

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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The Course Of The World

Carelessly drifting, the world rushes on,
For pleasure and folly, a gay, giddy throng;
Led on by the glitter, the pride, and the show,
So careless and thoughtless as years come and go;
Unheeding the voice of the watchman on high,
"O turn ye, O turn ye, for why will ye die."

Carelessly drifting away from their God,
Away from his people, away from his Word;
Bewitched and enchanted with sin's siren song,
They plunge in the whirlpool of folly and wrong;
Forgetting the holy, the pure, and the true,
Still onward the byways of sin they pursue.

Carelessly drifting, the wise and the great,
The rich and the poor, alike drift to their fate;
For gold and for silver, for honor and fame,
So blind and deluded their glory's their shame;
Forsaking true wisdom and knowledge for dross,
They seek for mere bubbles—in hell they'll be lost.

Carelessly drifting, from Jesus and right,
Still farther and farther into the dark night;
The prayers and the tears of loved ones they crush
Like filth in the streets as onward they rush;
Hard'ning their heart as an adamant stone,
Rejecting the blood for their sins to atone.

Carelessly drifting, from heaven and home,
From bright fields Elysian forever to roam;
Far, far, from God's mercy, his smiles, and his love,
To suffer forever 'neath his wrath from above;
The blackness of darkness they choose for their fate,
They awake to their doom when, alas, 'tis too late!
—J. B.

DECISION

God has wrought out the plan of salvation and has given to us the power of choice. Heaven and hell are set before us and we may go where we choose. Dear reader, did you ever realize what a tremendous responsibility is resting upon you? You may go to

heaven by the grace of God if you will, or, by neglecting and refusing the tender mercies of God and passing by the golden opportunities offered, you may seal your doom forever. In a certain sense your eternal destiny is in your own hands.

The devil by many false doctrines and in various ways has succeeded in hiding this truth from the souls of men; for he very well knows that if they could see how responsible they are many would more earnestly seek the Lord.

The dreadful tendency of sin and all the works of the devil is to paralyze the human will. If the devil can keep the will enfeebled, and the decision crushed and beaten down, he has accomplished his end. He is always working to undermine the decision of God's people. You may look back over your past experience and you will notice that every time you have fallen you gave away at this point first. Decision is the strong man that keeps the door of the soul. Where he is overcome the dearest treasures are an easy prey to the spoiler. Oh may God help us to give due heed to this point! So very few seem to have the decision necessary to carry them through the fiery trials of these perilous times. Remember, if you let the enemy break through your decision he will spoil all the virtues of the Christian character you have been building for years. He will turn your joy to sorrow, your faith to unbelief, your kindness to cruelty, and make havoc of all that is dear to a Christian's heart. A good decision in the Holy Ghost is a priceless treasure. It is the strength of the soul, the trusty vessel that holds the good things of the Lord. It is the element that cements in one the virtues of the Christian character and gives endurance to every part. It is the officer who disciplines the army of the soul and sets it in battle array against every invasion of the devil. Without it, the soul is in constant peril. We must have decision in our love, our submission, our patience, our humility, our consecration, and in everything that goes to make up a character for eternity. We may be able to get many good blessings from the Lord, but without decision they would be wrested from us in a short while. Perhaps you have been longing and praying for faith, patience, meekness, etc., but how many times have you prayed for decision? Have you

DIVINE HEALING

WHY SOME DO NOT GET HEALED

felt the need of it? No one need expect to get established in the grace of God unless he gets decided.

Are you doing your part? Are you decided? Is any of God's will hard for you to do? It is because you are not decided as you should be. Do you have trials over and over again on some certain lines in your experience? Take a hint, you need to get more decided. The enemy may work in many ways to seduce and entice, but the decision must be overcome before the soul goes down. The only safe way to live is to keep decided all the time and at every point.

At some places along the Mississippi River the government has built levees to keep the water from overflowing the surrounding country in time of flood. These levees must be looked after and kept in constant repair by men employed for that purpose. The time to repair them is not while the flood is raging, but before it comes. Just so with our decision. It is the barrier that sustains the pressure in time of flood, and must be constantly strengthened between trials.

Are you living a decided life for God? Is your decision on the increase, or is your will becoming more and more enfeebled as the days go by? Perhaps you have let go altogether, and realize you are drifting with the tide. Oh, how sad! Do you know that if you land in the lost world it will have been a matter of your own responsibility?

Those who give way over and over again in time of test and let the enemy rob them of their decision are thereby forging about their souls an awful chain of darkness. Remember, dear soul, unless you get decided, you will soon go down for the last time, sink to rise no more, sleep the sleep that knows no waking, and perish in sight of all the goodness and mercy of God. Can you afford it? You can get decided. God will help you. Time is swiftly passing by, and the judgment is rolling near. The death angel is calling for others every hour. Ere long he will call for you. Are you ready to go? Oh, may the fear of God rest upon precious souls. Is it possible that after you have received this glorious truth in this evening time of the world and have known the way of salvation and have been able to discern the body of Christ and have been healed many times, is it possible, we repeat, that after all this, you will have to take your march with other doomed ones down to an awful night, all because you do not get decided? Those who live an undecided life are the ones who are falling an easy prey to the wicked and divisional spirits of these last days. It is alarming how many are being sacrificed all because they are not walking in the light. Oh, take warning, dear soul, lest on account of your carelessness and indecision you barter away forever your hope of heaven and immortal glory. "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision" Joel 3:14. Good desires and good intentions alone will not take you to heaven. You must get decided. Will you do it? The prodigal son said, "I will arise and GO," and he did. You will have to "arise and go" forward if you make it into heaven.

—A. R.

"Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? Why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?" Jer. 8:22. "Go up into Gilead and take balm, O Virgin, the daughter of Egypt. In vain shalt thou use many medicines; for thou shalt not be cured." Jer. 46:11.

There are varied reasons why the Lord withholds healing. We can not name them all, but judging from the above scriptures, the Lord withheld his blessings from the children of his people because they had not walked in his ways, nor kept his statutes and judgments, but had served idol gods, and worshiped the hosts of heaven. Though God had sent prophets from time to time to plead with them to walk in the ways of righteousness, yet they turned a deaf ear, and walked in the ways of the heathen nations, and in the imagination of their evil hearts, and went backward instead of forward. The Lord said to Jeremiah, "Seest thou what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, and they provoke me to anger." Jer. 7:17, 18. "For the children of Judah have done evil in my sight, saith the Lord: they have set their abominations in the house which is called by my name, to pollute it." 30th verse. How could they expect the Lord to bless their land and heal them under these conditions?

He said also in Hosea 7:1, "When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was discovered." Isa. 59:1, 2 reads, "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear:"

Ofttimes sin and slackness in the lives of men have caused God to withhold healing. Some are not healed because they do not seek God for healing, as in the case of Asa, 2 Chron. 16:12. James 4:2c, 3, "Ye have not, because ye ask not, ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." This would also include healing, the same as other things that God would withhold, because he would receive no glory in granting to any one whose heart had not been softened, or inclined to render honor to Him. David said on one occasion, "Before I was afflicted, I went astray: but now have I kept thy word." Ps. 119:67.

Sometimes the Lord allows some one to be sick, or afflicted, not on account of any sin or carelessness in their lives, but that he might be glorified in them, as in the case of Job. We know that God is all-wise, and that he is righteous and just. He always knows what is best and what will be most to his glory. Many of Job's friends thought he had failed God, and they did not hesitate to bring many sore and grievous accusations against him, but Job held on to his integrity and said, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in

him." "He knoweth the way that I take." "When he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." We find that in due time the Lord turned the captivity of Job, healed his body, and gave him double the amount of goods and possessions the devil had destroyed. And James says in the same chapter in which he gives instructions for healing, "Take my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." James 5:10, 11. The Lord permits some to suffer long, and endure, that they may be an example to others. Or that he might work out something in their lives according to his will. Jesus has taught us to say, "Not my will, but thine be done." If one is pliable in the hand of God, as clay in the hands of the potter, all will be well according to his design.

A lack of faith in the promises of God has caused some to fail to receive healing for their bodies. "He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. 11:6. And James 1:6-7 will also apply in this case. "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord." After Jesus had cast the devil out of a child and cured him, the disciples asked, "Why could not we cast him out?" Jesus answered, "Because of your unbelief." He went on further to say, "Howbeit, this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." Matt. 18:21. We find that it takes much importuning in prayer, and pleading before God with fastings and a vehement desire to obtain results, more so in some cases than in others.

Remember the widow and the unjust judge. Sometimes healing is not received because of a lack of earnestness in prayer, mingled with a lack of faith. We can not put too much stress on the need of faith in God to bring the desired blessing of healing. Any one that comes to the Lord to be healed, and at the same time having in mind that if they are not healed they will try something else, need not think that they will receive healing, because such ones are wavery minded and beset with doubts and unbelief, which have no promise of reward. Faith will bring results. Just as Peter walked on the water when Jesus bade him come, but when he saw the waves boisterous he began to sink, no doubt, many times some do not receive their healing because they look at symptoms of the disease rather than at the promises of God. Even though the prayer of faith has been prayed, it sometimes calls for a real fight of faith to hold on to the promise when pains and symptoms stubbornly insist, but they must be resisted if one would gain the victory, otherwise the healing will be delayed, or may not come at all. May the faithful and true God give faith and courage to all who look to him for healing. It pleases God for his people to trust in him. We understand that it is a divine appointment that we must at some time die or demise, either by natural causes or otherwise; and when that time has arrived

the Lord sometimes makes it definitely clear that he will take the ill, or ailing, one to himself, and there is no use to pray against the will of God. It has been revealed that the sickness is unto death, and God will have his way in the matter. Nevertheless, God has, and will give rest and relief from pain and suffering in answer to prayer. He will "make all his bed in his sickness." But he has purposed to take such one to himself, and he will not be healed.

If the Lord has not made it known that the sickness is unto death, even though at times it may seem that the loved one is very near death's door, he is able and will raise him (or her) up again, as has been proven many times by those who have trusted in his mercy. The Lord has saved many from the very jaws of death.

God was so real to Job, and his confidence so firm that he decided, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him." Job 13:15. Many have fought a good fight, and died triumphantly in the faith. "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his." —Ulysses Phillips.

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Seeking Sanctification

Matthew 7:7.

THE SEEKER'S PART:

He must be in Christ. John 15:1, 2; 1 Thess. 1:1; 4:3; 1 Cor. 1:2.

He must have faith in God. Heb. 11:6.

He must approach God in full assurance of faith. Heb. 10:19-22.

Believe that God is able to sanctify. Hebrews 7:26; Eph. 3:20.

He must lay aside the sin that doth so easily beset him. Heb. 12:1.

He must put off the old man. Eph. 4:22; Col. 3:9.

He must suffer to have the old man crucified. Romans 6:6.

He must be abstaining from all appearance of evil. 1 Thess. 5:22.

He must present himself a living sacrifice to God. Romans 12:1, 2.

He must ask God in the name of Jesus (John 16:23) for a clean heart (Ps. 51:10), for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13), in faith (Matt. 21:22; Mark 11:24).

GOD'S PROMISES TO THE SEEKER:

Ye shall find. Matt. 7:7.

Every plant shall be rooted up. Matt. 15:13.

The God of peace will sanctify you wholly. 1 Thes. 5:22-24.

Make you perfect. Hebrews 13:20, 21; 10:14, 15.

Cleanse from ALL sin. 1 John 1:7.

Give the Holy Spirit. Luke 11:13.

—Selected.

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1952 "Faith and Victory" Book

The year's edition of 1952 "Faith and Victory" papers are now bound in book form and ready to send to those who want them. The price is 60 cents each book post paid to you. We also have a few of the 1951 year books left and shall be glad to send them out at fifty cents each book.

"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 his wife, Mary A. Pruitt, and other consecrated workers at FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Okla.

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Single copy, one year	\$.25
Single copy, five years	1.00
Five copies to any address, one year	1.00
Twelve copies to any address, one year	2.00

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.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way the Bible and the Holy Spirit teaches you to do or stirs your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 24:2; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

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

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THE BEAUTIFUL WAY

"The Beautiful Way" a four-page leaflet for children is published quarterly in thirteen leaflets, one for each week. Marie Miles Editor, assisted by others.

Subscription price: 60¢ per year for single copies.

40¢ each subscription in quantities of five or more to one address for a yr. (Pay quarterly if you desire).

Editorials

By the time this issue of "Faith and Victory" paper reaches our readers, the new year of 1953 will be at hand. It does not seem long since the January paper of 1952 was issued and sent forth. But just think of the thousands upon thousands of souls that have gone into eternity during this short space of time. The apostle James certainly spoke the truth when he asked the question, "What is your life?" and answered it in this way, "It is even as a vapor that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away." We are like the grass of the field that groweth up; today it grows and flourishes, and tomorrow it is cut down and is no more. But the man that is so soon cut down is unlike the grass in this respect that he has a soul that will either be with God in heaven or with Satan in that lake of fire and brimstone. Now is the day for every one to do his choosing; tomorrow it may be too late to confess and pray. We have just read in the news paper of the great disaster in Washington state where thirty-six souls were snatched out in the airplane crash. They had no warning, no chance of escape and their bodies were mangled and charred until many were hardly recognizeable. It is very doubtful that a single soul was ready to meet God, except the babies who knew not right from wrong. God has written in his word, "He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." Prov. 29:1. One who hardens his heart in rejecting the gospel which Paul says, "Is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth," will suddenly be destroyed and will have no chance to confess and repent. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of God, having not on a wedding garment. For the Scripture has said that one in this condition will be speechless and will be cast out into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. God has spared many all through the year of 1952, but what about the coming year of 1953? His long suffering may have an end for you in this new year. Do not harden your heart against the truth any longer, but embrace it and look to God to set you free from all unbelief and to deliver you from every known sin. Throw away your righteousness and take the Lord as your righteousness. In Jeremiah 23:6, Jesus is called "THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." That is why he holds his hands out to all people today, yesterday, and as long as time lasts, saying, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matt. 11:28, 29.

Many people are laboring and trying to do right and want to do right, but have no power to live a holy life free from sin. God says, "A broken heart and a contrite spirit I will not despise." You notice Jesus says, "For I am meek and lowly in heart." If one will become broken up because he is committing sin, become meek and lowly in heart, realizing that he can not keep from sinning by his own strength and labors

and yield himself to God and let his righteousness live and work in him, He, by His righteousness, would keep him free from sin and condemnation, and the Scripture would be fulfilled in him, written in Phil. 2:13: "For it is God that worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." In this condition one will have joy, happiness, and great contentment, and can have a testimony like Paul's when he said, "I am crucified with Christ: [dead with Him] nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Gal. 2:20. No one need be lost if they will obey the Word of God. In the tenth chapter of Romans, beginning at the ninth verse, we read what one should do, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall BELIEVE IN THINE HEART THAT GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, THOU SHALT BE SAVED."—not may be saved, but shall be saved. In the first two verses of the twelfth chapter of Romans we are told just how to consecrate to God and be a "LIVING SACRIFICE," and by our daily lives prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. Yield yourselves unto God and he will keep you free from sin in this life by his righteousness working in you, and will present you faultless and blameless before his throne in that great judgment day when he comes with all his holy angels.

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The eleven copies of the 1952 "Faith and Victory" paper are now bound together with a good paper back on them. The price is sixty cents for each book post paid to any address in the U. S. In this book you will have a good supply of soul food, and being bound and covered, it will keep for years. Get one for your own use and send a book to your friends. This will be one way of spreading the gospel by the printed page.

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The Scripture is certainly being fulfilled recorded in 2 Timothy 3:13, which reads thus, "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." In the verse preceding this one, the apostle Paul says, "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." In this he shows up the differences between the godly and the ungodly. There are so many in the world today who profess religion but are deceived and are deceiving others. We have just printed three thousand tracts, entitled, "Are You Really a Christian or Deceived, Which?" written by brother Archie Souder of Shawnee, Okla. It is a twelve-page tract. I would like to get one of these tracts into the hands of every deceived soul, as it brings out the truth so properly and clearly for the enlightenment and deliverance of any honest soul. If you know of any one that is deceived and needs help and is in a condition to welcome assistance, you should send for a few of these tracts. We will send twenty of these to you post paid for 25 cents.

Another Scripture that the apostle Paul wrote which is being fulfilled in these last days is recorded in Acts 20:30, "Also of your own selves, shall men

arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." In the last few years this has taken place as some one would backslide in heart and thereby get filled with their own ways and either get puffed up or imbibe some strange ideas and work the sin of division among the saints. I take note when they get off in some little clique, a lot of their preaching is slamming at the children of God and speaking evil of them, and being under the wrong influences, it seems easy for them to imagine evil and tell it for truth. This is a sad condition for any soul to be in and would not be if real heavenly meekness and humbleness of mind were in them.

I like the exhortation that Paul gave the brethren after telling them about the grievous wolves that would get in among them, not sparing the flock. It reads thus: "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." Acts 20:32. Then again in 2 Timothy 3:14, we read, "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them."

Paul called the Galatians whom the law teachers had deceived "foolish people," and said, "Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?" There are many people today who are trying to get to heaven by their fleshly works and seem not to know anything about the Lord living in them and being their righteousness. Some big professors think they are on the road to heaven and at the same time acknowledge that they sin more or less all the time. There is no such thing as a sinning Christian, and no sinner, whether he professes or does not profess, is on the road to heaven. In Hebrews 12:14 we read, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." It is doing your own self an injustice when you fix up the Scriptures to harmonize with your sinful soul. The thing for you to do is to believe the Scriptures just as they read and humble down before God in confession and godly sorrow until God saves you from sin with a genuine experience, and then you will know you are free from sin and the Scriptures teaching a clean life and holiness of heart will be your delight as your inward life and outward life will harmonize with them. I have just read after one sinning preacher. He justifies himself in sinning and uses the Lord's prayer to uphold sin in a Christian life. You will find this prayer that the Lord said for the disciples to pray in Matt. 6:9. I think that is a flimsy excuse for one to have, for the kingdom of God had not come in its fullness and did not come until on the day of Pentecost, at which time the disciples were cleansed, sanctified, and infilled with the Holy Spirit, which gave them power greater than they ever had. A habitual sinner is sure to go to hell fire the same as a man that makes no profession. God cleans up his willing and obedient children and gives them power to live free from sin in this life and keep ready for heaven and immortal glory. "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

Recently we received a letter from a woman living in another state who had been reading the November issue of "Faith and Victory" paper, and found on page eleven where teaching was going forth against the sin of living in adultery. The writer of the article said that one would be deceived if he claimed to be a Christian and living in such a state. This woman wrote us that she was troubled and bothered since reading this article, for her husband had a living wife. Our answer to her was that she should separate from such, as the Bible did not recognize him as being her husband for he already had a living wife and she (the woman to whom we wrote) was just living in adultery. I pointed her to the 3rd verse of the 7th chapter of Romans to prove to her that God called her an adultress and not a wife even though the law of the land may call her his wife.

The saints of God who claim to follow Jesus should take heed to the written word along this line and not even marry an unsaved man or woman.

If one gets saved and finds himself (or herself) in adultery, he should separate and live a clean, sinless life before God in order to be ready for heaven. We do not endorse adultery in any form, physically or spiritually, and neither does God's word.

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Obituaries

Martha Jenkins passed to her reward on November 28, 1952 at the age of 65 years. She was united in marriage to Alf Jenkins who preceded her in death in 1946.

She was saved a number of years ago in the church of God and lived a devoted Christian life and enjoyed the fellowship of the saints. During her last four weeks on this earth she was in the home of brother and sister Nottingham in Union City, Ind., where she enjoyed the sweet presence of God as they sang songs and praised God together. At different times the saints would come and have meeting and she did enjoy the meetings and praised the Lord. She was so happy.

On Wednesday, Nov. 26th she took ill. Her children were called and it was seen that the Lord was going to take her home. She went into a coma on Thursday night and on Friday morning they moved her to Dayton to her son's home where she died.

Surviving are a daughter, Nellie McCloud of Dayton; four sons, Kenneth and Dillon of Dayton, Ohio, Loyd of Loudon, Tenn., Ishmael of Venore, Tenn; two sisters, Mrs. Sally Mason of Knoxville, Tenn., and Mrs. Mary Bivens of Lenore City, Tenn; two brothers, Bud and Bert Arp of Madisonville, Tenn; eighteen grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by brother Victor Orr at Madisonville, Tenn. Burial was in the Sunset Cemetery.

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Sister Justine Stockstill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Stockstill was born in Boley, Oklahoma August 27, 1934 and passed away September 24 at her home, at the age of 18 years and 27 days. In the year of 1943 she with her family came to the state of California and here resided until death called her away. She was a very obedient child in the home. During the time of her illness she returned to the Lord and remained faithful to her calling till death. We do believe our loss is heaven's gain.

Those bereaved are her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John

Stockstill, her sisters, Mrs. Ethel Square of Fresno; Mrs. Annie Mae Toles of Bakersfield; her brothers, Nehemiah of the U.S. Army, J. D. and Thomas of Bakersfield, and Aaron of Imperial Valley; also many relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by brother I. C. Chandler, assisted by brother and sister Zedo Francisco. Texts: Eccl. 12:1-7, 11:8-10, 12:12-14. The remains were laid to rest in the Union Cemetery of Bakersfield.

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Frank Leroy Wilson was born in Topeka, Kansas, April 18, 1889 and departed this life November 2, 1952 at the age of 63 years, 6 months, and 18 days. He leaves to mourn his passing a wife, Mrs. Mary Evelyn Wilson of Akron, Ohio; two daughters, Mrs. Thelma Pruitt of Akron and Mrs. George Kipper of Topeka, Kans.; four sisters, one brother, three grandchildren, a host of nephews and nieces and many friends.

He was a very devoted father and before his passing he expressed that he felt he was prepared to go. And now he is in the hands of God.

"Ships sail east and ships sail west,
With the selfsame winds that blow,
It is the set of the sail and not the gale
That determines the way they go.

"As the ways of the sea, so are the ways of life,
It is the act of the soul that determines the goal
And not the storm, nor the strife."

Scripture text, Matt. 7:24; 2 Cor. 5:1. By brother Lewis Williams.

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Sister Hettie Ann Souders was born in Sevier County, Tenn. March 5, 1876 and departed this life at her home in Shawnee, Okla., November 14, 1952 at the age of 76 years, 8 months and 9 days. On January 1, 1896 she was united in marriage with John C. Souders who preceded her in death in 1939. To this union was born nine children. One daughter, Mary Morris, died in 1919.

She is survived by four daughters; Mrs. Tennie Bailey, Mrs. Edith Thompson, Mrs. Agnes Houston, and Mrs. Billie Jean Smith; five sons, John, Ted, Porter, Archie, and Frank; one foster son, Thurmond Mulholland; step-mother, Mrs. E. K. Hurst; one brother, Prior Hurst; three sisters, Mrs. Tenny Kerr, Mrs. Martha Allen, and Mrs. Amanda Cheek; thirty grandchildren; and twenty-five great-grandchildren.

Sister Souders lived in and around Shawnee for fifty years and was well known in this community and had many friends.

She lived for God for many years and trusted in Him for all things and was strong in faith, giving glory to God through the many and varied and changing experiences of life. She was a member of the Church of God congregation in Shawnee for many years. Her son, Archie, is now pastor of this congregation.

She was unassuming in manner and in the divine grace of God lived a well balanced, victorious life of faith which was a credit to the name of Christ and her profession. She endured a severe and prolonged fight of affliction, but kept her faith in God and trusted Him completely and came to the end of her pilgrimage here with victory and died in the triumphs of the living faith.

Funeral services were held in the Gaskill Funeral Chapel in Shawnee. Brother Sam Barton officiated assisted by O. B. Wilson, Jr., and Richard Madden. The scripture lesson read was Prov. 31:10-31. (God's own tribute to a faithful, virtuous woman and praying mother)

also the 91st Psalm. The sermon text was John 17:4 "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." Interment was in Johnson Cemetery near Shawnee, Oklahoma.

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PRAYER REQUEST

Sister D. Small of Alton, Ill. desires the saints to pray for some requests that she has before the Lord.

1953 Calendars



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"Take My Yoke Upon You"

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take MY yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matt. 11: 28-30.

There are two yokes spoken of in the Bible. In Gal. 5:1, we read, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." This yoke of bondage comes from the devil. Paul spoke about some of God's people wanting to put a yoke upon the neck of others by forcing them to keep part of the old law that was done away with (Acts 15:10). But Jesus is calling for us to take His yoke upon us, for His yoke is easy. His yoke makes us free. His yoke gives us soul rest. Why is it easy? Because Jesus is with us. He bears the blunt of all that comes against us. He takes the lead. He carries the load. We just walk along with Him.

But when we are yoked up with the devil, we "labor" and get no where. We are "laden" down with weariness, unrest, sins, guilt, trouble, fashions, fads, keeping up with the neighbors, striving for money, pleasing self, and so many, many more things that become weights to us. But most of all is that fear of death, that knowledge that we are not ready to meet God. This becomes hard to bear. And also when we are yoked up with the devil, we find he runs fast ahead and drags us along and gets us into things for which we are sorry. Then he pulls back while we are trying to get out of a bad situation and never helps us.

Jesus is calling, "Come unto me; I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you." My yoke will make you easy, give you rest. Jesus will wash away our sins; Jesus will bear our troubles; we just let go and let Him have them. He takes the desire of the world and worldly fads and fashions out of our hearts and there is no more striving there. Then when we give our self and all our possessions to Him, we have no care there any more. We just rest. Praise the Lord! I have proved Him and found it so.

Christ's yoke is not to provide a burden, but a means whereby one's burdens may be borne. There are burdens in every one's life that are not sin, but we must meet them. There is the heat of the summer, cold of the winter, grief of funerals, hard work, making decisions, paying bills, sickness, etc. These things become very heavy to us unless we are yoked up with Jesus. Then we know that God sends the weather and he makes us able to bear it. In time of the losing of our loved ones, the great comforting Spirit of God comes upon us and we are able to bear it. God rests the tired body when we have hard work to do. Since we ask the Lord how to spend the money that comes to us and as we follow Him, then our bills get paid. In time of sickness the Lord makes his bed in our affliction, and he eases the pain and heals us. Can you say with me today, "Truly Christ's yoke is easy, and his burden is light?" But first we must

come to Jesus and let him wash away our sins, then take his yoke upon us, and the most important thing next to do is to "learn of Him." This learning process is what brings rest to our hearts. The more humble and lowly and like Christ we become, then the greater the rest we have in our souls.

Do you have on the yoke of Christ? Then stand fast in this liberty and rest that Jesus has given to your souls. Do not become "entangled with the yoke of bondage" again.

May God bless all who read this to keep yoked up with Christ, for surely He gives rest to the soul of man.

—Marie Miles.

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LORD JESUS, HELP ME

"Lord Jesus, my blessed redeemer, I humble myself at thy cross: I die to the world and its pleasures, And count all its riches but dross." I love this song from the depths of my heart, so much of it is my prayer each day. "Lord, help me to do something to save some poor sinner, help me, Lord to be patient, gentle, and kind. Help me, Lord, to be faithful and never to yield to any foe." Oh, dear ones, this is the prayer of my heart to know each day of my life how to live that I may please my dear Saviour who died that I might live. Didn't he love us? Didn't he suffer for us? How we ought to be willing to suffer for him. I love my dear Savior because he first loved me. I thank him because he picked me up and saved my soul from sin and is teaching me the way of truth. Praise His holy name!

How did Jesus say we could prove our love for him? Yes, in St. John 14:23, Jesus said, "If a man love me he will keep my words; and my father will love him, and we will come into him and make our abode with him." Verse 24 says, "He that loveth me not, keepeth not my sayings."

Are there people today that do not love Jesus? Yes, there are many today who are not keeping his sayings, or living to the Word of God. So by their fruits ye shall know them. Matt. 7:21, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say unto me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name cast out devils, and in thy name done many wonderful works?" How sad when he says, "Depart from me, ye that work iniquity, I never knew you." Iniquity means wickedness or evil. Lord, help us to be watchful and prayerful so we won't get yoked up with something evil.

I thank the Lord for all the light he has showed me unto this present time. I am learning to trust him more each day. Today I feel much stronger in the Lord than yesterday. Why? Because the dear Lord came to my rescue last night when I was so sick. I had another attack of asthma. Before my husband and children came to bed they laid hands on me and prayed. I began to get some ease, but still all the suffering and hard breathing was not gone. Soon my family were all asleep, then the Lord began to talk

to me. Scriptures began to come to me. St. John 15:7 came to me so plainly, as if I was reading it out of the Book, "If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you." Then something said to me, "Are you going to get out of bed and ask?" Then the question came to me, "Are you abiding in me?" I got out of bed and began to pray. I told the Lord He knew all about my life. He knew the way I was taking. I was willing to suffer if he wanted me to, but I knew he had power to heal and I did not doubt. Just recently I burned my arm quite badly and the Lord heard and answered prayer, stopped the burning completely. Oh! I cannot thank Him enough for what He has done for me. Yes, he came and made my breathing normal and is giving me strength to do my work today. Thank the good Lord.

I have a brother and a niece who made mention to some of my folks that I had claimed to be healed so many times of asthma. When they get sick they go to man for help and when anything comes back on them, they go to a doctor again and again. That is what I am doing, going back to the One that healed me before. Praise His holy name. 'Tis so sweet just to know that our Father loves us so, He will list to our hearts' faintest cry. Oh, I praise his name this morning for hearing my cry last night. Dear ones, I am expecting complete healing of this affliction. I know God is still on the throne. I know he has all power, and I know, too, if he can heal this for a period of two years, he can heal it completely. When he healed my burned arm, he didn't allow the hurting to come back, and I know this is not too big for Him to do. Praise His holy name.

The Scripture says, "Let not your heart be troubled. Ye believe in God, believe also in me." Dear ones, I'm not troubled this morning. I am happy because I feel I am doing something the dear Lord has put upon me to do. Let us watch, pray, and strive to remain in the strait narrow way.

Your saved sister,

Leta Sorrell.

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HOW TO GET EVERYTHING YOU NEED

Who is the happy man? If a man has everything he needs, he surely must be the happy man. It is not every man that has everything he needs, but every one can have every need fully supplied. Maybe some would be willing to give hundreds of dollars to know how to get everything they needed. We are in possession of the secret. It is a success. We have proved it for a number of years and can give you many testimonials of others who have tried it for many years.

There are just two things required of you—only two. If you will do these, then you can have everything you need. Will you do them? We shall tell you what you must do. First, carefully keep all of God's commandments. Second, ask him for anything and everything you need. If you will do these two things, you shall receive what you ask for. See John 3:22.

Young People's Section

An Exhortation

I'm glad that Jesus came to earth
From heaven's courts above
To ransom man bowed down by sin
And prove God's wondrous love.

I'm glad that he has bled and died
Upon the rugged tree,
That he has triumphed over all
And set the captives free.

I'm glad that he does heal and keep,
Does cleanse and satisfy;
Glad for the hope when life is o'er
I'll dwell with him on high.

Since he has done so much for us,
Shall we sit idly by,
And for the living bread of life
Heed not the earnest cry?

Sit idle, when the world so wide
In sin accursed is dead?
Nor even heed the piteous wail
Of those who cry for bread?

Oh, then arise and haste to work;
Awake, each slumb'ring heart!
Determine by the help of God
To ever do your part. —Selected.

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Kans.—Dear saints everywhere,—Greetings of love to you all in Jesus' dear name. We have taken time this morning to sit down and read most of the December "Faith and Victory" which caused our hearts to rejoice in praise to Him and our cup to overflow. We are thankful for the food and the exhortations we receive from the articles and editorials, also the testimonies. They are precious to our souls. We are thankful for the love of God—his salvation and his saints. We are thankful for the Church of God and for his word that gives us strength and courage to hold on for him.

After I awakened this morning, I felt a hungering to just sit down and read and meditate, but with a lot of work around me to be done, I was tempted to rush around and take care of it first. Then, I thought, I would have lots of time. As I stopped to think of the parable about the sower, I realized how easy it is for the enemy to down our souls. The seeds that fell among the thorns were soon choked by the cares of life. The seeds that fell on stony ground withered in the heat of trial. May we keep watchful and prayerful lest we be choked. Let us grow deeper in the Lord so we may stand all that comes our way. These thoughts stirred me, so I sat down to read. As I read, I would be warned in one place, exhorted in another, encouraged in another and surely my soul is blessed in the Lord. Praise his name! Surely we are unworthy of His goodness to us.

There is a request that I want to leave with the saints. My wife has a weakness that has caused her quite a bit of trouble for a while now. We had prayer this morning and are claiming her healing. We desire an agreement that our faith fail not and ask you to lift her up any time you think of this request.

We would be glad to hear from any of the saints any time. Our address is: Mr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Beisly, 915 Munson; Topeka, Kansas.

Your brother and sister, Gene and Dora Lela Beisly.

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Ariz.—Dear young saints,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am glad we can have the victory over Satan at all times by the help of the Lord. I feel like writing my testimony in the paper but the enemy keeps saying "Put it off until tomorrow or some other time." As I said, I believe we can be a continuous conqueror in Jesus' name, so I am writing now. I am living for the Lord and I mean to keep on living for him the rest of my life.

If anyone is discouraged—be encouraged. The Lord will not forget you. Psa. 34:17, "The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles." Verse 19 says, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." Isa. 49:15, "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." Heb. 13:5, 6—"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

I've often heard an old brother in the Lord say, "I don't care if you pray a little sometime for me too," and so it is with me. Your sister, Roberta Hightower.

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La.—Dear young saints,—Greetings of love to each of you in the name of our Lord. I'm glad I can say I am saved and sanctified and moving on through life, striving to live for the Lord. But it really takes a lot of watching and praying every day to have victory in our souls. Oh, how the devil is trying to snatch salvation from us by many clever ways. And it takes a greater resistance than ever before to keep sweet and pure in our souls and not give over to him.

The Lord has surely blessed me in the meeting which has just closed. It has given me a greater determination than ever before to go all the way with Him. By his grace I mean to make heaven my home whatever may be the cost. The Lord is settling me down in Him day after day. It is the most wonderful thing in the world to look back over the day just past and be able to know you have pleased God in everything. I desire each of your prayers that I may be found doing just what Jesus would do in this life. A sister in Christ, Mrs. Howell B. Joiner.

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Mo.—Dear young saints of God,—Greetings to all of you in the name of our Lord! I'm certainly thankful tonight that the Lord remembers the young saints as well as the older ones.

On Saturday, December 6, I had symptoms of taking the flu. My throat was so sore that I could hardly swallow. The back of my neck ached and I had a high fever.

I went to meeting Saturday night and requested prayer for my healing. I didn't seem to improve much, but got worse and was in bed almost all day Sunday. We were praying earnestly for the Lord to heal me so I wouldn't have to miss so much school. (I had already been absent a week because we went to the Assembly meeting at Hammond, La.) On Monday the Lord healed my body. The sickness left me weak in body, but thank the Lord for answering prayer. I was strengthened in my soul to know that I had gained victory over the enemy. I tell you, it pays to serve the Lord.

Remember me in prayer, if ever you think of me. These are perilous times and we need each other's prayers very much. Your sister, Sybilla Miller.

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Mo.—Dear young people,—I'm thankful that I can say I'm still saved and sanctified. I know that it is only through the grace and strength the Lord has given me that I have not been overcome. The enemy is surely busy in these last days trying every way he can to destroy precious souls. The Lord has been so good to me, I wouldn't want to fail him in any way. I've been made to realize that it takes seeking the Lord daily for more grace and knowledge to be able to keep victory in our souls.

When Jesus was telling his disciples about the things that would come to pass before the end of time, he said that when we see these things coming to pass for us to look up and lift up our heads; for our redemption draweth nigh. Young people, be encouraged and keep living for the Lord. We all have persecutions, problems, and burdens, but we have a wonderful Savior who is concerned about us and who has promised never to leave nor forsake us. I desire your earnest prayers that I will sink deeper in the love of God and be a help in bringing others to Him. A sister, Virgie Marler.

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Kans.—Dear saints everywhere,—Our love extends to all the saints of God—those we know and those we don't know. We truly love the Lord today with our whole hearts. We desire for our lives and our beings to be such that our Lord can speak through us, to this world that needs Christ, the beautiful story of the gospel. Oh, we thank the Lord for the Christ child and for the life he lived as he grew to manhood and as he was falsely accused in the judgment hall! The life of Christ was a life of self-denial, a life of humility. Never did he want any honor for himself for anything he did. Never did he become dissatisfied with the fact that he had no home and none of this world's riches. But thank the Lord, he was richer far than any millionaire on the earth! We can be now, too. We can be possessors of that heavenly gift—salvation. My heart overflows as I think of my blessed Redeemer who brought redemption!

We know now what it feels like to be isolated from the saints of God. There are four of us here in Topeka from the Chetopa congregation; my brother and his wife, my husband and I. Probably most of the saints know by now about Gene (my brother) and Donald (my husband) being assigned to work at the Boys' Industrial School here instead of being inducted into the armed forces. We are so thankful to the Lord for working things out for us the way he has. Neither of the boys had any trouble with their draft board, and the Lord worked it out so wonderfully so that we two couples could be in the same city. If it weren't this way we would be so lonely, although we know we have the Lord even in those times. We desire the prayers of the saints for us here; for we feel a great responsibility resting upon us. The church

will shine no brighter here than we shine. We have been put here for some reason, no doubt because the Lord knows someone here who is hungry for the truth. We hardly know how to start out to work for the Lord here. Back in Coffeyville and Chetopa, we could invite people to meeting, but there is no meeting here; except when the four of us meet together to sing or read and pray. Truly we need wisdom from our Heavenly Father at this time, for we don't want to shirk from an opportunity to spread the precious gospel in this place. Pray that our goings each day will be ordered by the Lord. If I could only put into words what I really feel in my heart, maybe you'd know just how to pray for us, but may the Lord impart to your hearts, from his great storehouse of wisdom, just how to pray for us. Oh, may the Lord qualify us for his service here!

But, dear young people, the Lord not only wants to use us in this place, He wants to use you, where you are. He may not use you in his ministry or as an exhorter, but he may want you to be just an humble saint of God. Whatever be the vocation the Lord has called you to, walk worthy of it—walk with the fear of God upon you. You may not know your place in Christ's body yet—just keep walking humble for we are all called to be saints. To be a saint means to be a Christian; to be a Christian is to be Christ-like; to be Christ-like is to live that humble life, so that when others mistreat us we can still be just like Christ. It seems that the devil has tried so hard to get the young people this past year. Young people, let us be aware of his cunning devices! Be sure you take time to pray before you go to school in the morning; and read some from the Word, too, even if it's no more than just a few scriptures. It is then that you gain your grace for the day. The grace you had yesterday is not sufficient for today. As you go through your school day, breathe a prayer to the Lord now and then; be bold for the Lord. The other students are bold to speak for their worldly master so why shouldn't you be bold for your heavenly master? Oh, it means so much to live for the Lord—it's a reality! We need to shine brighter than ever because the world of sin is growing darker each day. Sin is abounding on every hand. Let us keep ourselves pure!

If any of the saints are ever going through Topeka, we would surely appreciate their stopping in to give us a visit. We would also appreciate letters from the saints, for they are so encouraging to us.

May the dear Lord bless each one is our prayer and keep us all in the fear of him. Let us remember to be sober and watchful because our adversary, the devil, is going about seeking whom he may devour. We must watch and pray that we don't fall into the pitfalls the devil has made for us. Pray for us.

Donald and Marilyn Eck, 335 Chandler, Topeka, Kans.

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GUTHRIE CHAPEL WORK PROGRESSING

The last of October actual construction work began on the new Guthrie chapel which was urgently needed to accommodate the increased attendance at the annual Oklahoma Assembly meeting. The local congregation is doing most of the work and paying a large amount of the cost. At this writing (Dec. 17) some of the saints are working day and night to get the building sufficiently ready for the assembly meeting, which begins just 8 days from now. The building is 40 x 68, all masonry and steel except doors and roof.

To this date the building has cost about \$8,000, which includes the unpaid outstanding obligations for material.

The present debt is about \$5,000. Additional means must be provided or borrowed very soon to pay the current bills.

The saints of Oklahoma voted overwhelmingly in favor of building the chapel and helping with the cost. The work and funds contributed by the saints of the state and elsewhere are appreciated, and we are confident the saints will not fail to fulfill their promise to continue to help meet this heavy obligation. Send contributions or offer of a cash loan to the state treasurer, O. C. Porter, R. 5, Guthrie, Okla.

OREGON ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

Greetings of holy love to all the dear saints scattered over this world of sin, sorrow, and grief. How precious it is to be called to be saints, redeemed by His blood, made partakers of the divine nature, filled with fulness of God to reign with Him in peace.

I feel like reporting a little of the glorious assembly meeting God gave us. We had looked to God to send the ministers whom He chose. He sent brother and sister I. D. Stover, brother A. E. Harmon and wife from California, also brother and sister Poulos and T. Gus Poulos got here for the last three days. Brother H. P. Nielson came from Mont., the two brother Olsons from near here, and the home ministers. The saints from different parts arrived. Our home and a number of the cabins were filled. Prayers and praise went up from all around. The pure word of truth came from our God with anointing and power. A number received help at the altar of prayer. Bodies were healed, and saints rejoiced in God our Saviour.

Our brother Hightower and family have gone to Arizona for a few months, thus taking six out of our little congregation. We miss them, yet say, "The will of the Lord be done." They plan to start some Sunday schools down there and scatter literature for God, to labor to sow seeds of truth. Pray for them, saints.

Our hearts melt with love to God for his hand of power over his work. Thank God for a small holy remnant even now, men and women who love not their lives unto death, who have been crucified with Him and know nothing but Christ and him crucified. While the deceptive spirits increase and some are carried away, giving heed to seducing spirits and overthrow the faith of some, still God reserves to himself a remnant who will never bow the knee to any false way. Truly our heart cries day and night, "Help, O God, thy holy remnant." Soon the conflict will be over, crowns await the firm and pure. Jesus says, "Let not your hearts be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in me." Pray for us and the work here.

Your brother and servant in Christ, Sam Wilson.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ohio—Dear saints,—I feel led to write my testimony. I am saved and trusting God for both soul and body. I have given up all the world to follow Jesus. I was born again, so when I was born into the family of God, old things passed away and all things became new. I am so glad that I could read the word of God for myself for the Bible says to search the scriptures. We know there are many people today, who are misled by not first seeking the kingdom of God, and his righteousness which is the church. We know his word is true and forever settled in Heaven. Hold fast to his unchanging hand. Stand on his promises. We find him a present help in every time of need. We are living in times of persecutions, but Jesus said as they persecuted him, that they would also persecute us. God warns us not to add to nor take from His Word, or He will add His plagues to us.

Stand on the word of God and pray through and the blood of Christ will cleanse us from all sin. The way is clear to all who trust Jesus. "Be not deceived, God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." If we sow to the flesh we'll reap corruption; but if we sow to the Spirit we shall reap life everlasting.

Ever since I've been saved I have trusted God for both soul and body. I have been very sick and given up to die four times by my family, but I always obeyed the fifth chapter of James. It reads "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church." It did not say the churches but to call for the elders of the church. I was very near gone on to my home that Jesus went and prepared for me. Brother and sister Key from Louisiana were in Indiana holding meeting and they came and prayed for me. They prayed until they got the witness that I would be raised up again. I told them I wanted God's will to be done. If it was his will to raise me up to work in the vineyard a little while longer and to do all I can to see my children saved. I was so sick I couldn't turn over in bed. They had to give me a drink through a straw. Your sister, Mrs. Amanda (Jones) Basye.

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Tex.—Dear saints,—Greetings in our blessed Lord, who has been so good to us. How I do love him. I'm thankful to him for all his care for me. I had a birthday November 24 and I am now 89. I can do my own cooking and sew quilt tops. I have fixed 40 and have 2 to finish. You can see how the Lord is helping me in my wheel chair. The Bible is my best friend. I have friends but they cannot go all the way but Jesus goes all the way. In sorrow he's my comfort, in trouble he's my stay, and he tells me every care on him to roll. Your sister, Mary Leeper

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Mo.—Dear saints,—Greetings to all in Jesus' dear name. I will write a few lines and try to tell how God has been blessing me. A few weeks ago I woke up with a cramping in my stomach. I began to think that if it got worse it would take my breath. I called on the dear Lord and it would get better and then worse. I kept praying and in a short time it began to go away and I got easy. I surely praise God for helping me in time of need.

On Thanksgiving day my son and family and another son and grandson were here. In the evening I began to feel weak and rather queer, but I didn't say anything. My grandson said it was time for him to go so I said, "If you go now, you may never see grandma alive anymore." I began to sink away and my son put me on the bed. I got numb from my waist down and couldn't help myself. I began to cough and choke until I could hardly get my breath, but I was calling on God and it wasn't long until he gave me the victory. In a short time I got better and by night I was able to be up and do my work. Oh, how thankful I am that I have a dear Lord I can depend on for both soul and body and I do give his name all the praise for what he does for me and for the many blessings he gives me each day, but we have to be willing for his will to be done and not ours. I am so glad I have you dear ones to call on to help pray when all these troubles come. Please remember me in your prayers for both soul and body and remember my son and daughter that you have been praying for. May God bless you all is my prayer. A sister in the Lord, Nancy Sweezee.

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Dear saints,—Greetings to all. I am much encouraged to follow Jesus all the way. He has been so good to me. I have been sorely afflicted for about three weeks. I can't explain how much I have suffered. Some of the

neighbors have asked me what I was doing for my sickness and I told them I was trusting the Lord.

I received the anointed handkerchief and I could feel the healing virtue when I prayed and applied it to my body. The pain is gone. Thank the Lord, who does all things well. He understands when our friends don't. I am so glad for his healing power. I'm so glad I ever found Jesus so precious to my soul. I ever expect to do his will and never be found anywhere Jesus would not go. I do much praying for lost souls and may God bless the saints is my prayer. Your sister, Iva Evans.

o-o-o-o-o

Ky.—Dear saints,—I feel led of the Lord to send in my testimony how God so wonderfully healed me of bronchitis and gall-bladder trouble. I have been a Christian for 19 years and the way grows sweeter every day. I love this way and it just suits me. I want to press on and see what heaven looks like.

My husband has a burning in his stomach. I want every saint of God to pray that God will heal him. I am looking to hear from some of you saints. My address is: Mrs. L. E. Stewart, 2801 Carter Ave., Ashland, Ky.

o-o-o-o-o

Miss.—Dear saints abroad,—In Jesus' dear name I greet you all. I am so happy in Jesus this morning. He has done so much for me. I promised the Lord that if he would heal me of the different ailments I had that I would write my testimony in the little paper. So this morning I am impressed to write that I have been healed. Praise God! At this Thanksgiving season I have so many things to be thankful for. I thank God for his saving, healing, and keeping power. It is needless to tell all the things that I have been healed of. Many afflictions which I am so glad to bear only as my part in the kingdom of God, but when I pray, my heavenly Father hears my faintest cry. I still pray the prayer of faith for others that are sick and the signs follow when we believe. Praise God!

I am not tired of laboring for my Lord and Master, but I do get tired in body when I over do with other cares of this world and things that perish with the using. But when I work in the kingdom of God my strength is renewed day by day. May many be encouraged to press on in my prayer. Yours in Jesus Christ, Sister J. Strickler.

o-o-o-o-o

Ind.—Dear saints,—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I want to tell how long I have been taking the "Faith and Victory" paper. It has been thirty years or more and the more I take it the better I love it. My heart cannot express the joy and happiness it brings to my soul. May the dear Lord help and bless there is my prayer. I am still saved from sin of every kind to all the knowledge I have. Pray much for me for I mean to go all the way. I am asking an interest in the prayers of all who read the "Faith and Victory" paper.

Hildra Grady.

o-o-o-o-o

Kans.—Dear saints,—Greetings to all. I surely do enjoy the paper. How the dear Lord has helped others as he has helped me. Please pray for me. I have a request before the Lord. The dear Lord has answered prayer in so many ways for me. May the dear Lord bless you in the work there. I give the Lord the praise for everything.

Sister E. H. Mayo.

o-o-o-o-o

Okl.—Dear saints scattered abroad,—Greetings of love in the precious name of our dear Saviour. I'm glad I can say I'm saved and sanctified and very much encouraged to press the battle on.

The Lord impressed me to write and tell of what he has done for me. I had an affliction on my body for quite some time, but the Lord came to my rescue and healed it. Truly I give to him all the praise. He's my helper in every kind of need. He has healed me many times and above all he has saved my soul and gave me a great determination to go all the way with him. Praise his name for this only true way.

I desire the saints to help me pray for an unsaved soul who is very dear to me. I desire your prayers that I please the Lord in everything I do.

Yours in Him,

Mrs. E. A. Perkins, Jr.

o-o-o-o-o

Ill.—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus' precious name. I find it a joy in serving the Lord. One of whom we have not seen, yet ever visible to the spiritual eye of man. Praise his dear name! I have a special request to ask the saints of God to pray for. I fell off of our front porch over a week ago backwards, caused by an accident, injuring the lower part of my back. I am gradually getting better for which I give God the glory. Glory to his precious name! I also desire your prayers for a neighbor who has shingles.

I read the article on "Giving and Receiving." In it brother Fred Pruitt mentioned, where the law was in force until Christ poured out his blood on the cross and thereby fulfilled the law and made us free from all law bondage, becoming our law in our souls individually, for all now is in his hands.

In speaking of where Christ poured out his blood on the cross, it is something to consider. We find all along life's journey we need to stop and be more grateful in our own hearts what this means to us here in this nation of ours, when we think of the other countries who know nothing of the salvation provided for man. Let us as a nation be up and doing. I, for one recently got a glimpse of Christ hanging on the cross bleeding and groaning, dying for you and me. By so doing I feel repaid. Then when we are alone with God and his Son, do we feel the anointing power of his Son Jesus.

I do love to read every word of "Faith and Victory." It means so much to me. Pray for me that I'll always be willing to be obedient to the small voice.

Your sister in Him,

Lola V. Chase.

o-o-o-o-o

Ark.—Dear saints,—Greetings in our beloved Savior's name. I wish to tell how Jesus healed our little son. I was lying in bed and thinking about the testimonies I had read in "Faith and Victory", how the people would promise God if he would heal them or their loved one that they would write in their testimony. Our son had had fever for a night and day and still had it. I had prayed for him but he didn't seem to be any better and as I kept thinking of the testimonies in the "Faith and Victory" paper, I promised God that if he would heal him that I too, would send in my testimony. It seemed such a small thing to do in return to God's great mercy and Satan has really tried to keep me from writing to you.

God took me at my word and healed him that night and he hasn't had any fever since. Praise his sweet, holy name. I need the prayers of every Christian that I may live a life pleasing to God. Pray for me.

Yours in Christian love, Mrs. Raymond Standridge.

God often visits us, but most of the time we are not at home.

No enemy can come so near that God is not nearer.

The Two Powers

Speaking in a general sense, there are just two powers working in the world today. The greater one is the power and spirit of God; the lesser one is the power and spirit of Satan or Beelzebub the prince of devils. Therefore there are just two families in the world, spiritually speaking. One is the family of God and the other is the family of Satan. There are just two kingdoms in a universal sense, the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan or darkness. And every man, woman, boy, and girl are under the influence of one or the other of these two powers. There is no neutral ground on which to stand. In Matt. 12:30 we read, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." These words came from the lips of Jesus, who was Emmanuel, "God with us."

Satan is the enemy of God and all true righteousness, and if you are not with God with your whole heart, you are more or less under the influence of Satan and can be counted with the throng that crucified the Prince of Peace, the Lord Jesus Christ.

All the commandments that God ever gave to his created beings are summed up in these words, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Matt. 22:37. In the next verse, Jesus says, "This is the first and greatest commandment." In the next verse he says, "And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Satan appeared in the Garden of Eden soon after God had created man and woman, in the form of a serpent. Thus we believe that he co-existed with God as an adversary, an opposer of the truth and righteousness and began his evil work to deceive and beguile God's created beings under his influence. And he succeeded in planting his seed of evil in Adam's and Eve's hearts, and the whole human race became defiled and polluted with evil. In this the serpent had gained a great victory over simple-minded man (or men) and Christ crucified was the only cure for this defiled, polluted state of man.

From the Garden of Eden we can trail the work of this slimy, deceitful, lying murderous spirit all through the Bible down to the present time. By the prophecies, we see that he will continue his deceitful soul-damning work until time shall be no longer.

We also see the hand or Spirit of God opposing his evil deceitful work and exposing Satan to every soul that will harken to his voice and words. Almost all the kings and rulers mentioned in the Bible were enticed by Satan and played into the hands of this enemy of God sooner or later in their ruling career, and led the people into sin and idol worship. Solomon, who was possessor of great wisdom and knowledge, fell into idol worship under the influence of some of his wicked wives who were tools in Satan's hands to bring about his downfall.

David, who, it is said, was a man after God's own heart, was tempted and deceived by Satan and did

sinful things which he had to repent of with bitter tears and weeping.

God turned Satan loose on Job, a perfect man in his generation, and we see what evil he heaped upon him, which caused him great sorrow, weeping, and misery. Satan, the enemy of God, is the cause of all the sin and evil which is befalling man in the world. He is the author of all confusion and evil work. He was the cause of God's wrath being kindled against the anti-deluvian people, and God sent a flood which destroyed all but the few righteous ones. He is the author of lying, stealing, swindling, cheating, gambling, drinking, revelling, murders, adultery, wars, divorces, and all unrighteous deeds, and he also has a multitude of religions in the world to deceive and allure precious souls into, to keep them away from the genuine. He is the most hateful, indecent, lying, murderous scoundrel that exists, and there is nothing too mean, ugly, and dirty for him to do. Yet we find millions professing to believe in God and Christ who are joined up with his earthly religions. He has them teaching and practicing sin and telling others that God does not have power to keep a soul free from sin in this world. By such belief, they make out that God is a weakling, a liar, because they fear the Devil and Satan more than they believe and fear God, who gives them air to breathe, water to drink, food to eat, and clothes to wear. God sends the rain and the sunshine upon the just and the evil, and is good to all, whether they be righteous or evil, but, remember, he is going to bring every one into judgment, and then we will know without any doubt whose servant we have been in this time world. God says in Eccl. 12:13, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil."

When Jesus, the Son of God, was born into the world, Satan had practically all the people under his influence and had them worshiping idols and in spiritual darkness. John the Revelator writes of that time in Revelation 11:8 and refers to it as a great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

When the baby Jesus was born, the angels of heaven rejoiced and sang some beautiful songs, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." The old Serpent, the devil, was also stirred, and Herod the king, servant of Satan, lied to the wise men and said for them to tell him where the child was, for he wanted to worship him. But he had it in his heart to slay the child. When the wise men were directed of God to go back another way and Herod's plans were frustrated by the God of heaven, he flew into a rage and commanded his soldiers to slay all the children in Bethlehem under two years of age. The war was on between Christ, the Father, and His children and Satan and his hosts that filled up the world at that time. In the 16th chapter of John Jesus refers to Satan as the prince of this world. In the 8th chapter of John he says to the religious Pharisees: "Ye are of your father the devil, and the

lusts of your father will ye do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

The Lord and his followers fought against the red dragon power, that old serpent called the devil and Satan, which had the whole world deceived; and he was cast out and his angels with him. Read Rev. 12:9.

Satan is like a robber or a murderer. When he is about to be caught and slain he will change his name and go on with his evil work. When this red dragon power, which was called the devil and Satan, was cast down from his ecclesiastical heaven, he then changed his tactics and covered himself with a cloak of religion and claimed to believe in Christ and God. Thus arose the great Catholic church, which in Biblical language is called the "beast" and began to usurp authority. Thousands of God's innocent children were put to death. The next on the scene was the false prophet, which is Protestantism or sectism. Millions of souls were swept into it and lost their souls.

In this evening time, we have the three unclean spirits like frogs which have come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth (not of heaven) and of the whole world to gather them to the battle of that great day of God almighty. The Battle of Armageddon is on, and these powers are arraying themselves against the children of God. Satan and his religious hosts are doing wonders and miracles and God's innocent children are also being used of God to do miracles and boldly declare the truth in the face of all foes. The real children of God are few compared to hosts of Satan which rule the world. Satan has nearly all the world today under his influence, and a large majority of them are in some religious movement and he is waxing bold and is defying the religion of the Lord, and is now fighting to do away with belief in God and Christ. According to Revelation, this dragon power that was ruling the world when Christ came is to be loosed for a season before the Lord comes, and we see him loose under the cloak of Communism. Wherever he has the ruling power in a nation, he is crushing out belief in God and in Christ.

In Revelation 20:7 we are told that when the thousand years are expired Satan shall be loosed out of his prison. This scripture refers to verse two where it speaks of the dragon, that old serpent, which in Rev. 12:9 is called the devil and Satan, whom the early saints and Christ overcame by their testimony and the blood. While Satan was working under a cloak of religion, this old dragon power was bound, was not allowed to work openly and deceive the people; but he was to be loosed again for a season. And he is now loose and deceiving the people into atheism and infidelity under the cloak of Communism. In Rev. 20:8, we read what he is now doing. Notice what John saw and what that red dragon power and spirit is now doing, which is called the devil and Satan.

"And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth [religious nations] Gog and Magog [Catholicism and sectism] to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea." This red dragon power, or atheist spirit, is gathering his numbers out of the beast religion and out of the false prophet religions. The next verse says, "And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: [God's true children] and fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them." This will take place when the earth and all things therein will be burned up. Just before this red dragon power has killed all the saints, God will say, "It is enough." He will take the remnant up to Himself and the flames of his wrath will burst out and the legions of rebellious people will be burned up and their souls will be cast into the lake of fire as the tenth verse says, "And the Devil that deceived them [the atheist spirit, called the devil and Satan] was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone [now notice] where the beast and the false prophet are [the beast or Catholicism, and the false prophet, sectism, are already there. They go down first] and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

The old serpent's work is prophesied of by Jesus in Matt. 24:24. In 2 Cor. the 11th chapter, beginning with the 13th verse, we read what Satan's ministers are like, and they are filling the world today. In the second chapter of 2 Thess., Paul tells us of Satan and his work and how men became his followers because they had not a love for the truth that they might be saved, therefore He sends them strong delusion that they should believe a lie and be damned. In 2 Peter, second chapter, Peter tells of his false prophets, and said that many shall follow their pernicious ways, and such will speak evil of the truth. An abundance of religious people are doing that today and by feigned words they are making merchandise of the people, wresting the scriptures to bring innocent souls under bondage to their calves which they have set up.

Oh brethren, flee these things and bear about in your mortal bodies the marks of the Lord Jesus Christ, which are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. If they lie on and slander you, you can pray for them and return good for evil. If they steal from you, you can give them some more. If they put you in jail, you can pour out your heart in prayer and ask God to bless them and to so deal with them that they will not miss heaven. There is no law to keep you from bearing the fruits of the Spirit. His grace will be sufficient if you seek his face and are willing to take his ways. He says that if thy ways please the Lord, he will make even your enemies to be at peace with you. Praise God forever! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

—Fred Pruitt.

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BIBLE STUDY

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TRACING CHARACTER TO ITS SOURCE

January 4, 1953

Printed Portion.....Matthew 15:1-11, 18-20.

Matt. 15:1. Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

2. Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

3. But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

4. For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

5. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;

6. And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

7. Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,

8. This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

9. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

10. And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand:

11. Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

18. But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

19. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

20. These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

Memory Verse: Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Pro. 4:23.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The portion of scripture here reveals the true character of the Pharisees, who thought they were holy because they kept the ceremonial law of exterior regulations "Which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear." Acts 15:10. Our Lord shows them that true heart religion, like our memory verse speaks of, is what counts. Many of their laws that had been issued since God gave them the true law in the first place were so opposed to God's law that they made the law of God of none effect by their traditions. Jesus made it very clear to the common people to "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy." Luke 12:1.

The worldly people who make no profession of religion hate hypocrisy. How much is it then an abomination in sight of a true, holy, and righteous God? "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." 1 Sam. 16:7. The natural heart is "Deceitful above all things and desperately wicked" (Jer.17:9) and the only remedy provided is Jesus Christ who "Washed us from our sins in his own blood." Rev. 1:5. Peter said in Acts 15:8, 9 "Purifying their hearts by faith." So then we can have "Propitiation through faith in his blood." Rom. 3:25. "Create in me a clean heart, oh God, and renew a right spirit within me." Psa. 51:10.

CONFESSING AND FOLLOWING CHRIST

January 11, 1953

Printed Portion.....Matthew 16:13-25.

Matt. 16:13. When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

14. And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

15. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

16. And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

18. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

19. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

20. Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

21. From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

22. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

23. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

24. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

25. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Memory Verse: Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. Matt. 16:16.

Practical Truth: We should ever hold fast to the truth that Jesus is the Son of God, and then should follow him at whatever cost.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Jesus had his way of leading up to the all important question "But whom say ye that I am?" That all important question is still recorded for us and will determine our attitude toward him. The woman at the well in the fourth chapter of John, she was told by Jesus "I that speak unto thee am he" (v. 26). The impression was deep and she went and told others, who, in their turn when they came to him told of their experience; "We have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world" verse 42. Jesus told Peter, "For flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." There is no greater thing that can come to a human being in this world than when the Lord reveals himself to the soul and enriches it.

There are a number of places in the Bible where we are taught the right way to get an experience with God and retain it when we have our souls made white in the blood of the Lamb, and this rule in verse 24 is effectual, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me,"

WITNESSES OF HIS GLORY

January 18, 1953

Printed Portion.....Matthew 17:1-8, 14-18.

Matt. 17:1. And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,

2. And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

3. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.

4. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

5. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

6. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.

7. And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid.

8. And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.

14. And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying,

15. Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed; for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.

16. And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.

17. Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.

18. And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.

Memory Verse: This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. Matt. 17:5.

Practical Truth: Hours of spiritual exaltation help fit us for Christian service.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

There are two pictures here portrayed in this scripture. The first one on the mount, and then later the picture at the foot of the mountain. Peter in later years mentions this same incident and speaks of being with him in the "Holy mount" 2 Pet. 1:17-18. We need to treasure what God has done for us and not to forget for we may pass through very trying times and our soul will be uplifted as we meditate on the goodness of God. As recorded in Luke 9:30, 31 we have the subject of the conversation that was between Jesus and Moses and Elias; "His decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem." Moses represented the law and Elias represented the prophets; how fitting that they should appear at this time to get first information that he was the one to come to fulfill all that was written of him. Read Heb. 8th and 9th chapters. God himself endorsed his Son, and said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." Take notice how Peter wanted to stay on the mountain. That is natural.

The second picture was not so bright for the disciples had brought to themselves shame and Jesus was very expressive when he said, "O faithless and perverse generation" verse 17. Jesus had already given them power and command to "Cast out devils" (Matt. 10:1, 8) but they failed here but even then it could be done by "Prayer and fasting."

JESUS TEACHES HUMILITY AND FORGIVENESS

January 25, 1953

Printed Portion.....Matthew 18:1-4, 15-22.

Matt. 18:1. At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

2. And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,

3. And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

4. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

15. Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

16. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

17. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

18. Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

19. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

20. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

21. Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

22. Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Memory Verse: Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Matt. 18:3.

Practical Truth: We cannot gain or keep the favor of God unless we have a humble and forgiving spirit.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Second Peter 1:4-11 is a very good comment on this lesson so that we may have "Entrance—abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" verse 11. We have heard many times the statement "Oh, have a little pride about you" but "God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." 1 Pet. 5:5. So let us not put aside the Word of God, which is so plain here and in many other places in the Bible. When Jesus said "I am meek and lowly in heart," he had in mind that we were to follow him on that same plain. 2 Chron. 30:11 says that they "Humbled themselves" and again in 2 Chron. 33:10 "The Lord spake to Manasseh and his people; but they would not hearken." But when the Lord afflicted him "He besought the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers."

The central thought of the second part of the lesson is; the best way to get along with our brother and sister in Christ. Eph. 4:32 is so fitting here and will help us at all times to keep these words and ponder them for our help in time of need. "And be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

C. W.