



*The
Corrupt Tree*

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The Corrupt Tree

By
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Preface

A number of years ago, the Lord gave me a message on the Corrupt Tree. (Matt. 7:16-21.) As I looked up the definitions of each fruit recorded in Galatians 5:19-21 and realized the depth of God's requirements, it stirred my heart. Only through the blood of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit can we be ready for service here and for heaven.

In the first part of 1957, I felt impressed to use these truths in the young people's meetings that we have in our Faith Publishing home. They expressed themselves as having received much good from them.

I felt inspired to write a lesson on each fruit of the Corrupt Tree to be put in the "Faith and Victory" paper, the first of which appeared in March of 1957. Since then a number have expressed their desire to have the articles that have appeared each month put into booklet form. I have revised the articles some and written on more topics by God's help and the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

I have a burden for the young people of today. I want to help them and every person I can to a higher and more noble life, which is attained through Jesus Christ and obeying His Word. If I can help you in any way, let me know and I will, with the Lord's help, do all I can. I'm sure I can take your burden to the Lord who is able and willing to help and deliver you.

We dedicate this booklet to our precious young people of today and send it forth with a prayer.

Scripture Lesson

“Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Matt. 7:17-23.

“And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the tree; therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.” Matt. 3:10.

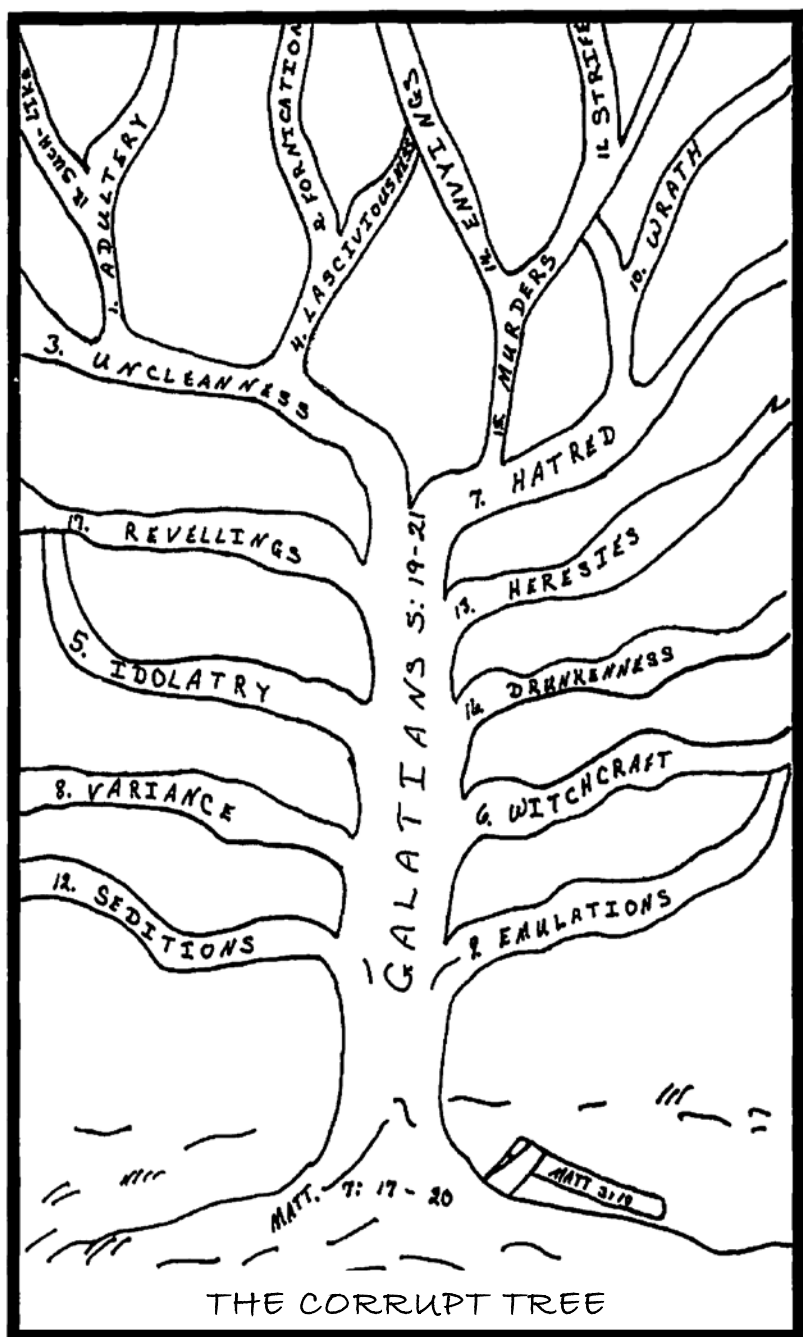
“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like; of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they that do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” Gal. 5:19-21.

“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.” James 2:10. “And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?” 1 Peter 4:18.

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Adultery

On the first limb of this Corrupt Tree is adultery. The definition from Webster's Dictionary is: "Violation of the marriage-bed," or living with another's wife or husband. Then we read scriptures in the Bible that plainly tell us what adultery is. In Romans 7:2, 3 it says, "For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another." You can plainly see from this above scripture that a young person should think carefully before he marries because it means that he is married as long as they both live. One can never marry another person while his companion lives without committing adultery. In the marriage vows you promise yourself to each other "till death do us part." I have heard young people make the remark so carelessly: "If I can't get along with the first one I marry, I'll get rid of him and marry another." May the Lord put a rebuke upon any thought the devil might bring to your mind in that way. You cannot do that and be clear before God. Jesus tells us in Matt. 19:7, 8 that Moses permitted or suffered those under the law

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to put away their companions because of the **HARDNESS OF THEIR HEARTS**, but “from the beginning it was not so.” God only made one woman for Adam. Jesus does say in the ninth verse that “Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication [this clause explains or modifies the first clause, which gives a married person a right to separate from his companion] and marry another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.” In 1 Cor. 7:10, 11 we read, “And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her **REMAIN UNMARRIED, OR BE RECONCILED TO HER HUSBAND**: and let not the husband put away his wife.”

Dear precious young people, may I beg you in Jesus’ name, let these truths sink down into your hearts, and beware of the traps the enemy of your soul has set for your downfall as you choose a companion. Be sure and know the back life of the one you marry. Remember, it is a life time proposition. Christian young people should not marry those who are not Christians.

The burden of my heart is that you choose the right person for your life time companion. This is so serious that oftentimes it determines whether you will make it into heaven or not. When you marry, you are no longer twain, but one flesh. When woman was created, God presented her to Adam. This was the first marriage. Adam said, “This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh.” Can you not see what a close tie this is and how much you affect each other?

It is so important that you marry a person that is saved. In fact, the Bible teaches you to do that. In 1 Cor. 7:39 it says you are to marry “only in the Lord.” In 2 Cor. 6:14 the Bible says, “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship

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hath righteousness with unrighteousness: and what communion hath light with darkness?” Can a person be yoked with another in a greater sense than in marriage? I’m sure you will agree with me that it is plain according to the Bible that saints are to marry saints. Many mistakes have been made in marriage, therefore much reaping has been done with tears and heartaches. After you are married you are bound by God’s law to the one you marry as long as you both live. This marriage business is a serious business and our hearts are burdened for our young people, that they do not make a mistake.

In the light of what we have written we want to say it is not good for you to keep company or go with those who are not saved. I feel that when a person goes with or keeps company with another of the opposite sex, the thought in mind should be to see if your ideas, make-up or desires blend or if a God given, pure love springs up in your hearts enough for you to marry. Therefore, you should not go with someone that you would not consider marrying. Since the Bible teaches we should marry only in the Lord, then you should not go with someone who is not saved. If you do, you may fall in the snare of the devil. Never keep company with anyone whom you would not want to be the mother or father of your children if you should marry him or her; nor one whom you would not want your son or daughter to grow up and be like.

I write these few lines with an understanding heart. I have taught this to young people down through the years and have seen it work for good. On the other hand those who have disregarded these instructions have reaped some heartaches.

I am praying the Lord to save more young people so that those who are saved will find companions in the Lord, as this is a natural instinct given of God and is honorable. You pray about this also,

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for God is able to save a companion for you, if it is His will for you to have one.

“Take fast hold of instruction, let her not go: for she is thy life.” Prov. 4:13.

It is good that you marry someone who loves the Lord supremely and proves it to you.

I close with a prayer that you may be led by God’s Spirit when you do make your choice of a life time companion.

The Corrupt Tree will be cut down and cast into the fire that never is quenched.

Fornication

Adultery was the first fruit listed in Galatians 5:19-21 about the works of the flesh or the catalog of sins. The next one listed is fornication, which is written on the second limb of the Corrupt Tree, which brings forth evil fruit and will be “hewn down and cast into the fire” Matt. 7:17-20.

Fornication is the illicit sexual intercourse of unmarried persons, which is also adultery. (Webster’s Dictionary) This is a sin that is committed among young and old in the world today. It is so sad and grieves the heart of our great, loving heavenly Father when the devil works so slyly in getting young people trapped so young. Some become so bold about it that they will openly talk about it. The sin is committed at the side of the highways in parked cars, on the trains, in cabins, and numerous other places—even in homes where children are left unsupervised. Surely the Lord wants us to expose this and cry aloud against such evils that are

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destroying the morals of our young people and dragging their souls down to a devil's hell.

Young people have come to me with their heartaches—the result of this great sin! My heart was touched and I desired to help them out of the trouble. It is the devil's business to get people into trouble, but he never helps them out of their troubles. I want to say here that I desire to warn you against these things; but if the devil has you trapped in them, I want you to know I love you and am willing to help you in any way I can. God has help for all and will forgive. Jesus is able to deliver, make you pure and clean by His precious blood, and help you to get your life straightened up again.

Our boys and girls who are saved meet these things on every side. They need to fortify themselves against the tricks of the enemy. A mother told her son when he was going to take a trip, "Son, never do anything to place your body where your soul would not be the master." Flee from any situation of that kind. Some of our young people think I am old fashioned when I teach them against petting and kissing before they are married; but you are treading on dangerous ground when you do it. Let us allow Jesus to speak to us: "That whosoever [boy or girl, man or woman] looketh on a woman [or man] to lust after her [or him] hath committed adultery with her [or him] already in his [or her] heart." Matt. 5:28. God's grace is sufficient for you, but remember the advice of the mother to her son. Don't let your body master your soul. Paul said, "I die daily." Do yield to God.

"But fornication . . . let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints." Eph. 5:3. "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of

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God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Cor. 6:18-20. "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." Heb. 13:4.

Dear ones, we shall have to meet God's Word in the Judgment, and we must measure our lives to it here or we shall be "cast into the fire." There is some reaping to be done here, also, if you commit the sin of fornication and adultery. Beware of the devil's traps. Keep prayed up.

Uncleanness

On the third limb of the Corrupt Tree is uncleanness. It is found in Gal. 5:19, the catalog of sins. Notice in the twenty-first verse it says, "they that do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." In the light of this solemn warning it behooves us to search out the meaning of these words and measure our lives accordingly.

The dictionary says that uncleanness means morally impure, foul, filthy, unchaste, obscene. The Bible also says, "God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness." 1 Thess. 4:7. The Bible also speaks about those who "walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness." 2 Pet. 2:10. That which is in our hearts will come out in our lives. In Matt. 7:17-21, where it speaks of the good tree and the corrupt tree, it says that "by their fruits ye shall know them." When we see uncleanness manifested we know that person needs to be washed in the precious blood of Jesus and made clean. Zechariah saw, through the Spirit, that cleansing which we can enjoy today. He said, "In that day there shall be a fountain opened

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to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.” Zech. 13:1. By confessing our sins and forsaking them we can find peace and pardon at the feet of Jesus. It is then we can bring forth good fruit.

Those who are unclean will feed on what we call “dirty jokes.” They look at the plan God has made, which is pure and holy in replenishing the earth, as impure. They feed their impure, lustful minds on those things. How sad it is that God’s holy plan has thus been treated in such a manner. Your telling of a dirty joke as one writer says, “hangs vulgar pictures on the inner chambers of the imaginations of others, from which they cannot escape.” Surely God wants to clean up those whose minds are thus corrupted. It will show on a person’s face who indulges in those things. If the devil has caught you in his trap, don’t be discouraged, for deliverance is for you, through Jesus. May the Lord help our young people to not slip into this trap. Keep a rebuke against these things. When I was young and in high school, I let this kind of student know that I did not care to listen to dirty jokes. My girlfriends would remind a new girl, who came into our presence, that I did not want to hear them. We are now living in a world where the devil causes people to be bold to go ahead, but we need not enter in with them.

In Rom. 1:24 we find where “God gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves.” Verse 26 says, “God gave them up unto vile affections.” There comes a time when people, who continually indulge in these things are allowed to go on in their wickedness. Flee to the Lord for deliverance before you go any deeper in sin.

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Apostle Paul gives good instructions in Rom. 6:19, “. . . for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.” The 22nd and 23rd verses read, “But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

We are to think on pure, lovely, and virtuous things. (Phil. 4:8). “Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.” Titus 1:15.

Remember the Corrupt Tree. It brings forth evil fruit and will be “hewn down and cast into the fire.”

Lasciviousness

On the fourth limb of the Corrupt Tree, is written lasciviousness (Gal. 5:19). The dictionary says it means lustful, wanton, loose; a person who excites lustful emotions in others. How awful these things are; yet many poor souls are so blind to the fact that they are in such a condition. We trust that God will awaken souls before it is too late. The world is full of people who are corrupted with sin, and they are standing on the brink of the lake of fire. It seems they are unaware of it because the devil keeps them blinded. Be wise and pull the blindfold off your eyes and see where you are going. Do not let the devil lead you and blind you to realities. We beg you in Jesus’ name to rush to Him for deliverance. In our own strength we cannot fight against the “works of the flesh,” but through Christ we can be delivered. You

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can bring your body under subjection to that purity and cleanness that God in the beginning created in man. May the Lord bless you. Our desire for you is that you be saved from sin and live pure and holy in this world.

As the weather becomes warmer we see some precious girls and women wearing the shorts and bra. Some dear girls are seen walking down the street even rolling their shorts up a little higher. To undress in such a manner excites lustful emotions in others as they look on. Will God hold the girls guiltless? The same goes for the bathing suits of today. I say God will hold you responsible. You cannot shrug your shoulders and say, "It doesn't hurt me to wear them." It does hurt you because you are disobeying God's Word and are causing others to sin. "But when ye sin so against the brethren, . . . ye sin against Christ." 1 Cor. 8:12. May the Spirit of the Lord cause you to see this. I would rather not write on these subjects, but the devil and his works need to be exposed or souls will be lost.

In the beginning after Adam and Eve sinned they made aprons of fig leaves sewed together (Gen. 3:7), but that was not sufficient for them. God made them "coats of skins, and clothed them." Gen. 3:21. The word clothe means "cover with." God intended that their bodies be covered. We read in 1 Tim. 2:9 "that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety." Do not follow the fashions of the world. Those who make the fashions of the world today will boldly tell you they are striving to give the women clothes that have what they call "sex appeal." Oh, may the Lord help anyone who claims to be God's child and is being tempted to follow the fashions of the world to see the evils in them and flee from them.

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Those who have lustful, wanton, loose ways will be cast into the lake of fire, for the Bible says the Corrupt Tree will be cut down. (Matt. 7:17-21).

Idolatry

On the fifth limb of the Corrupt Tree is idolatry. The dictionary tells us that idolatry is “divine honors paid to idols, images, or any created object.” Then it tells us that idolatry means “excessive admiration, or love for any person or thing.”

There are peoples today who are worshipping idols instead of the true and living God. They are steeped in ignorance and superstition. Many are afflicting their bodies, suffering pain and distress because they want to win the favor of some image of stone or wood. How sad this is, and we need to help in every way we can that these poor souls be freed from such superstition.

Let us now bring our thoughts and minds back from across the seas and the heathen. Let us check to see if we are worshipping any idols. Jesus said, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.” Matt. 22:37. If anything is coming between us and the Lord, and we are not obeying this command, the thing is an idol. Let me suggest some forms of idolatry that we face today.

Money is one thing that many worship. People will go to great lengths and means to secure money. They will steal, cheat, lie, and even ruin their health to secure it. What could be more of an idol than money? When we read what Paul said, “For the love of money is the root of all evil” 1 Tim. 6:10, we immediately think of the wealthy people and say that is the truth. But did you notice what the root of all evil is? It is the LOVE of money. A poor

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person could love and desire money so much that he could lose his soul. Many women have gone to work and are neglecting their homes and children because they are making an idol out of money and what it buys. I am not just putting this all on the mothers; but it is sad when we know that many husbands expect their wives to work out, which is not God's plan. We read in Titus 2:4, 5 that the older women are to teach the young women "to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." When I think of the many trips that I took to the window, listening to the conversation of the children as they played in the yard to see if it was the right kind of talk, and if it was not I would go out and change the play or the conversation in such a way that they never knew I had been listening (I did this to keep everything going in the right direction) I wonder how mothers could feel clear in leaving their children to someone else to watch for their souls or just to run the neighborhood. But that idol "money" will cause many to leave their children and seek for it. Now I do know there are exceptions, for some mothers are the only support for their children. God understands these things. But I am thinking of those who are working just to have more of this world's goods.

The devil causes some mothers who have a number of children, feel that they are not working for the Lord. If you are teaching your children God's Word and praying with them, watching for their souls, you are doing a big work for God. Who knows but what God may call them to be workers, laborers, teachers, missionaries, or ministers of the gospel? You can help them now to be prepared.

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Money will also keep some from working for the Lord. Anything that comes between a person and God is an idol. Love for the world and worldly things will become an idol when people let that keep them from surrendering to God. Wanting security will keep people from trusting God, and will become an idol to them. Some are letting their children, wives, or husbands come between them and God, and that is an idol to them. Let us remember the advice of 1 John 5:21: “Little children, keep yourselves from idols.”

Witchcraft

On the sixth limb of the Corrupt Tree is written witchcraft. The dictionary tells us that witchcraft is the practice of witches; supernatural or magical powers, intercourse with evil spirits, art, black magic, sorcery, and communion with the devil.

God abhors the workings of witchcraft in any shape or form. Some want to call it God’s plan of letting people know the things of the unknown but it is the workings of the devil. The Bible says, “Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards to be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God.” Lev. 19:31. This plainly shows us that God is against mediums or “Spiritualist Readers,” fortune tellers, etc. If we go to them we will be defiled by them. May we take warning from the Word of God.

“There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto

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the Lord.” Deut. 12:10-12. There are other scriptures you can read on this line. Acts 16:16-19; Acts 8:12-21.

In the light of these scriptures I feel it is wrong for anyone to tamper with anything of this nature. It is sometimes a great sport among young people to go and have their fortunes told. But this is very dangerous and should not be taken so lightly. God is against such and if you go ahead and do so it will leave its mark upon you. We do admit that the devil has power to do many strange things, but we know that God has greater power than the devil. If people will not obey the Word of God, He will let them become deceived as they tamper with evil spirits.

We find that Saul disobeyed God’s commandment and sought after a woman that had a familiar spirit to find how the battle would come out between Israel and the Philistines, after he had inquired of the Lord for counsel, and the Lord did not answer him because of his sin. (1 Sam. 28:5-22). In 1 Chron. 10:13 we read Saul’s fate. “So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the Lord, even against the word of the Lord, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it.”

May the Lord cause the fear of God to come upon you insomuch that you will never tamper with witchcraft or consult it.

Hatred

It is important that we understand what is on that Corrupt Tree because in Matt. 7:19 we read that “every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire,” (the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone). How terrible that will be!

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Surely God is giving us plenty of warning in this life to prepare to live with Him and escape that awful place.

On the seventh limb of the Corrupt Tree is written hatred. Hatred has a lot of relatives, namely; rancor, ill-will, ill-feeling, and many others. The dictionary says, "Hatred is a continued hostility of feeling; bitter aversion; disliking intensely, detestation and aversion."

The world is full of hatred and it is almost a universal thing. There are hatreds of races, hatreds of sects; social and personal hatreds. To the child of God, who is full of love, hatred is a very obnoxious, offensive thing when it is seen being put into practice. You can be in a group of people who are not filled with God's love and a person can come into their presence who is offensive to them. When that person leaves, hateful, hurtful words begin to fill the air and the ears of those present. How sad this is that others have to suffer because of hatred.

Hatred proceeds from an opinion that the person hated is evil, at least partly or completely. Hatred may be promoted in some because they feel a great injury has been done them, or committed against someone else. A person that is hated cannot ever do a right thing. His motives are always counted as wrong and corrupt. As we review hatred, it makes us shudder to know so many in the world are so full of it. What will their end be unless they are cleansed by the blood of Jesus and delivered from it? The Bible says in 1 John 3:15, "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." The Bible counts hatred as murder. We feel murder is terrible, but did you not know that hatred is as bad?

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In the light of what we have written on hatred, let us, as God's children, be careful that we guard our hearts with all diligence, lest the enemy of our souls begins to work in some dislike for someone upon us. If you do not take a stand against any such thought the devil may bring, it will grow and become stronger and spot your soul. Be quick to forgive and pray for that person. When you are praying the Lord to bless that person, there isn't any chance for dislike to have any room. Good-will and dislike just won't mix. Jesus says, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." Matt. 5:44, 45.

If the fire of the Holy Spirit is burning in your soul brightly, it will burn up any such thought of ill-will or ill-feeling toward anyone. Praise the Lord for that love, given by God to His children. If you have hatred in your heart God will take it away as you come to Him, confessing your sins and asking forgiveness. One person who got saved wanted to see the person he hated right away, to tell him how much he was loved then. God changes a person when he gets saved and makes him a new creature. He gives him a heart of flesh and takes out the stony heart.

Variance

Variance is the fruit written on the eighth limb of the Corrupt Tree. The dictionary tells us that variance means to quarrel, dispute, or to have discord between two who should agree. Then we notice the definition of quarrel is "a verbal strife followed by

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strained or severed relations; wrangle or squabble; to dispute angrily.”

How often we hear a person make a statement and another with anger disagrees with him. This touches off anger in the first person and then a violent quarrel begins. All of this is fruit of the Corrupt Tree. On the other hand a person filled with the Spirit of God could make a statement and another person who wasn't filled, could disagree with anger, and no quarrel would come from it. Why? because of the oil of the Holy Spirit working within him.

I read where two boys heard of Dr. Franklin's experiment of stilling the waves with oil, and they tried it and found that it worked. They asked why oil would cause such wonderful results. The answer given was that the wind, blowing upon the water that is covered with a coat of oil, slides over the surface of it, and produces no friction. How important then, it is to have the Spirit of God, which is the oil, working within us, so anger, hasty words, unjust statements, slurring remarks, and strong disagreement will just slide right off and we can answer with a heart full of love and understanding.

It takes two to make a quarrel, my mother always told me, and I have found this to be true. If a person will keep still when he realizes another is angry and quarreling, there will not be a quarrel and they will soon stop. I have tried to think of something to say calmly or change the subject, or even tried to think of something I could do nice for them so they would know I was wanting peace. However, you will have to have the oil of the Holy Spirit on hand to carry this out.

Variance and quarrels have resulted in murder. A quarrel between two sisters-in-law resulted in the death of each husband, and the loss of the crown of England to one of the families, history

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tells us. The death of two brothers resulted from a quarrel over whose dog killed the rabbit. Families have reaped sorrow by quarrels and the death of some member. Oh, how sad these things are! Quarreling, disputing, and variance surely belong on the Corrupt Tree because they are not of God.

Emulations

Sin can never enter heaven. Only the pure and holy shall ever enter those portals of glory. We must be without spot or blemish to ever be able to meet our Lord and Savior in peace. People today are saying that no one can live by the Bible. It is true that a person cannot live by the Bible unless he is “born again.” There is that bent toward evil within people, brought about through the fall of Adam that makes it hard for them to resist evil of every form; therefore some of the fruit from the Corrupt Tree is being assimilated by all, except those who are born of the Spirit.

“A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.” Matt. 7:18-20. That which is manifested out in the lives of people shows us what kind of tree they are of. If we see divine love, kindness, long-suffering, understanding, forgiveness, and other good fruits, we know they are born of the Spirit of God. But if we see evil fruits being manifested we know that person is of the wrong spirit. The spirit of the devil is at work in the world today and God’s children need to be watchful and prayerful or they will be influenced by the spirit of the devil. The devil will put temptations before God’s children and present thoughts to them. But these things will not get into your heart and no evil fruit will be produced if you resist them. But if you

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entertain evil thoughts about others and yield to temptations, you will become influenced and those things will take a hold of you and cause you to act in a way that is very displeasing to the Lord. If you continue to yield to the lust, the Bible says, “When lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth death.” James 1:15.

On the ninth limb of the Corrupt Tree is written the fruit, emulations, which is one of the works of the flesh recorded in Gal. 5:19-21. The dictionary says emulation means “to strive to equal or excel with a view to outdo; ambitious or envious rivalry.” This fruit is being manifested in the world today at an alarming rate. One place where it is in great evidence is at the big ball games. It is not only being manifested by the players but also by thousands who are on the sidelines. I was told that a man was standing out in front of others, rooting loudly and long for his side which was winning. Another man, who was for the other side, became very angry because he was being outdone. He picked up a baseball bat, walked over and hit the man in the head. The blow killed him. Thus emulation brought on murder.

It has been told that a firm in a certain town desired to secure a good player who was on the High School team of another town, for their home-town team. The firm offered the father of the good player a good job so they would move and the boy would be on their team. Surely this is envious rivalry.

Some people will go deeply in debt to keep up with their neighbors. This often causes ill feelings between neighbors and much tongue slander.

Some girls are not satisfied unless their clothes are better than others and of the latest styles. This is emulation—one trying to outdo the others with whom he associates.

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Some can never have a good word for others whom they see the Lord is blessing because they feel they are being left out. This condition sometimes causes them to get ahead of the Lord and get into trouble because they want to outdo others. The Bible says, "Let each esteem others better than themselves." Phil. 2:3. May the Lord help each one of us to guard against the tricks of the enemy. God is our helper, and we can have victory over all the powers of the devil. Praise the Lord!

Wrath

We are all judgment-bound travelers. Jesus is our Saviour now but when the trumpet blows and Jesus comes bursting through the clouds He will not be our Saviour then but our judge. Many will pray and cry for the rocks and mountains to fall on them but it will be too late. Now is the time for us to examine ourselves to see if we are measured up to the Word of God or hell will be our doom in that last great day. There is no time after death to get right with God. As death finds us so will the Judgment. This is a serious matter and wisdom makes us know it is time to be holy for without holiness no man shall see God.

God's Word is plain; any sin in the catalog of sins listed in Gal. 5:19-21 will keep us out of God's heaven. If we are found with any of them in our lives and hearts we had better get rid of them through the blood of Jesus or we will never make it into heaven. When we come to Jesus with real Bible conviction, having a godly sorrow working in our hearts, confessing and forsaking our sins, God will, for Jesus' sake and through His shed blood, forgive us and those sins will not be remembered against us anymore. Praise the Lord! Won't you come to Jesus today? He is waiting and longing to forgive you.

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On the tenth limb of the Corrupt Tree is written wrath. The definition is “violent anger or rage.” (Web. Dic.) What an awful fruit to bear out in the lives of people! I’m sure that everyone who is guilty of having this fruit is ashamed of it and wishes to be delivered. God will deliver you from it. Each one that reads this has seen this fruit manifested. Some seem to have less control of their temper than others, therefore give vent to it in such a way that terrible actions are manifested. One man got so angry at his wife that he took a hammer and beat her washing machine to such an extent that it could not be used again. Often you will see someone throw something across the room in a fit of anger when he cannot fix what he is working on. Curse words flow fast from a person who is filled with anger or sharp cutting words will be said that should never have been said. People will say things that they really did not mean, which will leave a scar on the heart of others even if they try to fix them up later when they calm down. How terrible it is to know how the devil will work through the passions of mankind and bring sorrow to others. Murder has been committed when a person was in a fit of anger. If anyone who reads this has any trouble with such a condition, don’t be discouraged and feel there is no hope for deliverance. Come to God, confessing and seeking His forgiveness and know that He will deliver you. But dear ones, there is something you will need to do also. You must continually be on your guard and watch. If you feel any temptation to yield to that thing you must flee to your knees immediately. And if you happen to be overcome, do not give up and quit trying, but ask forgiveness of those to whom the anger was displayed, and pray earnestly. God will completely deliver you.

One person was overcome when he was put under great pressure and strain and left the room, slamming the door. He went to his room and prayed and wept for hours pleading with God for

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complete deliverance with a determination to get it. God blessed his soul. He went back to those who saw his actions and asked forgiveness with humility and from that day on he had complete deliverance. Take comfort and know it is for you. May the God of all comfort make you know that He has for you everything you need.

Strife

On the eleventh limb of the Corrupt Tree is written strife. Strife means discord, conflict, quarrel, enmity, war, contention for superiority.

As we think about the meaning of strife we surely can agree with what we read in James 3:16. "For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work." In the 17th verse we also read, "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your heart, glory not, and lie not against the truth." A person cannot get into heaven with strife in his heart, which will show out in his life. We must just face it here and get rid of it or it will meet us over there and condemn us to eternal damnation.

In this same chapter James deals with the tongue. He brings out the thought that the tongue is a fire. If it is used to bring out what is in the heart, much trouble can be caused from it. A great fire will be kindled and cause much confusion. In Prov. 26:20 we read, "Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth." When strife is in the heart of a person, he is ever watchful to see something that he can go tell so as to cause more trouble or down the person whom he is working against. How sad these things are when we see them. God has deliverance for every soul that has a heart full of strife. God will take it out and put love in place of strife. There will be no quarrel,

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enmity, or contention for superiority. You will be obeying the Bible which tells us to forgive one another, and to bear and forbear.

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” Phil. 2:3. This is a warning that the Apostle Paul is giving to God’s children. He warns us to check to see why we do a certain thing. Is it done for strife or vainglory? Is it done with humility? Is it done by esteeming others better than ourselves? The Apostle Paul goes on to say in verse five, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” Jesus proved His humility by taking on the “form of a servant.” (verse seven.) He committed Himself into God’s hands and let Him lift Him up. Just so, the Lord wants us to do the same.

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.” 2 Tim. 2:24-26.

It is possible for a person to get into strife by just holding up for a truth clearly taught in the Word of God. God wants us to stand for truth firmly, but do it with gentleness, kindness, and patience. If we strive we will be as bad as the person who is in error, not because we do not stand for truth but because of the way we stand for it. Many times when I am talking with a person about a truth and they seem to want to argue or strive, I tell them that I do not want to argue about the Word of God and I will not talk about it any further. Unless we can help someone there is no point in talking about it and getting our soul in trouble with God, for as

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the Scripture says, “the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men.”

May the Lord help those whose hearts are full of strife. Come to Jesus and He will take it all away and cause you to be at peace. There is hope for you, dear one. Let the saints of God watch and pray, lest the enemy try to work in a little strife and cause you to lose your soul.

Seditions, Heresies

Seditions and heresies are written on the twelfth and thirteenth limbs of the Corrupt Tree. The dictionary says that sedition means excitement or discontent against the government or lawful authority. The Lord wants us to be law-abiding citizens as long as we are not required to do anything contrary to the law of God. We are not to be a part of any insurrection or contention against our government. We thank God for the United States government which allows us to worship God according to the dictates of our consciences.

Heresy is religious opinion held in opposition to the commonly received doctrine of any authorized doctrinal standards of any particular church, and tending to promote schism or division. (Web. Dic.)

“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.” 2 Peter 1:21; 2:1.

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The church of God has for its creed the doctrines that were taught by the apostles and prophets of old. We are standing upon the precious Bible. We believe it means what it says. To become a member of the body of Christ we must be born into the kingdom of God or church of God by a spiritual birth. (John 3:3-7.) The Holy Spirit is the dictator, guide, and director of God's people. God, through the Holy Spirit, draws us to Himself. (John 6:44). Sinners' hearts are broken up when they see the love of God in sending His Son to die on the cross for their sins. They repent with godly sorrow for the sins that they have committed. God, for Christ's sake, forgives them. He writes their names upon the book of life and it is there as long as they do not sin. If a person sins, after being forgiven, his name is blotted off the book of life. (Exo. 32:32, 33; Phil. 4:3; Rev. 20:11-15.) Mistakes are not sin even though they must be corrected and cleared before God. Sin is distinct from a mistake in that it is willful transgression of the known right.

When a person has been forgiven of his sins and has opened his heart to Jesus, there is still a work that needs to be done. "This is the will of God, even your sanctification." 1 Thess. 4:3. The soul of man cannot be completely possessed because of that sin principle, which man is not responsible for, in their nature. (Psa. 51:5; Rom. 5:12.) They cannot repent of it but it needs to be cleansed by the fire of the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 3:11.) After a person has repented of his volitional deeds, which is sin, he is then in a condition to present himself to be sanctified wholly and to be preserved blameless unto the coming of the Lord, as long as he keeps yielded to the Lord. (1 Thess. 5:23; Rom. 12:1.) We are sanctified by the Holy Ghost (Rom. 15:16), through the blood of Christ. (Heb. 13:12.) The dictionary says sanctification means to set apart to a sacred use or to make free from sin; to purify. We

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have a part in setting ourselves apart and God has a part in thoroughly cleansing our natures and filling us with the Holy Spirit to make us able to please Him and obey His Word. Praise the Lord. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is the second definite work of God in our soul.

We believe the Bible teaches justification, sanctification, baptism (by immersion, Matt. 3:16; Acts 8:38; 1 Peter 3:21; Col. 2:12), holy living (without holiness no man shall see the Lord, Heb. 12:14), separation from worldliness (1 John 2:15, 16; John 17:14-17), plain dressing (1 Tim. 2:9; 1 Cor. 11:15), Holy Spirit rule (1 Cor. 12; Eph. 5: 18-20), divine healing (James 5:14, 15), feet washing (John 13:4-17), Lord's supper (Luke 22:15-20), unity of God's people (John 17:20-23), and many other precious truths which we will not take space to write.

False teachings that are opposed to these or other precious teachings of the Bible are heresies. Heresies are works of the flesh and those who bring them in and cause division will be cut down as the corrupt tree, and be cast into hell fire. Division is a sin. "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." Rom. 16:17. We are to obey the Word of God and not false teachers. The Apostle Paul said, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." 1 Cor. 11:1. Only as ministers follow Christ are we to follow them.

The apostolic church fully recognized the personal presence and authority of the Holy Spirit. Peter told Ananias that he had lied to the Holy Ghost. (Acts 5:3). In Acts 13:2 we read where the Holy Ghost said, "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." God wants the Holy Spirit to be the

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leader today and we can feel and see Him being manifested among God's true children.

Let us watch and pray that we read the Word of God for ourselves and seek God to reveal it to us through His Spirit and then we will not be led astray. In the apostolic church men rose up among them and led off others and it is still going on today. (Gal. 2:4, 5.) We want to stay with the Bible. May the Lord bless each one as we are living in perilous times. Many are saying, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?" We hear what Jesus said, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matt. 7:21-23.

Envyings

On the 14th limb is written envyings. Envyings means to feel a displeasure at the excellence or prosperity of others; to covet; to feel or exhibit envy; to be jealous or suspicious, desirous to possess. (Web. Dic.)

The wise man asks the question, "Wrath is cruel and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?" Prov. 27:4. We read how Abel offered a sacrifice unto the Lord, which was a lamb in accordance to God's will, and Cain offered fruits of the ground. (Gen. 4) When Cain saw that God had accepted Abel's sacrifice, he was very angry and envious. God rebuked Cain for his feelings and told him that if he did well he would be accepted, but if he did not then "sin lieth at the door." But because Cain's works were evil, and his brother's righteous, he let envy and jealousy so rule him that he rose up and killed his brother. "Who is able to stand before envy?"

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Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave because of their envy and jealousy of him. His father had made him a coat of many colors and this stirred them. They also saw the blessings of God upon him.

“And Saul eyed David from that day forward.” 1 Sam. 18:9. Saul tried many times to kill David because of the honor shown him, and because God's blessings were upon him. On and on down through the years these cruel monsters, envy and jealousy, have worked, bringing sorrow, heartaches and tears to many. It does not only affect the person to whom it is directed, but also others who are close to that person.

Envy will cause a righteous person to be picked to pieces, so to speak. The righteous person will be accused of doing things or intending to do things they never even thought about doing. A person affected by envy will turn the words that have been spoken around to mean just what their imagination wishes. “Who is able to stand before envy?”

Envy is “as rottenness of the bones.” Prov. 14:31. Little by little it begins to work and if allowed to continue it will possess a person's soul and mind. “Who is able to stand before envy?” It is like the poison herb which spreads nothing but death. An old proverb is: “Envy is the devil's eye, as hypocrisy is the devil's cloven foot.”

God is able to help those who are envious to have deliverance. If you are troubled with not having complete victory, begin to look at it in this light: would you want to change places completely with the person that you are envying? I read one time about a general who was urging his men to hurry on in the midst of battle when they were very tired. One soldier spoke up and said, “It is all very well for you to talk of patience when you are mounted upon a fine

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horse; but for us poor wretches it is a different matter.” The General was touched to think that his men thought him not willing to share their dangers so he said, “Here, take my place a while.” The soldier very quickly mounted the horse but no sooner had he mounted than an enemy’s bullet struck him from the hills and killed him.

The General turned to his troops and said, “You see, my men, that the most elevated place is not the least dangerous.” Can we not get a lesson from this? I’m sure that if one were put in the place of a person whom he had envied, he would quickly find it not so pleasant as the devil had made him think it was.

Joshua wanted Moses to forbid two men to prophesy. But listen to the words of Moses, “Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the Lord’s people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit upon them!” Num. 11:27-29. How beautiful that example is.

John the Baptist, in speaking of Jesus said, “He must increase, but I must decrease.” John 3:30. Can we feel the same toward that one God is blessing?

Peter in writing of Paul spoke of him as “our beloved brother Paul.” 2 Pet. 3:15.

May the Lord help each one to search his own heart. Sometimes you cannot detect envy until you feel a wound and then it will show itself. Acknowledge it and get rid of it, because it is a work of the flesh and will be cast into hell fire with the corrupt tree.

Murders

On the fifteenth limb of the Corrupt Tree is written murders. Since the beginning of time when the devil, whom Jesus said was a “murderer from the beginning” (John 8:44), worked through Cain, who yielded to him, and killed his brother, we find many bearing the fruit of murder. This fruit is on the increase in the world today. We find it working in children and young people. This seems to be an age of teen-agers taking a gun and killing their parents if they do not get their way. We feel a lot of it is caused by boys and girls being allowed to look at television day after day seeing people being murdered. It soon becomes just a common place thing to them. It doesn’t seem so terrible. Parents who allow their children to look at this type of program in their homes cannot obey the Bible which says, “And thou shalt teach them [commandments, including, ‘thou shalt not kill’] diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” Deut. 6:7. Parents will reap what they sow and be held accountable in the day of judgment. Boys and girls who do not listen to the voice of God, which makes them know that they should live differently, will also be bearing corrupt fruit, and will be cast into torment with their parents. These are sad facts, but it need not be. God has help for every soul who will turn to Him.

Murder is homicide with malice aforethought. (Web. Dic.) There is killing which is accidental. This is not held against a person. When someone steps out in front of a car and is killed, it would be accidental. There are many other ways this can happen. Actual murder is a deliberate, intentional, volitional act of destroying the life of another. Every murderer will end up in hell

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fire unless he confesses his sin and asks God to forgive him. There is redemption for the murderer through the blood of Jesus.

A man condemned to be hanged for murder, and awaiting execution in prison, drew upon the walls of his cell the sketch of a man upon the gallows with five steps leading to the platform on which it stood. On the first step he wrote, "Disobedience to parents;" on the second step he wrote. "Sabbath breaking;" on the third step, "Gambling and drunkenness;" on the fourth step, "Murder;" and the fifth, "The fatal platform." It was doubtless a true sketch of his own progress in sin to disgrace and the murderer's doom.

The Bible says. "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Rev. 21:8.

We have many murderers in the world today who have not committed the act. If a person hates another, he is a murderer already. In 1 John 3:15 it says, "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer; and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." May the Lord help each one to ask God to forgive him if any fruit from the corrupt tree is in his life or it will bar him out of heaven.

Drunkenness

On the sixteenth limb of the Corrupt Tree is written drunkenness. "Drunkenness is the state of being drunk with or as with strong drink; alcoholic liquor so that the use of the faculties is materially impaired." (Web. Dic.)

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It seems that words fail us to know how to write about a subject with such terrible consequences. My heart's desire is to write something that will touch the hearts of each reader and cause a vehemence to be created to such an extent that you will never touch liquor of any kind and will also warn others with a force from God that they, too, will never touch it. It is a curse among mankind. It isn't the drunkard that staggers down the street or is lying in the gutter that causes young people, or others to start drinking. Such is repulsive to most people. But it is the well behaved business man or the prosperous neighbor who can "drink or let it alone" or who drinks moderately, who influences the young to start drinking. But how terrible the results. Statistics show that one out of every seven who start drinking will become an addict or drunkard. Does not common judgment tell you to leave it alone? A few drinks cut down your normal reactions from ten to twenty per cent. That is one contributing factor to many deaths on the highways and accidents otherwise.

Excessive drinking so cuts down the normal intake of protein, vitamins and minerals that often drinkers suffer severe nutritional deficiencies. Most of them have disturbed liver and other diseases which need not be but for drink. Shun it, stay away from it, abhor it, touch it not! It means slow death.

Children who are born into the world of parents who drink are affected in some way by it. Doctor Andre Mignot, an eminent physician in France says, "That which one must fix in one's mind and must repeat to others again and again is that the intoxication of one day, a single day, on the mother's part can be catastrophic for the little one she is carrying. It can cause malformations which may perpetuate themselves to numerous generations." May God help the mothers of our nations to wake up and take warning. How

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sad it makes us feel when we read of the increase of the use of alcohol among women.

Much could be written on this subject about its evils. We trust something has been written that will help someone to never start drinking and if you are a moderate drinker that you will make a vow before the Lord that you will never touch it again. But we want to also give a word of encouragement to those who are under its influence and cannot, in their own strength, quit. There is deliverance through the blood of Jesus Christ. God is able to deliver and set you free. Many have been delivered and it is for you also. One brother said that he was praying and asked God to take the desire away from him for liquor as he confessed his sins, and he said that God spoke to him and made him have the assurance in his very soul that he would never HAVE to drink again, and he didn't. We should believe God and His power to deliver. Drunkenness is one of the works of the flesh and Jesus died on the cross to save us from all sin.

“Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.” Prov. 23:29-33. May God bless all to have faith for their every need.

Those who have any of these fruits need to confess them here, now! Ask God to forgive you and get rid of them before death overtakes you. May the Lord bless you.

Revellings

On the seventeenth limb of the Corrupt Tree is written revellings. “Revel is a noisy or riotous feast; or to feast with joyous or clamorous merriment; revelry; boisterous festivity.” (Web. Dic.)

The opposite or antonym of boisterous is sedate, calm, quiet and composed, (Web. Dic.) This brings to our mind the verse in 1 Peter 3:4 which reads in part, “even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.” If we are adorned with a meek and quiet spirit which is given of God when we receive the Holy Spirit, we would not fit in with a group who is feasting in a boisterous, noisy and clamorous manner, would we? The Spirit of God and the spirit of the world will not mix. Jesus said in praying for His disciples, “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.” John 17:16. In 1 John 2:15 we read, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” These words are plain and are so easily understood by the “born again” child of God. Those of the world do not understand why we do not care to attend their banquets. The Bible says, “they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you.” 1 Pet. 4:4. They cannot understand that we have something that satisfies our souls and we do not need anything the world has to offer. We do not need strong drinks of any kind to make us feel light and free, as often is served at banquets, because the Holy Spirit dwelling within us has filled us with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

“For the time past of our life . . . we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries.” 1 Pet. 4:3. God’s Word plainly names out banquetings, yet we know that professed Christianity continues to have their

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banquets. How sad it will be for those who disregard God's Word in that Judgment Day! "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, . . . And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matt. 7:21-23. How careful we should be to obey all the Word of God. The fruit on a tree lets us know what kind of a tree it is. "A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." Matt. 7:18-20. The fruit in the life of those who attend and partake of a noisy and riotous feast, makes us know they are of a corrupt tree. We do pray they will see this before too late and repent, letting the Spirit of God come into their hearts which will take all the desire for revellings out of their lives. There is a satisfying portion to every soul. Seek God until He rains righteousness down into your soul. Take courage, there is help for you. "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever. And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." Isa. 32:17, 18. Praise the Lord for that secret hiding place with the Lord where the soul of God's child rests in quietness with all the world shut out.

"There's no thirsting for life's pleasures,
Nor adorning rich and gay;
For I've found a richer treasure,
One that fadeth not away."

“Such Like”—Dope

On the eighteenth limb of the Corrupt Tree is written “and such like.” As we read over the list of the works of the flesh and then add, “such like,” we are made to know clearly that God’s people are a clean people. They must be spotless, blameless, and undefiled.

“Such like” means anything pertaining to what had been written before, so we could add many things to this list.

The Bible says, “Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost? . . . therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1 Cor. 6:19, 20. It is therefore a sin to do anything intentionally to harm this body which God has given us.

Young people need to be on their guard in this day of much deception. Many have started on the downward road just because they did not want to be called a “bad sport,” or having an attitude, “I’ll try anything once.”

It seems dope is getting a great hold on our young people in many cities. The officials are fighting it but do not have much assistance from those who should care. One juvenile official writes that 5000 known drug teenage addicts are in a certain city who could have been stopped in the early stages of affliction if their parents had been more aware of their associations. This is a sad condition.

Marijuana dope is one of the most commonly used. It grows almost anywhere in the U. S., and becomes from five to six feet high with leaves three to eight inches long. It is most commonly used in the form of cigarettes. A policeman said that most of the marijuana traffic is among grade and high school students. The

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more advanced users of dope take heroin, which is injected into the blood by needle.

This dope is very habit forming. It has strange effects on those who use it. A boy in Miami, Fla. slaughtered his father, mother, two brothers and a sister with an ax after smoking two marijuanas. One writer says that marijuana gives a person feelings of unusual mental ability and superhuman strength. He has uncontrollable and unreasonable desires and often a silly laughter. It acts differently on each victim, yet makes all dangerous. Some have a resistless desire to kill with the thought that they are being attacked. Some have the effect of being able to cross the continent with one stride and others lose their sense of time.

How terrible this dope is! Just think of the many, many heartaches that are caused by its use. I'm sure you have read of the wrecked humans who are under its influence. One sixteen year-old girl wrote a letter to Mr.— in which she made some awful confessions and then added: "These preachers! They either do not know or do not care what we do. Some day I'm going to kidnap one of them and take him to one of our marijuana parties. I'll bet his next sermon would be on SIN. And that's what we need."

May God have mercy upon our young people. Do not let the devil buy your soul for the sake of not being called a "wet blanket" or a coward. Stand for what is right and God will stand by you.

If any have been trapped and are under the influence of dope, be encouraged. There is deliverance for you through the blood of Jesus Christ. Just come to Him with faith, and God will heal and restore you. God bless our precious young people and preserve them from the wiles of the devil.

“Such Like”—Tobacco

I feel that the using of tobacco would come under the words, “such like.” So many today are bound with this habit. Jesus came to deliver us from bondage and to make us free. “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” John 8:36. Today there are many who would like to be free from using tobacco but are not able to break the habit in their own strength. God is able to deliver anyone from that habit.

The tobacco plant is the most poisonous plant in the vegetable kingdom. Tobacco contains nicotine. It is said that one drop of nicotine will kill a full grown cat in a few moments. What does it not do to the human body, being so strong? Smoking day by day gradually eats away the very vitals of the human body. We are to take care of this body God has given us. “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God? . . . If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy.” 1 Cor. 3:16, 17. Coaches of ball teams today are strong against boys on their teams smoking. They know that it cuts down their ability to play.

Twenty thousand people die annually from tobacco poison. Twenty-six thousand die in the same period of time from pneumonia that would recover were they not addicted to the use of tobacco. Many more statistics could be given to prove the harm in tobacco use but it seems you can look around you and inquire into the health of those who have used tobacco for some time and you will be convinced it is harmful to the body, therefore it should not be used; and God’s Word is against it.

God is able to deliver you from this habit. Many have tried in their own strength but to fail. Yet God expects you to turn away from it with all your heart when you come to Him asking Him to forgive you of your sins. That is one thing you must do: make a

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decision not to touch it. If there is any doubt, God will let you be put to the test.

One person who had been saved only a few days was tested severely with it. He came in from the field one day and told his wife that he just had to have a smoke. She said that maybe if he would just take one he wouldn't want anymore. It seemed that put a challenge in his very soul. He thought within himself that God is able to deliver him from that as well as to save his soul. He spoke up with faith and confidence in God and said, "I'll die first before I'll take another smoke." He said right then that desire left him and he never wanted it again. God will do the same for you, so take courage. God will never fail.

It is so sad to see our precious girls smoking—the mothers of our future generation. Many fall for the attractive advertisements with women holding a cigarette. Oh, how clever the devil is to trap people. Beware of his trap. Never start such an awful habit. God will help you.

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Cor. 7:1. Tobacco truly is "filthiness of the flesh."

"Such Like"—Movies

We had a lesson in young people's meeting on what is wrong with movies. After our lesson I had each one write how they felt about them. I surely do thank the Lord for each one, and the truth that God has helped them to see. I'm going to quote parts of some of their statements.

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“I definitely would not want Jesus to appear in the clouds while I was watching people who are living in adultery performing only make-believe programs, which would affect my life.”

“Before I was saved, all I would think while in the show was, ‘Oh, what if Jesus would come.’ I would be so troubled. There wasn’t anything in the movie to help me to live a better life. The pictures showed a horrible life of murder, crime, immodest dress, smoking, drinking, marrying, and remarrying, all of which would lead to a life of misery.”

“I think the movies are very sorry.”

“Movies are not edifying and are not Christ-like.”

“Movies have a bad influence on the lives of children and grown-ups.”

“I never was to but one movie, but what I saw was terrible for one’s eyes to dwell on. I know I would never want the Lord to see me there, and I know He sees us every moment of our lives.”

“Movies will affect one’s actions, expressions, ways of talking, accents of words, and standards of living. Only God can remove those scenes from our minds. Even now, after being saved a while, the enemy tries to bring back the memory of some of them by flashing them before my eyes. I have reaped remorse and regret. I am sorry I ever saw a movie.”

There were more but space will not permit them to be written. We also have printed in the newspapers often the effect of movies on the lives of young people. Some tell how they committed a crime after seeing a movie. Some boys and girls fell to disgrace after seeing a movie because their will-power had been weakened. Unwed mothers have testified that a movie was the cause of their

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downfall. How else can it be when they see on the screen married men and women holding another's companion in their arms, passionately kissing them?

May God have mercy upon such people and those who watch such vulgar actions. Surely God is very grieved about these things. The devil is glad, because through these things he is able to drag many down to the place prepared for him and his angels. Everything in the "works of the flesh," which is the fruit of the Corrupt Tree, is manifested on the screen at the movies. These will affect the lives of those who see them.

One writer records the fact that seventy-five and eighty per cent of all pictures deal with love, sex, crime, or mystery films. If a child attends a movie once a week, within a period of a year we will find he had been under wrong influence for one hundred and four hours of that year. I'm sure it would have a wrong effect upon him as he grows up. May God help mothers who send their children off to a movie to be rid of them for a couple of hours.

The Covenanter Witness reminds us that the Committee of Child Welfare of the League of Nations analyzed 250 American films and found in them: 97 murders; 51 cases of adultery; 19 seductions; 22 abductions; and 45 suicides. Of the characters in these 250 films there were: 176 thieves; 25 prostitutes; and 35 drunkards. Can you not see the works of the flesh manifested in the movies? May the Lord help people to get their eyes open to these facts.

During the war, our service men were shown movies picturing the cruelty to innocent people by the nations with whom we were at war, to create hatred in their hearts, enabling them to fight better. It had its desired effect.

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“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” Phil. 4:9. Can you fulfill this scripture in a movie?

In a garbage can there is some good and bad, but who is going to eat the good they find in it? Some of the bad is sure to come with it. Just so with the movies. If there be any good, some of the bad will be on it.

“Such Like”—Television

Once upon a time, before TV, our little family of four ate all meals together and it was enjoyable. Especially in the evening we learned what the children were doing at school, we made future plans, like outings for special days or a fishing trip, we laughed and had a merry time. The children peeked in the pots to see what was cooking, and when biscuits or cornbread came from the oven, there was an eager rush for the table. But alas! Things have changed.

Now, the family parks in front of the TV. They cannot hear the call for dinner, nor can they smell the aroma of freshly baked pie or cake. Even a sizzling steak fails to bring them out of their trance. So, to prevent starvation in the midst of plenty, I quietly serve three trays to three hypnotized persons, who are sometimes unaware that I have entered the room. They eat mechanically, sometimes missing their mouths when Superman flies out the top story window.

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Me? Oh, yes, I eat in a silent kitchen and wonder what would happen if I would give in to an urge to barge into the living room with a hammer and smash the TV into a THOUSAND PIECES.

—Newspaper Clipping

Would Jesus be noticed if He would appear in person in this home? Would they be willing to turn the TV off and have prayer? How would Jesus feel about this home? Who is to blame for this condition? I say the head of the house. May God help those who are Christians! “Christian” means Christ-like.

Below is a quotation from a clipping of a Los Angeles, Calif, paper in 1950:

“The hysterical panic of youth in a crisis was blamed today for a 15-year-old boy’s “mercy-killing” of his younger brother, whom police said he had accidentally wounded painfully only moments before.

“The tragedy occurred last night shortly after the boys had watched a western movie on television. They were alone in the home of their parents. The boy had bought the gun and hid it in his bedroom. After his parents had left to go to a dinner party and a movie he got the gun out and in his confession said, I called my brother and told him I wanted to show him something. As he walked past me I attempted to put the hammer down and it slipped. The gun went off and I heard him hit the floor. He was lying there with his head toward me squirming and moaning, in a pool of blood. I couldn’t stand to see him suffer so I fired another shot into him. I don’t know why I did this, I must have been crazy. I went into the front room, and telephoned the police.’ ”

Children who are allowed to watch movies with murder in them on television day after day will develop these subconscious

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attitudes and will subconsciously put them into practice just as a person subconsciously, or without thinking, steps on the brake of a car while driving. I say the risk of watching television is dangerous.

“Such Like”—Lying and Stealing

Lying and stealing go together. If you steal you will generally have to lie to get out of it. That is the devil’s trick. He will get you to commit one sin and then tell you you will have to commit another sin to get out of the first sin, and thus the cords of sin are wrapped tighter and tighter around you. Can you not see you are serving the wrong master? He will never stop until he gets your soul into eternal damnation and that place prepared for the devil and his angels. Please be wise and flee to the Lord for help. Jesus will save you and you will not have to obey the devil.

Lying means to utter a falsehood; represent falsely. (Web. Dic.) Some people feel that it is all right to tell white lies, which, they say, are lies told to keep others from getting hurt. A lie is a lie. It isn’t wise to tell everything you know. So therefore we do not have to lie to keep from hurting others. This is a careful walk. The Bible says, “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.” Psa. 66:16. We must be truthful in all things. The Bible says, “. . . all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone.” Rev. 21:8.

One of the Ten Commandments tells us to “not bear false witness against thy neighbor.”

Another commandment is: “Thou shalt not steal.” Stealing means taking without permission or right; to gain secretly and gradually. (Web. Dic.) The devil will work hard on children to get them to take things which do not belong to them and they will

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grow up doing it unless God helps them. One girl told me that she had a habit of taking things, especially money. At the age of twelve she tried hard to break herself. She said if she saw some money lying in someone's house she would be sure she never went into that room alone because she couldn't resist taking it. Oh, it is sad how the devil will entrap precious souls. When a person gets saved they have to make those things right. It pays to be careful to not take things. The Bible says, "Give again that he had robbed." Ezek. 33:15. God will give you grace to do this. He has done it for me and for many others.

One time in a young people's meeting here at Faith Publishing home we talked about restitution. We asked if anyone had to make anything right or restore something that they had taken which hadn't belonged to them. Some of the older young people told about their experiences. I told how I had taken a little doll off the desk of a girl in my school room and brought it home. My mother asked me where I got it and I told her a lie. Later it bothered me so much that I took the little doll out in the alley and smashed it to pieces. Yet, that didn't keep me from being bothered because I knew I had disobeyed God and stole. I was about twelve years old. Later I got saved and it was very hard to make that right, but God gave me grace. One day I told the girl that I had taken her doll and asked her to forgive me, also offered to pay for it. She said that everything was all right. After that, she was one of my best friends. Then I had to ask my mother and the whole family to forgive me because I had lied to all of them. The Lord had forgiven me, the girl had forgiven me and it was very sweet that my family forgave me when I asked them one time in worship. It was then all clear and is clear today. It will never be remembered against me anymore. Praise the Lord!

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One boy asked if it was wrong to crawl under the fence to get in to see some races. I told him that that was stealing the fare. He wrote the company a letter and sent them a dollar and asked forgiveness.

A girl later had me help her write a letter to her grandmother to pay back a nickel she had stolen when she was a younger girl. God sees everything and we must make it right here or it will meet us in the Judgment.

One boy had thrown a number of papers away of which he was being paid to deliver from house to house. He went to the company and wanted to make it right, but the editor told him that he did not need to pay, but forgave him.

Others made things right which the Lord gave light on and the Lord blessed them greatly.

One girl told about how she had broken some setting eggs that were under a hen. This hen belonged to a neighbor. She made it right after she got saved. The neighbor had moved but she wrote him a letter and sent him \$15.00. He was very happy that there were some people in the world today who were willing to make things right. God blessed her richly for doing that. God will bless you, also.

You may think these are very small things to make right, but my dear precious young people, God sees everything and it will meet us in the Judgment Day. We must clear it here.

When Zacchaeus came down out of the sycamore tree and invited Jesus to come to his house to stay, he began to repent of what he had done. He told the Lord that "If I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold."

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Luke 19:8. Zacchaeus was so sorry that he was willing to give back four times what he had taken.

I love all the dear young people and I do want to see you prosper in the Lord. We must go to the bottom and make everything right and have a firm foundation on which to build our lives for God. May God bless you is my prayer.

“Let him that stole steal no more.” Eph. 4:28.

How to Get Saved

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9. “The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance.” Rom. 2:4. “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.” Heb. 9:27, 28.

When we realize we are lost in sin and that sin will bar us out of heaven we then are in a condition to seek after God. Jesus bore all of our sins on the cross because we could not save ourselves. He has said, “I love you so much that I will die in your stead. I’ll take your punishment.” We must believe this with all our heart. We must confess our sins and ask God to forgive us and accept Jesus as our sin-bearer. God, looking down upon us sees how sorry we are that we have transgressed the laws of a loving, kind, heavenly Father, forgives us and blots our sins out of His book. He writes our names in the Book of Life. When the Lord saved me I felt so light! and a peace was in my soul that I had never had. Praise the Lord, He will do the same for you.

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“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” Rom. 10:9, 10, 13.

Won't you please find a place alone where you can pray and with tears ask God to forgive you? Believe with all your heart that He does it. Measure your life by God's Word and keep a determination in your heart to serve the Lord and God will keep you ready to meet Him when He calls for you.

—Sister Marie Miles

