

FAITH AND VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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A Christmas Poem

O Christ, thou blessed Holy One,
Born of a virgin, yet God's Son.
Behold a baby doth appear
While holy angels are bending near.

A rapt'rous scene: angels of light
While shepherds watched their flocks at night.
List to the message so clear and plain:
A Saviour is born at Bethlehem.

They gaze in awe at the wonderful sight,
A vision of loveliness borne on the night,
While angelic hosts repeat the refrain:
A Saviour is born in Bethlehem.

By Sister Mabel Frederick, a shut-in.

Jesus My Saviour

Jesus my Saviour to Bethlehem came,
Born in a manger to sorrow and shame;
Oh it was wonderful, blest be his name
Seeking for me, for me.
Seeking for me, for me.
Oh it was wonderful, blest be his name,
Seeking for me, for me.

Jesus my Saviour on Calvary's tree,
Paid the great debt and my soul he set free;
Oh it was wonderful, how could it be?
Dying for me, for me.
Dying for me, for me.
Oh it was wonderful, how could it be?
Dying for me, for me.

Jesus my Saviour the same as of old,
While I was wandering afar from the fold,
Gently and long did he plead with my soul—
Calling for me, for me,
Calling for me, for me.
Gently and long did he plead with my soul—
Calling for me, for me.

Jesus my Saviour shall come from on high,
Sweet is the promise as weary years fly.
Oh I shall see him descend from the sky,
Coming for me, for me,
Coming for me, for me.
Oh I shall see him descend from the sky,
Coming for me, for me.

Selected by U. P.

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Gift Giving

This is a time when there is much gift giving. We do trust that all the children of God who give gifts at this season will give them in the spirit of Christ. A gift that is given should be given with a thought of love and with cheerfulness. The most precious gift that was given to this world from God the Father was Jesus Christ. It was given because God loved the world. "For God so loved the world, that he GAVE His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

We were lost in sin and could not help ourselves. We were doomed, as sin cannot enter heaven. God looked down upon us with love and sent His Son to be a mediator between us and God. No wonder the angels sang that night and rejoiced. Surely Jesus brought peace in our souls here in this earth and we have "good will toward all men." God proved his "Good will toward all men" by sending His Son, the "unspeakable gift." Surely "the wages of sin is death; but the GIFT of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:23. "Therefore as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the FREE GIFT came upon all men unto justification of life" Rom. 5:19. Praise the Lord for the GIFT given to us, Jesus Christ.

The wise men saw the star in the east and came to worship the Christ-child born in Bethlehem. When they saw the young child with Mary, they fell down and worshiped Jesus. "And when they opened their treasures they presented unto him GIFTS; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." Luke 2:11.

Today we, too, can worship Jesus Christ. We can give Him gifts that will please him very much. The gold that we can give is ourselves, our hearts, and all of our love. He wants us to love him with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind, and with all our strength (Mark 12:30). That is pure gold. It is precious to the Lord to have us love him that much.

Frankincense is a sweet smelling spice. Surely our praise and prayers are sweet to the Lord. "Therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased" Hebrews 13:15, 16.

In Rev. 5:8 it speaks of our prayers being "golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of saints." That is what John saw in heaven. Surely the Lord bottles up our prayers and they are answered even after we are gone. Let us keep praying and let that sweet smell of praises, and prayers rise up to the Lord. That is a precious gift to the Lord and should be given continually.

Myrrh is a bitter spice. Oh, some say, "What would the Lord want with that?" Surely that is our troubles, burdens, and our cares. They may be given to the Lord also. He is asking for all of them. "Cast thy cares upon the Lord for he careth for thee." "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." Jesus will take our burdens and give us peace, rest, and joy. Just commit all things into His hand and he will work out all things, to our good, for his glory or for someone else's good. Jesus does not want us to keep any bitter things; give them to Him.

Won't you fall down and worship the Lord today? Won't you open your treasures and give gifts unto the Saviour? Give Him yourself, your love, your praises, your time, talent and all; and then give Him your troubles, cares, and heartaches.

"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation." Psalms 68:19. "... God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy" 1 Timothy 6:18. May the Lord richly bless each one as you give gifts unto the giver of all gifts.

—Mrs. Marie Miles

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Scriptural Holiness

According to the Scriptures, holiness—moral wholeness, completeness of love—takes place after justification, and consists in purifying the believer from all remaining hereditary carnality. It is received in a moment by faith, and is attested by the Holy Spirit. Any statement of the doctrine of sanctification that essentially differs from this has never produced the actual result of holiness. God does not own and bless error, even though an angel should preach it... but when the pure doctrine is preached by a pure messenger, it is immeasurably powerful. Some

say that it does not matter about the doctrine if one lives all right; but the fact is, no one can live right in heart with God except it be according to sound doctrine.

While there is a peculiar technicality about the doctrine of sanctification, there is also a peculiar power about the experience. The experience itself covers up the mere doctrine with life and feeling and power. There is a conscious experience of utter interior yielding of self to God, a conscious purity of heart, a feeling of cleanliness in affections and desires, an inward soul-light and power.

There is a practical form of holiness—the outward manifesting in the details of life is the inner fact of holiness in the soul. There can be no outward practice of true holy living until after a work of conscious holiness has been wrought within by the power of God. Many have tried to lash and coerce themselves into holy living without having the fact of conscious purity produced in them.

Hundreds of preachers who are prejudiced against entire sanctification are blindly urging their poor unsaved congregations to live practical holiness, and yet they turn around and oppose the getting of entire heart holiness, which is the only thing in the universe that produces the true practice of it. In order to practice holiness we must have it.

If we have the mere doctrine by itself, we shall be formalists; if we hold only to the experience, apart from the doctrinal and the practical, we shall be fanatics; if we insist on the practical details of life, apart from the other two, we shall be harsh critics, measuring every one by our conscience and mode of life. But if all three of these are preserved in full proportion, then holiness must spread without either formalism, fanaticism, or bitterness of spirit. —G. D. W.

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Television On Trial

I have always believed in giving everyone a fair trial, never reaching a decision before all the evidence was in; therefore, I want to get all the evidence in and then let you decide for yourself whether TV is good or EVIL.

THERE ARE ALWAYS TWO SIDES TO EVERY TRIAL, AND THERE ARE TWO SIDES ON THIS TRIAL—GOD'S SIDE AND THE DEVIL'S SIDE. WE WILL LET THE DEFENDANT TESTIFY FIRST, THE WORLD'S (OR DEVIL'S) SIDE.

1. The TV fans say that it is the best entertainment that there is anywhere. (Just a picture show in the home.)

2. The picture show operators say that TV is hurting them more than anything that has ever come against them.

3. The whiskey industry says that TV is the best advertising that they have. More people see it than any other advertising.

4. The beer industry says that TV is "tops." More children are seeing the advertisements and are trying its product (beer).

5. The tobacco industry says give TV advertising first. It is the best.

6. The Devil says TV is tops for me. It is keeping more people out of church than the show ever did. (95 percent of the programs are for me.) It is the greatest crime breeder that I have ever had. TV is doing more to make criminals out of our boys and girls than anything else I have.

7. The F.B.I. says that TV is one of the four (comic books, picture shows, and radios) greatest influences for evil that we have.

8. The criminal lawyers say that TV is the greatest crime breeder that we have in America today.

9. The educators say that TV is the greatest hindrance to education of all the evils that we have.

10. Optometrists say that TV is one of the hardest things on the eye that we have today.

HERE IS GOD AND HIS PEOPLE TO TESTIFY ABOUT THE TELEVISION.

1. God said, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John 2:15. "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the works of them that turn aside." Psalms 101:3.

2. One minister says TV is the greatest curse that ever came to any home; and another said that TV is the greatest influence that the Devil has today.

3. One couple who had been backslidden got back to God and gave their TV away as soon as they could. (Why? Because they couldn't walk with God and have it in the home.)

4. In one place where a revival was going on a number of folk who owned TV sets got under conviction and came to the altar and asked God to forgive them, and then got up and asked the church to forgive them. (Why? Because it was wrong).

5. In one place two thirds of a professed-holiness congregation bought television sets and stayed at home during services. The pastor resigned.

6. One has said that TV is doing more to damn the human family than any other one thing in all the world.

It is the greatest miracle of today for the promotion of evil. Day and night TV advertises all of the Devil's products in the home—whiskey, beer, wine, tobacco, robbing, stealing, drinking, gambling, adultery, fornication, nudeness. God have mercy on anyone who claims to be of God and has a TV set in his home. The TV opens a beer parlor, a whiskey store, a tobacco store, and a house of prostitution in our homes. We are told of a committee in New York which investigated the results of TV on children. The results of the investigation were that in the last three years, since TV has taken over, crime among children had increased 400 percent. This is a bad showing for TV.

I believe that I can see the danger, or some of the dangers, that we as God's people face today—Communism, Catholicism, dead dry formalism; but the greatest danger that we face today is Television. It is hurting the American spirituality and morality far more than all the others put together.

Yet, we have so few preachers who will cry out against it. Oh, that "straddle of the fence" crowd. "Oh, I am against it, but—" Yes, that is it! The goat is still alive. Why don't you cry out against it if you are against it? Just a coward, afraid of the world.

The F.B.I. sees the danger of TV. The educators see it; the criminal lawyers see it; the doctors see it; why can't the preachers see it? Beware of becoming a dumb dog (Isaiah 5:10). God said, "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at THINE hand" Ezekiel 3:17-18. —Sel.

IN GOD'S LIKENESS

Man can see in Christ what he ought to be, and when he is what he ought to be, Christ can see Himself in him. Christ reveals what man should be, and the Christian reveals what Christ is. Christ in man and man in Christ and it is the same whether we say Christ was what man is or man is what Christ was. Human nature, as God designed it, is a mirror in which he sees his handiwork in nature, but Himself in human nature. Purified human nature is a mirror in which man sees himself. In a pure heart is an image of the true man. Purified human nature is a mirror in which man can see God. It is only when the world can see God in man that he is what man should be. To describe the life of Christ is to describe the life of a Christian.

Jesus, The Sweetest Name

I love to think of Jesus,
He's everything to me,
He opened up my blinded eyes
And causes me to see.

He tells me of His tender love
For all who come to Him;
His blessed Spirit then He gives
And forgives me all my sin.

He is so kind and good to me,
So loving and so true;
And what my Saviour is to me,
He'll surely be to you.

Oh, won't you come to Him today
And cast on Him your care,
And let Him have His way with you?
He will surely answer prayer.

He'll take you in to be His child,
And you His child can be;
And be forever with the Lord
Through all eternity. Amen.

—George W. Stephenson.

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

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 Faith Pub. House. All offerings and gifts given or sent to Fred Pruitt will be used in the general up-keep of the printing work unless you state that it is for personal needs. We make His work first.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma
Phone Number 1479

Sister E. Faith Stewart, a missionary from this country to Cuba, has written a book entitled, "LIVING FAITH." It has many pages filled with interesting accounts of faith launches and divine healings. It will be food for your soul. The missionary work in Cuba has spread all over the island by her prayers and faithful work. Price of this book is \$2.00. Order it from Robert J. Briggs, 907 Colerick St., Ft. Wayne, Ind.

NOTICE

To the saints abroad:—We now inform you that we are on the air broadcasting a thirty-minute service over station KBYE, Oklahoma City, 3:30 p. m. each Sunday. We desire your prayerful support. Should any wish to contribute financially to this end, mail all correspondence to the Church of God, P. O. Box 6515, Okla. City 17, Okla.
Bro. Otis Hill, Treasurer

Editorials

The much-celebrated Christmas Day will soon be here again. How fast time does fly! We certainly should make good use of every day for the Lord, for the time may soon be here when we as saints of God will lose a great deal of our freedom and liberty which we now have in getting the gospel to men by the printed page and in other ways.

Communism, which is a covering or cloak for the "Old Red Dragon" power which ruled in the world when Christ came and became a persecutor of Jesus and his followers and finally was put down after many of the saints had lost their lives, is now loose for a little season (Rev. 20:7). According to the 12th chapter of Revelation, verse 9, he was called "That old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan," which at that time was deceiving the whole world. And since he has been loosened a little season, he is now again deceiving the whole world; for at this present time nearly half of the population is under his influence. This country of ours is fast falling under this slimy old serpent's power and influence; and our chances of having freedom in true gospel work is, and will become, more difficult as time moves on. The so-called new Bible, which is so arranged that it dulls the edge of the sword, is only an indication of the trend of the times and will aid Satan in making more cold dead congregations of religious bodies and infidels and atheists. How cunning and deceitful this "old serpent" is in drying up the experiences of religious men and women and thereby subjecting them to, or exposing their souls to the buzzard spirits of Satan.

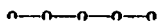
We, the saint ministers of God, should be bold to declare the new covenant teachings of the Bible, even though we do endanger our heads thereby. John the Baptist lost his head because he was bold to teach the new covenant doctrines, for he told Herod plainly that he had his brother Philip's wife. He could have mellowed up his teachings and made him feel that in some way God was in their marriage and kept his head; but, no, he left it so plain that the wicked woman who was living in adultery with Herod realized clearly that John branded her as living in adultery. And when she was thus exposed, it enraged her wicked and adulterous heart and she sought vengeance on him. As wickedness increases in the world, the light from heaven shines brighter in the hearts of the redeemed who have willing hearts to receive it, and makes the breach between them and the world broader and wider as time moves on to the end.

We, as the ministers and saints of God should be careful about turning down the increasing light from heaven lest we be left in darkness and call it light.

We should not be deceived and think: "I have such great knowledge and wisdom and I am living closer to the Lord than others, so if there is any more light for people it must come through me and those whom I can influence." Let us kindly remember that it is prophesied that "A child shall lead them" (Isa. 11:6). Also Paul says (1 Corinthians 1:26) that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not

many noble are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty, and base things of the world to confound the things which are despised, hath God chosen, Yea and things that are not, to bring to nought things that are. For what purpose did He do this? "That no flesh should glory in his presence." Let us be careful that we do not let human wisdom take the place of divine wisdom nor encourage our self-life, which Paul tells us should be dead and hid with Christ in God. Please read again the first few verses of the third chapter of Colossians. It is not wise for us to legislate against the Holy Spirit freedom which is working among us and in us, but be ready and free to receive light and knowledge from any humble saint of God or from the source from which God chooses to give it.

In Matt. 21:16 we read, ". . . Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise." Jesus rejoiced in spirit and said, "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight" Luke 10:21. God has a perfect plan, a cleverly arranged plan and system to carry out, but not according to human arrangements. Only as each of us as individual members live in meekness and humility and walk in true light can we expect to please Him and keep in his heavenly plan and system. Self must be crucified and Christ be on exhibition.



I wonder sometimes if we as saints do not ascribe things to Satan when we ought to honor God as the promoter in carrying out his plans for us that He might get glory to his name because we have a perfect heart toward him. In many trials and afflictions we may look at it as Satan being mean to us when in reality we ought to see that it is the hand of God and rejoice in the fact that God thinks enough of us to allow these things to come, preparing us for heaven.

We look at the record given of Job in the Bible, and we know that it says plainly that God allowed Satan to bring evil upon Job. In the 12th verse of the first chapter we read, "And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he has is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand." According to this statement, Satan could not touch the things Job possessed until God gave him permission; and when Satan had destroyed all of Job's substance and caused his children to be killed, Job did not blame Satan for it, but honored God in it all. He worshiped Him, saying, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord [not Satan] hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." In the next verse it says, "In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." According to this statement, if Job had ascribed the cause to Satan and failed to have honored God in the matter, he would have sinned. "Selah." Pause and think over this.

When his wife lost faith and said to Job, "Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God and die" (Job 2:9), Job's answer to her was, "Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips." He still ascribed it to God, not to Satan. In the 16th chapter of Job, beginning at verse 11, we see how Job gave the Lord the honor in all his troubles; for in his great distress he said, "God hath delivered me to the ungodly, and turned me over into the hands of the wicked. I was at ease but He [not Satan] hath broken me asunder: he has also taken me by the neck, and shaken me to pieces, and set me up for his mark. His archers compass me around about, he cleaveth my reins asunder, and doth not spare; he poureth out my gall [bitter to endure] to the ground. He breaketh me with breach upon breach. He runneth upon me like a giant." He goes on to say many other things but always gives honor to God in the matter, and not to Satan. When God got through with Job, by proving to Satan and all men that Job did not serve him for the things he possessed, the Lord talked to Job and asked him a number of questions that he could not answer. Job still honored God and said, "I know that thou canst do every thing"—He did not honor Satan in the matter at all—"and that no thought can be withholden from thee." Job 42:2. Then God honored Job above all and the three miserable comforters had to have Job to pray for them before God would accept them. God gave back to Job more than he had before, and children. The daughters were the fairest in the land. I believe if we want to be the spiritual sons and daughters of Job, which are the fairest in the land, we had better quit ascribing all of our trials and tests to Satan, and honor God in them, as given of Him for our good and His glory.

I have often seen and observed that saints sometimes will feel wrong toward the person or instrument which God may be using for their good and His glory, when they should thank God for the instrument and give glory to God instead of feeling that Satan has worked through someone and has done them a great wrong. I can see that it would be quite easy for us to sin against God when we ascribe things to Satan instead of seeing God back of it all and keeping encouraged by giving him the honor due his name.

There are a number of religious people in the world who say that they cannot help but sin some along in life; and in this way they ascribe greater power to Satan than to God. Their god is so weak that Satan has power over him and they have to sin some along in life. Shame on people that serve such a weak little god when the true God of the Bible declares that he has all power both in heaven and in earth. Read it in Matt. 28:18. Believe the Lord and deny Satan the right to make you sin. Look to God for grace and power to live above sin in this world, cease to have more faith in Satan than in God. Read what God says in the 45th chapter of Isaiah about himself and believe God's Word. Read the whole chapter and especially take note what the 21st and 22nd

verses say. Worship the true and living God, and Him only. Do not testify to what Satan is doing, but testify to what the Lord is doing. Satan can do nothing only as God permits.

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At present we are on a deal to buy an Automatic Miehle Cylinder Printing Press to place in the "Lord's Print Shop." This press will cost several thousand dollars, but it seems needful to install it as the subscription list is increasing for the "Faith and Victory" paper and there are books and gospel tracts to print. This press will handle all this printing. It is a much larger press than the one we now have; in fact the old one that we have is like a baby in comparison to the one we are contemplating on installing. The installing of this press is quite an important thing for the furtherance of the gospel by the printed page since the calls and needs for papers, books, booklets and gospel tracts are increasing. We have always been careful not to run ahead of the Lord in the building up of His printing work, and so far the printing work is free of any debts. We are not here to make a show and to seem big in the eyes of the world and professing religious people, but just to be a servant of the Lord and His precious souls, whether it be on a small scale or larger as He leads and supplies. The burden of our heart is to get the clean, pure gospel of Christ to the people, teaching the new covenant doctrines in a way to lead souls away from law doctrines which generate to hardness of heart and self righteousness and into the fulness of the love of God in the soul by lifting up Christ, with an eye single to the glory of God the Father, that precious souls may see and know that God is all and in all. By the grace of God we shall not honor nor testify for the Devil in any way; but by the sacred Scriptures show that God is the supreme Ruler of the universe and that nothing can touch us except the presence of God move out of the way and allow it. God does deal righteously with every soul, and each one of us will have to give an account individually to God for all the deeds done in the body.

Pray for us, dear saints of God, that we may move forward with the work He has placed in our hands to the good of souls and to the glory of Jesus Christ and the Father. It means much for us to launch out into this greater move in getting the gospel to perishing souls. So please look to Him for us and with us, and implore His grace and help in this time of need.

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God's Meeting Place

Rom. 3:25; Exodus 25:22

Dear reader, you must meet God! Other things may be, this must; other engagements may be broken, this one cannot. Living and dead, young and old, saved and unsaved, at some point now or in the future, will have to appear before the great I AM. Pause a moment, think, the reader of these words, the guilty sinner and the God of heaven, holy, just, and righteous, shall some day meet to deal with the question of sin, its pardon or its punishment.

God has appointed two meeting places where he will deal with men about their sins, one now, another when heaven and earth are fled, at the cross of Christ or the Judgment throne. Grace and love provide a pardon at the cross; justice and judgment pronounce damnation's sentence at the throne.

Dear reader, yours is the choice at which of these places you will meet God. Today, at the cross of Christ, he waits in grace to meet you and there to give you a welcome to his heart and home, a pardon for all your sins, a title to an everlasting rest in heaven. All this he can righteously give, for the blood of Jesus has been shed and grace reigns through righteousness. Your only title there, is that you are a sinner—a vile, guilty sinner, a rebel against your God. Owning this, you shall meet a Saviour-God and receive a blood bought pardon. Stay away and you forfeit all; nay, more, you make choice to meet the righteous Judge and receive the righteous reward of your Christless life. What a meeting! The mercy seat gone, for the reign of grace is o'er and justice and the sinner must meet at last, is then your deliberate choice. **THINK!**

"God's meeting place," Oh is it prayer?

No, something's needed ere I'm there,

God's meeting place—oh is it praise?

No, for he hears not sinners' lays.

God's meeting place—is it resolves?

No, resolution ne'er absolves.

God's meeting place—oh, hear the sound!

Alone before the Cross is found;

And none before him ever stood,

Save on the ground of Jesus' blood.

1 John 1:7; Acts 13:38, 39.

—Selected by Mrs. E. F. Oesch

HUMILITY

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise (Psa. 51:17).

But to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word. (Isa. 66:2).

Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth. . . seek meekness (Zeph. 2:3).

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 (Matt. 11:29).

Ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price (1 Pet. 3:4).

God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble (1 Pet. 5:5).

"Humility, how pure thy place!

Thou seat of holiness!

Thou door of entrance into grace

And everlasting bliss!

Cho.—"Oh make thy blest abode with me,

Thou angel of the sky;

If I may ever dwell with thee,

My soul shall never die."

(No. 201, "Evening Light Songs")

PRAYER REQUEST

Ind.—To all the dear saints in light, greetings in Jesus' holy name. —I am sending a very special request for prayer. I am sorely afflicted with a nervous disorder and prostrate gland trouble. I am asking everyone who reads this to be agreed in prayer for my healing for His glory and truth sake; also for my family's salvation—wife and children—and that God will provide me with a home that any of his true ministers and saints can have a place to come and preach the pure unadulterated gospel. Also pray much for my daughter who is trying to live for and serve the Lord under very hard trials and burdens, as her husband has forsaken her for another woman. He has been in this awful condition for six or seven years. She just prays almost day and night that God will send him home. She has to work very hard to support herself and child. Now dear ones, I ask each of you when you read this that you will take it to heart and to the Lord in earnest prayer as though it were your own request; and I believe the dear Lord will answer your prayers.

Your brother in the faith once delivered to the saints,
—J. B. Trinkle.

Please remember my five sons, all out in sin; and especially my daughter. She was saved but has gone back in sin now. She has a problem to decide. Pray that God will help her to take the right course. Remember, I am praying for you and yours. A. L. Bright, W. Va.

—NOTICE—

Chester Hart of Eldorado Springs, Mo., R. 3, desires to purchase a tent in which he can hold meetings. Any one who has a tent may write to him.

TWO NEW BOOKS JUST OFF THE PRESS

"Selected Articles and Editorials," is a 256-page book with good paper binding. We believe that many souls will be saved by reading this book. Send and get these books to circulate among your neighbors and friends. Price 50 cents each or five books for \$2.00, post paid to any address in the U. S.

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UNNOTICED BY ME

Our eyes can run to and fro—
That's our privilege, you know—
But I must not forget the goal,
And let the Stranger of Galilee
Pass, unnoticed by me.

—M. Agnes Williams.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

"Were half the breath that's vainly spent
To heaven in supplication sent,
Our cheerful song would often be:
Hear what the Lord hath done for me."

Folders and Other Articles for Christmas And Other Occasions

ORDER EARLY! AVOID RUSH.

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Mottoes with choice Bible verses and attractive design, some on wood and some on glass. Prices from \$1.00 up to \$3.50.

Above articles are all post paid to any address in the U. S.



Calendars are now in stock for 1956. Size 9 by 16 inches. They are called the "Christian Home" calendars, very similar to the ones we formerly handled, but the pictures are more saintly and price some less. They are wall calendars with a Scripture text for every day in the year. Each 35 cents; three calendars \$1.00; 12 calendars \$3.50; 25 calendars \$7.00; 50 calendars \$12.50.

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly meeting of the Church of God will be held December 23, 1955 to Jan 1, 1956 on the saints' camp ground located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, California (a suburb of Los Angeles). Pacoima is located between Burbank and San Fernando. Those coming by car from the east or south, come out of Los Angeles on San Fernando Road (U. S. Highway 99) and go on through Burbank and Sun Valley. Then at Osborne St. (There is a traffic signal at this intersection) turn right and go little more than half of a mile to the camp ground. Those coming by car from the north, drive on through San Fernando on U. S. 99 to Osborne St. (the 4th traffic signal after you leave the town of San Fernando) and turn left to the camp ground. It is between San Fernando Road and Glenoaks Blvd. on Osborne Place which goes straight on where Osborne St. curves.

Those coming by bus or train from the north get off at San Fernando except if you ride the streamline train. It does not stop at San Fernando. In that case, get off at Glendale. Those coming from the east or south get off in Los Angeles. Those arriving by bus or train phone EMpire 9-3608 from the station and someone will pick you up. It will be some better if you can let us know a day or two in advance by mail when you expect to arrive and someone can be there.

Places will be provided for everyone coming to stay, and beds are available for a rental of \$3.00 each.

The meeting is run on the free-will offering plan throughout except the equipment that has to be rented. We do not want anyone who wants to be there to stay away because you feel you cannot pay because God's people share one another's burdens and God has always bountifully supplied the needs of the meeting. This meeting is held in the interest of souls and God's kingdom, and God has always blessed and supplied able ministers of the New Testament who are able to expound the Word, pray the prayer of faith, and give good sound advice to those who have spiritual problems. We are expecting this meeting to be no exception to this rule, and anticipate the same visitation from the Lord as in former years, and urge all who love the truth and work of God and especially those who need help in soul or body to make your plans to attend this meeting. And let us all fast and earnestly pray for good success in the Lord.

Will be seeing you at the Assembly meeting, Lord willing—Ostis B. Wilson, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, California.

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

Lord willing, the Oklahoma State Assembly meeting of the Church of God will convene in Guthrie at the saints' chapel, on the corner of 6th St. and W. Warner Ave., from December 23, 1955 to Jan. 1, 1956.

Sleeping quarters for the sisters is above the dining hall and for the brethren in the men's dormitory. Those living close should bring bedding and pillows so the meagre supply here can be kept for those who are coming from a distance and cannot bring bedding. Meals served in the dining hall and other expenses are expected to be met by free will offerings, as usual. The Lord has never failed along this line, and we are sure He never will so long as the meeting is run in His order and plan.

Pray with us that the Lord will send all who will be a help in the meeting and all who need to receive help. The saints should all earnestly pray that God will send Spirit-filled ministers to expound the full gospel: justification, sanctification, healing of the body, and the one-

ness of God's people.

Address correspondence or send offerings to O. C. Porter, R. 5, Guthrie, Okla.

Correspondence

La.—Dear saints,—Greetings to all! This finds me encouraged to live for our Lord and Saviour. I do thank Him so much for all His blessings to us. He has loved me so much and cared for me so tenderly that I want to prove how much I love and thank Him by sending in my testimony and by living for Him all the days of my life, by His help and grace.

Recently, I had a severe pain and soreness in my right side, just under my ribs. For three days it hurt me so badly I hardly could walk or do anything that would jar my body. As I was walking—very slowly, for it hurt—down the street, I was praying that God would remove the pain and heal me, promising Him that I would send in my testimony and thank and praise Him. Then prayer was requested at prayer meeting for me. I went to bed on Thursday night, still hurting, and on Friday morning I got up with it gone, and it has stayed gone from then until now. I do thank God so very much. Not only in this has he healed and blessed, but also in so many ways we cannot tell them all. As the song says: "If I had ten thousand lives in which to praise Him, I could not enough my blessed Lord adore."

Remember me when you pray that I will ever hold out faithful and always please God until the end.

Christian love,

Betty Short.

Calif.—Greetings to the saints,—I feel that it would please the Lord for me to send my testimony in to the "Faith and Victory." I am saved, sanctified, and satisfied with the Lord's dealings with me. I have found out that it pays to serve the Lord. He is so good to his trusting children! Although we are made sad at heart so many times, all we can do is to pray much and leave the rest to the heavenly Father. But when we go to camp meeting and see so many folks that are not measuring up to the Bible standard, we are sad at heart and wonder what will become of the younger ones growing up. Oh, let us all pray more and live a closer life than we ever have. We must be an example to the worldly folks.

—A. E. D.

La.—Dear saints,—I feel impressed to write my testimony to the paper in hopes that it will be an encouragement to someone.

The dear Lord has blessed us in many ways. He has surely proved to be a very present help in every time of need. I'm so glad I've learned to trust Him.

About two weeks ago our son, who is 19 mos., came into the room where I was sewing, chewing and crunching on something. I looked to see what he had and it was a broken light bulb. He had taken a bite out of it. It scared me so badly I said rather loudly, "Spit that out." It must have excited him and he swallowed. He gagged twice like he would vomit. I was very worried for awhile, but we prayed and the Lord increased my faith. My husband and I held on to the Lord for victory. The baby didn't show any signs of being sick or any symptom of swallowing the glass. Some may think he didn't swallow it, but I saw him chewing it and swallow and then try to vomit. I am sure he did. This surely was a miracle, and we give the Lord all the praise. It surely pays to trust the dear Lord. He never fails.

We desire your prayers that we stand true and faithful to the Lord.

Mrs. Dale Doolittle.

Ore.—Dear saints at the Print Shop and abroad,—I greet you all in Jesus' dear name. I feel the Lord would be pleased for me to tell of the Lord's goodness to me.

I thank Him for all His blessings to me; but above everything else for saving my soul and sanctifying my nature. Oh, I praise His dear name!

I want to tell what He did for me in healing my body. I was afflicted with sciatic rheumatism until I was in constant pain and could hardly get around to do my work. I just did what I had to. But in June about two weeks before our camp meeting I felt I would have to help cook for the meeting, and I said, "Now, Lord, if you want me to help cook you will have to touch my body." And He did to an extent that I hoed in the garden several times—something I hadn't been able to do all spring. And I went to the meeting. The first Sunday I started in at the kitchen and helped through the rest of the meeting. I can truly say that the Lord has completely healed me. I can work all day now, and feel better than I have for years. All praise goes to my dear Lord.

Oh, I have been thinking so much the past week or two of that great PEACE the Lord gives us, his children, peace that the world knows nothing about, peace in time of trial, peace in the storms of life. Oh, peace, great peace, it is so precious to feel that calm peace in our souls. It is a peace that passeth all understanding, peace that the world cannot give.

Please pray for me that I may ever keep that sweet peace in my soul. The Word says that the Lord will keep them in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Him. I want to keep my mind on the Lord at all times. The enemy likes to get our minds off on everything else, but the Lord. It is wonderful how the Lord has answered prayer for me of late. Once I was so burdened it seemed I could stand no more, so I called a sister on the phone and told her that I had an unspoken request and asked her to pray with me. The Lord lifted the burden and it all worked out. Oh, I do praise the Lord. I hope this will inspire faith in others to trust in our God. He is a great God, a God of ALL POWER, and has promised to help us in every time of need, and His promises never fail.

By God's help I mean to see the end of a Christian race regardless of what others do. Emma Busch

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Ohio—To the saints scattered abroad,—I promised the Lord to send in my testimony to the "Faith and Victory" paper. I was pretty sorely afflicted a short while back and missed some work due to the sickness. I had prayer meeting in my home on a Tuesday night, and after service had the saints to anoint me and pray for me. God wonderfully answered prayer and I was able to go to work the next day, and haven't missed a day since. I truly desire to live for God and say yes to his will.

I also would like to tell this to the glory of God. About a year and a half ago I was underweight. The saints noticed my frail body and it was taken to the Lord in prayer. It was not long before I started putting on weight. I do not know for sure just how much I have gained, but I think around twenty pounds. No tonics or vitamin pills were taken, I just looked to God who is able to do all things well. I mean to make heaven my home when this short life is through, by the help of the Lord. Pray for me. Bro. Earl Sharp.

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Ohio,—Dear saints of God everywhere, greetings in the precious name of Jesus,—How sweet He is to my soul tonight. On the 24th day of April this year I yielded to the call of my blessed Saviour and wept my way through. I have slipped a few times since then, but I thank the

Lord that I didn't stay down, but got back up and got delivered altogether. I am determined more than ever to follow the path that he has trod before me. I need your prayers that I'll stay humble and low at the feet of Jesus. I am a young saint and am determined to grow in grace. Your brother in Christ Jesus, Donald Sharp.

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Kans.—Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord:—The night before last I promised the Lord that I would testify for Him if He would grant to me what I was seeking Him for at the time; and I decided the best way to do that would be through the "Faith and Victory" paper. I had been having great trials, discouragements, etc., and felt that something was lacking, for I could never seem to get the victory completely over them. I kept feeling that it was because I was lacking an experience of sanctification: but I kept remembering how that I had gone to the altar at Monark Springs (I believe a couple of summers ago) and had believed as much as I knew that I had gotten an experience. But several days ago it was revealed to me that I had not gotten a real experience, though the Lord had honored my seeking and gave me a blessing to my soul anyway.

We went to Springfield, Mo. a couple of weeks ago where Bro. Roberts was holding a meeting, and I heard him preach about getting a "Know-so" experience of sanctification; and that started me to thinking about my need. I believe we need a "Know-so" experience of sanctification just the same as we need a "Know-so" experience of salvation. Mother and Daddy began talking to me of how they also had recognized my needs, and I began to realize more and more how self had been allowed to have much say about my life. We prayed, and it seemed it was easy for me to do anything the Lord would want me to do except one thing. Now the Lord maybe never will have me to do that one thing, but I wanted to be at the place where I could willingly do anything the Lord would ask of me, so I prayed until the Lord gave me victory over self in that. Now my trouble was knowing that He had accepted the gift I had offered Him—without a shadow of a doubt. So we all prayed that the Lord would show us all without a doubt. Right in the middle of my prayer, it seemed, the Lord spoke to Daddy and said, "She has the gift," and then a second later, he said, I began changing my prayer and starting to thank Him for giving me the gift! Mother also was asking that the Lord would just flood my soul, and He also answered prayer. Oh! how inadequate and stumbling seem my words as I try to tell of it all! What joy and "peace that passeth all understanding" I surely now have! What a power I feel within me over all the foes of the enemy! How I wish I could explain every bit of how I feel, but I realize that man's vocabulary is very limited when it comes to heavenly things. What a joyful time we had together that evening—just Daddy, Mother, I, and the Lord! Pray for me that the Lord will show me more of His will.

Your sanctified sister, Alta Mae Harmon.

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Isle of Pine, Cuba,—Dear saints and readers of "Faith and Victory," Greetings and love to you in the precious name of Jesus, the name which is above all names, and who has done so much for me that I cannot express it.

I have been much impressed recently of sending my testimony to the "Faith and Victory." I have been receiving it for a number of years. Some dear saint has been sending it to me. May the dear Lord richly bless them and make them ever to be a great blessing to their fellowmen. I am so glad I can say that Jesus is more than this world to me. He saved me, sanctified me, keeps

me and heals me. Praise His name forever! Just recently He healed my body and I promised Him I would testify of it that others may know how very dear and precious He is to me. Every day I find His love dearer and sweeter to me and by His grace to help me I mean to make heaven my home. I can say like the writer of that little song: "On Christ the solid Rock I stand;

All other ground is sinking sand."

Sometimes He makes my soul so happy all I can do is praise the Lord, and the more I praise Him the happier He makes me. Praise His name for ever saving poor unworthy me. I ask an interest in your prayers.

Your sister in the One Body, R. Maxam

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Okla.—To the saints everywhere, greetings in Jesus' name.—This leaves me saved and pressing on for the dear Lord. I had promised the Lord if he would grant a request for me I would send in a testimony. Truly the dear Lord granted this request. The Lord has been very good to me. He always comes to my rescue in time of trouble. He promised to never leave us nor forsake us. Praise His dear name. I have spent some time with a sick daughter this year. However, the dear Lord came to my rescue and blessed her in body. I wrote for prayer and also asked the saints to pray for her, so I thank everyone for their prayers. I enjoy doing the little things I feel the Lord will be pleased with. People may not always know and see what we are doing for the Lord, but just so the Lord knows. As the Bible says, let our alms be done in secret, and the Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward us openly. I desire your prayers for me and my unsaved loved ones. A sister in the Lord, Mrs. O. A. Williams.

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Calif.—To the saints scattered abroad; Greetings in the precious name of Jesus.—I am encouraged to go all the way with Him. I love the Church of God and I mean to stay in the church and behold its beauty and inquire in His temple because we can get everything we need right in the Church of God. God has true ministers to feed us from Father's table, and we can see where we are and just what we need. Truly they preach the whole truth right from God's mouth. The Lord is my Saviour, Sanctifier, Healer, and Keeper. He has healed my body many times. He healed my son of an abscess and all of my children of different things. I reared three children. In 1918 my husband died, and God stood by me and brought me through.

The arthritis came back on me again. I was free of it for seventeen years, but I picked strawberries and bending brought it back. I am an old lady. Then I had ingrown toe nails. One got so bad it curled into my toe and split it open. I pulled out two big pieces of the nail and pus ran, but the prayer of faith was prayed. Bro. Trotter, our pastor, preached a sermon on faith and my faith took hold of heaven. I thank the dear Lord for our pastor. The soreness left. I had been wearing a shoe with the toes cut out, but I went home and put on my good shoe and went to work. I have been wearing it ever since. The devil has tried me many ways. He brought the soreness back, but I have been holding on and waiting on the Lord and it has gone out again. And the arthritis is about gone. I walked seven blocks to meeting. He that feareth the Lord and obeys His voice, let him trust in the name of the Lord and stay upon his God. (Part of Isaiah 50:10). "Walk in the light of your fire and in the sparks that you have kindled" (Part of 11th verse).

Pray much for me that I ever overcome the devil. I told the Lord I would write my testimony. The devil

has tried to keep me from writing, but by the grace of God I mean to overcome. I mean to stay upon my God and trust Him all the way. I am going to keep victory in my soul over the imposing power of the devil. I read Bro. Fred Pruitt's piece on "Yield not to Discouragement," and it surely encouraged my soul. That is the reason I love God's Church because His ministers can feed our souls. The Church is the only one of her mother. She has no sisters nor brothers. I do not look for another. I love to read the "Faith and Victory" paper. I get much good out of it. It is a source of good to the saints.

Pray much for me. Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him. Your sister in Christ, Laura Nichols.

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Meno, Okla.—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus' the one who has done so much for us. Surely He has been good to us and blessed in so many ways. We could never thank Him enough for his love and mercy unto us. The Lord was so good to protect us from serious injuries in the accident. We are feeling well again, and surely do give God all the praise. We appreciate the saints' prayers in our behalf.

Christian love, Edwin, Lillian Eck, and girls.

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Tulsa, Okla.—Dear saints scattered abroad,—I feel I have so much to be thankful for. I am glad I can greet you still encouraged, and more than ever my face set heavenward and drawn closer to the Lord. Some would possibly let bitterness creep into their heart and harden it, but I feel the Lord has been so close at hand even from the first insight of things coming to pass.

When I first saw the car coming toward us and knew I was in its pathway, to stop I couldn't miss them, and to go on I was still doomed. Then came the impact and I was knocked out. But from reports, we suffered three impacts. I do not know where I was picked up, nor could I tell much of the details. I did know when the ambulance came. I told them to take me to Bro. Barton's; but they rushed me to the hospital and all others that were involved. I do not know all that was done, but prayed the Lord to have mercy on all that were involved when I would be conscious. The Lord was very precious during all the suffering.

I feel I need to acknowledge how the Lord looked upon the desire of my heart concerning the use of medicines. It looked like I was here at their mercy. They came and shot me with a hypo and I pleaded with them not to give them to me. So as the next night came on the nurse asked me if I wanted one and I was so glad to tell her I didn't need them. Since then I've had good nights of rest until three nights ago when I suffered most all night; but never did I have any desire to call for man aid, neither have they worried me with medicine even though my temperature would come up and they would ask me if I didn't feel well. I would worry a little for fear they would try to get me to take something, but somehow the Lord wonderfully blessed. I felt a definite touch Thursday morning.

It has been almost two weeks here in the hospital and the Lord has granted me patience to wait. I was very desirous to get out and would yet, but have committed it to the Lord, too; and have learned to be content.

My nose that was broken and cut several places is almost well. The laceration on top of my head is doing fine. One eye is still blood shot, but is clearing up. My knee which required twenty-five stitches has kept me bound, still has signs of infection, but I feel like offering thanksgiving because the Lord has taken the pain out. I haven't been able to move it as yet. I hope to hang it

out of the bed today. Surely the Lord is good to his trusting children.

According to the account in the paper, I was convicted and hung without having a chance, but the Lord looked down in pity and I learned today the officers released me of blame for lack of evidence, which was another blessing from the Lord. "Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take him at his word."

It seemed so strange to me and often I've wondered why? Just a few minutes before the accident, as I was driving along to Bro. Barton's to pick up Lillian and girls, I was thanking the Lord for his driving mercy which He had bestowed upon me. I had made a 5,300 mile trip this summer and gone to meetings here and there. The Lord has been so precious. Then just to have this happen seemed a little strange, but I can see God's great arm of mercy protecting our lives; and He only let come what we could bear. The following day after I was able to reason a little, I thought it looked like all was a loss; but down in my heart I could say as Job of old, "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

I wish to express my appreciation to all the saints everywhere for your prayers, cards and letters. You will never know the comfort and cheer they brought to me. I could not express in words the blessing they have meant to me. I feel they have drawn me closer to the Lord and His people. The nurses marvelled at the attention I have received and wondered what I belonged to. But they don't know that God's people stick closer than a brother.

I appreciated the young people at Guthrie writing to me and having me on their prayer list. Surely the prayers of the righteous availeth much.

There are many things I would like to tell you, but I see this letter is rather lengthy so will close. May heaven's richest blessing be ever with each of you, is my prayer.

Your sister in Christ, Inez Eck.

P. S.—I've sung that song so much of late:

"All the way my Saviour leads me,

What have I to ask beside?

Can I doubt His tender mercy,

Who through life has been my guide?"

I don't recall the rest only at the last where it said, "For I know whate'er befalls me, Jesus doeth all things well." These words have been a comfort to me. —I. E.

(The wreck occurred Oct. 25th, and Sister Inez was released from the hospital Nov. 9th).

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Ind.—Dear saints, greetings in Jesus' name. The Lord has been speaking to me for some time to write to you for publication some experiences we had in our home. They resemble very closely Sister Ada Scanlan's experience that was published in the September issue:

NINE WEEKS FROM HELL

My wife (Bessie E.) and I were married in 1926 at Denver, Colo. We were both saved and trusting the Lord with all our hearts; but after two years she slowly drifted away from God and for twenty-seven years she lived in open rebellion against God, though she would read her Bible and pray for our son who is in the navy. But she would very seldom go with me to meeting. When asked why, she would say, "I don't want to." One Sunday afternoon I asked her to go with me, and she said, "I will go with you this one time." The Lord came down in our midst just like heaven itself, everyone was blessed, and I thought surely she would have a desire to go more. But that was the last time she was in the mission. Soon after

this the palms of her hands began itching, then it soon spread all over her body. The whites of her eyes began to turn yellow. We went to three doctors and all said she had yellow jaundice, but she only grew worse. The fourth doctor gave her a thorough examination and pronounced it "cancer of the liver. She almost fainted. The doctor told me it was too late for an operation, six months to live.

As we came home we stopped at my father's (he was very low and passed away in two days) Nov. 22, 1954. While we were there a sister came from ten miles north, and said the Lord had sent her. When she left home she did not know where she was going, but the Lord directed her to my father's home. She began to talk with my wife and asked her if she wanted to be healed. She said, "Yes, I do!" The sister asked her if she was saved and she said, "No, I am not." Then she was asked, "Are you willing to give your heart to God if He will heal you?" My wife said, "If He will heal me I ought to be willing to live for Him." We all knelt and prayed and the Lord wonderfully saved her. After twenty-seven years of rebellion He could have turned a deaf ear to her cries and left her, but He was so big, loving, kind, compassionate, and long suffering that He took her back into His big family. Praise God for ever and ever. I can never praise Him enough for this wonderful miracle. Then she anointed and prayed for her healing. Then she arose and went to the bedside of my father and told him that she was saved. How he did rejoice!

I wrote from Minnesota north to Florida south, from California west to Massachusetts east for prayer. The Lord heard and answered prayer and I felt that her body was healed, but the Lord saw fit to take her home Feb. 3, 1955, just nine weeks after her salvation.

But, oh, what a change in her life! It was just like she had been going north and turned face about and started south. The things she once loved she now hated; the things she once hated she now loved. Instead of fussing and quarreling and finding fault, she would say, "Dad, come and love me, you are so good to me; God bless you. I don't know what I would do without you." She would sometimes use a few sharp words (when she was feeling so bad) but would quickly say, "Dad, I didn't mean it; forgive me!" New words I never heard before. I always quickly forgave her. She continued to get thinner and thinner, weaker and weaker, but she never suffered an ache or pain. Oh, how good God is! She selected for her theme song: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." We would often sing it together and when she became so weak she could not sing she would hold one hand up while I sang. I asked her two different times if there was any little thing, anything at all that was causing a doubt between her and the Lord and she answered both times, "Everything is clear." Oh, praise God for such a testimony! Oh, that I may live so that I may have a similar testimony at the end of my way! My daily prayer is: "Lord, keep me true to the end!" "He that endureth to THE END the same shall be saved."

She would weep for our children and ask God to save them and I made a vow at her casket that I would do what I could to see that her prayers would not go unanswered. I am standing in the gap and shall stand there until they are gloriously saved. I earnestly ask each one who reads this article to pray for their salvation, and I know that God will answer.

After Wife had gone home I earnestly sought the Lord to know his will in regards to getting a housekeeper. After much prayer, the Lord spoke definitely and said, "I want you to stay by yourself for the present." I dropped

the subject and never asked him again, because he answered. Later while raking the yard I was praying and asking the Lord to show me his will and way. He spoke again and said, "Are you willing to sell this place, buy a house-car and go into my work?" I said, "Yes, Lord, I will." Sometimes He wants to see if we are willing to obey Him, because obedience is better than sacrifice. He has not told me to sell the place as yet, but if and when he does, away it will go.

Again I was praying that He would burden someone to visit the shut-ins, discouraged, burdened and sick. He spoke again and said, "This is what I want you to do." I said, "Yes, Lord, I will by your grace and help," and I have been doing that as He directs. I watch our weekly paper for deaths and send the tract, "Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord." It has been a great help to me. I carry tracts in my pocket and hand them to my fellowmen, loan books. We do not know how much good they will do. "Cast thy bread upon the waters and they shall return." Praise God.

Jos. N. Beever.

P. S.—Dear sinner friend who knows not God, dear professor whose soul is not satisfied, please, please do not put off your soul's salvation until God has to awaken you with some terrible sickness or disease; for you may be nearer hell than "nine weeks."

o—o—o—o—o—o

La.—Dear saints,—I appreciate the Lord and all his blessings and goodness to us. I'm so glad I know the Lord and have him to go to in time of trouble and joy.

I told the Lord I would tell of his goodness if he would heal my son. M. D. got sick on the way home from school and vomited. I thought it was an upset stomach, but the next day he chilled and had high fever. He told me that at school while playing, the back of his neck got real hot. One person told me of one case of polio and hoped he didn't have it. I told the Lord I would surely be in trouble if He didn't come to our rescue because I had refused the shots at school against different diseases.

I do not know what the sickness was, but the Lord came to our rescue, and I surely do thank Him.

Christian love, Patsy Doolittle

o—o—o—o—o—o

Calif.—Dear saints,—As the dear Lord has done such wonderful healing for me in answer to the saints' prayers, I desire to tell about part of it. Oh, how I do thank God for those precious prayers. I have been near death's door with so many afflictions. The doctor told my daughter to never leave me alone because I could have a stroke any time; but that didn't scare me, for my trust was in God and I was ready to go any time. Still I knew that I was in a serious condition in my body and would have some awful bad heart attacks. But it was wonderful how God would stop them so quickly and give me good rest that I needed. Oh, I just can never thank the dear Lord enough and all the saints for their prayers. I am getting stronger all the time. I am staying with Francis and Mabel and they have been so faithful to pray for me. I still need all your prayers for both soul and body that I will live very close to the dear Lord at all times. I know it will not be long now for me at the longest, and I mean to be ready at any cost. Thank the dear Lord.

Mrs. A. Doolittle.

o—o—o—o—o—o

Calif.—To the dear precious saints scattered abroad, I send greetings of Christian love in Jesus' dear name. Tonight finds me saved, sanctified, and kept by the blessed power of God. I love Him because he first loved me, and taught me how to love him. How good he was to search me out and save me. He has done much more for me

than I could ever put into words. He heals my body; he made me strong enough and gave me courage to come out of an adulterous marriage. When one becomes very ill, the thought comes to our minds, maybe our time has come to leave this world. Then one will begin to take inventory of his life. As this happened to me two or three times, I had to be honest with the Lord and my own soul. So I said, Lord, you know I am your purchased possession, and I know I am your child; I don't know of a single transgression of your commandments—"but I would give anything I possess if my marriage were not as it is." (Mr. Morton being a divorced man). I did not yet recognize condemnation about it, wishing somehow the Lord would get me out of it. I did not yet fully comprehend that it was my duty to come out of it and be clear before the Lord. He was so kind and patient with me, for He knew the time would come when I would obey the blessed Holy Spirit. I was expecting the ministers of God and the Word of God to do the office work of the Holy Spirit and to tell me how to get out of adultery. It is an awful thing to get into and HARD to get out of.

I was unsaved when I married, and for years did not know of this condition. But, praise God, he led me out. There is nothing so hard or difficult that our blessed Lord can't help us if we will keep submitted to God, completely yielded to Him. It would be good and very safe if the young people would make it a business to know if the one they are associating with has a living wife or husband before they go to the length to love them. For then love will hinder their decision for God and right and bring them to much grief and sorrow. God is good and will help us, but it is His will that we do not get into these things.

I am seeking a closer walk with God every day, and I feel he is drawing me closer to him. What I want to know most of all is his will for me so I may more fully obey him in ALL things. The Lord wants us to be long suffering toward one another, tenderhearted (Eph. 4:32). I do want to live the Christ-life and witness for him that he will and does live in our hearts. We rule and reign through one Christ Jesus here and now in this world, not in some future time. Jesus says, "Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts." It is easy for people to harden their hearts by just putting it off, procrastinating, running from God. Oh, it is such a serious thing to reject so loving a friend and our only Saviour. I would that every heart would yield to the love and mercy of our God. Pray for me that I be faithful to souls in this life. Yours saved to serve in His name, G. V. M.

Epitaph of A Promise

Here lies a Promise, long forgot;
Through bitter years its death was sought.
With Conscience and Memory long it fought.
Poor Promise!

Here lies this Promise 'neath the clay—
A beautiful Promise had been one day
Until its maker just turned it away!
Sad Promise!

This Promise will rise at the Judgment, tho'
And into a great big Promise grow.
Its maker, who kept it not, shall know
His Promise.

—Alta Mae Harmon

Obituaries

Mother Haggi Johnson, daughter of Marrie and Charles Johnson, was born in Wayne Co., N. Car., April 14, 1861; and departed this life Oct. 29, 1955.

She was married to Charlie Johnson Sept. 13, 1878, to which union fourteen children were born. Her husband and nine children preceded her in death. (Her husband passed away in 1937). Surviving children are: Sis. M. L. Moore of Green Pastures, Okla., Sis. Janie Pierce of Phoenix, Ariz., Sis. Elizabeth Fellows, Green Pastures (with whom she resided), and Sis. Mina Pierce of Phoenix, Ariz.; and Bro. J. T. Johnson, minister of Green Pastures. She also leaves thirteen grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and 17 great-great-grandchildren; and many, many friends.

Her religious life began very early, for at a tender age she joined a denomination. After moving to Oklahoma she heard the preaching of a saint minister of the Church of God. She believed and was baptized. She lived a devout, careful and faithful life. She was considered a mother in Israel.

She took her long illness with patience, and as the people of God would gather around her bedside to cheer her with prayer and song, she would rejoice with them. She often spoke of her home going. After many weeks of lingering and waiting for her summons, she asked her children to turn her loose and let her go, feeling that someone was still holding (through prayer and faith) to the brittle threads of life. She called her youngest child, Bro. Johnnie and told him to let her go, so the summons did come Saturday, Oct. 29th. She went quietly and peacefully. After her ninety-four years of toiling here, God folded her to his bosom there, ever more to abide, safely sheltered from the tempest. She has passed beyond the tide. The funeral was conducted by Bro. M. Spears and Bro. S. Barton. Text: Rev. 14:13; Interment, Hill Crest Cemetery.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Louellen Pearl Taylor, age 79 years, six months, was born May 6, 1876 at Elkton, Ky. She came to Webb City when 14 years of age where she resided the rest of her life with the exception of about ten years that were spent in Glendale, Calif. She was united to Frank Taylor in 1895, who preceded her in death by 35 years. She had six children: Mrs. Mae Notestine, Mrs. Glenna Lawson, Mrs. Mary Thomas, Frank, Charles, and Paul Taylor, who all survive her. She was a member of the Church of God 43 years to which she was faithful to the end. She had lived with a daughter, Mrs. W. F. Notestine for the past year and a half, where she passed away Oct. 31.

Mother Taylor lived close to the Lord and had the confidence of her children and grandchildren. When one of her sons was very sick, they felt it best to keep it from her as she was so sick. A husband of one of her granddaughters said, "Tell her; she can do more through her prayers than any doctor." He had not known her very long, but her life had impressed him. Also, though nearing the end, when her youngest boy was saved, she was quick to admonish him to be sure to make all his wrongs right. Truly, we shall bear fruit in old age if we stay true to God. She was asked just awhile before she passed away what she would like to have, and her answer was: "Just a little more of Jesus." We often heard her praising the Lord. Her one thought in life was to live to please God and to see her children saved. Services by Ersa Carrick. Text Jas. 4:14; other Scriptures: Prov. 31:10, 27, 28; John 14:1, 2, 3.

IN MEMORY OF SISTER TAYLOR

God gathers his jewels one by one;
For this he gave his beloved Son,
To everyone the Blood applied,
Eternal rest on the other side.

God blessed Sister Taylor with seventy-nine years;
She trusted Him with a heart sincere.
Though the hand of affliction held her long,
In her heart she kept the victory song.

As her loved ones cared for her day by day:
"More, more of Jesus," they heard her say.
Let us never look at the vacant chair,
But strive for the joy she has gone to share.

We can never forget her smiling face,
No tears now will ever her smile erase.
All we in Christ, when we cross the tide,
Will meet her with all of God's saints on the other side.
Poem by Sis. Minnie Noakes.

—::—

Dear saints everywhere:—I feel led to make a confession to the saints and ask you to forgive me for going along with a profession; that is, professing something I did not possess. However about one year and nine months ago the Lord laid it on Sister Katherine Williams' heart to come and talk to me about my soul. She said the Lord told her to come and talk to me, and He (the Lord) would save me. At that time I was in the hospital in San Francisco, Calif. She obeyed the Lord. We prayed through to the Lord and He really saved me and delivered me from habits which I had, drinking, smoking, etc. Yes, the Lord saved me there on that hospital bed.

Later Sister Williams returned to the hospital and told me she felt led of the Lord to take me out of the hospital. This she did, and I went home with her. She was living in the rear of the chapel where the saints were having meeting at that time.

A revival started the next day after I arrived at Sister Williams' home. The saints were all so sweet and kind to me. They carried me into the chapel. At this time I was very weak in body and painful. At times I could not hold my head steady. My neck was weak, my head would go backward. I could not walk alone at all, could not get up alone, so a cot was placed in the chapel for me to lie on to hear God's Word, the beautiful songs of Zion, prayers and encouraging testimonies.

The ministers anointed me, laid hands on me, and prayed for me, and the Lord healed me of severe pains in my body, delivered me from the medicine habit, gave me strength in my limbs enough to get up alone and walk around in the chapel alone, which the doctors told me I would never do, but God did it for me. I was doing wonderfully well, until I began to fail God.

As I continued to stay with Sister Williams and she took good care of me, there were times she felt burdened of the Lord to talk to me and instruct me along the line of Christian living. But I did not want to accept her advice. More than one time she tried to help me as the Lord would lead her—sometimes weeping. But I resented it. All this I have confessed to her and asked her to forgive me. She has gladly and freely forgiven me for it. But I feel led to put this in the paper, because I feel the saints all over have been praying for me; and you may have wondered why the Lord has not completely healed me. Since the Lord saved me this time, and I understand the Word better; I know it was on my part that the Lord did not completely heal me.

I also told lies to different saints. I told them before I was afflicted, I was a piano player and I was well along

in music; but truth fully, I was not. I took music some as a child 12 or 14 years old. I also said I went to college, but I did not. There were times when saints other than Sis. Williams would try to advise me and I resented it. The saints seemed to do all they could to help me and assist Sis. Williams with me, but I was just not thankful.

So I became in a backslidden condition. In other words, I lived a hypocrite for some time, but did not confess it until a few days ago. During my hypocritical condition, I became weak in my body, could not walk alone like I had before. My speech began to fail me—even now it is difficult for me to speak plain enough for one to understand me. But I confessed my sins to the Lord and asked Him to forgive me again. I also confessed to the saints and asked them to forgive me. I told the Lord I was not worthy of salvation nor the love of the saints. But the Lord had mercy upon me and saved me just the same. He has given me another chance, and I truly thank God for it.

Again I want to ask the saints everywhere to please forgive me. I am very sorry. I wish to thank all of you dear saints and friends for your love offerings you sent Sis. Williams to help care for me; and above all, I thank you for prayers. Please continue to pray for me. I need your prayers very much, and am depending on them.

The building where Sis. Williams and I were living on Fairview St. was condemned, so we had to move. After we moved into an apartment to ourselves there was no one to depend on to stay with me while she worked. Saints would come in to see about me during the day, but there were times when I was left alone. Since I was helpless, Sis. Williams felt I should not be left alone, so she tried to get some saint to live with us, but did not succeed. Although we surely appreciated the donations the dear saints and friends sent us, and it was a great help, but not enough for Sister Williams to give up her work and stay at home. She continued to work, so something had to be done. She explained the case to the welfare and they made arrangements for me to be put in the hospital, where I am at this present time, not for medical aid, but to be where I would have care and not be left alone.

It is here on my hospital bed that the Lord talked to my heart and helped me to see myself. It was here that I confessed to the saints that I had backslidden and asked for forgiveness. I was unsaved before I came to the hospital, but had not confessed it. It was here that I confessed my sins to the Lord, asked Him to forgive me, and the Lord saved me—yes, here on my hospital bed. I can see the hand of the Lord in my being here, and I thank the Lord for it. It has helped me to see my sad condition. Had I accepted advice and instructions, I believe I would have the use of my limbs and would be stronger in the Lord.

I would like to tell all the young saints that when any elder saint comes to you to give advice or instructions, accept it as from the Lord! And don't resent it. When you resent it, it only gives the devil a chance to gain ground, and it will grieve the Lord.

I hope my confession will help someone to really think on your way and not go along with just a profession, because God knows who you are, and if you do not live right you are just "a sinner."

I regret very much that I went back on the Lord. I am OH! SO SORRY. The one thing that hurts the worst is that I went along for a period of time pretending, but by God's great mercy I have gotten back to the Lord. I am very happy and thankful that the Lord had mercy upon me a sinner, and saved me before it was everlasting too late.

Since I do not have the use of my hands, I felt led to

ask Sis. Williams (who has been like a mother to me) to write my testimony and confession, and put it in the paper. I told her what to write and she wrote it and read it to me. It is written as the Lord gave it to me to write, and is all true. I appreciate the encouraging letters, books, etc. which I have received from the saints and friends. I enjoy reading them. If any of you feel impressed to write me, you may write in care of Sis. Katherine Williams, 4210 West St., Oakland 8, Calif. Pray much for me.

Your sister in the Lord,

Nell Austin.

Autumn

The leaves are turning yellow,
The geese are flying low,
For there are chilly breezes
In the north land with snow.
Why do the deer go to the valley
And flocks of birds go by?
Because God's instinct warns them
That winter's blast is nigh.

Should not we apply our hearts to wisdom,
And make provision for the soul?
Where death will be swallowed up of life
While the years of eternity roll.
In this we desire to be clothed upon (2 Cor 5:2)
With our house which is from above;
For there are many mansions
In our Father's house of love. (John 14:2).

—Roberta Reese

L. D. Pruitt's older son, Byron L. Pruitt, and Clarice Nichols, who had formerly worked here in the "Lord's Print Shop" for several years, were united in marriage on the 6th of November. The marriage was arranged for in the home of her parents near Loranger, La. Many friends and relatives attended the wedding, including a goodly number from Guthrie, Okla. Willie Murphey of Guthrie performed the ceremony. They received many gifts which will be useful in their home. They will make their home in Guthrie for the present time.

Today, just as in the days of Moses, life and death, good and evil, are still set before us. We must make our choice.

Roll of 5 "Faith and Victory" papers, one year	\$1.00
12 papers each month, one year	2.00
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BIBLE STUDY

Primary picture roll is \$1.35, Lesson cards 9c

MEANING OF DISCIPLESHIP

December 4, 1955

Printed Portion Luke 9:23-36.

Luke 9:23. And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

24. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

25. For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?

26. For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.

27. But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God.

28. And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.

29. And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening.

30. And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias:

31. Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

32. But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

33. And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias; not knowing what he said.

34. While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud.

35. And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.

36. And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone. And they kept it close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen.

Memory Verse: . . . If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. Luke 9:23.

Practical Truth: What Jesus said to ALL his disciples of old, He says to ALL his disciples today.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Christ died to purchase for us a right to "The Tree of Life," so salvation is free; but at the same time it costs us ALL, even the surrender of one's life. It may be illustrated like this: A child in its play is making mud pies when its mother comes and offers it a piece of real pie. Before it can come into possession of the real pie, it must give up the mud pies and be washed. The real pie was freely offered, yet the child must give up all that would contaminate it. Our self-life would contaminate and crowd out the life of Christ, if allowed to live. There are three requisites to true discipleship: cross-bearing, self-denial, and spiritual service. Can you answer the question in verse 25?

The Bible tells us that our ways are not God's ways, neither are our thoughts His thoughts. The many denominations of today are the result of people following their own thoughts and ways and not seeking God's thoughts and ways. "Not knowing what he said," Peter wanted to build "three tabernacles" which would have encouraged worshipers to hold the Law and Prophets in equal authority and glory with Christ; but God's plan was for them to fade away when Christ was revealed even as the light of the moon fades away when the sun rises. The Law and Prophets pointed to Christ, and in that sense are to be enjoyed by us. Christ's true disciples "hear Him," —G. R.

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

December 11, 1955

Printed Portion Luke 10:25-37.

Luke 10:25. And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

26. He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

27. And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

28. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live

29. But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

30. And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

31. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

32. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

33. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion on him.

34. And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

35. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

36. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

37. And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Memory Verse: . . . Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. Luke 10:27.

Practical Truth: To please God, we must be merciful.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The lawyer was acquainted with what the Scriptures taught concerning his duty to God and man, but it seemed that just the presence of Christ put life and real meaning into it. No doubt his conscience was pricked because of some lack on his part even before Jesus gave the parable, because he was "willing to justify himself." A sincere heart would ask: "Who is my neighbor?" with the desire of showing love and performing a duty toward the neighbor; but there is a way of asking the question just to excuse self, even as Cain asked, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Keep in mind that the truths brought out in this lesson were in answer to the question: "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

Many people have read the Bible and memorized its verses and chapters, but it takes the presence of the Spirit of Christ to awaken the soul to its true meaning. Some people, like the lawyer, when convicted of a lack on their part, justify themselves, hide under a profession of religion and go on without eternal life. But it is far better to be honest with our souls, confess and repent that we may have the gift of eternal life abiding in our souls.—G. R.

JESUS, MAN OF PRAYER

December 18, 1955

Printed Portion Luke 3:21-22; 4:42; 5:16; 6:12; 9:18, 28-29; 10:21-22; 11:1-4.

Luke 3:21. Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

22. And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

4:42. And when it was day he departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him, that he should not depart from them.

5:16. And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

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

9:18. And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am?

28. And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.

29. And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening.

10:21. In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

22. All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.

11:1. And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

2. And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

3. Give us day by day our daily bread.

4. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

Memory Verse: . . . Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Luke 11:9.

Practical Truth: After our souls are made alive in Christ Jesus by repentance and faith, they are kept alive by communion with God by prayer and faith.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We notice in our lesson that parts are taken from the first eleven chapters in Luke about the different times that Jesus prayed. Often we read where he says, "The Father works, and I work." He did not work apart from the Father. How much more do we need to be careful that God is working in us and through us. Prayer is the medium through which we receive this strength and power. Prayer is an act of faith and belief in a God that we do not see. God honors that faith and we feel the presence of His Spirit upon us. Just as Jesus came often and spent much time in prayer, we, too, should do so to be at our best for God.

We notice that when he was being baptized, he was

praying. The heavens opened, the Holy Spirit descended, God spoke from heaven. What a wonderful and beautiful scene! The glory that was revealed, all because he prayed. We, too, can by faith in prayer cause the heavens to open and feel the surge of the Spirit upon us and hear God speak to our souls, making us to know His will concerning us. Surely we should, as the song says, "Pray until you pray." Be like Jacob of old in prayer, "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me." (Gen. 32:26). Wrestle with God until you do prevail. ". . . In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Phil. 4:6. —M. M.

SONGS OF THE SAVIOUR'S BIRTH

(Christmas)

December 25, 1955

Printed Portion Luke 1:32-33, 46-50; 2:29-32.

Luke 1:32. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33. And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

46. And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,

47. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

48. For he hath regarded the low estate of his hand maiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

49. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

50. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

2:29. Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

30. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

31. Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

32. A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

Memory Verse: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:14.

Practical Truth: The babe of Bethlehem has given to the world a song of hope.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The first part of our lesson is part of what Gabriel spoke to the virgin Mary, of the child Jesus whom she was to bear. The second portion is a part of Mary's beautiful praise and heart-felt thanksgiving to God when she visited Elizabeth. The last part is part of the praise given by Simeon as he held the infant Jesus at the temple.

There is a mystery around the birth of Jesus by the virgin Mary. Jesus was coexistent with His Father from the beginning of time, and a creator of all things; yet he became the Son of man (John 1:1-3), an elder brother of the saints.

"Of his kingdom there shall be no end." As the kingdom of God is within us (Luke 17:21) that eternal life begins and at death we just continue to live on with our Lord in the kingdom of God.

Surely we have cause to rejoice with Mary, Simeon, and the angels at the birth of Jesus. That "peace that passeth understanding" is in our souls today. We can sing with the angels, "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." As we have that peace in our souls it brings a feeling of "good will toward" all men. We then have the light that came to lighten the Gentiles in our souls and then it is a light to others.—M.M.