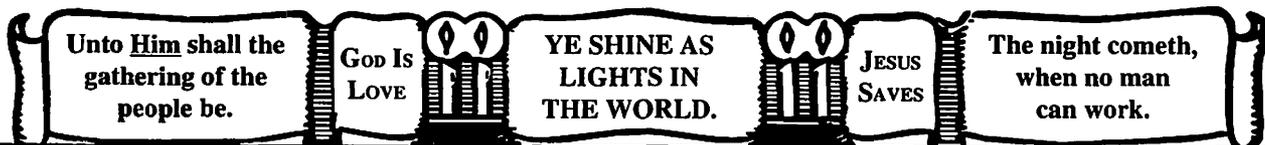


FAITH AND VICTORY

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When a Nation Sins

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

Ezekiel 14:12-14, "The word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, when the land sinneth against me by trespassing grievously, then will I stretch out mine hand upon it, and will break the staff of the bread thereof, and will send famine upon it, and will cut off man and beast from it. Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord God."

Very few, if anyone, reading this has lived during a famine. Our stores and warehouses are filled with food. Most of our pantries and refrigerators have food in them and could have much more if buyers would spend their money for bulk grains instead of quick fix foods. What do people do when there is no food anywhere in

the land? They do whatever it takes to get food. What did the people in Israel do? They ate the leaves and bark off the trees. They ate animal hide and boiled bones and drank the broth. They bought animal dung and ate that. They fought over a few bites of food, sometimes taking it out of another's mouth. During some famines, women have roasted their babies and eaten them. What do countries do when famine leaves the people nothing but walking skeletons? They do whatever they can to get food. Even to becoming slaves to oppressive leaders. We Americans think we are starving after we have missed a few meals. What do you think we would do after a month without a bite of food and not another bite in sight? Are we any different than others? We also have a body which demands food daily.

What were the grievous sins that caused God to allow destruction to come on the Israelites? The predominate sin was idolatry. Did God abhor idolatry only because He is a jealous God? No! He also abhorred the sexual sins that were a part of idol worship. God loves people, and these sins cause men, women and children sickness, heartache and many other miseries. He created man so He could love and commune with people. God had already created all the beautiful things of nature and the animals. However, this did not totally satisfy God's heart. He created man and then He was satisfied, so He rested. But He is not satisfied when men are surrendering to their passions, causing heartache and misery for those around them.

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Many kings of Israel allowed idol worship. King Solomon allowed his wives to bring it in. His son, Rehoboam, "built high places, and images and groves on every high hill and under every green tree" and he allowed sodomy in the land (I Kings 14: 23) Asa, his son, "took away the sodomites and removed all the idols that his fathers had made" (I Kings 15:12.) Jehoshaphat also removed sodomy (homosexuality), (I Kings 22:46.) God blessed the people during those years, but there was much suffering when these sins were allowed. We all know that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because they were given over to this ungodly passion. They were also cities of suffering. God said, "The cry is great...because their sin is very grievous." Strangers could not even visit the city without being molested. (Genesis 18:20;19:1-5.)

For fear of losing his people, King Jeroboam built two golden calves for worship so the people would not go to the temple in Jerusalem for worship. Then he made priests (leaders) of the lowest of the people. God sent a prophet to warn Jeroboam, and he rent the altar on which sacrifices to the calves were made. When Jeroboam reached out to catch the prophet and punish him, Jeroboam's arm stiffened until the prophet prayed for him. All this was to show the king that he was doing evil, but he paid no attention. Later God destroyed his family from the earth. (I Kings 13:33.)

Americans have many idols: beauty, wealth, fame, sports, religion, the green earth and its creatures, etc. A great percentage of people are worshipping a golden calf. Of course it is not shaped like a calf. But many are so possessed with the covetous spirit that they will do almost anything for money; kill defenseless babies, sell their own bodies, influence innocent children to buy drugs, steal from the senile, and cheat in countless ways just to get another dollar. This list could be almost endless. All these things are being done because people are grasping for money. This and all other idols are in people's hearts as spoken of in Ezekiel 14. It is however idolatry, just as worshipping images of sticks or stones. To every person who has an idol in his heart, God says, "I will set my face against that man... and I will cut him off... and ye shall know that I am the Lord." Verse 8.

Jeremiah 14:15-18, "Therefore thus saith

the Lord concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name and I sent them not, yea they say, Sword and famine shall not be in this land; By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed. And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out...I will pour their wickedness upon them. Therefore thou shalt say this word unto them. Let mine eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease: for the virgin daughter of my people is broken with a great breach...If I go forth into the field, than behold the slain with the sword! and if I enter into the city, then behold them that are sick with famine! Yea, both the prophet and the priest go about into a land that they know not."

Many preachers and leaders are trying to assure us that conditions in our country will soon be fine again. However, according to God's Word, America is headed for trouble because of our grievous sins; homosexuality, abortion, idolatry, greed, blasphemy, disrespect for authority, etc. We hear many voices crying "Change! Change! We will change things in America and everyone will have plenty. There will be homes for the homeless, food and clothing for the poor, free education for the ambitious, medicine for the sick, peace with other nations, and freedom to live in homosexuality and kill the defenseless." But God says in I Thessalonians 5:3, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction will come upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."

Sin has been in the world since the beginning. However God has always blessed those nations which respected Him and His precepts and brought to punishment those who dared to disobey His laws. He has allowed destruction to come on those nations that had leaders who permitted sinning grievously against God.

What can we Christians do? We can do as Jeremiah did. He said, "Let mine eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease." God will honor those who pray, but should the nation continue these grievous sins we cannot stop the judgments of God. Noah could not stop the flood that destroyed the world in his day. Daniel could not stop the Medians from taking over Babylon. Neither could Job stop whatever the men of his time had brought on themselves. We will only be able to save

ourselves by our personal obedience to God. So let us pray that our leaders will not allow homosexuality, abortion and other grievous sins which will bring destruction on America.

Do we in America want God to allow a famine or other destruction? There is only one way to keep that from happening. Stop the grievous sins in our nation!

Searching for My Son

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

Standing behind orange cones, the crowd attending the graduation ceremony watched as the graduates filed past. I was in that crowd, searching each masculine face for identifiable features. Dressed alike, it was difficult to distinguish my son from among the large group.

At last—I saw my son! My heart leaped with joy as I identified the same eyes, nose, mouth and chin that I remembered seeing on his newborn face at birth. Yes, that young man was different—he was MY SON! Furthermore, he claimed me and when all the graduates were dismissed after the ceremony, only one, my son, was ready to go home to my house because he belonged to our family. We wanted to be together.

You know, it is like that with our Heavenly Father and His children. One scripture puts it this way: "The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and **he knoweth them that trust in him.**" Nahum 1:7. Our Father knows His children because they have kept the same features aglow that they had when birthed into the Family of God. They all have washed away their sins in the blood of Jesus; they have been baptized unto a new life; they are sanctified by the indwelling Holy Spirit and they trust in Him.

Our Heavenly Father communicates with His children and He gives commands that are not grievous, but they strengthen the soul. (I John 5:3.) He disciplines His sons and daughters and He blesses them for obedience and faithfulness. (Hebrews 12:6; Isaiah 1:18-20.)

In return, our Father is listening for His children to praise Him and honor Him with the first fruits of their love. (Mark 12:30.) "...And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord..." Psalms 40:1-5. Praise from the hearts and lips of His children encourage the Lord to come to our rescue in time of trouble.

God's all seeing eyes search the earth, looking for HIS SON and HIS DAUGHTER with these questions on His mind: *Are they in the race for Me? Are they looking to Me for wisdom, help and guidance? Are they content with what I have provided for them? Are they looking forward to coming home?*

Jesus told us about the home prepared for God's children in John 14:1-7, "...In my Father's house are many mansions: If it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you...that where I am there ye may be also..." Through His death and resurrection, Jesus prepared the way for us to be forgiven of sin and make Heaven our home.

How wonderful it will be when the Father identifies us, His children, standing before His Throne at the Judgment Day. His arms will open wide to embrace His obedient sons and daughters, and He will proclaim, "Welcome home, my children!" Our joyous family reunion will last throughout eternity. If you are not yet His son or daughter, hurry and join the family! The Father so desires to welcome everyone home and we want you there, too!!

—Sis. Connie Sorrell



BE TRUE

*Thou must be true thyself,
If thou the truth wouldst teach;
Thy soul must overflow, if thou
Another's soul wouldst reach!
It needs the overflow of heart
To give the lips full speech.*

*Think truly, and thy thoughts
Shall the world's famine feed,
Speak truly, and each word of thine
Shall be a fruitful seed.
Live truly, and thy life shall be
A great and noble creed.*

—Horatio Bonar

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.

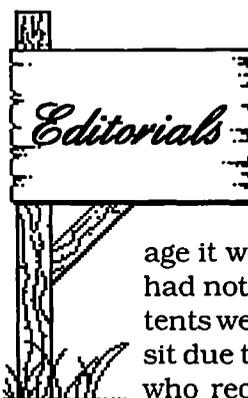
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The box arrived in the morning mail with a label, "Fragile, Handle With Care," clearly indicating the delicate nature of the contents. However, when the recipient opened the pack-

age it was evident that the warning had not been regarded, for the contents were severely damaged in transit due to rough handling. For those who receive a moderate volume of parcels through the various mail couriers it is quite likely some of your packages have also been damaged.

Sometimes the damage to the merchandise is due to insufficient packaging materials being placed around the article to cushion it from the normal bumps it may be expected to encounter in route to its destination. For a fragile parcel to arrive safely, it requires more than a warning label conspicuously stuck on the box—care on the part of the person packaging the item, and proper handling by the company who transports it are both essential. When both parties fulfill their responsibilities the number of damaged parcels can be greatly reduced.

There are things in our lives that are also fragile and should be handled with care. Obviously, those things that have the greatest value should be handled with the greatest care. In Matthew 16:26 Jesus placed the value of a man's soul above the wealth of the whole world when He asked the question, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" A warning sticker on our soul, to remind us to be careful with it, would not be misplaced. As Jesus pointed out, there is nothing we can give in exchange for our soul. If it is lost, it will be forever. Therefore, today we should be sure that our soul is clear before God, and it should be a priority for each day to maintain that blessed state of purity. Jesus paid a dear price to purchase the salvation of our soul and we should never do anything to compromise the benefit of that wonderful plan of God.

Another valuable asset that God has given us, that is closely connected to our soul and has a great influence on our life and relationship with others, is our mind. The Scriptures teach us that it is the Lord's desire that we have a renewed mind, a sound mind, a pure mind,

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- Sis. Lori Cole of Neosho, MO
- Bro. Bill Day of Neosho, MO
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- Jennings Family of Fresno, CA
- Sis. Krystal Purvis of Loranger, LA
- Sis. Helen Underdown of Holly Hill, SC

MEETING REPORTS

WICHITA, KS, FALL MEETING REPORT

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—Submitted by Sis. Shirley Knight

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November 26-30

California State (Pacoima)—
December 26-January 4

Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—
December 26-January 4



MEETING NOTICES

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For more information, contact Carlos Doolittle at (985) 878-8122. The chapel phone is (985) 878-2788. Please do support this meeting with your prayers.

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We welcome everyone to come expecting a special blessing from the Lord.

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things. He is master of every situation. When we are preparing food and we are in some kind of real need—He is a master chef. He has done it for me. When the carpenter or cabinetmaker is having trouble getting things to fit—He is a master carpenter. When the Mechanic is trying to repair an automobile and cannot diagnose the exact problem—He is a master mechanic. When a mother is making a garment and it just isn't turning out right and there is not enough fabric to cut a new piece—He is a master at solving the problem, a master seamstress. He is everything and anything we need. When physical problems arise—He is the master physician, the specialist. He made these bodies, why shouldn't He know how to fix them?

The boiler man I referred to earlier commented on John 15:5 "...without me ye can do nothing." We cannot depend on our abilities, we need God to make us able to perform what is before us to be done.

I am so needy before my God. Oh, how I thank Him for the gift of Himself to save me from sin and uncleanness, and also for His temporal help.

—Sis. Marilyn Eck

MO—Dear Bro. Willie: I want to thank the Lord for His blessings to us recently. In August, I severely burned my left hand with hot grease. I suffered throughout the night and could only get relief as long as I kept my hand in ice water. I am very grateful to tell you that the Lord has healed it. The index finger was burned all the way down to the last knuckle and I am able to bend it and use it like I need to. Except for some discoloration, there is not even a scar. I had no trouble with infection. Truly God has been merciful to me once again.

One thing this burn did was to drive home the thought that I do not want to miss Heaven. I thought of the rich man in hell asking for just one drop of water. One drop of water would have done me no good. I needed a bowl full all night long. The rich man however, was not given even one drop. Oh, what misery!!! And to think it lasts eternally. Never, never ending. Dear Saints, Heaven will surely be worth it all. Worth all the toil that doth here befall. Satan wants us to feel that life is just too hard. But "one glimpse of His dear face, all sorrow will erase, with patience run the race, till we see home." Whatever it takes, I want to be sure that my soul goes to Heaven.

We also praise God for protecting our son. Trenton was cleaning out a fence row for his Nana, when the chain saw caught the fence and kicked back, hitting the pocket of his shirt and cutting about a six inch length gash in his chest. It hit his cell phone that was in his pocket and we feel that it was some protection. The muscle did not get cut nor any major blood vessels. How we thank the Lord for always encamping around His people. The wound is healing nicely and shows no sign of infection. It could have been his face or his upper arm—we just praise God. He is oh so good to us!!!

Keep holding on to God's unchanging hand. "Build your hopes on things eternal. Hold to God's unchanging hand. Trust in Him Who will not leave you, Whatsoever years may bring. If by earthly friends forsaken, Still more closely to Him cling. Hold to God's unchanging hand."

—Bro. Daniel and Sis. Anita Adams



Olive Arnette (Phillips) Davenport was the third of three children, born to Ulysses and Ella V. Phillips on November 9, 1921 in the community of Dover, OK. She passed from this life October 12, 2008.

She received her formal education in the local schools of the community and later graduated from Langston University. She returned to her home in Dover and taught school for several years. On September 5, 1948, she was united in marriage to Edward Davenport of San Bernardino, CA. There, they made their home together for 52 years. To this union four children were born: David, Lois, Sharon and Philip.

At the early age of eight, she sought the Lord and was saved. As she matured she renewed her

spiritual vows with the Lord and He never let her go.

She enjoyed teaching, both secular and spiritual. She was gifted to write poetry and a series of Bible Question Books. She was used of the Lord with the gift of exhortation both to the saved and unsaved. She was especially concerned about the youth, not only her children and grandchildren, but others likewise as she ministered to the young in the children's meetings from time to time.

She was a woman of prayer, often closing visits with prayer, thanksgiving and encouragement to to live for the Lord.

Her husband, Edward, of 52 years, one daughter-in-law, a son-in-law, one grandchild and one great grandchild, preceded Olive in death.

To follow in her legacy are her four children; David of Perris, CA; Lois Johnson of Mesquite, TX; Sharon and Philip of San Bernardino, CA; 16 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, a number of relatives, saints and friends.

Memorial services were held October 18 in the care of Mt. View Mortuary & Cemetery, San Bernardino, CA. Services were officiated by Bro. Paul Phillips II, Bro. Calvin Hobbs, Bro. Travis Johnson and others.

Appreciation

The family wishes to thank each one for your many acts of kindness shown them during the loss of their loved one. God bless you.

—The family of Olive A. Davenport

Daniel P Harms of Mission City, brother of Daisy (Rabel) Retzer. Daniel was born June 8, 1934 in Saskatwan, Sask. Canada. He passed to meet the Lord August 31, 2008.

Daniel was the son of Sis. Susie (Harms) Prouse, a God fearing mother of twelve, one who spent much time in the open air of the evenings praying for her children's salvation. Daniel fared quite well spiritually during his teen years, but later strayed away from God, to Mother's great sorrow and prayers. Some years after Mother's passing, the Lord answered her prayer, and Daniel was wonderfully saved, which changed his whole life.

Because of a stroke, Daniel was placed in a care home where he would spend his time wheeling around in his wheelchair, singing the Gospel to all who would listen. Some even got saved.

He was in the home several years, then suffered another stroke, which left him with

limited ability to communicate. One day as he felt his time was drawing near, he stopped mumbling, and in a clear voice said, "Jesus I'm coming, wait for me!" His greatest desire had just been fulfilled.

His funeral was held in Woodlawn Funeral Home, Mission City, B.C. with Bro. Kenny Elwell, officiating. The Lord was very present and souls were blessed.

— — — — —
Margaretta Bettis Kennedy, 98, passed away on September 22, 2008. She was born on December 7, 1909, in Anthony, Kansas to Artie Lee Reid and John J. Bettis. Margaretta graduated from Anthony High School and attended Wichita University before returning to Anthony to work for the Kansas Flour Mills Corp.

In 1937 Margaretta married Floyd Noble Kennedy in Merced, California. Margaretta and Floyd spent two years in California, then returned to Wichita, Kansas where they raised their children, John, Carolyn and William. Margaretta was preceded in death by her husband Floyd in 1987, infant daughter, Carol Lynn, and son John Craig in 2000.

Margaretta became a Christian when she was a young woman, and was later ordained as a minister in the Church of God. She, along with Bro Lewis Williams, helped establish a Church of God congregation in Wichita. Her body was laid to rest in the Forest Park Cemetery, Anthony, KS.

Note of Thanks

The family of Margaretta Kennedy wishes to thank all those who sent cards and flowers and offered prayers and encouragement. We appreciate your love and support.

— — — — —
Frances Edna (Pruitt) Murphey was born August 22, 1918, to Fred and Mary Pruitt, in Guthrie, OK. She passed from this life on October 27, 2008, in Guthrie, OK.

In 1923 Frances' parents established *Faith Publishing House*, a Gospel publishing company. Much of her early life was spent helping with the processing of Gospel literature. Often her room was shared with ladies who came from other states to help with the Gospel work.

From an early age Frances had a tender heart towards the Lord. In young adulthood she fully gave her heart to God. From childhood up she attended services of the *Church of God*.

In 1935, a young man from Louisiana came to Guthrie in answer to a call to print Gospel

literature, where he became associated with the Church of God. There was an instant attraction between Willie Murphey and Frances, and they were united in marriage June 6, 1942.

Willie was a minister of the Gospel, a radio broadcaster and publisher of the periodical, *The Mission Trail*, and was also involved in missionary work. In all these endeavors, Frances sacrificed and faithfully supported him. Her personal work for the Lord involved many hours in the church kitchen overseeing the preparation of meals for church gatherings. But her primary concern was raising four children.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Fred and Mary Pruitt; her husband, Willie C. Murphey; one son, Kenneth Edward Murphey; three brothers, Andrew Pruitt, Lawrence Pruitt and Frank Pruitt; two sisters, Marie (Pruitt) Miles and Mary Lola (Pruitt) Embly.

She is survived by two daughters, Kathleen (Murphey) McMurrin and husband, Alvin, of Harrison, AR, and Patsy (Murphey) Smith and husband, Clifford, of Salem, OR; two sons, Willie E. Murphey and wife, Neta, of Guthrie, OK, and Wayne Murphey and wife, Mary, of Guthrie, OK; nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Note of Appreciation

The family of Frances Murphey wishes to thank each one who expressed their love to us by sending cards, flowers, food, and by your kind words of sympathy, your prayers and encouragement. We sincerely appreciate the love of the Saints. May God bless you.



Multitudes are Groveling

Throngs are fumbling the ball in the game of life. Many are making animal decisions, shutting God utterly out!

Many are living frivolous lives of pleasure—not really bad, just aimless.

Many live for show, for display, fine clothes, just “clothes hangers.”

Many are living just for gold and wealth, just cash registers.

Many live just for fleshly lusts. None are ultimately so unhappy. “Nothing so surely puts out the eyes of the soul as sin.”

Many are like dumb driven cattle (No God) victims of blunderings, creatures of misfortunes.

Many live decently but aimlessly, purposeless, without great objectives, apart from the

great movements of his time; blinded by selfish indecision and fail to see life’s great opportunities of service under the guidance of the Master.

Some head straight for the rocks and are shipwrecked by sin.

Others just drift aimlessly and make a failure of life. They are pitiful derelicts, unhappy because useless.

Why not make the great decision and take the Pilot aboard! Why not live the Great Life?

Why not let the Master enter into a friendship with you and let Him direct your life unfolding? He is as a great Victor Hugo who would direct your life day by day into a living story of sweeping interest and power.

Every life He has completely controlled has been supremely interesting, supremely useful and preciously beautiful!

And, Dear heart, How the world needs you! So many are cheap, selfish and common!

Why not let the Master make your life really great!
—Selected

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HE CARETH

What can it mean? Is it aught to Him
 That the nights are long and the days are dim?
 Can He be touched by the grief I bear
 Which saddens the heart and whitens the hair?
 About His throne are eternal calms,
 And the strong glad music of happy psalms,
 And bliss unruffled by any strife,
 How can He care for my little life?

And yet I want Him to care for me
 While I live in this world where sorrows be;
 When the lights die down from the path I take,
 When strength is feeble and men forsake,
 When love and music that once did bless
 Have left me to silence and loneliness.
 And my life song changes to sobbing prayers,
 Then my heart cries out for a God Who cares.

When shadows hang o'er the whole day long,
 And my spirit is bowed with shame and wrong,
 When I am not good and the deeper shade
 Of conscious sin makes my heart afraid,

And this busy world has too much to do
 To stay in its course and help me through,
 And I long for a Savior—can it be?
 That the God of the universe cares for me?

Oh wonderful story of deathless love,
 Each child is dear to the heart above.
 He fights for me when I cannot fight,
 He comforts me in the gloom of night,
 He lifts the burden, for He is strong,
 He stills the sigh and awakes the song;
 The sorrow that bows me down He bears,
 And loves and pardons because He cares.

Let all who are sad take heart again,
 We are not alone in our hours of pain.
 Our Father stoops from His throne above
 To soothe and quiet us with His love,
 He loves us too when the storm is high
 And we have safety for He is nigh,
 Can it be trouble which He doth share?
 O rest in peace for the Lord will care.

—Selected

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