

FAITH AND VICTORY

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Nearer, My God, to Thee

Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee;
 E'en though it be a cross That raiseth me;
 Still all my song shall be, Nearer, my God, to Thee.

Tho' like a wanderer, Daylight all gone,
 Darkness be over me, My rest a stone,
 Yet in my dreams I'd be, Nearer, my God, to Thee.

There let the way appear, Steps up to heav'n;
 All that Thou sendest me, In mercy giv'n;
 Angels to beckon me, Nearer, my God, to Thee.

Then with my waking tho'ts, Bright with Thy praise,
 Out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;
 So by my woes to be, Nearer, my God, to Thee.

Or if on joyful wing, Cleaving the sky,
 Caught up to meet my King, Swiftly I fly,
 Still all my song shall be, Nearer, my God, to Thee.
 —Sarah F. Adams

Draw Nigh to God

By Bro. Adriel Bowman

Psalm 17:8, says "Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings." The psalmist envisions a place of shelter and hiding, a place of comfort where he can withdraw from the dangers and threatening circumstances of this life. He recognizes that this place of protection is in close proximity to God, so close that he considers it under the figurative wings of God. In this place, he is hidden in the shadow and will avoid exposure to the enemy. Psalm 57:1, says, "Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast." David here is expressing directly to God that while his soul, his innermost, essential being is trusting in God, he is imploring, pleading for God to be merciful to him.

In the second part of the verse, he voices his intention to make his way into that recognized place of shelter, right by the side of God, in the protective shadow of God's presence and remain there until the troubles and distresses are past. David found a secret here, the place of God's residence. It is a spiritual place of closeness to God. It is a place where one's trust in God's providence and provision affords protection from destruction by the emotional distresses of life. It is a place where God can manifest His ability to control circumstances beyond man's control. It is a place of respite from the struggles of life. In the overshadowing presence of God one can be renewed, nurtured and strengthened. This is the place where the

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man of God receives instruction, guidance and encouragement as he continues in the godly path of life.

There are times when we feel a special need to go to this place of special consolation because of distresses, burdens and temptations in life. Certainly, we should make the effort in our spirit to withdraw from the cares of life and enter into the overshadowing presence of God at these times. God's presence is continually available to us. We should not neglect or procrastinate, but immediately avail ourselves of the consolation of God whenever we feel the need.

There are times when we don't recognize any particular distress, temptation or burden and our lives, quite frankly, seem to be going quite well, but God begins to draw us toward Himself. Again, we should not hesitate to go, for He is able to see problems beyond our horizon that we cannot see. He knows when we need something special from Him in our souls long before the storm approaches.

Truly it is in the shadow of God's wings that we find the provision of His protection from discouragement, despair and defeat.

In Matthew 23:37-38, Jesus said "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." Many times God sought to draw His chosen people of the holy city, in Old Testament times, back from their idolatries. They felt self-sufficient and without need. So, after numerous warnings and a final forsaking of the offering of salvation grace by Christ, they were left desolate, without God, to fend for themselves and ultimately be ravished by their enemy. Surely we must accept God's provision for grace, spiritual health, strength and protection or we too will face defeat as we struggle alone and with all our might against the enemy of our souls.



Abundance or Want

Sis. Retha Cole

Mark 12:41 And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.

42 And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.

43 And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:

44 For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

Here Jesus was, quietly sitting and watching people. All sorts of people! These people had a purpose and a duty to fulfill. They were paying their tithes; a law that had been given from God to Moses.

Jesus saw the rich men coming. Who were these rich men?

38 And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the market places,

39 And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feast:

40 Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation."

To be a scribe meant that you were very educated and wealthy. If you could read and write, then you naturally would have a higher status in the financial and political realm. It meant you were a reader and an interpreter of the law to the common people. The scribes also wrote the law. They were of a learned class in ancient Israel through New Testament times, who studied the Scriptures and served as copiers, editors, teachers and jurors.

These scribes are the people that Jesus is watching while He sits next to the treasury. They stroll up the temple steps, parading one by one past the treasury. What a sight! With flowing robes and solemn demeanor, they demand attention and respect! They each take their careful, deliberate time in pouring out their money...their "MUCH."

Jesus still sat watching. There she is, the poor widow woman. Her head is bowed low. Her

shoulders sag from some hidden burden. A heavy heart saddens her eyes. Her clothes are of the drab, dark colors of one in mourning; they too bear the load of much wear. She is walking quietly and quickly as if she desires to go unnoticed.

She timidly walks up the steps to the treasury. Almost lost amid the din, she drops in her two mites and silently exits. "TWO MITES?!!!"

43 Jesus said..."this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:

44 For all they did cast in of their "ABUNDANCE"; and she of her "WANT"....

My "abundance" has little value to the Lord! "Oh, but I teach, I pray, I preach, I sing, I do so many good "works," I have such "wisdom," I testify...." Those are good things to do and have. They are expected of those professing Godliness, but the Lord also desires that I give of my "want."

What do I "want?"

Love! Then the Lord waits for me to give my "two mites" of love! But I'm poor...I don't even have the love I need...I'm destitute...I'm impoverished. Then give of your "want." You DO have "two mites" worth of love!

Joy! The Lord gives me blessings, but lets me know it's up to me to give of my "two mites" to be joyfull!

Peace! The Lord permits affliction to come to my household. The waves are tossing wildly, the wind is blowing furiously...I am really scared...I am being tormented with all the fears...! Then give of your "want," give of your "two mites."

Long-suffering! The Lord allows me to be confronted with the same hurts, from the same source, over and over and over again! Lord, I've already forgiven them seven times for this. Jesus said, "Seventy times seven." (Matt. 18:22.)

Patience! The Lord placed some tribulations in my life. But I need patience...not THIS!!! Patience is a by-product of tribulations...it isn't granted...it is earned.

Gentleness! I have always admired people who are so gentle with the words from their lips and the actions they portray! Yes, I want to be gentle! The Lord allows me the chance to start with my husband...with my children. Lord, you see how the boys have been on my nerves ALL day...! You have "two mites" worth...give it!

Faith! The faith like our Lord had...faith of Jesus Christ! Lord, increase my faith!!! Faith to

NOT doubt ANY thing that I am asked to go through! Faith to live a life with EVERY care cast upon Him! Lord, increase my faith! Give of your "want"...you DO have "two mites" worth of faith! "...have faith as a grain of mustard seed..." Matt. 17:20.

Humility! Then the Lord allows someone to come into my path and embarrass me...to "walk" on me. I'm broke...I'm penniless. Then give the smile that you didn't think was there. Give the hug that you didn't think you could provide. "But it would destroy me to give that much...."

Temperance! Lord, You see ALL the areas that I am tempted to react in...I realize I must stay in step with You to be reasonable...to be temperate! But Lord, I'm almost to fall...I'm destitute...it's so easy to react in this situation...I'm needy! Give of your "want!!!" Stay calm and..."press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:14.

44 ...but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

The widow woman could have allowed the fears of reality to stop her from giving..."this is all the money I have...I need to buy food, pay my rent...this is all I have to survive on..." Oh, but thank the Lord...she gave of her "want!!!"

For the blessing of the Lord to be on our lives and to be a blessing to the church or to mankind in general, we must give of our "want" and we will reap of His favor and "abundance."



Christian Living, Not Feeling

Life denotes action. When all action ceases we conclude that there is death. The Christian life is more than a profession or an ideality; it is doing. Sometimes when people are asked if they are Christians, they answer, "I feel that I am." It is not the feeling that determines whether we are Christians, it is the doing. And it is not the few greater things we may do that make life of such great value, but the daily doing of the smaller things.

"Let us then be up and doing."

Actions speak louder than words. Words are not so loud but that their sound may die away, but actions never die. They live in the character of the actor, and they also leave their imprint on the character of another. Character will last eternally.

—C. E. O.

The Gospel Trumpet, November 28, 1912

**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 Willie Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044 (USPS 184-660).

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Notice to subscribers: When you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your zip code number. The post office now charges 70¢ to notify us of each change of address.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES



Single copy, one year \$3.00
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This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21, and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ-the same gospel that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for the body. James 5:14-15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from sin 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.

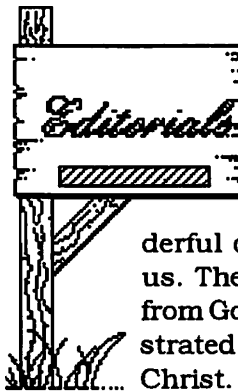
A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

In order to comply with Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

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"Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love." II John 1:3. Grace, mercy, peace, truth and love are all wonderful qualities that can be given to us. They are qualities that originate from God the Father and were demonstrated to mankind by the life of Jesus Christ. When we humble ourselves to follow the commandments of God and we allow the Spirit of God to reign in our lives, all of these beautiful attributes will be radiating from within, witnessing that His presence is truly with us.

The Lord has been blessing here at the Print Shop. The enemy brings many obstacles into the path of publishing the Gospel, but the Lord is expert at overcoming those obstructions. I marvel at how the Lord works. Sometimes by the manner in which the answer comes, it is clear that answer was from the Lord. Many times it is also clear, by the manner and timing in which the obstruction came, that it was from the enemy. Today I rejoice in the victories God has given us.

An article printed in the September issue of the *Faith and Victory*, "Fear Not, I Am The First and The Last," confused the Bible characters John the Baptist and the Apostle John. I apologize for allowing this mistake to slip through. Some of our readers were quick to notice it, and I appreciate the kindness and understanding they showed when calling it to our attention.

Where did all of the paper go? I mentioned in our last *Faith and Victory* about ordering another skid of paper. I just came back from the stock room and observed that the skid of paper is getting low again. We should have a little left after we print this issue of the *Faith and Victory*. I thought of where the paper has gone. I know that some of it has gone to Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, India, the Philippines, Canada and many locations throughout the United States, just to name a few of the widespread areas where it has been distributed. Some of it has gone into *Bible Lessons* and *Beautiful Way* Sunday School papers and some of it has gone into our stock of books and tracts to be distributed. The future location of those may be where you send them. Maybe you have some creative places you would

like to send this paper. Part of this skid of paper is wherever you are right now reading this article, unless you are reading it online, and that may be far away from Guthrie OK. I pray that God will bless you wherever you may be. I may not know you, but the Spirit of the Lord knows and loves you and would like to speak to your heart.

Can one skid of paper make a difference? Can one sheet of paper make a difference? Can one tract printed on part of the sheet of paper make a difference? If God will witness to an individual through that tract, I say yes, yes, yes!

We need inspiring articles and testimonies for future papers. It might be that your article, inspired by the Spirit of God, would be the means of ministering to some reader's need.

This week the representative from the paper company that supplies our paper, told me they were having a price increase on paper and envelopes the first of October. The expenses and the cost of materials are great, but the reward for reaching those in need far outweigh the cost.

I am thankful for the people of God who dearly cherish these precious truths of the Gospel and are willing to sacrifice and give to allow this work of the Lord to continue to shine forth in a dark world. I am encouraged as I see more clearly the opportunities that are opening for the Gospel. Pray that the Lord will help us know how to take advantage of each opportunity.

—Bro. Willie E. Murphey
wemurphey@yahoo.com



OK—"Please pray for a 2 year-old named Allison Webb. She has cancerous tumors, and she is terrified of the medical procedures she's going through." —Sis. Cynthia Williamson

LA—"Sis. Myrtle Savoie is in much need of prayer." —Sis. Velma Mancil

CA—"Please continue to lift up my mother, Sis. Viser, in your prayers." —Bro. Don Viser

CA—"Please remember my mother, Sister Zelda Telford, in prayer. She is declining in health, losing weight and not able to take nourishment as she should." —Sis. Carol Gerwe

KY—Remember Sis. Mary Hughes in prayer. She has had a serious affliction for several months and needs a special healing touch from the Lord.

LA—Pray for Sis. Gladys Cashio; she fell and injured her neck.

CA—Pray for my sister's granddaughter. She is having complications with a brain tumor. —Doris Pihalic



Standing Prayer Requests

- Sis. Ruby Bell
- Sis. Lydia Bennett
- Sis. Alscene Breckenridge
- Sis. Nellie Brown
- Bro. Jon Busbee
- Sis. Mamie Butcher
- Bro. Nathan Carver
- Sis. Estelene Cramer
- Sis. Waneta Creel
- Sis. Frances Deforth
- Bro. Dale Doolittle
- Sis. Elaine Dunn
- Sis. Eleanor Fingerle
- Sis. Pearlene Gerald
- Sis. Esther Gordon
- Bro. Huey Gordon, Jr.
- Bro. Lee Hilton
- Bro. Shawn Howard
- Sis. Mary Hughes
- Sis. Daisy Johnson
- Sis. Janice Johnston
- Sis. Earnestine Jordan
- The Lounds sisters
- Sis. Mattie McIntyre
- Sis. Bertha Miles
- Bro. Allan Miller
- Sis. Virginia Myers
- Sis. Dollie O'Neill
- Bro. O. C. Porter
- Sis. Melba Powell
- Sis. Myrtle Savoie
- Bro. M. Agenemoh Sidi
- Sis. Kay Stover
- The Mitch Taylor family
- Sis. Anna Mae Thompson
- Bro. Preston Vulgamore
- Bro. Curtis Williams, Sr.
- Bro. Max and Sis. Lula Williamson
- Sis. Esther Wilson

MEETING DATES

Holly Hill, SC (Fall Meeting)—Oct 6-13

Baldy Mesa, CA (Fall Meeting)—Oct. 18-20

Loranger, LA

(Assembly Meeting)—Nov. 27-Dec. 1

Miami, FL (Revival)—Dec. 4-8



MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

HOLLY HILL, SC, FALL MEETING

The Holly Hill, SC, Fall Meeting will be held, Lord willing, October 6th-13th, inclusive. The first service begins at 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning of the 6th and the last service is scheduled to end with the Sunday morning service of the 13th. Services are nightly at 7:30 p.m., and if there are day services, they will be as announced. We're looking for the Lord to bless us with His precious presence again this year. We are looking for the Lord to send the ministers and workers of His choosing, and we extend a hearty welcome to each one to come be with us. If you can't come in person, we still need your prayers. We are looking to the Lord to save the sinners, to heal the sick and to teach and uplift the saints.

Lodging and meals are by freewill offerings. There are limited accommodations, men's and ladies' dorms, cabins and camper hook-ups on the campground, but the Lord has ways of making provisions for those who come! Just let us know and we'll try to arrange a place for you to stay.

We don't want anyone to feel they "have" to get a motel, but sometimes there are those who prefer one. Here are some names and numbers of motels in Santee, about 10 miles away. There is the Ramada Inn, 1-803-854-2191; Super 8 Motel, 1-803-854-3456; Santee Economy Inn, 1-803-854-2107; and Comfort Inn, 1-803-854-3221.

The chapel and campground are located on Bayview Street between Camden Road and Eutaw Road, Holly Hill, SC. If coming in from Columbia, SC, take I-26 all the way to the Bowman exit, that is State Hwy. 210. Go left at this exit on Hwy. 210 to the crossroads of Hwy. 210 and Hwy. 176. Go right on Hwy. 176. Stay on Hwy. 176 until you almost get into town and Hwy. 310, (Camden Road), will be on your right. Turn left on Hwy. 310, (Camden Road), and follow this about 2 miles until you come to

Bayview Street (a paved road). There should be a sign there for "White Oak Church of God," as well as a sign advertising the fall meeting. Turn right on Bayview Street and go one and one half miles to the campground, which will be on your right.

For more information, contact the pastor, Bro. Carl Shaffer, 803-492-3256, or Bro. Floyd Crummie, 803-496-5768, or Bro. Alvoid Pratt, 803-492-3366.

BALDY MESA, CA, FALL REVIVAL

Bro. Travis, Sis Alice Johnson and congregation extend a warm welcome to the Fall Revival of the Church of God in Baldy Mesa, CA, (formerly Phelan), October 18-20, 2002. Services will be as follows:

Friday: 7:30 p.m., Service.

Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Session One.

Lunch

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., Session Two.

2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Singspiration.

4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Special Youth Activity Dinner

7:30 p.m., Service.

Sunday: 9:30 a.m., Sunday School.

10:30 a.m., Service.

2:30 p.m., Service.

Your earnest prayers are desired on behalf of this spiritual endeavor. The Chapel is located at 1151 Baldy Mesa Rd., Baldy Mesa, CA. 92392. The chapel phone number is (760) 956-7741. For further information please call (760) 956-6330.

LORANGER, LA, ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Loranger, LA Assembly Meeting is scheduled to begin Wednesday night, November 27, 2002, at 7:30 p.m. Services will be 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. daily through Sunday, December 1, 2002. Please pray with us for God's blessings, and better yet, come share with us.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Please bring sheets and linens if possible. Power and water hook-ups 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 ten miles east of the Tickfaw exit (take Hwy. 442 east which runs into Hwy. 40.)

For more information, contact Bro. Nelson Doolittle, 51367 Narretto Road, Loranger, LA. 70446. Phone (985) 878-6111. The chapel phone is (985) 878-2788.

MIAMI, FL, REVIVAL

Lord willing, Bro. Ed Wilson will hold a revival meeting in Miami, FL, on Dec. 4-8, 2002. Services will be conducted nightly at 7:30 p.m. The chapel is located at 234 NW 47th ST., Miami, FL. All are invited to attend. For additional information you may contact Bro. Robert McIntyre at (305) 233-2166 or Bro. Charles Clay at (305) 235-4271. The chapel phone number is (305) 758-0160.



**LETTERS
 FROM
 OUR
 READERS**

Ok—Dear Bro. Willie: I felt impressed this morning to write you dear ones a few lines and give my testimony. I am so thankful to be able to say that I have complete victory in my soul. If it wasn't for the wonderful goodness of our heavenly Father, I don't know what I would do. For a little better than two and a half years now, I have not been very well. At times I wondered if I would make it. I'm still in the battle for my life, but God is watching me and taking care of my needs. Sometimes my burdens get so heavy, I just have to kneel down and pray and ask the Lord to have His way.

When I was a very young child I went into a coma for five days. Because of the neighbors in our community, my parents were forced to take me to the hospital. I remember Bro. Pat Cole and Bro. Cecil Carver coming and staying with my parents through this trial and they were praying for the Lord to bless and heal me. In a few days they were able to go home. The Lord had surely blessed and undertaken for me. My parents were so thankful. They were praising God that they were able to take me back home. I was quite sickly with diabetes nearly all my young years. When I graduated from high school, I was given a definite healing. A little over two years later I was able to get married. I have surely been blessed with God's goodness through my married life. My husband and I have been married

for twenty-nine years and the Lord has given us a normal, healthy boy who is now happily married. What a mighty God we serve!

In the fall of 1990, we moved here to Guthrie and purchased a home. We wanted to be able to attend services more regularly and also to have our son in church. When we moved here, I was not saved. I had been saved while in my teenage years, but I had drifted away.

In the fall of 1993, God started dealing with me. He let me know I was going to be faced with hard times ahead and I needed Him to be there by my side. Oh, how happy I have been since Jesus washed all my sins away! There is nothing like the wonderful blood of Jesus that can come and wash your dirty heart and make it white as snow.

Two and a half years ago, I came down with asthmatic bronchitis. This caused me to not be able to eat well, which caused problems with my diabetes. I became very anemic. About five or six months ago I found out that I have muscular dystrophy, which has also caused problems with my spine and my neck.

I thank the Lord for the battles we have to go through here in this life. It will all be over in a little while. I mean to keep pressing on until my crown is won. I don't have anything to turn back for. "I love God's way of living best of all." "Defeat I shall not know, God will give me victory if onward I shall go." I surely thank the Lord for His saving and His keeping grace. I do desire your prayers that I will remain true and faithful until my journey's end.

We are remembering you and the work at the Print Shop. God bless you.

—Sis. Waneta Creel

 MO—Dear Bro. Willie: I would like to thank the Lord for a recent healing. About sixteen years ago a mole appeared on my forehead above my right eye. Two or three years ago, it began to scale up some. Recently it began to itch and change color. Naturally we were concerned but desired to trust God for it.

On healing and fasting day at the last Monark meeting, the Lord inspired my faith that He could take care of this thing. It came to me that all I had to do was ask the ministers that were praying with the sick to "just pray a little short prayer and it would be all right."

To make a long story short, about two weeks ago this mole began to grow and protrude. My wife made the comment that it looked like the

Lord was "putting a ring around it and drying it up." Day after day we could see that the mole was drying up from the base. This last Friday, I absent-mindedly brushed the back of my hand across my forehead and the mole popped off! It left a tiny red spot that quickly went away. You could look at my forehead now and never know there was a mole there.

We have some pictures documenting the progression of this healing, but most importantly, we have the confidence in our hearts that God really is able to take care of every one of our needs, however large or small they may be!

Your brother, —Bro. Clifford L. Cole

LA—Dear Bro. Murphey and workers: I am so thankful for how the Lord has blessed me. He has helped me so much. The trouble I have had in my body is almost gone away. The Lord helped me keep my courage up through it all, and I am so thankful. The Lord is good to His trusting children. I still need prayer.

May God bless every one at the Print Shop. Remember me in prayer.

With Christian Love, —Sis. Velma Mancil

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Saints: Greetings to you in the loving name of Jesus. The one in whom we have salvation and eternal life.

I hope and trust all is going well with you and the workers there as you endeavor to print and send forth the gospel. The apostle John called it: "The everlasting gospel." Rev. 14:6. Paul called it the "glorious gospel of Christ." II Cor. 4:4. The apostle Peter, said "It will endure for ever." Truly it merits all of our attention and our most earnest endeavors. I have been much encouraged here recently, thinking upon the word "endure." I thought of some of the scriptures that relate to the word. Psalm 72:17 says: "His name shall endure for ever:...and men shall be blessed in him." "His truth endureth to all generations."

"Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for the meat which endureth unto everlasting life." "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tired, he shall receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to them that love him." "Moses endured as seeing him who is invisible." Thank the Lord we can do the same.

Your brother in Christ, —T.V. McMillin



From The Philippines...

August 29, 2002—Dear Brother Willie and Sister Neta: Greetings of Christian love from the Philippines. Loving regards to all the dear saints abroad. My heart is overflowing with much joy and thanksgiving to receive your very kind letter.

At present, several pastors are in Mapangpang having gospel meetings every night, and they reported that six families accepted the Lord and were added to the church. They came from Roman Catholics and Union Spiritists. They are having evangelistic campaigns in three barrios. They have also scheduled Bible studies in the town proper of Munoz. They hope to establish a worship station in the town, and they are requesting me to help them rent a room where they can meet for worship. Yesterday I sent them rice, vegetables, some fish and a kilo of meat and other needs because they plan to continue open air gospel meetings for one more week. They also brought the amplifier home yesterday, and we brought it to the repair shop. It had a little damage. I also bought one more microphone because they only have one.

We have scheduled a fellowship meeting on September 13-15, to be held at the campground. We are expecting brothers and sisters from the north, coming from the provinces of Isabela, Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya and Ifugao. We are also expecting brothers and sisters coming from Manila and surely brothers and sisters around Nueva Ecija. It requires a lot to provide for the accommodations of all the brothers and sisters. We are praying much for the Lord to help us. Please pray for us, dear saints.

Again, may I say thank you so much for your much love and support for the Philippine mission work.

Your brother in the gospel field,

—Matias S. Tanguan

Sept. 23, 2002—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings to you, to your family, to all the Print Shop workers and to all the saints abroad in Jesus' name. May you all have peace, joy and hope as you continue to labor for Him.

I want to share my joy and the sweet experience of fellowshiping with the brothers and sisters at the camp meeting. We are so blessed with the messages and songs of praise to our Lord. Six souls have been added again to His Church. Also there are brethren from Isabela who attended the fellowship. Two jeepneys were sent by Bro. Matias to fetch the delegates from Isabela. Oh! What a wonderful fellowship we had. Again, our spirits are lifted high for the Lord.

I arrived home Monday (16th) with the two young people who came with me to attend the camp. I'm sorry I was so long in writing you after arriving from the camp meeting that Monday, but for the whole week, I have had to stay home and rest. I feel better now.

While I was resting in bed last week, I was able to go through the April 2002 issue of the *Faith and Victory*. The poem that Bro. Leslie Busbee wrote entitled "You Can Always Pray It Through" gives me enough strength to go on serving our Lord whatever comes my way, because God will always give us victory if we give it all to Him.

Bro. Willie, I want you to know that we always pray for all of you saints there abroad. Again, thank you for caring. We love you.

Your sister, —Nellie Tibayan

From Nigeria...

Sept. 21, 2002—Dear Bro Willie: I greet you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave up His life to redeem us. Through this wonderful and sacrificial work we are called children of God. We are also, through this sacrifice, made to be joint heirs with Him. I send you and all the workers in the Print Shop greetings from the brethren who are working with us over here....

We are doing great in Nigeria. The work is progressing steadily. Many souls are responding to the gospel. The field is quite wide but the laborers and the tools are very few. We do pray that the Lord will give us willing and committed laborers. Please remember to pray for the church and political stability in this country. The work of God progresses steadily in a politically stable nation. This is why I request that you join us to

pray for a stable government in Nigeria.

God bless and keep you. Yours in His service,
—Anietie B. Essien

Sept. 23, 2002—Dear Bro Murphey: Heavenly greetings to you and yours in the dearest name of Jesus the King. I hope the work in the Lord's Print Shop and the brethren are fine.

We are through with the camp meeting. Souls were saved and baptized. The sick received healing. The teachings and messages were touching. The Lord did great things in our midst and the brethren acted like a single family. I trust Bro. Igbaniibo of Port Harcourt congregation will give you a detailed report.

Yours in Him, —Chinedu Damien Uba

Sept. 17, 2002—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey: Rejoice with us and praise the almighty God for showing Himself GREAT at the just concluded National Camp Meeting at Kwale in Nigeria. For Nathaniel, it was beyond his comprehension to understand how any good thing could come out of Nazareth. (John 1:46.) Mary held God in awe as her soul magnified the Lord and her spirit rejoiced in God her Savior for regarding her low estate by blessing her womb with Christ, the Redeemer of the world. (Luke 1:46-48.) So do we also feel how could God visit a people of poor and low estate like ourselves and reveal Himself to us wonderfully through His Word. God heard our collective prayers. He saw our need of His presence in our midst and responded positively. We were awed over the way the Lord helped us and caused life to spring up in the people who had camped in His presence. He sent forth His Word and Spirit and souls were illuminated, saved, encouraged, stabilized, comforted, healed and reconciled unto God and men. There was constant joy and praise offering to God. This was climaxed with the baptism of 14 souls who had settled with Christ.

When finally the meeting came to an end on Sunday afternoon, some wished that we had remained there longer. Our experience confirmed that where God and His Spirit is ruling, His love will work boundlessly, His blessings will be manifested in ways that would be surprising. The world was put away from us and we enjoyed every bit of God's presence. Heaven must then be a more blissful place.

Continue to remember us in your prayers that God will help us consolidate the gains.

May God bless you all. Happily yours in Christ,
—F. Naths-Igbaniibo



Word has been received of the passing of **Sister Lovie Davis** at the home of her daughter, Thelma Schreiber, of Converse, Texas. She was born July 26, 1906, and died April 21, 2002, at the age of 95 years, 8 months and 26 days. She may be remembered as the wife of Bro. Amos Davis, and they lived in New Albany, Indiana. They loved to attend the campmeetings of the saints and sang special songs together. He also ministered the word of God.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

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 "Make a right on Believeh Boulevard
 ...And keep straight on Victory Lane!"

Sister Lizzie B. Jordan

August 31, 1898—August 22, 2002.

On August 31, 1898, a daughter was born from the loving union of Isaac and Mary Williams in Plain Dealing, Louisiana. They named their new baby girl, Lizzie.

Lizzie grew up in Louisiana before moving to Boley, Oklahoma. She later relocated to Okmulgee, where she has lived for more than 74 years.

Sister Lizzie Jordan was a long-time member of the Church of God, where she served faithfully as a prayer warrior. She made a great sacrifice in her lifetime to serve the Lord and to faithfully do His will, working diligently by visiting the sick and homebound. She often walked many miles passing out Christian literature and telling many people about the Lord and His love for them. As she journeyed through the communities across the country, she anointed and prayed for the sick and afflicted. The Lord heard and answered her prayers. Many people were healed and she continued to do the Lord's work until her health began to fail her in her early nineties.

Sister Lizzie took her heavenly flight on Thursday morning, August 22, 2002, from Okmulgee, Oklahoma. She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, two sons, three brothers and a sister.

Remaining to wait on the Lord: George Jordan, Clinton, Oklahoma; Alonzo Jordan, Okmulgee, Oklahoma; Willie B. Jordan, Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Joshua Jordan, Stockton, California; her daughters; Ada Jordan Miller, Fresno, California and Jo Mandy Jordan, Okmulgee, Oklahoma; along with a caravan of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, other relatives, church family and friends.

"Be thou faithful unto death, and I'll give you a crown of life." Grandma's favorite verse.

Grandma Lizzie was a great inspiration to many people. Her life touched the lives of many as she journeyed through this troublesome world.

She let God abide in her heart and He guided her in paths of pleasantness, because of her trust and faith in God. He was her Buckler and Shield.

Grandma was a soul winner for Jesus. She lived a very unselfish life. She always found something for her hands to do. She often stated, "I must be up and about, doing the work of the Lord."

Now she sings, "My work is ended and the summons has come. My heavenly Father, I shall see Him at last." Oh what bliss that will be! "Now my trials are over, and I'll dwell with my Savior and loved ones, where we'll sing all is well."

Granddaughter, —Pamela Jordan

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Sister Janice A. Shaw, 56, went home to be with the Lord at 9:49 a.m. on July 12, 2002. She was a long-time member of the Evening Light Church of God, where she devoted many years as an energetic volunteer at the Path of Life Christian School.

She was born September 12, 1945 in Morrestown, NJ. At the age of 10, Sis. Shaw moved to Akron, OH. In 1963, she graduated from South High School. After graduation she was employed for four years at Ohio Edison as a key punch operator. In 1967 she married Ronald E. Shaw, her high school sweetheart. The union produced four children: Ronald, Lisa, Michael and Gina.

As a young woman, her warm and outgoing personality gained her many friends. Through the years she remained openly accepting and

loving of all people. Her gentle spirit, coupled with her devotion to her children and church family, exemplified Sister Jan's purpose in life.

Sister Jan is preceded in death by her father, Louis Norris Sr., and her brother Louis Norris Jr. She is survived by her children: Ronald Shaw and Gina Shaw, both of Akron, OH; Lisa Shaw-Creighton(Lorenzo) of Las Vegas, NV; Michael Shaw of Corning, NY; mother, Blanche Norris of Akron; brothers Bertram,

Muse (Linda) of Chisselhurst, NJ, and Lars Norris of Akron, OH; sisters, J. Olga Webb and Jennifer Brinson (J.K.), both of Akron, OH; mother-in-law, LaVern Shaw of Akron; three grandchildren and many other aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and special friends.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, July 17, 2002. Bro. Keith Fuller officiated. He was assisted by Bro. David Hargrave. Burial was in the Mount Peace Cemetery, Akron, OH.



THE STEPS OF THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

God spoke to Abraham, as recorded in Genesis 17:4-5, saying, "As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee." Paul said in Romans 4:12 that Abraham is the father not only of the circumcision (that is, of literal Israel, the Jews) only, "but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham."

My heart has been greatly inspired with this thought of "the steps of that faith of our father Abraham." In surveying the Biblical account of our father Abraham, I can see that there are seven principle steps that Abraham took in matters concerning the faith in God that he manifested. To be the true children of Abraham, we must walk in these very steps of faith and obedience to God.

We would like to study these seven steps of the faith of Abraham and seek the Lord to help us follow in them that we may partake of the great inheritance of the children of God who are blessed with faithful Abraham.

THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM, STEP ONE

Genesis 12:1-4 tells us: "Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran." Let us now notice how the writer in Hebrews 11:8 tells about this move: "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went."

Here is the first step of the faith of Abraham. Abram (as his name first was) dwelt in Ur of the Chaldees, a place in the southern part of Mesopotamia. Stephen, in Acts 7:2-3, stated that God spoke to Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia (before he went to Haran), and

told him to get out of his country and from his kindred and go to a land that He would show him.

It was a great step that Abram took when he left his native land and his kindred. He had a brother, Haran, who died before their departure from Ur of the Chaldees. Haran left a son called Lot. It appears that Abram took Lot under his wing, for Lot went with Abram. They left Ur of the Chaldees and, travelling northwest, came to the city of Haran. There Terah, Abram's father, died. After this God spoke again to Abram to go forth to the land that He would show him.

This leaving his home land and kindred and going forth, not knowing where he was going, was truly a step of faith. No doubt many thoughts arose in his mind of wonderment and questioning. But Abram obeyed, and he went out, not knowing whither he went. This was his first step, and an important step it was. There were many logical reasons why Abram could have drawn back from making this move. It was not easy. And let us not forget that he made the move with no knowledge of where he was going to relocate. The LORD GOD had told him that

He would show him the land. Abram went forth with confidence that God would direct his way.

I am thinking now of what it means for us today to take this step of faith like Abraham did. To enter the life of faith and obedience to God requires us to leave our sinful and fleshly pursuits and activities. We must make a move if we are to really be born again and on the way to heaven. There are habits and ways of life we must discontinue. There are friends and associates with whom we must sever ties. It takes decision and it takes faith.

Who will leave all to follow Him? Who will give up everything and seek to do His will above all else? This is the step that everyone must make who would follow the Lord. This was the first step of the faith of Abraham. Had he drawn back from the divine call at this point, I doubt if we would have knowledge of him. But he obeyed and moved out for God. Let us be diligent to do the same in obedience to the call of God.

THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM, STEP TWO

Genesis 12 and 13. When Abram came to the land of Caanan, the LORD spoke to him and said, "Unto thy seed will I give this land." There Abram built an altar unto the LORD and at the next place where he pitched his tent he built another altar unto the LORD and called upon Him. There was a famine in the land and Abram went down to Egypt for a time.

When Abram came back to Caanan he was "very rich in cattle, in silver and in gold. Lot also was blessed with flocks and herds and tents. A strife arose between Abram's herdmen and Lot's herdmen. Here Abram took action to settle the problem which was because the land was not able to bear both men and their possessions, for their substance was great.

"And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren." Gen. 13:8. He then offered to let Lot choose the part of the land that he preferred, and said he would take the other part. Lot took advantage of the offer and chose the well watered plain of Jordan, and pitched his tent

toward Sodom, a city of wickedness before the Lord exceedingly.

After Lot had taken his way and left Abram, The LORD spoke to Abram and said, "...Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the

earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the

breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee." Genesis 13:14-17.

Stephen put it this way in Acts 7:5 concerning the land of Caanan: God "gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child." Hebrews 11:9-10 adds some more color to this scene. "By faith he (Abraham) sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles (tents) with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

This second step of the faith of Abraham had to do with his relation to the land of Caanan. Had Abraham been a selfish, greedy and domineering man, he would not have offered Lot the first choice. But Abraham was humble and peace loving, willing rather to forfeit his own right for the peace and happiness of others. You see, God promised him the land for a possession, but Abraham never got to possess it in his lifetime. He was always a sojourner, travelling from place to place, and never got to own for himself so much as a place to put his foot on. And yet he knew that God had promised it to him. It was his and he knew that it was his land, but he did not strive to take hold of it, but rather rested in the knowledge of God's love and goodness to bring it about as He would and when He would.

This kind of spirit will kill strife, covetousness and selfish greed. When we realize that we are but pilgrims and strangers in this life and that nothing here is ours really, it will help us to

"Had Abraham been a selfish, greedy, and domineering man, he would not have offered Lot the first choice."

be considerate and humble. The world is cursed with a covetous spirit, and a selfish clamour for earthly gain and prosperity. We are but stewards over what God allows us to use in this life. It is all to perish with using. We have a vision of eternal dwellings and treasures in the world to come. This is what Abraham was looking for. It means much for us to die to the lust of covetousness and learn to trust God and be content with what He blesses us with. No striving, murmuring nor lusting is in the heart of the soul who takes this step of faith that we see so wonderfully portrayed in the life of our father Abraham.

THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM, STEP THREE

In Genesis 14 we have the account of Abram and his rescue of Lot, his nephew, and all the goods and people of Sodom. An army led by several kings from the east invaded the plains of Jordan and made war with the five cities in that area, two of which were Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot had pitched his tent toward Sodom, but had eventually moved within the bounds of that wicked society. Evidently, Lot still was endeavoring to hold to the worship of the true God, for II Peter 2:7-8 tells how God "delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds." These foreign kings subdued these five cities of the plain and held them in servitude for twelve years. In the thirteenth year they rebelled against the foreign kings. Their captors came and a great battle ensued. The invading forces took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and Lot and many of the people and women and made off with them.

When Abram heard about what had happened to Lot, he armed his trained servants, numbering 318, and took out after them. He charged against them by night, and by the help of God was able to smite them and overcome them. "And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people." Genesis 14:16.

The king of Sodom went out to meet him as Abram returned. Also the king of Salem,

Melchizedek, who was also a priest of the most high God, met Abram and blessed him for his worthy achievement, giving praise to God for the victory. "And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich." Gen. 14:21-23.

We have here the third step of Abraham's faith. He is being offered the goods that he recovered from the enemy as recompense for his valiant service. Here is temptation. Whether he anticipated it or not, Abram was prepared to refuse this offer. He did not want the king of Sodom to have any room to take credit for his success. This was no small matter. This was no frivolous temptation. This was weighty. Whatever these goods amounted to they would have been enticing to a fleshly, covetous mind. As in the second step, Abram's faith in God now enabled him to refuse the advantage that he could have had.

Exodus 23:8 says, "And thou shalt take no gift: for the gift blindeth the wise (The Hebrew says eyes, or vision), and perverteth the words of the righteous." It means so much to not be influenced by wealth and its allurements. Many

"Many a soul that has endured adversity and poverty faithfully for the Lord has been caught in the snare of prosperity."

a soul that has endured adversity and poverty faithfully for the Lord has been caught in the snare of prosperity. Paul said he

knew how to be abased, and how to abound; how to be full and be hungry; both to abound and to suffer need. (Phil. 4:12.) God wants us to learn to endure both extremities of life. We must be able to take criticism and not be downcast, and also to take praise and not get lifted up. There will be times when we can take gifts that are offered in love to us, but we must be careful not to allow our faith and fellowship with God to be affected thereby.

This is one of the steps of faith that we must carefully and prayerfully master if we are to be the true children of Abraham. "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I

will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Heb. 13:5-6 "They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness." ITim. 6:9-11. And Jesus said

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

God blessed Abram for this, as Gen. 15:1 says, "After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram, I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward." God was pleased with Abram refusing the offer of earthly wealth. And He promised His faithful servant that He would be everything and more to him than all the wealth of the world could ever be. Abram was put to the test, and God was well pleased with his decision. So it will be with us if we turn away from vanity and choose to trust in God and wait on Him.

THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM, STEP FOUR

Abram was very grateful to God for the victory that he had gained over the enemy and the promise of God to be his shield and exceeding great reward. But he was quite distressed because time was going by and the years were mounting up, and still he had no child born to him and Sarah. He knew that God had promised to make his seed a blessing to all nations of the earth.

It is so vital to have communion with God. The LORD wants to commune with His children. In this fourth step of the faith of Abraham we see how Abram's communing with God brought him forward greatly in his experience with his Maker. God talked with Abram and Abram knew His voice. This is vital for us today. He who has not learned to detect the true voice of God is at a great disadvantage in the conflicts and trials of life. So many times the victory is gained in our lives by the knowledge and wis-

dom we receive through direct communication with the Lord through the Holy Spirit. We must earnestly seek the Lord to know His voice. God promised by the prophet in Isaiah 52:6 concerning the day of Christ, "Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that doth speak: behold, it is I."

God spoke to Abram and Abram spoke to God. They held conversation with each other. Oh, how blessed an experience this is! In Genesis 15, we see what took place between

Abram and his God. Abram questioned God about his childless state and mentioned

"This persuasion and confidence was the rock of his very spirit that held him in the trials that followed."

about Eliezer, the steward of his house, being his heir. The LORD answered: "...This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, (the Hebrew says "outside") and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell (or count) the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be." Gen. 15:4-5. This direct communication from God entered Abram's soul so deeply. He knew it was God talking to him, and he knew that God could not lie. Therefore he was persuaded that what God had said He was able to and would bring to pass. "And he believed in the LORD; and he (the LORD) counted it to him for righteousness." Gen. 15:6.

This was a personal revelation and experience with God that Abram had, and it is what we must have in our experience in this day. This is quoted and referred to in the New Testament. You will find it quoted in Romans 4:3, Galatians 3:6 and James 2:23. Abram settled it in his heart right then and there that God was going to give him an heir, a son in whom his seed would pass on to the ages. This persuasion and confidence was the rock of his very spirit that held him in the trials that followed. And this same persuasion and confidence is what will hold us in the trials and tests of life that we will encounter. We must believe that God is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. (Heb. 11:6 .) This was step number four for Abram. He had the assurance, as a stronghold to his soul, concerning what God was doing in his life. We need it, too, and let me stress that we must have it or we will make shipwreck concerning faith.

(Series to be continued next month.)

WORDS

"For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Matt. 12:37. May God give the understanding.

In the above text, the words "thy" and "thou" are personal pronouns, and in the following Scripture they mean "your" and "you." "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Col. 4:6. Here the apostle tells how our words should be spoken always with the grace of God, not only on Sunday or any special occasion, but every day. The grace of God in the heart will teach us how, what and when to speak words that will glorify God and please our fellow man. Please read Titus 2:11-12. "Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few." Eccl. 5:2. There may be times when one word may mean more than many words or a lengthy discourse, if seasoned with the grace and love of God. These and other texts teach us that we shall be judged by the words that we speak and not by the words of another.

Words, whether spoken or written, have a meaning. Some words

express love, praise and joy. Others denote anger, hate or sorrow. These words and many more are in our vocabulary, and we are at liberty to use them at will. Our Bible is filled with words, as well as our school books and histories. Of all the books that could be written about Jesus, even the world itself I suppose, could not contain them. (John 21:25.)

Some folks will try to justify themselves in things which God condemns by using many words. One of old has said, "If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me." The same also said, "My witness is in heaven, and my record is on high." Job 9:20 and Job 16:19. It is God that justifieth, and not we ourselves. He makes no mistakes. We wonder that if a

tape could be made of every word we say from early morning until we close our eyes at night, then play it back to us the next day, what would our reaction be??? No doubt, we would hear words we never thought we said, but in hearing our own voice, we could not deny them.

One of old was mourning for three full weeks, praying under a heavy burden, when an angel said unto him, "Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words." Daniel 10:12.

God saw and heard Ananias and his wife when they were discussing the money for which they sold their property. They agreed to keep back part of the price and give a certain part, and so they did." Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost:

and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose,

"Some folks will try to justify themselves in things which God condemns by using many words."

wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband." Acts 5:3-10. They were both condemned by their own words and died accordingly.

—Sis. S. E. (Armilda) Abbott

