

FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



Volume 90, No. 3 90th Year Guthrie, Oklahoma \$5.00 Per Year Sept.—Oct., 2012

The Prayer-Life

Do we pray? Does our prayer life measure up to the Bible standard of a life of prayer? Do we constantly carry that prayerful frame of spirit that a child of God should? We are not asking these questions to condemn, but to call attention to that which it is possible to neglect.

What is prayer? We mean real, true, acceptable prayer, such prayers as God will bottle up in Heaven. For prayer to be acceptable to God it must arise to Him perfumed with the sweet odor of incense. When the Holy Spirit has kindled a fire on the altar of our soul, and then comes with the name of Jesus and lays on the fire our prayer, it will be saturated through with sweet incense which will insure its preservation in God's bottles in Heaven.

Prayer is an attitude of consecration. The Greek word that bears this idea of prayer is found as often as 90 times in the New Testament. It is the word of greatest common use in the New Testament as regards praying to God.

Its root idea is consecration. It is compounded of two Greek words, one meaning "a vow" and the other, "turning towards." This means a turning to God in a full surrender or consecration. It is prayer in an attitude of worship. This meaning of prayer is found in Acts 1:14 and 10:9. But these texts are only two among many. In fact, this meaning enters into all prayer. It is turning to God with all the heart and soul. People are failing to get answers because they lack consecration, and a turning of the fullness of the heart to God. There is too much cold formality. One of the essential secrets of prayer is a whole-hearted consecration. It is a pity that this word has lost much of its meaning to many professing holiness. Many speak of consecration who are almost wholly ignorant of its meaning.

True prayer is a humiliation. Humility is another word whose meaning is not always fully understood. When we come to God as supplicants there needs to be a clear consciousness of our being wholly without merit. If we feel that there is a bit of worthiness about us that puts God under some obligation to answer our prayers, we will fail of an answer. In many prayers today the spirit of reverence and humility is greatly lacking. There is not the removing of the shoes and that feeling of holy awe and righteous fear resting upon the soul before the awful majesty of God. It is true that God is our Father and we are to come to Him in the familiarity of childhood, which is another aspect of prayer, yet this familiarity must not

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become so unduly as to rob the soul of its deep reverential awe. There is a Greek word found in Hebrews 5:7 which is found nowhere besides in the New Testament. Here it is translated "supplications." We have the word "supplication" a number of times in the New Testament, but it is not translated from the word found in this text. This Greek word is found in Greek literature and is used as referring to an olive branch which a suppliant holds out toward the king from whom he desires some favor. Just as Jesus came before God as an humble suppliant in our humanity, extending the olive branch of peace, so we in our humanity, must come before God wholly in the merit of Christ—none in self—extending the olive branch of peace made through the atoning blood of Jesus. Except we humble ourselves and become conscious of our destitution of worthiness and merit, we hinder God from answering prayer.

Another beautiful aspect of prayer is that of fellowship. The thought of prayer being a fellowship is suggested by a Greek word which is found only twice in the New Testament. These are I Timothy 2:1 and 4:5. In I Timothy 2:1 it is rendered "intercessions", while in I Timothy 4:5 it is translated "prayer." It is true that words have changed their meaning some since our Authorized Version has been given us. The word

"intercession" does not mean to us just what it did to people in that time. When we speak of "intercessory prayer" we think only of praying for others. Three hundred years ago the word "intercession" did not have that meaning. In the original the meaning of the word is the meeting of two friends who talk together and receive something from each other. It means a partnership or fellowship. This is one of the deepest and most precious aspects of prayer. It suggests the privilege of close friendship and intimate fellowship with God. It is just such friendship as Enoch and Noah enjoyed when they walked with God.

—Charles E. Orr

Dear Saints: I found this wonderful article in a *Faith and Victory* Year Book for July, 1960. It really inspired my heart and corresponds with truths that the Lord has given me. It blends with what our Savior said in Matthew 6:9-13 of how to pray: "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven...." I remember a message that Brother Ostis Wilson brought several years ago at Guthrie on the Lord's Prayer and what it all takes in. I am encouraged to follow this in my prayer life and feel greatly blessed in my soul thereby.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee



The Judges Verdict

"He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." Revelation 22:11.

Here we have news from Heaven. A martyr from the glory world visited John on Patmos and revealed to him things that should come to pass.

Showing him that he that is unjust or filthy during life shall remain so through eternity. Many are thus living in the world and will receive this sentence at the judgment. As death leaves us the judgment will find us.

On the other hand we are told, he that is righteous and holy during their earthly life shall remain so through eternity. Hallelujah!

This Gospel blaze—the light of holiness, is flashing out all over the world that all may know how to shun the sinner's doom and gain the holy land.

Let us then put our hands to the Gospel plow and not look back, but press on in the light, doing the will of "Our Father," that we may find access to the tree of life and enter in through the golden gate in the city of pearls. Glory!

Holiness is what we need to live with, die by and go home to glory in. Praise God! Let us trust Jesus and victory is ours.

God will open the way if we are desirous to do His commands and He will enable us to do them. And this is His will even our sanctification. Glory to God! What a great thing it is to be saved—sanctified—and glorified. Sanctified here in this life that we may be glorified in the life to come.

Oh, to be shut up with God—saved—made holy—live holy—die holy and go to the holy world beyond the river.

—From *The Gospel Trumpet*, March 15, 1881

The Shepherd's Reflection

Once there was a shepherd entrusted with a flock of sheep, and, realizing his responsibility, he watched over them with zealous care. He led them in green valleys and by cool streams where they might grow fat and flourishing. He looked with some degree of satisfaction on some that seemed to be gaining. But as time went on and he led them and watched over them, he noticed some that did not follow as closely and at times were disobedient. Realizing the danger of bears, lions, ravines, and cliffs, how easily they might fall to destruction, he became sharp with them and often used the lash with fervor because he felt it his duty, lest they perish.

Instead of pointing out the danger and himself leading them and staying as far away from it as possible, he became anxious and nervous over them and used sharpness more and more until the sheep became fearful of him. Instead of staying close to him, they began to stay farther and farther from him until at last one by one they left him until all were gone.

Then in grief and sorrow he sat down and wept sore saying all the time he knew he had done his best for them and he couldn't help it because they had left. Then the owner of the sheep (because, you see, the sheep were not his, but he was the shepherd chosen to care for them) came to talk to him.

The owner showed him how he had been faithful, and praised him for his labors of love; but at the same time pointed out to him why the sheep left. They had been driven away with his sharpness and severity. The owner explained that the shepherd's duty was to guard over the sheep, warn them of danger, lead them in green pastures and straight paths, and if one should stray, to go after that one sheep and persuade it to return, carrying it, if necessary, and showing great love for it until it would have great desire to stay. And if one should fall into a ravine or some such dangerous spot, the shepherd should put forth every effort to rescue it, uttering reassuring words for its comfort so that it would never forget its rescuer and never cease to be thankful. Then he left the shepherd to contemplate over these things.

The shepherd considered and began to realize that after all his care and trying to do and be right, he had failed as a good shepherd that leadeth his sheep because he in his care for them had become sharp, speaking many things that ought not to have been said, and certainly not in the manner they were said, and had lost them. Now he began to weep afresh and repent

that he had not been more careful in his speech toward them and to them.

The owner saw his sorrow and his penitence. He forgave him and entrusted more sheep to his care, knowing he had learned his lesson and would be more careful now to lead them carefully and to love the sheep, and if they would not follow or obey, to leave the lash with the owner of the sheep to use as he deemed it best.

This time he warned them carefully and so lovingly, feeling that love from the depths of his heart, that most of the sheep had no desire to stray from their loving leader, but rather chose to stay close to him as possible to hear the sound of his loving voice and to look upon his countenance and see the love he had for them reflected there.

—A Reader

—From *Faith and Victory*, May 1953



Learning How to Sing

It is the Christian's privilege to always have a song in his soul. James tells us that if any are merry, let them sing psalms; if they be afflicted let them pray. The thought is that if the afflicted (troubled) will pray they will soon become merry and then they can sing psalms.

We have heard of a bird that will never learn to sing while in the light. The owner must keep the cage darkened that it may be taught to sing. The Lord must sometimes bring us into the dark that we may learn to sing. Some of the sweetest songs this world ever heard were learned in the dark. The richest of Paul's epistles was written in the darkness of the prison cell. *Pilgrim's Progress* was born in the soul of the imprisoned Bunyan.

The growing grass emits no fragrance, but who has not smelled the fragrance of the new-mown hay?

The roses from which we get our attar of roses have to be picked in the darkest hours of the night. They lose forty percent of their fragrance in the light.

Be not discouraged tempted one,
Nor think it a hard thing;
God is darkening your cage
To teach you how to sing.

Some souls somewhere are sinking low,
God sees and feels their plight,
He speaks, "Go sing the song to them
I gave you in the night."

—Charles E. Orr

**FAITH AND VICTORY
12 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY**



This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD bimonthly by Willie Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044.

Notice to subscribers: When you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your zip code number.

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

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Single copy, one year \$5.00
Package of 5 papers to one address, one year \$20.00
Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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.

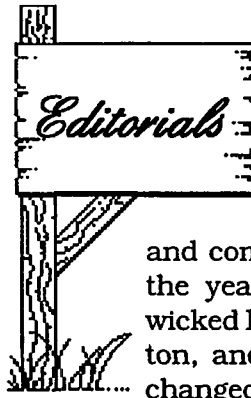
In order to comply with Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

The Faith and Victory is published bimonthly for \$5.00 per year by:

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 518, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044
Office phone numbers: 405-282-1479, 800-767-1479;
fax number: 405-282-6318.
Internet address: <http://www.faithpublishing.com>

Postmaster: Send address changes to: Faith and Victory, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044.



"And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him." Luke 2:40.

The song "Amazing Grace" has been a blessing and comfort to Christians through the years. We have heard of the wicked life of the author, John Newton, and how God so marvelously changed him by His grace. We rejoice with the angels of Heaven for those who have experienced a transformed life. However, there are some who seem to believe that this grace covers vile sinners who have never repented and have died in their sins. This is a sad deception of the enemy that is blinding people to the real transforming power of God's grace. In Romans 6:1-2 it says, "...Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

Jesus is the center of the Christian's affections because of the great sacrifice He made for man's redemption. We often marvel that the Son of God would be willing to come from the raptures of Heaven to dwell on earth in the form of a man, and pay such an awful price for salvation. We know by the Scriptures that love brought Him to this world and His mission wonderfully expressed the power of God's great grace. When a person's life pleases the Lord there is an extension of Divine grace that blesses their life. Jesus came to do the will of His Father and His life pleased the Lord. This brought an outpouring of God's grace upon Jesus that enabled Him in His darkest hours to say, "...nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done." When the grace of God is upon a person there is approval and there is power. To obtain the approval of God one must have a pure heart, for sin is what originally brought about the separation between God and man. Jesus was uniquely able to usher in the plan of salvation because He was pure and undefiled by sin. He was a lamb without spot or blemish.

When Jesus began to expound the Scriptures to those who were in the synagogue, it says in Luke 4:22, "And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth...." Jesus was speaking to them from a pure heart that was filled

with the wisdom and power of God. This greatly impressed those who were listening because it was so different from the thoughts expressed by those who had hearts clouded by sin. When one has a pure heart it just naturally is reflected in their speech and in the way they conduct themselves. Proverbs 22:11 says, "He that loveth pureness of heart, *for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend.*" What a great reward for having a pure heart and allowing our conversation to be governed with the virtues of grace. The King of kings will be our friend.

For fallen man to have a pure heart, they must repent of their sins and have faith in the atonement that Jesus made. When we partake of the plan of salvation and our heart is cleansed of sin, then God's grace will be upon us like it was upon Jesus. This grace will likewise give us power to do His will in our lives. "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:" II Corinthians 9:8. Another scripture that shows how important grace is to the Christian is Hebrews 12:28. "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:" From this verse we see that the empowerment provided by grace enables us to serve God acceptably.

There is a common idea that grace is simply the unmerited favor of God that gives salvation to sinful man. While we understand that salvation is not a result of our works or our goodness, we do not believe that it leaves man in a sinful state. Revelation 1:5 clearly states that Jesus "...washed us from our sins in his own blood," We are not saved in our sins, Christ's blood washes us *from* our sins. There is a big difference between these two ideas. There is a song that says, "I'm just a sinner saved by grace." This is totally wrong. When a sinner is saved, he is no longer a sinner. He is delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son. He becomes a Saint! Romans 5:21 says, "That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." Grace reigns through righteousness. This means there are conditions that must necessarily be met before God's transforming power of grace can have its wonderful effect in ones life.

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." II Corinthians 8:9. Jesus came to fulfill a specific mission that required much sacrifice on His part. We are called to be Saints, and the grace that He had will be imparted to us to fulfill that noble calling. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;" Titus 2:11-12. It is God's plan that man be endued with grace that enables him to triumph over the sin of this world. It teaches us holiness. The definition of the Greek word for *grace* states that it is the "...Divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life...." When the grace of God is working in the heart, there is a reflection of Christ that all can see. Fruits of righteousness will begin developing and growing in that life.

An important part of the plan of salvation includes the presence of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. In Acts 1:8 Jesus said, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:..." The prophet Zechariah foretold of the day when the Lord said, "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace...." Zechariah 12:10. Paul ended his letters more than once with statements like this: "Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen." Galatians 6:18; "The Lord Jesus Christ *be* with thy spirit. Grace *be* with you. Amen." II Timothy 4:22; and "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen." Philemon 1:25. The Holy Spirit dwelling in these mortal bodies with our spirit gives us the grace of the Lord Jesus and that translates into power to accomplish His will for our lives.

Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Grace helps us in times of need. The Lord told Paul, when he was seeking for the thorn in his flesh to be removed, "...My grace is sufficient for thee:..." II Corinthians 12:9. God assures us that He has sufficient grace to overcome every obstacle that the devil may place between us and Heaven. Let us be encouraged to seek for the grace that will give us power to live a victorious life for God. The New Testament ends

with these words, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *bewith* you all. Amen." Revelation 22:21. It is the Lord's will that all experience the life transforming power of His marvelous grace in their lives.

On Sunday evening of September 23 the Lord called for our dear mother-in-law to come home. Sis. Lillian Eck came to live with us at the Print Shop in August 2008. The following October 14 she fell and sprained her back. Her back improved but on November 7, 2008, she suffered a debilitating stroke that seriously affected her right side and caused her to be unable to walk or stand since that time. Shortly before her 88th birthday, which was August 21, she experienced a physical decline that left her body greatly weakened. Her heart and circulatory system was so weak and her body was so frail when the Lord said, "It is enough, come home." We are reminded of the verse in II Corinthians 4:16 which says, "...But though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day." She loved and served the Lord throughout her adult life. Through the years she prayed many earnest prayers for those who had needs and when she was unable to pray aloud, due to her physical condition, she would still agree when we prayed with her. We thank the Lord for her godly example. We also appreciate the prayers of the Saints in our behalf as we cared for her. We know His hand has held us through these difficult times and we praise Him for His tender care.

There is a need for the Lord to inspire different ones to write articles and testimonies for the paper. If God has done something special for you, it could be a real blessing for others to read about how God is still working among His people.

We are grateful to those who have supported this work through the years and we pray that God will bless each one for their sacrifice. There is still a great need for the light of the Gospel to be spread by printed page. We are living in a time when there is much deception and darkness in the world, and there are many souls who have been wounded by the enemy. This leaves many hurting people struggling and crying for hope. May the Lord help us to do our part to point them to the Savior Who has the answer to every problem.

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



IL—Please pray for my 13 year-old great-grandson, Joshua Gunger. He has an undiagnosed physical problem that we are very concerned about.

—Sis. Elsie Offerman

OK—We received word at press time that Bro. Gail Kelly passed. Remember the family in prayer. Bro. Gail was a dear brother in the Lord.

Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Roger Anderson
 Sis. Agnes Burleson
 Bro. Gary Burleson
 Sis. Gladys Cashio
 Sis. Helen Carson
 Sis. Genevieve Carver
 Sis. Elizabeth Corteway
 Sis. Waneta Creel
 Bro. Terry Dawson Sr.
 Sis. Guy Domin
 Blake Doolittle
 Sis. Dorall Forbes
 Bro. Dan Gellenbeck
 Bro. Troy Gentry
 Jaden Howard
 Sis. Patsy Jordan
 Sis. Earnestine Jordan
 Sis. Karoline Kessler
 Bro. Mark and Sis. Darlene Knight
 Sis. Evodna Marler
 Sis. Virginia Myers
 Sis. Elsie M. Offerman
 Bro. Vernon Robinson
 Bro. David Runion
 Bro. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor
 The Mitch Taylor family
 Sis. Norma Tiller
 Bro. Delmar Wilkins
 Sis. Jan Wood

MEETING DATES

Okmulgee, OK (Revival)—October 19-21
Loranger, LA (General Southern)—
 November 21-25
Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—
 December 21-30



MEETING NOTICES

OKMULGEE, OK, FALL REVIVAL

The Church of God congregation at Okmulgee, Oklahoma invite you to join them in revival services October 19-21. Evening services on Friday and Saturday will begin at 7:30 p.m. Sunday morning services will start at 11:00 a.m. Dinner will be served after the morning service.

The chapel is located at 1515 E. First St., Okmulgee, OK
 For more information contact Bro. Robert Warren (918) 733-1306.



GENERAL SOUTHERN ASSEMBLY MEETING

Lord willing, the Loranger, Louisiana Assembly Meeting will begin Wednesday evening November 21, with morning and evening services daily through Sunday, November 25. If you can join us, come praying for a blessing.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and another for the brothers. Electrical and water hookups are available for those with campers. Meals are provided and expenses met by freewill offerings.

From Loranger, go two miles south and about three and one-half miles east on Hwy. 40.

For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about 10 miles east of the Tickfaw exit. (At the exit, take Hwy. 442 which runs into Hwy. 40.)

For more information or to request family accommodations, contact Bro. Carlos Doolittle by phone at (985) 878-8122, or send e-mail correspondence to cdoolittle@selu.edu. (Please label all messages as Re: Assembly Meeting.) The chapel phone is (985) 878-2788.

Please do support this meeting with your prayers.



OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held at Guthrie, OK. Lord willing, the first service will be Friday

evening, December 21, and the meeting will continue through 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. Daily worship services throughout 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, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, 807 W Lake Rd, Guthrie, OK 73044.

To obtain further information about the meeting, contact Bro. Phillip Gellenbeck (405) 282-2999.

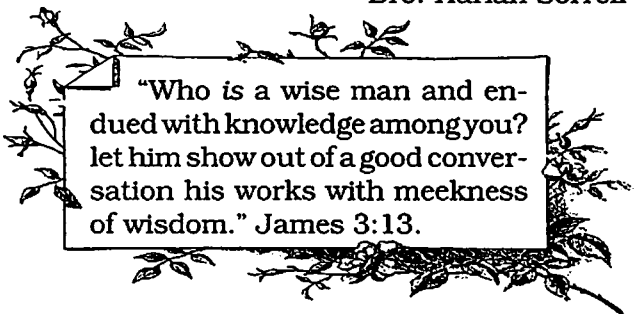


MEETING REPORT

MYRTLE, MO, CAMP MEETING REPORT

We thank the Lord for the precious and blessed camp meeting He gave us here at Myrtle this year. The attendance was good and the services were richly anointed by the Holy Spirit. The singing was especially heavenly. CD recordings are available of the congregational and special singing as well as all the messages. Anyone interested in obtaining recordings from the Myrtle camp meeting may contact Bro. Harlan Sorrell at Rt. 1 Box 118A, Myrtle, MO 65778, or by email: hSorrell@wildblue.net

—Bro. Harlan Sorrell





LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

WV—Dear Bro. Willie and laborers at the Lord's Print Shop and Saints abroad: Greetings and thanks to the Lord for every improvement in the last one and one-half years—since the brainstem stroke. If it had not been for Divine healing, I would not be here today. Yes, it ended my trucking career of over 30 years, but I have much to be thankful for.

Thanks to all the Saints for your prayers. I have been almost completely restored, for which I am very thankful. I do appreciate your continued prayers.

Sincerely, —Bro. Mancil Doolittle

LA—Greetings in the name of Jesus. I trust this will find each one pressing on for God and enjoying His blessings. He has been so good to me and I don't want to fail to thank Him.

Last fall, I had propane gas put in my tank here at the house. Not long afterwards, there was a strong propane smell in the house, but I thought it was just from the small leak I had had earlier in the year. I finally checked the gas tank and found it almost empty again. When the propane man came to check it, he found a break in the gas line under my deck! Had someone mowed the lawn, as usually would have been done, it could have been catastrophic. The propane man was able to repair the gas line that evening and I just praise God for helping me through it all.

Later, I was having some problems with my car and had it checked for transmission problems. I was told that the torque converter was completely gone and I should just go ahead and have the transmission rebuilt, also. The price quoted was around \$2,000.00, so I waited to have it done. On advice from others, I had it checked at another garage and was told he could find nothing wrong with neither the converter nor the transmission. I just thank God for helping me out again!

He has blessed me with answers to prayer health wise, also, so many times, and I appreciate so much being able to trust Him for every-

thing. Please pray for me that I will keep true and faithful to God and make Heaven my home.

In Christian love, —Sis. Cynthia LaCroix

MO—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: I was impressed by a short chapter in II Chronicles 27:1-2. "Jotham was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jerushah, the daughter of Zadok. And he did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Uzziah did: howbeit he entered not into the temple of the LORD. And the people did yet corruptly." If one reads on down it lists some of the good acts of Good King Jotham. He built the high gate of the house of the Lord and cities, etc. Verse 6, "So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the LORD his God.

It seemed unusual to me that someone, who was recorded as doing right in the sight of the Lord would not enter the temple. The temple was where one learned about the Lord. The temple was where God dwelt between the Cherubims. How could one do that which was right and not go to the temple?

I felt that I found the answer in II Chronicles 26:16-19. This Chapter is talking about Jotham's father, good King Uzziah. If we read the whole chapter we find that Uzziah was only 16 when he began his reign but he too did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. The Lord marvelously helped King Uzziah and he became strong. "But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to *his* destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense. And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the LORD, *that were* valiant men: And they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, *It appertaineth* not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron....Then Uzziah was wroth, and *had* a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar."

We all know the judgment on leprosy. One had to live outside the camp and shout "Unclean, Unclean;" anytime someone came close to him.

Because King Uzziah wasn't following God's plan and allowed his anger to be kindled against the priests when they tried to point him back to God's plan, the Lord put leprosy upon him and he was a leper unto the day of his death. Jotham never again was able to receive a hug from his father or have him home at the dinner table. Can you see the fear of getting leprosy in Jotham? So he decided he would make sure that he didn't get leprosy. He just wouldn't go into the temple of the Lord. There wouldn't be a chance of him doing something that was the priest's duties and not his. However, that decision affected the people around him. II Chronicles 27:2 says, "...And the people did yet corruptly." They didn't see the leadership of their king publicly in the worship of the Lord so even though King Jotham did right in the sight of the Lord it didn't lead others to do right.

I wonder, have we seen those in the past who followed the Lord. Perhaps was marvelously helped by the Lord and was able to do mighty deeds in the Kingdom of the Lord. Yet, as time went on their heart was lifted up and the Lord had to correct them. If they failed to respond to the Lord's correction then their correction ended up being made manifest to everyone, just as the leprosy could be seen by everyone. Maybe we have looked on and decided, I just won't put myself in the position to be corrected by the Lord. I won't yield my all to him so he can do marvelous things through me cause then I might get lifted up and do something in my own strength and I will be corrected by the Lord just as King Uzziah was. Because we live in the day of grace it will be almost impossible for us to do that "...that which was right in the sight of the LORD,..." and there will be damage done to our loved ones and our friends. Those looking on will not be able to see how to truly get the blessings of the Lord and it will not encourage them to turn from their corruptness.

May the Lord help us each one to not only do that which is right in the sight of the Lord but also enter into His temple. We must fully yield to the Lord. May our lives be a public example for those around us so they can know the path to take. May we not fail to follow the instructions of the Lord in Hebrews 10:25, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" We truly need each other brethren and we need to see each other in the service of the Lord.

—Sis. Anita Adams

"The Master's Garden"

*The Master stood in His garden
Among the lilies fair
That His own right hand had planted
And trained with tenderest care.
He looked at their snowy blossom,
And marked with observant eye
That His flowers were sadly drooping.
Their leaves were parched and dry.*

*"My lilies need to be watered,"
The heavenly Master said.
"Wherein shall I draw it for them,
And raise each drooping head?"
Close to His feet, on the pathway,
Empty, and frail, and small
An earthly vessel was lying,
That seemed of no use at all.*

*But the Master saw it, and raised it
From the dust in which it lay,
And smiled as He gently whispered,
"This shall do my work today,
It is but an earthen vessel,
But it lay so close to me;
It is small, but it is empty—
That is all that it needs to be."*

*So He took it to the fountain,
And He filled it to the brim;
How glad was the earthen vessel
Just to be of some use to Him!
He poured forth the living water
Over His lilies so fair,
Until the vessel was empty,
And again He filled it there.*

*He watered the drooping lilies,
Until they revived again;
And the Master saw with pleasure
That His labor had not been vain,
His own hand had drawn the water,
That refreshed the thirsty flowers;
But He used the earthen vessel
To convey the living showers.*

—Submitted by Sis. Sylvia Busbee



Lillian Evelyn Sorrell Eck

Angels rejoiced and mortals wept as a loving mother, grandmother, sister and aunt, Lillian Evelyn Eck passed away Sunday, September 23, 2010 at the age of 88. Born to Alsia and Bessie Sorrell in Myrtle, MO on August 21, 1924, Lillian was the oldest of six children. After graduating from Couch High School in 1942 she went to work for Uncle John and Aunt Ella Crass as a telephone operator. Then in August of 1944 she moved to St. Louis, MO and worked at mending wire for General Cable Corporation till July of 1945. She then returned to Myrtle. The Lord was dealing with her heart and she answered that call. Then the Lord blessed her to meet a wonderful young man, Edwin Eck, who became her loving companion on March 28, 1948. They enjoyed 57 years of life together. Lillian was a devoted wife and loved him unflinchingly throughout their marriage. To this union four children were born, each being welcomed with open arms.

Her home often had the wonderful aroma of freshly baked bread, cinnamon rolls, pies or cookies. Her summers were busy cooking for harvest hands and canning food that came from her garden. She sewed dresses for the girls and suits for the boys. She enjoyed making quilts for her children and grandchildren. Her example has shown the meaning of standing by someone's side in sickness and in health with compassionate, endearing love. Her life remains a guiding light, a beacon of hope and faith in the midst of a dark world. Those around her have been sweetly blessed by her godly life.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, Alsia and Bessie Sorrell, her stepmother, Dollie Gentry Sorrell, one sister, Dora Lela Beisly, two brothers, Lehman Earl and Thurman Sorrell, and one step-sister, Hassie Palmer.

She is survived by four children, Elois Spinks and husband, Mark, of Jefferson, OR; Neta Murphey and husband, Willie, of Guthrie, OK; Darrell Eck and companion, Carol, of Goltry, OK; and Merrill Eck and companion, Pam, of Beatty, OR; eight grandchildren, Coquette and husband, Joel Erickson; Stephen and wife, Monica Murphey; Abigail and husband, Jonathan Danielsen; Elizabeth Murphey; Kysha, Slater, and Kean Eck; and Christopher Eck; four great grandchildren, Lillian and Judith Erickson; Autumn Grace and Andre' Danielsen, two brothers, Clifford and wife, Gertrude Sorrell; Fred and wife, Merry Sorrell; two sister-in-laws, Edna Sorrell and Carol Sorrell, a step-sister, Eula Sherill, and two stepbrothers, Troy Gentry and Eddie Gentry.

Services were held Friday, September 28 at 10 00 a.m. in Anderson-Burris Funeral Home Chapel, Enid, OK. Interment followed at Memorial Park Cemetery, Enid, OK. The officiating ministers were, Bro. Bob Wilson, Bro. Leslie Busbee and Bro. Phillip Gellenbeck.

The following is an excerpt from a card given to her by her son on her 88th birthday in August.

For My Mother,

First heart to ever love me,
 first voice I ever heard...
 Its soothing music sweet
 before I understood a word.
 First face I learned to recognize,
 first smile I ever saw,
 Eyes looking into mine
 with love and pride and awe.
 First hands to guide my wobbly steps
 or swing me to and fro,
 First arms to hold me safe and snug
 yet leave me room to grow.
 First confidante to listen
 to the things I had to say,
 First friend to know my hopes and dreams...
 first in my heart today.
 To the one who first loved me..
 from the one who will always love you.
 Love ya, Merrill

Note of Thanks

We would like to thank the Saints and friends who expressed their love by their gracious deeds. The phone calls, the flowers, the food, and the kind expressions of sympathy have truly made us feel the warmth of your love. Your visits, your prayers and songs during the extended period of mother's declining days were an encouragement to her as well as to us. May God richly reward each of you for your kindness.
 —The family of Sis. Lillian Eck

“Excuse me, are you Jesus?”

A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Chicago. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night’s dinner. In their rush, with tickets and briefcases, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table which held a display of apples. Apples flew everywhere. Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly-missed boarding.

ALL BUT ONE!!! He paused, took a deep breath, got in touch with his feelings and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned.

He told his buddies to go on without him, waved good-bye, told one of them to call his wife when they arrived at their home destination and explain his taking a later flight. Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were all over the terminal floor.

He was glad he did. The 16-year-old girl was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her; no one stopping and no one to care for her plight.

The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them back on the table and helped organize her display. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised; these he set aside in another basket.

When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, “Here, please take this \$40 for the damage we did. Are you okay?”

She nodded through her tears. He continued on with, “I hope we didn’t spoil your day too badly.”

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, “Mister....” He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, “Are you Jesus?”

He stopped in mid-stride...and he wondered. He gently went back and said, “No, I am not Jesus—He is good, kind, caring, loving, and would never have bumped into your display in the first place.”

The girl gently nodded: “I only asked because I prayed for Jesus to help me gather the apples. He sent you to help me, so you are like Him—only He knows who will do His will. Thank you for hearing His call, Mister.”

Then slowly he made his way to catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing about in his soul: “Are you Jesus?”

Do people mistake you for Jesus? That’s our destiny, is it not? To be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference as we live and interact with a world that is blind to His love, life and grace.

If we claim to know Him, we should live, walk and act as He would. Knowing Him is more than simply quoting Scripture and going to church. It’s actually living the Word as life unfolds day to day.

You are the apple of His eye even though we, too, have been bruised by a fall. He stopped what He was doing and picked up you and me on a hill called Calvary and paid in full for our damaged fruit.

Sometimes we just take things for granted, when we really need to be sharing what we know. —Submitted by Bro. Harlan Sorrell

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The Son and the Sun

By Sis. Lana Johnson

*The sun in the sky sheds its light on the world,
 But the Son in our heart is the Light of the world.
 The light from the sun helps all things to grow,
 While the Son in our heart gives life to the soul.*

*Although a storm threatens, and thunder is loud,
 The sun is still shining behind the dark cloud.
 Life's clouds may hide the Son from our view,
 But the light of the Son will come shining through!*

*The clouds release the rain, as you know,
 And sun shining through rain makes a rainbow.*

*It works the same with our tears that fall.
 The Son's promise is there when on Him we call.
 He is the rainbow that comes through our tears,
 The Light always shining when darkness appears.
 Have you ever beheld a sunset at night?
 The sun on the clouds make a beautiful sight!*

*The clouds in our lives can be beautiful, too,
 If we will allow the Son to shine through.
 So when darkness descends and our head is bowed,
 Look up and see the bright Light in the cloud!*

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