

# FAITH AND VICTORY

## The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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### The Twenty-Third Psalm For All Of His Sheep

The Lord is our Shepherd,  
We shall always have plenty,  
For thus it is written  
In Psalm three and twenty.

We are made to lie down  
In His pastures so green  
Where the quiet still waters  
All about us are seen.

With our souls now restored,  
By His hand we are led  
For His blessed name's sake,  
As our Shepherd hath said.

As we walk through the valley  
Of the shadow of death,  
We will never fear evil,  
We'll not hold our breath.

For His rod and His staff  
Surely comfort the soul,  
And will do so forever  
As we rest in His fold.

And a table He spreads  
As our enemies assail—  
While we feast on His manna,  
We shall always prevail.

Then our heads He anoints,  
And with gladness we praise,  
As our cups run over  
And our souls are ablaze.

Surely goodness and mercy  
Shall follow us always;  
And we'll dwell in God's house  
Through eternity's days.  
—George W. Stephenson

### The Name Above Every Name

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth" (Phil. 2:9, 10).

THERE NEVER WAS another who caused all creation to be ransacked to find similitudes and symbols to convey to human hearts and minds His glorious pre-eminence. There never was another who was a human child and also a Divine Son, who was appointed the Saviour of men, yet was crucified by men; who was judge of men, yet was led as a felon from one tribunal to another.

There never was another who died and was buried and yet lived; who saved others and Himself could not save; who had no sin IN Him, yet all sin ON Him; who was incarnate Wisdom, yet was derided as a fool; who was the King of glory, yet wore no crown but a crown of thorns; who was the Lord of the Sabbath, yet was accused of being a seditious man and a disturber of the public peace; who was the truth, yet was accused of being a liar, a hypocrite, an imposter; who, in the glory He had with God before the world was, had the angelic hails of heaven and yet, on earth, gave Himself to the murderous nails of men.

There never was another who was the Prince of Life, yet died on Calvary—Death's conqueror transfigured on a spear—who was as old as His heavenly Father and infinitely older than His earthly mother.

There never was another who "in eternity rested on the bosom of the Father without a mother, and, in time, rested on the bosom of a mother without a father"; who was "the victim of a Roman cross and victor at a Jewish grave."

—Sel.

God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.—Acts 3:26.

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.—Acts 4:12.

## God's Natural Laws And His Supernatural Power

God is omnipotent and omnipresent. The inspired Word of God makes it plain that there is no power or influence in the world that is greater than His and we are taught by its sacred pages that by Him all things consist and exist (Col. 1:16, 17) and apart from him there could nothing exist that does exist. Yea, we learn from the Word of God that He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end (Rev. 22:13); and "In Him we live and move and have our being." Acts 17:28.

In the beginning of the creation of this earthly ball upon which we live, God set in motion by his omnipotent power what we call Natural Laws. He spoke and the fish began to swim in the sea and reproduce of their kind, fulfilling God's law for them. He spoke and the birds began to fly in the air and the animals to walk about upon the earth and to reproduce of their kind according to God's law and commands. At His command the plant life and the trees began to grow out of the ground and produce seed, each of its kind, for reproduction according to God's law and commandment for them. He spoke again and the sun, moon, and stars, took their places in the heavens and gave light by day and night according to God's law and commands. He breathed the breath of life into the form of a dead man made of clay and he became a living soul. He also gave this man laws by which to govern himself and placed all other living creatures at his mercy and for his need (Gen. 1:28, 29).

God also created laws of gravitation that caused weighty matter to cleave to the earth. The air, being exceedingly light, kept above and all weighty matter was pressed beneath it, held to the earth by the law of gravitation.

In these things mentioned, we understand and can see some of the laws of God which we call natural laws. All of the so-called natural laws continued to operate and function all the time just as God has ordained it in the beginning unless God, the Creator and Author of all, speaks again. He has power over what he has created to cause it to do just contrary to its customary actions or in any other manner as he pleases; and this act of His we call, "Supernatural Power."

Adam yielded to the supernatural power of God when he went into a deep sleep and a rib was taken from his side, with which God by his omnipotence created a woman. The wild animals yielded to the supernatural power of God when they went into the great Ark that God had Noah to prepare for their preservation. Moses saw the supernatural power of God when the bush was a flame of fire and it was not consumed. The rod in his hand, when thrown on the ground became a serpent by the supernatural power of God. His supernatural power was manifested in Egypt when the water of the river became blood and

the dust of the earth was turned into lice. At the command of God the waters of the Red Sea walled up on both sides and allowed the Children of Israel to go through on dry land. The natural laws for water were changed by the new command of God, and then turned back in their regular way. The ravens obeyed a new command from God and carried food to Elijah during the famine. The widow's supply of oil and meal was never exhausted during the famine because of a new commandment from God through Elijah. The iron axe swam to the top of the water in the Jordan River. The shadow in the dial of Ahaz went backward ten degrees for Hezekiah's sake. The omnipotent power of God was manifested and the sun actually went backward ten degrees. Yes, God has power to reverse all so-called natural laws and bring about opposite things.

The supernatural power of God closed the lions' mouths so Daniel was not hurt. The supernatural power of God preserved the Hebrew children in the fiery furnace and they came out without a smell of fire on their garments.

The virgin gave birth to our Saviour by the supernatural power of God. He was raised from the tomb by the omnipotent power of God, walked and talked with the apostles and was seen of five hundred brethren, and ascended into heaven by the supernatural power of God. The lame man at the gate beautiful received soundness and went walking and leaping and praising God. Ananias and Sapphira fell down dead by supernatural power and King Herod was smitten and eaten of worms and died by the supernatural power of God. Space will not allow more to be said, and neither do we deem it needful to prove the omnipotent power of God to be above all so-called natural laws.

The Psalmist David said, "I had fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." Psalms 27:13.

It seems hard for many to believe that God is so great and has power to rule with an omnipotent hand and yet have knowledge of so much wickedness going on in the world. The fact is that God is ruling and governing in this world in harmony with his sovereign will for man to do his own choosing. This places the responsibility upon man whom he gives power to choose eternal life through Christ or eternal death by rejecting his Son and retaining his own life in this world. The reason there is so much evil, wickedness, and unbelief in the world is because the mass of people have chosen and are choosing to have their own way here and eternal death in the end. The sad part of it is that they have allowed Satan to deceive them to the extent that the majority make a profession of belonging to Christ without allowing His life and power to rule and govern in their deeds and words, therefore we do not behold nor come into contact with very much of the supernatural power of God. Generally those who make a strong profession will fail God and weaken when the pressure is on, and God is unable to show himself strong in their behalf.

God chose Israel for his peculiar people and as he led them out of Egypt, he said, "I am the Lord that healeth thee." Exodus 15:26. It is also said that there was not one feeble person among them (Psa. 105:37). In 2 Chron. 16:9 we read, "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." It seems almost impossible for God to find men and women in these days that are truly perfect in heart toward Him. It seems that very few have an eye single to the glory of God. The majority of professors are living so much under the shadow of Egypt that they many times bring reproach on the Lord and profane his name among the heathen or unsaved (Ezek. 36:22, 23). While God does work among the unsaved and continually manifests his goodness to them insomuch that he maketh the sun to rise on the evil and the good and sendeth the rain on the just and the unjust (Matt. 5:45), He gives them governors and rulers, officers of the law, etc., and says in his Word that they are "God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing." Rom. 13:6.

This does not mean that they are God's holy ministers who are ambassadors here in the world to lead men to Christ and get them reconciled unto God through him. But God, who is Almighty and rules above the powers of the darkness of this world, allows these things and causes wicked men to fear the hand of the law. The mass of God's created beings choose darkness rather than light, but God continues to be good to them and so rules that they can continue to exist and have opportunity to turn to Him and live. He also allows them to have doctors with an abundance of knowledge about the working of the human body and with skill to do clever operations which sometimes almost seem to be miracles, and many of them are looked up to as great benefactors in the world, but they have their reward here. These doctors also bring death to many by the knife. God's redeemed children are not supposed to follow after them, for there is a power and spirit of the world that goes with these things which is foreign to the Holy Spirit of God Who dwells in the hearts of His true worshippers. Just because God shows His goodness to the unsaved and allows them to have and put their trust in the "arm of flesh" is no reason for the children of the Bridegroom to look that way for help in time of need. They should keep their faith in God and let Him show himself strong in their behalf in doing the supernatural thing, if needs be, that he might get glory to his name and witness to the unsaved or to the world that his power is far above all the powers that be. This is the reason Paul says in Eph. 6:11, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil, for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." God allows infidels to be officers and rulers and also to be doctors and great men of earth. The great mass of people choose darkness

rather than light, and God is good to them, but he is going to bring every one into judgment some day. At the judgment none of them can truthfully say that God has not dealt justly with them in this world.

We think of the wonderful inventions that God is allowing the unsaved to use. The radio is a modern miracle, seemingly. He allows them to know how to harness up electricity and make it serve man in a thousand different ways. The phone system is a marvel and exceedingly useful. While the saved have access to and can use some of these inventions to the glory of God, yet 98 per cent of the people that use them are of the world. Yet God's goodness is continually reaching out after them even though we find it in these last days as Paul stated in 2 Tim. 3:13, "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." Also the first part of this same chapter describes the condition of men in these last of the last days. The goodness of God leadeth men to repentance. Rom. 2:4.

—Fred Pruitt

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Osyka, Miss.—Greetings to all the saints and readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper. We can testify today that we love the Lord with all our heart, and we love His way of leading us in this life.

Dear ones, the Word of God teaches us to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world, looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." We need to be filled with the Spirit and love of God now in this evil time, and be about the Father's business, because there are many souls at stake. Are we bringing in the sheaves? Let us remember that there are no idlers in the Lord's vineyard; neither can we have respect of persons nor any of SELF in our life. We ought to have a burden for souls and a love for them regardless of race or creed.

We desire the prayers of the saints to continue for my wife. She is better in some ways, for which we truly thank and praise God; but she is in a very, very bad condition in body yet. She is very weak in body and her eyes are giving her a lot of trouble. She suffers much with them. We know that the God whom we are serving and trusting is more than able to give her complete deliverance, and we are expecting it too. We truly thank God for the many prayers the saints have prayed for her.

We want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one that has sent an offering to help us. We do not feel worthy of all that has been done in our behalf. We truly thank God for all He has done in this way. May he richly bless and reward each one of you, is our prayer, and at the end of this life that you will be measured up to the Word of God and that He will give you a home with him in heaven. Read Heb. 6:10. I believe I wrote each one who gave a name and address and thanked them.

Pray for me that I'll live closer and closer to the Lord and be more like Him at all times, and that when this trial of affliction is over we shall come forth as gold. Read Job 23:10. Yours in Christ with a greater burden than ever before for salvation of souls. Clyde Lea

The preacher who preaches to meet the demands of a worldly church, will be condemned at the judgment and meet his followers in the lake of fire.

## "FAITH AND VICTORY" 16-Page Holiness Monthly

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published each month (except August of each year, which is campmeeting month, and we omit this month to attend these meetings) by Fred Pruitt, assisted by Mary A. Pruitt, and other consecrated workers at FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Okla.

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An exclusive, full gospel paper printed and sent out in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in the interest of all Christians, which body of believers constitute the one and only true Church of God.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the promulgation and restoration of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning church of the first century: the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from the world and entire devotion to the service and the will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God; no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ; and separation from all human organizations—such are not authorized in the Word.

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

Free-will offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. All personal checks and Post Office Money Orders should be made payable to Fred Pruitt, or to

### FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma  
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The chapel where the church of God meets in Guthrie, Okla. is located on the corner of 6th St. and W. Warner Ave. Regular Sunday services are: Sunday School, 9:30 a. m.; preaching services, 11 a. m.; night services, 7:30 p. m.; mid-week prayer meeting Wednesday, 7:30 p. m.

Anderson, Ind.—Dear Saints: May the grace of God be abundantly yours, and may this little testimony answer many letters I have received, for it is a task to write so many. May you take courage as you follow Jesus and learn from Him how to keep humble, giving Him glory, and be content with the joy of service. The 26th of Jan. is my birthday. 90 years will have been my lot, and the blessings cannot be numbered. I am praising the Father for the priceless gift of His Son, and find great pay in serving Him, for He is mine and I am His now and forever. Amen. With love to all. I am His servant.

Rebecca Basicker

## Editorials

Since the assembly meeting the office force has been quite busy catching up the work that has piled up in the "Lord's Print Shop."

Sister Ruthe Byers and Bro. Kenneth Flynn, two of the workers, are taking a few weeks vacation visiting home folk; and we are expecting them to be on the look-out for opportunities to serve the Lord, as both have consecrated themselves to the Lord. Sister Ruthe is spending part of the time at Shreveport, La. attending a revival meeting there. Bro Kenneth is with his father and mother, Brother and Sister Dallas Flynn who live near Hammond, La. Both workers plan to return to the printing work in January.

A number of the Webb City, Mo. saints attended the assembly meeting and enjoyed their liberty and freedom very much. They were greatly encouraged and benefitted. They feel very thankful to God since they have been set free from that spirit of bondage which had them under its control. It seems hard for souls who once get under that binding spirit to see and get cleared from it. Some of the saints were carried away with one here at Guthrie and Oklahoma City years ago. A few have discovered it by the aid of the Lord and got free from it and returned with the free saints. They had the same kind of a case at Dayton, Ohio. There are now several more groups that are beginning to discern their bondage, and no doubt in time the Lord will get all the honest ones free. The shaking time is going on and only those that cannot be shaken out will remain. God is gathering his children together. It is the work of God, and no man nor company of men can stop it. They may growl around and misconstrue the Scriptures and keep some precious souls under bondage to them by miscellaneous lying activities connected with heterodoxy methods to the extent of gratifying their own lustful and fleshly desires, but the Scriptures tell us that, "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." 2 Pet. 2:9.

The true and faithful saint minister of the true holiness church of God is filling sectism and other cliques and clans with converts, for many people today are hearing the truth of the crucified way, as taught by the true minister, and those who are not willing to take the self-denying and bigotry-destroying route in deed as well as in word, will excuse themselves and slip off into some man's pen, thereby easing their conscience, where they become withered branches gathered for the burning. (John 15:6).

For the past twenty-five years I have been closely associated with some, and had firsthand knowledge of others, who have become faction leaders, which things have been very grievous to me and caused me to do much praying and fasting and looking unto God to discern just how the enemy succeeded in getting these men to do such things, and I believe that God has given me some understanding of these crafty religious working spirits.

The apostle Paul gives us some information about these religious division-making spirits in his day, and after warning the ministers to take heed to themselves and to all the flock over which the Holy Ghost had made them overseers to feed the church of God which He hath purchased with His own blood, he goes on to say that he knew that after his departing grievous wolves would enter in among them, not sparing the flock. Paul branded these fellows as "Grievous wolves." I have discerned this character or trait of spirit in almost all of them, and I have been acquainted with many of them. They show the wool of a sheep to those who do not discern them and those not in their way. They usually make out that they are so zealous over their little flocks that no other minister will be allowed around unless he is under their influence. They always want to be sure to get the fleece. In the next verse Paul states: "Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." Acts 20:28-30.

I have seen this done also, and thus the grievous work of Satan goes on. These fellows always throw the blame on the innocent and have no shame in speaking evil of them if they think it will better their selfish interests by holding innocent ones under their persuasion. Precious saints that love each other are torn apart by these "grievous wolves." and sometimes bitterness takes the place where divine love once ruled. What a sad picture to the enlightened.

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Bro. Egbert Allen and wife, who attended the assembly meeting, are now in Shreveport, La. in a revival meeting. They are active ministers and workers in the Lord's vineyard.

Bro. and Sister Key, Bro. and Sister Stover, and Bro. Merrill Williamson are at Webb City, Mo. holding a revival meeting at this writing. By the time this paper reaches our readers these meetings will be over and the ministers will be in other places carrying on the work of the Lord.

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We are now traveling on in the new year of 1949. One month will soon be gone. How fast time does fly! Truly, our stay in this time world is as swift as a small cloud that hides the sun but for a moment. James says it is as a vapor that appeareth but a little while. What we do for God and for souls must be done now; tomorrow may be too late. Our soul goes out to God for more of his love and more of his ways in our hearts and a greater capacity to serve Him in the beauty of holiness of heart and life.

There is no reason why the true holiness saints should not be the most contented and happy folks in the world, as every good and precious promise in the Holy Bible belongs to them. In Psalm 95:3 we read, "For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods." Just think to whom we belong, and He tells us to cast all our cares upon Him, for He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7).

Did you ever try to comprehend the greatness and fulness of God? To do so would be like trying to figure out the end of eternity. Just think! He is the

Creator of every living thing; yea, everything that is in existence could not be without Him. In the first place, He spoke this earthen ball into existence, and we are told in the 26th chapter of Job that "He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing." This earthen ball that seems so immovable to us is just standing out in space by the word of God, and by the same word of God it is kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. (2 Peter 3:7).

The greatness of God is beyond the comprehension of our finite minds. Think of the sun, moon, and millions of stars, all of which he calls by name. Then think of the enumerable kinds of plant life and his miraculous way of watering, supplying, and causing them to bring forth each of its kind in multiplied numbers and reproducing year by year, feeding man and beast. Think of the multitude of different kinds of fish and animal life in the sea and waters of the earth. Think of the thousands of variety of animals that He keeps up and the multiplied thousands of creeping insects and flying fowls, all different in many respects. Think of the hundreds of classes of human beings, all different, and not two human beings just alike in every respect; and He says even the hairs of our heads are all numbered. Oh, what mere specks of humanity we are when we try to think or comprehend a small portion of the greatness and mightiness of our God who rules the universe. Surely all of us ought to be careful that we do not set in motion any thought or idea that would come in friction with the all-prevailing power of God, but keep so dead and realize our dependence on Him so keenly that we would always feel like Peter did when about to be crucified; he asked that he be crucified with his head down because he was not worthy to be crucified with his head up as Jesus was. If one were really dead to self and felt his unworthiness he would not resist evil, but would feel himself unworthy of any better treatment. Let us count ourselves as unworthy servants and realize even though we may think we do much, then we have only done what is our duty to do.

**WANTED:** Christian brother or sister to live in part of my house, share crops, etc.; more for company and spiritual encouragement. I will help them acquire land claim under mining law.—Naomi Morton, Kirby, Ore.

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## Obituary

Louisa Catherine Long, daughter of William and Sarah Long, born January 4, 1865 at Westport, Mo. departed this life at her home in Guthrie, Okla. Dec. 30, 1948, age 83 years, 11 months, and 26 days.

She was married to Oscar L. Britt April 26, 1885. Their home was blessed with six children. Two children and her husband preceded her in death. She is survived by one son, W. E. Britt of San Fernando, Calif., and three daughters, Mrs. Leola White, Mrs. Gladys Bock, and Maude Britt of Guthrie; eleven grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren.

She was saved in early life and walked in the light with her husband when, in Nebraska, they heard the truth preached concerning the oneness of God's people. She has been one of the Guthrie congregation of saints since 1919, having love for and fellowship with the saints and bearing the fruits of the Spirit. Her frail body has suffered many afflictions, but she endured the suffering with patience, and her faith in God did not waver. Near the end she said to those who ministered to her, "Jesus will not permit me to suffer more than I can bear."

Funeral service was conducted by Bro. Fred Pruitt assisted by Bro. Sam Barton. Text Prov. 4:18.

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### GUTHRIE ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

As the date of the state assembly meeting drew nigh the Holy Ghost filled ministers of the true holiness church of God began to arrive in Guthrie with drawn swords for a ten day battle against the enemy of all righteousness, even Satan the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that worketh in the children of disobedience, the wicked one who is carrying hosts of the people down the broad way to destruction, and many of them with a profession of religion. The battle was on at once and Satan began to dodge the blows and look for an opening to start his confusion work, but every time he would stick his head up he would get it bumped. Finally he received blows so fast and thick that he was floored entirely and remained in a sickly dying condition throughout the remainder of the meeting so far as visible evidence was manifested.

The great success of this assembly meeting was due, no doubt, to the good spiritual condition of the ministers whom the Lord sent into the meeting and also the congregation here at Guthrie. The saints here have been getting closer to God and having more love in their hearts one for the other and more burden for souls that are lost. I am speaking of this in a general sense. Of course, we know that Satan is always working in any congregation to destroy the oneness, finding fault and picking at this one or that one, but even while he is doing this the true saints can so manifest Christ that the general run of the congregation will be advancing spiritually. Pardon me for testifying for Satan, but it seems necessary sometimes to make known the good works of God which are so much greater. Satan with the saints is a defeated devil. Jesus conquered him over 19 centuries ago, and he is only fighting a losing battle.

The Lord had the pre-eminence in the meeting from the very beginning, and the Holy Spirit chose and placed in the pulpit the minister with the message. The ministers were so humble and God-fearing that very few mistakes were made, and when they were made the Lord graciously took care of it in a way that the good spirit of the meeting was not broken and the rolling chariots of the Lord moved right on with heavenly messages time

after time. The Holy Spirit did his office work freely and effectually in the congregation. Conviction was on the people from the beginning and souls were at the altar time after time through the meeting, even the last night of the meeting there were six souls at the altar of prayer.

The meeting house was packed with souls listening to the gospel, which Paul said was the power of God unto salvation to every one that believed. The anointing was rich and the Word went forth in the power and demonstration of the Spirit. The ministers and many of the other members of His body were much in prayer and fasting and burdened hearts before God for lost souls and the upbuilding of his people, and the Lord gave them the desire of their hearts.

I cannot find words to properly express the heavenly sweetness of this meeting. As I sat in the meeting and took note of the heavenly quietness that prevailed and saw the Lord working so graciously and cleverly in the meeting, I would think of the Scripture in Isaiah, which reads thus, "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever. And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." Isaiah 32:17, 18.

When souls got saved and the saints here and angels of heaven were rejoicing, then it would be like the scripture in Isaiah 35:10, which reads, "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

There were between twenty and twenty-five visiting ministers at the meeting and many saints from different states. We are all looking forward now to the state camp meeting to be held here in the fore part of August.

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### Be Strong in the Lord

As I was reading this morning and looking up references, I came to the 13th verse of the sixth chapter of Ephesians: "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand" (as the margin says, "having overcome all").

Now in 2 Cor. 10:1-5 Paul is telling the brethren about their fathers under Moses, how they were all baptized unto Moses, how they all drank the spiritual drink and ate the same spiritual meat. The point is—now remember—they ALL were partakers of the same; but what happened? 2 Cor. 10:5 says, "But with many of them God was not well pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness." We as the body of Christ should take warning that we become not murmurers nor covetous and lust after evil things of this world, or we will go back into the wilderness (sin). Let us pray for each other, brothers and sisters, that we be strong in the Lord and the power of His might (Eph. 6:10). —June Badal

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### BUILDING PROJECT

We have made a start on our little meeting house which we need so badly, but the cost of building is so high we need more money. If any one would like to help us we would appreciate it. We have been about two years trying to get this building, but will not take defeat. We solicit your prayers. —H. S. Jackson, Batchelor, La.

## Saved By Grace

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast." Eph. 2:8, 9. The writer here in Ephesians is trying to show the Christians at Ephesus the difference between the law and the gospel, and that they were saved by grace instead of by works under the law. Therefore the Gentiles who had been aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenant of promise, having no hope and without God in the world, were made nigh (now, not after death) by the blood of Christ, which broke down the middle wall of partition between them (the Jew and Gentile) therefore making peace, abolishing the enmity, the law of commandments CONTAINED IN ORDINANCES. Through Him (Christ) they (Jew and Gentile) both have access BY ONE SPIRIT unto the Father. They are made fellowcitizens with the saints and of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ HIMSELF being the chief corner stone. In whom (Christ) ALL the building fitly (according to God's plan) framed together (not apart) groweth unto an HOLY temple in the Lord. In whom ye also are (present tense) builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit; viz, in this present world.

Almost all religious people believe that sinners are saved by grace, but they differ very much on what grace means and does for sinners. Some claim that they are saved by grace and can never be lost even though they commit sin more or less every day. They boast of being (now) a sinner saved by grace. They stress very strongly the eighth and ninth verses of Ephesians but ignore the tenth verse which says, For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus (made new creatures) unto good works (not the works of the law of carnal ordinances, but works of righteousness) which God hath before ordained that we (all that are saved by grace) should walk in them. Eph. 2:10.

If any one reads this article who believes the doctrine of "SIN YOU MUST," please read and study all of Ephesians; also read the first and second chapters of Second Peter and all of First John. Many more Scriptures could be given to prove that grace through faith ALONE will not save a soul. It takes all that God has ordained in His plan of salvation to bring us out from under the law; viz, saved by grace through faith, made new creatures in Christ Jesus, born again, old things are passed away, ALL things ARE become new. Faith without works is dead, being alone (James 2:14-17).

There is quite a difference between works under the law covenant (ordinances, etc) and works under the grace covenant. The law covenant gendered to bondage; that is, the people kept the law of God because it was written in a book. That is termed the letter of the law. Under the grace covenant the law of God is written in the heart, therefore we obey or

keep the law (moral and spiritual) of God because we love to, not because we are commanded or forced to obey, but free to obey and worship God in the beauty of HOLINESS with the love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost. The old man (carnal nature) that kept us under the bondage of sin is crucified, dead, and our life is hid with Christ in God. Christ in us (all saved people) is the hope of glory.

Dear reader, if you are depending on the grace of God to save you in your sins, viz; "sin until death," you are standing on a sandy foundation. Repent, confess, forsake all sin and the blood of Jesus will cleanse you from all sin. Amen. —C. S. Wyatt.

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## Heart-felt Full Salvation

Recently a man asked the question, "How can I be saved? I was under conviction, went forward and took the minister by the hand and joined church, but do not feel any sense of change of heart and life."

The answer the editor of a well known church publication gave is not a definite satisfactory answer, for he states that salvation does not depend upon any satisfaction in one's heart. Romans 10:10 reads: "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." The Word of God is in thy mouth and in thy heart; confess with thy mouth, believe in thy heart. Romans 10:8, 9.

John the Baptist fearlessly declared, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." "Repent and believe the gospel." Mark 1:15. So then it is plainly evident that genuine heart-felt repentance must first come before anyone can possibly have belief (faith) in God. (Matt. 21:32). One must become earnest, sincere, and honest concerning his soul's eternal welfare, and pray from his heart's urge for mercy and pardon from all sin.

The reason why so many professing Christians have no heart-felt experience of full salvation is that they have never been convicted of their sinful condition, which brings godly sorrow and true repentance in the heart. They have only formal, mechanical, human religion, and not divine, heaven-born newness of life. They have never met the Bible condition for heart-felt full salvation.

Adam Clarke, the Bible commentator, said, "In order to get a clean heart a man must know and feel its depravity."

Bro. C. E. Orr in "Path of Life," January, 1932, said, "Lord, help us to feel." "We know the influence of sin and its results, that it is detrimental to the welfare and peace of mankind, and that the Bible teaches us it is most awful to know our relatives and fellow creatures are on the way to hell." Bro. Orr also said, "It is not enough to know, but we must feel that awfulness."

Cold hearted indeed are those who do not feel a great sense of sympathy and burden so heavy they are made sorry at heart and weep for their unfortunate fellow creatures. It is most evident that if one



believes he is saved and does not feel any sense of rejoicing in his heart and know he is a born-again creature in Christ Jesus, he is by authority of the gospel badly deceived and misled of Satan, the arch enemy of God.

The Word of God abounds in many statements that refer to the happy, joyful experience of those who love and obey God from the urge of the heart affections. The Word of God promises and assures all seekers of the Lord certain definite results on certain conditions to be met, which no one can possibly experience without first doing something to make possible the promises of God which are absolutely truth.

Genuine heart-felt full salvation creates a reformation in the very daily life of everyone seeking after peace with God. All worldliness is purged out, and a freedom, peace, and confidence (faith) sets up a reign of everlasting peace in one's heart. Full gospel Christians are full of action and power and do not appear cold, dead, and formal with no prayer or testimony to the joys of salvation. We love our children by a deep affectionate feeling in our hearts. What is that natural emotion or feeling in our hearts that causes tears of rejoicing to spring up that will even melt down the brutal heart of the down-and-out of society?

Fearlessly giving full proof of his prophetic calling, Jeremiah witnessed to the truth that the servant of the Lord is a joyful creature. "Thy words are found and I did eat [obey] them and thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart, for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts." Jer. 15:16.

—John H. Griffith

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## A Need for Discipline

The story is told of a visit to an old homesite after many years of absence. The land had been cleared, and most of the aged stumps had decayed into soil that was growing weeds and briars. All that remained of the comfortable house that once had sheltered from storm and heat was a pile of stones from the old chimney. Desolation was in evidence everywhere—if desolation grows, and in some places it seems to do just that. In the midst of all this desolation there stood what remained of an ancient apple tree, older, perhaps, than the inhabitants then living. It was so old and neglected that it could scarcely be identified as an apple tree except by a few knotty, gnarled apples that were hanging from its trembling limbs. As it stood as the last of the trees of what once had been a beautiful orchard, it told the story of neglect. The apples from a tree of this type would be no good. Let us assume for a moment that the tree has power of voice and is speaking. What a life message our ears hear! Recounting the time when it was young with a whole life ahead of it, with comrades on all sides, and that it had the most commanding site in all the orchard where it could view the heavens above and the valleys beneath, it says that the fruit produced

was the joy and pride of the owners. But now the flavor was gone and inviting apples had long ceased to be of value. It had wanted freedom and liberty to do as it pleased.

It had wanted its own way; had been glad when the pruning knife was laid aside; rejoiced that the plowman had remained away from its roots by loosening the soil upon which its rootlets fed, and it had long since been spared the sprayer's spray. It had been left alone to its own way of life, growth, and fruitage. There had been no outside will imposed upon the tree for, lo, these many years. It had done as it pleased; the bark was rusty and moss-covered; insects had bored deep into its body, holes were everywhere in evidence and scars by the hundreds were upon its bark. The branches were bristling with straggly ends; the apples were few, little, ugly, and unappetizing. Much of the resemblance to an apple tree had disappeared during these many years the tree had been having its own way. It had done as it pleased, but had lost all the symmetry and beauty that is so befitting a stately old apple tree that has known care and yielded to its master harvests of choice fruit. It had been left to its own way and had been spoiled in the process.

Much of life and myriads of congregations are like this self-willed apple tree in the parable. The church needs to learn some needed lessons from this story. It will help the members personally and the congregation as a whole. It will enable the God-qualified leaders to guide the church aright, with safety and soundness. It will help overcome rashness and the false ideas of independence that we often want from the Lord's demand on our life. There are times in the lives of people and congregations that they think if they can be left alone and allowed to do as they please that it will bring the greatest happiness. They resent reproof, rebuke, and exhortation. They resent everything that savors of war against Satan, sin, enemies of truth, and the host of man-made churches must ever be regarded with esteem. They rebel at discipline that prepares them as soldiers of the cross. They want the life of the soldier to be without hardship, battle, or persecution. They are willing to be good soldiers of the Cross, but all drilling, preparation, training, marching, and exercising must be omitted. The idea of being a soldier of the Lord and doing as we please is impossible. The attempt to do this gives a false hope and leads to ruin. Every soldier of the Lord, to be successful, must cooperate with every other soldier in the army of the Lord. The good of the cause is dependent on the confidence and co-operation of every enlisted soldier of the Lord's army. Selfishness and stubbornness injures the other comrades and the cause for which we are battling. There must be rigid training for all. We cannot neglect prayermeetings or any services which are held for the edification of the church without injury to ourselves and the fellow-soldier of the cross. Discipline should be enforced against the delinquent, don't care member. It takes discipline and drilling to make a good soldier of the Lord who does



not entangle himself with this world's destructive elements. Resolve today that you will get the training necessary to qualify and equip you as a stalwart, strong, and courageous soldier in the army of the Lord, from which there is no discharge. Seek to please the Lord who has enrolled you. —Sel.

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## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Hello, Children:

I wonder how many of you have started reading, or have had your mother or father read to you the New Testament every day? Remember, we are going to read it through. If you haven't started, do it today. Many of the verses in the first four books are the words Jesus spoke; so as you read, ask Jesus to help you understand just what he was teaching the people or his disciples, because he means for you to live and do as he told them.

I recently attended an assembly meeting, and I was very glad to see the children so interested in learning more about Jesus and the Bible. They just begged to have more children's meetings. They had them during the afternoon services and sometimes even longer. Bro. Salvatore took care of most of the meetings and the children enjoyed having him lead them. I am sure his name has been added to the list of people whom the children always ask Jesus to bless in their prayers; and I also ask God to bless him in his work with children.

I am so glad that our children are learning to say, "No!" to the devil when he tells them to do wrong. One little girl told me that the devil told her to steal a dollar bill and she told him, "No!" Another girl said the devil told her to eat some marshmallows that her mother told her she could not have, and she told him, "No!" A boy said the devil told him to go to his friend's house anyway when his mother told him not to, and he told the devil, "No!" And other children have said "No" to the devil when he tried to get them to do wrong. It makes me very happy to know you are not going to obey the devil but want to obey Jesus. And Jesus is happy too, and he will make you feel happy inside when you say "no" to the devil. And Jesus has a beautiful place in heaven for all of you who please him and do the right.

Don't forget to pray often to Jesus and he will make you strong so you will always say "no" to the devil.

—Aunt Marie

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W. Va.—Dear Aunt Marie,—Daddy was reading the "Faith and Victory" paper and saw your article in the Children's Corner about the children reading a chapter of the Bible, and I think that is wonderful for us children. Since I saw your article I have read five chapters of Matthew's gospel.

Praise the Lord, I got sanctified Sunday night. I have started 1949 out for the Lord, so pray for me that I will hold out faithful for the Lord unto the end.

Yours truly,

Leonard C. Carter

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La.—Dear Aunt Marie,—I am a little girl eight years of age and I like to go to Sunday School very much. My

daddy is very sick. I would like for him to be remembered in prayer. We are trusting God for his healing. He has been down for four months. I have just read a tract, "A Startling Vision of Judgment." I liked it very much. But I do not have many tracts. I would like for you to send me some if you please. Pray for us.

Gatha Constable

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Okla.—Dear Aunt Marie,—I feel that I should send my testimony to "Faith and Victory." The other day I had a cold and my throat was sore and my tonsils were swollen. But the dear Lord healed my body. I have many persecutions going to school, but the dear Lord just helps me through them all. I just want the saints to pray that I'll have a closer walk with the Lord. Please pray for me.

Your sister in Christ Jesus,

Lola Keeling

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Okla.—Dear Aunt Marie,—I go to Sunday school every Sunday and I like it. I was eight in December. Pray for me.

Bethenia Keeling

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Okla.—Dear Aunt Marie,—I like to go to Sunday school every Sunday. I like Children's Corner. Pray for me.

Garley Keeling

o o o o o

Okla.—Dear Aunt Marie,—I feel like I should write a testimony. I surely do like the children's corner. I think it is very nice. I want the saints to pray for me. I have many persecutions in school.

Your saved sister,

Oleva Keeling

## CORRESPONDENCE

Ohio—I send greetings of holy love in Jesus dear and precious name to all the saints scattered abroad, and to everyone who may read this. I am glad I am still saved and enjoying this great salvation that Jesus finished when on the cross he said, "It is finished." Oh, dear ones who know about this new birth and have His comforting Spirit in your souls, I am praying the Lord to stir our souls more to have the love for each other that Jesus prayed for us to have in St. John 17. Also I want us to be so burdened for our lost loved ones that we will cry to our Lord day and night until He sends His convicting Spirit to their hearts, and they will find no rest in sin. Oh, that they would cry for mercy and to be made new creatures in Christ Jesus!

I am glad I left all the world to follow Jesus. I want to live so people can see my good works and glorify my heavenly Father.

Dear ones, please read the Bible, for it is our way-bill from earth to heaven, it is our map, and a looking glass in which we can see ourselves if we have that desire, and want to measure up and do what it says. Many in this world only have a head knowledge of God's Word and do not have it in their hearts. Please, dear ones, get acquainted with God. Get his divine nature in your heart. You can know that his Spirit is dwelling in your heart. See to it that no man takes your crown. In Revelation 3:11 it is written, "Behold, I come quickly, hold that fast which thou hast that no man take thy crown." Rev. 22:14, "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the city."

Many people get saved, but listen to man's instructions and join themselves to some man-made church and lose their crown. When people are saved they are born into the only church that Jesus built. He said he would

build his church upon the Rock and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. Saved people are the church. Read Psalm 87. I am glad I was born in it, praise the Lord. Your sister in the one body, Martha Jenkins.

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Arizona—To all the saints scattered abroad, I send greetings in the precious name of Jesus. Today finds me yet saved and on the highway of holiness, and I mean by heaven's grace to prove faithful unto the end. Truly we are living in perilous times, and Jesus will soon be coming to claim His own.

I was very sick, and one night I fell asleep. Jesus appeared to me in form of a man and said, "When I go back I will carry all of your sickness with me." When I awoke I was healed, for which I give Him all the praise. We are isolated here and we are very few in number, but I realize that few will be saved. Pray for me, and also for my unsaved family. Bertha Slaughter

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Kansas—Greetings to all the saints in Jesus' dear name. I praise the dear Lord for saving my soul, and I know it can be lived by the young people as well as the old. I praise the dear Lord for healing me, and for Jesus who died on the cross to redeem us.

A long time ago the nerves in my neck and around my waist would draw. Mother and I were agreed in prayer and the Lord wonderfully healed me. I have never been troubled with it since. The dear Lord has healed the whole family many times. I want to give God all the glory for what he has done for us. It is a great joy and honor to serve our blessed Saviour. Pray for me.

Your sister in Christ, Alvera June

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Kansas—Dear saints,—I am writing to let you know what the good Lord is doing for me. Praise His holy name. Recently I was very sick and no one was there but me. It was at night. My husband was at work and I was sewing. I became suddenly ill and would faint every time I moved. When I would regain consciousness I would pray to the good Lord and he touched my body little by little. Praise God forever and ever! About two o'clock He healed my body, and I give Him all the praise. When my husband came from work the next morning I told him how sick I was. I got up and put out a big washing. I am so glad that the dear Lord is with me. He is everything to me. And I would think about you all and that gave me relief too. Dear saints, this leaves me trusting the dear Lord for both soul and body.

Remember me and my husband in your prayers. The dear Lord impressed me to write my testimony to all the dear saints. Sister Iola Payne

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Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and workers,—I like the Scripture which reads, "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." I remember when a little boy my mother asked me this: "Son, can you hear God knock at your heart's door?" I did not understand what she meant, but I soon knew what she meant. How I enjoy to talk to my Lord in the still of the night when everything is quiet, when God tells me to ask for more grace. I have learned there are two kinds of tears—tears of sadness and tears of joy. I believe when we leave this world prepared we shall meet Jesus our Judge, and we shall shed tears of joy, and if not prepared, tears of sadness, forever too late! The devil is a tempter. He wants me to brood over my past sins that are forgiven. First he caused me to do them and then he torments me with those sins when God has forgiven them and rem-

embers them no more. The Bible says to try the spirits and see whether or not they are of God. My heart's desire is more than ever to walk with God and be perfect. I like that song, "The evening sun is sinking low, A few more days and I must go, To meet the deeds that I have done." May God bless you is my prayer. C. J. Unruh

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Mo.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt and all the saints,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name! I am still saved, sanctified, and enjoying salvation. The Lord and His trusting children certainly mean a lot to me, and I expect, by the grace and help of the dear Lord and his trusting children, to take advice and encouragement that would be for my comfort and help in any way. I certainly do appreciate being back with you and others of God's dear children so much, after not being with you for ten years or more.

I have been reading your book, "God's Gracious Dealings," and it is certainly wonderful to me how the Lord helped in behalf of souls and undertook in supplying the printing equipment for His service, helped through tests, trials, and other difficult things you met and gave you courage to keep looking up with victory and courage to stand firm and true to Him. No. 545 of the Select Hymns is quite impressive to me, especially the second verse. Pray for us. Your saved brother, Alva Lawson

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Calif.—Dear young people,—Nov. 27.—My ankle is still very weak. About three weeks ago I re-hurt it. Since that time it does not heal so quickly. Before I re-hurt it I was using one crutch and was walking on it some. I know the Lord is able to completely heal it and make me able to walk on it once more. My ankle doesn't pain much unless I put some weight on it. I don't believe it will be long until I will be able to use it again.

The Scripture comes to my mind in Romans 8:28, "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." I know I love the Lord better than anything. I thank the Lord it is not any worse.

Nov. 28—I have some good news to add on. The Lord healed my foot last night a little after 8:00. We had family worship and I prayed that the Lord would continue to help my foot and for me to get the lesson out of this affliction he wanted me to get. We got up from prayer, I sat down, and a feeling came over me I have never had before. Something told me to get up and walk on the broken foot. I started walking. The more I walked the better I felt. So the Lord touched my foot and I'm still praising him for it this morning.

I am encouraged to press the battle on until he says, "Tis enough, come home." Pray for me that I might be all the Lord wants me to be in this life.

Your saved brother, Gus Poulos, Jr.

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Mo.—Greetings to all the saints here and there. I have felt before that I should write my testimony, but let Satan cheat me out of that opportunity. This time I am going to defeat him by the help of the Lord. Surely the Lord has been good to me. I want to thank the Lord for saving my soul from sin, then thank him for saving my husband. The Lord has blessed us with four sweet children of which we are proud. By the help of the Lord we are trying to live a holy life. We find the closer we get to the Lord the more trials we have. I have had lots of afflictions in my life, that is, in the past six or eight years. It seems to me it is one affliction after another.

I have had the asthma quite a lot. Some nights my husband and I would pray until after midnight before the Lord would give me any ease. The good Lord has given me ease many different times. The last time I had it, it was so bad I told my husband I could not go thru another night without some help or relief. He asked me if I wanted him to call some saints in to pray for me. He called the saints, they anointed me and prayed for me, and the Lord healed me. One of the brethren said he did not believe I would have been here long if the Lord had not given me relief. I haven't had it since that night, and I hope and pray I never have it again.

I had the flu for six weeks and surely did cough much. The devil tried to make me think the Lord would not heal this. On Monday morning after Christmas, I began to talk to the Lord before time to get up. When we got up I told my family I did not care to eat, I was fasting and praying for my cold. Before noon I had the victory. That night I did not cough any. Thank the Lord for all the past blessings. On Friday morning when I got up my face was all red and broke out with something. It got on my ears and neck and almost all over me. We do not know what it is, but it looks like poison ivy. We have been fasting and praying and we believe the Lord is going to heal this too. Saints, pray for me that the Lord will completely heal my body and I will be one among the faithful few.

Mrs. Earl Sorrell

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Okla.—Holy greetings in Jesus' precious name. Today finds me yet saved and much encouraged to live for the dear Lord, and press my way to glory. We must press our way to glory. I thank the Lord that he is caring for me and my children. He is wonderfully blessing and providing for us. I want to say to all who read this testimony, keep your trust in God because He will care for us. He is my all and in all. I am depending upon him for everything. My husband passed away Jan. 7, 1948 and I am fully depending on the Lord.

Here is a little article which I am passing on to others. Let us put it into practice.

#### DON'T's for Quick Relief of the Human Race

Don't stay away from church services.

Don't run with bad company, it is better to be alone.

Don't lie, it will hurt somebody.

Don't complain, just do your part.

Don't fuss about what the other fellows are doing, get on the job and stay.

Don't fret because the sinner doesn't believe in you, just get out of his way.

Don't stay at home and say, "This old church is dead." Examine yourself.

Don't tattle or let others tattle to you. The fellow who brings the message will certainly carry one back.

Don't say the church can run without money. God's business is bigger than yours.

Don't be selfish.

Don't feel more important than you really are.

Don't curse the preacher, examine yourself and pray.

Don't look for faults in other people. If you do, you will certainly overlook your own.

May the Lord bless these few remarks.

Your sister in Christ,

Mattie Celestine

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Mich.—Bro. Pruitt and co-workers in Jesus,—With victory in my soul, I greet you. I appreciate the good message of truth you publish in "Faith and Victory"—a wonderful combination. If we have faith we also have

victory. They are knit together. The spirit of atheism is rapidly increasing; skepticism and unbelief are abounding; head knowledge is taking the place of the new birth.

I am enclosing ten names for the paper, mostly youth. To them this message must be given, as they are the oncoming standard bearers. May God open their understanding. "My people perish for lack of knowledge," says our Lord. "If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not: and it shall be given him." James 1:5. How I have proved this many times. I could not accept man's interpretation, and I sought the face of my Father and received the answer. The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to lead, guide, and direct into ALL truth. And ye need not that any man interpret it for you (1 John 2:28). The teaching of the Holy Spirit is uniform. It produces unity of believers, being of one mind, love for each other, and doctrines will be the same no matter what color, race, or nationality we are.

Forty-three years ago I saw the above in action. The blind was made to see, the deaf were made to hear, the sick was raised up, the lame was made to walk, and saints rejoiced that they could suffer for Jesus. Although my parents were tied up in sects, when I saw this at 15, I knew in my heart this was something I had never witnessed in the sect organization. I felt it was of God, and as I learned of the church of God I never doubted. It was, oh, so easy to accept. It was so simple, clear, and real there was no room for doubt.

I have experienced personal healing several times—leakage of the heart, dropsy, infection in my head, also thyroid disturbances. My children have been healed. My trust is in God alone, to Him be all praise and glory.

Saints, cling to God's unchanging hand. No one is able to pluck us out of our Father's hand. Praise God. Perilous times are here and ahead. The devil is out to destroy. It makes no difference what manner of garb he wears, his one object is to destroy. Oh, yes, he is religious, very active, going around this world in all manner of isms. The spirit is the same. Let no man deceive you, whatsoever we sow we shall surely reap. I am determined to die for my Lord if He so requires it. I am bound for heaven. I will not be moved. My face is set toward heaven and I know my Lord will not lead me astray.

Pray for us. God bless you all, Mrs. Lucy E. Smith

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Texas—Greetings in Christ's name,—I would like to testify this morning of some of the good things the Lord has done for me.

Three years ago I had only a profession of Christianity, but thought, of course, that I was right with God. Then when I became severely ill I tried to pray and had the knowledge that my prayers were not going to heaven. So I sent to my sister who was saved, requesting prayer for my soul as well as body, acknowledging that I was not saved and needed help. She immediately sent to the saints for prayer for me. I had been taken to the hospital. As soon as they began to pray for me, I felt the touch of God. All my alarming symptoms disappeared THEN. My body tingled from head to foot. But I was too ignorant of God's ways to know I had been healed. In a few hours I was sent home from the hospital. I gave my heart and life to God. I was truly glad to have the feeling that now I could pray and He could hear me. But God in his infinite wisdom knew I needed instruction and help. There was no one here to help me spiritually, so I was soon ill, in bed again. My husband took me to Dallas, to my sister's, we thought to have an operation, but God

wonderfully delivered me from one. I grew in strength, and in three weeks time I was able to take my place with the family again. God knew that was the only way to put me where I could get help. I praise His name! He has since healed me of appendicitis, athlete's foot, back ache, and lots of other things, physical and spiritual.

Pray for me. I desire greatly to be where I can worship with the saints. The Lord bless, guide, and keep every one of you.

Vivian McClain

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Ill.—Dear saints,—We truly praise God again for answering prayer concerning Morris' foot that he ran the nail in. We give God all the glory for it. While his foot hurt very severely at times, he walked out to the barn and did the milking every time. His foot was swollen and part of his toes were stiff, but the Lord wonderfully undertook and it is almost well, just a little tender. We are so glad that God is still on the throne and is just the same yesterday, today, and forever.

We have been praying about what God wanted us to do and where he would have us labor; also we have been having some trials financially. Morris has had very little work recently and none at all now. We have also had some persecution, but we still love God and intend to serve Him and trust Him, knowing that he is able to deliver his children.

The "Faith and Victory" is very much appreciated here. Morris is reading "God's Gracious Dealings" and he reads it aloud and we enjoy it very much.

We truly appreciate all the prayers of the saints there and are praying God's richest blessings upon all of you. Please continue to pray for us.

Ruth and Morris Childress

o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Va.—I feel I would love to write just a few lines to "Faith and Victory" paper to say what God has done for me. I had been sick for several years and had lots of trouble. I am thankful that my reading of this paper gave me a better understanding of the Bible. God has been good to me. I had never heard of this truth until I met Sister Bessie Faudree. I would like to ask your prayers for my son whose mind is not strong. And pray that I may be stronger in Christ.

Nannie Jane Connell

o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Pa.—We have read the "Faith and Victory" paper for many years and find it very helpful. How we need to pray for all of God's people in these last days, that we may be overcomers. How we all feel our need of Him every moment as Satan is doing his best to discourage and overthrow.

I feel led to tell what the Lord has done for me in the past year. It was in the year of 1948 some time that I wrote to the saints of God in my great distress of pain. It seemed as though I would be stricken down, but I asked you all to remember me in prayer and in a short time I was better and it seemed I could tell when you began to pray. I do thank the Lord. He has told us in his Word just what to do in case of sickness and he does not want us to go down to the world for help. I am glad he says in Matt. 8:16, 17 that he takes our infirmities and bears our sicknesses and forgives our sins. Pray for me as I pray for you.

Love in Christ, Mrs. Geo. Kelly.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o

La.—Greetings to all the saints in Jesus' dear name. We are still saved and much encouraged to go all the way with the dear Lord. I mean to make heaven my home at any cost. I was sick about four days and told the Lord

if he would heal me I would tell about it through this paper. When I woke up the next morning I was not hurting at all. Praise the dear Lord.

I need your prayers. My husband loves the Lord and we would both love to attend services but there is no church of God here. We pray some day to be where there are people who live holy lives. We pray and the Lord keeps us saved. I thank the Lord that I have the Holy Ghost. We serve the dear Lord, the one who will not leave nor forsake his children. God has been so good to me I cannot help but praise him. I love the Lord Jesus Christ and the true church of God. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters, He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in paths of righteousness for his names sake. 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.

Your saved sister,

Mrs. A. J. Pasquet

o-o-o-o-o-o-o

W. Va.—I feel like giving a report of the little work at South Charleston on Eff St. The Lord has enabled this little flock of eight saints to buy a lot and erect a meeting house on it. Bro. Orr from California came to hold us a meeting and the building was not finished, so began immediately to help on it. He helped two weeks to get it so we could have a meeting. Then he and Bro. John Strong from Ohio held a three weeks meeting.

The saints here are trying to hold up the standard of the Bible church as it was revealed to D. S. Warner and others without compromise, not fashioning ourselves after the styles of the proud world. One woman said the reason she wanted to come to meeting was because thy told her we were the old time saints. She said she had never seen any of them. And when she came, praise God she did not find any of us decorated in dress like the world. There were no feathers in our hats, rings on our fingers, paint on our lips nor fingernails, nor in any manner were we patterned after the pride of the world.

In His last prayer for his disciples (John 17) Jesus said they were not of the world even as he was not of the world. When one gives up the spirit of the world and accepts the Spirit of Christ, there is a change on the outside as well as on the inside.

Brother Strong has come to stay with us a while as the dear Lord leads. We are glad for God's way, and know that He makes no mistakes in placing pastors over the flocks. Man's way would be to choose a certain one or vote him in, but that is not God's way. God says his way is as far above man's way as the heavens are above the earth. Praise God for a few humble saints who are willing to take the humble way of the cross.

—Georgiana Sayre

o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Michigan—Dear ones in Christ,—I wrote you before Christmas asking you to anoint a handkerchief to put on my dear husband who is ill with diabetes and has had two strokes, and at last his mind became affected and they put him in the state hospital for the insane. After I sent for the handkerchief I was called away on account of death so I didn't get back very soon, but as soon as I could make arrangements I went to the hospital. It seems Satan prevents me in every way he can, but I finally succeeded in getting a chance to lay it on his head, and, oh! how I prayed to God to heal him. It was like the woman that had the issue of blood getting through to touch the hem of our Lord's garment. But I did, praise

God; and it was only a few minutes until my husband asked me what I had done. I told him he had been anointed in our Lord's name to be healed. He said, "Oh, I felt it down to my feet and thank God, thank God."

I was so filled with joy I thanked God over and over. He asked different questions about everyone and seemed sane enough, and I know he is, but the doctors will not consent to let me bring him home. He is still taking insulin and they say his arteries are hardening. They admitted he was 100 per cent better than he was. He wants to come home so bad. What must I do? Please pray for him that God will heal him of diabetes and arteries, and pray that God will make them release him and bring him back. Oh, God never fails, and I know it! Praise His holy name. Pray for me. My burdens are very heavy.

Your sister in Christ, Mrs. Tom Colgrove

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

La.—Dear saints of God and Jesus Christ,—I thank the Lord for what he has done and still does for me. I am thankful that though I have never gone to school I can read His Word and understand it. I spend all day with the Lord who helps me to rest and keeps me in peace. I have been in bed most of my life. I will spend the rest of my days in bed unless the dear Lord raises me up. I love to sing all day. I sing, pray, read the gospel news, and tell it to others. Jesus is all the world to me, and I love Him more than anything else. The world is getting more wicked. There are not many that love Christ and keep His sayings. This means that time is about up. Pray for me. I hope to be alive when the Lord comes. I can be ready, by His help and grace. I want to thank every brother and sister in Christ Jesus for helping me both soul and body. God shall reward them in due time. Read Psa. 41:1.

Brother Theodore Carter

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Adair, Okla.—Dear saints of God,—If any of the saints are passing through Adair we would be glad for them to stop to see us. Wife and I are alone and up in years. We could not drive a car if we had one. This Christmas makes forty-four years we've been married. I lost one of my eyes in 1942. I am thankful for one.

From Adair I live one mile west, two north, one-half west. Ours is the first house on the south side of the road. Another Mr. Berry lives south of Adair who is no relation to me.

Thomas Berry

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Kansas,—Dear saints,—Greetings in the name of our precious Lord and Saviour who died to save us from sin! Truly, He is good and merciful to us. I thank the Lord for how He has blessed me in my soul. Many times I have prayed, "Lord, whenever I start to drift or stray, reach your loving hand down and draw me back." Just about a month ago the Lord showed me I was drifting—not very much, but enough for me to realize it was not pleasing the Lord—so I immediately took it to Him and He has been helping me very much since then.

We met the saints almost two years ago, and since then I have been happier than I ever was before. Before that time I had not really had any trials or tests, but I have had some since. I thank the Lord for those battles though. If we would just stop and think, if it were not for battles there would be no victories; and oh! those victories are so precious. The Lord strengthens His children through tests and trials. Even though they may seem hard at the time, and it seems the Lord has hid His face from us, His Word tells us, "Lo, I am with you always." What a promise! I love the Lord with all my

heart, and my whole desire is to serve Him ALL the days of my life.

At the early part of last summer I had a very small patch of eczema on my second finger of my left hand. One Sunday this started itching very much and I just couldn't keep from scratching it. As time went on, this became larger and it would run clear water all the time. At first it was weeping eczema, I think, because after it was on my finger about a month, when I would bandage my finger, within an hour it would be soaked through the bandage to the outside. By this time the eczema had spread to other parts of my hands on the fingers. The eczema would start with tiny clear bumps. All this time I was asking the Lord to heal me. It finally got to where I had to have some sort of a bandage on every finger until just a few days before the Monark meeting. The Lord was making it dry.

At Monark I was anointed and the Lord surely blessed me, for within a few days I was able to interlock my fingers together—something I had not been able to do since school was out. Then the devil came in and I got impetigo in my hands. By the time we went to the Guthrie camp-meeting I could not wash dishes and could hardly comb my hair. The first Sunday of the meeting I was almost sick with my hands hurting. I was undecided about whether to go home with my mother, brothers, and sister, or to stay for the meeting. The devil wanted me at home, so I stayed for the meeting. I praise the Lord he helped me make that decision, for never before had the saints been so much encouragement to me. Oh! I thank God for His saints who will get under the burden for others who need help.

My hands got worse steadily. At one time all my fingers were practically covered with scabs. I was very discouraged, but the saints prayed for me, then I would be encouraged for a short length of time—not even a whole day. If I would be discouraged in the morning, I would be encouraged by night, and vice versa.

One morning I got up in time to go to prayer meeting. I got myself ready—how I do not know. I couldn't even carry my Bible. I testified and asked the saints to earnestly remember me in prayer. When I get discouraged I always cry, so I cried that morning too. After meeting Sister Davis came to me and encouraged me and we talked for some time. Then another young sister from La. and I went to one of the Publishing House workers' room at Bro. Pruitt's and prayed and begged the Lord to help me. Later as this sister and I lay on the bed reading encouraging Scriptures, my eyes fell on a wall plaque which bore the words, "Jesus Never Fails." Praise the Lord! My eyes followed on around the room and I saw, "He careth for you. Be not afraid, only believe." How the Lord does bless His children. I saw another plaque on the wall which had the poem, "What God Hath Promised." That poem was truly a blessing to me. I was encouraged then. The saints got under such a burden for me, for which I thank the Lord. I was anointed on Thursday, Aug 12th. From then on I got better. Since then the devil has tried to bring it back, but praise the Lord, we do not have to put up with Him. Still I have little tests with my hands, but they're nothing compared to the time at Guthrie. I did not put a thing on my hands; the Lord has healed me. Praise His name forever!

I need the prayers of all the saints that the Lord will help me with the problems that face every young person. I hadn't realized before that there were so many problems that a young person living for the Lord must meet.

Please pray for me that I'll do as He would have me to do, for I mean heaven at any cost.

When we receive our "Faith and Victory" paper, the first thing I look for is correspondence from someone I know. I rejoice if there is a letter from another young person in it. I have wanted to write my testimony for some time, but the things of life have taken so much time that I hadn't found time. Tonight, I haven't found time, I'm just taking time. Pray for me that I'll ever stay true to the Lord.

Your saved sister, Marilyn Beisly  
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Miss.—Dear saints and readers,—Greetings in Jesus' name,—I feel it would be to God's glory for me to send in a short testimony. I still love the Lord and am determined to make it through to heaven. It means much to live for the Lord. So many people today are playing religion. Many are deceived in their religion. This is a sad picture to me. Take heed to yourselves that your hearts be not deceived (Deut. 11:16).

We as saints of God ought to measure up to all the Word of God and let our light shine so others may see our good works. The Word of God is going to stand forever and judge us in the last day. I pity the person who has never heard the real truth. But if souls are honest God will surely make his way known unto them. Then I think about people who know the truth and won't measure up. Oh, how sad!

The Lord has been wonderful to me and I can never praise him enough for this great salvation. I would rather be right with God than to own the world. I need your prayers.

Novella Pugh

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Okla.—Dear saints and readers of "Faith and Victory," Greetings to all in Jesus' name—I am still saved and trusting in the Lord for both soul and body. I have been ill in my body for some time and have been praying and requesting prayer for some time. Truly I can say the Lord has healed my body. Praise His holy name, not only because he has done so many wonderful things for me, but also for the joy he gives. I enjoy living this life, and I wouldn't take anything for my journey. I desire your prayers. Pray that I'll do all the little things he will have me to do.

Your sister in the one body, Luverdia Benton

### PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for a poor mother, Mrs. Allen Hall, who has had a stroke. Also pray for her son who has been afflicted with T. B. for a long time.

Roll of 5 "Faith and Victory" papers, one year ....\$1.00  
12 papers each month, one year ..... 2.00  
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If you desire to work for the Lord, send for a roll of papers to give out to friends and neighbors. The Lord has no idlers in His vineyard.

## BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll, \$1.15; Lesson Cards 5c per set.  
Order from Faith Publishing House, Guthrie, Okla.

## JESUS' EARLY TEACHING AND HEALING

Sunday, February 6, 1949

Printed Portion .....Mark 1:14, 15, 32-39; Luke 4: 16-21.

Mark 1:14. Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

15. And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

32. And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils.

33. And all the city was gathered together at the door.

34. And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

35. And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

36. And Simon and they that were with him followed after him.

37. And when they had found him, they said unto him, All men seek for thee.

38. And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth.

39. And he preached in their synagogues, throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils.

Luke 4:16. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

17. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

18. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

20. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

21. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Memory Verse: God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and power: who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil, for God was with him. Acts 10:38.

Practical Truth: If we are to be successful as Christians we must take time to be alone with God.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

This is the beginning of Christ's ministry as we see in Mark 1:14, 15. John the Baptist had finished his work. He came to prepare the way for Jesus, and Jesus took up where John left off.

Jesus' first word to the people was "Repent." Before we can repent we must know what the word repent means. It means godly sorrow because of our sins and a decision in our hearts to quit sinning. Jesus told Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again." One must repent before he can be born again. "Repent and believe the gospel," Jesus said. And this is putting first things first. We must obey all that Jesus and his inspired writers taught us. We may search the Bible from beginning to end and nowhere are we commanded to join a church. But in Jer. 50:5 we are commanded to join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual



covenant. That is just what takes place when we repent and are born again.

Divine healing was an outstanding thing in Christ's early ministry. In Acts 10:38 we read where Peter testified of Jesus, how God anointed Him with the Holy Ghost and he went about doing good and healing all the sick that were brought to him and cast out devils. And Peter said, "For God was with him." The Spirit of the Lord was upon Jesus and he was anointed to preach the gospel to the poor and to bind up the broken-hearted and bring deliverance to the captives; to open the eyes of the blind and set at liberty them that were bruised, and he proclaimed the acceptable year of the Lord. Notice what a claim Jesus made for himself after he had read these things. We often hear the statement made by those who try to deny the divinity of Jesus that he was just a "good man." If a mere man should dare to make such a claim for himself it would make him the biggest liar of all time, and a liar is not a "good man." He proclaimed to them all: "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." Yes, He was and is the Messiah. He proved that he was the Christ by doing just what the prophets said he would do. Read the 35th chapter of Isaiah.

Some question as to whether the Lord is still healing people and performing miracles. In Hebrews 13:8 we read: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever." The Lord is still in the healing business for all who will meet the conditions. Read James 5:13-16, and it would be good to read the rest of the chapter.

In Luke 4:40, 41 we find Him still healing and casting out devils. Jesus took every opportunity that was offered to get His gospel to the people as we see in Luke 5:3. Many times Jesus would rise up early in the morning and go out to a quiet place where he could be alone with his Father.

### JESUS FACES OPPOSITION

Sunday, February 13, 1949

Printed Portion: ..... Mark 2:3-8, 16, 17; 3:1-6.

Mark 2:3. And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.

4. And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.

5. When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

6. But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts.

7. Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?

8. And immediately, when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?

16. And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?

17. When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

3:1. And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand.

2. And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day, that they might accuse him.

3. And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth.

4. And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.

5. And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

6. And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.

Memory Verse: Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 2 Tim. 2:12.

Practical Truth: If we will follow Jesus we must be brave, Jesus cannot use cowards.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

When the truth and righteousness are proclaimed, the wrong always opposes it and Jesus forewarns us that when we follow him and stand for the right the world will oppose us. Jesus had plenty of opposition and persecution all through his three years of ministry.

In the first few verses of today's lesson we find Jesus teaching the people and healing the sick, and we take particular notice of the faith that these men had who brought the palsied man to Jesus. The house was so crowded they could not get close to him so they uncovered the roof and let the sick man down before Jesus. Because of their faith Jesus gave the poor sick man a double blessing—He forgave his sins and healed him completely. This should inspire our faith to be stronger in spite of the fact that we are opposed. Notice on what grounds the scribes found fault with Jesus here. Do we not find the same spirit, alert to oppose the working of God through His children today?

The first few verses of the third chapter of Mark record another wonderful miracle that Jesus performed, and the Pharisees found fault with him and began to plan how they could get rid of him. The true gospel uncovers sin and crookedness in the lives of wicked men so they naturally hate the truth and will always persecute those who preach the truth and live what they preach. Read the last few verses of the 15th chapter of St. John and 2 Tim. 3:12. The devil and his followers have always bitterly opposed Jesus and his followers. Some people will try to argue that there isn't any devil, but I say to any who are living in sin, just try to get away from him and you will surely be convinced that there is a devil. And after you get away from him and become a follower of Jesus you will see how the devil and his followers will persecute. Jesus told his followers this: "If they have persecuted me they will also persecute you."

### JESUS CHOOSES TWELVE

Sunday, February 20, 1949

Printed Portion ..... Mark 1:16-20; Luke 6:12-16.

Mark 1:16. Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

17. And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

18. And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.

19. And when he had gone a little farther thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets.



20. And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.

Luke 6:12. And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

13. And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

14. Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew,

15. Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes,

16. And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.

Memory Verse: And she shall bring forth a Son and thou shalt call his name JESUS for He shall save His people from their sins.

Practical Truth: If we would be a true disciple we must take time to count the cost and also take time to be alone with God.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In the first part of this lesson (Mark 1:16-20) we find Jesus by the sea of Galilee looking for men whom he could trust with the message of salvation, for Jesus came to this earth with a purpose to seek and save that which was lost. He began the task of choosing twelve men to be his apostles. No doubt if this task had been left to some man he would have gone to what we call "the better class of people," those who were educated; but a long time ago when God would have a king for his people (1 Sam. 16:7) he made the statement, "For the Lord seeth not as man seeth, for man looketh on the outward appearance, but God looketh on the heart." So Jesus began choosing men to be his apostles from the common people, just poor fishermen. He told them to follow him and he would make them fishers of men. Read Acts 4:13 and 1 Cor. 1:26-28.

Then (Luke 6:12-16) Jesus called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them whom he named apostles. But before he chose these twelve he spent the whole night in prayer to be sure there would be no mistake. In choosing these twelve he got exactly the men he wanted. Not one place in the New Testament do we find where Jesus made a mistake. All of his followers were called disciples but only the twelve were apostles. For three years Jesus labored with his disciples instilling into their hearts the precious truths which are left on record for us by his faithful followers. In the 5th chapter of Matthew, the beginning of the sermon on the Mount, we find his beautiful teachings (the beatitudes) recorded, which show the simplicity of his gospel which has caused all who are really interested in salvation to wonder. The world does not understand it, but Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." And we who are really saved can testify to the truth of this statement, for we are free; yes, free from sin, for Jesus saves us from sin.

#### STANDARDS OF THE KINGDOM

Sunday, February 27, 1949

Printed Portion .....Matthew 5:1-12; 7:24-27.

Matt. 5:1. And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

2. And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

3. Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

4. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

6. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

7. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

8. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

9. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

10. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

7:24. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell; and great was the fall of it.

Memory Verse: Follow peace with all men and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord.

Practical Truth: We must be holy, for nothing unholly will ever enter heaven. (Rev. 21:27).

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The question confronts us: What is the standard for the true Christian, or for a citizen of Christ's kingdom? It means meeting the requirements the Lord has set forth in His Word as we see in the beatitudes found in this 5th chapter of Matthew. Some have the mistaken idea that Christ will set up his kingdom when he comes the second time, as we look for him to appear without sin unto salvation. But the Bible teaches plainly that he set up his kingdom when he was here on earth almost two thousand years ago, and he also set forth in plain language the standard for citizenship in his kingdom.

First, to disabuse our minds of wrong conceptions concerning his kingdom, look up and read the following Scriptures: Matt. 4:17; Luke 16:16; Luke 17:20, 21; St. John 18:36; and Colossians 1:12, 13. These Scriptures show without contradiction that Christ set up his kingdom when he was here almost two thousand years ago. He also set the standard and set in order the requirements for citizenship in his kingdom. If we would become a citizen in his kingdom and retain our citizenship according to Luke 6:47, 48, we must dig deep and lay our foundation on the Rock, so that all the trials and tribulations that come our way will not be able to even shake us. Read Rev. 7:14. All that pertains to heaven is holy and the church (Christ's kingdom) is holy also. Many times in God's Word we are commanded to be holy; so now to state the whole matter briefly: the standard of his kingdom is holiness, or pure, clean, holy living. This is not a hard standard to meet when we are really saved and sanctified. Read Luke 1:74, 75.

G. S.