

# Faith and Victory

Arm thyself with FAITH and LOVE; this brings VICTORY from above.

VOLUME 1.

"This is the VICTORY that overcometh  
the world, even our FAITH." 1 Jno. 5: 4.

GUTHRIE, OKLA.

NUMBER 7.

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## GOD CAN

Trust Him when thy wants are many;  
Trust Him when thy friends are few;  
And the time of swift temptation  
Is the time to trust Him too!

Trust Him for the "grace sufficient"—  
Ever equal to thy need;  
Trust Him always for the answer  
When in His dear name you plead.

Trust Him! He is ever faithful;  
Trust Him—for His will is best;  
Trust Him—for the heart of JESUS  
Is the only place of rest.

"I know that Thou canst do everything" (Job 42: 2).

"Is there anything too hard for Me?" (Jer. 32: 27).

"If nothing is too hard for Thee,  
All things are possible to me."

These two small words suggest tremendous possibilities. They present to our minds a glorious fact, which, if accepted as a governing principle of life, will produce the miraculous—"GOD CAN."

"I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me," said the Apostle Paul, but ere we can hope to realize the full value of such a precious truth, we must be taught the deep meaning of that other truth, viz., "Without Me ye can do nothing."

Perhaps we enquire, "How much can God do?" Methinks there is no limit of what He can accomplish in and through those who utterly, unreservedly, and irrevocably abandon themselves to His control. "Able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Eph. 3: 20). "He performeth all things for me" (Psa. 57: 2). Here are unfathomable depths, heights of spiritual achievement beyond our utmost expectations. Here is a vision, which if realized will transform your whole life, making it resplendent with the glory of Him who is "full of grace and truth." "With God all things are possible." O the boundless sweep of such a divine utterance. And faith links you on to this measureless might; puts you in possession of this transcendent power. Yes—"GOD CAN."

Perchance in times past you have reversed these words, and thus instead of a fearless avouchment of

a blessed truth, viz., "GOD CAN," you falteringly and timorously said, "CAN GOD?" Like Nichodemus you said, "How can these things be?" In the face of formidable difficulties you have shrunk from the conquest of the land of promise, of which God said, "Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon shall be yours." But you hesitated, you consulted your feelings, you made an estimate of your strength and compared it with that of the enemy, forgetting that—

"Who in the strength of JESUS trusts  
Is more than conqueror."

How often you have limited Him, and suffered spiritual impoverishment as a consequence. Too often you have interpreted His Word by your circumstances, instead of doing vice versa. You have sought to reduce His revelation to the level of your experience. Why not allow Him to bring your experience up to the standard of His Word? Remember—

"Alive evermore, HE's a Savior indeed,

HIS fulness surpassing your uttermost need."

What of that problem which presses so heavily upon your spirit, casting a shadow o'er your whole life? Has it never occurred to you that "GOD CAN" solve it? His wisdom is exhaustless. "Commit thy way unto the Lord." Commitment will bring contentment.

What of that secret sin which eats as a canker at the very vitals of your spiritual life? "GOD CAN" deliver you here and now. There is complete deliverance as you yield yourself to the "law of the Spirit of life." The victory has been purchased on Calvary, it awaits your appropriation.

What of that fear which prevents you witnessing for Jesus? "GOD CAN" unseal your lips and fill them with messages for Him. "GOD CAN" touch your mouth and anoint you with power to speak at His bidding. "Open thy mouth and I will fill it."

What of that business difficulty which threatens to involve you in financial disaster? As you watch the storm clouds gathering you are filled with dismay. Dear child of God, HE is El Shaddai—the "Enough God." He will not fail you in this crucial moment. This is your extremity, but it is also His opportunity. Roll the weight of this heavy thing upon Him.

What of that unsanctified attachment which keeps you from whole-hearted allegiance to JESUS? You cannot sing "Ever, only, all for Thee." It has led you out of touch with the Lord. There is

an ebb in the flow of your joy, an eclipse of His precious face. "GOD CAN" put first things first in your life. Let Him have His way with you.

What of that Sunday School Class about which you feel so discouraged, that mission work in which for years you have been engaged without visible results? "GOD CAN" make those dry bones live; that desert shall blossom as the rose. Though the promised outpouring tarry, wait for it, it will surely come. God is faithful.

Have you suffered some irreparable loss? "GOD CAN" convert it into substantial gain. He can remove the sting and give the oil of joy for the spirit of heaviness.

Have you experienced some bitter disappointment? This is one of the "all things" that will work out His plan for you. Struggle not but sink into Him and prove His power to keep you in perfect peace and rest.

I thank Thee, Lord, that Thou hast shown  
And I begin to see  
What Thou canst be to all Thine own  
What they may be to Thee.  
If only they will yield Thee all,  
And lovingly obey Thy call."

—SEL.

#### GOD'S GRACIOUS BENEFITS

To the saints scattered abroad, greetings: I feel it would be to the glory of God for me to relate a few of my experiences with the Lord. In July, 1871 I gave my heart to the Lord. I lived a Christian life for several years, but backslid. In June, 1902, I first read of a people that were "earnestly contending for the faith once delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). The literature was given to me, and I took it and went home and got my Bible, papers and dictionary and sat down to read. When I finished reading I was fully convinced that they were indeed the children of God. I fell upon my knees and thanked God that I had found a people that lived according to His Word. How I longed to meet them. I knew it was the Bible way.

I tried hard to get back in touch with the Lord, where I once was. I wept and prayed but did not feel that the Lord heard. So in 1904 I started for Newton County, Texas, where some of the dear saints lived, though they were all strangers to me. I travelled over four hundred miles and got there Jan. 12th, and in February a minister came and held a meeting, and when the Word went forth straight and pure I found I was in a worse state than before I was first converted (Matt. 12: 45). So I began to fast and pray, and the dear saints also prayed for me. After fasting for three days and nights, I went to the altar. The minister came and prayed for me, but I felt worse after he prayed than before. After he had gone and prayed for others he came back to me. I could not believe so he laid his hands on my head and commanded the doubting spirit to leave me, according to the power the Lord had given him

in Jesus' name, and after he prayed I felt the binding spirit was gone. I believed the Lord in His great love and mercy had forgiven all my backslidings. Oh, the joy that filled my soul. I could hardly sleep for two or three nights. It was a rejoicing time with me. I had peace in my soul. I was so afraid of storms before I was saved, but with the peace of God in my breast, I could now lie down in His arms, and sleep as a child, having the assurance that all was well with my soul.

I was very badly afflicted in my body when I found the people of God. I wanted to see if they practiced divine healing as they preached it. I found they did, and proved by the Word that healing was in the Atonement. "By His stripes we are healed" (1 Pet. 2: 24). Oh, the wonderful love and mercy of God to the children of men. I had neuralgia for a long time. It had begun to go to my heart and I was expected to die at any time. I had a sore in my stomach I thought was a cancer, and had what the doctor pronounced complicated asthma. I tried all the doctors could do for me. I knew healing was in the Atonement, and having the assurance that the good Lord had restored unto me the joys of salvation, (not knowing that God's Word said, "Call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord" (James 5: 14), I went off alone in the woods and got down on my knees before the Lord. I knew I was right in His sight, and I told Him about all my afflictions, that I could not live with them, and now as far as I knew I was right in His sight, and told Him that His Word said, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you: ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15: 7). Then I asked Him to take all my afflictions away, and I arose from prayer well, perfectly healed. All my afflictions were gone, praise our God. What a mighty God we serve, and He does verify all His promises. I want to say as the Psalmist David, "Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and forget not all His benefits. Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases" (Psa. 103: 1-3). It will be twenty years next month since all this happened, and I can say I am still saved, sanctified healed, and kept by power divine.

On Jan. 3, 1905, I fell from a train and was hurt seriously. My left side was hurt very badly. The doctor said my left lung was crushed, my ribs were broken loose from my backbone, and my back and hips hurt too bad to do anything for me except give me something to ease me, and if I lived long enough I would have a bad cough. I told him I did not want a dose of medicine. I was trusting the Lord for soul and body. I was taken home. I could not hear, and had the cough and three hemorrhages. They said one half gallon of blood came out of my mouth from my lungs each time, and that I was bound to die. There was no one there to pray for me, they did not believe in divine healing. For one day and night I could not talk, and they were saying among themselves I was going to die. But God gave me

the assurance He would heal me. I called for paper and pencil and wrote that I did not believe God would let me die among a people that did not believe He could heal. There was a hole in my lung and I could hear the rattling and feel the pain all the time. My back was so weak, but I am here to tell you when it was God's will to give me faith above feelings, I was healed. About 9 o'clock God gave me faith to take His Word above feelings. I went off in my closet and prayed and I was healed instantly. There was no more cough, pain or rattling, and my back was stouter than before I was hurt. In two or three days I was out working in the garden. Praise God, He is just the same today (Heb. 13: 8).

Some of the people came to try to get me to sue the Railroad Company for \$35,000.00. They told me of another person that was not hurt as bad as I making suit and then compromised with the Company for \$10,000.00. I told them I would not enter into any kind of law suit. They told me I could just make them believe I would sue them and I would get the \$10,000.00. I told them that I would not disobey the Word of God and go to law with the Railroad Company and sell my soul for \$35,000.00, nor would I tell a lie, by trying to make them believe I would sue them, for \$10,000.00. The people where I was staying, and who were talking to me this way had a motive to get some of the money, and because I stood firm against it, I had to leave their house. Praise God, He has taken care of me, and to Him be all the praise and glory.

I want to say that when the Lord saved my soul and healed my body, I put all my medicine in the fire and promised to trust God for both soul and body the rest of my days. I have not taken any, or had any rubbed on me, or drank teas or had poltices put on me; but I have had bad boils, blood poisoning, cramps, bloody flux, chills, flu, catarrh in my head, rheumatism in all my joints, high fevers, rheumatism of the heart, my finger smashed, and a rose cancer in my mouth. Both of my parents died with this, but two hours after I was prayed for the cancer disappeared. Last winter I was healed of a severe cold, fever and cough.

A year after I was healed of neuralgia I was out planting potatoes and it came back on me. The devil said it was cold and damp and I had neuralgia because I went out and planted potatoes in the cold. I told the devil he was a liar from the beginning and I did not have neuralgia. I was healed and did not have it any more, and no matter what I did I was healed and was as capable of planting potatoes as anyone else. In twenty minutes I was completely healed and have never had it since. I have had many afflictions, but the Lord has delivered me out of them all (Psa. 34: 19), according to His own precious Word, in answer to the prayers of His dear saints and my own feeble petitions. "Oh, that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men" (Psa. 107: 31).

Time and space do not permit me to tell of all His wonderful dealings with my soul, but I am glad I can say I am still trusting the Lord today, and I am writing this to encourage some suffering ones, and to help those who have put their trust in Jesus. He is One that will never fail those who put their trust in Him. I have been trusting Him for twenty years, and I can recommend Him as a God that is true to His Word. I am now 78 years old and I am trusting the Lord to supply all my needs. He has never failed me. He does more for me than I can ask or even think. "In *everything* by prayer and supplication with *thanksgiving*," I let my requests be made known unto the Lord, and not to man. By His grace I mean to trust Him until He calls me home. Please pray for me that I keep true, low and humble unto the end.

—MARY SPRADLING.

924 W. Mansur Ave.,

GUTHRIE, OKLA.

#### "BIBLE TONGUES vs. FAMILIAR SPIRIT JARGON"

"They say that speaking in these tongues is Bible evidence of having the Holy Ghost, and that the tongues is the Holy Ghost speaking.

Overwhelming proof forces them to acknowledge that the devil gives some of their people the tongues. They also acknowledge that they cannot tell the difference between the devil's gift of tongues and what they call the God-given gift. That being true according to their own statements, speaking in tongues is not Bible evidence of having the Holy Ghost. The tongues folks told me of one of their men who spoke German while here in Waco. I began to investigate and it seems that he really did speak German. Then I wanted to know the man's name who did the speaking, but they refused to give me any information about him saying, "That is none of your business." Now, of course he was a German or someone who had learned German and they did not want me to expose a man who is so useful to the cause. All the leaders in this movement know that the tongues will not bear being interpreted or investigated.

That woman with a patent leather belt on, while jabbering in their service awhile ago, spoke one word in Spanish, and repeated it several times. It was 'Camote,' and means sweet potatoes. Now, according to their theory that was the Holy Ghost trying to convert these Mexicans by saying sweet potato, sweet potato, sweet potato. When I hear them charge the Spirit of God with such foolishness I feel a dreadful chill come over me."

[The above quotation is an extract from a book written by Ben Erickson which shows up extremism and uncovers muttering spirits. This book is valuable for you to give to a soul that is listening to and being troubled by the many familiar spirits that are manifesting themselves in these perilous times. The author has supplied us with a quantity of these books which contain 91 pages each, and we shall be glad to send them to you for the price of twenty-five cents each, post paid.]

## FAITH AND VICTORY

FAITH and VICTORY is published and sent out in the interest of Jesus to His little flock scattered abroad, by yielded members of His Body at Faith Publishing House.

Faith and Victory will be sent free of charge to all who ask for it, as often as God permits by leading, blessing and supplying.

(There will be no charges ever made against you for Faith and Victory.) Address:

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE,

611 W. MANSUR ST., GUTHRIE, OKLA.

We send New Year's Greetings in Jesus' name to our dear Brethren and readers everywhere, praying God's blessings upon you, and that He may make you profitable in His service during 1924. The trials, tests and battles of the past year have been many. No doubt many of you have been deeply burdened with us. Please continue to pray earnestly that Faith and Victory may continue to go forth as heretofore, and be even a greater blessing this coming year than ever before.

If you do not read Faith and Victory, and none of your family care for it, we would be glad if you would notify us, so we could remove your name from our list. If you read the paper and are blessed and helped thereby, we would be glad to have the name of some other person who you feel would appreciate its contents.

Faith and Victory shall not be used by any one with a motive of sowing discord among brethren. We expect its pages to be filled with clear-cut Bible truths. It is the truth that makes souls free from compromise. It is the truth that encourages faith in God.

God has set all the members in the body. Helpers, as well as ministers, fill a very important place, if faithful to their calling.

Those who are compromising can reason like a philosopher to justify their letting down. They do not realize that while they are doing this they slowly, but surely, are blinding their own hearts as to what a walk by faith means.

Brethren, the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God, and the plea of trying to save money for the saints and others at the expense of truth, trust and faith in God, is light that is darkness. It is not the way of faith.

God is not weak, neither is He poor in purse, for the earth and the fulness thereof belongs to the Lord. Also the cattle on a thousand hills are His.

It is one thing to know the way of faith and tell others; and it is another thing to act it out and prove to God and men your faith by your works.

Jesus took the few loaves and fishes and brake them, giving thanks unto His Father (and your Father) and, as He gave out, the loaves and fishes were multiplied and a great company were fed.

Brethren, as you give of your means to spread the gospel, thank God for giving it to you to give, and ask Him to bless it and make it feed many souls. We have learned that a little given freely with God's blessings upon it is much more than large sums without His blessings.

Jesus said, "If the light in you be darkness, how great is that darkness." In speaking of the light that is darkness, we call to mind how some have drifted into worldliness. The light that was darkness became very noticeable to all who were living in touch with God and walking in His precious light. One writer in trying to justify themselves said, "We have gotten to be a full grown man," "We have found a better way." And thus many have taken darkness for light and they either reason themselves into such a state, or else let others do so.

Jesus says, "And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."

The voice of God cries, "Come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Rev. 18:4).

"John Huss went to the stake rejoicing and with a heart full of forgiveness. He would not deny His Christ. We do not have those heart trying persecutions, but on the other hand we have to fight against 'spiritual wickedness in high places,' false doctrines etc., which in the end will cause us to deny our Lord unless we are 'rooted and grounded' in the truth."

The Lord has been giving precious cottage meetings and also at the Poor Farm. We have been visiting the hospital and souls have been receiving benefit for both soul and body. We love the service of Jesus. We know our labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Some souls are always desiring to go some where so they can get into the work of the Lord. This is a good desire, but generally they need to get close enough to the Lord so they can see the much work they can do for God in their present surroundings.

Is it not proper to teach men to give of their substance for gospel work? Paul in teaching on giving said, "If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?" (1Cor. 9:11). In other words Paul was telling them if one was feeding them spiritual food, was edifying and encouraging them to stand in the faith, was putting in his time receiving and giving them messages from heaven, that it ought not to be a surprising thing for those so receiving to supply his temporal needs.

## THE STATE ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly of the Church of God at Guthrie has adjourned and many souls have been blessed and fed on heavenly bread. Many precious thoughts that were brought out will linger in the hearts of the saints and will be built up and added to by the Holy Ghost. The Assembly was well attended and ministers from various parts of the state were present to preach the Word, and the blessed truth went forth with power and authority. Several souls were saved, some sanctified and others healed. From the very start of the meeting, liberty and victory was manifested and the preaching grew better and more precious and our souls received a round-up gospel, as God chose and used different members of the Body. Often you could hear the expression used, "It is good to be here," for we had "good measure, heaped up, shaken together and running over." The congregation was white and colored and made a pretty picture as their faces beamed with the joys of salvation, and some of the ministers remarked from the pulpit that it was "Heaven's bouquet," for saints feel the fellowship in the Spirit and forget about color.

We are persuaded that the old ministers of this last reformation were living close to God and He gave them the truth and showed them to lay off all adornments and cease to do all other things that were of the flesh, and much glory shown forth as they held up the Word against all superfluity and fleshly, worldly amusements. But, sad to say, many that were filled with the Holy Ghost and power have lowered the standard and are putting on many things that God showed them to lay off; and that is not all: we have some among us that say, "If this or that had never been preached against and laid off, we could wear this or that article of adornment without feeling wrong about it." It would be better for those who feel that way about it to put adornments on and flock with those of whom they are. Brethren, there is nothing in our heart that wants to put on adornments (even though very small) should all of the professed saints put them on. The flesh is to be crucified and all the lusts thereof. It is time that God's ministers awake from slumber, and that we hear more of the old time cry, "Come out of her my people."

There is so much compromise these days covering itself under the blanket of love. Brethren, if we are filled with God's love we will hate everything that God hates, and it will cause us to cry out against all the works of the flesh for, "When judgment is in the earth, men learn righteousness." It is the truth that causes Godly sorrow and brings men to repentance, so let us as ambassadors of Christ herald forth the truth clear and plain as God gives power and ability, and not sympathize with weak, compromising spirits that desire to make merchandise of you and of the gospel. Brethren, our greatest warfare is against wicked spirits that are well covered from many, for it is written in Rev. 16: 13-14, "And

I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of the great day of God Almighty." And as it was brought out by Bro. Walker at the Assembly in his sermon on "Casting out Devils" that they were like frogs as the Scripture reads. They are very slick and when you go to put your hand on him he is some where else, and when you try it again he hops to another place and thus he lives on and on.

We declare that there are many miracles being performed by the power of Satan working through false prophets and teachers, and many manifestations and unseemly actions are being wrought, and many are being deceived. God's Word says, and the spirit that is within me says, "Come out from among them, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (2 Cor. 6: 17-18). We are persuaded that "Pure and undefiled religion" means more than curious manifestations and miracle performing.

There were some things brought out during the assembly that ought to bring to shame every professed saint that is holding on to the things of this world, and cause them to sell some things they have and give alms, that their treasures may be in heaven. Some may say that we need a better system of giving. No, dear brother, it is not a better system of giving we need, nor is it any system at all that we need. The thing we need is to be filled more with the life from above, by being stripped for the race, insomuch that we can hear God's voice talking to our souls and telling us what to give and where to give. There is no doubt in my mind if we live close to the Lord and continue to keep consecrated, God would sometimes send us to the ministers or gospel workers and inquire of their needs. For Paul says, "If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?" (1 Cor. 9: 11).

We are not speaking of these things without knowledge, for God has tested us out along these lines during the time we had means, and we feel it would be helpful to some for us to mention one instance of His dealings with us along the line of giving. Several years ago there was a lady missionary visiting among us, and the day before she left the Lord told me to give her some money. I considered the matter and decided to give her five dollars, but didn't feel satisfied, and in talking to the Lord about it we said in our heart that we would give her ten dollars, but yet the Lord said more, and we raised it to twenty-five, then to fifty dollars, and still came the voice, "More yet." So we kept raising the amount until before she left we handed her a check for one hundred and fifty dollars and then we felt comfortable. Brethren, we ought to give until we feel comfortable and we are

sure if this is done that the work and workers for souls will not suffer on our account.

The last sermon at the Assembly was preached on Sunday night by Bro. Crawley of Boley, Okla. He preached on the "Church of God" and showed up sectism in a clear manner, and cried, "Come out of her my people." He also showed how men could call themselves saints and take the name of the Church and at the Judgment day take their place in hell. He showed us that it was the life and not the profession that will put on immortality when Christ comes through the clouds and the last trumpet sounds, and if that life is not found in you, then you will not arise to meet Him in the air, but will find yourself spued out of His mouth. Take warning, dear souls, you who are lukewarm, stiffnecked, or self-willed, your doom will be terrible and that without end, for God is faithful to perform that which He has promised.

After this message of love and truth came the parting which showed the love the saints have one to another, and as we saw and meditated upon the ministers and other saints scattering out in different directions, a burden and a prayer came forth that God would keep His hand on each one and preserve them unto His coming. So we continue to pray that God will bless every one of you and help you not to be conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds, and may it be the good will of our Father for us to meet again and rejoice together as at this time. With much care and concern for all of you.

—FRED PRUITT.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Guthrie, Okla.—To the Saints of God scattered abroad: Christian greetings. I am glad I can report victory in my soul. Truly, I can testify that I am saved to all I know. I have never gone back to any sin that Jesus saved me from. One time I was held in bondage by the works of the flesh., the motions of sin worked in my members. I was by nature shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me, but now Jesus has redeemed me and my soul is set free. "Free, free, free! *I am from sin set free,*" and I am satisfied in this way. This world has now no charms for me. I am just satisfied with the joy there is in Jesus. I am looking daily unto Him for my joy and satisfaction. I am consecrated to work with my hands, or preach, or do anything He shows me to do. I do not have a reserve in my soul. If the Lord had wanted me to move some place else after I came to Guthrie, and had shown me clearly, I would have said, "Amen, Lord, I will go," and I am still consecrated to move any place or stay here. My heart says, "Lord, please let me abide in *Thy* will."

Praise the Lord. I have the best experience in my soul I have ever had with the Lord. Jesus is more real to me. In prayer and in preaching the Holy Ghost just takes my mouth and tongue and talks through me: "If any man speak, let him speak

as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 4: 11). Oh, how happy I am now that I straightened up my back life. Some things were so hard, but Jesus made the way easy, and oh, what anointing and full assurance from heaven Jesus gave me. The main thing in salvation is to get started right. We must have two weapons to start right: that is *the fear of God* and *Godly sorrow*. Truly they will work a clearing of yourself inasmuch that you will know that you are a new creature. When you get all your back life straightened up and God forgives you (Ezek. 33: 15) then in *everything* you will be enriched by Him, in all utterance and in all knowledge (1 Cor. 1: 5). Get acquainted with yourself. Say, "Lord, help me to see myself as Thou dost see me." Then your gold rings will go (1 Tim. 2: 9); no more going to shows and worldly entertainments (Gal. 5: 21); no more immodest dresses (1 Tim. 2: 9); no more getting a little bitter and pouting (Eph. 4: 31). Paul says the Lord will deliver us from every evil work (2 Tim. 4: 18). I believe every word of it. Praise the dear Lord.

The Assembly Meeting has closed and the saints have returned to their homes. The Lord gave us a good and precious meeting. The Word went forth with the anointing of the Holy Ghost and several got saved, and the saints were truly built up and encouraged. Many saints and ministers from various parts of this state and also from other states were present and thanked and praised God together.

Please pray for me that I keep in the love and will of the Lord.

R. 3 Box 102.

—B. F. DAVIS.

Lititz, Pa.—Dear Bros. and Sisters in Christ: I am glad to testify that I am saved from sin, Babel's confusion and strife. Praise God, I am happy in my Savior, glad for salvation. Salvation means saved from all sin, not in our sins as many, many claim. I am glad the good Lord opened my eyes and showed me the one true way that leads from earth to glory, praise God. I am trusting the good Lord for my healing. Some time ago a stone fell on my big toe and bruised it so that the nail came off. I could not wear my shoe for a few days, but praise the good Lord, He healed it and I was soon able to go to work again. I am going to trust and obey Him as long as I live. Pray for me, for we are only poor weak mortals of ourselves, but through Him that loved us we can overcome all things.

I received Faith and Victory and I do rejoice to read it. It had wonderfully good testimonies last month, the best it seems I have ever read in it. Praise God, this shows to me that the good Lord has a few here and there that are true to Him. I have often wished I could be where more saints are, but it seems to be my lot not to be, so I will be contented until I reach the other side where they are by the thousands and thousands of thousands, praise God.

It seems the people don't want the truth in our town any more. I have given out a good many papers and tracts already. About all we can do is to live straight lives before them and pray for them.

Please hold me up before the throne of God. I desire complete victory over my rheumatism. I am looking to the Lord for healing. The song says, "Trust and obey." That is what I am doing. May God bless you all and watch between thee and me till we meet.

Yours in Him,

—BRO. H. H. SHANK.

Clovis, N. Mex.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt and beloved ones in the Lord. Greetings in Jesus' dear name and love. I am praying God's blessings upon you and your labor for Him and souls, wishing you a very prosperous and happy New Year in the Lord and His cause, with many souls for your hire. I have so long thought of writing you, but being quite frail in body much of the time, and other hindrances have prevented me from doing what I earnestly desired to do. Yet if we do what we can, whether much or little, if it is from the right motive it is not forgotten before the Lord. He is so good and gracious to us and His mercies and blessings are increasing daily to me, the least of all that have ever named the name of Christ, yet I do thank and praise Him for His great love, forbearance and longsuffering toward me. I see my nothingness and His greatness more and more every day. While I cannot do very much any more, yet my consecration and decision goes all the way at any cost. The Lord has blessed me in the work where He has placed me, and we have meeting and Sunday School in which our souls are marvelously blessed and fed. Please continue to send me your good little paper, I like it so much, and I am also sending a few names to whom I wish it sent. Your sister in Christ.

—JULIA MYERS.

Guthrie, Okla.—I am so glad I can say I am saved. The dear Lord has done wonderful things for me. I am now 92 years old and only two years ago I found Jesus. I feel it would be to the glory of God to tell a little about my experience. When I was young, and until my conversion, I always thought I lived a good moral life and that was all the Lord required of me. But I was dead in sin, my soul was not satisfied. One evening I was in my bed room and the dear Lord gave me a vision. I saw Jesus standing by my side and He said, "How long are you going to sleep?" and then disappeared. I did not sleep that night. I began to think about my soul. Oh, how I longed to feel that I was right with God. There was a longing in my soul that had never been satisfied. How I longed to have my soul satisfied.

One day I received some literature from Faith Publishing House at Guthrie, and I read it and thought, "These are the people of God." I longed to meet them and knew they could point me to the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. So one Sunday morning I started for Guthrie. I

attended the meetings during the day. We came home after the evening meeting, and I told the dear ones with whom I was staying how I desired to have my soul satisfied, and to know of a truth that I was ready for heaven. I longed for a definite Bible experience of salvation. So the dear ones had prayer with me before I retired. We prayed until about 11:30. Thank God I prayed through to a real Bible experience. I felt the love of God coming in my soul. I got up and could only say, "I've got it! I've got it! I've got it!" Yes, praise God, I had the experience and the joy in my soul that I long had craved. I found the joy no tongue can tell. I can truly say my soul is satisfied. I thank God He permitted me to live until I got in the right way.

I wish I could tell of Jesus as I know him, but I cannot tell it. He has done so much for me, and He is doing for me yet. At times He just fills my soul full to overflowing. Some evenings when I get to bed off alone in my bed room, I get so happy, and if I were alone in the house I would shout. I cannot contain my joy. I just clap my hands and praise Jesus. I have dedicated the side of my bed as an altar to the Lord, and I get up when I awaken at night and pray, and oh, the dear Lord just fills me full to overflowing. At times I think I could not stand any more.

I have found Jesus a present help. Now I have learned to trust Him for both soul and body. When I would get sick I'd run to man. But now, praise God, I am trusting the living God, and He never fails me. One day I was not feeling so well and my daughter said, "Take something to give relief," but immediately Jesus whispered, "I am able to do more than man." Praise God, I have found it so. He is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think." He has healed me so many times since I have learned to trust Him. One evening I went to bed and awakened with a severe pain in my chest and a hurting in my shoulder. My heart would stop beating and it affected my breathing. I knew the Lord could heal me so I just got out of bed and fell on my knees and called upon God and He healed me instantly. I have not had a spell like it since. Oh, I can never tell what Jesus is to me. He is so precious, saving my soul when I was so old, after living so long in sin. I mean by the grace of God to go all the way. I know He can keep me. I love to keep God's Word in my heart. I love to meditate upon it. It is food to my soul. I try to keep my mind upon Him.

Oh! how glorious it will be when we all get to heaven. We cannot imagine what it will be to be there. Surely when we all get to heaven we will never regret what we had to go through in this world. Oh, how I wish I could have found Jesus when I was young, and enjoyed the experience I am enjoying now. Think how much I could have done for Jesus if I had started to serve Him when young. All who read this and are not saved, turn to the Lord and you shall never regret it. It is the sweetest thing in all this world to find Jesus, the Great Treasure.

Oh, it is good for the young and old. It staisfies the soul. I love Him and enjoy His service.

The dear Lord gave us such a good Assembly Meeting. This was the first assembly meeting I have ever attended and I surely did enjoy it. God's Word was preached in all its fulness, and they preached salvation just like I experienced it in my own soul, and, oh, I feasted upon God's word. I got my cup full at meeting and it is still running over.

I do not get to attend the meetings regularly, but the dear Lord sends some of the saints to our home and we have glorious meetings. God pours out His Spirit upon us and we are made to rejoice. Pray for me that I may walk in His foot-steps. I mean to stand true until I hear His voice saying, "Come, ye blessed of my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Yours in Jesus. —AGNES CLONINGER.

Childress, Texas.—To the saints at Guthrie: Please remember me for both soul and body. I am past 78 year old. Oh, how I do wish some of God's true saints would come and hold meeting at this place. There isn't any of the saints near here and I am hungry to hear soul-feeding sermons. Oh, how I do long to be with the true saints of God, for I need spiritual help. Please pray earnestly for me that God will be my helper in every circumstance of life, and give me wisdom to know His will in all things. The paper is food to my soul. I enjoy it. Your saved sister in the one body.

—SISTER F. M. DRUMMOND.

Center, Ala.—Dear Bros. and Sisters: In Jesus' name I greet you this morning. We were so glad to get Faith and Victory. Our hearts melted and overflowed with joy to read the good testimonies from the dear brothers and sisters over the states. I am glad to tell the dear saints we obeyed God's voice when He said, "Come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins" (Rev. 18: 4). "Wherefore, come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (1 Cor. 6: 17). "I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be *my people*" (2 Cor. 6: 16). We left sectism about fifteen years ago. we are sorry we did not have the light on the Bible sooner. One cannot live saved when they refuse to walk in the light.

We read in Isa. 52: 8, "The 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." Also Jesus' last prayer in John 17: 21, "That they may be one; as Thou, Father, art in me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent me." Paul writes, "Now, I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined *together* in the *same mind*, and in the same

judgment" (1 Cor. 1: 10). The Word says, "We know we have passed from death unto life because we *love* the brethren." God takes all the schism and carnality out of the heart, and makes us *one* in faith and of one accord.

I have been trying to fill my mission here where the Lord has placed me. I have been preaching this truth for about twelve years. We have a congregation here of about twenty-five in number. Pray for us. Yours for the lost.

—BRO. AND SISTER L. B. POLLARD.

### BALANCED IN THE LORD

In the twenty-sixth Psalm and twelfth verse we find these words, "My foot standeth in an even place." In these days of the swift approaching end of time, it behooves us as followers of the Lamb of God to watch and pray much, as there are many doctrines of devils in the world (1 Tim. 4: 1), seducing spirits that will entice you to step aside from the narrow way and become uneven in the Lord. These spirits are very cunning and crafty in their work of destruction. They always make their captive believe that they are the Holy Ghost, "The great power of God." They will give you revelations on Scriptures as well as dreams and visions, and work in every way possible as the true Holy Ghost, often making a hobby of certain Scriptures, pressing them beyond their real meaning. They have a way of wanting to force others to accept their extreme notions and are always sure that no one has so much discernment as they.

These extreme spirits are permitted of the Lord to have a great deal of power that their delusions might be complete (2 Thess 2: 11-12), because they receive not the love of the truth. They are not all led to the extreme on the same Scripture, but one on this Scripture and another on something else, and they are ready often to class one another as of the devil, showing confusion of which Satan is the author. We just received a letter from a man by the name of John B. Nash, who perhaps has gone farther to extreme in some respects than most others have been seduced to go. This man has been walking and travelling about the country since 1914, wearing a white linen robe with a girdle about his loins and a horn dangling at his side, bare-footed, bare-headed, and without shaving or cutting his hair. He picks up rattle snakes and permits them to bite him without suffering any ill effects. He gives the twentieth chapter of Isaiah as Scripture for going bare-footed.

These seducing spirits generally show themselves by pressing and forcing their extreme notions upon others, and if they will not adopt them, will



sever fellowship with you, call you a compromiser, or one that will not line up according to the Bible. In resisting these extreme spirits the enemy will often get some to die spiritually, causing you to be afraid to preach or testify under the anointing from heaven lest some would think that you were under the power of some seducing spirit, but the Word says, "Quench not the Spirit." Dear soul, if God is giving you a judgment message for the people, preach it under the power and demonstration of the Spirit, having your heart filled with love, concern and care for those to whom you speak. If the Lord puts a shout in your soul, just shout, no matter if the enemy is sitting near by with drawn features. And if God fills you with joy and makes you light and happy, just jump until the Lord says it is enough, and in this way you will get victory over those sages that are dying and sometimes are already dead, because of the quenching of the Spirit and for letting human intellect and human reasoning take the place of the working of the Holy Ghost and the power of God.

We have other seducing spirits in these last days to watch and resist, and these are unclean spirits like frogs which come out of the mouth of the Dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet (Rev. 16: 13). In other words, they are the off-spring of these evil working spirits and are more cunning, crafty, sly and slimy than their fathers and they enter into men and cause them to put on a voluntary humility that will deceive the very elect if it were possible. Though they may deceive you and make merchandise of you, if you keep honest before God and love and value truth above all wealth, honor and fame that man can give, our Father will deliver you and set you free, for He knows how to deliver the Godly. These slimy, frog-like spirits have many different Scriptures that they use as hobbies to cover themselves with and live on among the children of God, and if you bring them to question in any way they will slip all around it and hop to another stand and then console themselves with the thought that God had wonderfully helped them and given them the victory.

One covering that these spirits hide under, which is good, and should be, and is, in the hearts of all saved people, is love and mercy, but these spirits carry it so far that all judgment is cruel and harsh, or out of place, unless they can give it, and in such a way that sleeping souls can sleep on so long as they can make merchandise of them. Brethren, these spirits have been working in the denominations for many years, and now they are bearing the fruits of

love without judgment, and in their "churches" (so called) you can find all kinds of worldliness and revelry, which are the works of the flesh. The minister lives in a fine house with all comforts to gratify the lusts of the flesh, being paid a good salary for amusing his members with human wit and covering up all kinds of wickedness and evil with love, (not Godly love). If he should preach a judgment sermon his members would laugh about it, and perhaps say he was a mighty man of God and surely preached straight, but go on just the same as before, knowing that he was living to the lusts of the flesh, and that it was necessary for him to preach those things that they might have a form of godliness. Brethren, let us be watchful and resist the devil in every form and fashion that he may appear. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against *wicked spirits* [margin] *in heavenly places*" (Eph. 6: 12).

Dear brother, when you are on the mountain top and having great victory is a time that it is very essential to watch and be sure that you continue to stand in an even place in the Lord, and walk in the narrow way, giving no heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils nor to slimy, frog-like spirits that seem so real and dress so beautifully, and would cause you to grieve the Holy Ghost away that reproves the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16: 8). Satan would have you to show no love and mercy unless it was for a selfish purpose, or he would have you to show all love and mercy, except with an evil eye. Brethren, it is not sin to be tempted, but it is sin for the one that yields to the temptation. My prayer is that you be sober, putting on the whole armour of God, quit yourselves like men, and be as those that are alive from the dead. With care and concern. —FRED PRUITT.

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#### WEIGHTS; AND THE SIN

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"Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1). Many weights there are in the Christian race which cause many souls to weary and faint in the heat of day. Paul speaks of these in Galatians 5: 7-8, "Ye did run well; who did hinder you?" "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ" (Gal. 1: 6). This seems to be the case with many persons today who are running in this great Christian race. They have more or less weights to carry which hinder and make

progress slow. The weights are not all alike, but vary in their nature. Each has his or her own individual weights, yet all tend to hinder spirituality in the Christian life. For an illustration: while on the street the other Sunday, I met a preacher who was waiting to have a service on the corner. Our talk started about people not being prompt in service for God, which he said was a great hindrance. To this I readily agreed. Then he said, "One of the things that used to hinder me a great deal was I could not talk long to anyone without getting off on to water baptism, and it hindered me with many, for they no doubt thought I was a fanatic on water baptism. This was a weight I carried for a long time." He further said that to many, water baptism was no more than taking a bath or getting wet, but to him it was a wonderful blessing from God.

Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light." The yoke is put on the ox that he may *press* against it, thereby pulling the load behind. The weights are not put on the yoke, or on the ox, but are put behind. The Lord foreknowing the weakness of man, and that the Christian race was one in which we need to *press* forward and press against the enemy with all our might, has prepared a way whereby we need not carry any weight. He has prepared Jesus to bear our every weight and burden. Peter also knew this secret, for he said, "Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you" (1 Pet. 5: 7). Some carry in their bosom the *weight of doubt*, which is a hard and heavy weight to get rid of. They doubt the Word of God in certain places which says, "Who forgiveth *all* our iniquities; who healeth *all* our diseases." Some don't believe they can be absolutely free from sin (iniquities) and live a victorious life in Christ here in this present world. Others don't believe they can be healed of all diseases and afflictions in this day and time. They think the day of miracles is past. But the Word of God says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and *today*, and forever." Some of His last words were, just as He was ready to ascend up to the Father, "Behold, *all power* is given unto me in heaven and in earth." His power is just the same, and His Blood just as fresh to cleanse and heal as the day it was shed.

Some have doubts for their entire sanctification. But the Word says, "Wherefore Jesus also, that He might *sanctify* the *people* with His own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach" (Heb. 13: 12-13). Sanctification is for the people, (very one) but only to be had without the gate. Turn

to Him; leave Jerusalem (the world, our weights, doubts etc.) behind, follow Him to the crucifixion and there nail self to the cross and have the sanctifying blood of Jesus cleanse your heart of the Adam nature, and know the joys of being set free from every weight and the sin that so easily besets us in this great race.

All weights are not the same. Some are one pound, five pounds and ten pounds, yet all are counted weights which we are commanded to lay aside. The weights of slothfulness, indifference, worldly pride, covetousness, fearfulness, compromise and worldly conformity weigh about as much on one side of the road as extremism, fanaticism, self-boasting and religious pride do on the other. But, praise God for the sacrifice He has made in His Son, that we may be made free from all of them (sanctified), and run this race in the center of the road (center of God's will), free from all incumbrance. The Word says, "In whatsoever state thou art called, therewith be content." If called being poor, care not for it. If called being rich, use it rather to the glory of God only. If called unlearned, follow Jesus; if learned, use it rather to the glory of God; "Be not highminded, but fear." Trust in God and not in education or self for they will fail. Covetousness, the cares of this life, and the deceitfulness of riches have caused many souls to stumble and lose the race. Wanting the high seat among men of this world, to receive praise and honor from them causes defeat. Jesus said, "How can ye please God who seek honor one of another?" Many children are hindered by their parents by the weights and burdens they help put on them in their young lives, by allowing them to have their own way, giving consent (sometimes silently) for them to satisfy their nature for worldly amusements, dress etc. Some parents sacrifice needs of the home and needs of gospel support in order that their children may go through College and High School, that they may have what is called a higher education, for no other reason that I can see than of making money craftily, or getting rich without having to sweat for it. We are putting a great weight and hindrance upon the children of today by sending them where they are taught evolution, free thought, the Bible is nothing more than a fairy tale or Jewish history, and that Jesus Christ, God's own Son, was not born as recorded in the New Testament, by the Holy Ghost and conceived of the virgin Mary, but was no more than you or I. May God help us not to be caught in the whirl of this sinful world, and that day of the coming of the Lord Jesus find us unprepared. "Let us

fear lest a promise being left us of entering into His rest any of you should come short of it" (Heb. 4: 1). While skepticism, fanaticism, infidelity and atheism is on every hand, and men are departing from the faith and giving heed to fables, let us who are the called of God lay aside every weight and sin and run the race with patience, that we may also be the chosen. "For many are called, but few are chosen."

According to the signs of the time, the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. "Who will consume the wicked with the brightness of His coming." "For our God is a consuming fire." "Behold, I come quickly and my reward is with me, to give to every man as his work shall be." May the Lord move upon the hearts of all His children to more diligence and faith to do His blessed will as recorded in His Word. We are told to hasten the day of His coming, and how can we do that? By helping in the spread of the Gospel of Salvation unto all nations. For Jesus said, "When this gospel of the kingdom is preached in all the world for a witness, then shall the end come." "Even so, Lord Jesus, come."

—IRVIN H. WHITEHOUSE.

#### RESPECT THE REWARD

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you \* \* \* \* that where I am there ye may be also" (John 14: 1-3). Many times we may become weary and think the toils of the way almost too heavy; but when we remember it is the way Jesus trod, and to reach heaven we must follow His steps, then heaven opens to our view. We look forward to the mansion He has gone to prepare for us, then the toils of the way get lighter.

Jesus said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be ye of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16: 33). Jesus knew we would be in a world of trouble, hence He exhorts us to let our hearts dwell upon our mansion He has gone to prepare and not upon our trouble. In that mansion He has gone to prepare no sin, no pain, no sickness or death, sorrow or trouble ever come there; a tear shall never fall from any eye, for no tears are there (Rev. 7: 17). "A mansion unclouded by sorrow, undimmed by pain of farewell." There we shall know no sorrow, but all will be peace, and joy, and happiness; not to be enjoyed for ten years or ten

thousand, or one million years, but we shall enjoy His presence and sing His praises while the ceaseless ages of eternity roll.

Dear saints of God, do you not desire to make it into the Celestial City? I know we desire to gain heaven, but will we gladly follow in the way Jesus has marked out for us? or would we prefer an easier way? Jesus has made the way as smooth as possible, and He will not take us through more than we can bear, but to win heaven we must fight. It is around the throne that those who have *passed through great tribulation* and the trying scenes of life, are singing. We all desire to join the happy band. We all hope to be among the blood-washed throng. Let us keep in mind that the way to heaven is "*through great tribulation.*"

We are going through a cold, dark, unfriendly world. If we love the Lord we will not have the love and smiles of the world. "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. \* \* \* If the world hates you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you" (John 15: 18-25). We are hated because we are not of the world (John 17: 14). But we should not marvel if the world does hate us (1 John 3: 13). Let us rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is our reward in heaven (Matt. 5: 10-12). But dear souls, we are only pilgrims here, travelling to our mansions in glory. Let us endure to the end. Whatever our trials may be let us endure them and count them all joy (James 1: 2).

Jesus loves and cares for us so minutely. He loves us too well to forsake us or give us one trial too much. Yes, He tells us even the hairs of our heads are all numbered (Matt. 10: 30). God only permits trials to come upon us because He sees it is needful. He only corrects those whom He loves (Rev. 3: 19). Remember, dear souls, "all things work together for good to them that love the Lord" (Rom. 8: 28). Oh, let us keep God's love burning in our souls, and all He permits to befall us will only work out for our good in the end. The trials may be severe, the furnaces may seem hot: it may seem hard to submit to God's will when He separates you from ones you have learned to love, but God's grace will be sufficient.

I recently received a letter from a dear sister, and speaking of her departed son whom she loved so dearly said, "When God called him, what could I say? He only took away His own." When we live in touch with God He can pour real grace in our souls and enable us to utter such words. Sweet

resignation to His will enables us to say, "Not my will, but Thine be done." Oh, when we get to that heavenly country how we will rejoice that we have endured the trials, which, while going through them, seemed so hard to bear, but then "This forever shall be our rejoicing, that our heart said amen to Thy will."

To Moses the reproaches of Christ were greater than the riches of Egypt. He "chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproaches of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt." Why? "For he had respect unto the recompence of reward" (Heb. 11: 25-26). If you are called to go through storms of persecutions, furnaces of trials, and years of toil and suffering, will not heaven be worth a life of suffering? Yes, dear tried souls, it will. Sit quiet for a moment in the midst of your trials and troubles, no matter how great and how many they may seem, and by faith look away and see the bright mansion prepared for YOU. Shall you not bear the trials of life a little longer? I know the answer of every sincere, trusting child of God will be a hearty "Amen" from the very depths of their heart and soul.

Be encouraged, dear souls, "Fight the good fight of faith." Soon this life will all be over and our pilgrimage will end. We shall soon be at home with loved ones, and there our souls will sing with the angles around the blessed throne of God. "And so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort ye one another with these words" (1 Thess. 4: 18).

—CELENA LACUE.

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#### HOW TO BE BEAUTIFUL

Right thinking men and women appreciate beauty that is more than skin deep—a beauty that is generated in the power-house of the soul by kind deeds, noble thoughts, and unselfish regard "for others." In order to have the right kind of shine upon our faces, we must *be*, not simply *appear*, to others. Let no one deceive himself. It is vanity for humanity to search for the secret of true beauty among the powder, the paint, the stylish apparel, and the camouflauge in general of the modern department store! The faithful prophet, Isaiah's, pen picture of women's vanity of his time is anything but flattering. Read it today in Isa. 3: 16-26. The overthrow of character and the decline of the soul is a tragedy. Decay—individual and national—sets in when the people indulge in luxurious, effeminate living. Read the history of great nations of the past, and learn a lesson for the present. Pride and fullness of bread dragged ancient Sodom into the mire of grossest sin. "She that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth" (1 Tim. 5: 6).

#### ASHES OR TRUTH?

A wonderful prophecy is recorded in Isa. 61: 3 of the coming Christ's power to give beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Earthly charms fade away—often even in this life. Oh, what a sad and eternal loss when there is no beauty of soul and spirit left! The apostle Paul advises women to adorn themselves in modest apparel and with Good Works. The apostle Peter counsels us to adorn the "hidden man of the heart," and to possess a meek and quiet spirit. While it is only too true that convention numbers her votaries by scores of thousands, it is also true that wise men and women and youths realize that we must give an account of time, money and influence, and that we stand upon the very brink of this time world's ending. God's people are not dressed in the latest, but all have the uniform of purity and holiness. They court the approval of God and His dear Son, and not the worldly-minded. Rom. 12: 2.

#### HOW TO USE YOUR INFLUENCE

Be cleansed of *all* that is wrong and defiling, and then go to work in the Master's great and needy vineyard. Religious forms and externals of modern worship have well nigh crushed out the "inner work" of the Holy Spirit upon the human heart. Sad, indeed, that the marvelous, God-given power of influence is not being more extensively used for teaching others how to be beautiful through the divine, transforming power of Jesus Christ. When at last sounds the din of the final crashing of ages when time and eternity meet, amid the piercing, heart-rending cries of the lost followers of Earthly Fashions and false religions, there shall also be fulfilled this glorious prophecy of Daniel 12: 3, "And they that *be wise* shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." See to it, dear reader, now that finally you take your place among the great throng of "shining ones." —R. F. LAMM.

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#### IF THE LIGHT HAS GONE OUT

When the sun of your life has gone down,  
And the clouds in the west turn to gold,  
Endless night then to you will have come,  
If the light has gone out in your soul.

When you come to the end of the way,  
And life's story for you has been told,  
Oh, how sad all to you will appear,  
If the light has gone out in your soul.

When before judgment's bar you shall stand,  
And the deeds that have here had control,  
Good and evil appear, oh, what then,  
If the light has gone out in your soul?

Oh, just think how in death you will feel  
With the light growing dim in your soul;  
Oh, how lonely 'twill be! Oh, how still!  
When the light has gone out in your soul.

—SELECTED BY MATHILDA PAULSEN.