made up."

As I observed eight little girls running in a foot race, I noticed that this also included Merrirose. Although she has a physical disability, Merrirose was determined to run in the race. With her awkward gait, she gave it all she had.

As the race was progressing people watching begin chanting her name, "Merrirose, Merrirose, Merrirose!" That seemed to give her even more courage to get to the finish line. When the first place winner got to the finish line, she didn't bask in her glory. Instead, she

ran back and grabbed Merrirose by the hand. Merrirose stumbled, but got up and kept running, and they made it to the finish line together. Merrirose was in last place, but nonetheless she had reached her goal. That was all that mattered.

When we are running in this Christian race of life, we are met with obstacles and hindrances. It may seem, sometimes, that we are not progressing as we would like, but we should have a determination to go on to the goal. Just when we need that extra boost, the Lord is faithful to give us a spiritual pat on the back. He blesses us with words of encouragement, exhortations through songs, reading the Word of God, etc. The Lord is on the sidelines, cheering us on to victory. He wants us to finish this race. He takes us by the hand, and, although we might stumble, He will not give up on us. We are precious in His sight.

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain." I Corinthians 9:24.



I Believe In Miracles

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

I believe in miracles. I believe in things unseen and the faith in God that brings things to pass. Faith gives substance to life that nothing else will, because faith erases the mysteries in life and explains the hereafter. It is the little seedling of faith in God that produces mountain-moving miracles.

We humans explain a miracle as a remarkable marvel that contradicts known scientific laws. For centuries philosophers have studied the universe: the sun, moon, stars, planets; and they have written volumes about their discoveries and theories. Planet Earth is in the Milky Way Galaxy and within the last decade, astronomers have learned that there are other galaxies beyond the Milky Way Galaxy. In all their exploring, they have never yet found God's eternal home.

Is heaven a "miracle?" It has never been scientifically discovered and explained. No rocket or spaceship has landed there. No satellite has ever circled God's eternal home. However, God's Son described heaven and He made the way for us to go there, which is completely unscientific.

How can the red blood of Jesus wash away the black sins in a heart and make it whiter than snow? How can this be "the way to heaven?" The answers won't be explained in the law of physics. Philosophers can't analyze any reason in it unless they acknowledge the greatness of God.

What then assures me that there is a heaven and that Jesus Christ, God's Son, has made the way to go there? It is my faith in God. He created and set in motion all the laws of nature. We ponder and study the mysteries of life in this universe but life is not a mystery to God. He is eternal and knows no boundaries to His power.

One seed of simple faith in God will someday take me completely out of this universe. I cannot explain it all with words but my heart knows "the way." (John 14:4.) I believe in miracles. "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called." 1 Timothy 6:20.



Faith

By Vesta Robertson

I've frequently heard statements, and sometimes even thought: "Things aren't as they used to be 40 years ago. We saw miracles then."

Such statements bring to mind the sayings of three people. The first is found in the spiritual diary MARKINGS of Dag Hammarskjöld. He said, "We act in faith—and miracles occur. In consequence, we are tempted to make the miracles the ground for our faith. The cost of such weakness is that we lose the confidence of faith. Faith is, faith creates, faith carries. It is not derived from, nor created, nor carried by anything except its own reality."

The second is a statement of Sis. Hettie Barton. "People want miracles. But do they want to be the channel God works through to produce the miracles? You cannot have the miracle of healing unless you have someone who is sick."

The third is by Bro. Ed Wilson. "Long ago I learned that the limiting factor for me in the work of the Lord is how much I am willing to pray down grace for suffering."

FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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

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

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way as the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Ex. 25:2; I Chron. 29:9; II Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Freewill offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House. All donations are tax deductible.

A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

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As the time arrives again to write editorials for another issue of the *Faith and Victory*, it brings a fresh awareness that a world full of people are moving rapidly toward the judgment bar of a holy God. This realization constantly renews the burden which has always been the motivating force of the work here—to do all within our ability to help prepare souls for this tremendous event.

Once, when Christ was surrounded by a varied group of sinners and professors, He described with great insight, the types of people who need salvation, mentioning four in three different parables. (Luke 15:3-32.)

He portrayed one group of people without salvation as a lost coin. A coin is an inanimate object with no consciousness of needing to be found. There are people in the world today unaware of the need for redemption. Christ said, in Matt. 24:14, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." It is the responsibility of those who know the saving grace of God to find these who have never heard, and to be a witness to them. Perhaps it would be well to ask ourselves how much effort we put forth for this purpose.

Another category was depicted as lost sheep. These are people who know they are lost but are unaware of how to be found. There are more like this than we might wish to believe. While it is true that our country is referred to as a Christian nation, with churches on many street corners, and the airways filled with preachers of all denominations, it is surprising that a multitude of people have no understanding of what salvation is. This should be a challenge to the children of God to let their light shine and to share the knowledge of reconciliation, whether through personal contact, printed literature, or other means of modern communication.

Jesus also illustrated, through the story of the prodigal son, a group of people who, know-

ing they were lost, also knew the way back home. There are too many who once experienced the riches of Father's house, and turned from that security toward the glitter of sin. These individuals can be especially difficult to reach, and the work is best done by the Holy Spirit. Our part can be that of intercession to God on their behalf.

The elder brother characterizes the final group and is a cause for all who profess Christ to examine their lives. He did not leave his father's house but was negligent in his attitude. He was more interested in the fatted calf than his lost brother and was jealous, selfish and indifferent.

Let us work together to reach every needy soul. It will be worth all the effort we exert to be able to have a part in someone meeting God in peace.

June 16 marks the national observance of Father's Day. Fathers hold a special part in history, in the home and in the heart. God certainly had something special in mind when he made the first one and assigned him a specific role in life.

A little boy needs a father to teach him what manhood is all about, to show him how to be strong in earning a living and in defending that which is right, yet gentle and loving in spirit.

Every little girl also needs a father—one who will protect her from the predatory world and make her feel like a special lady.

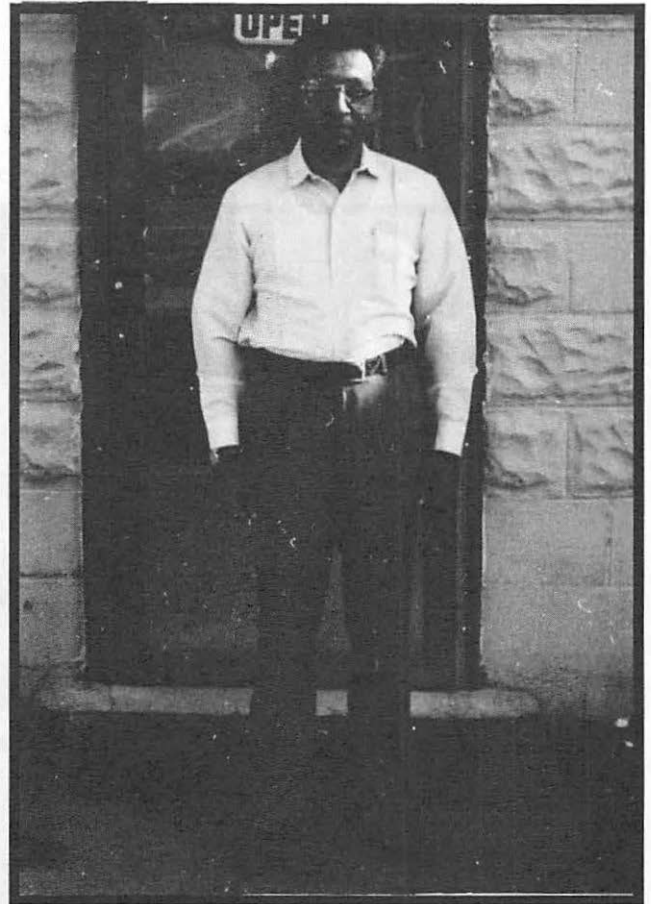
Many times quality fathers go unheralded, yet there is a real need for them. One writer has said, "While the world seldom hears what a father says to his children, the effects of his counsel will be felt by the next generation, and the next, and the next."

Bro. John Varghese, of India, arrived by plane in Oklahoma City on May 24th. After recuperating from the tiresome journey, he is now attending the Oklahoma State Camp Meeting, which is in progress, here in Guthrie.

Originally his return was scheduled for July 28th, which would have allowed him to attend the National Camp Meeting at Monark Springs, MO, but due to circumstances in India, he may have to return sooner.

We are glad to report progress on the construction of the new Print Shop building. As of this writing, the footing for the foundation has been poured and the drain pipes are laid. Hopefully, the foundation will be completed in the very near future.

—Wayne Murphey



**Bro. John Varghese
in front of the Print Shop.**

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Prayer Requests

OK—Bro. Ben Harrison's father-in-law has had a heart attack and is in urgent need of prayer.

OK—"Please pray for my children that they will turn to God." —Pat Munoz

IN—"Please pray for my shoulder."

—Jimmy Wilson

OK—"Please pray for my unspoken requests."

—Eldora Jennings

LA—"Please remember me in prayer as I am much afflicted." —Sis. Sybil Goldsberry

WV—"Put me on your prayer list as I have been ill most of January and February."

—Sis. Melba Powell

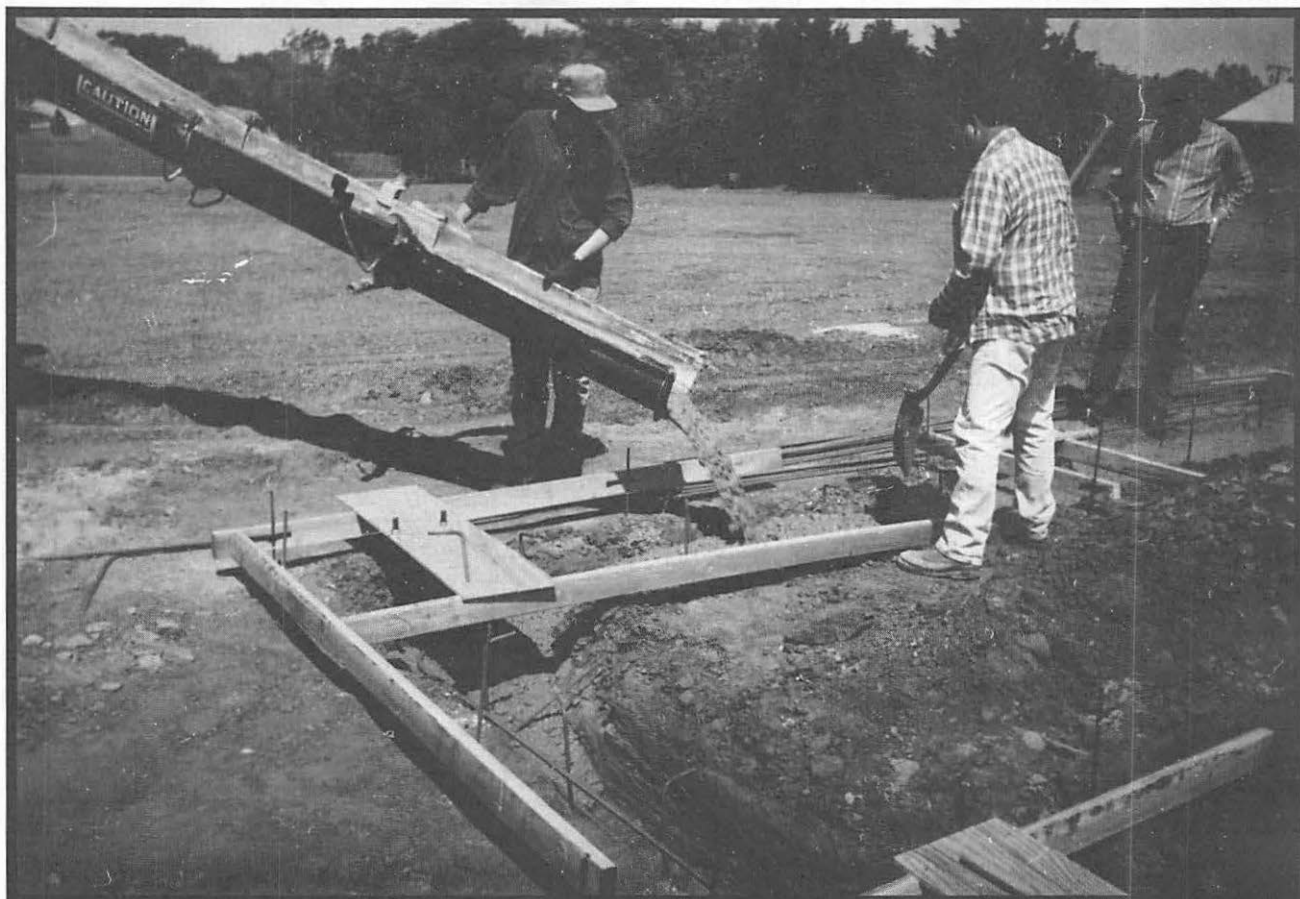
KY—"Please, when you pray, remember my brother who is very ill from the effects of a stroke. Also pray for my niece, my husband and myself.

"I know God hears and answers prayer and my trust is always in Him." —Wilma Horsley

SC—"To all the saints who know the Lord

hears and answers prayers, I would like you to remember me both soul and body. Also, I have some unspoken requests that I would like for you to pray with me about.

My mother, Carrine Russell, is very weak and Sis. Ida Pratt needs prayer for her eyesight. Also, please remember Bro. Floyd Crummie for health problems. —Sis. Mamie Knotts



Bros. Todd Williamson, John Gibson and Bob Sallee pouring footing for the new Print Shop building.

CAMP MEETING DATES

Holly Hill, SC—June 1-9

Tulsa, OK—June 9-16

Jefferson, OR—June 14-23

Green Bank, WV—June 14-23

Loranger, LA—June 30-July 7

Fresno, CA—July 5-14

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

Myrtle, MO—July 31-August 4

Ensenada, Mexico—August 4-11

Bakersfield, CA—August 7-11

Boley, OK—August 19-25

California State (Pacoima)—Aug. 28-Sept. 1

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

WICHITA, KS SPRING MEETING REPORT

We praise God for the good meeting that we had in Wichita. The Lord blessed in every phase of the services. There was anointing in the song services and the Word was powerful. Some messages were revealing, some challenging,

some had warning, some were encouraging and some real soul-stirring and searching. The Lord touched different ones and a number sought help at the altar to be able to better live for Jesus. It is truly wonderful what the Lord did.

We appreciate each minister that came and labored in the meeting and all others that came. One young man got saved and we hope he will learn of the Savior and press hard to live for Him. We all want to hold on to the ground we have gained and be better children of God. When you think of Wichita, pray for us. Praise God!

—Submitted by Shirley Knight

ALL DAY SERVICE CANCELED

There will be no 5th Sunday all day services, June 30, 1996, here at Muskogee, OK due to summer travel to meetings, etc. The congregation will resume 5th Sunday services on September 29, 1996.

The Lord blessed Bro. Louis Kimble of New Orleans, LA, to hold four nights of revival services for Muskogee immediately after the Wichita, KS meeting. Several people sought help at the altar. Please continue to pray for them and the work of God here in Muskogee.

We give praise to the Lord for all His goodness to us.

Yours in Him, —Sis. Bonnie L. Riley

HOLLY HILL, SC CAMP MEETING

The saints here at Holly Hill, SC need much prayer. Our camp meeting is coming up June 1-9 so pray that we will work together in love and unity for the benefit of God's work.

I want to let everyone know that there will be places to stay on the campgrounds and some homes will be opened up for some who need a room.

For more information please contact Bro. Uston Platt, (803) 496-5759, or Bro. Alvord Pratt, (803) 492-3366.

Please remember us in your prayers,

—Sis. Judie Crummie

TULSA, OK CAMP MEETING

The Tulsa, OK camp meeting, Lord willing, will be held at Tulsa, OK, 1102 E. Pine Pl. The dates are June 9-16.

All are invited to attend these services. Please come praying that souls will hear and take heed to the Word of God and be saved, baptized and sanctified. Also that people will be healed.

There will be morning and night services, Monday through Saturday at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. There will be an afternoon service on both Sundays.

For further information contact Bro. Charles Lowe, (918) 584-6838, or Bro. Charles Rhodes, (918) 584-8488. —Sis. Maple Littlejohn

OREGON STATE CAMP MEETING

The Oregon State Camp Meeting at Jefferson, OR will convene, Lord willing, on Friday evening June 14, 1996, through Sunday, June 23, 1996.

There will be three services on the first weekend, two services daily during the week, and the last Sunday there will be two services. We are praying that the Lord will bless us with His chosen ministers, saints and all that have a need for soul and body. If you are not able to come, please be praying for us to have a successful meeting. We anticipate the Lord's blessings to be here for the saving of souls, sanctifying the heart and healing of the body.

Accommodations will be arranged for all who are in need. RV hookups are available on the grounds, as are sleeping quarters. Any need of pickup from airport, train or buses will be provided. There will be meals provided daily in the dining hall.

For more information you may contact Bro. Cliff Smith, (503) 581-4575, Bro. Jim Linch, (541) 424-5951, or Bro. Rodney Smith, (541) 926-9349.

GREEN BANK, WV CAMP MEETING

The Green Bank, West Virginia camp meeting will begin on Friday night, June 14, and end on Sunday night, June 23, 1996. The meeting will be located at the White Pines Campground, Arbovale, WV, on Highway 28, 55 miles north of White Sulphur Springs.

Two services will be held daily at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Breakfast will be at 9:00 and the midday meal after the afternoon service. Snacks will be served after the night service.

Dorm facilities are available, as well as rooms for couples and families. Please notify us, if at all possible, before you come so that we can be prepared for everyone. Also, please bring your bedding, towels and jackets. The nights can be very cool.

We are expecting the Holy Spirit, once again, to pour out His anointing on the meeting. For more information, call Toney Samons, (304) 456-3017, or Marty Clevenger, (304) 456-3242.

NORTHPORT, AL REVIVAL

The saints of God in Northport, AL wish to announce a revival meeting to be held on June 27-30, 1996. We extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you who wish to attend.

The meeting will be held on a freewill offering basis. Anyone desiring to help with expenses may contact Sis. Bernice Petty at 2207 4th St. East, Tuscaloosa, AL 35404. Phone: (205) 553-4450, or Sis. Jessie Shelton at 3940 28th Ave., Northport, AL 35476. Phone: (205) 339-3026.

Services will be held nightly at 7:30 p.m. with day services to be announced.

There will be some home accommodations and there are motels within walking distance.

Our souls do hunger and our cups desire to be filled, and we trust the Lord will send what is needed and by whom He pleases.

For more information you may contact Bro. Louis Kimble, 2712 Phoenix Street, Kenner, LA 70062. Phone: (504) 467-9039 or (504) 467-8842.

—Sis. Bernice Petty

GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMP MEETING LORANGER, LA

You are invited to be a part of the camp meeting here. This will be the opportunity to receive lessons from God's Word and messages of His will. If we live by His spirit, His righteousness, His grace and faith—we can help one another make heaven.

The meeting is to be Sunday, June 30th through Sunday, July 7th, with services daily. Come preparing for a blessing. If you cannot attend, please pray for the Lord's work here.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Power and water hookups are provided for those with campers. Meals will be served and expenses met by freewill offerings.

From Loranger, go two miles south and about three and one-half miles east on Hwy. 40.

For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about 10 miles east of the Tickfaw exit (take Hwy. 442 east which runs into Hwy. 40).

For more information write Nelson Doolittle: 51367 Narretto Rd., Loranger, LA 70446. Phone: (504) 878-6111. The chapel phone is (504) 878-2788.

FRESNO, CA CAMP MEETING

Lord willing, the Fresno camp meeting will convene July 5-14. The schedule of the meeting

is as follows; 7:30 p.m. service the first Friday and Saturday nights; three services both Sundays; 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. services throughout the week. Let us pray that God will send souls out to these meetings, both saints and sinners. The Lord has a rich blessing for all that attend. If you can't attend, please pray that the Lord will work His purpose in these meetings. There are souls that need to be saved, believers to be sanctified and bodies to be healed.

Directions to the church are: Coming from the north on 99, take the Belmont exit, go east three miles to First St., turn right and go two blocks to Grant. The church is on First and Grant. Coming from the south, take the Venture exit, go east to First St., turn left and follow to Grant. For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Charles Taylor, 3014 Helm Ave., Clovis, CA 93612, (209) 348-9029 or Bro. Charles Parrish, 1325 E. Fedora, Fresno, CA 93705. (209) 221-6808.

NATIONAL CAMP MEETING MONARK SPRINGS, MO

The National Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO, July 19-28, 1996. All are cordially invited to come and bring others to enjoy the blessings we are expecting from the Lord.

The Monark Springs campground is located approximately five miles east of Neosho, MO. It is one mile east and 3/4 mile south of the intersection of Highways 86 and 71 Alternate.

If you travel to Neosho by bus, you may telephone the campground 472-6427, or Bro. Mike Hightower, 451-3636, for transportation.

The camp meeting is conducted on a freewill offering basis. There is no charge for meals or lodging on the campground. You are welcome to come and enjoy the meeting. We are confident that God will supply every need. Meals will be served in the dining hall. Dormitory space, tents and trailer spots are available on a first come, first served basis. Trailer spots include electricity, water and sewer hookups. Motels are available nearby, but reservations should be made in advance.

All correspondence about tents and dormitory spaces should be addressed to Sis. DeLoris Bradley, Rt. 1, Bartlett, KS 67332. Phone: (316) 226-3390. She will be coordinating requests for sleeping quarters on the campground.

—Business managers: Randel Bradley (above address), or Mike Hightower, 13896 Newt Dr., Neosho, MO 64850.

Calvin Hobbs, (909) 875-2887, or the Sunset Guest Home (818) 899-2022.

BROTHER'S MEETING

Some of the brethren have expressed a wish for a series of brother's meetings to be held during the National Camp Meeting at Monark Springs, MO. It is desired that the format for these sessions be similar to that used so beneficially in the sister's services held last year, thereby developing the leadership capabilities of those who are not necessarily ministers.

Those who have topics or questions to be discussed may send your correspondence to Faith Publishing House, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044, and they will be passed on to those preparing for these meetings.

BAKERSFIELD, CA CAMP MEETING

A welcoming invitation is extended to all to come and join us in our annual camp meeting. We are asking saints everywhere to join with us in praying for a successful camp meeting. We are expecting a special visitation from God in each service, so that all souls will get the help that is needed.

Our meeting begins, Lord willing, on Wednesday, August 7th and continues through Sunday, August 11th. There will be nightly 7:30 services on Wednesday through Friday. On Saturday there will be a 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. service. On Sunday there will be Sunday school and two services. We are praying and expecting God to send ministers and workers of His choosing.

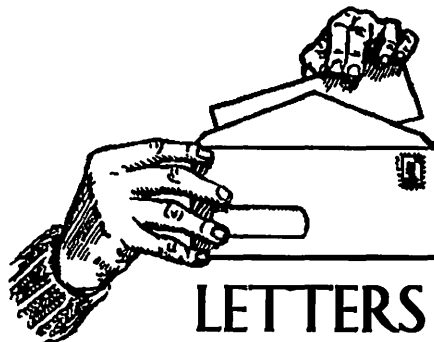
For more information, contact Bro. Archie Sherman, (805) 871-1636. Church phone number (805) 395-9314. Our church is located at 1802 Virginia Avenue.

CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The California State Annual Camp Meeting at Pacoima, CA will convene, Lord willing, on Wednesday, August 28th, 1996, and continue through Sunday, September 1st, 1996.

There will be three services daily. We anticipate God's blessings upon every service, His rich anointing on every message, souls being saved and sanctified and bodies being healed.

For more information you may contact Bro. Edward V. Davenport, (909) 887-4130, Bro.



MO—Dear saints: Greetings of love to each one of you. I trust these few lines find each one encouraged in the Lord, and pressing on toward heaven. I am very thankful for the precious plan of salvation, which gives us peace to the soul and contentment in this present world.

I want to give thanks and praise for the healing touch the Lord has given to me. I had reinjured the nerve which runs to the left side of my neck, face and arm, by lifting a very heavy object. While at the Guthrie Assembly Meeting, I was anointed and prayed for, but it continued to get worse. The Lord gave me a touch before I left the meeting, and I began to improve and was soon back to normal.

I have asked the Lord to help me to use wisdom and be careful with this problem.

I do appreciate all the Lord has done for me, and I give Him all the praise for taking care of this.

Do pray for me, that I will be true and faithful. I desire to do the will of the Lord.

Christian love, —Wanda L. Atnip

MI—Dear Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary and all you dear workers: Greetings in the sweet name of Jesus!

I thank the Lord for my many blessings, for each day God is so good. He cares for His own. It seems the days are going so fast. It looks like the Lord will be coming soon to take us home to glory. What a day that will be, to see all of our loved ones again. Praise the Lord.

I enjoy all the testimonies of the ones who tell of their healing. Jesus still heals. All we need is the faith of a mustard seed. I pray for all the ones who need healing.

Many thanks for all your prayers. May God bless each and every one of you in body and soul.

—Sis. Olive Getterson

UT—Dear ones there at the Print Shop: This leaves me well in soul and body. Oh, how I love serving my Lord.

The weather is beautiful here. I think of and pray for those who are in the paths of those severe storms.

My brother, Ray, is in the hospital with double pneumonia. He needs prayer for both body and soul....

God bless, —Sis. Martha East

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OR—Dear Bro. Wayne and all at the Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' name. I pray this finds all there well and happy in the Lord, and I thank God for all of you and your service for the Lord. This month's *Faith and Victory* was a great blessing to me. I pray it will be the same for all who may read it! I will agree in prayer with every request made that is according to God's will. I am so thankful for salvation and it gives me, as well as the angels in heaven, much joy to hear of lost souls accepting Jesus as their Savior. I am praying and will continue to pray for all of the meetings that are being held, and are going to be held, that God will have His way in all that is said and done.

I am so very thankful for guidance that the Lord gives me each day; for that peace in my heart that we can have in this life only from Jesus. Praise His holy name for ever and ever. Pray for me that I may ever be willing to commit all things in my life into His care, even if it means that I may have to endure some pain and suffering. I know that whatever He permits is what is best for me.

With Christian love, —Bro. Bill Busch

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CO—Dear ones: Greetings. I am house bound in my wheelchair. Someone ordered your paper, *Faith and Victory*, for me and I appreciate whoever did it. I am even half blind now, so reading God's Word is limited, and I have always been an avid reader to study and help others.

May God continue to bless your work. Keep looking up. —A. L. LaShelle

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TX—Dear saints at the *Faith and Victory*: I want to thank everyone for the prayers that were prayed for me, and thank God for His healing power. My brother, Clarence Campbell, requested prayer for me in February because I had a skin disorder (psoriasis). It was terrible on my body. I was continually scratching. Thank God, He has healed me. There are only a few

places left on my arms and legs and each day they get fainter and fainter. The places in my hair are going away too.

I want to give God the glory because He is the One that healed me. Also, I want to thank His people for praying for me. Continue to remember me in your prayers, that I will always stay true to God and teach my children about God....

In Christian love, —Shirley Davis

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TN—Dear Bro. Wayne: Christian love and greetings to you and the other workers at Faith Publishing House. May the Lord continue to bless and encourage each of you in the Gospel work that is so much needed everywhere. I appreciate your background in the Bible truths of the Church, and your continued efforts to adorn and publicize the scriptural message and standard of the Church of God in this evening time of our heritage.

There are lots of manmade ways in the world today, but there is only one true way that leads to heaven. It is a good and beautiful way and I love and thank the Lord for it....

Christian love, —Charles B. Williams

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WV—Dear Sisters and Brothers: Since 1971 the *Faith and Victory* has been my joy to look forward to each month. The Bible Lessons are the best Church books I have ever read. To live out here and unable to go to Church as others do, I count myself rich as God has sent me the Truth. I can never love God and Jesus and appreciate the Holy Spirit enough for all they have done for me.

Thank you all so much for your prayers. Put me on your special prayer list, as I have been very ill most of January and February. For the past two weeks I have had a cold besides these two other problems which I have all the time. In March I missed two weeks of work.

I do appreciate you sisters and brothers.

Love and prayers, —Melba Powell

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IN—Dear Bro. Murphey and the rest of the saints in Guthrie: Greetings in the name of the Lord. I am sorry it has taken so long to write. Many things have been going on here, but I am now more encouraged than ever to serve God.

As I look around and see the evil things in the world today, I know we are in the last days. In California two eight-year-old boys, and a six-year-old boy broke into a house to steal a bicycle. The six-year-old boy, while inside, tipped

over a baby's cradle (with the baby inside) and began kicking and beating the child. He may become the youngest person in California's history to be charged with attempted murder. In addition, the baby might suffer permanent brain damage. Oh, how evil! If parents could only see the evil influence of our society, such tragedies would not occur. Christians, let us install moral values into our children before the world gets to them.

Please pray for me, that I may continue to serve the Lord. Also, please pray for my family and for the country we live in.

Grace be with you all,

—Bro. Christopher A. Rothbauer

Honduras—Dear saints in the Print Shop: I am from Honduras and my name is Anthony Hamilton. I am saved and encouraged in the Lord.

We receive the *Faith and Victory* paper, and it is very encouraging. We are praying for you and the prayer requests.

I would like you to put a prayer request in the *Faith and Victory* paper for me. I have an illness and desire your prayers so that it can be healed if it be the Lord's will. My wife needs prayer too.

Dear saints, stay encouraged in the Lord. There is plenty of work to do for Him.

We thank God for the Church of God and for His family. Pray for us. —Anthony Hamilton

OK—Dear Saints: I want to send in my testimony about the goodness of the Lord to me and the comfort of His Spirit.

Since the passing of my dear wife, I have felt the prayers of the saints, for I have truly been comforted. Though the house is very empty, yet I rejoice in her victory and am comforted in knowing she is comforted and out of her troubles. She is in that place of which Jesus spoke when He said, "...I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. (John 14:2-3)

I am striving to live so I can go to that place of comfort and rest where my wife, along with all the dear saints that have gone on before, are rejoicing around the throne and praising Jesus, the One who brought salvation to this earth that we could be redeemed.

Early this winter I took a cold, and after going to bed I was coughing almost constantly.

I had prayed and coughed until about 1:30 a.m. one night, when in a dream or vision, someone dressed in white walked into my room. I looked at the face to see if it was my wife, but it wasn't. They came closer to my bed and I became aware that it was an angel. She told me my bronchial tubes needed cleaning and then disappeared. I only coughed once or twice after that and had a good night's rest. How I thanked the Lord for sending His angel to stop my coughing. It was such a blessing to me that I pleaded with God to send the angel to Sis. Aliene Dickson for her good.

I thank the Lord for my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and pray that they will continue to uphold this truth and pass it on to the future generations. I also pray much for the ones that have gone astray.

I want to express my appreciation for the *Faith and Victory* on tape that I receive each month. Since I am blind, it is a real blessing to me, and I listen to it two or three times each month.

I praise the Lord for all His goodness that He has bestowed upon me in my lifetime. I desire your prayers that as I face the problems of old age, I will keep my eyes upon the Lord. Your bloodwashed brother, —Brother Albert Eck



From Nigeria...

April 17, 1996—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and saints in Zion: Greetings in the praiseworthy name of the Lord Jesus, the One who came to seek and save that which was lost. (Luke 19:10) All to Jesus we owe. We have our liberty as the chains of sin are broken down. Jesus has set us free. And so forever we are indebted to Him.

Our divine assignments for the year of 1995 received our complete attention. A town of Abbi

was extensively evangelized with victory. Existing congregations were visited with increased frequency for strengthening. Annual Thanksgiving services were held at Obetim-Uno and Kwale congregations respectively.

The Church moved in a chartered bus to the town of Ashaka on March 29th through 31st to commence an outreach. The outcome was impressive and encouraging. Many souls surged forward to accept Christ as their personal Savior. A woman who had physical afflictions in her body was healed after prayer. A new work shall start here shortly, Lord willing. Abbi also merits consideration for a new work to be started. We expect to occupy until God comes.

The planting season has duly arrived. Pray with us for the strength to cope, and for the weather to alternate favorably. Difficulties and disappointments are arising. But as we smile at them and treat them as inevitable, they are melting away rapidly as wax before the fire. No trials and tribulations are beyond what we can bear if we share them. —Titus U.E. Enu

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April 13, 1996—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey, all the saints at the Print Shop and everywhere: Greetings in the fadeless name of the Lord, Jesus Christ. We greatly praise and thank God from the depths of our heart for having graciously extended His holy mount, His kingdom, to us for our safe dwelling place. So long as we abide truthful in Zion we are privileged to know of the unsearchable mysteries about her (Matthew 13:11,16)

Last month we gratefully received a fairly large quantity of illegally detained *Faith and Victory* papers which were freely shared to each literate member both in the Church and in the Tombia community, during our recently concluded quarterly revival program. Each of us were greatly edified by the last revival at the closure of which we gladly kept the Lord's Supper and feet washing ordinances.

The causes of the prevailing disunity here in Tombia might not exclude the consequences of the indifference of the majority of the villagers towards the sound Bible doctrines we propagate. The calamity that has plagued Tombia would have been more fatal than the current climax it has reached, but for the intervening prayers of the saints. Please pray on. And we pray for all of you too. The grace of our dear Lord abide with you all always.

—Bro. Onimite B. Alalibo

QUESTION AND ANSWER

BY

BRO. OSTIS B. WILSON

Reprint

QUESTION: In the light of such scriptures as Revelation 20:11, II Peter 3:7-14, and Mark 13:31, please explain Psalm 104:5, which says, "Who [God] laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever."

ANSWER: First, let us get these scriptures set forth. Revelation 20:11 says, "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them." I will not insert all of II Peter 3:7-14, but just the verses that apply directly to this question. Verse 7 says, "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." Verses 10-12 say, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?" In Mark 13:31, Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away:..."

There is one established law for interpreting Scripture which is known as "The unanimity of faith." What that means is that any text on any given subject must be interpreted in harmony with every other text in the entire canon of Scripture on that same subject. If we find any text on the subject which contradicts our interpretation of a given scripture, we can be sure we have missed the mark somewhere. There are certainly no contradictions in the Scriptures when we understand them properly. II Timothy 2:13 says that God remaineth faithful and cannot deny Himself. And that is just exactly what He would be doing if He taught one thing in any part of the Scripture and a contradictory thing in some other part.

In this question we do have an apparent contradiction. Mark 13:31 says that "Heaven

and earth shall pass away:..." and Psalm 104:5 says the earth shall "...not be removed for ever." Mark 13:31 is a direct statement of Jesus Himself; therefore, it cannot be gainsaid or tampered with. I therefore set upon it as an anchor text and that it establishes beyond all doubt that the earth will pass away. Then applying the fixed law of "Unanimity of faith" we will have to find grounds for making Psalm 104:5 harmonize with what Jesus said in Mark 13:31.

In *Cruden's Concordance*, at the top of his references of "for ever" he inserts this note: "Many believe that the words for ever or everlasting are not to be taken as synonymous with eternal, as being without end, but to be understood merely as meaning a very long time, to be left indeterminate. There seems to be a considerable amount of argument in favor of this in many cases, but it is not safe to conclude that it always should be limited." Matthew Henry, in his commentary, comments at this place, "To the end of time." With us in general and from time immemorial, the term "for ever" has been used as applying to the duration of a thing or to its termination.

I will insert some Scripture where "for ever" is used which in no way possible could be interpreted as referring to eternal or without end.

In Genesis 43:9, Judah said to his father, Jacob, concerning his youngest brother, Benjamin, "I will be surety for him; of my hand shalt thou require him: if I bring him not unto thee, and set him before thee, then let me bear the blame **for ever**." Again in Genesis 44:32, Judah said to his brother, Joseph, in regard to Benjamin again, "For thy servant became surety for the lad unto my father, saying, If I bring him not unto thee, then I shall bear the blame to my father **for ever**." In both of these texts, referring to the same thing, it is clear beyond question that the term "for ever" could not possibly refer to eternal or without end, because neither Judah nor his father would live that long.

In Exodus 21:5-6, it says, "And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him **for ever**." This would clearly refer to the remainder of his life and not eternally without end.

Leviticus 25:23 says, "The land shall not be sold **for ever**..." Again "for ever" in this text would refer to the termination of a specified period because land is not bought and sold in eternity.

This could go on and on with this kind of scripture, but it is not necessary. This is sufficient to establish the fact that the term "for ever" is used quite generally throughout the Old Testament scriptures as referring to the duration or termination of any specified period of time, or a very long time.

But what about Psalm 104:5? It says the earth shall not be removed **for ever**. Well, when it runs head-on into our anchor text that the earth shall pass away (Jesus Himself said this in Mark 13:31), then we have to make Psalm 104:5 agree with what Jesus said because He is the supreme authority. But in view of the above texts and the general, common use of the term "for ever" in the Scriptures, this is not a very big problem. It will only be a problem to some folks who are hung up on some private interpretation to support some private doctrine. And all of these texts, and many more, give support to Matthew Henry's commentary at this place (Psalm 104:5) that "for ever" means "To the end of time."



Fear—The Enemy of Faith

By Sis. Marilyn Cole

We are told in the Scriptures that without faith it is impossible to please God, (Hebrews 11:6) and so it is wise to look at the greatest enemy of faith. That is fear. While strong faith is essential to our Christian victory, fear is one of Satan's most effective tools in the battle to destroy our faith. As humans we naturally fear many things—illness, financial loss, loss of relationships, loss of possessions, death and numerous other things. Many fears impair our ability to function with the freedom God has designed for His people. It is God's desire for us to overcome these fears, and to cultivate instead a rich and bountiful crop of faith in God.

I John 4:18 tells us that, "Fear hath torment." We find this is true as we watch a child who fears the dark. He doesn't know what is out there, and, though there be no threatening thing there at all, it is very difficult for him to force himself to go into the dark alone. He may

experience severe emotional pain if forced to go out into the dark. His mind's eye paints many evils and dangers that are not real at all. Though he is actually quite safe, he is tormented by the creations of his mind.

Satan works much the same way in the lives of Christians. For the one considering giving their heart to Christ, he paints many dark pictures of unreasonable demands by God. For the insecure youth, he may portray ridicule or being shunned by a group of friends. To the father trying to make ends meet to provide for

total love to the Savior. To make it really simple, we trust our own ability to control our finances, our health, our lives and time, more than we trust the omnipotent God. We hold on tightly, and because of that fear, Satan has the power to hinder the free flow of God's power in us. Satan is aware of this power, and designs it with perfection to fit our individual weaknesses. As long as we allow him this power in even one area, he has a control over us that will hinder God's perfection of love in us.

Our Lord also knows of our human weak-

"By design, the purpose of our experience with God is to serve as a conduit for His love to those around us."

his family, Satan uses the threat of financial failure. He knows the thing that is most important to each of us, and knows how to hold that before us, taunting us with the fear we most dread. Why would he spend so much time creating unfounded fears to haunt us? Satan is wise enough to know that a fearful Christian is of no use in the spiritual battle. The fearful Christian will cower in the trench. He will never raise a weapon. He will never move the line forward. He will never hold up a banner; he is harmless and is often helpful to the enemy's cause as he actually hinders the victory of his own fellow soldiers. He is at the mercy of the enemy and remains so as long as Satan has the power to create a paralyzing fear in him.

The same passage that tells of the torment of fear also prescribes the cure. It says, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear." And truly it is so. In our humanity, we are not able to achieve a state of perfect love, but it is a gift of the Father. Let's look at how this is designed to work.

Now if perfect love is able to cast our fear, as stated in verse 18, we need have no fear of anything unless it is a thing God would have us fear out of respect. By design, the purpose of our experience with Him is to serve as a conduit for His love to those around us. We are to be the light of the world whereby His love is made manifest to all who need to see the precious love of our Savior. But too often, we are taken captive by fears at the hand of Satan. Fear urges us to hold onto our own self, not yielding our lives to full service for God. Fear makes us withhold our financial support, our careers, our health, our

ness, and works to relieve us of these fears. To Him, I think, these things that we hold so tightly must seem like little idols. When we count them more dear to us than His presence, He knows Satan can work through our fear of the loss of that thing to cloud our perfect love. Oftentimes, we do not initially see God's love at work, but He works to enable us to release one thing after another into His keeping. By so doing, He frees us to serve Him, to be a free flowing vessel of His love. He may have to pry loose one finger at a time, so tight is our grip. He may have to firmly move cherished dreams, relationships, or possessions beyond our reach. At other times He may let us realize the emptiness that lingers to haunt us even after we obtain and clutch the treasure in our hands. By so doing, He encourages us to turn to Him and find a deeper solace or peace or fulfillment. When we realize the continual flow of His divine love, even in the loss, then our fears are truly released. We realize that He is still able to make us victorious—even when our fears come to pass.

If we are to be free of the torment of fear, we must understand the two kinds of fear. One is the fear or reverence of God's displeasure. If we have lived in a way that we know to be out of God's plan for us, we have fear that is related to guilt. This fear is helpful in that it brings to our realization that we must ask His forgiveness. He is faithful and just to forgive us, and is eager to do so. Then we can face Him, feel the flow of His love in our hearts to others, and have confidence that we have His approval. This fear or respect for God is not only desirable, but essential to our being able to continue in pleasing

Him. We do not quake and tremble continually, but when we have erred, He sends His spirit to guide us into a better way.

The second fear has its root in self-love but has many names. Jealousy is defined in one dictionary as "the fear of the loss of love." Envy and strife come from loving ourselves more than others, and fearing they are better liked or accepted than we are. Covetousness is desiring possessions that belong to others. Those possessions are usually, in our society, a measure of success. Bitterness and unforgiveness take root from past hurts, and the fear of further hurts in future dealings. We desire to be accepted, to have the esteem of our fellow man. But we find no lasting peace comes with being well-liked by a few or even many people. It is impossible to win the admiration of all, and if it were possible, it still would not satisfy the needs of our soul. True peace and satisfaction comes from being just that vessel that is cleaned, filled with love, and ready for the Lord's use.

Jesus taught that we are not to fear those that are able to kill the body, but rather to fear Him that is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matthew 10:28.) Perhaps it would be well to examine our fears in the light of this teaching. What are we each holding on to? Is it a self-satisfying dream? Is it of immediate value, or of eternal value? If I hold this treasure closer to my heart than my experience with Christ, what effect will it have on my testimony for Him before those I want to bring to Him? Will it draw me closer to Him? Will it show the beauty of His love to those around me? Does it limit my freedom to follow His call? Do I feel His love flowing through me freely to others or is there a restriction in the flow? If we can prayerfully align our will with that of the Father, we can rest assured He will grant us the desires of our hearts. (James 4:3.)

The love of God truly puts fear on the run. The more we feel His love, His support, the more we praise Him, the less room there is for fear to rule us. The more we look on His love, the more thankfulness we cultivate, and the stronger our defense is against fear. We have the power, when presented with fearful thoughts, to turn our backs on fear, and feast on the beauty of God's love and care. James 4:7 tells us that we must first resist the devil and He will flee from us. Then if we draw nigh to God, He will draw nigh to us. We can be gloriously victorious by

firmly turning our faces to the Savior of our souls.

Satan would lead us to believe that God is a hardhearted, cruel God who denies us all good things. He will tell us that God will take everything we need or want. But Satan is a liar and is purposed to deny all the beauty, love, trust, peace and joy God has in store for us. As we read through the pages of His Word, we can be inspired with the faithfulness, the love, the generosity and the tenderness of God. Just a few days in His presence will convince us that trusting God is being *truly secure* and at rest. A year of trusting God will convince that there is no safer place to build than on the foundation of His love and mercy. We can be filled with joy and peace knowing that He truly will not withhold anything from us that is good for us. We can learn that the things God wants us to put in second place to Him will work out much more smoothly if we let Him give them to us.



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FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY

A Father's Advice

The best advice I ever had
Was given to me by my dad;
These occasions being rare,
I listened with the greatest care.

My dad began by telling me
About his life, that I might see
The things he did, both bad and good,
While wondering if I understood.

"Let heart and conscience be your guide;
Be not possessed with foolish pride.
Do the things that you must do,
Ignore what others think of you.

Nor be ashamed of your ideas,
But live them and expel your fears.
Your life is yours and yours alone—
A treasure God has made your own.

If you are wrong but think you're right,
Instinct calls to stand and fight,
But better to surrender pride
And try to see the other side."

These were the words my father told
And I have treasured them as gold;
And Somewhere, in a Far-Off land,
My father knows I understand.

—Ernest Smith



An Unwilling Guest

"The cross shines fair, and the church bell
rings,
And the air is peopled with holy things;
Yet the world is not happy as the world might
be—

Why is it? Why is it? Oh, answer me.

"What lackest thou, world? For God made thee
of old;

Why thy faith gone out, and thy love grown cold?
Thou art not happy as thou mightest be,
For the want of Christ's simplicity.

"It is blood thou lackest, thou poor old world!
Whom shall make thy love hot for thee, frozen
old world?

Thou art not happy as thou mightest be,
For the love of dear Jesus is little in thee.

"Poor world! If thou cravest a better day,
Remember that Christ must have His own way;
I mourn thou art not as thou mightest be,
But the love of God would do all for thee."

—Grace Livingston Hill



Excerpts Taken From June, 1971 Faith and Victory

"In April Bro. and Sis. Byron Wittenborn left Guthrie and returned to California to care for her mother who is not well. Sis. Virginia had worked faithfully for the Lord here in the gospel publishing work.

"Word has been received that Sis. Georgia (Morton) Zinn departed this life to be with the Lord on May 11 at Pacoima, CA, in the Church Sunset Guest Home where she had been in very ill health for some time.

"Bro. and Sis. O. B. Wilson, formerly the pastor at Pacoima, CA, and managers of the Church Sunset Guest Home for many years, are in the process of moving to Oregon where he will be the pastor at Jefferson."
—L. D. Pruitt

"As newborn babes in Christ we have come to enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper along with the tracts. We thank the Lord for how He called us out of darkness into the marvelous light, and Sister Lennon for telling us about the truth. After hearing the truth, we came to Christ. We enjoy worshipping with the saints."

—Bro. and Sis. Jimmie L. McDonald

"I was afflicted with palsy for eight years. My speech was broken, and I did not have the use of the right side of my face and my eyes would not close. But the Lord has healed me of this condition."

—Sister Kathleen Williams