

# FAITH AND VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



### TREASURE HID IN A FIELD

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

Among Christ's parables about the kingdom of God, He brought out one as recorded in Matthew 13:44. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field." He speaks here about the kingdom of God as a treasure. And it truly is the greatest treasure one can possess. Every earthly or human treasure shrinks to nothing when compared to the treasure of the kingdom of God that we can possess in our hearts and lives.

There's a theme that is sweet to my mem'ry;  
 There's a joy that I cannot declare;  
 There's a treasure that gladdens my being;  
 'Tis the kingdom of righteousness here!  
 —B. E. Warren

What is this kingdom of God that is such a wonderful treasure? The apostle Paul labeled it in Romans 14:17 in this way: "For the kingdom

of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." And he says further in verse 18: "For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God and approved of men." This righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit is to be living and working in the very heart and life of a person. It must be more than talk. It must be functioning and in reality in our very inner most being. Righteousness is that which is right and acceptable to our righteous God Who created us. It is that which is pure, clean, and without sin before God. Peace is the calm and quietness of the heart and mind, a freedom from worry, fear, anxiety, gloom, condemnation and guilt. Joy is intense happiness and gladness, rejoicing with praise, honor and thanksgiving to God. Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sins and reconciled us to favor and fellowship with God. Thus the kingdom of God finds access into our hearts and lives.

Entrance into the kingdom of God is gained by being changed from a life of sin to a life of righteousness. Jesus in John 3:3 said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." The meaning of the word "again" from the Greek is "from above." Jesus further said in verse 5, "...Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." This means that a man must be regenerated or made spiritually alive by obedience to the Word of God and the Spirit of God. This is the only way we can enter the kingdom of God and be a partaker of its benefits and blessings.

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Jesus is speaking of a spiritual birth that takes place in the inner man—the heart, the soul, the affections, desires, attitudes, thoughts and intentions.

It is a wonderful thing to be truly born from above and have the kingdom of God to come within the heart. Jesus said that it is a treasure. What did He mean when He said that it is like unto a treasure hid in a field? Let us consider this thought first in a literal sense. Let us picture it as a man who is employed by another man to plow his field. As this man is plowing, he uncovers a fabulous treasure. Upon examining his find, he is made aware that it is no little thing, but rather a huge mass of wealth, worth more than he can reckon or count. Jesus said that “when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof, goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.” This man concludes that the only way he can partake of that treasure is to purchase the field, so that the treasure could be lawfully his. So he hides it, that is, he covers it back up as it was. Then, for joy he goes and sells all that he has and makes every effort to have the means to purchase the field so that the treasure could be actually his.

Jesus said that this is likened unto the kingdom of Heaven. When a person hears the good tidings of the kingdom of God and what all it can mean to the heart and life, he is filled with

wonder and desire to have the heavenly treasure for his own. The preaching of the gospel of Christ is to make known what the power and grace of the Lord Jesus can do for us. It can save us from the power and damnation of sin. It can change our life from evil and wickedness to be holy, pure and clean in God’s sight. It provides a hope of life eternal beyond the grave. These are treasures that the world can never give. This is attractive and draws on one’s desire. It becomes so attractive that the person begins to seek to gain possession of that wonderful treasure. He becomes willing to “sell all that he has.” He is willing to give up his desires and ambitions. He becomes filled with desire to gain the true riches that Christ has made available for us to have. He turns loose of the world and its pleasures and is willing to take up his cross and follow the Lord all the way.

Have we caught the vision of the fabulous wealth of the kingdom of God? Listen to the gospel and its wonderful message. Count up the value of the kingdom of God and compare it to the fleeting things of this present world. Whosoever can have insight to the values and riches of the kingdom of Christ and of God will gladly give up all to follow Jesus and go with Him. Life eternal in the world to come with Christ and the redeemed of all ages is to be gained by attaining to the Kingdom of God’s dear Son.



## AN EFFECTUAL PRAYER

“No,” said the lawyer, “I shan’t press your claim against that man; you can get some one else to take your case, or you can withdraw it, just as you please.”

“Think there isn’t any money in it!”

“There would probably be some money in it, but it would, as you know, come from the sale of the little house the man occupies and calls home; but I don’t want to meddle with the matter, anyhow.”

“Got frightened out of it, eh?”

“No, I wasn’t frightened out of it.”

“I suppose likely the old fellow begged hard to be let off?”

“Well, yes, he did.”

“And you caved, likely?”

“No, I didn’t speak a word to him.” “Oh, he did all the talking, did he?” “Yes.”

“And you never said a word?”

“Not a word.”

“What did you do?”

“I believe I shed a few tears.”

“And the old fellow begged you hard, you say?”

“No, I didn’t say so; he didn’t speak a word to me.”

“Well, may I respectfully inquire whom he did address in your hearing?”

“God Almighty.”

“And he took to praying, did he?”

“Not for my benefit, in the least. You see”—and the lawyer crossed his right foot over his left knee, and began stroking his lower leg up and down, as if to state his case concisely; “you see, I found the little house easily enough, and knocked at the outer door, which stood ajar; but nobody heard me, so I slipped into the hall, and saw, through the crack of another door, just as cosy a sitting room as there ever was. There on

a bed, with her silver head way up high on the pillows, was an old lady, who looked for all the world just as my mother did the last time I ever saw her on earth. Well, I was right on the point of knocking, when she said as clearly as could be: 'Come, father, begin; I'm ready.'

"And down on his knees by her side went an old, white-haired man, still older than his wife, I should judge; and I could not have knocked then for the life of me. Well, he began; first, he reminded God they were still His submissive children, mother and he; and no matter what He saw fit to bring upon them they shouldn't rebel at His will. Of course, 'twas going to be terrible hard for them to go out homeless in their old age, especially with poor mother so sick and helpless; but still they had seen sadder things than ever that would be.

"He reminded God, in the next place, how different all might have been if only one of their boys might have been spared to them; then his voice kind of broke, and a thin, white hand stole from under the coverlet, and moved softly over his snowy hair, then he went on to repeat, that nothing could be so sharp as the parting with those three sons—unless mother and he should be separated. But at last he fell to comforting himself with the fact that the dear Lord knew it was through no fault of his own that mother and he were threatened with the loss of their dear little home, which meant beggary and the almshouse; a place they prayed to be delivered from entering, if it could be consistent with God's will.

"And then he fell to quoting a multitude of promises concerning the safety of those who put their trust in the Lord; yes, I should say he begged hard; in fact, it was the most thrilling plea to which I ever listened. And at last he prayed for God's blessing on those who were about to demand justice"—the lawyer stroked his lower limb in silence for a moment or two, then continued more slowly than before: "And, I believe I'd rather go to the poorhouse myself, tonight, than to stain my heart and hands with the blood of such a prosecution as that."

"Little afraid to defeat the old man's prayer, eh?" queried the client.

"Bless your soul, man, you could not defeat it!" roared the lawyer. "It doesn't admit of defeat! I tell you, he left it all subject to the will of God; but he left no doubt as to his own wishes in the matter; claimed that we were told to make known our desires unto God; but of all the pleading I ever heard, that beat all. You see, I was taught that kind of thing myself in my

childhood; and why I was sent to hear that prayer I'm sure I don't know, but I hand the case over."

"I wish," said the client, twisting uneasily, "you hadn't told me about the old fellow's prayer."

"Why so?"

"Well, I greatly want the money the place would bring, but was taught the Bible all straight when I was a youngster; and I'd hate to run counter to such a harangue as that you tell about. I wish you hadn't heard a word of it; and another time I wouldn't listen to petitions not intended for your ears."

The lawyer smiled.

"My dear fellow," he said, "you're wrong again; it was intended for my ears, and yours too, and God Almighty intended it. My old mother used to sing about God's moving in a mysterious way, I remember." "Well, my mother used to sing it, too," said the claimant, as he twisted his claim-papers in his fingers. "You can call in, in the morning, if you like, and tell mother and him the claim has been met."

"In a mysterious way," added the lawyer, smiling. —Selected from *Quests and Conquests*



## Have You Taken It To Jesus

Have you taken it to Jesus?

Have you left your burden there?

Does He tenderly support you?

Have you rolled on Him your care?

O, the sweet unfailing refuge

Of the everlasting arms;

In their loving clasp enfolded

Nothing worries or alarms.

Have you taken it to Jesus,

Just the thing that's pressing now

Are you trusting Him completely

With the when and where and how

Oh, the joy of full surrender

Of our life, our plans, our all;

Proving, far above our asking

That God answers when we call.

Have you taken it to Jesus?

'Tis the only place to go

If you want the burden lifted

And a solace for your woe.

Oh, the blessedness to nestle

Like a child upon His breast;

Finding ever, as He promised

Perfect comfort, peace and rest.

—Mrs. E. L. Hennessay

## FAITH AND VICTORY

### 12 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.

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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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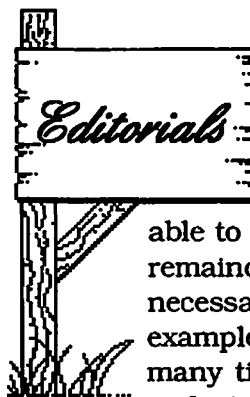
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It was a dark night, and the afflicted sister was suffering intensely. She called some of the Saints for prayer, and God instantly touched her, and she was able to rest peacefully through the remainder of the night. It is not necessary to put a name to this example because it has happened many times—sometimes instantly, and at other times there began a marked, steady improvement in the person's condition. These are not isolated events, you could probably testify of similar times when God answered your personal plea for help. The Scriptures tell us to call on the Lord in our needs. The writer of Hebrews 4:16 encourages us to "...come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." James directs us with this exhortation, "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." James 5:14-15. How wonderful that God has such interest in His trusting children that He answers their prayers in sickness and affliction. The day of miracles is not past for those who truly believe in Him.

We rejoice and are exceedingly thankful for the provision in the atonement for the healing of our bodies. Through prayer, we also find release from the guilt of sin, relief from pain and sorrow, and direction in the stressful, perplexing times of life. God is interested in everything that touches our lives and those things we are interested in as well. Granted, He may be looking at our interests from a different viewpoint, and that is one of the beneficial reasons all things should be taken to Him in prayer. It is His will that we, "Pray without ceasing." I Thessalonians 5:17. If we cultivate this mental pattern of communication, then we will find that we are united with the ultimate source of wisdom. The result of having this wisdom from above will cause us to be happier, more joyful and find greater fulfillment in life. It will help us live a pure, peaceable, gentle life, and to be merciful and fair in our dealings with others. Prayer

dispels gloom and fear; it replaces these with hope and confidence. These benefits can be ours by improving the communication we have, through the vehicle of prayer, with our Creator.

Jesus said, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matthew 21:22. Unless prayer is coupled with a solid belief that God hears and will perform our request, our prayers will be weak and ineffective. Unbelief is probably the greatest hindrance to receiving the answer we desire. It plagues the sinner as well as the Saint. Jesus reprimanded His disciples for unbelief. Shortly after Jesus miraculously fed the multitude, the disciples entered a ship and a storm came upon them while Jesus slept. They became fearful of their lives and aroused Him saying, "...Lord, save us: we perish." Having seen the wonderful works of Jesus firsthand did not "cure" their unbelief. Jesus said to them, "...Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?..." After Jesus rebuked the winds and the sea there became a great calm and the Scriptures say that, "...the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!" Matthew 8:27. What caused them to marvel that Jesus could command the winds and the sea? Was it really a surprise to them that He could do this after multiplying the loaves and fishes to feed a multitude of hungry people? Are we surprised when the Lord answers our prayers? We shouldn't be. By exercising faith with our prayers, they become effectual, and God is pleased to grant our petitions.

In Mark 11:24-26, Jesus helped us understand that we must forgive our brother if we expect our heavenly Father to forgive us. If God does not forgive us of our sins, then they will remain and will hinder the answer to our prayers. Our willingness to forgive others who have trespassed against us is not a matter to be taken lightly. The enemy capitalizes on this important principle and works to cause offenses to develop between brethren. Whether the offenses are actual or perceived, it matters not to him. The resulting unforgiveness is what he attempts to achieve, for he knows that it will cause a barrier to develop, not only between the brethren, but also between that person and God.

When Jesus gave the illustration of the widow continually coming to the unjust judge to avenger her of her adversary, He said it was

given for this reason, "...that men ought always to pray, and not to faint." If the widow had given up too soon she would not have received the help she needed from the unjust judge. Jesus encourages us not to give up because our request is not granted the first time we pray. God's timing is always right, and He knows how to give the answer in a way that will bring the greatest spiritual good to our soul. He also sees the impact His answer has on those we are associated with. We can rest in the promise that "...all things work together for good to them that love God...."

There are some things we are told not to do in our prayers. Jesus said not to use "vain repetitions as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking." Remember the idol worshippers in the time of Elijah who cut themselves until their blood gushed out and cried aloud, yet there was no answer to their prayers. Jesus condemned those who "...for a show pray long prayers." We are rather instructed to "...enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret;..."

Our prayers should not be contrary to the will of the Father. If the Word of God plainly states the Father's will, then don't attempt, like Balaam, to go against it. Rather, we should be content to dwell within the framework of His perfect plan. The enemy, however, would like to cause us to think the Lord is not willing to give us what we pray for, even though our petition is within His will. Don't allow satan's ruse to discourage your prayers. James 5:15 instructs us to confess our faults one to another and to pray for one another. While we should pray for our personal needs, our prayers should not be totally self-centered. The Lord often provides for our needs when we carry the burden of others. The fervency of our prayers touch the heart of God. We are encouraged to be "fervent in spirit." The Word says the fervent prayer of a righteous man "availeth much."

Prayer should be specific. One can easily identify the hand of God in answering a prayer that addresses a specific request. When that answer comes, it carries with it a twofold blessing; it supplies the desired need and strengthens that individual's faith. Our prayers should be filled with thanksgiving for the gracious blessings God bestows upon us. God does **many**

more things for us than we could ever enumerate. Let us not be like the nine lepers Jesus cleansed who never returned to express appreciation for their deliverance. May our prayers lavish sincere praise to God for His love and admiration for His holy character. Strive, through the infilling power of the Holy Spirit, to incorporate those righteous virtues in your own life.

There may be lax times in one's personal life that the Lord gently speaks to them with this admonition, "Child, you are not praying enough." When this loving warning is heeded, earthly and spiritual things are placed in their proper perspective and stability returns to their relationship with God. Prayer is a powerful weapon against the forces of evil and its value should never be discounted.

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We thank the Lord for His blessings upon us this past year. Truly it is because of His mercies that the work of publishing the Good News of a risen Savior has been able to continue from day to day. The world in which we live still has a great need for this message of love, and we are encouraged to be engaged in this endeavor. We also express our sincere gratitude to the Saints who have jointly carried the burden of supporting this work. It is our prayer that God would abundantly reward each one who has sacrificed for the sake of this ministry of grace.

We are grateful for the accomplishments that have been made this year and are excited about what God has in store for the coming year. We believe the effort that has gone into planting the Gospel seed will bear precious fruit, and that hope gives us courage to ever press onward.

May the glory of the Lord shine from the countenance of each child of God throughout the coming year, reflecting the joy and hope you cherish within your heart.

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

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### Grace Before Work

The smoky dawn comes cold and gray  
And stalks through every city street.  
Dear Father, as I kneel to pray  
And thank Thee that my rest was sweet,  
God give me sympathy and sense  
And help me keep my courage high;  
God give me calm and confidence  
And—please—a twinkle in my eye!  
—Selected



OK—Just a little note to ask special prayer for my sister-in-law, Sharon Sorrell. I understand she is in the hospital with several serious needs. Also, as most of you know, my brother, Sam, is not a well man. We know the Lord does not make mistakes in what He permits or allows. Please pray for all of us.

—Sis. Rebecca Sorrell

KY—Remember Jaden Howard in prayer. This is the young son of Bro. Matt and Sis. Sarah Howard. He has had a tumor removed from a sensitive area near the brain. Pray for his full recovery and for his parents in this difficult time.



## Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Carlos Arriaga  
Sis. Mamie Butcher  
Sis. Gladys Cashio  
Sis. Helen Carson  
Sis. Waneta Creel  
Sis. Patsy Doolittle  
Sis. Dorall Forbes  
Sis. Evelyn Fredrickson  
Bro. Troy Gentry  
Bro. Lee Hilton  
Sis. Leta Inman  
Bro. Mark and Sis. Darlene Knight  
Sis. Juliette Lounds  
Sis. Tenaye Moaning  
Sis. Melba Powell  
Bro. Jerry Quave  
Sis. Olene Rector  
Sis. Cheryl Smith  
Bro. Michael Smith  
Bro. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor  
The Mitch Taylor family  
Sis. Norma Tiller  
Sis. Annetta Williamson  
Sis. Lula Williamson

## MEETING DATES

**California State (Pacoima)**—Dec. 21-30

**Oklahoma State (Guthrie)**—Dec. 21-30

**General Southern (Loranger, LA)**—

June 29-July 6

**National ( Monark Springs, MO)**—July 18-27



## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

## MEETING NOTICES

### CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting will be held this year, Lord willing, from December 21 to 30. The campground is located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA 91331. The first service will begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 21, with three services daily thereafter.

For more information 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.

### OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held at Guthrie, OK, from December 21 to December 30. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U.S. The first service will be held Friday evening, December 21, at 7:30 p.m. Daily worship services throughout the remainder of the meeting will start at 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. There will also be morning prayer services and youth services, the times of which will be announced at the meeting.

The campgrounds are located east off of Sooner Road on Lakeview Road, which is a little over four-tenths of a mile south of the intersection of South Division and Sooner Road. All who come will be cared for. The expenses of the meeting will be met by freewill offerings.

We especially urge the saints in Oklahoma and the surrounding states to attend this meeting. Come praying with a burden for the unsaved and for all those who need help in soul and body. Please send all contributions for the coming State Assembly Meeting directly to the State Treasurer, Sister Brenda Wilkins, 1023 E. Prairie Grove Rd., Guthrie, OK 73044.

To obtain further information about the meeting, contact the pastor, Bro. Stanley Dickson (405) 260-8822.

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus, the One that promised to give us all things that pertain unto life and godliness. "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" Romans 8:32. "In whom we have redemption through his blood..." Ephesians 1:7. His blood atones for all our needs.

His blood is all my plea,  
Thro' grace divine alone,  
To set the captives free  
It speaks before the throne.

His blood is all my plea;  
His favor doth bestow  
A greater love on me  
Than earthly friends can show.

Thank God for His unspeakable love. Your saved brother,  
—T. V. McMillian

OK—Dear Ones: A few weeks ago I found myself taking a head cold. I began asking the Lord to please stop it as I felt that at this time I did not need a cold in addition to having basically a complete nervous breakdown. Later, as I was pondering on my plea to the Lord to stop that cold, the thought came to me of what I've heard others say, "Lord, if you'll do thus and thus for me, I'll testify about it." And I thought something like this: "I sure would testify if the Lord would stop this cold!" Then the thought came to me that I could testify now about how the Lord has been a "help in trouble" in this battle, even before I am healed.

Back in September, I read the devotion from *Streams in the Desert* for that particular day and the verse was from Psalms 46:1. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." The thought in this devotion was how that this promise is to us when we are IN TROUBLE, not to get us OUT of trouble. I admit when I would read that verse, my thought no doubt would have been that God promised to help us OUT of trouble. I have to confess that I

didn't really get much comfort out of that day's devotions, for I was wanting OUT of trouble. But, I can testify that as this trial of a nervous breakdown has lingered, I have truly found God to be a "present help IN trouble." For that I am very grateful and praise His name. It has not often been instant help, and I have to suffer for a while, and at times I think it is about more than I can stand, but none the less, the Lord **does help**. Praise the Lord!

Carl and I have a monthly appointment, and I remember one of the first months after my nerves began to collapse, I thought I just could not fulfill that appointment that month, but you know what; before that month ended, I made it and have made it every month since. There have been many times I felt I could not eat, and you know what, as I put forth the effort, the Lord helped me and I did eat! At this time, I was also teaching a Sunday School class of two little girls about ages 3 and 4. There have been many Sundays that I was not doing well; one Sunday I remember recently, in particular, that I felt I just could not teach that morning. It seemed harder than usual for me that morning, but as I got up from my seat and went to the classroom, the Lord provided a helper for me, and I made it once again. By the Lord's help, I have been able to have that class every Sunday the children have been there! So many times I have thought something was almost more than I could stand or something that I just could not do and the Lord helped me to somehow bear it or to do it!

The Lord has given me a "tool," early on, to help me be able to fight. He's given me several "tools" for that matter, but as the time has gone by, I am realizing more and more how important this particular one is. He gave me the thought about my having a will, and therefore, no matter how I may feel, I can make a choice. That has been strength to me many times when it seemed I had absolutely nothing, and as the enemy would try to put thoughts in my mind against the Lord. (I later learned it was the enemy—it seemed so real that at first I thought I was thinking those negative thoughts—it was a comfort to learn it really wasn't me, so then I could resist them in the name of Jesus.) Many times I have had to cry out, "Lord, I still choose," meaning I still wanted Him and to do right, no matter what I didn't feel or did feel.

When Thanksgiving time came, Carl wanted the traditional meal so very much. At first I

thought there was no way I could cope, but as time passed, and I had some better moments or days, the idea seemed possible and I made plans. Then the very day before, I had an extremely hard time, and I was not able to do as much I had expected with the meal. Carl and the girls did most of the preparations for the meal. The Lord did help me to do a few needed things and to be able to eat the meal. So, once again the Lord helped us "in trouble."

As far as that cold went, No, the Lord didn't actually stop it, but He surely was a help "in trouble"! It became one of the easiest colds I can remember having in a long time, with very little, if any, coughing whatsoever! To me, that is like a miracle! I praise God for His mercy to me in this! I certainly feel like the Lord did answer our prayers and had mercy on us in this need. Once again, He was a help "in trouble"!

One day a sister sent me this statement in an e-mail, "*You know, Rebecca, one thing about it, the Lord has always helped you through every panic attack, times of pressure and times of depression. Always. One hard thing at a time He's helped you through. That means He'll help you through what you're facing today, as well.*" At the time I received it, it didn't seem to help me much, but as this battle has continued, I began to draw strength from that thought and realized what it really meant. I now have it posted around in my house so I can be reminded when those hard times come. Yes, God has been and still is being a "**help in trouble**"! Many times this battle has looked so hopeless and helpless, but I can testify the Lord keeps seeing me through each day, somehow, somehow.

I certainly appreciate each one who is helping to carry me while in this time of trouble. There have been times I felt I was doing battle "face to face" with the enemy, and I have no desire for him to win one iota of space. I have felt the battle was bigger than I, and I felt I had to have reinforcement to survive, so I have cried out for help many times. I believe God has heard the agreement of prayers and has helped me "in trouble." May God somehow bless each one of you so richly for your love and time for me. I'm still very much in the battle, but the Lord is still my Helper "IN trouble". I am still leaning on Him, I still CHOOSE Him, and am looking to Him for healing. In Christian love,

—Sis. Rebecca Shaffer



NC—Greetings in the name of the One Who can do above all that we ask or think. I am glad that we can be heirs with One like that, One Who shows mercy and love. For the Word says, “God is love.”

For some time now, these thoughts have weighed so strongly on my mind and heart that I felt I needed to share them with someone. Being very isolated at this time, I felt impressed to share it this way. I write with much love and also with the fear of God. I have two questions I often ask myself to see where I stand in God’s light. The questions are: “Do I know Jesus?” and “Does Jesus know me?” I know in talking to the lost, we may ask, “Do you know Jesus?” They answer, “Yes,” no matter how they live. Lately, after reading in His Word, I am reminded that the best question to ask is, “Does Jesus know you?” Much of God’s Word comes to mind here and some of it I would like to share.

Let us look together at Matthew 7:21-23. “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Think on this, they had cast out devils and done many wonderful works, but He said, “I never knew you.” My, My. This stirs my heart and mind. There are places He said, “I know you not,” but here He said, “I never knew you.” What a rude awakening for those poor souls. Where do we stand today?

In Luke 13:24-28 it says, “Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.”

Now let us turn to Matthew 25. This entire chapter is good, and we know the story about the wise and foolish virgins. Note that all were virgins, and once all had the oil, but they slept and slumbered. Then the foolish realized they did not have enough oil. “And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.” Matthew 25:6-12. Once, they were with oil, but then they were outside, without. Dear ones, it wouldn’t hurt to watch our oil level.

Next, let us look at our everyday life, so to speak. These verses in Matthew 25:34-46 are a long list, but let us think seriously about this passage of Scripture. “Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not

minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

He knows our works, but does He know us as His own? Did you notice, that all those whom He did not know were turned away. They had reasons to believe that they knew Him; they did mighty works in His name, cast out devils, ate and drank in His presence—He taught in their streets. When did they not take care of the needs of the sick, stranger, naked, hungry and thirsty? Our works or word against His will never stand.

Do you know Jesus? Let's look at James 2:19. "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." Also Mark 1:34, "And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him." Isn't it amazing that the devils knew Jesus and many so-called Christians fail to really know Him. Many have a head knowledge of who He is, as it says in Matthew 15:8-9, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men."

Oh, precious friends, never do I want to discourage or un-Christianize any soul. But the two questions ring in my heart daily. Do I know Jesus? And most important, Does Jesus know me? May we draw nigh to God with our whole hearts, and I plead for your prayers that no matter what life holds for me, I can always answer, "Yes," from the heart to both questions.

May the God of peace and all comfort walk with each of you daily. Remember, always stay close to Him so He'll be near you. We all need Him, as the song says, "I can't even walk without Him holding my hand." Walk on for Jesus' sake and the sake of souls. Pray for me daily is the plea of my heart.

Your sister in Christ, —Elaine Dunn Otvos  
— — — — —

Honduras—Dear Saints: I would like to express our deep appreciation to each one that contributed to a new van for the Honduras mission. The van seats 17 passengers and is a great improvement over riding in the back of a small Nissan pickup. The mission pickup was

so badly rusted that it became unusable without major repair. The van is used to pick up people for church services and other functions, such as a field trip for the school students and picking up visitors from the airport. I have been training some new drivers in the congregation, and the drivers enjoy getting their turn to drive the van.

Before, rainy season was a real hindrance to people wanting to come to meeting. Now, we can easily accommodate people, even in rainy weather. This van has been a real blessing to the congregation. Thank you to each one for your contribution—to the one who did the artwork, to the one who made such a large contribution, and to those who drove the van to Honduras. May God bless you.

—Bro. Doug Wall



**Viola Teresa Mason**, one of ten children, was born August 1, 1920 in Bristow, OK to Tilmon T. Mason and Lula. G. Parker-Mason. She was called home on July 7, 2007, in Wichita, KS at the age of 86. She was preceded in death by her parents, four sisters and three brothers.

She grew up and attended Morning Star and Lincoln High School in Bristow, OK.

In 1937, she married Phillip Charles. Then, in 1984 she married Louis Williams in Phoenix, AZ. The couple moved to Wichita, KS where they owned and operated Williams & Sons Service Station.

A good, kindhearted, loving and generous woman with a good sense of humor, Vi was always willing to help or give to anyone in need, whether she knew them or not.

She received salvation many years ago and attended Evening Light Church of God. She lived her life to the fullest serving others and the Lord.

She leaves to cherish her memory: four sons, Elwood and Wesley (Alice) both of Wichita, KS; Ronnie (Caroyrn) of Coffeyville, KS and Joe Louis (Oweta) of Fort Worth, TX; two sisters, Earnestine Snell of Wichita, KS and Bernice (Wesley) Jackson of Bristow, OK; numerous grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, saints and friends.

Memorial services were conducted in the Church of God chapel in Wichita, KS. Interment followed at the Resthaven Cemetery.

Self consciousness is one of the greatest hindrances to the best manner. Do not imagine that everyone is looking at you. Do not try to be someone else, but be simply and naturally yourself; second, do not be in a hurry. "Whoever," says Lord Chesterfield, "is in a hurry shows that the thing that he is about is too big for him." To be courteous does not take much time, but it takes a little. He who would be courteous must not be in such haste that he can not be sympathetic, nor so absorbed that he can not be considerate of others. —Lyman Abbott

# Which Are You?

I watched them tear a building down,  
A gang of men in a busy town;  
With a ho-heave-ho and a lusty yell  
They swung a beam and the timber fell.  
I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled,  
And the men you'd hire if you had to build?"  
He gave a laugh and said, "No, indeed!"  
Just common labor is all I need.  
I can easily wreck in a day or two  
What builders have taken a year to do!

And I thought to myself as I went on my way,  
Which of these roles have I tried to play?  
Am I a builder, who works with care,  
Measuring life by the rule and square?  
Am I shaping my deeds to a well-made plan,  
Patiently doing the best I can?  
Or am I a wrecker, who walks the town,  
Content with the labor of just tearing down?

—Submitted by Sis. Glenetta Carpenter

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# NO ROOM

By Sis. Olive Davenport

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7. *Manger:* A trough in a stable designed to hold feed for the livestock.

Let's imagine their journey from Nazareth of Galilee to Bethlehem of Judea, 50-60 miles. Their travel was not by car or bus. They arrived in Bethlehem, and Joseph inquired for a place to stay. Can you imagine the disappointment after traveling so far? "We are all filled, we have NO ROOM for you." So to the stable they went—a place for animals.

Let us now look at another picture. Are we sending the Lord to the stable because we have "no room" in our daily lives to do His bidding? Our first answer would be, "NO! We surely would not be guilty of that."

How many times this past year has the Lord spoken, "Please lay aside what you are doing and have some quiet, undisturbed time with Me. Not just a few hurried minutes." Did we respond, "I have so much to do." Did we write that letter of encouragement to someone or give the phone call at the time He prompted us to? Or did we reply, "I'll do it later." Did we deny ourselves and give to the Lord as impressed, or did we say, "Some other time?"

If we have fulfilled the above without procrastination and with Divine love, then we have not pushed Him to the stable. If we have done otherwise, we have not given Him the "room" in our heart that He desires.

By His grace, may this coming year be one that when He knocks we can open the door of our heart and give Him ROOM.

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