

THE WHOLE MAN



*“And thou shalt love the Lord thy
God with all thy heart, and with all
thy soul, and with all thy mind, and
with all thy strength.” Mark 12:30*



Lottie Joiner

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Preface

After hearing Bro. Ostis Wilson preach on most of these subjects, I have felt deeply burdened to write some on the same. I feel that I shall never be able to bring out all the many good things that he did, but in my own way and by the help of the Lord I shall do the best I can to bring out truth that will help us all to get to heaven.

I trust each one of you who reads this little book will be closer to the Lord when you have finished reading it.

Time is quickly passing away; soon we all will face the dear Lord. Surely we need to be very diligent to be able to meet Him in peace.

Yours in Christ,

Lottie Joiner
Loranger, La.

The Heart

When God made man and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, man became a living soul. That part of man will live as long as God is, and that will be forever. Man was as pure as God when God breathed into him the breath of life; but God gave man a right of choice, and since man fell into sin by disobeying God's command, this plunged the whole world into sin and the hearts of men became wicked. We read in Jer. 17:9, 10, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart."

Oh, man was in a beautiful state in the beginning—so holy, so pure! The heart was in such a condition that God himself delighted in his creation, and over time he would commune with man. What pleasure there must have been between God and man! What purity! What love!

But, oh, that cold monster hand of sin crept into that heart that was made holy, and it became defiled. "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornication, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these evil things come from within, and defile the man." Mark 7:21-23. What a terrible condition is the heart in while in sin! There is no power of earth that can change the heart and bring it

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back to the holy place from whence Adam and Eve fell. But thank God, He has planned and fixed a way whereby “whosoever will” may come to the fountain of blood that flowed from the dear Saviour’s side, and be cleansed from every stain of sin and be just as holy and pure as man was in the beginning.

Since man fell into sin, God’s love for the soul of man was so great that he gave his Son to die for us. And through His death there is a way made whereby we can come out of sin and have a pure heart. In this state we are all given up to God for Him to have first place in our hearts and lives. It is a blessed state indeed to be free from the many sins that seated down into the heart. When sin is in the heart one can never tell what will come out. That is why there are all kinds of troubles, sorrows, and heartaches in the world today.

We read in Mark 12:30, “And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.” If we love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, God will have the whole man. We read in Prov. 23:26, “Son, give me thine heart.” God is calling for our hearts. When He has our hearts he then controls the whole man. As we yield our hearts to him, holding nothing in reserve, our whole being will be enraptured in the things of God. Why? Because the heart has been changed from the old state into the new. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away: behold, all things are become new.” 2 Cor. 5:17. In the old state man is defiled, corrupt, and altogether out of harmony with God. Again read Jer. 17: 9, 10, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the

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heart.” God knows our hearts. He knows when we seek Him with our whole heart.

We read in Psalms 119:2, “Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.” Oh, that fallen man would turn to God and seek Him with the whole heart! David said, “With my whole heart have I sought thee.” There is no other way whereby we can please God. Only when we seek Him with our whole heart, will God be satisfied. For “out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile the man.” Mark 7:21-23.

Until men get tired of all these sins that started back in the heart, I say they cannot seek Him with the whole heart. When Bible conviction comes to the soul, men become sick of sin. Then if they will seek the Lord with the whole heart, God for Christ’s sake forgives all their sins they have committed, and puts them away as far as the east is from the west and remembers them against them no more. Man, through repentance, becomes a new creature. As he forsakes all to follow the Lord, through the operation of the Spirit his soul is made alive, he is born again by a spiritual birth. He has come forth from a dead state into a lively state in Christ Jesus; he is a child of God. Praise God for his wonderful working power to change the defiled heart of man and give him a clean new heart, washed in the blood of the Lamb!

Matt. 5:8, “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.” God wants only the pure heart, and for us to be pure in heart we must seek Him with the whole heart. Our affections must all be centered on Him. We read in Psalms 24:3-5, “Who

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shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.” 2 Chron. 16:9, “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.” Yes, my friend, if you want the blessing of the Lord to follow you, keep your heart pure, keep a perfect heart before Him and He will shew Himself strong in your behalf.

When the heart of man is pure, he is harmless. There is no danger in him. He makes a good neighbor; he is a good example in every way. He is a light. Though darkness is all around him, his life is shining out because of the true light from heaven that is shining in his soul. His heart is fixed on God; his treasures are beyond this life. He is living for eternity; his affections are on things above and not on the things of earth. He walks to please God, he works to please God, he looks to please God, he hears to God’s glory, he sees to God’s glory, and he talks to God’s glory; he has the mind of Christ. Therefore the whole man is in working order for God, because he has sought the Lord with the whole heart. As he keeps his mind stayed on God, he shall be kept in perfect peace. Prov. 4:23. “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” Keeping our hearts with all diligence will mean that we keep a close watch in every way, guarding the issues of life. Precious life from God above is in every soul that has been born again. How that precious life needs to be kept with all diligence! Life! What is worth more than eternal life? Oh, that every soul could value eternal life above the trifles of this world! Help us, Lord, to keep our hearts with all diligence, guarding every thought that enters our minds lest an

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evil one should slip down into the heart and the issues of life be broken. This precious life flows from God down into our hearts and as we keep our hearts with all diligence the issues of life will live on as long as eternity lasts. Let us be faithful in keeping our hearts in the love of God.

Our Feet

“And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.” Mark 9:45, 46.

Let us talk awhile concerning our heart’s feet. We know that our natural feet are used in walking. Jesus gave us a precious example of how to walk, how to use our heart’s feet to His glory. We read in Eph. 5:1, 2: “Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love.” To walk in love would be to walk in God, for God is love. Man is a two-fold being, the natural and spiritual. The natural man walks with the natural feet. The inner man walks with the heart’s feet, putting to action what is in the heart. If we are doing something that is causing the soul or inner man to walk on the downward road to destruction, our foot offends us; then it is time to cut it off; for it will be better to enter halt into life than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched.

Oh, friends, how plain are these Scriptures and how true! It would be better to do without anything here in this world if by obtaining things we are hindered from getting to heaven. Walking with the heart’s feet many times leads us from the true way; for the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately

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wicked, who can know it? In the sinful state, every heart is wicked and many times folks do things which surprise themselves. Many say, “Why, oh, why did I do that?” But, oh, the evil works of the devil were there. The heart was wicked.

We read in Eccl. 11:9, “Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth: and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee to judgment.” O yes, dear ones, we may go on in the ways of our heart and our heart may cheer us; but, remember, God will call us to judgment. If we want to remove sorrow from our heart, then we must put away evil; for surely to walk after the desire of our hearts before we are saved will bring many heartaches and sorrows.

Job 31:4-9, “Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps? If I have walked with vanity, or if my foot hath hastened to deceit; Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity: If my steps hath turned out of the way, and mine heart walked after mine eyes, and if any blot hath cleaved to my hands; then let me sow and let another eat; yea, let my offspring be rooted out.”

Surely God knows every step we take. There is nothing hid from His all-seeing eye, and our life is an open book before Him. We read in Psa. 139:1-4, “O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it all together.” Oh, that men and women would walk humbly before the Lord, for He knows every move we make. He is behind and before, and where shall we go from His presence?

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David said, “If I ascend into heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in hell, behold thou art there.” Ah, friends, how are you walking? Are you walking with God or in the ways of thine heart? To walk with God would mean to walk according to His holy Word. It is written in Micah 6:8, “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” To do justly means more than some may think. This is what God requires of man, to deal justly with every soul in every way. Be true to them in business dealings in every way. Be true to them in spiritual dealings. Deal justly with everyone. To love mercy—what does this mean? It means more than loving mercy when it is coming our way. We must love mercy when others need mercy. We must be merciful. Oh, I say again, what does it mean to walk humbly with our God? Surely to walk with God we would have to be humble, for God will not walk with the proud or the scornful. To walk with God, we must leave our way and go God’s way; for God will never leave His way to walk with us. To walk with God is more than tongue can tell. There is joy in walking with God. There is peace; there is contentment. To walk with God, we must forsake all to follow him.

Friends and loved ones, no matter how dear things of earth are to us, we must bid them farewell to walk with the Saviour. There may be some things that would be as dear to us as one of our feet, but if they come between us and the Lord we must cut them off, for it is better for us to enter into life with one foot than to be cast into hell.

We read of Nebuchadnezzar after he had humbled himself (Daniel 4:37): “Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways

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judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.” You will notice he would praise and extol and honor the King of heaven. His heart is humble. He once lifted himself up. **He** was **the** king in his own eyes, but now God is **the King** and he gives Him honor and praise. In the long years of chastisement while he had to eat grass with the oxen, God had a chance to work to humble his heart. Before that he walked in the way of his own heart. His heart was proud and lifted up, but now his heart has been humbled. He now decides to walk with God. You will notice he said, “And those that walk in pride He is able to abase.”

To walk in pride will bring one low, for he that exalteth himself shall be abased but he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. Oh, how sweet to walk with God!

Heb. 12:13, “And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.” Many times folks become lame or crippled because they have walked in rough ways in the way of their hearts. Listen, God is speaking through His Spirit, telling us to make straight paths for our feet. We read in Prov. 4:26, “Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.” To ponder would mean to weigh carefully in the mind, to think about, to reflect upon, to examine carefully, to think, to muse. Oh, dear souls, if you and I will take time to ponder the paths of our feet, there will be less mistakes made. There will be straight paths, paths of truth and right, which will lead us to heaven. But, oh, so many make steps so hasty that cause many heartaches and those steps cause many others to stumble. Oh, how needful it is that we look to God to direct our steps.

David of old said in Psa. 38:15, 16, “For in thee, O Lord, do I hope: thou wilt hear, O Lord my God. For I said, Hear me, lest

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otherwise they should rejoice over me: when my foot slippeth, they magnify themselves against me.” O yes, when one slips, folks are always ready to talk. Some rejoice when a brother or sister slips. Others will magnify themselves against those that slip.

How safe it is for one to walk with God, for then he walks uprightly. When our enemies rise up against us, they cannot hurt us if we have walked carefully before the Lord. If the Lord be for us, who can be against us? Oh, may God help us to daily walk with Him! It is written in Prov. 10:9, “He that walketh uprightly, walketh surely.” How safe it is to walk uprightly; but how unsafe it is to walk in the way of one's heart without God. We read again in Prov. 6:12, 13, “A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth. He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers.” How true these Scriptures are. People speak by the way they walk here in this world. Oh, to walk straight is worth more than all the silver and gold that could be given. When people walk straight, they make good neighbors, good husbands and wives, and good children. They make everything pleasant and desirable. The Lord looks down in great pleasure upon those who walk with Him. Psalm 15:1, 2: “Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.”

Thank God, when we walk straight we will abide in God's tabernacle or church. We will speak the truth in our heart. We will not be found backbiting with the tongue and will do no evil to our neighbor, nor will we take up a reproach against our neighbor. Oh, to walk with God is wonderful. The path of the just is a shining light for the soul. The farther we go, the brighter the

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way. Praise the Lord! Again we read in Psalm 37:23, “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.” How sweet it is to let God order our steps. Many times if we would go by our own desires or feelings we would go into ways that would lead us far away from the tender voice of God. When we let God order our steps, our souls will be blessed and other precious souls will receive a blessing also. The 31st verse of the same chapter says, “The law of his God is in his heart [in the heart of the good man] none of his steps shall slide.” Thank God! He leads us in good solid paths where no danger will come to the soul. Listen, friends, do you get this: where no danger comes to the soul? If everyone will walk according to God’s Word, the soul will always be in a safe path. When anyone walks in slippery places he gets out of the path of God. He slips here and there, gets out of the order of God, and gets into real danger.

It is written in Psalm 18:33, “He maketh my feet like hinds’ feet, and setteth me upon my high places.” Peloubet’s Bible Dictionary says that the hind is noticed in the poetical parts of Scripture as emblematic of activity. In Gen. 49:21: “Naphtali is a hind let loose: he giveth good words.” Then in Deut. 33:23 we read of the blessing of Naphtali: “And of Naphtali he said, O Naphtali, satisfied with favour, and full with the blessing of the Lord: possess thou the west and the south.” Oh, to make straight paths for our feet will cause us to be satisfied, the favor of God will be on us, and the blessing of the Lord will follow everyone who chooses to walk uprightly.

It is written in Job 39:1, “Knowest thou the time when the wild goats of the rock bring forth? or canst thou mark when the hinds do calve?” This brings a precious thought also. Peloubet says the hind has a shyness and remoteness from the haunts of

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men. To walk with God, we must be on the alert day by day, watch and pray, live very humble, and walk after the Spirit. “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” Rom. 8:1. “This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. . . . If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” Gal. 5:16, 25.

Walking in the Spirit will lead us away from everything unlike God. There is a lot of walking that is not in God’s likeness. When we walk in the Spirit, we will find ourselves following hard after God, keeping his Word in our heart, and living it out day by day. We will follow after things that make for peace. Rom. 14:19, “Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.” Verse 15, “But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died.” Oh, yes, dear ones, if we walk with God, we must consider our brother and sister. None of us live to ourselves, neither will we die to ourselves. Oh, how sweet is our walk with God! The reason our walk with God is so sweet, we cannot take one thing along with us that is not in the likeness of God. God is filled with goodness, and when a soul is filled with goodness, that soul is happy, joyous, contented, and free. He is walking with God. “For we walk by faith not by sight.” 2 Cor. 5:7. John 12:35, “Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.” How needful it is for one to walk in the light while he has the light! It is very true that when we fail to walk in the light we go into darkness. Jesus is the light, and for one to walk in the light he must needs walk in the footsteps of the Saviour. How precious is the light of

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the Son of God! He is that light that came from heaven. There is no darkness in Him and His light is shining for every soul who wants to walk with Him. This light will guide our feet to mansions above. All heaven will be lighted up with this glorious light throughout eternity. But listen, friends, if we fail to walk in this light, we walk in darkness; and this darkness leads down to eternal darkness. We read in Matt. 8:12 of outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Oh, friends, there is a place called hell, also a place called heaven. There are two roads. One leads to heaven; the other leads to hell. We are on one of these roads. If we are on the road to hell, we will walk in darkness, for there is no light on this way. But if we are on the road to heaven, we will walk in light, for there is no darkness on this road. Oh, may God help each one to see the need of walking in the light. In this life is the time to walk in light. In order to walk in the light of the Son of God you must repent of your sins. Jesus stands with outstretched arms; saying, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden; and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matt. 11:28-30. He also says that He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. So to walk with Jesus, we must come to Him and forsake our ways. Come to Him, repent of our sins, then God for Christ's sake will forgive us and we become His children. We must keep walking in His light to stay with Him. We must be very close to Him to walk in His light.

Oh, dear friends, how are you walking? With whom are you walking? If you are walking with Jesus, you are living in the light, and this light will shine brighter all the way. You will see deeper depths and higher heights to gain as you walk with God.

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You will see deep rich truths in His Word that you will rejoice in as you walk in them. By walking in truth, you are walking in God, for the Word is God. Then as we walk in God we find sweet heavenly manna—something the world knows nothing about.

We read of Noah, a just man, perfect in his generation; and Noah walked with God (Gen. 6:9). The wisest thing one can do is to walk with God. Psa. 84:11, “No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.” When we walk uprightly, we are continually under the blessing of the Almighty. When the dark clouds are hovering over you, God’s blessings are near. When your eyes are dimmed with tears, God’s love is still around you. When all seem to have forsaken you, remember, God still cares for you, and will never leave nor forsake you so long as you walk with Him. Lord, help us to walk close to Thee.

Isa. 2:36, “And he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths.” To walk with the Lord, or in His paths, we must be willing to be taught by Him. Oh, how sweet to learn from day to day how to walk to please Him! The humble heart is learning precious things every day from the great Teacher. As one learns, he walks in God, and thus gets deeper and deeper in the stream of love that makes the soul abound in the beauties of God’s graces. That makes one more heavenly as he journeys on to mansions above.

We again read a precious Scripture found in Isa. 30:21b, “This is the way, walk ye in it.” God points out clearly the way we should walk. Human reasoning will go around and around and try to find other ways, but God will bring us right to the way, saying, “Walk ye in it.” Dear ones, when we walk in God’s way, our consciences are clear, but when we walk in the way of our own heart we find we have a guilty conscience from day to day.

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How pleasant it is to walk with the Lord! His way is always according to His Word. Thank God, it is safe to go by His Word! Hosea 14:9b, “For the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them.”

We read of Enoch in Gen. 5:24, that he “walked with God and he was not; for God took him.” It is worth more than all the world could give to walk with God. The riches of this world and honor and fame will all crumble and be nothing in one’s sight when he comes down to the end of life’s journey; as he looks into eternity and sees what is before him. Oh, friends, let us walk with God so our ending will be as one of old who said of Jacob, “Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!”

If you want God to walk with you, you must walk with Him. If you walk with God, He will walk with you through happiness, through sorrow, heartaches, and trials; also in the hour of death God will still be walking with you. The Psalmist said, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” Yes, my friends, God will walk with us in the hour of death if we walk with Him.

In the third chapter of Daniel we read of three Hebrew children who were thrown into the fiery furnace. After they had been put in the fire, the king looked in and was astonished at what he saw. He arose and asked, “Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True O King. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.” Oh, praise the God of heaven! Friends, I say again, if we walk with Him, He will walk with us. God revealed to the king somehow that the form of the

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fourth was the Son of God. Now this was before Jesus (God's Son) had ever come to the world to die for us. But away back there in eternity, God in his infinite wisdom was working. He and the Son were standing by His own who walked with Him. This is enough to make any soul that is born from above shout praises to the Lamb forevermore! Notice, friends, the men were bound when they were put into the fire; but, thank God, He only let the cords be burned off them. There was not a hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor had the smell of fire passed on them. The fire only burned off the cords by which they were bound. Even so it is when God permits His people now to go through a trial: He will walk in the trial with us if we walk with Him, and He will let only those things about us that are unlike Him to be burned off. It is needful for them to be burned off so we can walk and not be bound down. Praise the name of our God; He is worthy to be praised! Oh, the wonders of the mighty God of heaven! We read in Isa. 43:2b, "When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." Help us, Lord, to daily walk with Thee. As we walk with the Lord through sunshine or shadow, He will quietly pilot us over all the rough stormy ways of life and will cause us to triumph over all the attacks of the enemy. Rom. 16:20, "And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you." We shall run and not be weary, we shall walk and not faint.

Daniel's walk with God led him through the den of lions, but God gave him victory. The three Hebrew children chose to walk with God and even though they did go into the furnace, wonderful victory was theirs. Peter's walk with God led him to the dungeon, but he had angels to visit him. Paul's walk with God led him through perils on the sea, through hunger and fasting,

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through weariness and painfulness, through cold and nakedness, through perils of robbers and perils in the wilderness, through stoning, beating, and whipping. Think of this faithful man of God; what he endured to walk with God. As we consider his back all torn and bruised from the lashes and the blood streaming down, we do not hear him complaining; but what do we hear him saying? “None of these things move me.” Oh, dear ones, if we walk with God, we too will have some things to suffer; but remember, there is joy just out a little farther where the wicked will cease from troubling and the weary will be at rest. Let us walk faithfully all the way, walk and not faint. Oh, may God help us as we journey on to the end of our life to walk with God; for in walking with God we will have grace in our souls to not faint. If we fail to walk with God, our grace is gone, and we will faint by the way. I say again, our only safety is to walk with the Lord. My prayer will be for you to walk with Jesus, Who will pilot you over all the rough, stony places and bring you to heaven’s goal in the end. Then you can rejoice while ages roll on that you chose to walk with God.

Our Hands

Now we want to talk awhile about our hands. We use the natural hands to do the natural things of life. They become very handy in doing evil works for the enemy, or they can be used in a wonderful way to glorify the Lord. Let us talk of the spiritual side and consider Scripture that points to this. Mark 9:43, “And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go to hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched.” As I said, we would like to consider the inner man’s hands. We use the natural hand to work and to reach out. Almost everything we do, our hands have a part in it. They are very handy. No matter what kind of a deed is done, whether it be good or bad, most likely the hands have part in it.

Acts 2:22, 23, “Ye men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.” The wickedness was in the hearts of these men, and their wicked hands carried out the thing that was in their hearts. Oh, the many cruel things that are done by wicked hands! But remember, God sees everything. These wicked men lay hold on Jesus, the dear Son of

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God, their only hope of salvation. Their hands crucified Him, those wicked hands nailed Him to the cross, put a crown of thorns on His head, and many stripes were laid on Him. Oh, the suffering He went through by those wicked hands! But His suffering was for you and me, that we could have salvation. I wonder sometimes if we give the dear Lord the praise due to His dear name. Those wicked men thought they had prevailed; but there was One in heaven weighing those wicked acts that were done by those wicked hands. Folks cannot do wrong and get by.

God poured out His Holy Spirit on Peter, His servant, and he began to preach to them in mighty power until they cried out, being pricked in their hearts, “Men and brethren, what must we do to be saved?” Oh, friends, what did Peter tell them? Listen: “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 2:38. Thank God, there is a way out of sin, but we must come by way of repentance.

There are many cruel deeds done now by wicked hands. The hands reach out and take things that do not belong to them. They kill, they do so many ugly things; but there is a God in heaven that will forgive if folks will repent. Friends, there is a reaping for every sowing, no matter what it be. We read in Gal. 6:7, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” When people go on in their sins, doing things that grieve God, surely those things in later years will bring grief, sorrow, and shame. God is faithful to forgive when folks call on him from a broken spirit.

It is written in Isa. 1:15, “And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide my eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear; your hands are full of blood.” Dear ones,

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can you not see your condition when you are away from God? There are many precious souls today saying lots of prayers but their hearts are far away from God. Their hands are doing things that are far from what God would do. But listen, God said He would not hear the prayer of such people. He will hear the prayer of those that have a broken spirit, hearts that are calling on God for mercy for their sins to be forgiven, hearts that have been broken up by the Spirit of the Lord, sorrowing hearts because they have sinned against God. Surely God hears that kind of prayers.

James 4:8-10, “Cleanse your hands, ye sinners: and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.” Truly God hears one when he does as the above Scripture says. God tells us in Rev. 3:2, “Be watchful, and strengthen the things that remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.” 1 Cor. 3:13, “Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is.”

St. John 6:26, “Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.” He goes on to tell them not to labor for the meat that perisheth but for the meat which endureth unto everlasting life. These folks were laboring, as it were, for the fishes and loaves, like thousands of people are doing today, working and laboring for the things of time. Jesus said in the 48th verse, “I am the bread of life.” Oh, that men and women would reach out their hands for the bread of everlasting

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life, that life which will last throughout eternity. This life here in this world only lasts a few short years at the longest; but, oh, how concerned people are to work and labor for this life! Friends, this world should be just a place for folks to work and make preparation for heaven. Living for eternity. Working for eternity is the wisest thing to do, making every step count for God. Everything we do, whether it be great or small, doing the things that will brighten our home in heaven should be the utmost desire of every soul. “Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto me, and eat that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.” Isa. 55:2.

The rich young ruler seemed to be reaching out his hands for eternal life, but when he saw what the cost was, he drew back. Mark 19:21. “Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.” This young man had great possessions, so he went away sorrowful. He was laboring, as it were, for this life only. Oh, that souls could realize the shortness of this life and what it will mean for one to come down to the end of life’s journey still holding on, as it were, to things of earth. Friends, you will have to leave them then, but what will be the condition of your heart? Far better it will be to labor for life eternal, lay up your treasures in heaven where they will add to your joy over in the glory world.

We read in Prov. 31:20 of the virtuous woman: “She stretcheth out her hand to the poor: yea, she reaches forth her hands to the needy.” Instead of her hands being an offense to her, they were busy laboring, laying up in store treasures in heaven that would abound to her account in the day of judgment.

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Eph. 4:28, “Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.” Notice, the writer says, “Working with his hands the thing which is good.” You see, dear ones, there are two ways in which we can work with our hands: there is a wrong way and a good way. Eph. 5:11 says, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” Heb. 13:5, “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” If we are laboring for life eternal we will be doing things day by day that will add to our account in glory. Things of earth won’t mean so much to us, we will want to use all God gives us for His glory. In the 16th chapter of Luke we read of the steward that had wasted his master’s goods. He knew he would lose his stewardship, so he said, “I am resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship they may receive me into their houses.” He called all his lord’s debtors and made friends with them, and even his lord commended him because he had done wisely. Jesus said, “I say unto you, make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail they may receive you into everlasting habitations.” The only way we can make friends with the mammon of unrighteousness (which is the wealth or riches of this world) is to use it to God’s glory, sending it on beyond, laying our treasures in heaven by giving out to those in need. Inasmuch as ye do it unto one of the least of these, ye do it unto Jesus. As we send our treasures on to glory, they will receive us into everlasting habitations at the end of our life, for where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also.

Heb. 13:3, “Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them, and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also

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in the body.” Dear ones, it will pay us to scatter love with our hands, doing all we can to help precious souls to see the love of God. We often sing, “Sinner, see the love of God.” I believe we can help poor sinners to see the love of God by the way we work with our hands. We read in Prov. 10:4, “He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand, but the diligent maketh rich.” There are different ways in which we can deal with a slack hand. The one that I have in mind just now is when one gets slack in giving out to the needy, to the poor. If we have a slack hand in this way our soul will become poor, we won’t have the good riches from the storehouse of heaven; but if we will be diligent, God will cause our souls to be rich with the good things from above.

1 Tim. 6:9-12, “But they that will be rich [in this world] fall into temptations and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” Now listen: “But thou, O man of God, flee these things, and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.” Lay hold on eternal life—what does this mean? To lay hold on anything with the natural hands would mean to reach out, take hold, to seize, to grip or grasp suddenly. To me it seems if we would gain eternal life we must reach out, take hold more firmly than ever, seize on it quickly lest we miss it by being slothful.

Oh, how we need to watch the enemy! The devil has succeeded in getting thousands of souls to labor for the riches of this old world. They have brought sorrow after sorrow upon

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themselves, which caused them to go down to a Christless grave, without hope and lost forever. Dear souls, I write this in love to everyone. Labor to add to your joy over in glory. "Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." Luke 21:34-36. We are now living in the last of the last days; men's hearts are drifting far away from God; the Word of God is being fulfilled on every hand. The world is waxing worse and worse; people are being deceived. They are laboring for the things of time, reaching out after silver and gold, fine homes and cars, popularity and fame; but God is being left out. The love of money is ruining this world. There are so many ungodly crimes being committed all because the love of money is seated down in the soul. The greed for gain is flooding this world, and many precious souls have been ensnared in it.

Deut. 15:7-11, "If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother: but thou shalt open thy hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth. Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the Lord against thee, and it be sin unto thee. Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the Lord thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in

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all that thou puttest thy hand unto. For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.” We read in Prov. 11:25, “The liberal soul shall be made fat.” The Lord expects you and me to be liberal, for God loves a cheerful giver. Prov. 11:24, “There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.” Oh, that dear souls could see the need of being open-hearted to do and give when the Lord says so. To open your hands and give out love from a pure heart, making others feel a warm love coming from those hands is blessed.

Rom. 12:9-13, “Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.” The Lord does not honor any kind of giving other than that which is done by hospitality.

I am thinking now of faithful mothers who toil so faithfully for their children day by day, giving out their strength, working with their hands, showing love, care, and protection for their little ones. They wash for them, iron, mend, cook, etc. from day to day. Their precious hands show forth beauty that the proud in heart do not see. Even though their hands are scarred and wrinkled, they are beautiful because these marks show the grace of love has been given out by these faithful hands. Dear friends, just as the faithful mothers show their love to their offspring, so the soul that loves God will lend a helping hand to those around far and near, giving

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out love in different ways, going here and there to try to bring sunshine in some life. Even though these acts may seem small in the eyes of the world, God looks down with pleasure on such.

It may be you have baked a cake and the dear Lord shows you someone who would like to have a piece of it. Your loving hands cut the cake and give to the one the Lord has shown you. It is not so much what you give, but it is how you give, how you hand out, how you labor. Throwing out love from a pure heart and clean hand will cause a light to spring forth that clears away many dark clouds in one's life. Psa. 24:3, 4, "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul to vanity, nor sworn deceitfully." May God help us to keep clean hands and a pure heart. When we do anything, Lord help us to do it in love. When we do it from a pure heart with clean hands, there is no deceit there. We fear that some folks have given many times just because others were giving, or because they thought they were expected to give. Dear ones, you are just lifting your soul to vanity and in one sense you have sworn deceitfully. God help us to do all we do to His glory, giving love out with clean hands. When you, with a heart full of love, go to the bedside of one that is weary from pain and suffering, what a blessing it is to that soul! As you sit there showing your love from clean hands, hands that are free from deceit and hypocrisy, such laboring is accepted of God. How good it makes one feel to receive something from those that have proven their love. How sweet, how refreshing it makes us feel! But when something is given by those that feel you don't need it, you don't deserve it, etc., surely that is just lifting one's soul to vanity. If we can't give heartily as to the Lord, we might as well not give as far as receiving blessing to our souls is concerned.

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In my growing up from childhood I discovered the touch of my mother's hands was different from any other touch. It seemed that it was so different I think I would know that touch while in the dark, even though I could not see her. The touch of those precious hands that showed so much love to me so often in my young life still lingers near. At times it seems I can still feel that touch so soft even though I've been away from mother for years with only a short visit now and then. I shall not forget that precious touch from mother so dear.

I heard of a soldier boy who had been wounded; and as well as I remember the story as it was told to me, the boy was not expected to live. They called his mother, but he knew nothing about her coming. As she went to where he was, she laid her gentle hand on his forehead. He at once said, "Oh, that is the touch of my mother."

Friends, if human ties are so close as this, truly the love of God that binds us all together is stronger. I believe we all can live so near sweet Jesus till we can get a heavenly touch from the Master's hand and carry it to dear ones whose hearts are heavy, loaded down with care. Oh, the blessing that comes from hands that are touched by the Master's hands! It is not the great amount one may do, but it is, I say, how and what kind of spirit in which we do it. Help us, dear Lord, to keep the touch of Thy hand! When God touches us, then we can, by the same inspiration, touch other precious souls.

I have heard expressions made by some something like this: "I don't feel free in certain people's homes; I don't feel free around some folks." We wonder what is the matter? It may be we have not gone deep enough to touch the Master's hand for ourselves. If so, let us draw so close to Him that we can feel His

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gentle touch on our souls. Then I am sure we will be able to touch some dear one around us and make them feel free in our midst. Oh, precious eternity bound souls, we have no time to lose! Souls are too precious! We need to let our hands be busy every hour, doing something to point dear ones to a higher life in Christ.

Isa. 59:1, 2, 3, “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.”

You will notice in the first verse it says the Lord’s hand is not shortened that it cannot save. God’s hands are always ready, if we are ready; but the trouble is, too many folks have let their sins come in between them and God. People’s hands are defiled, hence they do things from day to day that bring grief and sorrow, not only to themselves but also to others. There is a higher life for everyone to live, and we all can reach out and get it if we will.

Ezekiel 33:1-8, “Again the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, speak to the children of thy people and say unto them: When I bring the sword upon the land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman. If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his

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iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say to the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand."

This brings a responsibility on each of us. Oh, how important it is for us to obey the command of the Lord! Many preachers will come to the judgment with the blood of souls on their hands, all because they failed to warn the people. Many times preachers shrink from warning people because of persecution. Oh, my dear friends, it will pay us to cry aloud and spare not. If we spare, the blood of souls will be on our hands. Some may fail to warn people because they are supporting them. If we do such, we will be disobeying the Word, we will be preaching for filthy lucre instead of working to get their souls to heaven. Others may fail to warn for fear of being put out of the church. If we are in God's church, no man can put us out; and if we are not in God's church we are not fit to preach the gospel. May God help us to fear Him.

When God's ministers warn the people, then if folks do not live like God wants them to live, the blood is on the people's hands. Oh, friends, we had better keep pure hearts and clean hands before the Lord of heaven. We all have a responsibility on us, and we are in a measure responsible for souls around us; that is, if we do not keep clean hands.

We have a Scripture in Rom. 13:8, "Owe no man anything but to love one another." If we have given out anything besides love to souls, we are in debt to them until we get it cleared off our hands. No matter what we may think or try to do, if we don't

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clear it up, we are in debt to them. Their blood in a measure is upon us. Many times sharp cutting words are said by professed Christians. The words fall upon heavy hearts and will wound, crush, and bring tears. Whoever you are that has done such, your hands are defiled and are unclean. You are in debt to the one you said the words to. That is not love, and you will be in debt until you go to the one and clear it away by asking forgiveness. Oh, to have clean hands before the Lord is worth more than all the world!

1 Tim. 2:8, “I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.” Surely when we lift our hands to praise the Lord, we need to be sure those hands are clean, holy hands, acceptable by the Lord. To keep our hands clean and free from the blood of all men, we must be about our Father’s business day by day, watching our every move that all we do or say will be done to God’s glory alone.

We read in Prov. 24:30 to the end of the chapter: “I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; and, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: so shall thy poverty come as one that travelth; and thy want as an armed man.” When we get slack in the keeping of our souls, thorns and nettles spring forth. Ugly, stingy, sticky things come from our life. This comes about by slack hands—a little folding of the hands. Spiritual laziness will bring any soul to poverty, and as a result, the stone wall is broken down, the walls of salvation. The bars are open for different kinds of spirits to enter our field or heart. How quickly

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we can see thorns and nettles coming forth, which sting and stick all those around. Oh, dear souls, we have a big job on our hands to keep them clean; but, by the grace of God, we can keep them clean from the blood of all men. Thank God! What will be more blessed when we come down to the end of life's journey than to be able to look God in the face with clean hands and a pure heart? Our hands then can be folded; all will be well. Let us live for that time, then we can rejoice in the hour of death because we have fought the good fight, have finished our course, and there will be a crown of everlasting life awaiting us over in glory. Praise the Lord!

The Eye

Now, by the help of the dear Lord, we shall talk about the eye. It is written in Mark 9:47, “And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.” These words were spoken by our Lord. Surely He saw the cunning ways in which the devil works to ensnare the soul. We now think of Mother Eve. The devil got her first to look at the forbidden fruit. Gen. 3:6, “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat.” As she looked, the devil had a greater hold on her. Oh, the deceitfulness in the working of the enemy! This one look caused God’s whole creation to plunge into sin!

Dear ones, if we do not guard our eyes, one look on our part many times will cause us to fall and will lead many others down with us. Many dear ones have looked in the wrong direction and caused sorrow after sorrow in their lives. We read in Matt. 6:22, 23, “The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness.”

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When our eye is single, we are looking in one direction; we are looking at Jesus. Our eyes are full of light; Jesus is the light. But if our eyes are evil, we will get them off Jesus and begin to look at things that will mean our downfall, if we keep looking at them. Oh, how blessed to keep our eyes on Jesus! When we have our eyes on Jesus, the light of the world, we will not be in darkness. All the darkness will be on the side lines. When each and every one keep their eyes on Jesus, they see eye to eye. We read in Isa. 52:8, “Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion.” Again we read in Rev. 3:18, “I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see.”

Until people anoint their eyes, as it were, their eyes are closed from the deep rich things of God; because they are hid from the wise and prudent and revealed unto babes. Matt. 13:14-17, “And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand, and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: for this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears. And should understand with their hearts, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things that ye hear, and have not heard them.” Surely this is a bad condition for folks to get into. When people’s hearts are waxed gross, they are impure, their hearts are closed from good, they become dull of hearing, they have closed their eyes! Oh, that people could realize how dangerous it is to close

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the eyes to light! What will it mean for dear ones that have closed their eyes and hearts to the gospel of our Lord and Saviour? But many dear ones have done this very thing. Many have stopped in the light of their foreparents. To keep our vision clear, we must keep our eyes open to truth.

Jesus told the Pharisees, “Because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.” They closed their eyes. They were hardened by sin and closed their hearts against light. They pretended to be keeping the law, but Jesus told them the truth which uncovered their wicked lives, and they rejected the light. They closed their eyes and went into darkness. That will be the result when anyone fails to walk in the light of God’s Word. That one will go into darkness, for darkness has blinded the eyes. Jesus said to the Pharisee in Matt. 23:26, “Thou blind Pharisee.” They had closed their eyes to the only light that could lead them to heaven, thus they went into greater darkness. God is shining this light today in this old world and many dear souls have rejected light. Even though they have a profession, they are in darkness and will go farther into darkness as they continue to reject light. Their eyes are closed; they can’t see God’s great plan or His beautiful church separated from the world, etc.

We are told in the first chapter of Second Peter what to add. First it says add to your faith, virtue, then knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity. The 8th verse says, “For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Now the 9th verse says, “But he that lacketh these things is blind and cannot see afar off, and has forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.” You see, the writer was speaking of those that once were saved but had let these precious graces leak

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out. Such folks become blind and cannot see very far into God's great plan, for their eyes they have closed.

Phil. 2:15, "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world." Jesus told us to let our light shine. We can only let our light shine by keeping the graces of God in our hearts. And for these graces to abound in us, we must keep our eyes open to see the wonderful things in God's Word so we can partake of it. Phil. 2:4, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." It is very easy sometimes for folks to look at self and labor to satisfy its desires, but God wants us to look at others, see how to help them, see how to encourage them, how to throw out love to them, see good things in them.

But now we read in Matt. 7:1-3, "Judge not that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdeth thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considereth not the beam that is in thine own eye?" God called such ones hypocrites. If we could all turn our eyes on self and keep them there, we would be far better off. How ugly it is to see one continually finding fault with a brother or sister. When people do this, they are blind to the real truth of God's word. They are in darkness; they are hypocrites. When God calls people anything, that is just what they are. And when folks do such things they are in a far worse condition than their brother or sister. A mote is just a small something; a beam is something large. If people keep their eyes on Jesus they will have no time for such. We will be looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame and is set down

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at the right hand of the throne of God (Heb. 12:2). Yes, dear ones, when we keep looking at Jesus, we will have no time to be watching others; that is, to find fault with them. Such is the spirit of the Pharisees. They watched Jesus to try to find fault with Him. When we look to Jesus, we are watching ourselves. We will want to please Him in all we do and say, so we will be ready when He calls for us. 2 Peter 3:12, “Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.”

Oh, that everyone would look for the coming of the Lord; then everyone would do something about getting himself ready. What an awful day it will be when this old world will go up in flames! The elements shall melt with fervent heat. When God comes to call this world to judgment, everybody, I am sure, will be looking at the condition of his own heart. Dear people, it will pay you to do that now. May God help us to see ourselves as He sees us. Friends, when we do this, we then can see ourselves in the light of God’s Word. And if we are not where we ought to be, God help us to move up. The judgment will cause many deceived souls to be awakened, but it will be too late then to get everything in the clear.

2 Cor. 4:3, 4, “If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” There will be blind people that will come in the presence of God in judgment. You will notice that folks right here in this world are blinded by the gods of this

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world. They are the ones that believe not. Oh, friends, what will we have on our hands by disbelieving God and His Word?

Isa. 56:10-11, “His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand (because they are blind): they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.” From the reading of this Scripture, we understand that the watchmen are blind (so called preachers). Those that fail to preach all the word of God are gods to this old world. The Word says they are ignorant and dumb dogs that cannot bark. I have noticed dogs. Some are very watchful, they hear every little alarm and will bark and protect their owner even though it would mean a self-denial on their part. Maybe they would leave their food to watch the enemy. But on the other hand, there are some dogs that are looking only for what they can get to eat. Some won't even bark, but they are always at the door to grab all that is thrown out. They are greedy, and when they get filled they lie down to slumber. They love to slumber, not caring what becomes of their owner.

That is the way God pictures the blind preachers in the world today. They are preaching for filthy lucre and do not care for the souls of men and women. They look to their own way for gain. Such shepherds cannot feed the soul, and are not of God. They are blind; and Jesus said, “If the blind lead the blind, they both shall fall into the ditch.”

1 John 2:11, “He that hateth his brother is in darkness and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because darkness hath blinded his eyes.” Sin darkens the eyes, mind, and soul. When we are in darkness, we know not where we go. May God help precious souls to flee from darkness out into the glorious light

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of the Son of God where they can see bright pictures of the eternal world. Oh, that people would look at things that are not seen with the natural eye; look at the unseen things that are hidden from this world! Only those who come in contact with the Saviour can look at unseen things. We read in Titus 2:13, “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.” Oh, yes, dear ones, when we change the old life for the new, we begin to look different. We see things eternal; we look for that blessed hope; yes, we are looking for the time when we shall go to heaven and receive our crown of life. We are looking for the glorious appearing of the great God and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. You will notice the writer says, “the great God.” Glory joys bubble in my heart as I write. When we think of the “great God” whom we serve, oh, to meet Him with a clear heart will be worth more than all the world!

Now we read in 2 John 8, “Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.” May God help us to live near Him every hour lest we lose the things that we have wrought. If we will be faithful all down the way, we will receive a full reward; but if we fail and miss some time after our starting out in the service, we won’t get a full reward. When a man goes out to work, if he puts in full time he gets a full pay day; but if he misses some time, he doesn’t get full pay on pay day. Dear ones, we have no time to lose. We need to look to ourselves daily lest we lose out somewhere. Jude 21 says, “Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” When we keep ourselves in the love of God, it will then be easy for us to look for the mercy of God. When we are in God’s love we are holy, pure, and undefiled. Heb. 12:14, “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” To see the Lord in peace, we must be holy.

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We must live very humble in this world to be ready for Jesus. The humble souls yield to God in time of trials. They are looking for better things over in glory. “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” 2 Cor. 4:16-18. May the dear Lord help us to keep looking at eternal things; for in doing that, our souls will keep fed up and we shall be ready to meet the Lord when He comes.

Many people have looked back to the vain things of the world. We read in Luke 9:62, “And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” What a sad picture when folks look back! When one begins to look back, it won’t be long till he will be back. Lot’s wife looked back and lost her life. We will lose our spiritual life when we look back to the world and its follies. 1 John 2:16, “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” These things mentioned above will sink a soul fast, and when one gets his eyes on such, down, down, down to eternal night he will go.

The lust of the eyes is leading thousands of souls to destruction. If people would see the shortness of this life, they would look beyond these fleeting things here and see how needful it is to see the beauties of eternity. We can only do this by yielding to God and forsaking all to follow Him—yea, and forsaking our own life. When we die out to self we then can see things that are not seen with the natural eye.

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We read in Gen. 15:5 where God talked to Abraham, and said, "Look now toward the heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be." And Abraham believed the Lord, and He counted it to him for righteousness. There are wondrous things which we can behold as we look at God and believe Him. God has made many wonderful promises to His dear children, and if we, like Abraham, believe Him, we will enjoy more of His untold blessings. Abraham counted it so, what the Lord told him, and it came to pass. Oh, the blessings that followed Abraham and his seed! Those blessings reach us today. Praise the dear Lord! And as we take a look at God day by day and seek to follow on in His dear steps, we shall behold Him as He is some sweet day, with joy in our hearts. But, oh, friends, if we fail to serve Him, we shall not have joy in seeing Him face to face; but with terror we shall see Him. Everyone shall see Him, even those that pierced Him, they shall behold Him. God will look right down in our hearts, He will know every secret thing. Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart. Friends, may God help you to look in the right direction. Be true to your own soul, look at it in the light of God's Word. Get yourself ready for the coming of the Lord, then you will rejoice to see Him. You will love His appearing. May God bless you, is my prayer.

Oh, that every soul would make preparation for heaven! For soon this life will be over and eternity will begin with us. Friends, let us look at things just as they are. We know life will soon come to a close. We also know there is a God whom we shall meet; but the question we should ask ourselves is: How or what will be the condition of my heart when I meet Him? We have time now to make ready for that time. Lift up your eyes to the hills from whence cometh your help. Pray the Lord to enlighten your eyes, lest you sleep the sleep of death. (Psa. 13:3).

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When people go to sleep spiritually they cannot see themselves in a lost condition. We read in Prov. 21:2, “Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts.” Psa. 36:1, 2, “The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes. For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful.” People’s own eyes will deceive them if they do not look in the right direction. When we look at things like God looks at them, many times we will see ourselves in the wrong; but if we look at them to please self, we flatter ourselves and thus we become deceived. Let us be true to our own souls. Prov. 3:7 says, “Be not wise in your own eyes, but fear the Lord.” If we fear the Lord, we will look to Him to teach us His way. When we let God lead us, we will be eyes to the blind like Job of old (Job 29:15). What does it mean for us to be eyes to the blind? We can all live in a way that we will be lights for those in darkness, be eyes to them, so they can see how to come out of sin and out of darkness. We can either be eyes to lead them to heaven or we can be eyes to lead them to destruction. A great responsibility rests upon each of us.

In Isa. 3:16 it is written that the daughters of Zion walk with wanton eyes seeking to please the desires of the flesh—wanton eyes, wandering far away from the shores of safety. There are many dear ones in this condition today, going farther and farther away from the saving grace of God. When death is almost in sight, still dear people are seeking after the vain pleasures of this old world. In Isa. 5:15 we also read where the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled. The quicker the eyes of the lofty are humbled, the better off they are. Then the eyes of their understanding will be enlightened (Eph. 1:18). If dear people could realize that time is so short, eternity is long, they would let their laughter be turned to mourning and their joy to heaviness, and cry to God for mercy. Their eyes would be a fountain of tears

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like Jeremiah of old cried, “Oh, that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughters of my people!” Thousands and thousands of dear souls are slain by sin, going down the broad way to destruction. Why, oh, why are there not more tears shed? Oh, how sad when we see most people are so unconcerned about precious souls! What is the matter, dear folks? People’s eyes have been closed, they are dull of hearing and understanding. “Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.” Many professors of today are asleep and are not alarmed about their own spiritual condition nor that of anyone else. Dear souls, if you are not in touch with God tonight, you are lost, no matter how much you may profess. May God stir every dear heart and open your eyes and let you ALL see just how you stand before the Lord!

The Word of God is a looking glass. As you look into it, read it, study it from day to day, you will see yourself. It will show you up, and you can see yourself as God sees you. We read in James 1:22-25: “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto, a man beholding his natural face in a glass. For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.” May God help us to look into the perfect law of liberty and be a real doer of the Word and we shall be blessed in this world. Then when we come down to the River of Death we shall have bright pictures to look at as we cross over. Thank God, we can see the beauties of heaven, the Lamb of God, God himself, and the redeemed of all ages. Dear friends, this will be worth seeing. The

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joys of heaven will be wonderful. We can see the glory, feel it, and enjoy it throughout eternity.

“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.” Phil. 3:20, 21. Thank God, we have greater things to look at than these poor decaying bodies. As we lower them down in the cold damp earth and take our last look at them, praise our God, we can look beyond to a better world. God will change these vile bodies and give us glorious bodies like unto Him, and they will last as long as eternity rolls on. Oh, dear friends, look for things that will last eternally! Keep your eyes upon the goal! Look for the Saviour, our Lord Jesus Christ and see the beauties of heaven! Look at what it will mean for you to be there. Turn loose of the things of time; build for eternity; then you will have a happy, glorious ending—praise the Lord!

Hearing

Now, by the help of our Lord, we shall talk to you awhile about hearing. We read in Luke 8:18, “Take heed, therefore how ye hear.” This is very important. We surely need to take heed to how we hear. Sometimes when folks do not listen well they get things all mixed up and they don’t get everything that is said. Many times misunderstandings arise. In Rev. 2:7, we read, “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; to him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” Each one needs to listen to God’s voice, hear Him. To hear God with a heart that responds to His voice will cause us to obey Him; and that is what God means when He says to hear. Psa. 85:8, “I will hear what God the Lord will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.” Oh, yes, dear ones, when we listen to God, and obey Him, He will speak peace. Peace will follow those that hear the voice of God.

Deut. 31:12, “Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law.” If all men, women, and children would hear God, what a blessed world we would have in which to live. You will notice it says if they hear God then they can learn. How precious

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it is to be taught of God! Then we will learn to fear Him, listen to His voice, and obey His commands.

When we take heed how we hear, it will bring us to realize that we should hear only the voice of God. There are lots of voices in the world today that are doing all they can to get people to hear them. They are false voices that will lead away from the true path. The reason there are so many ways pointed out by man is because they failed to take heed how they heard. There are many voices today that speak so near like God's voice till we must be very cautious or we will hear something else besides God. Isa. 66:2, "But to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." When we hear God, we will tremble at His Word. We will fear God to the extent we will love to do what He says. Our hearts will be humble. Oh, dear ones, are you hearing God today? Are you seeking to serve Him with your whole heart? Do you love all His commands? Are they your meditation day and night? If we hear God we will love Him with all our hearts.

Ps. 40:6, "Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required." Many today seem to try to get through on good works. They will go a long way to give of their means. But dear ones, God wants hearts that will hear Him and live holy lives every day. He wants your ears open to hear Him. One may give all he possesses and lose his soul. We must hear God to be ready to meet Him.

Before Paul got saved, he persecuted the saints and caused many of them to give their lives. But "as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: and he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is

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hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.” Acts 3:7. When Paul heard the voice of God he knew it was God speaking. He arose from the earth and obeyed the Lord. Even though he could not see, he was anxious to do what God told him. The men led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. After Paul heard God, he became a power in God’s hands. He did not hear God while he was persecuting the saints. You will notice Jesus asked him, “Why persecutest thou me?” And Paul said, “Who art thou, Lord?” The Lord said, “I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.” This brings the Scripture to our minds in Matthew 25 where Jesus said, “Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these, ye did it unto me.” Oh, dear people, no one can touch God’s children without touching Him. How careful we should be about the way we treat each other. If we hear God, we will be careful to only do those things that we would do to Jesus if He were in our midst in person. Now we read in Acts 22:9 where Paul was speaking of the time when the Lord shined the light as he was going to Damascus. He said, “And they that were with me saw indeed the light, but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me.” Now the ninth chapter and seventh verse reads: “And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no man.” These men heard the voice but they did not understand. Paul heard the voice and understood just what the Lord wanted him to do. Many people go to hear the Word preached, but they just hear a voice, so to speak. They do not understand, therefore they do not hear. Luke 9:44, “Let these sayings sink down in your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men: But they understood not this saying, and it was hid from them,

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that they perceived it not.” In Matt. 13:9 it is written, “Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.” So many today only hear a sound, but they do not know God’s voice. Oh, dear people, we had better hear the Lord speaking now. In this life is the time to hear God. When we come to the judgment, His voice will be terrible for those who are not ready to meet God. There they will hear God’s voice, saying, “Depart from me, ye cursed into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”

“In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see and shall not perceive: for this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their hearts, and should be converted, and I should heal them” Matt. 14:14-15.

In the next verse he says, “But blessed are your eyes for they see: and your ears for they hear.” We will notice Jesus speaks of two classes of people. One class has closed their eyes and ears from His word, the other class opens both eyes and ears to hear and see. The two classes will come before the Lord at the judgment bar of God.

Jesus speaks of two ways. One of these ways leads down to eternal destruction; the other one leads to eternal life. The question we should ask ourselves is: on which of these roads am I? It will surely pay us to know that we are on the way that leads to heaven. Rom. 10:13-18, 20, 21, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and

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bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. But I say, Have they not heard? Yes, verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world . . . But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not, I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me. But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gain saying people.”

We sometimes wonder about the condition now. We see dear people who have been taught the truth, people that once knew God, and dear ones that are going right along with the Bride of Christ but failing to hear God’s words. God’s ministers are like Isaiah, they preach time after time to a disobedient and gainsaying people. What, oh, what will it mean for such folks to come into the presence of God? We read in St. John 5:24, “Verily, verily I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.” To hear God and believe on him will make a change in every soul that is in sin. They will come forth from a dead state into a lively state in Christ Jesus. The old life will disappear and a new life will begin. True repentance brings new life from the Son of God. Jesus said, “I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”

Mark 4:24, “And he said unto them, Take heed how ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.” Praise the dear Lord for ears that hear His precious word! Job said, “I have heard thee by the hearing of the ear but now my eye seeth thee.” Job heard with an ear of understanding. He was a perfect man and upright. He listened to

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God; he heard all of His sayings to him; and he obeyed them. But now he says, "Mine eye seeth thee." I think of the time when we shall see the Lord face to face. What glory there will be, if we have heard His word, to see Him as He is and be with Him in eternity.

In 1 Cor. 14:10, it is written, "There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification." 1 John 4:1-6, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: and every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error." Notice in the above Scripture that the false prophets are of the world and the world will hear them. How true this is! There are many false preachers today and the world will hear them. You see the world flocking after false preachers, but when the real truth is preached the world will not hear the truth. The devil has many false ways today, and he is coming as an angel of light. In these last days he works in a sly way, using lots of truth to deceive the very elect if possible. Oh, how we need to keep our ears open only to the voice of God, for thousands are being deceived today by the cunning ways of the devil! The unclean spirits like frogs are everywhere today, working a slick work to destroy souls. We read about them in Revelation 16: 13-15, 16, "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the

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mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.” Surely we are living in these days now when all kinds of false spirits are floating around; and if we do not keep our hearts and ears open to the truth, some of these frog-like spirits will slip into our hearts and deceive us. “Blessed is he that watcheth.” May God help His children to watch, for these are perilous times and our only safe place is in Jesus. The Lord doesn’t want his children to have anything to do with these spirits, for they are the spirits of devils—so says His Word. Their voices are going out in thundering tones to all the world, and many are hearing these voices. They do not know the sound of the voice of the Son of God. Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice,” and a stranger they will not hear.

When folks get tired and sick of these false voices, then they can hear the voice of God. Rev. 3:20, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice and open the door [open your heart], I will come in to him and will sup with him and he with me.” Oh, dear souls, may you open wide the door of your heart and let Jesus in. He is the true way; He will give you life; but all these false ways will lead you down to eternal night.

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter; Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil.” Eccl. 12:13.

Our Mind

Our mind is the channel through which things enter the heart. Nothing enters the heart until it first goes through the mind. How careful we should be not to entertain anything in our minds that will damage the soul. The devil oftentimes uses the mind of many precious ones. He piles on so much faulty stuff, if one will let him, until the mind gets loaded up. It then finds entrance into the heart, and folks will have to have God to help them get rid of what they have taken in. Oftentimes, from observation, things may look so real till it may seem it has to be that way. The mind takes in different thoughts, and when you put them all together things become so real till it seems it has to be so. This is where many souls have fallen into many snares, because they took in the wrong thing. It enters the heart through the mind. This is why it is so needful for us to think right. Right thinking will build a strong wall around the soul that will prevent the enemy from entering our hearts. Wrong thinking will let the bars down for every fowl spirit to have a chance to work on the soul. We read in Phil. 4:8, "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." If each of us will obey this scripture, the devil will not have a chance to work on a soul. Every bar will be lifted against him. There will not be a source through which he can enter the heart.

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Wrong thinking oftentimes gets folks into a terrible shape. It brings one to where he doesn't see good in anyone. Everybody is against him, to hear him talk; all the saints are against him; nobody cares. As the devil keeps piling on his junk, this one begins to doubt God and His Word. Faith leaks out, hope is gone, and the soul is so loaded up with what has been taken in through the mind until it is all covered with a dark cloud that brings despair and gloom. There is nothing to look forward to because the soul is so loaded up with what has been taken in by wrong thinking.

Oftentimes the enemy makes people think that no one cares for them. Maybe he will get the one he is working on to think that a certain one is working against him or her. Then he gets him to watching different moves that are made and different things that are said. Then the devil will say, "Don't you see they meant that for you?" As that one thinks it all over, he begins to build up against the other party. As he keeps thinking, more things come on the scene, and as time goes on there has been such a breach built between them till it begins to come out through actions. In many ways the devil works to destroy the soul. He oftentimes works on some to make them feel they are better than others, to make them feel they are holier and walking more closely to God than their brother and sister. Then he makes them feel they must separate from others that are not seeing things as they do. This all comes about by receiving things in the mind. It soon gets down in the heart, and the result is confusion.

We read in Isa. 26:3, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee." This is most important, that we keep our mind stayed on God. Too many in these evil days have their minds on earth and earthly things; and the result is, there is no lasting peace for them. There are many souls that are like the troubled sea, seeking peace and rest but never finding it because they are going to

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the wrong source to get it. Oh, that men and women would look to God and find the everlasting peace that would satisfy the mind and soul. In Heb. 10:16 we read, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws in their hearts, and in their minds will I write them." When people turn their hearts to God, then God will write His laws in their minds and put them in their hearts. Our minds will be humbled when we turn to the Lord with all our hearts. In Acts 20:9 we read of Paul serving the Lord with all humility of mind. God's love humbles hearts and minds. He searcheth the heart. Rom. 8:27, "And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." We may sometimes ask God for something that God will see best for us not to have. He searcheth our hearts and will make intercession for us according as He wills. How sweet it is to trust in One who knows what is best for us. The last part of the Scripture Isaiah 26:3, says, "Because he trusteth in thee." How precious it is to trust in God. When people trust in the Lord, their minds are on God. When they go out, they are thinking of God; when they come in they still have their minds directed toward heaven amidst the busy cares of life. The souls that trust in the Lord are thinking more about God than they are of the things of earth. They are looking forward to their reward; and God knows the thoughts of man. He searcheth the hearts and minds. We read in St. Luke 2:34, 35, "And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Oh, dear ones, think of that sword that pierced right down into the soul of the mother of Jesus when her Son hung between the heaven and earth. Surely that sword cut, as it were, every cord of her throbbing heart.

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But, oh, friends, this all came about that the thoughts of men's hearts would be revealed. The sword that pierced her heart was not a literal sword. It was that suffering agony she was going through when her Son was being killed. Her heart was bleeding in sorrow, her very soul was in the deepest of suffering. But, thank God, the suffering of that dear mother was for her good. The suffering of God's dear Son was turned into eternal triumph over all the powers of the enemy because He had a mind to do the will of His Father. And if we have a mind to serve God, even though it brings suffering on our part, through our suffering many times souls are blessed. May God help us to keep a mind to serve Him. The best that is in folks oftentimes comes out when they are going through great suffering. Whatever the dear Lord permits to come our way, we should always seek with one mind and mouth to glorify God. We can do this only as we yield to the Lord and keep yielded to Him, for the carnal mind is enmity against God, and God knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit.

Prov. 23:7, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." First the heart needs to be right for us to think right. When the heart is right, pure thoughts will come from the heart. Gen. 6:5, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Oh, how we should praise the Lord that He made a way whereby we could be delivered from the above state that man was in. Thousands of people are yet in that state, but there is a way provided whereby man can come out of that place into the living streams of everlasting life where the mind and soul will be absorbed in the things of heaven.

Before folks get saved, they are in the condition that Mark brings out in the 7th chapter, verses 21-23, "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications,

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murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these evil things come from within and defile the man.” In Matt. 22:37, Jesus said to one, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.” This is the state God wants man to reach. As long as our affections are divided between God and anything else, our love is not perfect. May God help us to love him with all our soul and mind.

In Isa. 55:7 we read, “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.” Thank God for such mercy to mankind. Man in his sinful state is corrupt in soul and mind, but God can change the soul of man and abundantly pardon from all sins and change the mind to go toward heaven. We read of the prodigal son in Luke 15. After he had spent all his living, had wasted his substance with riotous living, he came to want. Then he came to himself. Would to God, everyone would come to himself and see just how he stands before God. So many think, “Maybe I will make it somehow; maybe there will be a chance after awhile. After I have had a good time in this world, then I can get right with God.” Oh, friends, if you would come to yourself and see your lost condition just as God sees you, you would not want to put off salvation a moment. This prodigal son had a mind to do something. He said, “I will arise and go to my father.” And he put his thoughts into action. He went! The father saw him and had compassion on him. So it is with everyone that turns his mind toward Jesus. He will have compassion on your poor soul and rescue you from your sinful state and give you a salvation that will stand the storms of life. Jesus said in Matt. 11:28-30, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart,

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and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Many dear ones are yoked up with the devil. His yoke is heavy, and he makes it hard for people; but Jesus will lighten the load and will bless you with blessings untold. David of old said in Psalm 119:59, “I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.” If every dear soul would turn to the Lord, He would save them of so many troubles and heartaches in this world, and besides, give them a home in heaven in the end. But dear people are blinded to the snares of the devil. They do not realize the danger there is in staying away from God. We read in Acts of many of the persecutions of Paul. He purposed in his heart to do God’s will even though his life would be taken. His mind was set to finish his race in the fear of the Lord. We hear him saying, “I have fought a good fight.” He says in 2 Cor. 10:4, 5, “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” Jesus is a master for everything. When we have a mind to do His will, even our thoughts can be brought into the obedience of Christ.

We read in 2 Cor. 4:3, 4, “If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

You will notice that the gods of this world blinded the minds of those that believe not. Dear ones, can’t you see the danger there is in not believing? When one does not believe, he opens his heart for the gods of this world to blind his mind. False prophets by the thousands are preaching false doctrine, which blinds the minds of dear people. All the blinded ones will come to the judgment and hear

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the words: “Depart from me, ye cursed into everlasting destruction.” Friends, may God stir your hearts and help you to believe! When people are in an unbelieving state, they are filled with self-righteousness. Those Pharisees that came against Jesus were full of self-righteousness. Their minds were blinded because they believed not on the Son of God. They had evil thoughts about Jesus. They were void of the love of God. We read in 1 Cor. 13, “Charity . . . thinketh no evil.” Charity is the love of God. When we are filled with God’s love, we will not think evil. There are so many good things to think! Again we read Phil. 4:8, “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.” When we think on such things as these, our souls will delight in fatness; we will find ourselves growing in the most holy things. But not so if folks think like the rich man, spoken of in Luke 12. He thought within himself: “I will pull down my barns and build greater.” His mind was on this earth and earthly things. Perhaps he thought he was going to stay here a long, long time. His treasures were here in this world, his hope was on the decaying things of time. But what did God say to him? “Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee.” Oh, there are so many dear ones that are called on to go out of this world when their hearts are fastened to it, and the pulling away is hard because their affections are here. What does the Word say? “Set your affections on things above, not on the things on the earth.” If our affections are on things above when we come down to the borders of the river of death we shall rejoice because we are going to our treasures yonder in the glory world. We will be cut loose from every earthly thing. How sad it is to see people tied to this world. Friends, no matter how fast you may be tied to this world,

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you will have to leave it when death comes your way. All of your wealth will be left behind.

We read in Rom. 8:5-7, “They that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”

If we follow after the flesh we will die an eternal death from the presence of the Lord; but if we follow after the Spirit we will have eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ. What was the mind of Christ? Was it not to do His Father’s will? We read that even Christ pleased not Himself; so if we follow the Lord, we cannot please ourselves. We must have a mind to do God’s will even though it brings suffering on us. Jesus said in Luke 14:26, “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.” Also, He says that we must deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him to be His disciples. Where is your mind? Do you have it on Jesus today? Do you love Him with all your heart and mind, or do you have your mind on this world or yourself? All this is vain and will sink your soul in the end. Remember the Scripture: “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee.”

The Tongue

The tongue is one of the smallest members that we have, but we read in Prov. 18:21, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” How true this is. The tongue can be used to wound, crush, and bring sorrow, or it can be used to bring sunshine, gladness, and happiness in one’s life. The tongue is the handiest member we have. Anyone can use it without much effort. We can just sit still and utter words that would crush a precious heart for life. Or we could use it wisely and thus bring a precious soul out of the pit of discouragement just in a few moments time. May the Lord God of heaven help us all to know more how to use our tongue. Remember the above Scripture: “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” Now we do not take this to be the natural death. But when words are spoken that wound and crush, they bring a death blow to many dear hearts that extinguishes hope or blights prospects. Thus many give up in despair. Many dear souls will be lost because someone down the line gave out death from the power of the tongue. But there is something better to give out; there is life to be given out from the power of the tongue. What a blessedness for one to be filled with God’s goodness so there will be life flowing out from the power of the tongue, to have inspiring principle that will cause happiness in the favor of God!

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Since there is death and life in the power of the tongue, we would like to talk awhile on the death side and bring Scriptures that will help us to clearly understand what is meant by the above Scripture. Psa. 5:9 (speaking of the workers of iniquity), “For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is very wickedness; their throat is an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue.” When people’s hearts are wicked, they oftentimes speak cruelly, and those words will cause untold grief and sorrow. “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.” St. Luke 6:45. We also read in Psa. 10:7, 8, “His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue is mischief and vanity. He sitteth in the lurking places of villages: in the secret places doth he murder the innocent.”

Dear ones, there are many ways in which one can kill or murder. When mouths are full of cursing surely those weighty words fall upon heavy hearts somewhere and they bring gloom in precious lives that once were full of sunshine. Listen to what the Word says in Psa. 12:3, “The Lord shall cut off all flattering lips and the tongue that speaketh proud things.” There will surely come a time when God will thunder out His fiery judgment upon all those that have spoken perverse things: for He says every idle word that man shall speak he shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. Psa. 50:19, “Thou giveth thy mouth to evil and thy tongue frameth deceit.” Many in these days of peril are giving their mouth to evil. They are giving out death to many dear souls, and besides they are bringing eternal death and damnation to their own souls. Psa. 52:2, “Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.” Can you, my friends, see how the tongue can give out death? Words that cut like a razor will surely bring death.

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David of old said in Psa. 57:4, “My soul is among lions: and I lie down even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.” David did not mean his soul was among natural lions, but among people that had a lioness nature; those whose tongues were defiled and spoke words that cut like a sharp sword, bringing death or sorrow, grief and gloom in his life. Words that are spoken in this manner will surely sadden many dear hearts and bring sorrow through life perhaps.

Psa. 64:3 says, “Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bow to shoot their arrows, even bitter words.” Oh, the anguish that comes from bitter words! Think of it, friends, bitter words coming from the power of the tongue causing grief that weights the soul down in sorrow! Listen to what the 7th and 8th verses say: “But God shall shoot at them with an arrow; suddenly shall they be wounded. So they shall make their own tongue to fall upon themselves: all that see them shall flee away.”

Then we read Psa. 73:9, “They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.” Such folks even use the name of God in vain and bring grief to the great heart of God, for He knows every word that is spoken. Psa. 139:4, “For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.” O yes, dear ones, God knows all about every one of us and He will surely know us when we come before Him in judgment. Our life will read there just like it has read in this world. If we repent of our evil doing, God will wipe those things out of our life; but if not repented of, then they will be as an open book before us when we stand in the presence of God Almighty. In Psa. 120:3 the question is asked: “What shall be given unto thee? or what shall be

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done unto thee, thou false tongue?” Verse 4: “Sharp arrows of the mighty with coals of Juniper.”

In Prov. 6:17 we read where God hates seven things, and one of these is a lying tongue. You see, my friends, how God looks on those that give out death from the power of the tongue. Prov. 10:31 says, “The froward tongue shall be cut off.” Oh, the calamities that will come upon those that use their tongue in an ungodly way!

The wise man said in Prov. 12:19, “A lying tongue is but for a moment.” Yea, life here lasts only a short while and soon will vanish away; but, friends, those words that have been spoken will not die unless forgiven. Those words, those lies that have been told, will be just as fresh on your mind at the judgment as when you told them. Here in this world people get by with a lot of things, but nothing will slip by Jesus at the judgment.

Prov. 17:4, “A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips: and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue.” 20th verse: “He that hath a froward heart findeth no good: and he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into mischief.” Oh, the trouble that will come upon those that speak perverse things. Many times people tell an untruth to gain some of this world. They are just laying a snare for their own souls.

Prov. 21:6, “The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.” God looks down in the hearts of every one and He knows the motive of every heart. How can we stand in the presence of the Lord with a guilty conscience?

Isa. 59:3, “For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.” You will notice God names out different members of our body. First, He names the hands which are defiled;

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next, He names the fingers. They are stained with iniquity. Next, the lips are mentioned, for they have spoken lies. Next is the tongue that muttered perverseness. Don't you see, my friends, God knows all about us. Oh, pray that dear souls will be awakened and see how God desires for us to use these members of our body to glorify His dear name.

Jeremiah, speaking of folks that give out death from the power of their tongue, says (9:3), "And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the Lord." 8th verse: "Their tongue is as an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: one speaketh peaceably to his neighbor with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait." Oh, how deceitful some people are. They speak peace to your face but in their hearts they work deceit. Surely God's wrath will be poured out upon all wickedness. The tongue is a wonderful member that God has given to us if we use it in the right way, but if we don't use it to God's glory, it will do much damage. In James 3:1-3, we read, "My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able to bridle the whole body." Now we want to read in James 1:26, "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." Now, back to the 3rd chapter, verses 3-8, "Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they, may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold, also the ships, which though they be so great and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! and the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity; so is the tongue among our members, that

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it defileth the whole body and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed and has been tamed of mankind: but the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”

This is an awful picture James brings out concerning the tongue. First, let us notice the second verse: “If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man and is able to bridle the whole body.” Oh, friends, the tongue, I say, is the handiest member we have. Any of us could sit in our chair without a move and give someone a tongue lashing that would wound and bring tears; but to use the other members of our body we would have to put forth more effort. How careful we should be when we use our tongues! Almost every time when one is offended it is caused from what the tongue has uttered. The tongue is a little member and boasteth great things. “Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!” When we strike a match we have such a little fire, but we can touch the broom sage field with it and away goes the fire. So it is with the tongue; it is a fire. Just a little word spoken out of the order of God, and away goes the fire. It devours wherever it goes. It wounds, brings grief and tears.

Dear friends, there are better things for us. All beasts have been tamed by man, birds have been tamed, serpents have been tamed, but the tongue can no man tame. But the good news I bring to you is: God can tame the tongue. Until God tames the tongue, it is unruly, full of deadly poison. What will poison do? It will bring death. There is death and life in the power of the tongue. There is death in the tongue until God tames it, then after God tames it there is life in the power of the tongue. What a blessed privilege everyone has to come to the Lord and let Him make new creatures out of us. Paul says, “Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature:

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old things pass away; behold, all things are become new.” 2 Cor. 5:17. When we give over to God’s working in our soul, the tongue will be changed. We may have to work hard with God as He works to tame our tongue; but if we love God and our brothers and sisters and all of God’s human beings like God wants us to, we will want to be careful what we say about them. If a man steals, tells lies, or kills, we know he must repent if he ever gets to heaven. Then if someone steals another’s reputation with his tongue, he will have to repent. Many folks get saved, but as they give way to a false tongue, their religion becomes vain because they did not bridle their tongue. They may still claim to be a child of God. Oh, that all who profess to be saints of the Most High would put a bridle on their tongue! If we really stay in Christ, we will have to keep new salvation—never let it get old. We must keep new to keep our tongue tamed. Keeping new in the spiritual life is the secret of victory all down through life.

When God saves us we are new creatures in Christ Jesus, but we must keep new if we would keep speaking with a new tongue. We don’t send forth blessing and cursing. James says, “These things ought not to be.” We only send forth blessing. We won’t be backbiting our brother, sister, or friend; but we will speak from the heart that has been washed by the blood of the Lamb. All cursing and swearing will be gone, all idle speaking will go too, and words of no profit will be laid aside. What a wonderful change is wrought in the heart of man when God gets a hold of it. That little member that could not be tamed by man will now be tamed by God’s power in the soul. Praise the Lord!

Now we want to talk about the life that is in the power of the tongue. After one is saved he has life-giving words to give out to precious souls that are weary and worn by the trials and cares of life. God tells us in His Word to let our words be few upon the earth. He

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also says in the multitude of words there wanteth not sin. It is already there; sin is always found in many words. We read in Psa. 15 where David asked the Lord: “Who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?” The answer: “He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor.” God’s Word is forever settled in heaven. Talebearers, backbiters, and fault finders will surely be in want in the great Judgment day, for God’s woes will be pronounced against such. The Word says that talebearers separateth chief friends. What an ugly spirit a talebearer has to separate friends! Can you, my friend, see how sinful it is? God calls fault finders “hypocrites.” (Matt. 7:5). None of us want to be called a hypocrite, do we? Oh, Lord, we pray, help us to keep a bridle on our tongues so we will not throw out death to precious souls; but instead, life.

Life from the power of the tongue brings hope and cheer. It is far different from death. We read in Psa. 34:12, 13, “What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil and thy lips from speaking guile.” It seems God will add days to one’s life that keeps his tongue from evil.

Psa. 37:30, “The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh judgment.” Oh, that everyone would talk with wisdom from above; it is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without hypocrisy. Think of this, my friends. Nothing but purity comes from the mouth of those that have the true wisdom. There is nothing in the words of the wise that will wound and crush. They are peaceable words. Yea, they fall upon weary souls as gentle as the dew falls on the grass and

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flowers. They are words that are filled with mercy, which results in good fruit that many hungry, weary souls can feast upon.

Yes, words filled with grace will comfort, will bless many travelers that are loaded down with care. Yea, they are words without partiality and without hypocrisy. May God help every child of God to be filled with this precious wisdom that we may all speak only words that will lighten the load of those with whom we speak.

Prov. 10:20 says, “The tongue of the just is as choice silver.” Verse 21, “The lips of the righteous feed many.” Oh, dear ones, if we are not where our words will feed precious souls, we must be far away from the Lord; for a soul that is constantly feeding on heavenly manna will surely be able to help others with the words they say.

Prov. 12:18, “There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.” Oh, what a pleasure to bring health to precious souls that are starving for words that will uplift their hearts and point them to better things.

“A soft answer turneth away wrath.” Prov. 15:1. How often has this been proven! When someone is in the rage of anger, then soft words are spoken, the wrath is broken. Yea, soft words have power in them. They break down stubborn wills and will melt stony hearts, causing tears to flow. God help us to be able to speak soft, tender words. Verse 2 says, “The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright.” God will give wisdom to use understanding or knowledge aright if we seek Him for it. “If any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of God.” James 1:5.

Prov. 15:4, “A wholesome tongue is a tree of life.” What is more precious than a tongue bringing life to precious souls? Life is something that is desirable, something beautiful. You will notice in the dead of winter that most trees look dead, but when spring comes

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everything that has life will come forth. How beautiful it is to see those trees that look so dead put forth buds and bloom out with leaves and blossoms! This all comes about because the cold icy weather has ceased and the warm sun, wind, and showers are falling upon them. So when warm words, yea, sunny words and soothing words fall upon precious hearts that have been crushed as they went through many long deadly winter days of sorrow and grief, those words, I say, will bring life to such weary hearts.

Prov. 16:1, “The preparation of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord.” My friends, if we will let God, He will prepare our hearts so we can answer every man in a way that it will be easy for them to feel and see that we have been with Jesus. A little talk with Jesus ever so often will make words right. Praise the dear Lord! If we talk with the Savior enough, our words will be filled with goodness and our presence will put a quietness on those that speak wickedly as we come into contact with them. They will respect us—or at least, some will. Job 29:9, 10, “The princes refrained talking, and laid their hand on their mouth. The nobles held their peace, and their tongue cleaved to the roof of their mouth.” Job had lived such a faithful life that his friends respected him. No doubt they could feel they were in the presence of a heavenly, holy being when in his presence.

Again we read in Prov. 21:23, “Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.” None of us want troubles, do we? But many times lots of troubles are brought about by the way folks use their tongues. Many a dear wife has been wounded because of the hard cutting words that were said to her by her husband. No one on earth does she desire to speak kindly to her more than she does her husband; and, oftentimes, such words will cause untold trouble and sorrow that may last a life time. The above

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Scripture says, “He that keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from trouble.” God is able to help us keep our tongue from speaking words that will cause us trouble.

Prov. 25:23, “The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.” A look of reproof from a just person will stop backbiters many times. How much better it is to give a rebuke to such, than to join in with backbiting. Prov. 28:23, “He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue.”

Prov. 31:26 (speaking of a good woman) “She openeth her mouth with wisdom: and in her tongue is the law of kindness.” What is more helpful than kindness in the home? When duty is weighing heavy upon the mother and nothing but the law of kindness is heard from day to day as she presses through the many trials of life: it is indeed a blessing. Yea, God looks down upon such with great pleasure, and surely there will be a reward for faithful mothers that have been faithful through all the dark hours they have pressed. I do not know of anyone that has more trying and annoying trials than dear mothers who have the burdens of caring for their little ones from day to day. But the God of heaven can and will help dear mothers to be patient and kind through the many trials, and thus give them a haven of rest when their duty on earth is done, if they will be faithful.

The righteous have all the good promises in God’s Book. We can take hold of these promises only as we keep His commandments. The keeping of our tongue in line with God’s Word takes a more diligent watch than any of the other members of our body. As I have already said, the tongue is so handy and easy to use.

In Isa. 54:17 we read, “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in

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judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.” What a glorious thing to be a child of God! No weapon that is formed against a child of God can prosper, and every tongue that rises against God’s child will come to naught. I’d rather be God’s child than to own all the silver and gold of this world. He is able to help us talk right and use our tongues to glorify Him.

Psa. 39:1, “I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me.” How easy it is to sin with the tongue. We pray, Lord, help us like David of old to take heed to our ways lest we sin with the tongue. “For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it all together.” Psa. 139:4. Yes, dear ones, the Lord knows all we say and do. Our tongue can be a source of life to the many burdened souls around us if we will let God tame it from day to day. This will come about by our continual coming into the sweet presence of the Lord, having a little talk with Him ever so often. Then He will keep us. We read in Psa. 31:20, “Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.” Again we praise the Lord! What a blessedness to be kept from the strife of tongues! No matter what folks say about you, they cannot harm you if you are in His secret pavilion. No matter what kind of an uproar is in the neighborhood, we can be kept from all the strife of tongues. We do not have to join in with the backbiting crew.

How sweet it is to let God order our words. We read in Prov. 25:11, “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.” I don’t know just what all the writer had in mind in this Scripture, but gold in silver would surely bring about something beautiful to behold. So words that are fitly spoken will surely leave

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bright pictures and memories for one to look back upon with joy, which will bring bright pictures for the future. There have been many sad regrets because words have been spoken which cut and wounded wherever they fell. When loved ones are laid beneath the sod, many pictures roll up before one's face. Whether they are bright pictures or sad ones, they will be there to either bring joy or regret. If it is regret, no matter how much you suffer you cannot recall one of these words. They will be there in the mind to come afresh every now and then, which will make grief heavier. Time after time memories pass through the mind; words that are spoken either bring joy or grief, peace or pain, sunshine or shadow. Oh, may our dear heavenly Father help us all to watch our words more! Yesterday's grace is not sufficient for today. We must watch our tongue every moment through the day or something will fall from our lips that will wound some precious soul. How quickly the moments are flying by! Soon we all will be in eternity! How we should guard our words so that when we meet each other at the judgment we will not feel condemned when we look each other in the face. We all will be there and our life will appear there just as it is here. If we have put our sins and mistakes all under the blood there will be a clear record for us to behold, which will bring pleasure, joy, and happiness throughout eternity. But if our sins are not under the blood of Christ, they will come in behind us to condemn us through all eternity.

As I sit here writing, my mind goes back to by-gone years. Generation after generation has lived and died. Each has had its time in this world. Each has thrown out either good or bad influences. As I think of time, how quickly we all are coming down to the end of our life just as those before us, and soon time will come to an end. Then we all must come to the Judgment and give an account of our lives. What a wonderful thing it will be if we have lived for the Lord, to have served Him with our whole heart, given Him our whole

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being and every member of these bodies, and have worked in His order while here in this world. Friends, I say we will have something to rejoice over.

Many dear ones have gone down through years of sorrow because someone down the line threw out death from the tongue, while others have gained victory over trials and dark hours because someone threw out life from the tongue. Many will enjoy eternity with Jesus all because someone gave them life from the power of the tongue, while others will be lost in eternity's night because of death that has been given out from the power of a deceitful tongue. Death from the tongue will separate friends, break up homes, bring sorrow and grief untold; while life from the power of the tongue will bring joy, heal wounds, and bring sunshine to many weary souls. We pray, help us, Lord, to give out life from the power of our tongue.

May God bless every reader of this book, is my prayer.

Guard your words, my brother and sister,
For words can joy or sorrow bring;
They can sweeten a life in trouble
Or crush a life with their sting.

They can bless like the warm sunshine
And brighten a lonely life,
Or they can cut when spoken in anger
Like a sharp two-edged knife.

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Let them come from a heart of tenderness,
 Speak them so true and kind;
And they will support the weary
 And comfort bring to the blind.

Not from a bitter, revengeful spirit
 Let your words be said,
For they may fall beneath weeping sorrow
 On a heart like heavy lead.

Keep them back if they are cold and cruel,
 Far better they'd be under lock and seal.
The wounds they make, my brother,
 Are always very slow to heal.

May peace guard your life ever,
 And may words keep tender as youth,
That they may give life as you daily utter
 Words, yes, words of beautiful truth.

—Lottie Joiner.

