

FAITH AND VICTORY

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The Gift



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 Did it meet your expectations?
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—Loyce Davenport

The Bread Of Life

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

We find recorded in the 6th chapter of John a most wonderful lesson and truth portrayed in the days when Jesus Christ, our Master, was on earth. A great host of people was gathered together to hear His teachings. Jesus expressed His desire to feed the multitude which numbered about 5,000 men beside the women and children. With only five barley loaves and two small fishes to start with, (taken from a young lad), Jesus fed and satisfied the multitude. His disciples gathered up the fragments that were left over and filled twelve baskets.

"Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone." Verses 14-15. These people were so elated and overjoyed at the easily produced food that had filled their stomachs and satisfied their mortal hunger. They wanted Christ to be their king. Why? It was because He had fed them literal food. They figured that if He would be

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1998

TO ALL OF OUR READERS

their king they would never have to be hungry or have any problem with food again. People back in that time were poor and it was a big thing to have sufficient food on the table. So to have One in their midst who could produce food in such a wonderful manner was about the greatest blessing they could imagine.

But Jesus desired to impress them concerning more important food. The next day a bunch of these people came seeking for Jesus in Capernaum, on the opposite shore of the Sea of Galilee. When they had found Him, Jesus said to them: "...Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed." Verses 26-27. That food that Jesus had produced for them from the loaves and fishes was food which perishes. He sought to introduce them to the food that would bring them eternal life.

In the conversation that followed, these people mentioned about how their fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, "...He gave them bread from heaven to eat." Jesus answered them: "...Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." Verses 31-35. He said in verse 51: "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever:..." He further added in verses 57 and 58: "As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever."

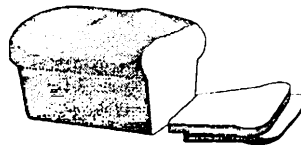
What a wonderful opportunity is given us of the Saviour to partake of Him as the Bread of Life! It is a simple thought, but carries great power and blessing. We must eat of Jesus. This is not literal eating. It is spiritual language. And how can we eat of Jesus? He states also in this lesson: "...Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of

man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day." Verses 53-54. This was a puzzling and hard saying to those who heard Him that day, and they were offended. They turned away and walked no more with Him. They did not comprehend the true meaning of Jesus' words and what it really meant to eat His flesh and to drink His blood.

What did Jesus mean, and how can we eat His flesh and drink His blood? It could not be taken literally. We cannot eat literally Christ's physical body. There is a deeper meaning. What is there about Christ that we can eat? The answer is simple, and He literally explains it in Verse 63: "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." Here is the answer: It is His Word and His Spirit that we are to eat of. We must obey and follow His teachings and receive His Spirit into our hearts.

This is the food that endures unto eternal life. We eat of Jesus by hearing and receiving His doctrine and teachings. We drink of Jesus by receiving His Holy Spirit in holy consecration and faith. We must continue in obedience to His Word and be led by His Spirit. We must not be led or influenced by the flesh or the sins of this world. We must eat of Him. We must give ourselves wholly to be like Him. We must partake of His divine nature and keep ourselves unspotted from this present evil world. It is a wonderful thing to give a listening ear to the Word of Christ when it is read, taught, or preached. It is sweet and tasty to the hungry soul. We hear it, we are moved and inspired by it, and we are strengthened with purpose and desire to follow and obey it by the abiding presence of His Spirit in our hearts. This is what He meant by eating His flesh and drinking His blood.

People today are feeding their minds and spirits on so many foreign and soul-destructive things. The lusts of the flesh in adultery, fornication and impurity are being gorged upon by the lustful minds and hearts of the carnal men and women of this world. Oh, that there would be more eating of Christ and His blessed Word and Spirit! Let us eat of His essence. Only through this eating of the Son of God can we have hope of eternal life and being resurrected at the last day.



Serving Christ Acceptably

By Bro. Marvin Moles Jr.

In our new life with Christ Jesus, we have new goals, a new direction and a new outcome. We no longer live the same way we once did. We live for Christ now, and He has rules of character that we are to live by. These rules are stated in God's Word. Here is where we find out what is available to us and what is required. We are now a part of a covenant. What we are looking at today is, how we can be able to do what God asks of us.

In Hebrews 12:28 it says, "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:..." This says that we need grace so that we can serve God acceptably. Grace in this particular passage means, "the divine influence upon the heart and the reflection in the life." So for us to be able to serve God acceptably, we need His divine influence upon our hearts. The reflection of this influence results in a Christ-like character. Just as our character was evil with the influence of the devil on our hearts, so will our character be good and acceptable with God's divine influence upon our hearts. This is something we need if we are to serve Christ acceptably. However, even though this grace is a strength and power, it does not overrule our will. We must apply this grace to our lives and not expect that it will make us do what we should. We provide the will to do, and God provides the means of doing.

Our focus is a big factor in where we are

going. Hebrews 13:9 says, "...Be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein." We need to be sure that we are not focusing on the wrong things—things that will cause us to spin our wheels and not get anywhere. At least they are not getting us where we need to be.

We must have a goal and be sure that it is the right goal. Will it make us more like Christ? Will it make others more like Christ? After our goal is set, then we must stay on track, focusing on that goal. If you are driving and you close your eyes, for even a short time, you lose sight of where you are and how to get where you are going. Keep them closed too long and it may cause you to go completely off the road. Let's be sure to stay focused.

If we look in II Corinthians 12:7-10, we see that Paul had a problem. He calls it a thorn. He sought the Lord about it, and the response was that he could bear it. The Lord basically told him that he could live with it through the grace of God in him. In verse 9, it says that God's grace is sufficient for us, that His strength is made perfect in weakness. In the last part of the 10th verse, Paul says that when he is weak, then is he strong. It is only when we are weak in Christ, realizing that we can do nothing without Him, that we can be strong. When the grace of God has free reign in our heart, then His strength is perfect in us without restraint.

Prayer of a Half-Hearted Christian

Selected by Sis. Ruby Blanchard

I love thy church, O God, Her walls before me stand;
 But please excuse my absence, Lord; This bed is simply grand!
 A charge to keep I have; A God to glorify:
 But, Lord, don't ask for cash from me, Thy glory comes too high.
 Am I a soldier of the cross, a follower of the Lamb?
 Yes, though I seldom pray or pay, I still insist I am.
 Must Jesus bear the cross alone, and all the world go free?
 No! Others, Lord, should do their part, but please don't count on me.
 Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below!
 Oh, loud my hymns of praise I bring, because it doesn't cost to sing!

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES



Single copy, one year \$3.00
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Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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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E D I T O R I A L S

We send Christian greetings to all our readers, trusting that this New Year has dawned upon a risen Savior dwelling in your hearts.

The New Year is a time when people make vows and pledges in an attempt to better their lives. Similarly, the Christian is always looking for some Bible verse or principle of truth to found their life upon so they can be more like Christ.

Here is a familiar verse that we would do well to champion through the coming year. **"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer."** Psalm 19:14.

Our thoughts and words are critical to living a peaceful and productive life. Our mind is where many battles are fought, and we find that as we live according to God's wisdom, we can triumph over the powers of evil which would bring us into bondage.

History tells us how George Washington put to flight King George's army and won our country's freedom. On Christmas night, 1776, he crossed the Delaware River and routed the startled English at Trenton. On January 2, 1777, he again moved under cover of night, outflanked his opponents and launched a surprise attack, winning another crucial Revolutionary battle.

Too often the child of God experiences failure in his Christian life because he is overcome by Satan's onslaught. It is time to change tactics! We must go on the offensive and use the element of surprise. Throughout this coming year, whenever you come under attack, **don't try to match force with force.** The next time someone berates you, refuse to respond with a like battle cry. The Bible offers a different strategy. "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." Prov. 15:1. A soft answer is just the right element of surprise needed to win a battle. Let the meditation of your heart be on how to measure your words, speak softly and show love.



If you are receiving the Faith and Victory for the first time, and did not subscribe for it, it is through the kindness of a friend who requested a subscription for you and paid the cost. We ask that you read this paper with an open heart, and compare it carefully with the teachings of the Bible. Through this means, we

hope you will desire to become a regular subscriber.

We also want to thank everyone who took advantage of the special subscription offer in last month's *Faith and Victory*. We will continue to honor the price of ten names for ten dollars offered on the envelopes sent out last month.

The year of 1998 has the appearance of being a busy time for us here at the Print Shop. It will mark our 75th year of publication and we wish to commemorate it in special ways. For instance:

During 1998 we will offer the book, *God's Gracious Dealings*, for \$4.00. Through this half-price offer, we hope to share how God has faithfully supplied and blessed this publishing work.

Also, the date for the 75th annual workers reunion will soon be announced, and special invitations sent to all living former workers, including those who have grown up around the Print Shop. The invitations will outline the schedule of events and include a reservation form which will need to be mailed back to us so we will know how many people to expect.

Although the work on the New Print Shop has been rather slow, there is progress. Bros. Derek Probst and Phillip Gellenbeck, carpenters in the Guthrie congregation, are selflessly doing the trim and cabinet work.

We are still lacking approximately \$5,000.00 in funding in order to have the new Print Shop adequately prepared for the workers reunion. We estimate a cost of \$73,000.00 needed to complete the building.

A supply of 1998 wall calendars and 1997 yearbooks for both the *Faith and Victory* and *The Beautiful Way* Sunday School papers, are currently in stock. Calendars sell for \$3.00 each, which includes postage and handling, and the *Faith and Victory* yearbook is \$3.50, postpaid. A postpaid copy of *The Beautiful Way* yearbook is available for \$2.00.

There are needs here in the printing work for which we are seeking God's provision. We ask for the prayerful support of our readers that the Gospel may go forth without delay.

We are grateful for each of you who sent us cards during the holiday season. Every token of love was gratefully received. We appreciate the

spirit of kindness so characteristic of God's people. —Wayne Murphey



Partial Listing of Books

A Missionary's Experiences in Mexico by Carrie L. Sheppard. 60 pages, bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50.

A Religious Controversy by C. E. Orr. An 80-page, paperbound book presenting Bible truths in an interesting manner. \$2.00.

Adam Clarke's One Volume Commentary of the Entire Bible 1356 pages. Abridged from original six-volume work. Actual words of Adam Clarke have not been changed, except in a few instances where a word has been inserted in brackets to complete the sense when taken from the original. Price, \$39.99.

Considering Marriage? by Margaretta Kennedy. 12 pages. 50¢.

Courtship and Marriage by Ostis B. Wilson. 12 pages. 50¢.

Cruden's Complete Concordance. Revised edition, clothbound, 783 pages, over 200,000 references. Price, \$18.99.

Egermeier's Bible Story Book for children, illustrated with beautiful colored pictures. 576 pages. Cloth binding. Standard Edition, \$19.95.

Errors of Russellism by J. E. Forrest is a 252-page book bound in a heavy paper cover which gives an explanation of the misconceptions on which the modern day Jehovah's Witness religion is founded. Price, \$4.50.

Evening Light Songs, 538 page hymnal with shaped notes, in cloth binding. Price, \$12.00. For order of 12 or more, a discount of 10% is granted.

Foxe's Book of Martyrs, the records compiled by John Foxe of the lives, sufferings and triumphant deaths of Christian martyrs throughout history. Paper binding, 413 pages. Price, \$11.99.

From Darkness to Light, 20-page booklet by Bro. Mart Samons. 50¢.

Guided by the Unseen Hand, an autobiography by Murphy Allen. 84 pages, bound in a heavy paper cover, \$2.00.

Harry the Newsboy, by Isabel Byrum, a 32-

page book for children, consisting of three separate stories. \$1.00.

Helps to Holy Living by C. E. Ott. Paperbound, 64 pages, \$1.50.

Rainbow Bible for children, in cloth, full-color pictorial cover. Blue edges without zipper, price, \$17.99; with zipper, price, \$19.99.

Streams in the Desert, Volumes 1 and 2 by Mrs. Charles E. Cowman. Hardback books. Price, \$14.99. Specify volume number.

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Entire Bible, the only complete concordance of the English Bible. Lists each word in the King James Version, and includes a dictionary of the Hebrew Bible and the Greek New Testament. Price, \$29.99.

The Church of God by D. S. Warner. 24 pages in heavy paper binding. 75¢.

The Dangers of Ben-onies by Richard Newton. Taken from a sermon preached to boys and girls. 24 pages. 50¢.

The Great Physician by Mrs. Lucie Newman. Faith-inspiring, true story of a miraculous healing. 32 pages. \$1.00.

The Heavenly Footman by John Bunyan, the author of *Pilgrim's Progress*. 32 pages bound in a heavy paper cover. Price. \$1.00.

The Secret of Salvation by E. E. Byrum. Bound in heavy paper, 264 pages. \$5.00.

The Sin of Trifling by Mrs. Sam Barton. A 32-page book for those who are thinking of marriage. \$1.00.

Tim and His Lamp, re-written by Sis. Fern Stubblefield. 52 pages, excellent for children and young people. Paper cover, \$1.50.

Touching Incidents and Remarkable Answers to Prayer. Children's edition, many pictures, paper cover, 135 pages. Price, \$3.00.

Was the Devil Ever in Heaven? by O. B. Wilson. Clear Bible answer in paper cover, 32 pages. Price, \$1.00.



Send your orders to: FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044.

For postage and handling, add \$1.00 for the first dollar of the total order, and 10¢ for each additional dollar of the total order.

prayer



REQUESTS

AR—Sis. Ethel Worrell has been seriously injured in a fall and needs the saint's prayers.

IL—"Please remember me in prayer. I am diabetic. Also pray for my children and grandchildren. We all need the prayers of the saints."

—Elise Offerman

LA—"Please hold me up in prayer."

—Sis. Gladys Cashio

KS—"Please pray for the health of my wife."

—Bro. Lee Prichard



your



LETTERS

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

I pray for all the prayer requests that are in the *Faith and Victory* paper, and also for those who have lost their loved ones. May the dear Lord give them strength in their time of sorrow.

Jesus is the lover of our souls and I love my Jesus. He is so sweet and kind. When we cry, He is there to comfort us because He cares for us. What a wonderful God!

I thank all of you that pray for me. I sure need a healing touch and your prayers are very precious to me!

My love and prayers, —Sis. Olive Getterson

IN—Dear friends: I can't begin to express my appreciation for all you have done for us during the last few months. Many people sent cards, offerings, made phone calls and offered up many prayers. Everything was greatly appreciated and we say, "Thank you so much."

God heard the prayers of His people and gave us a miracle. On September 3, James, my

17 year old son, was severely beaten by two young men. When they could not kill him by beating and stomping his head, they tried to strangle him with a belt. But God did not allow them to end James' life. We don't know all the details, but according to the police report, it was nine to twelve hours before an ambulance was called. But God was looking after him.

He was unconscious for five days and in intensive care for seven days. He had traumatic brain injury, damage to one eye and one ear, a broken jaw and a tear in the jugular vein caused by the belt. But thank the Lord, James has made a remarkable recovery. He has been dismissed from all therapy. His eyesight is normal in both eyes. His hearing is good and his jaw has healed very well. The vein in his neck has healed and does not give him any trouble. They gave him a neurological battery of tests to assess brain damage and it seems he is fine. If you were to talk to him, you would not know anything ever happened.

At first they didn't know if he would live. Then they didn't know how much damage was done. But God showed us His power in that He healed him. We can't praise Him enough. Jesus' power is still the same today as it was 2,000 years ago. Satan wanted James' soul, but I am so glad God didn't allow that. Please pray for James that he will give his heart and life over to the Lord.

Thank you all again for your love, concern and prayers, and for standing with us in this battle.

—Kay Anderson

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OK—I want everyone to know how much I appreciate their care and concern. Many have written and called, and have been so good to me. All my bones are now healed, my casts are off and I am beginning to walk. It is just so amazing the way the Lord has healed me!

—Sis. Dora Doolittle

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India—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus Christ.

Thank you very much, from the bottom of my heart, for the continuous providing of the wonderful spiritual, Christian magazine, *Faith and Victory*.

I am happy to let you know how I got your address, after a decade of silence. I came across my father's old diary in which the address was scribbled at the back. My beloved father was a

committed evangelist, who preached in remote, undeveloped villages. My dear father, who was a dedicated Christian, won the souls of many and he was promoted to glory and is now enjoying the joys of heaven.

I was a destined successor, as my father desired me to carry on his work. As a result of this, I gathered some of the spiritually, like-minded Christians and chalked out a blueprint to reach rural communities....We hope hundreds of the believers will pray for our rural evangelism.

We are praying for you and for the magazine ministry.

Your brother in Christ, —Bro. K. Alfred

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AZ—Dear folks at *Faith and Victory*: Thank you for sending my paper even though my subscription had lapsed. I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* very much, and many times its arrival is "right on time" to really bless me in a time of need. I particularly enjoy the testimonials and read them to an elderly friend by phone. We are both always blessed.

Thank you for your work.

Blessings to you in the name of Jesus Christ,

—Jim Oakley

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AL—Dear saints: It has been some time since I have written to you. I trust all is well. I am still trusting God for the healing of my eyes. I need your prayers.

I have a great grandson in South Korea. He is in the army. Please remember him in your prayers.

—Mary Johnson

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IN—Dear ones at Faith Publishing House: I sure enjoy the good that is in your paper which I receive each month. May God bless each one who works each day to make it possible.

I am 83 years old, a widow and I have arthritis pretty bad. My son needs prayer also....

May God bless each one with a happy new year.

God is coming back soon for some of us, and I want to be ready to meet Him.

Yours in Christian love, —Mary J. Rogers

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FL—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Just a few lines to wish you and all the workers in the Print Shop a blessed Christmas and a prosperous new year.

I thank the Lord for the *Faith and Victory* paper. It is so uplifting to read the truth and the

news about the missionary efforts; also, to pray for the sick.

God bless you all, —Judith Klokner

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KY—Dear ones in Christ: We send greetings of Christian love in the name of the Holy Child, Jesus. At the time of year when we honor His birth, may we worship Him in spirit and in truth, not with pomp and show. Many people don't give a serious thought as to why that Baby was born and laid in a manger. We do thank God for His goodness and mercy to mankind. We love Him with our whole hearts, and our greatest desire is to please Him with our lives and make heaven our home.

We trust you all have a blessed Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year. We desire your prayers.

Christian love,
—Curtis and Burnice Williams

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KY—Dear workers at the Print Shop: May God bless you and your work. He will be by our side all the way if we but ask Him. There are times that I feel God is carrying me through my trials and sickness.

Recently my husband had pneumonia and was very ill. Since he is 85 years old, there was a great danger of losing him. But of all the prayers that went out for him, I feel the prayers of our little great-grandson was the one that touched the throne of God. He had asked his mother, "Mom, how can I pray for Papa Guy so that God will let him live? I don't want him to die." This small boy is only 5 years old.

His mother told him, "Kneel down by my side and repeat what I say."

The little fellow did what his mother told him to do and as soon as I heard of his precious prayers, I knew God would answer. And just as sure as my belief was for his healing, God did lift him up. How could we not serve such a wonderful God? I love and trust my Lord completely.

Please remember all my family when you pray.

God bless you each one, —Wilma Horsley

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WV—Dear ones: Thank you for the book, *Moral Law*. I am so thankful for the privilege of having been in some wonderful meetings here at Green Bank, WV, with Bro. Clifford Wilson.

It seems like just yesterday since Bro. Willie Murphey was here years ago with his daughter,

and stayed with me and held a meeting at Cass, WV. I am 72 years old now, and very glad to see the truth, so that I can see where I am going in this wicked world.

I wish all a happy holiday.
—Bro. Lloyd B. Cassell

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OK—Dear Brother Wayne and workers: Greetings of love to all, in the lovely name of Jesus! It is that time of year when our hearts and thoughts are directed more ardently toward the reality of the birth of God's dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom we know even today as our Lord and Master. What a privilege to serve *One of such magnitude*. We are unable to comprehend the full impact of His coming down to this sinful world. Where would we be today if He had not come?

Moreover, just to think what the world would be like today, if Jesus *had been* fully accepted as the promised "Messiah," from the time of His birth until now. What a wonderful world it would be! But today we are still recipients of the greatest gift of all time. Jesus was sent by God His Father, as a *personal gift* to you and me! How could it be that God would look down upon one so small as I, and be willing to sacrifice His only Son on that cruel cross of Calvary, that even I might have eternal life with Him. I think of a song that says words such as, "If I were the only one to redeem, I believe He'd go to Calvary for me." How can we love Him enough?

We surely do appreciate the printed pages and pray the Lord to bless each of you there in the work of the Lord. I am happy for the new facilities as they become a reality, for efficiency in promoting the gospel message. May the Lord continue His blessings there for as many years as the world stands.

Sincerely in the love of Jesus, —Eva Probst

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TX—Dear Bro. Wayne: I am rejoicing this morning. I had a severe pain in my back for over a year. It was a constant pain. Praise God I got my healing last week. I made sure I was completely healed before I wrote you with my testimony. I thank every person who prayed for me. Praise God your prayers were answered! I thank You, Jesus!

We can never lift up the name of Jesus enough. He is worthy of our praise. He went to Mount Calvary for you and me. He paid the price for sins and it is our obligation to spread His

Word far and wide. There needs to be a burning desire in each of us to get on the firing line for Jesus! Jesus is our Lord and Savior....

I am 73 years old and God has brought me out of things that seem unreal. He brought me from the deathbed when my son was born. I could go on and on, counting my many, many blessings which my God has bestowed on me down through the years.

May God's blessings be with you,
—Rhoda Smith

OR—Dear Bro. and Sis. Murphey: Greetings across the long miles to your house from ours. The Lord has been real good to us and we thank Him for the many blessings He has sent our way.

I appreciate your labors for God, and the *Faith and Victory* continues to be an encouragement and blessing to me.

Christian love, —Ruby and Ken Hutchinson

AZ—Dear Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary: I appreciate receiving the *Faith and Victory* paper very much. The articles are inspiring, and so are the letters from people sharing what God has done in their lives. What a wonderful God we serve! He is continuously faithful in His mercies to us. We praise His holy name.

As the Christmas season approaches, we will celebrate His birthday and look forward to His next appearing with anticipation. May God bless you in your ministry for the Lord.

Sincerely in Christ, —Pauline Ducharme

OK—Dear ones working in the Faith Publishing House: I thank you for carrying on God's work.

The *Faith and Victory* paper has improved over the years, in my opinion, and still teaches and publishes the truth, not adding to or taking away any of the Bible. It rightly divides the Word, guided by the Holy Spirit. Praise the Lord....

Pray that I will ever stay in God's path of righteousness. You never get too old for the devil to try to tempt you. Fasting and praying is our only solution.

Yours in Christ, —Moslette Kern

TX—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings to you and the saints, and grace be unto you all in the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray this letter will find all of you in good health and in good spirit.

Today finds me magnifying the Lord, Jesus Christ, with all my heart. It is truly a blessing to be restored back into the fold of the Lord. I stand in awe as I look back from where the Lord brought me. The devil had blinded my mind about going to hell. I knew I might get killed, but it slipped my mind that if I died in my sins I would be lost forever in a lake of fire. So this is why that in my heart I stand in awe.

After being here in this prison I can really appreciate the truth. There are so many deceived people here, such as skin heads, Islamic, etc. So we have a serious situation here, and that's why they are fighting so hard about the gospel tracts coming in here. They have threatened to physically fight us. The Lord has given me I Peter 4:12-19, so I am encouraged in the Lord and am still battling for souls in here in prison. So continue to pray for me that I will be faithful until death. —Bro. Jackie Riley


OR—Faith Publishing House: I am happy to report that I got healed of a kidney problem and also an injury to my ribs. Later I fell and injured a knee for which I need prayer. My left arm has also been giving me trouble.

I am glad to hear of others who have been healed through prayer.

Christian love, —Juanita Jenkins

OR—Dear friends: God is surely visiting His people! God has answered prayer for me. I had to move, but I have a nice place which is closer to work...Thank you for all your prayers! May He grant you all your hearts' desires.

—Sis. Betty Culp

Mission  REPORTS

From Nigeria...

October 13, 1997—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and the chosen vessels of God: Greetings in the matchless name of Jesus, the source of every precious thing. Praise Him forever!

We are pressing on faithfully and courageously. Of a truth, obstacles and difficulties do

arise, but they are being subdued with a smile of faith and are being treated as inevitable. It is impossible, we believe, to wear the great diadem without passing through great tribulations. Come what may, with the gradual coming of the morning light, the night surely will disappear. So we shine and keep sweet to maintain the mark of dependable soldiers. We have oil in our lamps and in His name shall shine until the break of the day.

This writer is grateful to a couple in the U. S. for sending funds for the repair of his car. The engine of the car is now in perfect condition, as all the parts have been replaced with new ones. However, many more problems outside of the engine are still outstanding. Our eyes are upon the Lord for provision. Pray with us along this line. Whoever is touched to feel for this need should mail such an offering to Bro. Wayne Murphey for transmission to us. Do not send funds directly to us. This is the only car we have for the use of the congregations. Let us love unselfishly, a love which does not seek for any return. The Lord will bless the saints for the liberal-mindedness and catholicity of sympathy.

All of the congregations here are spiritually healthy. We are holding, at all times, as first priority, our membership of the city of God.

Yours in His army, —Titus U. E. Enu



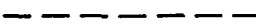
From India...

November 14, 1997—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear brothers and sisters in America: Greetings to you again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ. I was sorry to know about the sad condition of Sis. Dora Doolittle who was involved in a car wreck. I pray for her comfort and relief.

Fasting and prayer meetings, baptism and ordinance services are going on at Kothamangalam this week. Activities to spread the gospel are going on fine in all congregations.

Please pray for the blessings and needs of our 33rd General Convention which starts on January 7, 1998. Our prayers are for the saints in America.

Yours in Him, —John Varghese



From Mexico...

October 25, 1997—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and collaborators: I greet you in the holy and precious name of our beloved Savior, Jesus Christ, hoping you are in good health and

encouraged to live for the Lord. That is my greatest wish and desire. (Colossians 1:12-13.)

It is a joy to be able to write and tell you that the Lord is very great. We can see His grace and mercy at work in our lives. When we approach God in humility and prayer, the Lord immediately shows us Satan's plan for us. And to discover Satan's plan is to prepare his defeat.

With joy I tell you that since I was at the Pacoima, CA, camp meeting, God has blessed me very much. Today I give thanks to God with all my heart.

A good deal of people generally come to church here on Sundays, and many of them have approached the altar in search of salvation or of sanctifying their lives. Some are still encouraged to live for the Lord.

We are now having regular services, as well as Bible studies for couples and adults. This has been a blessing to all. We have also been visiting hospitals, and in some of them we have been able to share the Word of God. We have also been able to take care of some people at home. This has been a good experience, for I know from what they have expressed, and what I have seen, that the hand of God has been in motion.

Unfortunately, some people have made their transition to eternity but God has poured His blessings of strength and consolation to those left behind.

So we thank God for His help and blessings. The congregation has not faltered and continues onward. Come what may, we shall go forward by God's help.

I want to express my deep gratitude to the saints who have always prayed for us and showed their love. May God keep them and bless them abundantly. Please forgive me if I have offended or failed you in anyway, for I wish to have a true communion so that we may show the world that God is really with us. (I Thessalonians 5:8-13, 16-26.)

With Christian love and prayers,
—Mayarino Escobar and family



“Be a person's motive ever so good, unless he confines his efforts to his calling he is liable to be a failure. A river is most beneficial when it quietly steals along in its own channel, although it is not so much noticed, nor makes as much noise as when it flows over its banks and floods the valley. Let every one abide in the calling to which God has called him, and success is assured.” —J. Grant Anderson



In

MEMORIAM

Cecil Lynn Carver was born May 24, 1923, to Cecil and Mae Carver, both children of Church of God ministers, in Leesville, LA. He was raised in Shreveport, LA, in a God-fearing home, and was shown the example of great faith which he incorporated into his life for God. Lynn was blessed with musical abilities which he enhanced by study and practice, and he used his talent in the Lord's work by leading singing and making many recordings with his family.

Lynn married Alma Mitchell on June 15, 1943, and was immediately sent to India as a non-arms bearing conscientious objector in World War II. He spent two years overseas doing bookkeeping, working mail and leading the squadron rebuilding aircraft engines. Lynn and Alma had two children, Sharon Carver and Lenette Carver Melot. Lynn lived an unselfish life of generosity, care and devotion to his family and church. He spent his life supporting the work of God and was an example of a true godly gentleman. He retired from his post as Civil Service Examiner of the United States Post Office after 43 years of service.

After the death of his wife, Alma, in 1987, he married Audrey Forbes Henry in 1988, and added another daughter, Jeannine, and her family to his life. Lynn and Audrey moved to Baton Rouge, LA, in 1991, and he encouraged and taught the congregation there the last six years of his life. He died peacefully in sleep on November 27, 1997, leaving to cherish his memory, his wife, Audrey; children, Sharon Carver, Lenette and Jerry Melot, Jeannine and Claude Ogden; grandchildren, Cheryl and Phillip Cole, Alan Melot, Stephanie Stafford, Erich Ogden and Amy Ogden; great-grandchildren, Jacqueline Cole and Will Stafford; brothers, Arnett Carver and John Harlan Carver and their families.

Fern Mildred Stubblefield was born to Amon and Dora Fortner, in Pomona, CA on Feb. 13, 1920, and passed from this life on Dec. 21, 1997, from her home in Guthrie, OK.

In January of 1946, Fern married Alton

Stubblefield and lived in California for two years, after which they moved to Oklahoma where they resided until their deaths. To this union one daughter, Anna, was born.

Bro. Alton went to be with the Lord on Dec. 12, 1989.

Fern gave her heart to the Lord at an early age and became a member of the Church of God. She labored for the Lord in different capacities, most recently in an active ministry of correspondence with isolated Christians across the nation.

Fern had five brothers and one sister, all who have preceded her in death except for the youngest brother, Herb Fortner of OR.

She is also survived by her daughter and son-in-law, John and Anna Sisk; three grandchildren, Carla, Lynn and Stan, and two great grandchildren, Chris and Carlton.

Graveside services were held Tuesday morning, Dec. 22, at the Fairview Cemetery, Shawnee, OK, conducted by Bro. Wayne Murphey and Bro. Ed Wilson.



QUESTION AND ANSWER
BY
BRO. OSTIS B. WILSON
Reprint

(Continued from last month.)

QUESTION: Please give us a lesson on how to raise our children and teach and train them.

ANSWER: There are some cases, and perhaps we all know some, where the parents need to discipline themselves and get themselves well in hand before they even start in on disciplining and correcting their children. The same God who inspired Solomon to write these texts of instruction in the Scriptures in regard to our chastising and correcting our children, also inspired the Apostle Paul to write this warning and admonition in the Holy Scriptures: "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4. "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." Colossians 3:21. Ah, fathers and mothers, let us seek God earnestly to enable us to more clearly and deeply understand the extent and depth of our responsibility and authority with our children, that when it is necessary to



chastise them, we may do so in the meekness and gentleness of Christ and not in severity and sharpness.

Adam Clarke says in regard to provoking to anger, "If a father punishes his child in severity and sharpness, the child will only be hardened in his sin." One man was whipping his boy in severity and harshness and asked the boy if he knew why he was doing this, and the boy said, "Yes, it is because you are mad and you are bigger than I am." Here is a fair example of a child being hardened in his resentment through his punishment. Sternness and severity seldom work any good purpose with children. There must be a lot of meekness and love in our chastisements and corrections if they are to be effective.

I remember a time when my own two boys had been guilty of what to me was a heinous crime of misbehaving and making a disturbance in the worship service at the chapel. I took them both down to the bedroom and talked with them a little about how bad a thing that was and how desecrating

that was to the worship and service of God, and that I could not by any means pass over a thing like that. I prayed with them and then soundly spanked them. As soon as I finished with that, I just dropped down between them, and broke out crying and sobbing. Both those boys began to love and pat me and say, "Oh, Daddy, don't do that. Don't cry, Daddy. It's all right, we're going to be good boys." Perhaps that little episode did more good for those boys than any other correction I ever gave them.

I can remember my father's dealings with me in the matter of chastisements. He never jumped at me in an agitated way nor approached me harshly or sternly. Sometimes he would pray over it for two or three days. Then he would take me down to the barn and talk to me and pray with me awhile; then he would give me a genuinely sound switching. All the time he was just as calm as if we were eating ice cream. There was no trace of agitation, sternness or harshness. I can never remember a time when my father would chastise me that I did not feel closer drawn to him than before.

As your children grow older, be a pal with them. As they show interests and tendencies to certain activities—hunting, fishing, playing ball, etc.—provide them with the essentials and equipment for those activities they are interested in. Provide time, on your part, to go with them occasionally on outings for hunting, fishing, camping, playing, etc. Let them lead the way in this, for if you don't, you may be planning things for them which they have no interest in and do not like. You may not enjoy the particular thing

your boy or girl does, but that is just one among many points in which you may need to deny yourself and your own likes and dislikes in order to be a good parent to your children.

This is something I did not do enough of. I found out later, when it was too late to bless the lives of my children, how much I should have done this to keep a hold on my children. Anytime I would come along where my boys were playing ball and enter in and throw a few balls or catch a few, no matter who or how many other boys were around, my boys would just pull out and start playing ball with me as they did not get to do this very often. That manifested the hunger they had for Daddy to share their activities with them. I did not, at the time, realize the importance of this, but now give this kind of advice and counsel to all parents with young children. In fact, since my children have all been grown and established in homes of their own, I have talked with all of them and acknowledged that I had not been the father to them that I should have been when they were growing up, in that I did



not spend enough time with them and participate enough with them in the activities they were the most interested in, and asked forgiveness for this shortcoming.

In schools they have a "Father and Son" banquet, and other "Father and Son" activities. They expect the boys to bring their fathers on these occasions. When your boy comes to you and lets you know one of these times is coming up on a certain date, it will make him stand tall and help to create a closer relationship between you and him if you will just say, "All right, son, you can count on me. I will cancel all plans I have for that evening and be available to you." It makes your son feel important and adds dignity to his life.

Now to use a phrase from the world's vernacular, "Learn to roll with the punches." Change

your tactics as your children get older. You cannot deal with them in the same way you could when they were smaller. They are developing and you must develop too if you are to maintain a close relationship with them and keep your hold on them through that period of their lives when they need you the most. Study out different methods of dealing with them, and note carefully which are the most effective. This is the time when you need to develop as close a pal relationship with them as possible. Go places with them, do things with them as much as possible. Above all else, maintain a good, close relationship with God. Pray much and earnestly for God to give you courage, ability, wisdom, grace and faith to be able to pilot your children through this very difficult and important time of their youth.

Divine Preparation

By

Sis. Angela Gellenbeck

We often fill with wonder as we hear the story told
How Daniel bravely faced the den of lions;
He chose to stand against the king with courage grand
and bold,

And prayed to God each day with face toward Zion.

We also stand amazed to think of David, young and
brave,

Who faced with sling and stone the mighty giant.
He never had a doubt but what His God would surely
save

From Goliath, with a victory triumphant.

We need to keep in memory the fact that God had
blessed

With victory so many times before,
Each time they were obedient and faithful to the test,
It gave them grace and courage more and more.

Indeed, they each could not have stood with such a
fearless grace

Without the preparation God had given;
For when they proved Him faithful even in the
smallest place,

He blessed them with unfailing strength from heaven.

The bear—the lion—David killed, in self-forgetting
style;

His only thought was for his flock's protection.

These victories gave him courage when he met the
bigger trial,

He went and conquered under God's direction.

Had Daniel not so nobly made a purpose in his heart
To keep himself from Babylon's defilement,

And made a separation from the world right from the
start,

He never would have had such wise discernment.

He never could have told the king his dreams and all
their meaning,

He then could not have stood up to Belshazzar;
And then Darius' lion's den with angels intervening
Would not be there to give our hearts such pleasure.

Lest we forget that God forsees the battles of the
future,

And always give His people preparation,

Let's keep in mind the scene of little David in his
pasture,

And Daniel's vow to godly separation.

"Be faithful in the little things" was Jesus' wise
instruction,

"For I will make you ruler in things greater."

Let's never underestimate the worth of preparation;
Obedience in small things brings the vict'ry that
comes later.

What some men have said about RESOLUTIONS...

"I'm proof against that word failure. I've seen behind it. The only failure a man ought to fear is failure in cleaving to the purpose he sees to be best." —George Eliot

"If we have need of a strong will in order to do good, it is still more necessary for us in order not to do evil." —Thomas Mole

"If we are but fixed and resolute—bent on high and holy ends, we shall find means to them on every side and at every moment; and even obstacles and opposition will but make us 'like the fabled spectre-ships, which sail the fastest in the very teeth of the wind.'" —Tyron Edwards

"A man with a half-volition goes backwards and forwards, and makes no way on the smoothest road; a man with a whole volition advances on the roughest, and will reach his purpose, if there be even a little wisdom in it."

—Thomas Carlyle

"It is very well to tell me that a young man has distinguished himself by a brilliant first speech. He may go on, or he may be satisfied with his first triumph; but show me a young man who has not succeeded at first, and nevertheless has gone on, and I will back that young man to do better than most of those who have succeeded at the first trial." —Charles Fox

"Good resolutions are a pleasant crop to sow. The seed springs up so readily, and the blossoms open so soon with such a brave show, especially at first. But when the time of flowers has passed, what as to the fruit?"

—Lucas Malet

"The man without a purpose is like a ship without a rudder—a waif, a nothing, a no man. Have a purpose in life, and, having it, throw such strength of mind and muscle into your work as God has given you." —Thomas Carlyle

"Great works are performed, not by strength, but by perseverance. He that shall walk, with vigor, three hours a day, will pass, in seven years, a space equal to the circumference of the globe." —Ben Johnson

"The nerve which never relaxes—the eye which never blanches—the thought which never wanders—the purpose that never wavers—these are the masters of victory." —Anonymous

"A good intention clothes itself with power."

—Ralph Emerson

Though the Lord be High

By Mary Murphey

A brother stood up in church one Wednesday night and shared this scripture from the book of Psalms:

“Though the Lord be high,
yet has he respect unto the lowly.”

The verse was especially impressive to me because of a book I had been reading which documented the personal lives of the presidents and first families.

In it, the author described how one newly elected president turned aside a trooper’s request for an autographed photo of himself.

“I don’t have time for that . . . (expletive),” the trooper quoted the president as saying. The author of the book went on to describe this response as a “stunning commentary” on the president’s character.

This incident came to mind as I thought about the scripture from Psalms, and along with it, the memory of a quote which says, “A snob is an inferior person, with a superiority complex.”

Personalize the incident above by putting yourself in the place of the trooper. Imagine the pleasure of serving the highest ranking official in the United States and seeing what you regard as a wonderful opportunity to obtain a signed photograph to cherish and pass on to your children and grandchildren.

Instead of realizing this hope, you are subjected to not only a refusal of your request, but a demeaning rebuff. You will have no picture to present to your children, but you will have a story to tell. However, not one likely to endear any of them to the nation’s leader.

From a strictly political perspective, was this not a poor move on the part of the president? By indulging the trooper in a momentary courtesy, the president may have

won a supporter for life, or at least created a warm memory.

As it stands now, the only “warmth” of that encounter is probably the hot flush reddening the trooper’s face whenever he recalls the treatment he received.

Compare the action of the president to the courteous conduct of the following. For instance, Diana, the late Princess of Wales.

From the multitude of coverage recounting her life, I recall a particular incident one photographer captured on film, as Diana scurried through an airport, attempting to avoid the cameramen pursuing her. The princess held a tennis racket in front of her face as a shield against the constant flash of cameras, but this did not prevent her from catching glimpse of a little girl, quietly clutching a bouquet of flowers, and waiting hopefully for the opportunity to hand them to the princess.

Diana stopped, smiled graciously, and bent to speak a few words as she accepted and acknowledged the token of the child’s admiration.

It is almost certain the little girl will remember and treasure that moment forever, for she, a commoner, was treated royally by royalty.

And this is the kind of treatment our Lord offers to each of us, no matter our station in life.

Christ’s regard for the lowly is illustrated in Mark 10:13-16, where a group of mothers attempted to bring their small children to Him for a blessing. The disciples around Jesus rebuked the mothers and tried to send them away.

What did Christ do? The scripture says, “When Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said, “Allow the little children to come to me, and forbid them not: for of such is the

“It is almost certain the little girl will remember and treasure that moment forever, for she, a commoner, was treated royally by royalty.”

kingdom of God.” The text goes on to say, “He took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.”

I love that story, for it reveals the tenderness of Almighty God, and offers assurance that no one is too small to be significant in His eyes. Compare how the Creator of the universe regards the lowly, as opposed to how men sometimes treat their subordinates.

A stanza from a poem entitled, *Nobility*, by Alice Cary, expresses the truth of this matter well.

True worth is in *being*, not *seeming*—
In doing, each day that goes by,
Some little good—not in dreaming
Of great things to do by and by,
For whatever men say in their blindness,
And spite of the fancies of youth,
There’s nothing so kingly as kindness,
And nothing so royal as truth.

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Excerpts Taken From Jan., 1973 *Faith and Victory*

“On Saturday, Nov. 25, during the Hammond, LA Assembly Meeting, many saints and friends, including our group from Guthrie, attended the wedding of Bro. Robert Sallee and Sis. Irma Gayle Doolittle. The event was held in the Zemurry Park building in Hammond.

“Bro. Randall and Sis. June Flynn and their children from Hammond, LA, arrived in Guthrie on December 14, with their truckload of furniture. Their coming is an answer to prayer, and in response to a direct call from God to Bro. Randall Flynn to fill the need for another printer-pressman here in the Lord’s Print Shop. Bro. Randall, the son of Sis. Alta Flynn and the late Bro. O. D. Flynn of Loranger, LA, has had several years experience in the printing trade, and his consecrated talents will increase the production of gospel literature which is urgently needed. We appreciate Bro. and Sis. Herbert Probst coming with them to help drive and get them situated in their home.

“We are pleased to report that the Lord has led Bro. Leslie Busbee to take the pastorate of the Guthrie congregation. He assumed his full-time duties on November 19 when he and his wife, Sylvia, and their four children arrived from Bartlett, KS. Their coming is another answer to prayer.”

—Lawrence Pruitt