

# FAITH AND VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



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### LAY HOLD ON ETERNAL LIFE

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

Paul gave Timothy good counsel concerning obtaining eternal life, saying, "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." I Timothy 6:11-12, 17-19. Paul set forth these wise words along with the counsel to withdraw from the spirit of covetousness and the love of money. Also between these two texts Paul gave charge to keep the

commandment of God without spot and rebuke until Christ's appearing. This Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords, has obtained immortality and dwells beyond mortals' sight and has been given honour and power everlasting. Christ has laid hold on eternal life, being risen from the dead by the power of God and positioned at the right hand of God in the heavenly places. Now the charge is given to us to pursue this same objective to lay hold on eternal life, even as Christ did.

There are some things to do and to pursue if we would desire to have eternal life with our blessed Lord and King. We must flee, avoid and keep separate from the lustful, selfish spirit of this present, evil world, as he also said in II Timothy 2:22, "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

*To follow* means to pursue, strive for, reach after and seek unerringly to attain to. This means to put forth earnest effort to have and cultivate with all desire. We do not have these things naturally and we must have great purpose and decision to be able to work them into our hearts and lives. Think of them: "Righteousness, peace, godliness, faith, love (charity, divine love), patience, meekness." It will take real diligent effort and godly discipline to possess these divine virtues.

"Fight the good fight of faith." The warfare of a true child of God is a spiritual warfare, a contest and battle against the evil powers and influences in the spirit world. That is why it is called a "good" fight. It is not a fight against flesh and blood (people and humanity); but it is a

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fight against satan and his evil works to overcome and keep ourselves pure in God's sight. It is a contest of the will and decision of our hearts. Lord, make us all good soldiers of the cross! The world is fighting carnal warfare, which is condemned in God's sight. Jesus fought the spiritual warfare against satan and the evils that work in the hearts of men. This is the fight of faith, the good fight which we must engage if we hope to lay hold on eternal life.

Paul also instructs us to do good and be rich in good works. We are not saved by good works, but after we are saved we must do good and be rich in good works. "Be ready to distribute, willing to communicate." This means giving and sharing liberally and cheerfully with others. Let us not allow ourselves to bemoan when we are called upon to help our fellow man. God loves a cheerful giver and can and will return our sacrifices with much more than what we give out. In so doing we are laying up treasures in store for ourselves in heaven. This is a good foundation or basis for our hope of eternal life and being a partaker of the resurrection in that last great day.

Then we have Peter's counsel in II Peter 1:5-8, 10-11 given to us who have obtained this precious faith of Christ: "Beside this, giving all diligence, add (fully supply) to your faith virtue (valor, fortitude, manliness); and to virtue knowl-

edge (holy science of truth and wisdom); And to knowledge temperance (self-discipline and control); and to temperance patience (endurance); and to patience godliness (deep reverence and respect for God); And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity." "For if these things be in you, and abound," he says in verse 8, "they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." Then in verses 10 and 11 he follows: "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." We are intelligent creatures with a will and the power of choice. We can have in our lives the things we choose and pursue after. A man who wants to be rich must pursue the path that leads to riches, namely: hard work, wise management, careful spending, saving and investing. To attain to eternal riches we must employ these things here mentioned as living functions to help us to attain to that eternal world to come.

May we be diligent to follow after these things mentioned and seek God to help us all to possess and retain these important things in our hearts and lives. This will mean the difference between being saved or lost in that last great day that is sure to come soon.

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## GOOD, BETTER AND BEST

By Sis. Naomi Jennings

God is so good to me. I thank Him for saving me and giving me a good life with happiness in the Lord. I have been meditating on the goodness of the Lord. He found me lost in sin and delivered me like the woman caught in adultery that He told to "go and sin no more." From my youth I was taught, "Sin you must—sin you can't help yourself." I never believed that, so when God saved me and brought me to where I could hear the truth it was so good. I have truly enjoyed salvation.

As time went on I found my experience lacking and I was needing something more. Then I heard about sanctification. I sought that experience with all my heart and oh, how glorious it was to receive a depth I had never had before. This was better—much better.

As I continued to follow the Lord I was led through trials. I began to call on the Lord. I wanted to be as Psalm 66:10-12 says, "For thou,

O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried. Thou broughtest us into the net; thou laidst affliction upon our loins. Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place." However, I was not there and was not willing for anyone to ride over me. God caused me to think about Joseph. What a good life he had, twelve brothers, a loving younger brother of his mother and a father that favored him. His life was good. His father made him a beautiful coat and Joseph must have loved that coat. Then one day he was sent to carry food and water to his brothers. No doubt he was thinking about how good it would be to see his brothers again. But they thought differently. He had told his brothers and his father about his dream and they were not happy to see him. They said, "...Behold, this dreamer cometh." And they conspired to slay

him. His good life was about to change. But Reuben said, "...let us not kill him." Surely God is always there to help us in our good life. So He changed their minds and then they decided to sell him; so off he went to a new life and a new country. The Bible says, "...the LORD *was* with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand." Genesis 39:3. Joseph found grace in his master's sight and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. What a mighty God we serve. This was a better life for Joseph.

In his master's house he went from a good life to a better life and God was with him every day keeping him in His favor. Then his master's wife approached him and said, "...Lie with me." Satan always appears to try us. Joseph remembered his love for God and would not yield to the temptation that was presented. Thank God for His love for His faithful children. Instead of yielding to the temptation he ran. Oh, saints of God, do you know we have to run sometimes? There is nothing wrong with running when satan is after you. Run into the safety of the arms of our loving Lord. His arms are always outstretched for us. When the prodigal son got into trouble, he ran right into the arms of his father.

Then Joseph was sent to prison but he was a good prisoner. God was still with him and he found friends even in the prison. When Joseph favorably interpreted the dream of the chief butler and the butler was about to be restored to his job he told him, "But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and show kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house." Genesis 40:14. But he forgot him. Oh yes, he forgot him. But God didn't! Sometimes in our trials it seems that God has forgotten us, but He never forgets His trusting children.

After two years had passed Pharaoh had a dream and no one could tell him what it meant. Then God caused the butler to remember Joseph, and he told Pharaoh about his experience in prison and how there was a young Hebrew who accurately interpreted their dreams. Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon. And God gave Joseph the meaning to Pharaoh's dream. Then Joseph told Pharaoh to look out a man discreet and wise and set him over the land of Egypt. "And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, For-

asmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, *there* is none so discreet and wise as thou *art*: Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou." Genesis 41:39-40. That is when Joseph got the best life. It takes time, submission and trials to get from good to better and then to the best God has to offer. God has a seat of Pharaoh for all of His faithful children but you don't get there by wishing. You must yield.

I remember as a child in Arkansas, where I was brought up, my father had to dig a well. He dug and dug and dug. It seemed like he could not get through to the water. Then he hit a hard place they called it a hard pan. When he finally got down through the hard pan there was cool water. Plenty of it! Do you know we all have a hard pan to go through. It may seem like you just can't make it. But just keep on digging, praying and begging the Lord. There is something good beyond the hard pan.

As for me, I hit the hard pan. I almost thought I couldn't make it. It brought hurt to my heart and tears to my eyes. But I did like Jacob—he wrestled all night. "...And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me." Genesis 32:26. When the Lord blessed him, it brought him into that best place. Thank the dear Lord.

Thank God, I made it too. I had to say like Jesus said, "...Father, forgive them;..." I had to say like Job said, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him:..." The trials are hard, very hard, but God is just trying to get you to Pharaoh's seat. Do you know that God has a Pharaoh's seat for you too? It is not an easy road, but it is a blessing that He walks beside you and lightens the heavy load. Are you suffering from mistreatment in your home or on your job? God is in it to help you find your seat. I thought one time God had forsaken me but I didn't understand God. It took me years to learn where God was leading me. One sister asked me, "How long do you have to wait to get to that wealthy place?" I told her, "As long as it takes you to surrender."

I can truly say along with the writer of the song, "I surrender all." I found the good place in God and then the better place. But now I can say, "I have found it, Lord, in thee, an everlasting store of comfort, joy and bliss to me: How can I wish for more?" Our joy is to walk and talk with God. That is the best place. Pray for me.

## FAITH AND VICTORY

### 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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

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

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"Be still, and know that I am God:..." Psalm 46:10. This entire chapter in Psalms has been a comfort to many weary pilgrims who have come to their wit's end and yet found deliverance and relief from oppression when they placed their trust in the God of heaven. When one takes refuge in the Lord their soul can rest in peace because they have engaged the greatest power in heaven and in earth to be their defense. While many may know firsthand of the power of God, it still can be difficult at times to "be still." It is often the nature of man to struggle and try to work out his own problems and win the battles of life by himself and fail to realize that God has the power to bring the victory while we are safely resting in Him.

It is hard to hear the still small voice of the Lord in the midst of confusion and clamor. When a person receives a phone call while they are in a noisy environment it becomes necessary to either shut off the source of noise or get away from it to talk to the party that has called. It is similarly true in communing with the Lord. Matthew 14:23 speaks of Jesus saying, "...he went up into a mountain apart to pray:..." Jesus also instructed His followers to "...enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret;..." While He was teaching them not to pray with an outward show as the hypocrites do, He also knew that it was needful when communing with the Father to be able to hear what the Lord has to say to them.

But what if the noise is coming from within us? Then it is not so easy to get away from because the source of trouble follows us, even into a secret place. This problem can be an indication of an unregenerate heart that needs to be cleansed and delivered by the blood of Jesus or if one has already been forgiven it can be that the cares of this life are lingering in their mind or nagging uncertainties, doubts and fears are disturbing their peace. When it becomes evident that these "noises" are following us, we should do two things. First, in earnest prayer place the things that are troubling our minds into the hands of the Lord. Secondly, we should "gird up the loins of our mind" and steadfastly resist their intrusion into our communion with our heavenly Father.

In Revelation 2 it mentions this phrase four times, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches;..." The Spirit of the Lord has many things to say to us but the serious question is, "Are we listening?" Unless we have found the "quiet resting places" that Isaiah spoke of we will not be able to hear the important directions and leadings that His Spirit is giving. Without the directions given by the Holy Spirit we are going to be making serious mistakes that will cause us to miss our desired destination.

Unless we can "be still" and hear from God we will not really know Him. But when we become acquainted with His divine nature our faith will take a giant leap toward Him and our heart will melt at His feet. His power will begin working miracles in our life and cause us to effectively touch the lives of those around us in a positive way. When we are truly directed by His Spirit, we will see the superfluous things of this world pushed aside. We will see that the cause of Christ is worth giving our life for. Our money will be used for things that promote His cause, our time and talents will joyfully be utilized for His glory, and a wonderful difference will be made in the progress and growth of the Church of God. It all begins in the stillness of our communion with Him, when our eye of faith beholds His marvelous image and His reflection glows within our heart.

The Lord has again enabled us to publish another quarterly issue of the *Bible Lessons and Beautiful Way* papers. They were mailed June 15 and 16. The theme for this quarter's lessons is "Spiritual Things." The titles include: Spiritual Creation, Birth and Life; Spiritual Darkness and Light; Meat Which Endureth Unto Everlasting Life; True Joy and Pleasure in the Spirit; Spiritual Comfort and Consolation; The Spiritual Water of Life; Spiritual Worship of God; Spiritual Fruit; Spiritual Beauty of the Heart; Spiritual Warfare; Spiritual Riches; Spiritual Sabbath Rest for the Soul and The Spiritual Kingdom of Peace.

We trust the Word of God, in this series of lessons, will bless the hearts of those who study and incorporate the principles they contain in their daily living. A single copy of this lesson quarterly is available for \$1.50 or a year's subscription is available for \$5.00.

The article republished in the May issue of the *Faith and Victory, The Church of God and Sects Contrasted*, is now available in tract form. This 20-page tract by H. M. Riggle is a powerful tool useful in establishing these eleven points.

1. The church of God was built by Christ, while all sects have been founded by man.
2. The church of God is the body of Christ; no sect composes this body, therefore, no sect on earth is the church.
3. All Christians belong to the church of God; no sect contains all Christians.
4. Christ is the head of but one body; sects comprise many separate bodies, hence, Christ is not their head.
5. Salvation makes us members of the church of God but not of any sect.
6. Christ takes members into His church, while the preacher takes members into the sect.
7. The names of all the members of the church of God are written in heaven. Few in the sects are written there, but all are written in the earth.
8. The church of God unites believers, while sects scatter and divide.
9. Heresies and sects are the same.
10. The Bible condemns sects.
11. God is calling His people out of all sects and gathering them into one fold.

Tracts will be postpaid to any address in the United States at the rate of \$5.00 per pound. The prices for a 20-page tract is \$10.85 per hundred or 15 for \$2.50. If you would like for us to send you some be sure to let us know.

On July 1st my father-in-law, Bro. Edwin Eck went out to bring in the mail. On his way to the mailbox he noticed a dead limb hanging down from one of their trees. While he was attempting to pull the dead limb out, a small piece of it broke off and he tumbled over, and they believe he broke his hip. My wife, Neta, has gone to assist her mother in caring for him. Remember them all in your prayers.

As is our usual custom we will not publish an August issue of the *Faith and Victory* paper. Lord willing, we plan to attend the National Camp Meeting at Monark Springs, MO. We pray the Lord will bless His people as they assemble to worship Him in Spirit and Truth. May each one who attends be drawn closer to the Lord and be motivated to press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

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



Can—Dear Bro. and Sis. Willie Murphey: The Lord our God bless you and all the workers at the Print Shop. Wife and I are not so good in body but our souls are praising the Lord every day. Please pray for us; we need prayer.

In the love of Jesus,

—Bro. George and Sis. Gertrude Schroeder

WA—Remember Sis. Olen Rector in prayer. She has been having spells of unconsciousness and has recently received injuries from a fall because of this condition. —Sis. Claudia Jerome

OH—Sis. Betty Goldstein desires the saints to continue to remember her in prayer for her eyes and other heavy burdens.

OK—Continue to pray for Bro. Michael Smith. He is still suffering from serious conditions in his body that are related to a back injury he sustained from a fall over a year ago.

## Standing Prayer Requests

Carlos Arriago  
 Sis. Mamie Butcher  
 Sis. Helen Carson  
 Sis. Waneta Creel  
 Sis. Charlotte Dilliner  
 Sis. Elaine Dunn  
 Sis. Evelyn Fredrickson  
 Bro. Troy Gentry  
 Bro. Jeff Gutwein  
 Bro. Robert Hetland  
 Bro. Lee Hilton  
 Bro. Doyle LaCroix  
 The Lounds Sisters  
 Sis. Marie Mitchell  
 Sis. Melba Powell  
 Sis. Anna Severs  
 Sis. Catherine Shaffer  
 The Mitch Taylor family

## MEETING DATES

**National (Monark Springs, MO)**—July 15-24  
**Myrtle, MO**—July 29-August 3  
**Bakersfield, CA**—August 10-14  
**Boley, OK**—August 18-21  
**California State (Pacoima, CA)**—August 19-28  
**Spooner, WI (Tent Meeting)**—August 24-28  
**Wichita, KS (Fall Meeting)**—September 18-25

## MEETING NOTICES

### NATIONAL CAMP MEETING MONARK SPRINGS, MO

The National Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO, July 15-24, 2005. All are cordially invited to come and bring others to enjoy the blessings we are expecting from the Lord.

The Monark Springs campground is located approximately five miles east of Neosho, MO. It is one mile east and 3/4 mile south of the intersection of Highways 86 and 59.

If you travel to Neosho by bus, you may telephone the campground, (417) 472-6427, or Bro. Mike Hightower, (417) 451-3636, for transportation.

The camp meeting is conducted on a freewill offering basis. There is no charge for meals or lodging on the campgrounds. You are welcome to come and enjoy the meeting. We are confident God will supply every need. Meals will be served in the dining hall. Dormitory space and trailer spots are available on a first-come basis. Family units are also available.

The business managers are Randel Bradley (see address and telephone number below), and Mike Hightower, 13974 Newt Dr., Neosho, MO 64850. Phone, (417) 451-3636.

### Instructions For Making Dormitory Reservations

Call DeLoris Bradley (620-226-3390). If not at home, please leave a message on the answering machine, or e-mail <rdbradley@ckt.net> I will call or e-mail to confirm.

Please provide the following information so I can accommodate each one better:

Name and phone number  
 Date of arrival  
 Date of departure  
 Number of adults and children in party

Things to keep in mind:

Bring your own bedding if possible.

If you leave after the weekend be sure to let me know even if you are returning the next weekend.

No young people or children are to stay alone in cabins or family units.

After Wednesday the rooms start clearing out, so you might want to keep that in mind.

We have a boys' and a girls' dorm—if your child is staying in one of these, we ask that you feel the responsibility of staying also for at least one night.

There is a mens' dorm, ladies' dorm and a ladies' dorm for the handicapped.

We want everyone to come and enjoy the fellowship of kindred hearts while we worship the Lord together.

Come praying that the Holy Spirit will have full reign in all that we as a group do, from the dorms to the kitchen, and in cleaning and keeping our grounds orderly. Parents or guardians, please keep your children in services with you. I believe God would be pleased if we observe these things and will meet with us under the tabernacle in a greater way.

Love and prayers,

—DeLoris and Randel Bradley  
1540 2000 Rd  
Bartlett, KS 67332

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**MYRTLE, MO, CAMP MEETING**

The Myrtle, MO camp meeting will begin this year, Lord willing, on Friday morning, July 29, and continue through Wednesday morning, August 3. Morning services are scheduled to begin at 10:30 and evening services at 7:00. Afternoon services are planned for Saturday and Sunday beginning at 2:00. A hearty invitation is extended to everyone to attend. The meeting is supported by freewill offerings and we are trusting the Lord to send the ministers He would use in this meeting. We are praying the Lord to bless us once again with a precious out-pouring of His Spirit in ministering to the needs of every soul present.

A limited number of cabins are available and there is plenty of dormitory space. Also, there are electrical hook-ups for campers and RV's. For further information you may contact Sis. Carol Sorrell at (417) 938-4493 or Bro. Harlan Sorrell at (417) 938-4336. The campground phone number is (417) 938-4682.

**BAKERSFIELD GOSPEL MEETING**

Greetings from the Church of God here in Bakersfield, CA. Welcome to our annual gospel meeting. The dates are August 10-14. There will be two services daily: 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. On Sundays we will have Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., worship service at 10:30 a.m. and an afternoon service at 2:30 p.m.

All are welcome. Come expecting a blessing. Join with us in praying for the success of the meeting that many souls will be blessed.

Bro. Hayward Cox, pastor, (661) 836-3877.

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**BOLEY, OK, CAMP MEETING**

The Boley, OK, Church of God Camp Meeting will be held August 18-21, 2005. Services will be nightly at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday, August 20, there will be three services, 11:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday services will begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., worship service at 11:00 a.m. and afternoon service at 2:30 p.m. (No night service.)

We are soliciting and appreciate the prayers and support from all of the ministers and saints in behalf of our camp meeting. Some overnight lodging is provided. The chapel is located at 220 N. Oak, Boley, OK just north of Boley High School.

For further information contact Sis. Savannah King, (918) 667-3654 or (918) 667-3392. Sis. Anna Mae Thompson, pastor.

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**CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING**

The California State Camp Meeting will be held August 19-28, 2005 at the campgrounds located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA 91331. The first service will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, August 19, with three services daily thereafter. For more information, please contact either the Sunset Guest Home at (818) 899-2022, Bro. Paul Phillips at (661) 251-6956, or Bro. Herbert Clay at (818) 897-1396.

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**SPOONER, WI, TENT MEETING**

Lord willing, this meeting will begin Wednesday, August 24, at 7:00 p.m., with services daily at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. through Sunday, August 28.

Come for a blessing and to be a blessing and please support the tent meeting with your prayers.

There will be some accommodations but please call for arrangements. Bring your own bedding and linens if possible. Be prepared for cold nights. We give everyone a special invitation to come and be with us to enjoy God's many blessings of His love. For more information contact Bro. Ron and Sis. Martha Zacharias at (715) 635-2994.

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**WICHITA, KS, FALL MEETING**

The Wichita Fall Meeting has been set for September 18-25. There will be three services on Sundays and two services Monday through Saturday (11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.). Please pray for the meeting and attend if you can. All are welcome. We are looking to God to lead and direct in the meeting.

If you need further information, you may contact Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at (316) 778-1848 or Bro. Theodore McCray (316) 682-3152. The chapel phone is (316) 267-9582. The chapel is located at 2509 N. Grove. Grove is only three blocks east of Ash (old chapel street). Go North on Grove past 24th street to 2509 N. Grove.

British Columbia—Dear saints of the Lord: My soul is rejoicing in the Lord today for all His wonderful ways to His unworthy children. I went to the Oklahoma Camp Meeting this May where our son, Sidney Rabel, had years earlier received much spiritual help to his soul. I was also blessed in that I went to the meeting with my heart open to receive all the Lord had for me. The Lord wonderfully met me there and I received a renewing in my soul. The Lord sent such a fine variety of messages. I don't know that I have been in any series of meetings quite like it. It was wonderful to be with these humble servants of the lowly Jesus.

My soul is continually rejoicing in the Lord as I wait for Him to lead me on.

Pray for me, —Sis. Daisy Rabel

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 OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings to you in the name of Jesus, the One that loved us and gave Himself for us that we might have the blessed hope of eternal life. I just read this morning in our family worship about the parable that Jesus gave about the marriage feast of God's Son. I was much impressed with it. First with those that made light of it and went their way and slew the servants that had invited them to the feast. One chose to go to his farm, another to his merchandise. The behavior of those that were first invited caused the wrath of God to be poured out upon them and He burned up their city. This seems to apply to the Jews at the time of Jesus and those in the highways to the Gentiles. The Bible said the wedding was furnished with guests but when the King came he saw a man which had not on a wedding garment. The man was speechless and was cast out into outer darkness. All who reject Jesus and the plan of salvation will meet this same end.

I was next impressed with those that had on the wedding garment. They are those that have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (Revelation 7:14.) They also watch and keep their garments. (Revelation 16:15.) Farther on in this twenty second chapter of Matthew, Jesus tells us about the greatest commandment and by keeping it, it will help us to always have on the wedding garment and that will be worth everything. "...Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath pre-



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**LETTERS  
 FROM  
 OUR  
 READERS**

OK—To the saints of the most high God: I thank God daily for your prayers. God has richly blessed my body. He also gave me some words of encouragement. "Submit unto the will of the Father." Saints, my highest aim is to glorify the Father in soul and in body. Song number 55 in the *Evening Light Songs* book expresses it better. That song is "The Bondage of Love."

Christian love, —Bro. Carlos Arriaga

PA—Dear Bro. Murphey and Print Shop workers: I was most blessed with the articles in the last few *Faith and Victory* papers. Thank God for the inspirations given the authors.

The whole mobile Duncannon congregation just returned from the Green Bank Camp Meeting. What fellowship, encouragement, instruction and challenges! May we be able to retain it and move up in our prayer.

—Sis. Barbara Campbell



pared for them that love him." I Corinthians 2:9. "...Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God." Read Revelation 19:7-9.

Your brother in Christ, —T. V. McMillian

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MO—Dear Bro. Willie and all the saints everywhere: A couple of months ago, while I was in a battle with the affliction I've had for several years, the Lord blessed me with some thoughts that I'd like to share with you. It was in the middle of the night and I was having a hard time breathing and was coughing real hard. Ronald got up to pray for me and it seemed like I wasn't getting any help. He kept calling on the Lord and in one of his prayers he said something to the effect of "we don't have any magic words to say," and the Lord brought a magician to my mind. Each time Ronald prayed a new thought came to me and this is how He blessed it to my mind. A magician tricks our minds. He works with illusions to make us think we see something that really isn't what it appears to be. God never tricks us; what He does is real. A magician does things for the praise and approval of his audience. He wants to please and amuse them. God only does things for His glory. He doesn't need our approval. He just wants us to give Him the glory that He rightly deserves. A magician always makes a fanfare. He wears bright colors and uses flashy tools to do his tricks. God loves to do things for us in a quiet, simple way. He doesn't blow a trumpet to get our attention. He just moves about doing good things for us even without our noticing it sometimes. Everything a magician does by sleight of hand can be explained away. If you understand how he does his tricks, then it doesn't seem so wonderful. It's explainable. God cannot be explained away. Everything He does is beyond our comprehension. Our human minds cannot understand how He works. A magician is limited in his abilities. There's only one way to do a certain trick, and if he makes a mistake it won't turn out like it's supposed to. He has to practice and practice to get it right. God can work any number of ways. There's **no** limit to how He can work and the outcome will still be the same. He needs no practice.

I'm so thankful to be serving a God who sees and knows our every need and cares about each

one of us. We can put our trust in Him and not worry that He'll make a mistake. I struggle with discouragement at times when the battle gets long, but I know the Lord is in control. I am still not completely well, but I am trusting God to bring me out with victory. Keep me in your prayers that I will be faithful to Him and be in His will. With love,

—Sis. Lori Cole

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OK—Dear Bro. Willie, Sis. Neta and the readers of this publication: The Lord is exceedingly real to me and I am very happy in my walk with Him. I want Him to be glorified and blessed. He is worthy of all my love and affection. (Revelation 5:12-13; 7:12). Especially this is so because for several months I have been free from coughing. I had coughed on and on for several years. (Sometimes it was a bad case of bronchitis, or bronchial pneumonia and also pleurisy attacks.) I was anointed in obedience to His Word for this condition, (James 5:14-15), and the prayer of faith was prayed. Oh I do praise Him! Now I am healed! I do not want to be negligent in thanking Him and thanking all of you, my dear friends, who have prayed for me so long. Many have asked and so I want you to know.

Yes, there have been times of recurrence, but I know it is of the devil and I resist him. Just like yesterday, I began having pain in my right chest; just grunting with every breath. My husband, Leslie, was not here at the time, but I went to my knees in prayer with my arms stretched out in front of me and in this position I called on the name of the Lord. It was so sweet, as afresh I gave my body to Him and determined to trust Him no matter what. I felt my consecration was complete and my heart condemned me not. (I John 3:21-22). My confidence was confirmed as I considered many promises in the Word. Later I realized the pain was gone! O wonderful Jesus! He did not bear those stripes in vain for me. (Isaiah 53:5, I Peter 2:24.)

Now I realize that Leslie and I are not young anymore (our steps are slower and hobbling), and according to II Corinthians 4:14-18 these bodies are perishing. But we rejoice in that "the inward man is renewed day by day"—and our hope is abounding; we are looking beyond.

A handmaid of the Lord,

—Sis. Sylvia Busbee



**Ruby Mae Marken Harris**, 86, of Twin Falls, ID went to be with the Lord on June 14, 2005. She was born December 25, 1918 near Deer Trail, CO, the daughter of Alvin W. and D. Anna Mallory Marken. She and her family moved to Western KS when she was 18 months old. She received her education in Kansas. In December 1939 she, with her parents, sister and her husband, came west seeking a home. They had lived through the dust storm years of the 30's and were seeking another area. Mr. & Mrs. A.W. Marken bought a farm north of Twin Falls, ID. They then returned to Kansas and shipped their farming implements and household goods to Idaho.

In a revival meeting at the Church of God in Twin Falls she sought the Lord and found Him precious to her soul. She felt the call of the Lord to go to Mexico and spent five years in Baja, California, Mexico with the Pai Pai Indians in missionary work. She spent many years working with children in Sunday School and did so enjoy those years of labor. On November 14, 1966 she began working for the Faith Publishing House in Guthrie, OK. She was very interested in the publication of Spanish literature and faithfully worked in the mailing and subscription department until June 19, 1969 when she left to attend to the needs of her aging parents. As her mother's health failed, she cared for her until the Lord saw fit to take her home in September 1975. In February 1976 the family learned that Mr. Marken had cancer, so she continued to care for him until he passed in January of 1978. She worked in the homemaker's program out of the Office of Aging at CSI for over 10 years. Her sister's health began to deteriorate, so she helped care for her until the Lord

released her in August 1992. She then moved to her apartment in Shawnee, OK. In 1993 she married Charles E. Harris.

She leaves to mourn her passing a step-son and wife, Alvin (Patricia) Harris; step-grandson, Tracy (Shelly) Harris; two step-granddaughters; Jeannie (Mike) Jenkins, Teresa Albers; five great-grandchildren; two sisters-in-law: Helen Cochenour, Ruth Esswein; and many dear and close friends. She was preceded in death by her husband in March 2005, four brothers-in-law; and two sisters-in-law.

Funeral services were conducted at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 22, 2005 at White Mortuary Chapel with Pastor Jerry Kester, officiating. Interment followed in Sunset Memorial Park.

## THE LORD IS GREAT IN SMALL THINGS

Recently we received a telephone call from someone who had found a cell phone. On the contact list was the name MOM, which also included my phone number. The caller, thinking that it may have belonged to a student and perhaps I was the mother, gave me a call. Thanks for her honesty. Since I had no school age children, mine having years ago passed that age, I was sure she had made the wrong call. I did ask her where she was calling from, thinking that would help. She named a store called Mardel's. I was not sure where it was but thought it was some store here in San Bernardino, CA. Since we get persons calling with the wrong number, I thought no more about it.

Later that evening we talked with our daughter in Texas. She told me that she had lost her cell phone and had it disconnected. I then made mention to her that someone had called me saying they had found a phone and was at some place called Mardel's, which I was still thinking was some store here in my city. After a few moments my daughter let us know that Mardel's was a store in Texas and shared the same parking lot as the store she had recently been in. What a mystery! Right away she said that she was going to call them. And as the LORD is GREAT in small things, she picked up her cell phone at Mardel's the next day.

We can never tell how the Lord will answer prayer.  
—Sis Olive A. Davenport

## “And Thou Shalt Teach Them Diligently...”

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

How well I remember taking my children to church when they were newborns, babies and toddlers! Our oldest was 5 -years old when our fifth child was born and I was just 24 years old myself, my husband one year older.

When our parents could, they would have a child or two sit with them in the church service. However, I remember times when I walked out with a fussing baby and following me would be three or four little pairs of feet. I would sit in the nursery and think, “I worked so hard to get here only to sit in the nursery, nurse a baby, and referee children!”

Thank the Lord I persisted and kept going to church Sunday morning, evening and Wednesday night unless a child was sick, etc. If I had given up then, we may have stopped coming to church all together and our lives would be a sad tale today!

Please, young parents, bring your babies and toddlers to church whenever possible! Keep the habit of attending (Hebrews 10:25) for your spiritual growth and for your children's. Attending church services should be joyful, inspiring and spiritually fulfilling. However, if you wrestle with a young one during the entire service, you often do not leave feeling any of the above. I know!

Many times I received helpful advice from those who had been down the same path. I learned to prayerfully sort through the suggestions and try them. Perhaps a few hints I received and followed will help other young parents. We will call a little one under a year old, a baby, a one to three years old, a tot, and four to six years old, a small child.

**Have quality quiet time at home.** As soon as a baby can look at pictures in a book for a short time, read to him. Discipline a baby to be quiet for a short time at home, then when he is out in public he will know your signals for “hush, sh-sh-sh, quiet!” and learn to respond properly. “And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” Deuteronomy 6:7.

**Include the baby and tots in family worship.** Have family worship at a time when the baby can be included. Keep the baby, tots and

small children quiet like you do in church. Ask the tots and small children questions about your short lesson or story. Teach them to love stories from the Bible. They will catch your enthusiasm for learning about God, Jesus, etc. “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Colossians 3:16.

**Sing hymns with your little ones.** Most little people like to sing and they will pick up tunes quickly. They will not understand all the words to the Evening Light Songs but they will recognize tunes. They will enjoy the song service much more when they have pleasant memories of their mother and father singing these songs at home during work, relaxing times or family worship. Then when they hear these songs sung in church their faces will light up and they will sing when they can—which is great! “...And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?” Matthew 21:16.

**Make prayer time special.** Explain how serious it is to talk to Jesus at home and at church. By example, teach your children to reverence prayer during church time. This will help eliminate the desire to go in and out during prayer time during the church service. At home have prayer and encourage all the children who can speak a little to pray to Jesus. Prayers should never be forced but encouraged. “And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer?...” Mark 11:17.

Have tots and small children go to the restroom and get a drink before going into the church service. Little people are creatures of habit (like their parents) and if they will take care of necessities ahead of time it will stop extra disturbances. A small child should normally be able to wait an hour and a half or so before a trip out. Keep working toward this goal with the baby and the tots. It is possible! “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6.

Pack quiet snacks and a sippy cup for tots and small children. Put snacks in a plastic container that silently opens and closes. Put

water, etc. in a non-spillable sippy cup. Keep a napkin or moist cloth handy and allow little ones to neatly eat a little snack when the preacher gets behind the pulpit. Then your child has a smiling face for the preacher to see. "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD." Psalm 122:1.

Two or three quiet items are permitted during church time. Babies learn early what their parents will and will not allow. If you give a baby many items to choose from during church service, they will make a mess in a short time. Do not pack many items but change the two or three items for every service so they are new ones. Encourage the older ones to listen and ask them questions after service. Reward them for knowing the answer from the message. Expect your children to listen. Children feel what you expect from them. "...Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths:..." Isaiah 2:3.

Punish quietly. Avoid talking (whispering) in church. Keep babies and tots within an arm's reach and train them with your hands and facial expressions. A quiet reminder—a gentle nudge, pinch or squeeze on the thigh is just as effective

as a slap that will be heard. Train a small child to know that continued misbehavior in church means remedial action at home. If a child is punished all the time at church, they will dread coming. Separate an unruly tot or small child (preferably closer to the parent) and keep them there. Continue to discipline the child to sit still and look ahead only. "...I will guide thee with mine eye." Psalm 32:8.

Train your children, do not let them train you. Try to never let the baby, tot or little child know when you are frustrated. They will sense that and act even worse. Pray continually and ask the Lord to guide you through the training. Each child is different. What may work for one may not for another. However, always remember attitudes are caught, not taught. If necessary, have prayer as a family before entering the church doors. Let the little ones know that church time is very special. You want them to have happy memories of attending church so that when they become older, they will want to go themselves. "Pray without ceasing." I Thessalonians 5:17.

Young parents, do not be weary in well doing, for in due season you shall reap, if you faint not. (Galatians 6:9.)



## SANCTIFICATION—A SECOND WORK OF GRACE

By Wm. G. Schell

Excerpt from *The Better Testament*

The doctrine of the second work of grace, notwithstanding the many objections raised against it by the multitude of its antagonists, contains beyond doubt more definite proofs of its orthodoxy than any other doctrine set forth in the Bible. As many of these proofs are to be found under other headings, it is not my intention to bring forth in this chapter more than is necessary to establish the proposition under which I am now writing.

I call attention first to the first epistle of Paul to the Thessalonians. In the first verse of the first chapter it will be seen that this epistle is addressed "unto the church of the Thessalonians, which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ." The little phrases "in God the Father" and "in Christ," are repeatedly used in the New Testament to signify the state of justification, or regeneration. To show the true signification of these phrases, we might

quote a few texts in which they are found. "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." I John 2:6. "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him." I John 3:6. These texts are sufficient to show that to be in that state in which we are said to be "in Christ," is to be transformed inwardly and delivered from a state of wickedness to a state in which we can live a life that is well-pleasing in the sight of God. This could be true of none other than those who are actually born of God. Therefore I conclude that the Thessalonians whom Paul addressed as "in God" and "in Christ" were regenerated men and women.

As we pass through the epistle, we find Paul urging them to press forward into the experience of sanctification. In the tenth verse of the third chapter he mentions his great anxiety to

see them face to face that he might perfect that which was lacking in their faith. This proves that the apostle understood that there was some further grace that needed to have been sought by them. In the fourth chapter and third verse he shows what that needed grace was, with the words "This is the will of God, even your sanctification." Again, in verse 7, "God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness [sanctification]." Again, in chapter 5, verses 22-24, he says, "Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." These texts show very clearly that the grace needed by the Thessalonians was sanctification. The tenor of these texts shows that it was not some ceremonial work to be performed by ourselves, but a change to be wrought in us by the power of God. The words "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it" confirm this idea. So the only conclusion to be drawn concerning the experience of the Thessalonian church, from this epistle, is that they had received the first work of grace, spiritual birth but had not yet received the second work of grace, sanctification. This is an unanswerable proof that sanctification is a second work of grace.

I will now introduce Ephesians 5:25-26. As the standard version is obscure on this text, I quote from other translations. "The husbands love your own wives, as also the Christ did love the assembly, and did give himself for it, that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it with the bathing of the water in the saying." *Young's Translation*.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as the Anointed One loved the congregation, and delivered himself up on her behalf; so that, having purified her in the bath of water, he might sanctify her by the word." *Emphatic Diaglott*.

These translations beautifully set forth the thought contained in the original Greek, and their language brings out another proof that sanctification is a second work of grace. They say that we are first purified in the bath of water, afterwards sanctified by the word. The "bath of water" signifies regeneration. It is so called to call our attention to the most prominent type of regeneration in the Old Testament, the washing of the priests in the laver before entering into the

holy place to accomplish the services of God.

This purifying "in the bath of water" is dominated "washing of regeneration" in Titus 3:5, which I quote, as it also conveys the idea of twofold salvation. It reads: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." The "renewing of the Holy Ghost" mentioned here is identical with the sanctification by the Word, mentioned in the previous text; because we have seen in the previous chapter that sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Ghost are identical. Without any further comment the reader will be enabled to see in this text a proof that sanctification is obtained subsequent to regeneration.

The second work of grace is also set forth in the epistles to the Corinthians. In I Corinthians 3:1-3 Paul shows that the Corinthians were babes in Christ, yet stood in need of another work of grace. This second grace is sanctification. We are not to understand from this text that there were no sanctified people at Corinth; for a few of them were sanctified. (I Corinthians 1:2.) But like many local churches of today, there were many in this church who had not yet obtained the second work of grace. Therefore Paul wrote as he did.

In Hebrews 12:23 Paul says the church has come "to the spirits of just men made perfect." This is another proof of the second work of grace. If we first become just men and afterwards are made perfect, then we must receive two works of grace. And since we are made perfect in sanctification (Hebrews 10:14), the two works of grace are properly styled justification and sanctification.

I now introduce one more proof in conclusion. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2. Here Paul shows that the two works of grace are to be obtained consecutively. First, we are justified by faith through our Lord Jesus Christ; then "also" (*in addition to*), we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, sanctification. I deem it unnecessary to follow these proofs any further in this chapter, although I might protract it into a lengthy treatise.

# DECEIVED—HOW TO GET DELIVERED

By E. E. Byrum

Excerpt from *What Shall I Do To Be Saved?*

A deceived person is one who believes he is right when he is not right, or believes he is doing the right thing when such is not the case.

A person may be deceived by some other person by having confidence in their words when they do not tell the truth. The devil deceives people in many ways, and in accordance with I Corinthians 3:18 we would conclude that a man can deceive himself. The apostle says, "Let no man deceive himself."

Previous to speaking these words in addressing the children of God at that place he said: "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." Then he continues by saying, "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."

To conclude that you can go contrary to the Word of God, knowing its teachings, is only to deceive yourself. It is true the devil aids people in coming to such conclusions, although many charge him with things for which they themselves are responsible. To believe the devil and his suggestions in preference to believing God and His Word opens the way for deceptions that bring destruction to the soul and much suffering in mind and body in this life.

It was while Adam and Eve were in the garden of Eden enjoying the blessings of the Lord that God said to them: "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

The serpent afterward came to Eve with his suggestions and said to her: "Ye shall not surely die." Eve turned from the commandment of the Lord and followed the suggestions of the evil one and "took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." They were thus deceived by the evil one because they believed him instead of continuing to believe and obey God. The result of this disobedience was that they were driven from the garden of Eden and the curse of sin passed upon all men.

Saul of Tarsus, when he was persecuting the saints and delivering them to prison and consenting to their death, was deceived of the enemy insomuch that he believed that he was doing the will of God. While he had kept up his profession and in a formal way obeyed the outward rites and ceremonies of the law, yet he had not fully followed the teaching of the law concerning Jesus Christ, and thus by not fully obeying the Word of God in believing on Jesus Christ, of whom the prophets had spoken, he became deceived. However, when Jesus revealed Himself unto Saul he humbled himself and yielded all to the will of God and was delivered from his deceptions, and his wicked heart changed to that of a true follower of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Listening to the suggestions of the devil and pursuing the course which he would have one follow leads into many ways of deception. There are many who have never had an experience of salvation who are deceived of the devil by believing the Lord will be merciful unto them in the day of judgment even if they do not serve Him here in this life. Such people are deceived and will find in that day that God is true to His Word and will let them suffer the penalty of the wicked.

There are others who believe if they do not kill anyone, do not steal, do not bear false witness, and such like; but live a good moral life that such an experience will take them through safely. These, in like manner, will find in the day of judgment that they have been deceived. There are others who make a profession of salvation but have not met the conditions of the Word of God; have never repented of their sins, nor made things right wherein they have wronged others; never made any effort to restore the pledge or give back that which they have robbed and are thus prevented from obtaining an experience of salvation. These will also find themselves on the deceived list, and in that great day will hear the words: "Depart from me, I never knew you."

In order to obtain salvation or to keep an experience after it has been obtained, the Word of God must be obeyed. James 1:22-27 says, "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only,

deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

There must be a decision to obey the Word of God and to live as the Lord has directed therein. There must be a separation from the world. The one who will not make the decision to do this will not obtain an experience of salvation; to fail to keep this decision means a failure to keep an experience of salvation.

Another way in which many get deceived is when they have known what the Word of God teaches and they begin seeking a different answer from what the Lord has given through His Word and by His Spirit, or seeking a revelation contrary to the Word. This gives the devil a chance to come as an angel of light and deceive them, as he did Adam and Eve. God will, in some way, show the people their deceived condition.

The reason so many fall by the wayside or continue in deceptions is because, when warned by the Spirit of God of their danger, they refuse to heed the warnings given. Sometimes the Lord makes clear and sends a plain warning directly by His Spirit, in a kind, gentle manner pointing out the evils of the way pursued, or in some way bringing to the mind the matter in such a way as to show forth the deception in a clear light. Or His Spirit may direct to the Word of God in order to show these things.

If these will not answer, sometimes He speaks in stronger terms, in thundering tones by way of sending His judgments. Many times He sends His warnings through His ministers or through some child of God. In His great love for mankind He will use many means and much longsuffering but He will not always forbear. If people will not heed and He shows forth His power in mighty judgments, cutting them off from the face of the earth, there will be no use to charge God with injustice because it is only a fulfillment of His

Word, and He has promised to be true to the same.

Those who have known the ways of the Lord and what He has spoken and have become deceived through departing from His ways can only get deliverance by coming back to the line of His Word and seeking help from Him. If any have gone so far as to sin, repentance is required and obtaining an experience of salvation. To continue in the various deceptions of the enemy after having known the way, permitting the warnings of God to pass by unheeded, refusing to believe and obey God throws open a door for strong delusions. "...Because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." II Thessalonians 2:10-12.

People in a deceived state must realize their condition or in some way see their standing in the sight of God to obtain deliverance. Generally

## Bible Lessons



"Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, we are CHANGED . . ." II Cor. 3:18

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someone must tell them of their condition. Whether told by some other person or by the Spirit of the Lord, deliverance can be obtained by earnestly seeking the Lord, turning from the way of deception and measuring to the Word of God. Sometimes it requires an agreement of prayer of one or more children of God in accordance with Matthew 18:19. Sometimes it requires the laying on of hands to rebuke the binding powers of satan. Those who come earnestly to the Lord can find deliverance.

Simon the sorcerer had been doing mighty works under the influence and power of the devil, and after giving up these things and deciding to serve the Lord, seeing that he did not have the power manifested by the apostles, it was his desire to become some great one; he therefore offered the apostles money, asking them to give him that power, that they upon whom he would lay hands might receive the Holy Ghost. Peter rebuked him sharply for this ignorance of the Word of God, and told him that

his heart was yet in the gall of bitterness and that it was necessary for him to repent. The rebuke was so strong that Simon felt the weight of it and begged the apostles to pray for him, that the judgment spoken might not fall upon him.

The devil sometimes deceives people to make them believe, like Simon the sorcerer, that the power of God can be manifested by those who have not met the conditions of the Word of God, who are not living in accordance to the Word. The seven sons of Sceva believed that they had power to cast out devils. They had seen Paul and Barnabas doing wonderful works by the power of God in casting out devils and the working of miracles; they therefore undertook to do the same, but soon found they were deceived. Such deceptions God holds His ministers to expose and rebuke, and as the Word is preached in its purity, those who will abide by the Word can obtain deliverance, but those who continue in disobedience will continue in their deceptions.

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## LITTLE THINGS

We call him strong who stands unmoved,  
Calm as some tempest-beaten rock.  
When some great trouble hurls its shock,  
We say of him, his strength is proved;  
But when the spent storm folds its wings,  
How bears he then life's little things?

We call him great that does some deed  
That echo bears from shore to shore;  
Does that, and then does nothing more,  
Yet would his work earn richer meed,  
When brought before the King of kings,  
Were he but great in little things.

We closely guard our castle gates  
When great temptations loudly knock;  
Draw every bolt, clinch every lock,  
And sternly fold our bars and gates;  
Yet some small door wide open swings  
At the sly touch of little things.

But what is life? Drops make the sea  
And petty cares and small events,  
Small causes and small consequents,  
Make up the sum for you and me;  
Then, oh, for strength to meet the stings,  
That arm the points of little things!

—Selected