

FAITH AND VICTORY

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Church of God Servant

Unto Him shall the gathering of the people be.

GOD IS LOVE

YE SHINE AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD.

JESUS SAVES

The night cometh, when no man can work.

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The Importance of Heart Knowledge

By Bro. Harlan Sorrell

It is recorded two times in the Scriptures, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 14:12; 16:25. The only difference in wording is Proverbs 16:25 uses the word "that" instead of "which." Most, if not all, wrong ways seem right to someone's mind. But the fact is many ways that seem so right are so wrong! God has said concerning man, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9. How often we should pray like the Psalmist, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24. We should desire and seek to know God's

judgment regarding our hearts, our thoughts, and our ways.

Beside the avenue of His inspired written Word, God communicates with man through the avenue of his heart, or inner spirit. Proverbs 20:27 says, "The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly." Job 32:8 says, "But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding." This is man's only avenue of correctly understanding the Scriptures or of rightly discerning his own spiritual status. This is how we are going to know whether that which seems right to us is right or not. God communicates and reveals His thoughts and His ways to the heart of man through the direct influence of His Spirit upon man's spirit (see also I Corinthians 2:9-10). This is also the avenue through which God shows man the condition of his own heart.

There are those who are inwardly conscious of sin in their lives, but who have convinced their minds that, because they once professed a belief in Christ and accepted Him as their personal Savior, His blood now covers all their sins and they need not be concerned about sins. This is a terrible delusion! The fact is, when the blood of Christ is truly applied to the heart it cleanses from all sin and removes all consciousness of it. The sweet, comforting Spirit of God Himself then bears witness with our spirit that our heart is right in His sight. "And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart con-

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demn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." I John 3:19-22. We can be sure that if our heart is conscious of sin, God is much more conscious that it is there, and we can never approach His presence with confidence until that sin is truly cleansed by the blood of Jesus and the Spirit has confirmed its removal to our inner conscience.

Being sure we are right with God is not about assuring our minds that we are because, from our perspective, it *seems* we've met all the conditions or have done everything right. Being sure we are right with God is more directly related to *heart* knowledge. It is more important to listen to what the *heart* says than what the *mind* says. A person's mind can tell them that everything is fine – "I'm doing okay." But if, at the same time, our heart is telling us that something isn't just quite right, something is missing, or something isn't complete, then we better listen to our heart. "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?..." I Corinthians 2:11. If and when everything is fine and okay, the Spirit of God will bear witness with our spirit that this is in fact the case. The Spirit will assure our spirit (our heart). But if God's Spirit is not giving our heart that witness, and *inwardly* we feel emptiness, a void, and no conscious fellowship and communion with the Spirit, we better listen to our heart rather than seek refuge in something that we believe to be true in our minds!

Do you remember how clear the Spirit's witness was to *your heart* when you first got saved? You felt, as one song expresses it, "Not an evil foreboding. Not a doubt in my soul. Not a sin that's corroding – I am whole, I am whole!" And, as in the expression of another song, "My soul is saved, it must be so, I feel a holy peace, Through all my *heart* a tranquil flow. Oh, this is Heaven's grace! My soul is saved, I truly see my name enrolled on high; My *heart* and will and God agree. And heaven seems so nigh!" Do you still possess that Divine witness of hope within your soul that is "brighter than the perfect day?" And as yet another song says, "Is thy hope unclouded by a fear? Hallelujah! do you know That the love of God is burning clear *In thy heart* as white as snow?" Is there somewhat of a

foreboding fear within when you think of standing before Christ in judgment just as you are right now? If so, careful self-examination is certainly in order. What is beclouding the atmosphere of your heart? "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." I John 4:17-18. Have you lost your first love? Do you still love Him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength?

I will now quote the chorus of song #224 in the Evening Light Songs, but change the part about the Spirit's witness from past tense (has witnessed) to present tense (bears witness). "I know in my heart what it means, Salvation that word so divine; His Spirit *bears witness* so clearly to mine, And I know in my heart what it means." I'm thinking of the importance of keeping current with the Spirit's witness. Most Christians who backslide don't do so overnight. It happens by increments and degrees, and sometimes with such stealth that the backsliding individual may not realize what is actually taking place. Many who backslide continue to profess salvation, but something is different than it originally was – the anointing is gone! In their minds they count themselves to still be Christians. But what about the heart knowledge? This knowledge only comes by the "anointing" (read I John 2:27; 3:24).

I saw a sign one time in front of a certain place of worship, which read, "Seven days without prayer makes one weak." But consider this: it has also been said, "Prayer is the breath of the soul." If your body had not breathed in seven days would you be weak or would you be dead? What about your soul? Is it breathing normally? If not, you can be sure it is either dead or in the process of dying. The apostle Paul said, "Pray without ceasing." I Thessalonians 5:17. And, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." Ephesians 6:18. And Jude said, "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." Jude 20-21. It is chiefly by neglecting to diligently keep these commandments of the Lord that "virgins" come short of oil (anointing) and their lamps go out.

Please understand that I am not saying that our relationship with the Lord is determined or measured by our inner feelings. Feelings are variable and they come and go. But the point that I want to emphasize here is the importance of keeping things clear between the Lord and us and keeping current in our communion with Him. As another old song says, "Nothing between my soul and the Savior, So that His blessed face may be seen; Nothing preventing the least of His favor—Keep the way clear, let nothing between." There will be times in every Christian's life when, like Job, we "cannot perceive him" and "he hideth himself" from our spiritual perception. In those times we should examine ourselves, as Job did, and if we find in us nothing preventing His favor, just simply say like Job, "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined. Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." (See Job 23:8-14.)

Personally, I have always found that after "he hath tried me," the dark clouds vanish and my heart once again feels the warm "consolation in Christ," the "comfort of love," and the "fellowship of the Spirit" (Philippians 2:1). As another precious old song says, "Oh, how sublime is the life of a Christian! Filled with the glory of Jesus divine; Deep in his bosom he's joyfully conscious That he is born of a heavenly line." There is nothing that brings a sweeter or more definite assurance of Heaven than the little foretastes we get of Heaven in our hearts through the "fellowship of the Spirit" as we journey toward Heaven. And it is in the bond of this glorious fellowship of the Spirit that God unites the hearts of all those who are truly born of Him. This is the essence of the Church of God. The pure in heart simply flow together because they are drinking of and fellowshipping with the same Spirit (I Corinthians 12:13).

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." II Corinthians 4:6. Let us ever walk in the light of that knowledge. "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." I John 1:7. "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8. "The

grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen." II Corinthians 13:14.

Boy in the Window

"And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together. And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him....And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted." Acts 20:8-12.

How I enjoy this from-death-to-life story! I always enjoyed it as a child and it never lost its appeal for me as I grew and heard it many times over. However, the last time I read this passage from the Bible, it seemed to enter into my soul like a fresh stream of water straight from the heart of God! My imagination took hold of it and created a beautiful picture for my soul to ponder.

The lights glowed brightly out from the windows of the upper chamber that night. Warm lively light surrounded by a world of darkness and slumber. Sweet strands of the Saints' songs drifted down to the streets below like dew from Heaven. In the window of the third loft sat the young man, Eutychus, basking in the light and song. How happy that young man must have been! There he was with the Apostle Paul in the same room as he, preaching about the wonderful Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. He must have felt God's spirit engulfing him with peace and joy as he sat among his fellow believers.

Soon, however, peaceful and warm, he grew sleepy and ignoring the danger continued to sit in the window. Perhaps he just did not think clearly about his situation. Perhaps he believed he could keep himself awake. Perhaps he did not quite understand his danger. Yet whatever illusions of safety he held in his mind, his danger remained very real!

Then he fell. Down, down into the dark cold night, out of the reach of helping hands thrust out to catch him! Down until the hard ground swiftly knocked the life out of his once lively young body. He lay still and helpless in the dark with cries of anguish drifting down to him from

(Continued on page 6.)

FAITH AND VICTORY 12 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from sin and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way as the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Ex. 25:2; I Chron. 29:9; II Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Freewill offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House. All donations are tax deductible.

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

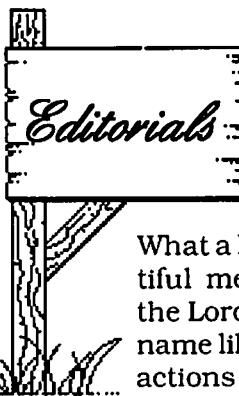
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"And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus." Acts 4:36.

What a lovely name filled with beautiful meaning that the apostles of the Lord gave to Joses, or Joseph. A name like this had to be earned with actions that exemplified this desirable trait of character. Let us look at a few things this man of faith did to further the cause of Christ in the world. The very next verse, Acts 4:37, speaks a great deal about the nature of Barnabas. It says, "Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet." Barnabas was investing his possessions into the work of the Lord. This act of charity was motivated by a pure heart toward God and was highly regarded by the Saints at that time. There were others, like Ananias and Sapphira, who wanted the same recognition and blessing that Barnabas was given but also wanted to keep back part of the money from the sale of their property. Their deceitfulness not only caused them to lose their blessing, it also caused them to lose their lives.

Barnabas was a man who delighted in seeing the grace of our Lord Jesus manifested in the lives of others. He was a good man, full of the Holy Ghost, and of faith, and when he recognized the spirit of the Lord in others he was ready to encourage them to cleave to the Lord with purpose of heart. (Acts 11:23-24.) Because of his interest in others and the spirit of encouragement that he offered them, many were added to the church. The godly influence Barnabas possessed is worthy of our examination and emulation, for this gift is still greatly needed in the church today.

Barnabas was one who recognized the change that had taken place in the heart of Paul. He perceived that his conversion was genuine, while there were many at Jerusalem who were afraid of him and did not believe he was a true disciple. Barnabas however, heard of Paul's conversion experience and helped him win the confidence of the apostles at Jerusalem. It is quite likely that the bond that developed between the two at this early time in Paul's converted life resulted in their companionship later on as they ministered for the Lord on their missionary journeys.

The favorable light in which the people viewed Barnabas can be seen in Acts 14:12. For after they had healed an impotent man, who was a cripple from his birth, by the power of God, the people of Lystra declared that the gods had visited them and they called Barnabas, "Jupiter;" and Paul, "Mercurius." Jupiter was considered to be the chief deity among these people.

On one missionary journey that Paul and Barnabas were called by the Holy Spirit to take, they were served and accompanied by John Mark, a cousin of Barnabas. During this trip, for an unspecified reason, John Mark left them and did not complete the journey. Later Paul and Barnabas were planning another journey and Barnabas wanted to take John Mark again. Paul did not want to take him and there developed a rift between the two. It resulted that Barnabas sailed with Mark to Cyprus and Paul took Silas and went through Syria and Cilicia. It is evident that Barnabas ministered to Mark and brought him to a state of spiritual maturity so that later in life, Paul requested for Timothy to bring Mark and come to him stating, "...he is profitable to me for the ministry." II Timothy 4:11.

When Barnabas saw an honest soul who desired to serve the Lord, he went about cultivating it into a pillar of faith that later became a blessing to many people. Paul and John Mark are only two examples that demonstrated the fruit of the good spirit that Barnabas possessed, earning him the name being interpreted, "the son of consolation."

For one who would like to possess this same gift of consolation that Barnabas used in his ministry, it sometimes is helpful to look at the mistakes of those who were not such good comforters. Probably some of the most notorious in their blunders were the ones spoken about in the afflictions of Job. They failed so greatly that Job cried, "...miserable comforters are ye all."

It is hard for someone who is arrogant and filled with their own self righteousness to be a genuine blessing to someone in need. Inevitably, they will be patronizing and condemning in their attempt to "help" another. Those who visited Job were condemning in their approach. They falsely assumed to know God's plan behind his troubles and were quite bold in telling him about it. They were blunt, uncaring and unsympathetic. Instead of listening to Job with an understanding spirit, they launched into a

lecture drawing from the "vast" resources of their earthly wisdom. While they said a lot of good things, their speech failed to minister to the need Job had. He called their words "vain." Job said, "I also could speak as ye do: if your soul were in my soul's stead, I could heap up words against you, and shake mine head at you. But I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the moving of my lips should asswage your grief."

May the Lord give us words that comfort those in need and lift their spirit to a higher plane of faith in God. He holds the ultimate solution to the needs of mankind. He has the balm for a broken heart and relief for a body bowed in pain.

It has been said that people such as Barnabas utilize three life changing "A's" in their ministry to others—their Attention, their Affection, and their Affirmation. These positive approaches enable one to gain the respect and confidence of another, which is key to being able to effectively minister to their needs. Those who are made to feel special from these expressions of concern know they can come uncondemned, unjudged and unafraid. It may be they are feeling the weight of guilt, but they know that you are not the source of that condemnation. This opens the doors to the heart of those who are hurting and in need, and paves the way for the healing of Christ to begin in their soul.

The only true answer to life's problems is for the will of Christ to have full control in one's life. It is through the avenue of prayer that we have access to His abundant store of grace and power. Praying an earnest prayer for someone who is struggling in a battle of life can make a wonderful difference in their ability to continue on. Often the Lord gives great victories and turns the tide of circumstances through a simple prayer. Praying for a friend is a beautiful way to share the love of Christ.

May God bless His church with many members who seek for and obtain the special gift that God gave Barnabas. If we had more with this gift, I am sure there would also be many others added to the Kingdom of God today.

According to our usual policy, we will not publish an August issue of the *Faith and Victory*. We trust the Lord will meet with His people in a special way at the camp meetings this summer.

—Bro. Willie E. Murphrey
wemurphrey@yahoo.com

Boy in the Window

(Continued from page 3.)

his loved ones.

Yet hope had not abandoned this young believer! Paul rushed to Eutychus and with God's power flowing through him found a wavering spark of life still there in the young man's body. With Paul's earnest prayer to God, Eutychus soon found himself alive and well, surrounded by the Saints rejoicing over his miracle.

In many ways I was like that boy in the window, yet my soul, not my body experienced death. I dwelt among the Saints of God as a young person, saved and sanctified, and so in love with my Savior! However, I came into a situation that put my soul in grave danger. I also became sleepy spiritually, yet instead of moving away from the edge, I believed I could keep myself awake. I believed I could keep myself from falling into sin! Unfortunately, with my foolishness I soon fell. Down, down into the dark cold world of sin. Out of the reach of my loved ones reaching out to bring me back to safety. Thankfully, God has a merciful and far-reaching arm!

The spark of life in my soul never quite flickered out completely because the Saints that could see my predicament, did not give up on me. Through God's healing power I soon rose up from the death of sin into the safety of the light, surrounded by the Saints rejoicing over my miracle!

Dear saints, those of you who weep for your loved ones and children still living in sin, take courage! Show them much love and little condemnation. They know they are wrong. Their own heart condemns them, yet they feel helpless and trapped in their weak state. Continue to pray for them and let them see the light of God shining through your own life. Sin makes them rebel against the light, but deep down they realize that this Light is their only hope. No matter how strongly they may seem to resist the light of truth, they do not really wish it to change or fade.

Let us continue to let the light of Truth shine through us. We may never realize how many hearts we touch in doing so. Our dear lost or struggling loved ones cherish the Light even though they may not admit it even to themselves. Also other poor souls may see our light from their dark prison of sin and realize that there is still hope and light in the world.

—Anonymous



CA—I need prayer for several unspoken requests. —Sis. Doris Pihaylic

LA—Please pray for Bonnie and Larry McKinney, both are seriously ill. Thank You.

—Sis. Lee Ann Samons

OK—Remember Sis. Imogene Taylor in prayer. She has cancer that is spreading into very tender areas of her face.



Standing Prayer Requests

Sis. Merline Allen

Sis. Gladys Cashio

Sis. Helen Carson

Sis. Genevieve Carver

Sis. Elizabeth Corteway

Sis. Waneta Creel

Bro. Terry Dawson Sr.

Sis. Patsy Doolittle

Sis. Dorall Forbes

Bro. Troy Gentry

Bro. Lee Hilton

Jaden Howard

Sis. Patsy Jordon

Sis. Earnestine Jordon

Sis. Karoline Kessler

Bro. Mark and Sis. Darlene Knight

Sis. Virginia Myers

Sis. Elsie M. Offerman

Sis. Melba Powell

Bro. Vernon Robinson

Sis. Ruth Shehee

Sis. Cheryl Smith

Bro. Michael Smith

Bro. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor

Sis. Imogene Taylor

The Mitch Taylor family

Sis. Norma Tiller

Bro. Delmar Wilkins

Bro. Curtis Williams

MEETING DATES

National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 16-25
Myrtle, MO (Camp Meeting)—July 30 - Aug. 3
California State (Pacoima, CA)—Aug. 6-15
Boley, OK (Camp Meeting)—August 13-15
Spooner, WI (Tent Meeting)—August 18-22
Wichita, KS (Fall Revival)—September 19-26
Baldy Mesa, CA (Fall Revival)—October 8-10
Dallas, TX (Fall Meeting)—October 13-17
Oklmulgee, OK (Fall Revival)—October 15-17

MEETING NOTICES

NATIONAL CAMP MEETING MONARK SPRINGS, MO

The National Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO, July 16-25. All are cordially invited to come and bring others to enjoy the blessings we are expecting from the Lord.

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

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

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

For lodging contact Bro. Randel and Sis. DeLoris Bradley (620) 226-3390 or e-mail rdbradley@ckt.net.

The business managers are Bro. Mike Hightower, 13974 Newt Dr., Neosho, MO 64850. Phone. (417) 451-3636, and Bro. Paul Cole (417) 455-2378.

MYRTLE, MO, CAMP MEETING

The Myrtle, MO camp meeting will begin, Lord willing, on Friday morning, July 30, and continue through Tuesday night, August 3. We will not have a Wednesday morning service as we have done for the past few years. There will

be services daily at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. We plan to also have afternoon services on Saturday and Sunday. We extend a hearty invitation to all to come. There will be 3 meals served daily, all expenses met by free-will offerings. Dormitories are available for lodging, as well as a limited number of cabins. Electrical hook ups are also available for campers, trailers or motor homes. We would like to ask each cabin owner who does not plan to attend this year's meeting to contact Sis. Carol Sorrell at 417-938-4493 and let her know so that arrangements can be made to use your cabin to lodge others who are coming and may need a place to stay. Sis. Carol will be co-ordinating cabin arrangements. The camp-ground phone number is 417-938-4682. You may also contact Bro. Harlan Sorrell at 417-938-4336 for further information.

Please pray for a special visitation of the Holy Spirit on this camp meeting, that souls will be saved and every spiritual need will be met.

We look forward to seeing you here.

—Bro. Harlan Sorrell

CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The annual California State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will begin, Lord willing, on August 6, ending August 15, 2010. The first service will be on Friday evening, August 6 at 7:30 p.m. with three services daily throughout the remainder of the meeting.

The campground is located at 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, CA 91331. A hearty invitation is extended to all. Your presence and prayers will add much to the success of the meeting. Accommodations are provided for those needing them, as well as three meals daily. Expenses are met by freewill offerings.

For more information you may contact: Sunset Guest Home (818) 899-2022; Bro. Paul Phillips (661) 251-6956 or Bro. Herbert Clay (818) 897-1396. The chapel phone number is: (818) 899-9021.

BOLEY, OK, CAMP MEETING

The Boley, OK congregation is planning to have a mini camp meeting, August 13-15.

Service times will be Friday evening 7:00 p.m., and Saturday 3:00 p.m., Dinner will be served. On Sunday, Sunday School will begin at 10:00 a.m., Morning service 11:00 a.m., no afternoon service. Dinner will be served. Notice

that there will only be an evening service on Friday.

Please be in agreement of prayer with us for a very inspirational meeting. Let us not selfishly enjoy the truth—Come and bring a friend.

For further information contact Bro. Cleo Jordan (918) 814-4045.

SPOONER, WI, TENT MEETING

Lord willing, this meeting will begin Wednesday, August 18, at 7:00 p.m., with services daily at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. through Sunday, August 22.

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

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

WICHITA, KS, FALL REVIVAL

The Wichita congregation welcomes you to our Fall Revival. The meeting will run Sunday, September 19 through Sunday, September 26. Monday through Saturday, services will be held at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. On Sunday, services will begin with Sunday School at 9:30 followed by Morning Worship at 10:45 and afternoon and evening services.

Please join us and pray for the revival. For more information contact Bro. Emanuel Gracey at (316) 461-1267 or Bro. Theodore McCray at (316) 641-4170

BALDY MESA, CA, FALL REVIVAL

It is with anticipation of the blessing of the Lord that we look forward to our fall revival at the Church of God Baldy Mesa, CA on October 8-10, 2010. Please pray with us for our community and God's will to be accomplished. Minister's Fellowship Breakfast Saturday Morning Oct. 9. In His Service.

—Pastors Travis and Alice Johnson
(760) 261-2564

DALLAS, TEXAS, FALL MEETING

The Church of God Dallas, Texas Congregation located at 11501 Ryliecrest Drive, Balch

Springs, Texas welcomes you to their Fall meeting on October 13-17, 2010.

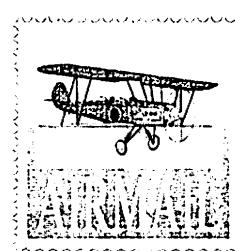
Service times will be: Wed.-Sat. and Sunday evening service at 7:00 p.m.; Sunday School at 10:00 a.m., Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m. and Sunday Afternoon Service at 2:30 p.m.

For lodging arrangements contact Sis. Linda Montgomery (972) 286-6239. For other information contact Bro. Calvin Frentrup (972) 237-1538 or Bro. Henry Grimes (972) 222-7249. The chapel phone number is (972) 557-1591

OKMULGEE, OK, FALL REVIVAL

The Church of God congregation at Okmulgee, Oklahoma invite you to join them in revival services October 15-17. Bro. Hayward Cox has a burden to be with them in this meeting. Evening services on Friday and Saturday will begin at 7:30 p.m. Sunday morning services will start at 11:00 a.m.

For more information contact Bro. Robert Warren (918) 733-1306.



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings in Jesus dear name. I trust the dear Lord is blessing you and giving you comfort, grace and wisdom for all your needs as you serve Him. We know He has promised to be with us in all of our needs. I am so glad that He has given us the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts that we can look forward to the full reward at His coming, and there rejoice with the redeemed of all ages and there fully enjoy, without measure, the things that He has prepared for all them that love Him. Your brother in Christ.

—T. V. McMillian

IL—Dear Bro. & Sis. Murphey: Just wanted to write you a few lines and let you know I am doing a little better. I am still trusting in the Lord for healing of my body. The Lord has been so good to me and I thank all of you for your prayers and encouragement to press on and live and walk in the path that leads to a brighter home in Heaven.

Please keep me in your prayers. Christian love to all.

—Sis. Elsie M. Offerman

LA—Dear Bro. Willie: Psalm 103:2 says, "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:" I bless the Lord and praise His holy name for saving my soul and keeping me pure and clean in this wicked world. I am enjoying all the wonderful benefits that come with salvation.

I want to tell about the miracle God has done for my eyes. In 2005 my optometrist told me I had cataracts on my eyes. I was much concerned and started bringing it to the Lord. He let me know He would take care of it. In January of this year, the doctor examined my eyes and she told me they were getting weaker. One day while I was on the job, God spoke to me so clearly and said, "I will heal your eyes." I started rejoicing and thanking God for the healing that He was going to give my eyes. In May I went to the eye doctor to get my lenses changed. He examined my eyes very closely and told me I did not have any cataracts. Oh, How I praise God for healing my eyes. I also had asked God to please stop my eyes from getting more near-sighted. My lenses have been getting thicker and stronger. The eye examination showed that God is reversing the near-sightedness.

It is so wonderful to be able to cast all my burdens on God. He never fails His trusting children. I want to keep my eyes focused on Jesus and be faithful to the end.

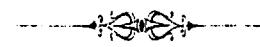
—Sis. Ruth Joiner

KS—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: While meditating the other day, I thought that we are so small in God's sight that we appear less than a speck. But on the other hand, we are important enough that He has graven us in the palm of His hand. (Isaiah 49:16.) Having a God that is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent, how could we ask for more? I am so grateful how He has manifested Himself time and time again in my behalf; spiritually, physically, financially, legally, emotionally and temporally.

In spiritual needs, He saved and sanctified my being and gave me sustaining grace. Physically, He healed me recently of severe hip and back pains. Financially, He blessed me when I blessed someone else. Legally, He provided me with wonderful counsel without charge. Emotionally, He has comforted my heart during

times of grief and has given me peace and assurance when doubts and fears arose. Temporally, while driving home from church the other Sunday, I discovered I barely had brakes because I had accidentally left on my emergency brakes. The Lord helped me to stop while exiting the freeway and didn't allow my brake system to be damaged. On another note, the Lord helped the plumber clear a difficult drain from my sump pump and gutter system without digging up the yard. Finally, recently while traveling home from the East Coast, the Lord allowed me to make an earlier flight that was full.

No matter how large or small the situation may be to us, they are all the same to God. My desire and prayer is that I be thankful and stay faithful to the end. —Sis. Gertrude Lounds



JUST FOR TODAY

There are three days—yesterday, today and tomorrow. The population of the world is divided between these three days. Some are living in the present, some in the past and some in the future. Where we are living, with respect to time, has a great influence upon our lives. Perhaps we do not know just where we are living. It might pay us to make a careful examination of our lives and see whether the past, the present, or the future is bulking most largely in our life.

Those who are living in yesterday are living on memories. Yesterday is gone forever. We can never recall it. I once knew a home where the wife had died. I visited it a year or so after her death. It was a gloomy place. The husband was a gloomy man. He had tried to leave everything in the home as nearly as possible as his wife had left it. The musical instrument had been untouched. This man was living in the past. All the brightness, joy, love and happiness came from the past. The present meant nothing to him. The future held no hope. On the journey of life he was walking backward. His gaze was ever behind him.

There are many like this man. Their circumstances may be different, but they are facing the past. Their joys are the memory of past joys. The sorrow of past troubles, mistreatments, losses, failures and sins shroud their lives in gloom. Why should we keep these things ever present with us? Bring not the care of the past, its regrets, sorrows, or anything from it that can

cast a gloom upon our today, into the lives we are now living. Yesterday is only a memory. Let us carefully cover its scars. Let us not exhibit them to the world. Let us not be ever looking upon them and thinking over them. Paul's example is a good one to follow, "Forgetting that which is behind I press forward." We should let yesterday be yesterday. Someone has said, "The tears of yesterday are like passing showers." After the shower should come sunshine. After yesterday's troubles should come forgetting. Yesterday's joys should be succeeded by the joys of today. Let us not live in yesterday. Today is too full of opportunity. It is heavily laden with good things. Let us dry the tears of yesterday. Let us turn to today.

There are other people who live in tomorrow. Their joys are the joys of anticipation, not of realization. True, anticipation has its real joys, but we should not picture a tomorrow so bright that it obscures today. We should not exalt tomorrow so much that today loses its meaning. The hopes of tomorrow, the bright pictures we paint, are not reality. We know not whether they ever shall be. Sometimes people cannot enjoy the things of today because of their forebodings for tomorrow. Instead of filling the future with bright anticipations, they fill it with a thousand ghostly fears. They cross their bridges before they get to them, and because they are ever looking at the bridges their imagination pictures before them, they cannot see the beauties beside the roadway they are traveling.

For them, the flowers beside them bloom in vain. The songs of the birds are not heard. The beautiful prospects on each side of their way are lost. The bridge ahead is what they see. Their attention is so focused on it that they have no eyes or ears for today. A writer said, "I am the champion bridge crosser. I not only cross them, but I help build them." He has many relatives today scattered all over the world. They are in the same business. The fears of tomorrow are a blight on many lives.

Jesus, who understood life better than anyone else, said, "Take therefore no thought for tomorrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself." His meaning is—do not live in tomorrow, do not borrow trouble. Live tomorrow when you get to it. Live in today. We know not what tomorrow shall bring forth. When it comes, it will take thought for itself. There will be time enough to meet its problems, to overcome its difficulties, to fight its battles and to

rejoice in its victories, when we have reached it. Let us not neglect today for tomorrow.

Whittier says,

"No longer forward or behind
I look in hope or fear,
But grateful take the good I find—
The best of now and here."

Our lives are wholly made of todays. Let us live in the time that is ours; make the best of it while we may. Let us enjoy its joys and do its work. Let us live to the full today, giving to the past and to the future only what is justly theirs and only what will profit us in the giving.

It is important that we properly meet the things that come. Someone has said, "Tomorrow we shall smile over today's worries; so why not begin today?" This is an excellent philosophy and well worth consideration. If adopted, it will be a profitable rule of life for us.

If we were given now the strength and grace we shall need tomorrow, we could not use it. It would profit us nothing. If we are strong enough for today, tomorrow need give us no concern. We shall be strong enough for it when it comes. Sufficient for today is God's way of giving. Suppose you try using today the strength and grace you had yesterday. Does it avail you anything? Then do not look for tomorrow's grace today, for if you had it today, you could not use it either tomorrow or today.

We should not attempt to solve all the future's problems now nor to see our way entirely clear before us. Face the things that are right at hand. Sometimes the difficulties of today have a way of projecting themselves into the future so that when we look forward to it we feel we never can bear it.

Perhaps a little more of my own experience may be helpful to others. When I was forced to take my bed, my sufferings were very great. These continued month after month. After several months, I was one day lying thinking. The future began to loom up before me so dark, so discouraging, so hopeless, that I felt I never could face it. I asked myself, "How can I endure it?" I was appalled by the prospect. While I was in this melancholy state, it seemed the Spirit of God drew near and whispered to me, "You do not have to live tomorrow now. You do not need to bear tomorrow's pain or suffering now. God knows what you can bear. He will not let more come upon you than you can bear. But live today, not the days that are before you."

I Met The Master Face to Face

*I had walked life's way with an easy tread,
Had followed where comforts and pleasures led.
Until one day, in a quiet place,
I met the Master face to face.*

*I met Him, and knew Him, and blushed to see
That His eyes full of sorrow were fixed on me,
And I faltered and fell at His feet that day,
While my castles melted and vanished away.*

*With station and rank and wealth for my goal,
Much thought for my body, but none for my soul,
I had entered to win in life's big race,
When I met the Master, face to face.*

*Melted and vanished, and in their place,
Naught else did I see but the Master's face.
And I cried aloud: "Oh, make me meet
To follow the steps of Thy wounded feet!"*

*I had built my castles and reared them high,
With their towers had pierced the blue of the sky,
I had sworn to rule with an iron mace,
When I met the Master, face to face.*

*My thought is now for the souls of men.
I have lost my life to find it again,
E'er since that day in a quiet place,
When I met the Master, face to face.*

—Selected

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