

# FAITH AND VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



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### “The Visible Body”

By Bro. Michael Smith

The Church is not a group or organization of man but a divine institution composed of every saved individual. In Acts 2:47 the Scripture says, “...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” Salvation is the redemption from sin through the blood of Christ. When individuals repent and depart from iniquity, they become one with the body of Jesus Christ—of whom Christ is the head. (Ephesians 1:22-23.)

Entrance into the glorious Church of God is not obtained through joining a congregation or having a name written in a book here on earth. “But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.” I Corinthians 12:18. Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep...I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.” John 10:7, 9.

Scripture after scripture supports the fact that the body is composed of the saved. We are only saved through Jesus Christ. Hence, man cannot put us into the church, nor can man put us out of the church. Sin is what separates us from being part of the body of Christ—the Church.

The Church is bigger than you and me. None of us have salvation to offer except Christ. There are people who through Christ have been born again and become new creatures. They may have never heard of the “Church of God,” but they are members due to their experience of salvation. On the other hand, there may be people going to a congregation with a sign over the building “Church of God” who are not actually in God’s Church if there is sin in their lives. Hence, God’s Church is the only Church that is pure and without sin—as it is divinely composed of the pure and holy. This is why the Church of God, Mount Zion, reigns above all religious organizations of man.

Clearly then, to be part of the Church of God, religious history and past affiliations are relatively unimportant. Receiving material from a particular congregation or group does not make one part of the Church of God. Membership is only contingent upon a born again experience. All the redeemed, the world over, are part of the true Church.

Ephesians 4:4-6 states, “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above

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all, and through all, and in you all." God is not a polygamist and has only one Church. This should not be confusing when we understand, as previously explained, what the Church really is.

Some members in the body of Christ will not have attained all the light and understanding that other members possess. It is God's will and purpose to draw each one through the Holy Spirit that we might "...come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4:13. As people grow in Christ, they will come into a fuller awareness and understanding of the pure doctrines of the Bible. Christ can never be separated from Truth.

The visible body of Christ on earth is a group or a congregation of believers who are openly unified in the oneness of God's faith and Spirit. Wherever the two witnesses—the Word and Spirit—are having full freedom and right of way, there is the visible body. Although there will often be tares among the wheat (Matthew 13:37-42), where the Word is being uncompromisingly taught and lived in its fullness under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, that is the visible body.

Therefore, it is possible for someone to be in the Church of God but not be part of the visible body due to their fellowship of a false system of religion and/or lack of doctrinal understanding. It is God's will for all to leave the systems of man's religion and be joined with other believers in the purity of doctrine and Spirit. "...Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins,..." Revelation 18:4. When people fail to forsake the religious organizations of man, their spiritual life usually quickly ebbs out due to the influence of erroneous doctrine and lack of Holy Spirit empowerment. If an individual chooses not to leave spiritual Babylon once they have light on the subject, it is a case of disobedience to God. The end result will be spiritual death. God continues to call His people to unity in the oneness of His Spirit and faith.

God has one Church; however, the visible body of Christ is not dependent upon one's knowledge of all other geographical representations of the one body. Being part of the visible body is not dependent upon what time period a congregation broke free from others who were compromising—if such be the case. A congregation is not part of the visibility just because of an association or history, as the true test of visibil-

ity is the Word and Spirit. But when people who are operating in the fullness of God meet, there is a sweet fellowship of love—and unity should be the natural outcome. Where there is a lack of unity, either the Word or the Spirit (or both) is not having total liberty among one or both groups.

In the early 1900's, there was an ignorant fisherman in Nigeria who gave his heart to Jesus Christ. That made him a member of the Church of God although he had never heard of the Church. This man began to minister and God revealed the wonderful, pure truths of the Bible to him. A congregation was raised up which made them part of the visible body of Christ, as the Word and Spirit were operating in their full capacity. Subsequently, this brother came into contact with some of the pioneer brethren from the Church of God reformation in the United States. They were teaching the same thing and had the same spirit. Both groups of people then were the visible body in different locales. Once they made contact, there was a unity that spontaneously flowed between them.

So, as we enter into the Church of God only through a heart relationship with Christ, we enter into visibility only through the working of God as well. Sometimes various professed Church of God groups get in a tug of war saying, "Come to US." The cry from God's true people should be to enter through the door of Jesus Christ and forsake all false doctrines and man's religion. The result will be holiness and unity with God's visible body on earth. God's Church should transcend culture, tradition and history and be founded on the truth of the rock Christ Jesus.

A vision of the Church is imperative to keep from becoming just another denomination amongst many. Understanding this basic teaching will keep God's people from falling into the quagmire of Church of God sectism. "And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach." Isaiah 4:1. Let all who profess to be in God's Church partake of the whole Word of God and be adorned with the holiness and righteousness of Christ. May the Lord give all His people a greater vision of the wonderful Church of God. May we die out in a greater way to our thoughts and opinions and be joined together in the fullness of the Word and Spirit. Thank the Lord for the glorious Church of God.

# Lions and Giants and Me

Bro. Carlos Doolittle

"Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me;...and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." II Timothy 4:17-18.

As aged Paul wrote to Timothy of his recent experience, he felt as though the Lord had delivered him from the mouth of a lion. He surely would have said "Amen" to Peter who wrote, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith,...But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." Remember Daniel? When he faced lions, he, too, was an old man. But, he had been faithful from his youth. He was ready to be offered as a martyr, if need be. Amen.

As we read of these lives recorded in Scripture, we see the concepts of truth worked out in examples. I remember my high school Algebra I teacher introducing new mathematical concepts and then writing example after example on the chalkboard for the rest of the class period, explaining as she wrote. She was an excellent math teacher. The Bible teaches us concepts, but also illustrates those concepts with real-life examples. Some lives were good examples and some were bad.

I remember a couple of other Bible examples who faced lions. Samson met a lion and slew it with his bare hands; David slew a lion to rescue his sheep. Comparing these two, I see a good example and a bad example. The scripture says of Samson that when the lion roared against him, "...the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him..." This was God's perspective, but somehow Samson was clueless. He went on his merry way and failed to realize God's part in his victory. Later, after Delilah had his hair shaved, poor Samson went out to fight, "...and he wist not that the LORD was departed from him." I prefer to follow David's example. His experiences with the lion and with a bear were stepping stones to greater victories. The wild animals were only ravaging livestock; Goliath dared

defy the armies of the living God. Unlike Samson, David had already learned who was his Helper.

That's not all he had learned. In rescuing sheep, he had also learned to engage the enemy. So David asked, "Is there not a cause?" "The battle is the Lord's..." I Samuel 17. There was something about David's heart that was after God's own heart. Was it this? The Lord's battles were his battles.

We, too, need to engage the enemy in our lives. For the Israelites of David's time, the enemy was the Philistines. For me, the enemy is often some part of my *self*. Do I find myself fighting the same enemy again and again, sometimes even a forty-day stand off, as in the valley of Elah? Has it been years—as long as I can remember? Goliath taunts. It just seems too big, but I must engage the enemy in my life. That's not to say that I'll go conjure up battles on my own. The Lord has big plans for my little life. He is faithful to bring me to the valley, face to face with that thing that is against me.

How do I engage my enemy? There's not a literal brook to cross or stones to hurl. Maybe it has something to do with crossing the brook Kidron into Gethsemane. Have I learned to pray for God's will and not my own? "Take my will and make it Thine, it shall be no longer mine...." Have I learned how to fast? Have I learned to listen for answers from the Lord? These are tools.

I have tools the Lord has already given me, even if just a staff and a sling. Then, I must run to face the enemy. I can't just settle for skirmishes here and there. I need a turning point in the battle. The Lord is pleased for me to set myself to seek Him for victory—whatever it takes. The Lord doeth all things well.

David could not go on someone else's experience. He rejected Saul's armor. Besides, his plan was not to defend himself, but to attack. It was just David, the giant and the Lord.

Then, in the midst of the attack, God provided a sword—not Saul's sword, but a giant's sword just when David needed it. As we set out with our tried and true tools, it would be foolish to limit God to these. His plans are bigger. We can't put deadlines on God or draw a line in the sand with Him just because that's where, when

(Continued on page 9.)

## 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 (USPS184-660).

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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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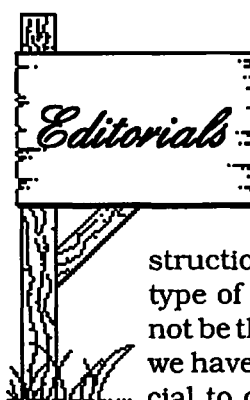
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While seeking the Lord for something special from His Word, the scripture in I Thessalonians 5:16 came to my attention. It simply says, "Rejoice evermore."

While it may be good instruction to be an optimistic, joyful type of person, we as humans can not be that way all of the time unless we have something or someone special to cause this disposition to be continually experienced.

The definition of the Greek word for *rejoice* used in this text is: to be "cheerful, i.e. calmly happy or well off." It is also used as a cheerful greeting or salutation when people are meeting or parting. While doing a search for other instances of this word in the New Testament the source of this cheerfulness became very evident.

The first instance of this word used in the New Testament is found in Matthew 2:10. The context of this passage is describing the events that took place with the wise men from the east who had traveled many miles because they had seen a special star. They understood this star indicated a great King had been born and they were coming to give Him their respect. When the wise men came to King Herod to inquire of this child, Herod demanded of the chief priests and scribes where Christ was to be born. They told him, Bethlehem, and he passed the information on to the wise men. As they continued their journey and followed the star to the very house where Mary and the child resided the Scriptures say, "When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." They had found the true source of this cheerfulness and they were ecstatic at finding this King sent from God.

The Angel of the Lord appeared to Zacharias and informed him of the son his wife, Elisabeth, would bear. This child, John, would be filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb and would turn many people to the Lord their God. In the spirit of Elias he would turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just and make ready a people prepared for the Lord. In Luke 1:14 it says, "And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth." The Spirit-filled life of John the Baptist caused many to *rejoice*. The one who was to introduce

the Christ was going to be born. It is almost like the curtain began to rise which had been closed for hundreds of years and the star performers in the great plan of salvation were beginning to make their debut on the stage of this world. The hearts of those who were watching for the King of Glory were filled with joy and they greatly rejoiced at the birth of John.

When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and brought the wonderful tidings that she was to give birth to Jesus it says, "And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, *thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.*" Luke 1:28. The greeting the angel gave, "*Hail*" is the same word also translated in other places as *rejoice*. What an inward cheerfulness it brought to the heart of Mary. The Scriptures say that "Mary kept these things and pondered them in her heart." No doubt she was somewhat apprehensive and fearful about the things that were happening but it is reasonable to also believe that she had a deep-seated, warm, reassuring sense of joy that was imparted by the greeting from the angel Gabriel.

When Jesus was passing through Jericho there was a rich man, the chief among the publicans, named Zacchaeus. This short man had a desire to see Jesus but couldn't because of the crowd of others with the same desire. However, Zacchaeus was determined to see this man he had heard many good things about and he climbed a sycamore tree in order to catch a glimpse of this wonderful Teacher. As Jesus came near the tree He spoke to him and said, "Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house." Then Luke 19:6 says, "And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully." In this text the Greek word is translated *joyfully*. Can you imagine the excitement Zacchaeus must have felt when Jesus made this appeal? Talk about a wonderful day—that was the day Zacchaeus met Jesus. No longer was he defrauding the people by overcharging their taxes. He was now willing to give money back to those he had overcharged. What a refreshing change! It would be wonderful to see more of that kind of change in the hearts of people today. They would definitely have something to "rejoice" about. Humbling our hearts before Jesus will cause this wonderful transformation to take place.

As Jesus was making His triumphant entry into Jerusalem on the back of a colt, the people began to spread their clothes before Him in the way. Luke 19:37 says, "And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen." The people were excited, Jesus was coming to Jerusalem and they were *rejoicing* and praising God. If only their excitement could have been shared by all. However, those with evil hearts cannot rejoice in the "mighty works" of God. Their "joy" comes from those things that are wicked and they are influenced by the power of satan.

Judas Iscariot was influenced by the spirit of satan and went to the chief priests and captains who had a hatred for Jesus and offered to betray Him into their hands. Luke 22:5 says, "And they were glad, and covenanted to give him money." The Greek word is here translated *glad*. There is nothing heavenly about the feelings these evil men were experiencing. Their gleeful joy was a contagion, which issued from the pits of hell and was bringing eternal damnation to their souls. They were about to do something seriously wicked and their perverted minds were joyful about it. There are people today who are living with this same evil joy while they bring much hurt and sorrow to other innocent people and the same flames of torment are leaping up for their coming.

Luke 23:8 indicates that Herod shared some of this same wicked glee. It says, "And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long *season*, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him." When Jesus would not accommodate Herod's curiosity and answer his probing questions, he along with his men of war despised Jesus and arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe and mocked Him; then sent Him to Pilate.

Even though He tried to forewarn them, Jesus knew that His disciples would not clearly understand what was about to happen to Him and why He would be taken from them and crucified. He told them in John 16:20, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy." While the world was *rejoicing*, the followers of Jesus were suffering a severe test of

faith. Peter almost lost it, but he no doubt remembered that Jesus had predicted he would deny Him and Jesus had prayed that Peter's faith fail not. The other disciples were also in the depths of despair. Their Lord was shamefully put to death and they were powerless to prevent it. The One they had put their confidence in was gone. They had given up their occupations and had forsaken many things to follow the Lord and now it appeared they had come to a dead end.

However, their trust had not been misplaced. Jesus really was the holy Son of God and He had not yielded to the temptations of satan. When death overtook our Lord there was absolutely no sin in His life it could claim. Jesus said, "...the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me." John 16:22 says, "And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you." The *rejoicing* that the followers of Jesus experienced after His resurrection would never be taken away. This thrilling event would have a marvelous impact on the world for thousands of years and it was about to take place.

Early in the morning on the first day of the week the two women, both named Mary, came to the tomb of Jesus. Upon their arrival, the angel of the Lord rolled the stone away from the door and sat upon it. He told the women that Jesus was risen and invited them to see the place where He lay. They were then instructed to quickly go tell the disciples that Jesus was risen from the dead and that they would see Him in Galilee. "And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him." Matthew 28:9. Oh, what a joyful day! The word, *hail*, in this text is translated from the same word used for *rejoice*. Jesus is alive! Now our joy can be complete. Now the verse, "rejoice evermore," has new meaning because Jesus gives us a joy that "...no man taketh from you." Even in the bitterest trial, the comfort of this joy is still alive and blesses our life.

Another faithful man of God was looking on the events that were transpiring in the realm of this terrestrial world and had a vested reason to be glad. Jesus said in John 8:56, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad." The word *glad*, used in this verse, is from the same Greek word translated *rejoice* in the other examples in this article. The word *rejoiced* used in this verse however, is a more

jubilant word. It means to *jump for joy*. Oh, what a picture this brings to my mind. Can't you see Father Abraham jumping for joy and throughout the heavens his voice was ringing, "Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!"

There are many other instances that could be brought to our attention. When Jesus showed His hands and His side to the disciples it says, "Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord." The eunuch went on his way "rejoicing." The apostles were beaten and it says, "...they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name." Their joy went with them in their persecution. The Gentiles were "glad" when they received word from the brethren that they also were accepted by the saints at Jerusalem. (Acts 13:38, 15:31.)

Philippians 4:4 instructs us to "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." Revelation 19:7 gives us liberty to join Father Abraham in his *rejoicing* and *jump for joy*. It says, "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready." Song number 61 in the *Evening Light Songs* book says, "There's joy, glad joy, Now flowing from above." Oh, dear reader, get in touch with this river of glad joy and let it bless your soul today and throughout eternity.

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

## Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Carlos Arriaga  
Sis. Mamie Butcher  
Sis. Helen Carson  
Sis. Waneta Creel  
Sis. Charlotte Dilliner  
Sis. Evelyn Fredrickson  
Bro. Troy Gentry  
Bro. Robert Hetland  
The Lounds Sisters  
Sis. Marie Mitchell  
Sis. Melba Powell  
Sis. Anna Severs  
The Mitch Taylor family  
Sis. Velda Wisner

"Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him." Acts 12:5.

## MEETING DATES

**Miami, FL**—April 9-16  
**Boley, OK (Spring Meeting)**—April 14-16  
**Wichita, KS (Spring Meeting)**—April 23-30  
**Los Angeles, CA (Spring Revival)**—April 28-30  
**Dallas, TX (Revival-Dedication)**—May 5-7  
**Oklahoma State (Guthrie, OK)**—May 26-June 4  
**Holly Hill, SC (Camp Meeting)**—May 28-June 4  
**Tulsa, OK (Camp Meeting)**—June 11-18  
**Jefferson, OR (Camp Meeting)**—June 16-25  
**Green Bank, WV (Camp Meeting)**—June 16-22  
**Wichita, KS (Sisters' Retreat)**—June 23-24  
**Fresno, CA (Camp Meeting)**—July 2-9  
**General Southern (Loranger, LA)**—July 2-9  
**National (Monark Springs, MO)**—July 21-30  
**Myrtle, MO (Camp Meeting)**—August 4-9  
**Spooner, WI (Tent Meeting)**—August 23-27



## MEETING NOTICES

### MIAMI, FL, SPRING CAMP MEETING

The Church of God in Miami, Florida would like to extend a cordial invitation to attend our Annual Spring Camp Meeting. Lord willing, it will be held April 9-16. The services will be 7:30 p.m. nightly, with two services on Sundays. Adjustments may be made to the scheduled services, as the Lord leads. Please come praying that the Lord will anoint and bless each service, so that souls will be saved and the saints will be edified.

Accommodations will be made for all who come. If you are planning to come, please contact Bro. Charles Clay at (305) 235-4271, or Bro. Kenneth Baxter at (305) 258-5310.

### BOLEY, OK, SPRING MEETING

The Boley, OK, Church of God Spring Meeting will be held on April 14-16. The services are scheduled as follows: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, 11:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Worship Service 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. (No Sunday evening service.)

We solicit the support and prayers of all of our ministers and saints for this meeting. The chapel is located on Oak Street just north of the Boley High School.

—Submitted by Sis. Savannah King (918) 667-3654 or (918) 667-3392, Sis. Anna Mae Thompson, Pastor.

### WICHITA, KS, SPRING MEETING

April 23-30 has been set for the Wichita Spring Meeting. With God controlling it, we are expecting special blessings to be showered on all who attend. Please pray for us here. There will be three services on Sundays. Monday through Saturday there will be services at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend, and let God help you in any way you need.

The chapel address is 2509 North Grove St. Take off I-35 at the exit for Hwy. 135 and 81. When you exit from Hwy. 135 onto 13<sup>th</sup> St. you will go east on 13<sup>th</sup> for nine blocks to Grove St. At the traffic light turn left on Grove and go north until you pass 24<sup>th</sup> St. The chapel is the second building on your left (west side of the street.)

For further information contact Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at (316) 778-1848 or Bro. Theodore McCray at (316) 682-5132.

### LOS ANGELES, CA, SPRING REVIVAL

Spring 2006 is a time of much anticipation of the blessings of the Lord. Our meeting, as God wills, is scheduled for April 28-30.

Worship will be Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:00 a.m., and 2:30 p.m. Pastors, Bro. Travis and Sis. Alice Johnson and congregation invite your presence and your prayers.

The Church of God chapel is located at 1381 Walnut St., Los Angeles, CA 90011. Chapel phone (213) 742-0123, Pastor's phone (760) 956-6330. E-mail: pastorx2@hotmail.com.

### DALLAS, TX, REVIVAL-DEDICATION

The Church of God congregation in Dallas, TX invites you to attend their revival and dedication of their newly constructed chapel on May 5-7. Services will be held Friday evening at 7:00 p.m., Saturday services will be at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Sunday School will be at 10:00 a.m. and a dedication service will convene at 11:00 a.m. A potluck dinner will be served at noon on Saturday and Sunday.

Due to recent water damage only a limited number of *Evening Light Songs* books are available. It would be appreciated if those who could bring their own songbook would do so.

The chapel is located at 11501 Rylie Crest, Balch Springs, TX, 75180. For further information contact Bro. Brian Fransisco at (214) 381-4878 or the pastor, Bro. Darrell Johnson (214) 275-9638.



**WICHITA, KS, SISTERS' RETREAT**

The 2006 Sisters' Retreat will be convening, Lord willing, at the Church of God chapel in Wichita, KS (2509 North Grove Street) on June 23-24, 2006.

The theme for 2006 is "Becoming a Woman of Excellence." There will be all day services with different sessions beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Accommodations will be provided at the Chapel and in homes. However, those who prefer a hotel, eight rooms are on hold at the Kansas Inn. To make a reservation, call (316) 269-9999. The toll free number is (877) 269-9899 or go online at [www.thekansasinn.com](http://www.thekansasinn.com)

Dinner on Friday will be at the Home Towne Buffet. You will need to bring \$10.00 to cover this cost.

Come praying that the Lord will bless these services. The meeting will be run by freewill offerings.

For further information contact: Sis. Mary McDonald (865) 977-6997 or Sis. Carrie Porter (865) 984-2348. Those who wish to send an offering may send it to: Church of God, 322 Lindsay St., Alcoa, TN 37701. For directions to the Wichita chapel, contact Sis. Shirley Knight at (316) 682-2474 or (316) 683-0006.



**LETTERS  
FROM  
OUR  
READERS**

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: I have been thinking and meditating upon what we gain when we love God and keep His commandments. The first and great commandment is to "...love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." "And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Matthew 22:37, 39.

"And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life." Mark 10:29-30.

Paul said, "...we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." Romans 8:37. We receive all of this in this life, then there is a "happy world above, where there is joy and peace and love." If we gain that world we are great gainers. "Were ten thousand worlds around me, all so easy to obtain, There were naught beside the glory of that crown that I shall gain."

Trust all is going well with you at the Print Shop. I am glad for the gospel that can be shared with others. Trust the Lord blesses you and all the workers there.

Your brother in Christ, —T. V. McMillian



PA—Dear Saints: Greetings in Jesus' name, I thank God for His many blessings to me. Many my age have been called from time to eternity. This world is in terrible shape—things are not far away when everything will be over.

I have a burden for a very nice man who is 89 years old. He doesn't quite understand what it takes to get through to the glory world. So please pray for this man and for other souls that I have on my heart. —Bro. Parker Slifer



PA—Dear Saints: I want to thank the dear Lord for helping me through my illness. I thank all the saints for their prayers and phone calls. I'm retired now and able to walk again. Thank the Lord! Christian love,

—Bro. Stanley and Sis. Nancy Huss



OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: I want to tell what the Lord has done for me. On the sixth of March I went into the front part of the house to check on something and decided to go back through my office area, through the bathroom and on to my working area. As I went through the louver door into my office there was a rolling stool there. I had forgotten about it being there and my foot stepped on one of the spider legs and slipped with me. I was falling and I cried out, "Lord Help." My left shoulder hit against one of my metal filing cabinets that had a stack of notebooks on it. Don't ask me how He did it, but the Lord spun me around and set me down on the seat of that stool.

I sat there and thanked and thanked Him for catching me and letting me fall on the seat of that stool. My foot and shoulder hurt for a few minutes while I sat there. I am not steady on my feet at times and I'm always asking the Lord to



not let me fall and hurt myself. He has been so good to me. It pays to put our trust in the Lord. He is always there to help us.

All true believers had faith that was unshakeable and complete. Abraham, Moses, Ruth, Joseph, Esther and David all understood that God's strong arms would never fail them. Their trust in God's faithfulness was their security and it is also ours.

Last fall I was working at one of my rent houses and a young man and I uncrated an electric kitchen range I had purchased. I took the large cardboard box out on the cement porch in front to break down to put in my dumpster. I took a small knife and cut down the corners of the box and stepped inside and pushed down the sides. On one corner I needed to cut about 10 or 12 inches to the bottom. I thought, "I'll take my foot and push it the rest of the way down." I used my right foot and I didn't realize the box was waxed inside and as I kicked with my right foot, my left foot slipped out from under me on the waxed floor of the box. I cried, "Lord help." I fell against the front of the house with my back sliding down against the wall. The box folding up under me broke my fall. I couldn't get up because my feet kept sliding out from under me on that waxed cardboard. So I had to call the young man out to help me up.

I was thanking and praising the Lord for not letting me get hurt or break a bone. We have so much to thank the Lord for.

Your sister in Christ, —Imogene Taylor

AL—Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: I am rejoicing today for God's goodness to me. I can't thank Him enough. We had a good weekend. The weather was cold but the Lord worked everything out. Isn't it wonderful how He takes care of His children. The singing on Saturday night was good and the messages on Sunday were from the Lord. God knows just what we need and when and how to send it.

Saints from different areas came and we appreciate it so very much. We enjoyed being with each one.

For some time our congregation has been praying for a revival. The week before our singing the Lord sent Bro. Michael Smith our way. We had a few nights meeting. I felt the Lord's presence each night. "...Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give..." John 16:23.

I love the Lord, and today I am more encouraged to serve Him than ever before.

Pray for me. Christian love,

—Sis. Betty Herron

### From India...

April 1, 2006—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey: Greetings to you and the dear saints abroad in the precious name of Jesus. Thank you for your letter dated March 22.

Our Vacation Bible School this year will be starting on Monday, April 3rd, for one week. The convention at Vadasserikara, the new congregation, will be starting on April 6. Please remember these ministries in your prayers. We fail to maintain several spiritual activities and outreach works due to the lack of financial support.

Our prayers are for the success of spiritual efforts to spread the gospel everywhere.

Yours in Him,

—Bro. John Varghese



## Lions and Giants and Me

(Continued from page 3.)

or how He has delivered us or someone else in the past. Therefore, when the nudge of His Spirit comes, respond. Herein lies the opportunity. Jump right up on that downed giant, grab the sword and finish him off. God sets His own conditions. If He inspires us with a promise, we can take Him up on it.

David had learned from his experiences with the lion and the bear. He also benefited from Goliath's defeat. David carried Goliath's head to the king, but he stashed the armor in his tent. (I Samuel 17:54.) God makes us more than conquerors. Not only do we get the victory, but we also take spoils that prepare us for the next battles. Later, David needed a weapon as he fled from King Saul to become a fugitive. By that time, David was a military hero, well accustomed to weapons of war, so he asked for a sword or a spear. The only weapon the priest had to offer was the sword of Goliath—David's own trophy. It had been laid away in precious keeping. (I Samuel 21.) Just as Mary kept things and pondered them in her heart, we need to cherish the lessons the Lord teaches us in battle. We may need these sacred tools again someday...maybe very soon.

Don't delay, but do wait on the Lord. Fight the good fight of faith.

# That Messy Room!

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

Do you have a messy syndrome child? I had one. He delighted in kneading food and dessert through his fingers, then propelling them to his mouth with both hands. Fork and spoon were not tools for eating but extraterrestrial objects. Half-empty oatmeal bowls served as hats, delightfully squealing while slimy oatmeal ran down his cheeks and neck.

After breakfast routines were bathing and hosing down the high chair (when weather permitted.) That kind of routine didn't last long. I soon found out that it was much less work for me to leave other jobs and sit beside this child and see that he didn't make such a mess. Today he loves order and cleanliness.

Knott's Berry Farm is an amusement park in Anaheim, California, near Disneyland. Years ago entrance was free and we lived near-by so we sometimes went to visit it. At that time it was just a replica of an 1800 California town with shopkeepers making and selling their goods as was done in the 1800's. There were also other attractions.

One of the attractions that interested me was "Old MacDonald's Farm." Old MacDonald had trained animals on this farm. Pigs pushed empty mining carts on a track through a gold mining tunnel and they came out full of oar! Chickens slid down a slide. Other chickens kept the merry-go-round spinning. One red hen walked around and around a tiny mill that ground wheat. A horse could spell. Just give a name and he picked up letter blocks with his teeth and placed them in a row to correctly spell the name.

Each of these animals were trained by the same common denominator, a desire for food. Now if a chicken, that is considered on the lower end of the intelligence scale, can be trained, I think a messy syndrome child can also be trained.

Like the animals, children develop habits. Whether the habits are good or bad depends on their keeper. Do you think the trainer taught the animals by getting mad and fussing, shouting or hitting them? Did he use threats or scare tactics? Not likely. When we lose control and give our children a "piece of our mind" they

understand about as little as a chicken would of what performance we desire from them. So why waste your time and breath fussing? Why not get busy getting rewards and consequences in place to make good behavior the most convenient thing to do.

The next time you start blaming the children for their messy rooms, maybe it would be better to apologize for not being responsible. Perhaps that would help you remember to see that these special children do clean their rooms.

The animal trainer makes things convenient and conducive for the animals to perform the way he wishes. He also rewards the animals when they do perform correctly. If they do not perform, starvation might be their option. The usual reward is love and an appetizer. Yes, an appetizer, just enough food so the animal will perform the same way again for more of the same reward.

I am not advocating we train our children like animals. I'm just thinking that if dumb animals can be taught to perform right by giving approval and limiting food, maybe messy syndrome children could be taught the same way. Most of them like to eat.

II Thessalonians 3:8-12 instructs us that every one who eats must also work. If parents would make and enforce rules such as, "No work, no food," "Room clean before breakfast" or "Homework and chores done or no supper" they might get more cooperation out of these special children. Parents should consistently make the consequences for being messy not worth the suffering that follows.

The parents would also have to make it convenient for their child to be able to do these things. He or she cannot have homework done before supper if allowed to play, visit friends, shop, etc. until mealtime. It is the trainer's responsibility to see that he stops playing and has a quiet time to study and that he bathes and tidies the room before going to bed. Then he or she must rise in the morning in time to put away sleeping clothes, straighten the bed and have his chores done before breakfast.

Keeping their room tidy is much easier when children are allowed to take out only coordinat-

ing toys for play. These toys must be put away before another group is brought out. (Example: playing house—dishes, food, dolls, etc.) These habits can be taught to toddlers. If they are not, you may have to put signs on their door. "Danger! Disaster area, child at play." Five-year-olds should keep their rooms tidy, make their bed and begin learning to cook and clean the kitchen.

Another consideration is the child's future. What effect will "being untrained" have on your child's marriage? A spouse who does not take their share of responsibilities has caused many divorces. I personally know of a divorce for this reason and also a husband who became an alcoholic because of an untrained, messy syndrome child. Your child's self-esteem might be destroyed if his or her spouse, instead of you, has to train them. Have mercy on your messy syndrome child and train him or her now. She

and your future in-laws will bless you for it.

I have also seen that messy syndrome seems to carry over into spiritual life. A person who is disciplined about natural things is also careful about spiritual duties. Our "inner" room must also be kept clean by the "washing of God's Word" each day. Apologies should be made quickly and bad attitudes nipped in the bud.

Of course there are those children who just love to skip meals. So this idea may not work you say. Don't say so until you try. Every child will get hungry sooner or later. Especially when food is denied. Watch closely if he doesn't get hungry. A sibling may be sneaking him food, which is what happened in our family.

Some families have a child that is tidy without training. Thank God if you have one and pray for the parents of the messy syndrome child. They need a lot of prayer.



## How Do I See God?

By Sis. La Verna Probst

While I was in prayer the Lord stopped and asked me, "How do you see the Lord?" As I stayed knelt in mediation, the scripture came to mind in Isaiah 6:1 "...I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up,..." How do I see Him? Do I see Him "High and Lifted Up" or do I see Him as just a mere helper to the earthly helps that mankind tends to lift up.

One of the first things that came to mind was evolution. Man has lifted the theory of evolution way above creation. How do I see God? Do I see Him as the Creator of Heaven and Earth or just a bystander while we evolved from a one-cell something? My heart answered back, "Oh Lord, I see You as the Creator." If we just evolved then we have no one that we are responsible to. But we owe our heart and life to our Creator.

Another thing that came to mind was the legal system of today. How many times we hear about someone threatening to sue. My mind went back to some major legal problems that came up while running a business for 25+ years. A phone call had come in that seemed I would have to answer with a lawyer to protect myself from much loss. But my daughters and I went to our knees, begging the Lord for mercy and about 20 minutes later he called back with a much more reasonable proposition. Bounced checks posed a problem and there were some big ones that bounced, but as we took them to

the Lord, He would work on the individual and they would come in and make it right. There was less than \$100.00 lost in bad checks and less than \$500.00 in unpaid charge accounts during that time. Praise the Lord!!! There are things that we have to use the legal system for, but when it comes to fighting for our rights do we see God as being able to be our defense and fight our battles for us?

Mankind has lifted the medical field very high. It is good there are those that can help when one has not learned the peace of casting all upon the Lord. But how do I see God? He is the One that made us and knows more about our body than anyone can ever know, and He has truly proved faithful many times in the face of life threatening circumstances. A Healer, not only for the body, but for the emotions and hurts of the heart and mind. When the heart has been broken beyond repair, there is a Healer, a Comforter, a Guide that will stick closer than a brother in all of the battles of life. I have tested Him, trusted Him and proved Him and found Him faithful in all things. "With His stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:5.

Man puts much value on education. Is it wrong to have education? No! But true understanding and wisdom comes only from above. We must value the wisdom from above of far

greater worth than all the education we could acquire. All earthy knowledge must be compared to the benchmark of true wisdom. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge:..." Proverbs 1:7.

Do I see Jesus as the Founder and Builder of the Church? Is He still able to organize the body and place consecrated people in the places that need to be filled? Is He able to lay the burden upon an individual or does He need a committee to make sure that all runs smoothly? Is He able to bind false spirits, lift up the oppressed, give the message of the hour, send someone to pray the prayer of faith or cause someone to write a letter of encouragement at the needed time? There is no individual, no overseer that knows the need of the hour like Jesus. Yes, the Lord is still high and lifted up and able to take care of His body, the Church.

The song *Church of God* in our hymnal says it so plainly. "God, Himself, has set the members In His body all complete, Organized by Jesus only, Oh, the union pure and sweet."

For us to see the Lord high above what mankind has and still is erecting, we must be in close contact with God. No amount of earthy study, learning or research can give us this vision of the Lord. The scripture says, "Where there is no vision the people perish:..." Proverbs 29:18. This comes only through prayer and consecration to the Lord, being filled with His spirit and then His mind can be in us and we will truly see Him high and lifted up.

Let us say with the psalmist, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help *cometh* from the LORD, which made heaven and earth." Let us look to the **One high and lifted up** above all!

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## Carelessness, A Trick To Many Failures

By Bro. Chinwendu Nwachukwu, Nigeria, West Africa

Have you known or had a careless child? Take a close account of him, and you will find many mistakes so often done repeatedly. This child grows up with it and becomes a careless man who falls into huge mistakes of life. The devil has seen this as a sweet device to ensnaring souls.

To some it is as fun and to others a way of life, but every good parent would try as much as possible to eliminate it from that child before it cuts him across the way. Consider God, our heavenly Father, whose thoughts toward us are not evil, but good, (Jeremiah 29:11) how that He would do all things to cause an awareness in us against this snare. This awareness we find Jesus giving to His disciples in Luke 21:20. "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh." This called for a time of extreme carefulness on the part of the disciples. Had they been careless, they would also have been involved in the siege of Jerusalem.

Let us mention a few among the lot of what carelessness can cause.

- (1) It will cause one to have misplaced priorities.
- (2) It runs into losses.
- (3) It causes one to fail to understand the time.

We shall consider three parts of this lesson: **The carelessness of sinners:** Let us see Luke 10:40-42. "But Martha was cumbered about with much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." Many, like Martha, have decided to get themselves too busy with life's business, with no time for a careful thought for their souls. Every day comes and goes with their sins still retained in them, yet without feelings. Carefulness is observed in feeding and in making a great deal of the meal; carefulness on clothing, not to run short of new dresses; and carefulness in business, not to hit a low target. Carefulness in these matters and many more and much time is sold to it. But what about the soul? CARELESSNESS! Priority is placed on the body instead of the soul. "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:36 "Won't you come and be saved; won't you whisper, I yield?" "HELL FIRE" will be the only prize for neglect to the soul.

Next let us consider: **The carelessness of the saved.** Once saved is not always saved. We shall see Genesis 25:29-34; 27:33-34, 38. In the first text we see Esau selling away his birthright because of an immediate need. He had his birthright, a right which none would have collected without his giving it out. So is every saved one today. Our right in God is "salvation" by which we have access to "know the things that are freely given to us of God." I Corinthians 2:12. A sinner who revels in his sin has no inheritance with our heavenly Father. The devil knows this. So he would first snatch our birthright away through costly deals in our needy moments. Esau displayed carelessness and thought there would not be an effect. But in the following text we see the loss of blessings. Hebrews 12:16-17 further clarifies it that even tears could not recover it! So it will be to anyone who is careless about this great salvation, (birthright), seeing that it may be impossible to renew. (Hebrews 6:4-6.) "You may barter your hope of eternity's morn, for a mo-

ment of joy at the most, for the glitter of sin and the things it will win: Have you counted, have you counted the cost?"

Lastly, we shall consider: **The carelessness of ministers:** Revelation 2:18, 20, 24. Let us consider the word "sufferest" in verse 20. That means allowing, negligence of duty, not mindful, careless. The character "Jezebel" stood for seduction and perversion. The world today is filled with seducing spirits and doctrines of the devil working through so called "men of God." Ministers are warned to be careful to know when these things are filtering into the congregation. The stand or fall of a congregation depends on the ministers. Verse 24 clarifies it—the fornication and idolatry mentioned in verse 20 means imbibing false doctrines. Warning also in Acts 20:28-31 is given against such.

May God help us to be careful to understand this time we are living in. Many the careless day we spend; many the careless word we say; and many the careless step we take, which may not actually be recovered

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## No Exceptions

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

The Lord God Jehovah has ordained a definite path for mankind to follow if they expect to share in His kingdom of Righteousness. There are many in this world who are not going to follow the humble footsteps of our Savior and they will be excluded from the joys of Heaven. As you read the following scriptures and thoughts, think about how serious it is to be an exception to these directives.

(1) "...Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3. Convert means to make a change. Jesus is saying that you must change your proud and strong-willed ways, and become teachable like a humble child in order to be a member of His heavenly kingdom. He said, "...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3. You must repent, be sorry about committing sins, and stop doing them. Jesus said, "...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John. 3:3. If you are not a new or changed person in Christ, then you are not going to have an accurate vision of God's kingdom. As a newborn child of God, you will love God and want to keep

His commandments. If you do not want to obey Him and keep His commandments, then you are an exception.

(2) "...Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." John 12:24. Just as a seed must split open to allow new life to eat and destroy it, so you must allow YOUR thoughts, YOUR dreams, YOUR securities, YOUR desires to die within your heart so that the Holy Spirit can grow within and produce the fruit of patience, love, longsuffering, goodness, meekness, etc. (Galatians 5:22-26.) The old self must let go and release his independence, depending on the Lord for true peace and joy in life. Here is where real security is found. "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me....For without me ye can do nothing. John 15:4-5. As long as your affections and lusts are controlling you, then you are not dead to your self and abiding in the Lord. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to "...teach you all things...." that are righteous and holy. (John 14:26.) If His Holy Spirit cannot teach you the way of holiness, then you are an exception.

(3) "...Except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:20. In their time, the scribes and Pharisees were the "religious leaders" who prayed long prayers and lorded over others whom they thought did not seem so religious. Jesus warned against their self-righteous habits. (Luke 11:39-44.) He does not want Christians to follow their tradition of ruling over others but He said for the leaders to *serve* others instead of *rule* over others. (Luke 22:25-27.) If you feel under bondage in quietly serving others, then you are an exception.

(4) "For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.... For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect." Mark 13:19-22. Today there is a great spiritual affliction in our world. There are anti-Christ, false prophets, hypocrites and evil seducers living in your neighborhood or in your sphere of acquaintances. The prince of this world, the devil, is loose and actively enticing souls to sin through the lusts of the flesh. (Revelation 20:7-8.) As evil becomes worse, it will be harder for Christians to spiritually see the strait way clearly. Sophisticated reasoning and broadened education can put a wedge between you and the Lord. The pressure will be so heavy that the Lord said He will shorten or quicken the time for Christ to come again and destroy this earth. (II Peter 3:1-13.) If you don't see the evil of false reports and teachings in your society, then you are an exception.

(5) "...Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved." Acts 27:31. Apostle Paul said this to the centurion and soldiers who were on a ship tossing and pitching on the wild Mediterranean Sea. In a vision, an angel of God had told Paul that he and all the men *on the ship* would be saved. The men denied themselves food for fourteen days as the ship battled the winds of adversity. There was tension among the men because of differences of opinions and occupations, but God was in control of the storm and where the ship was going. All 276 men obeyed the Lord and stayed committed to the ship. When God chose to break the ship asunder, He saved every soul alive.

This physical account can apply to our spiritual realm in that the Lord tells us to stay

in His Church, safe from the winds of false doctrines. There are warnings concerning "...clouds that are carried with a tempest;... For when they speak great swelling *words* of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, *through much* wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error." II Peter 2:17-18. Unbelievers and hypocrites are clouds without satisfying water. Don't be fooled by them for they will bring confusion to your faith. "For God is not *the author* of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." I Corinthians 14:33. If you do not feel the peace and fellowship within God's Church, then you are an exception.

I hope you did not find yourself an exception to any of these five "*excepts*." The Lord will not accept those who are always excusing a bad habit or wicked lifestyle or wrong attitudes. He wants to gather in all the ones who have excluded themselves from His way of holiness and for that reason His merciful Spirit is continuing to deal with hearts to show them the way to enter and bear fruit in His kingdom.

## A Testimony To Full Salvation

On Friday, January 9, 1885, at about nine o'clock in the morning, God sanctified my soul. I was in my own room at the time, but in a few minutes I went out and met a man and told him what God had done for me. The next morning I met another friend on the street and told him the blessed story. He shouted and praised God and urged me to preach full salvation and confess it everywhere. God used him to encourage and help me. So, the following day, I preached on the subject as clearly and forcibly as I could and ended with my testimony.

God blessed the Word mightily to others, but I think He blessed it most to myself. That confession put me on record. It cut the bridges down behind me. Three worlds were now looking at me as one who professed that God had given him a clean heart. I could not go back now. I had to go forward. God saw that I meant to be true to death. So, two mornings after that, just as I got out of bed and was reading some of the words of Jesus, He gave me such a blessing as I never had dreamed a man could have this side of heaven. It was a Heaven of love that came into my heart. I walked out over Boston Common before breakfast, weeping for joy and praising God. Oh, how I loved! In that hour I knew Jesus, and loved Him till it seemed my heart would

break with love. I loved the sparrows, I loved the dogs, I loved the horses, I loved the little urchins on the streets, I loved the strangers who hurried past me, I loved the heathen, I loved the whole world.

Do you want to know what the baptism of the Holy Ghost is? It is not a mere sentiment. It is not a happy sensation that passes away in a night. It is a baptism of love that brings every thought into captivity to the Lord Jesus; that casts out all fear; that burns up doubt and unbelief, as fire burns tow; that makes one "meek and lowly in heart," that makes one hate uncleanness, lying and deceit and flattering tongue, and every evil way with a perfect hatred; that makes Heaven and hell eternal realities; that makes one patient and gentle with the forward and sinful; that makes one "pure, peaceable, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy," that brings one into perfect and unbroken sympathy with the Lord Jesus Christ in His toil and travail to bring a lost and rebel world back to God.

God did all that for me, bless His holy name!

Oh, how I had longed to be pure! Oh, how I had hungered and thirsted for God—the living God! And He gave me the desire of my heart. He satisfied me—I weigh my words—He satisfied me! He satisfied me!

These twenty-nine years have been wonderful. God has become my Teacher, my Guide, my Counsellor, my all and in all.

He has allowed me to be perplexed and tempted, but it has been for my good. I have no complaint to make against Him. Sometimes it has seemed that He had left me alone, but it has been as the mother who stands away from her little child to teach it to use its own legs, that it may walk. He does not suffer me to fall.

He has helped me to speak of Jesus and His great salvation in a way to instruct and comfort and save other souls. He has been light to my darkness, strength to my weakness, wisdom in my foolishness, knowledge in my ignorance.

When my way has been hedged up, and it seemed that no way could be found out of my temptations and difficulties, He has cut a way through for me, just as He opened the Red Sea for Israel.

When my heart has ached, He has comforted me; when my feet had well-nigh slipped, He has held me up; when I have been in sore need, He has supplied all my need; when I have

been hungry, He has fed me; when I have thirsted, He has given me living water.


Oh, glory to God! What has He not done for me? What has He not been to me?

I recommend Him to the world.

He has taught me that sin is the only thing that can harm me, and that the only thing that can profit me in this world is "faith which worketh by love." He has taught me to hang upon Jesus by faith for my salvation from all sin and fear and shame, and to show my love by obeying Him in all things; and by seeking in all ways to lead others to obey Him.

I praise Him! I adore Him! I love Him! My whole being is His for time and eternity. I am not my own. He can do with me as He pleases, for I am His. I know what He chooses must work out for my eternal good. He is too wise to make mistakes, and too good to do me evil. I trust Him. I trust Him, I trust Him! "My expectation is from Him," not from man, not from myself, but from Him. He has been with me for twenty-nine years, and I know He will never fail me. •

## Bible Lessons



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

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