

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



Volume 26, No. 4

Printed at

Guthrie, Oklahoma

25c Per Year

July, 1956

Sweet Assurance

My heart is clean
And I have seen
The glory of the Lord.
I'll trust Him when
Life seems to end,
Believing on His Word.

I searched around
Before I found
A love that'll ne'er depart;
And now I find
God's love divine
Is reigning in my heart.

My soul's at rest
And I am blest—
I'm fully satisfied.
He cleansed my soul
And made me whole,
The blood has been applied.

—Donald W. Sharp.

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The Only Way That Will Work

There are some people who believe that Christ's way of life was practical two thousand years ago, but in our complex society man cannot really follow Christ today. But according to the New Testament and the life and testimony of multitudes, we can follow Christ today. His way of life is still practical and reasonable and will work today, tomorrow, and so long as man lives on the earth.

Man can be just as holy, righteous and godly today as Christians of long ago. Christ just calls men and women to follow Him, forgiving their sins, purifying their hearts, and empowering them to live a holy triumphant life.

There are certain marks of characteristics by which a true disciple of Christ may be known. Jesus said, "By their fruits, ye shall know them." The attitudes and spirit we possess, our daily walk and conduct in life, reveal what we are.

The true follower of Christ is through with sin and sinful practices. He is saved "from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord." His habits are clean, exemplifying the Christian life. He no longer lives a worldly, sensual life, for "his delight is in the law of the Lord."

Those who walk in the Master's footsteps take their religion seriously. They read and study their Bible and live by it. They are loyal to the Church and its work. They support it by their prayers, presence, talents, testimony, and money. Jesus described them as "the salt of the earth."

Not only is the Christian to pursue an honorable vocation, but the methods by which he operates are to be honest and upright. He is to be fair and square in his dealings with others, never stooping to acts that are low, crooked, and underhanded.

If one is to follow Christ, he must fix his eyes upon Christ. He is our example. We are to live as He lived, walk as He walked, and love as He loved. "For even hereunto were ye called; because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow His steps" (1 Peter 2:21).

Christ's way of life is the only way that will work. All other ways lead to failure and disappointment. Life falls to pieces without God. It is high time that men awaken to this fact.

Life cannot come out right unless the laws of God are obeyed. If life is to be right tomorrow, it must be lived right today. There are so many unhappy, defeated, confused people today because they did not live right yesterday. You can't break the laws of God today and feel good in your mind and soul tomorrow.

Last summer, as I was driving across the river bridge into Montgomery, W. Va., our small son, Wayne, said to me, "Daddy, stop here on the bridge." I asked him why he wanted to stop on the bridge in the midst of all the traffic. He replied that he wanted to throw his baseball into the water. When asked why he wanted to throw his ball away, he said, "I want to see it splash."

I think this very well illustrates the way multitudes are living today—just for a big splash. They throw overboard decency, virtue, and character just

for a big splash of worldly pleasure. And they wind up with a terrific cost. They are left miserable, unhappy, and with a sense of guilt that drives them into despair. Man cannot be disobedient to the laws of God without suffering the consequences.

Regardless of how others may live around us, we as Christians can remain true to Christ and loyal to the church, proving by our daily walk that Christian discipleship is the finest and most noble way to spend our days on earth.

We do not have to conform to the world and its standard. We can be different, "blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation" (Phil. 2:15, RSV).
By I. P. Alls. (Selected)

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Our Conscience

We often hear people say, "I don't see any wrong in doing this." Just whom do they mean when they say, "I"? Do we, as human beings with our finite minds and human wisdom, have the right to judge what is right and what is wrong? Then I hear some say, "My conscience doesn't bother me when I do this or that." Are we meaning our conscience when we refer to "I"? The definition for conscience is that "faculty within us which decides as to the moral quality of our thoughts, words, and acts. It gives consciousness of the good of one's conduct or motives, or causes feelings of remorse at evil-doing." A conscience can be educated or trained to recognize good and evil but its action is involuntary. Only by what is given to us in the Bible, the written Word of God, can we know what is right and what is wrong. Therefore we need to train our conscience to check us by the Bible. We cannot rely upon our conscience alone to guide us right. We cannot decide within ourselves but must let the Bible decide for us and then follow it as our guide.

The Bible speaks of four different kinds of conscience. First, the **good** or **pure** conscience. (Acts 23:1; 1 Tim. 3:9). This is a conscience that has been brought under training and subjection to the Word of God, carefully obeying all of God's commands. It is the conscience belonging to a person that has been born again, a person that has the Spirit of God leading him and being his guide. This person's conscience is careful to not grieve the Lord in doing anything that the Bible teaches against. It smites the person and brings a sense of sadness when a mistake is made and keeps smiting until the person corrects that mistake. Paul, when defending himself before the Jews, said, "And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men." Acts 24:16. A good conscience is one which has no feeling of reproach against ones self, does not accuse ones self of wilful wrong. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Rom. 8:1.

Second, the **weak** conscience. This is a person whose conscience has not been fully trained to know and understand all the Lord requires of one. Such ones lack knowledge on what the Bible teaches. Paul discusses this in the 8th chapter of 1 Cor. He refers to eating meat in an idol's temple. Eating meat is not wrong, but it is wrong to eat it with the feeling that it is connected with idol worship. You could eat the meat, but someone with a weak conscience may see you and he would be emboldened to eat that which is offered to idols and become defiled. That would be wrong and you would be leading him wrong, yet not intending to, but because of his lack of knowledge he did wrong. Rom. 14:23, "And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Let us, as children of God, meditate upon this and be careful in what we do or where we go lest we hinder one whose conscience is weak.

Third, a **seared** conscience, a conscience that has once reproved and reproached a person again and again about his wrong-doings, but the person gave no heed. He would just go on and disregard the conscience's warning, excusing himself by saying over and over, "I don't think the Bible means this or that." He turns the Scriptures around and "wrests" them from their meaning. ". . . They that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction." 2 Peter 3:16. So we see we cannot go by our conscience unless we have a good and pure conscience. We want a conscience that is guided by the Word of God and the Spirit of God. In 1 Tim. 4:2 it says, ". . . some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron." How sad a state for a person to be in.

Fourth, the Bible speaks of an **evil** conscience. Heb. 10:22. This is an unsaved person who does not care for right or truth. His mind is full of evil thoughts and ways. He is guided by the influence of the devil and goes on year after year not seeming to think of his life after death. He does not profess to be ready to die, yet has misgivings as to there being any life after death or if the Bible is true. But God is faithful to this person. He will deal with him. God will cause circumstances to bear against him time and time again through life, making him come to the realization that there is a life after death and that he needs to prepare to live again with the Lord. The shock to the conscience through these circumstances, many times, will again and again remind the person of his need of getting ready to die. And we are glad for those who will listen to the voice of God speaking to them through their conscience. They become broken and contrite in heart, bowing low before the Lord with a godly sorrow for their sins, confessing them, forsaking them, and are "born again," having their hearts changed from "an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water." "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge

your conscience from dead works to serve the living God" Heb. 9:14.

May the Lord help each one to see to it that his conscience is trained by the Word of God, the Bible, is my prayer.

—Mrs. Marie Miles.

Unity Of the Spirit and Unity Of The Faith

Ephesians 4:1-18.

Eph. 4:3 instructs us to endeavor to keep the "unity of the spirit in the bond of peace." We are given full instructions in this chapter on how to keep the unity of the Spirit until "we all come to the unity of the faith," where we shall be no more children but full-grown men who have become perfect, having reached the fulness of Christ. We have apostles, etc. who are led by the Holy Ghost to teach those who have met the requirements of verse two.

St. Jude also pleads with us to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints."

Brethren, when we understand how to teach and instruct and guide children as the apostles did, we will please our Master better.

There is a difference in head knowledge and heart knowledge. What we know in our hearts is revealed from heaven. An example of this is in Matt. 15-19. Flesh and blood did not reveal the truth to Peter that Jesus was the Son of God. It was taught to Peter by the Holy Spirit. This is the rock on which the church is built: "Revealed Truth." "The Church of God, the pillar and ground of the truth." Christ Jesus is the Rock, the Truth, and the Word.

The only way we can enjoy unity of faith is to be led and taught by the Holy Ghost. We enter the church as babes. Babes need much teaching. "They shall see eye to eye when the Lord shall bring again Zion" does not mean that children shall meet these requirements.

The church is likened to a great school. The Holy Spirit is the teacher. Children in school could fight and divide over the ABC's, but they do not. They use more wisdom than we often do. They go to their instructor.

Oh, why don't we? Oh! shame on us, great big babies! Brethren, we can not expect children to be men in the knowledge of the Scriptures. We must obey Ephesians 4:2, 3 and instruct children with all lowliness, meekness. "The meek will He guide in judgment, the meek will He teach His ways." We must teach them with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love. If we are long suffering, forbearing in love toward those who do not know this truth as we do, we can win many to this truth. When we perceive that someone has the Spirit of Christ, we need to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit and teach him until he can come to the unity of the faith. If this is done in love with faith (faith that worketh by love) we can win many to the truth. If we fail, many will be lost.

Brothers and sisters, many times we, the leaders in this cause, let something become an issue between us when we need not. By being meek and lowly, as He is meek and lowly, we could go to the Holy Ghost and He would set us right. Let us use the wisdom that the apostles used when they settled the great question at Jerusalem (Acts 15:28) by submitting all questions to our great teacher. If we are meek, we can be taught. Many times we do not see eye to eye because we are not observing the full subject. We are only seeing a part—some seeing one side or angle and someone else another side. I am reminded of the six blind men who went to find out what an elephant was like. One examined his side and vowed that an elephant was like a wall; one who felt of a tusk declared the elephant was like a spear; one took the squirming trunk in his hands and thought the animal was like a snake; one who felt around its knee said it was like a tree; one touched its ear and thought that even the blindest man could tell that an elephant was like a fan, and the sixth seized its swinging tail and said the elephant was very like a rope. The poem says that the six men disputed loud and long "Each in his own opinion Exceeding stiff and strong."

We, the church, do not stand on opinions of men, but on God's eternal truth revealed from heaven.

—A brother, H. P. Huskey.

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"Therefore be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh.—Matt. 24:44.

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BOOK FOR SALE

TRUST IN GOD—a 62-page booklet for sale. This book encourages faith in God. Written by Mrs. H. R. Grauke, P. O. Box 133, Pearsall, Texas. Send to her address for these books. Price 50 cents each post paid to you.

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OBITUARY

Sister Nancy Stits was born in Heflin, Ala. June 30, 1891, and departed this life at Barberton, Ohio March 17, 1956, age 64 years. She was married to Virgil Posey in August, 1906. To this union four sons and four daughters were born. Her husband and one son preceded her in death. June 28, 1950 she was married to George Lucky of Sandusky, Ohio.

Bereaved: her husband, Bro. Lucky; three sons, Ralph Posey of Sandusky, Ohio, Raymond Posey, U. S. A. Air Force, and Roger of Akron, Ohio; four daughters, Mrs. Katherine Bryant of Detroit, Mich., Sis. Mamie Geter of Sandusky, Sister Sharlene Weeks of Akron, and Sis. Glenner Dancy of Akron; eleven grandchildren; other relatives and friends.

She heard and accepted the truth about five years ago and was joyful in the Lord unto the end. She said that she wanted to go Home to be with Jesus and that she was through with this old world. She was faithful unto the end. She was joyful when the saints would visit her. Many times we had service at her home. She would send for the neighbors to come and be in meeting with the saints in her home. It would be filled with her neighbors for services. Through her faithful life, five of her children are saved and two of her sons-in-law.

Funeral service conducted by Bro. Henry Chaney; text, Num. 23:10.

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

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

(Entered as second-class matter June 30, 1930 at the Post Office at Guthrie, Oklahoma, under the act of March, 3, 1879.)

—SUBSCRIPTION PRICES—

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

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

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.

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

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Co-operation 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

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY

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

Subscription price: 60¢ per year for single copies. 40¢ each subscription in quantities of five or more to one address for a year. (Pay quarterly if you desire).

Editorials

The campmeetings are beginning now for the summer season. In fact, the Hennessey, Okla. campmeeting has already come and gone. It closed the tenth of June. The Lord gave them a real good meeting. We were there on the first Sunday of the meeting and the tabernacle seats were filled with attendants.

This July paper will be the last paper until the September paper is printed. We do not put out a "Faith and Victory" in August so the workers can have a chance to attend the campmeetings during this time. Those wanting the August Sunday School lessons can let us know if you are not on the regular Sunday School list for a roll of papers. Those who are getting rolls of Sunday School lessons will be supplied as usual.

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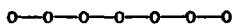
In Jeremiah 31:7, we read the following words: "For thus saith the Lord; sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O Lord save thy people, the remnant of Israel." God is using the Faith Publishing House, especially the "Faith and Victory" paper to glean out and to bring together the scattered flock of spiritual Israel. In this paper Biblical truth has been sounded forth for many years and the righteous are being fed on heaven's bread. This good food is made to filter into the pens of men, called churches, and is bringing out a people for God who rejoice in the evening light truth. The sound Biblical truth in the "Faith and Victory" paper is having weight and honest unbiased souls are embracing it. If they keep loving this truth, they will receive no delusion and will be clothed in garments of white when the Lord comes, or if death should come first. In the 50th chapter of Jeremiah, verse 2, we read, "Declare among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, and conceal not: say, Babylon is taken." In Amos 4:5, we read, "And offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven, and proclaim and publish the free offerings: for this liketh you. O you children of Israel, saith the Lord God." In Psalm 68:11, we read again, "The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it." By these Scriptures (and many others could be quoted) we see that God wants the truth of the gospel published and scattered out to the ends of the earth.

The Lord has so directed us in sending out the gospel that the poor can freely receive the gospel as well as those who are able to pay. In this way the poor have the gospel preached to them as well as others, for God is no respecter of persons. The volume of books, booklets, and gospel tracts are going out in a steady stream to all parts of the globe, and souls are being enriched with light and truth which the sects withhold from them because of their being in dim light or no true light and possessing a covetous, selfish disposition. We give away many more books, booklets, and gospel tracts than we receive pay for and look to God with faith that He will supply the

deficiency, which He is pleased to do, and does do. Bless His holy name!

Just recently we received a letter from a gospel worker in South Africa who desired a large quantity of gospel tracts but had no money to pay for them. He said the people there were hungry for the truth. Consequently, the Lord made us feel clear to send him a large amount of English tracts. Also, he had translated the tract entitled, "Art Thou Prepared for Eternity" into the African language and wanted to know if we would print him twenty-five thousand of them, as the African people needed this truth in their own language. Again the Lord blessed us in printing twenty-thousand of these tracts for him and sending them to him. All this was done freely and to the glory of God.

You who are sending free-will offerings to this Publishing Work become workers together with God in getting the gospel to men by the printed page. Many people who profess Christ say, "Let the good work go on," but never give anything to keep it going on; but we are thankful indeed to say that God has a few really sanctified and consecrated folks scattered around who are doers of the Word and are sacrificing and giving of their substance to further the gospel by the printed page. They will no doubt have many stars in their crown in that great reckoning day.



Our heart of late has been much impressed on the subject of Divine Healing. While we know that God is doing much healing and oftentimes miracles, yet there is not as much of it being done as could be and would be if folks had an increase of faith. Light and knowledge on the Word will bring an increase of faith, and we feel that it would please the Lord for us to set down some words of truth on this subject to the intent that more of God's people will receive their desired healing from the Lord. I am fully persuaded that the great sacrifice that Jesus made on Calvary's Cross covers the healing of both soul and body, and if this truth were fully realized, many of the saints would receive healing who otherwise are tormented with different diseases in their body. When Jesus died on the cross He purchased our bodies as well as our souls; therefore in Romans 12:1 we are exhorted to present our bodies a living sacrifice. In 1 Thess. 5:23 we read, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and BODY be preserved blameless unto the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ." In the next verse he says, "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." We have no excuse, for God says He will do it for us. We must surrender to him completely and become as clay in the Potter's hand, then He can mold and heal. No doubt some folks are sick because they are not willing to become a living sacrifice for the Lord. At the same time they try to make the Lord believe that they are. There are some sad cases among the saints along this line. O, may God stir our hearts and awake us to true holiness and righteousness.

In Eph 1:13, 14, we read that after we had believed, we were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise until the redemption of the purchased possession (this body) unto the praise of his glory. By this we learn that the Holy Spirit given us is the earnest or small portion of our inheritance and acts as a seal that we belong to God until the time the body is changed from a mortal body to a glorified body. We should not feel that our bodies belong to us any more than our souls; for God through His Son has purchased on Calvary's Cross both soul and body to be used in this life to His glory.

You will notice in the gospels that Jesus often saved and healed men and women at the same time. That shows His two-fold purpose in the redemption of man. The Psalmist David in the 103rd Psalm prophesies this same thing. Let us read it in verse two: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth ALL thy diseases." He told us also not to forget all of his benefits. Many souls who are carrying some disease along in their bodies seem to have forgotten that Jesus bore them also in his striped and broken body and they need to believe and be free. Looking to the Lord with faith believing will work wonders for any saved person.

Isaiah, in giving a direct prophecy of Christ and His sacrifice, says, (53:5), "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed." In this verse he reminds us that the sacrifice was for both soul and body. Peter, speaking of the healing of our bodies, says (1 Peter 2:24), "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." He speaks of the sacrifice in the past tense and gives us the same truth that Isaiah uttered in prophecy as a future work of deliverance.

Go with me to the 12th chapter of Exodus and read it through, and you will see that God planned our deliverance for both soul and body by the type of things that took place in delivering the children out of Egyptian bondage. First, you will notice that they were to take a male lamb that was without blemish (That lamb was typical of Christ, for He was without spot or blemish). The lamb was to be slain, the blood was to be put on the two side posts on the upper door post of the houses "wherein they shall eat it." That would typify the blood of Christ on the door of our hearts that saves and preserves us alive. In the 8th verse you will notice that they were to eat the flesh that night. It was to be roasted with fire. The blood on the door posts of their houses preserved their lives when the death angel passed through the land, but you notice they ate the roasted flesh of the lamb which was strength to their bodies. Their physical bodies were benefitted, for God said, "I am the Lord that healeth thee." There were several million of the Israelites delivered out of Egypt by Moses, a type of Christ. The Word says in Psalm 105:37, "He brought them forth also with silver and

gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes." The blood on the door posts delivered them from death and the eating of the roasted flesh of the lamb which had no blemish acted as healing to their bodies. Bless God forever.

In the memorials on the table when we take communion, there is one for the soul and one for the body. Paul makes it very plain in 1 Cor. 11:24, 25, that the broken bread represents His body which was broken for us. We are told to do this in remembrance of Him. When He took the cup and supped, he said of it, "This cup is the New Testament in my blood: this do ye, as often as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

In the 30th verse we read, "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep" or are dead. There are many that discern the wine as an emblem of the blood that saves the soul, but I fear that many do not clearly realize that the bread broken is an emblem of the healing of our bodies. If this truth were fully realized, I believe that many would be able to believe for their healing even while taking the Lord's Supper. There is no doubt but what many linger on in sickness and some are dead because they do not discern the Lord's body being broken that their bodies could be healed and made well. Consider what is written and the Lord give thee understanding for your prosperity in soul and body.

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"Catch the order of our Captain,
Wield the Spirit's sword;
Onward, fearless, press to conquer,
Slaying with His Word!"

Glad, believing prayer, and patient, consistent meditation in the Word of God will keep the sanctified man full of power, full of love and faith, and full of God.

I know that God is real:
His Spirit my soul doth seal,
His presence I am made to feel,
Daily with Him I have to deal,
Gladly before Him I kneel
And He gives me every meal,
I look to Him to heal.
For Him I want more zeal.

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EVANGELISTIC WORK REPORT

The first meeting with the new tent began at Bristow, Oklahoma on Friday, June 8th, and will continue over June 24th, and as much longer as the Lord leads. Bro. Charles Smith and family are there with the house trailer. The meeting was well advertised, along with handbill and tract distribution. The attendance and interest has been very good, and the workers are praying and expecting much lasting good to be done. The ministers and saints from Tulsa, Sapulpa, and other congregations have been faithfully helping in this effort.

Just prior to this meeting the rest of the seating equipment was purchased, as well as a Chevrolet school bus with which they moved the tent and equipment to Bristow from Shawnee.

It is tragic but true, that if the church has lost anything, it is the missionary zeal that once characterized this reformation. "Like priest, like people." This revival

of God's work must begin with the ministry. Whenever a greater consecration, burden for the lost, and holy zeal in soul-saving is manifested by the ministers in general and the challenge for world-wide evangelism is placed before the church, I, for one, believe the saints will respond to the challenge. A far-sighted vision of God's work and faith in a faithful God is the road back to the days of yore. We look out on the fields and pray with the prophet of old, "Revive thy work in the earth."

Calls for tent meetings are coming from all directions. Let us pray and cooperate wholeheartedly to help "rescue the perishing and care for the dying." We are exhorted to work while it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work.

For many years we have handled missionary funds for our readers who desired us to place those funds where they would do the most good. In order to continue and enlarge this service, we have set up a separate, special missionary fund for the support of evangelistic and missionary work as the Lord may direct. Accurate records of receipts and disbursements are kept, and there are no administrative costs charged to the fund.

When sending such funds to the office or to the undersigned, specify that it is for missionary work.

—L. D. Pruitt, 1116 W. Wash., Guthrie, Okla.

OBITUARY

Nancy (Nannie) Annorety Shroyer McFarland, age 81 years, 11 months, and 22 days, passed away May 27th, 1956, peacefully, and without a struggle. She was born June 5th, 1874 in Logan Co., Ohio. She was the daughter of David and Sarah Hendricks. Most of her life was spent in Ohio. She was united in marriage to Earl McFarland Nov. 30th, 1893, and to this union two daughters and five sons were born. Two sons preceded her in death.

She leaves to mourn her passing, her devoted husband, five children, twenty-five grandchildren, twenty great-grandchildren, one sister and one brother, besides a host of relatives and friends. She gave her heart to the Lord at an early age and dedicated her life to his services. She was faithful to live for the Lord and to serve him to the best of her ability; a kind loving wife and mother, interested in others, and willing to help those in need. Funeral services were held in Springfield, Ohio. Texts used were Job 7:17-20 and 1 Cor. 15:35-58; Bro. S. E. Abbott and Bro. Wm. A. McCoy officiating.

National Campmeeting Notice

The 19th annual National campmeeting of the church of God will be held, Lord willing, on the saints' campground at Monark Springs (Neosho), Mo. on July 20 to 29th, inclusive. Monark Springs is located five miles east of Neosho on Highway 86, so those coming by bus or train will come to Neosho, then call the Monark Springs store for some one to come to get them. Watch for the highway markers leading to the campground.

All saints and lovers of the truth are invited to attend this meeting and will receive a hearty welcome. Meals will be served in the dining hall on the free-will offering plan. As in years past, the tents will rent for \$5.00 each. The cots, including mattress, will be \$1.00. Space in the dormitories, including cot and mattress, will be \$2.50 per person. Bring your

own bedding if possible. Let none stay away who are unable to pay—all will be cared for to the full extent of the facilities. Please send your tent orders in NOW, or as soon as possible, and mail direct to Bro. Ralph M. Beisley, R. 5, Coffeyville, Kans.

Come praying and prepared to receive a blessing to your soul and be a blessing to someone else. Pray that God will send His ministers to preach the Word with the power of the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven.

The building work on the campground is progressing very well. A second story is being built above the rest rooms and storage room for a women's dormitory. The cost on this additional room may cause an indebtedness, but we feel the saints will respond for this need, also.

This is a national gathering of God's people, so let all the saints everywhere support this meeting. If you have an offering for the building project or the coming campmeeting, or desire further information, contact the undersigned or any of the following: Albert Eck, R. 1, Bartlett, Kans.; Sam Barton, 2264 N. Columbia Place, Tulsa, Okla.; Ralph Beisley, R. 5, Coffeyville, Kans.; Amos Porter, R. 2, Granby, Mo. —L. D. Pruitt, 1116 W. Wash., Guthrie, Okla.

HOFFMAN, OKLAHOMA

The Hoffman, Okla. saints are planning their first campmeeting this year, Lord willing, June 22nd to July 1st. We are looking for the Lord to stir the saints; also sinners to come to this meeting. Bring your bedding. Places will be provided for sleeping quarters. The meetings will be run on the free-will offering plan.

For further information write to Bro. Andrew Ligons, P. O. Box 64, Hoffman, Okla. or W. W. Crawley, Pastor.

HAMMOND, LA.

The 49th Annual General Southern Campmeeting of the Church of God at Hammond, La. will be held on the saints' camp ground from June 29 to July 8. The grounds are located about one mile southwest of the Ill. Central depot. We have good Greyhound bus, train and also mail service. Highways 51 and 190 lead here to Hammond. To reach the grounds take highway 51 to Red Top filling station on the New Orleans highway, then go west to dead end, and there is the campground.

The meeting is run on the free-will offering plan. Sleeping quarters and meals served as the Lord provides. All saints from near by bring your bed linens and towels.

Come whether you can help financially or not and enjoy the meeting with us. All are invited. We are looking to the Lord to send ministers of His choosing. There will be three services daily. We want to see folks saved and healed.

Anyone having provisions and donations send to Max Williamson, Hammond, La., Phone 3007 or to Ray Key, Loranger, La., Phone 6730 Independence Exchange.

AKRON, OHIO

The saints at Akron, Ohio extend a hearty invitation to all to attend our annual campmeeting. It will begin June 29th and continue through July 8th or as long as the Lord leads.

For further information write to Sis. Cordelia R. Jones, 740 Roscoe Ave, Akron 6, Ohio.

GREEN PASTURES, OKLA.

The Green Pastures Campmeeting will begin July 6th and continue thru the 15th. E. V. Sanders (Pastor), Spencer, Okla.; T. M. Hinton (Sec.).

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W. VA.

The West Virginia State Campmeeting of the Church of God at South Charleston, W. Va. will begin July 6th and continue through July 15th.

All lovers of the truth are invited to come. We are praying God to give us an old time campmeeting in which souls will be saved, believers sanctified, the sick healed, and the Word of God preached with the anointing of the Holy Spirit. We are looking to the Lord to send ministers that will do this kind of preaching.

The meeting will be supported by the free-will offering plan. Sleeping quarters will be provided for all who come. Meals will be served in the dining hall.

Please all saints pray for the meeting and all come who can. For further information, write or call Bro. Thomas and Sister Beatrice Spaur, 151½ 10th Ave., So. Charleston, W. Va., Phone R. I. 45-339.

JENA, LA.

The Jena, La. Campmeeting is to begin July 13 and continue through the 22nd. Phone 2-2198 or write for particulars to Ruth Murphey, Route 1, Box 43, Jena, La. Some may wonder why it extends over into the time of the National meeting. Our camp meeting follows the Hammond Campmeeting, and it started a little later than usual this year. It is dated to start the last Friday in June; hence ours following it will cause ours to be still in progress the first week end of the National meeting and it could not be avoided but wasn't done intentionally to conflict with the National meeting. —Ruth Murphey.

GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA

The Oklahoma State Campmeeting at Guthrie, Okla. will be held August 3-12 on the campgrounds located in the 600 block of W. Warner Ave.

The Lord has provided a good pavilion, comfortable sleeping quarters and a dining hall on the Oklahoma State Camp grounds, and for a number of years He has been blessing with His presence and giving a good campmeeting. No charge is made for meals or sleeping quarters. The meeting is supported by free will offerings.

Address: O. C. Porter, R. 5, Guthrie, Okla.

BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Date: August 10-19. Location: 501 S. Brown St, Bakersfield, Calif. Contact Bro. Isaac Chandler, Rt. 6, Box 37, Bakersfield.

PACOIMA, CALIFORNIA

The California State Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held on the saints' camp ground located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif. (A suburb of Los Angeles) from August 24 to Sept. 2, 1956, Lord willing.

Those who come by bus or train from the north, get off at San Fernando and phone EMpire 9-3608 for someone to pick you up. However, the limited buses do not stop in San Fernando, and if you ride the limited, get off in Burbank. Neither do the fast trains from the north stop at San Fernando. Anyone riding the fast trains should get off at Glendale. But in neither case should

you go on into Los Angeles as that is a number of miles farther from the camp ground and lots more traffic.

Those who come by bus or train from the east or south get off in Los Angeles and phone the above number. You will be picked up if necessary, and if not, you will be given instructions about how to come on out on the bus.

Anyone driving from the north come on through San Fernando on Highway 99 and to the 4th automatic traffic signal after you leave the town of San Fernando, turn left at this signal and go straight to the camp ground—approximately one-half mile from Highway 99.

If you are driving from the east or south, inquire for 99 Highway going north (San Fernando Road) and follow it right on through Glendale, Burbank and Sun Valley and on to Osborne St.—automatic signal here with Harbor Gas Station on the left and Mayfair Market just ahead on left. Turn right at this intersection and proceed straight ahead about one-half mile to camp ground.

If anyone gets lost or confused in directions, phone the above number to get clear instructions and we will come and pilot you if necessary.

We urge all saints and lovers of the truth throughout this section of the country to attend this meeting and come praying that you may be able to get good and do good in the name of the Lord.

It would be to some advantage if you could let us know ahead of time if you will want a tent and beds, etc. However, if things open up for you late and you are able to come, just come right on and you will be cared for as well as possible.

Tents and beds will be available on the same price schedule as before: tents \$10.00 and beds \$2.50.

For any further information write to O. B. Wilson, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif.

MYRTLE, MO.

The sixth Annual Campmeeting at Myrtle, Mo. of this year will begin August the 17th to the 25th the Lord willing. This meeting, as usual, will be carried on as the Lord provides. We are looking to the Lord to send ministers of His choosing to preach the truth.

All of you that plan to come and camp on the ground, if possible, bring a pillow and covering for yourself. Beds with straw ticks will be furnished free as long as they last. The saints started a building here last year to be used for dining room; also to serve other purposes in taking care of all that come to the meeting. We would like to have this building in readiness to use for this campmeeting. The oak lumber for the frame work is now being laid on the ground. We are praying for a good carpenter who can take the lead.

We ask the saints to get a burden on your heart for this work with us.

Send your offerings to Bro. A. J. or Earl Sorrell, Rt. 1, Myrtle, Mo.

DOVER, OKLAHOMA

The Dover, Oklahoma Campmeeting will begin, the Lord willing, August 31st and continue on through September 9th, 1956 inclusive. It is located one mile north and two and one half miles east of Dover. Dover is on highway 81. We will gladly meet anyone coming on the Bus if notified in time. We are expecting cool nights, so bring blankets. Pray much for the meeting.

Send offerings to Henry Caldwell or to Ulysses Phillips, Dover, Oklahoma.

Yours in Christ,

Ulysses Phillips.

He Maketh No Mistakes

My Father's way may twist and turn,
My heart may throb and ache.
But in my soul, I am glad to know,
He maketh no mistakes.

My cherished plans may go astray.
My hopes may fade away,
But, still I'll trust my Lord to lead
For he does know the way.

Tho night be dark and it may seem,
That day will never break.
I'll pen my faith, my all in Him,
He maketh no mistakes.

There is so much now I cannot see,
My eye sight far too dim.
But come what may I'll simply trust,
And leave it all to Him.

For by and by the mist will lift,
And plain it all He will make.
Through all the way tho dark to me,
He made not one mistake.

Sel.

Let Us Put To Work—Thousands of Faith and Victory Papers Idle

In going in and out among the congregations of the saints, I find many copies of "Faith and Victory" laying idle—papers that have been used in Sunday School work then laid away.

Dear ones, our neighbors and friends need this truth. A good way to put these papers to work is to use them in advertising our meetings. Write the announcement with an invitation to the meeting on a clean white paper (clean papers full of good wholesome truths look inviting to all). Then go from door to door, leaving a paper and telling folks about the meeting. This is a good way to give the children something to do that will be profitable in the work of God's kingdom—if parents are to busy to do this. Many times folks two or three blocks away do not know we are having a revival.

I find that the public libraries are glad to place Faith and Victory papers on the public reading tables. Our city libraries receive many religious magazines each month from religious movements that they place on the reading tables before the public.

All that is needed is someone to send the papers to them. Perhaps someone (or more than one) would like to work with Jesus in getting the truth to lost souls this way. Just subscribe for ten (ten) or more papers to be sent to public libraries over the country, and let the Faith and Victory workers send them out on their mission to bless darkened souls. This way no two papers will be going to the same cities.

Dear ones, let us do all we can to get this truth to a lost and dying world. Your brother in Him,

H. P. Huskey.

Testimonies

Okla.—Dear Saints of God and readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper.—Praise the Lord our God, I'm still gloriously saved today. Walking with Him is dearer and sweeter each step of the way.

I once thought this way was too plain, unattractive, and unenjoyable, and Oh, how I fought against it, until I was willing to humble myself all the way down, count the cost and pay the full price. The devil made me think the preachers told you what you could do and couldn't do. But when I got the real love of God in my heart, I was perfectly willing to obey God in anything, and soon realized this way was the most beautiful, joyful, pleasing way because it was God's way. Soon I found that no one told me I had to do this, or stop doing that. In fact, the people of God say less than any people on earth.

I didn't realize God had a people on earth with such love and compassion in their hearts, truly obeying all his word, and living free from all sin. It is the truth just not taught in Christendom today. We read where Paul, speaking in the Spirit, said, (2 Thess. 2:10-12), "Because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth." But thank God for His Holy Spirit and the blessed old Bible, that will still lead us into this wonderful truth if our heart is sincere in seeking.

I want to thank the dear Lord for blessing me during a great trial of late, and pray some dear soul might receive encouragement to press on for Jesus. At Monark Campground I turned my foot. Immediately a part swelled up on it, and I couldn't bear my weight on it. It hurt so badly, tears came into my eyes. The saints prayed earnestly for God to touch it. Soon it was feeling better, but would still pain terribly if I moved it. The enemy brought discouraging thoughts and tried to frighten me, but I held on to God by faith, knowing he wouldn't let anything come upon me without His consent, and that "all things work together for good to them that love God." Rom. 8:28. Even though some things we don't understand, God does.

I realize it was a miracle from God, whether my foot was broken, badly sprained, a ligament pulled, or what, because I got up on it right away and didn't lie in bed a week or longer. The next morning I started walking with a crutch (not putting any weight on my foot). But the Lord inspired my faith, and I laid the crutch down and took a step on that foot. Praise the dear Lord! It didn't hurt at all like I had expected. Oh, dear ones, faith is one of the greatest powers there is.

By the next day or so my whole foot had swelled, turned red and blue, even my toes were blue. I had another battle with Satan, but was determined to trust the Lord completely. To those inquiring whether I would see a doctor, I told them no that my foot would soon be all right.

About the middle of the week when I asked to be anointed and prayed for, Dad and Mother Barton came out. The swelling and blueness left in a short time, but I have to be careful with my foot yet.

I want to thank all you dear saints for your prayers and concern for me during all this time, continue to remember me as I am looking to our mighty God to do a complete work. He holds all power in heaven and in earth, so why should we small mortals for one moment doubt our mighty God, the Creator of the entire universe and all live therein.

I thank Him, I thank Him, O how I thank Him! for showing me the blessed "Church of God," "the holy city," "new Jerusalem from God out of heaven," (Rev. 21:2) "Zion the perfection of beauty," (Psa. 50:2) "not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish." (Eph. 5:27)

I truly know only by his loving mercy and grace was I brought out of sectism, denominationalism, and a sin-cursed life. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." (Rom. 5:20) Jesus said, in St. John 8:31, 32 "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Then in verse 36, same chapter, he continues, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Praise the Lord! for this rest to the people of God. Heb. 4:9. If we just believe, we can be free-free from the bondage of all sin. But take heed, because of unbelief many have failed to enter therein. (Hebrews 3:18, 19).

It hurts me deeply to hear different professing Christians say, "Oh, I wish I wouldn't do this or that. Seems like I can't help but show myself once in awhile. I try real hard, but I guess that is just the flesh in me."

Do they read their Bibles carefully? Do they put more faith in God's Word, or some preacher's or teacher's doctrines and teachings? We read in Acts 17:11 where those in Thessalonica searched the Scriptures daily whether those things were so. They did not inquire of any priest or preacher but searched the Bible. Just as one of our dear brethren says, "If I were going to preach a sin-you-must religion, I would throw the Bible away and get another book."

The Bible clearly reads in Rom. 6:1, 2, "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" And in Rom. 6:14, "Sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."

If these many professing Christians would seek God much, much deeper, consecrate completely, and ask God for His Holy Spirit to sanctify them wholly, then they would understand: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Rom. 8:1. Read Gal. 5:16 where the apostle Paul says, "This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." Read also Gal. 5:24, "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." In other words, they have nailed old flesh on the cross (so to speak), and let it die a death of great suffering.

Dear reader, it is a most painful death to die out to all pride, envy, wrath, foolishness, jealousy, revellings, and such works of the flesh. This writer knows from experience along with untold numbers who have taken the crucified way. But the rewards are laid up for those who overcome; not those who join themselves to some man-made and governed church of this world, and put their names on it's church books, and still go on in disobedience to God. "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." Rev. 3:21.

The sixth and eighth chapters of Romans teach clearly, that we as Christians are not to walk after the flesh, or be servants of sin, but yield our members servants to righteousness unto holiness. The little chapter in between that is so disputed (if you read carefully and prayerfully) is where Paul was telling the state he was in, living under the law as a sinner, before Jesus Christ brought grace and redemption to fallen man, and before the Holy Spirit was given to burn out the carnal

sin nature in man. Where does the apostle Paul ever SAY he is still a wretched man as a Christian? He doesn't and he wasn't. He did not commit sin. Read 1 John 3:9 and 5:18. Also read 1 John 3:8. Then turn and read Rom. 8:35-39 about the love and hope Paul had living as a Christian. God's true saints do not commit sin. I do not know of, nor have ever heard of, any true saint who is wretched. Rather, they are filled with "righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." Amen! Rom. 14:7.

Every sect, division, or denomination say they have the Holy Spirit, but we can see by the lives they live, they do not obey God. Dear reader, do you know God only gives his Holy Spirit to those who obey him? In Acts 5:32 read, "And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Ghost whom God hath given to them that obey Him." What does the word holy mean? How in all reason could anyone think that a God that is holy would send his Holy Spirit to dwell in a heart that did not obey Him, but obeyed the devil? There are only two powers man can obey: one is God, the other is Satan. Likewise spiritually speaking there are only two kinds of people in this world: one is a saint, the other a sinner.

I thank God that He has shown me the true people of God who are not of this world (St. John 17:16), who obey Him and are led and taught by his Holy Spirit.

We aren't supposed to be taught God's Word in some college or seminary according to men's creeds, as many think. God is no respecter of persons. "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" Rev. 22:17. The poor and uneducated have equal right to eternal life with the rich and well educated. "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. Read also 1 John 2:27: "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."

These are the true saints of God, who teach and preach the same thing: the Bible in its fulness. They are all in agreement, perfectly joined together in the same mind and judgment, and held together by the bondage of love." 1 Cor. 1:10. Where formerly we called ourselves Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Catholic, or by some other denomination's name, now we are kept in our Father's name (St. John 17:11)—the family or church of God. We do not put our names on church books of men and abide in their doctrines, but are free in the Lord, completely yielded unto his service, humbly thankful to know our names are enrolled in heaven on the Lamb's book of life. Amen!

Pray for me that I may grow in grace and knowledge. My heart's purpose is fixed on serving and trusting Him. By His grace and help, I intend to make heaven my home. Remember my unsaved companion and other unsaved loved ones so dear to my heart.

Christian love and prayers, Sis. Mona Lee Barton.

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La.—Dear saints:—The Lord has impressed me to give my testimony through the "Faith and Victory." At this time I have only about two months left of my two years of C. O. work. The Lord has worked out things for us ever since the first day we arrived here. Although we haven't been able to be in church services

as often as we would have liked, we are still encouraged to live for him. It has caused us to appreciate the church and the saints more than ever.

The Lord has especially blessed us with good health. We can't thank him enough for it. Even the little hurts and minor sicknesses that did come our way were soon taken away by the Lord. We are very much encouraged and have enjoyed the privilege of witnessing for him.

Max Mitchell.

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Calif.—Dear Saints; Greetings in Jesus' precious name.—I am thankful that I am saved, sanctified, and very much encouraged to press on. I promised the Lord if He would heal me I would write my testimony in the "Faith and Victory." I am thankful for how he healed me of low blood pressure and a nervous condition. Through this suffering the Lord brought these words of this song, ("God's Way Is Best") "God's way is best, heart cease thy struggling: To see and know and understand; Forsake thy fears and doubts, but trusting, submit thyself into his hand."

I was anointed and prayed for and when I submitted, as the songs says, the Lord wonderfully healed me. Many times in the past the Lord has healed me. I praise him for it all.

I have been undergoing trials and tests here of late, in which I have been drawn closer to the Lord. By his grace and help I mean to go all the way with the Lord.

I desire your prayers at all times and desire you to remember my family and my unsaved husband.

With Christian love,

—Palestine Phillips.

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Mo.—Dear precious ones in the Lord,—I am quite burdened this morning for the lost. Oh! how I want my life to be a light. Our lives are read by the world. They surely are watching us now. I feel that some things are getting in among the saints that should not. Some may look upon them as little things but the Bible says the little foxes spoil the vines. So we surely do need to watch and pray and keep the little foxes out. The big ones won't venture. The ministers should really warn the people against those things that the older ministers have taught against. When I read something that the old ministers taught against, then see some doing these things it surely makes my heart sad. We don't want to be fanatic, neither do we want to go too far the other way. There is just one straight way. Let us seek day and night to keep in that way. Surely we need to be serious about these things for time is short. The end draweth nigh.

A sister in the Lord,

—Katie Marler.

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Okla.—To the saints scattered abroad,—We feel like writing our testimony for the paper. First, we are saved, trusting in God for soul and body, encouraged to press the battle on to the mark of the high calling of God in Jesus' dear name. Truly I mean to go all the way with the dear Lord.

We want to thank the saints here and every where for the prayers and for the different acts of kindness and ways they ministered unto us in time of sickness with our dear mother. She is still weak, but thank the dear Lord, He has brought her from a long ways. Mother is past seventy-three years of age, and the Lord has healed her of cancer of the stomach, praise His dear name. The doctor said there was no use to pay out a lot of money, that it was only a matter of time. She had a cancer

larger than a man's fist in her stomach, could not rest day nor night because of pains; but, praise God, two of the brethren prayed the prayer of faith on Sunday morning and the Lord caused the skin to wither over the knot. They prayed the second time, laboring in prayer, and the Lord moved it completely. For three or four weeks afterward she did not seem to gain any strength, but we had the witness that God had done the work. Two weeks after the prayer of faith was prayed God caused that awful cancer to pass.

Saints, it means something to pray the prayer of faith for cancer, heart attack, etc. When it comes to minor ailments many can pray with faith, such as colds, headaches, etc. When it comes to miracles, it takes the faith that was once delivered to the saints. That is what the church should contend for.

One evening Mother told me to call Doctor Moon. I wondered why, but said nothing. She said, "I want him to come and see I have no pains and the knot is gone." I called him. When he came he examined her and could find no trace of cancer. He went across the street and told the neighbors that he had never seen anything like it. Praise God, He wants His works declared among the people other than the saints, so they, too, can see the goodness of God. Dear saints, it has been over three months ago since the Lord healed Mother of cancer. The devil has touched her over her entire body since her healing, but God will not let Satan take her life. We are still trusting in God for the healing of her body. If He takes her, I know that some day she and all of us must die; but I do know that God is a healer and that He healed her body.

Pray for us that we will contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints.

—The Allen Sisters

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Are You Walking In Light or Darkness?

My very soul is stirred this afternoon as I think of so many precious souls out in darkness. Many of them have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof, from such turn away (2 Timothy 3:5). Now the Lord did not mean for us to not have anything to do with these people, but he did mean for us who are walking in the light to not take part in their form of godliness.

"God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." Bless his holy name! I am happy that I am free from sin! Surely the Lord is good to me. There are people today who think we cannot live free from sin. But read, dear ones, Titus 1:11: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. Teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." I am thankful for the Word of God to teach us that we can deny ourselves of worldly

lusts and live a righteous life here in this present world. Little children, let no man deceive you, he that doeth righteousness is righteous" (1 John 3:7), "He that committeth sin is of the devil: for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8). "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin, for his seed remaineth in him; and he cannot sin for he is born of God" (1 John 3:9). The Bible teaches me that I do not have to sin. Those who do sin are of the devil. Jesus laid down his life for us; we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. "Forasmuch then, as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin." May the Lord help us to always have the mind of Christ and follow in his steps and be examples to those that are lost. I am thankful that the Word says, "My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me: and I will give them eternal life: and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." Isn't this a wonderful promise to us that are his sheep? May the Lord help us to lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Heb. 12:1.

No, dear ones, the Word of God says to lay aside every weight and sin. After he tells us to lay it away, I am sure he would not want us to pick it up again. If we would tell our children to lay something aside we would mean just that, wouldn't we? May the dear Lord help us to live to all the Word of God. Jesus also said, "Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light lest darkness come upon you; for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth." May the Lord help us to walk in the light as it shines upon our pathway. Dear ones, there is much danger in going back into darkness; and, oh, how great is that darkness! I thank the Lord for leading me out of darkness into this marvelous light. One who loves the truth, Mrs. Earl Sorrell

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Dead In Sins

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1). "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ" (Eph. 2:5).

To be dead in sins means to be living in sin. All people who commit sin are dead in sin. They are not naturally (physically) dead, but they are spiritually dead. When a sinner repents, God forgives him of his sins and raises him from the dead in sin. This resurrection from the dead in sin is a spiritual resurrection. The Bible calls it the first resurrection. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection" (Rev. 20:6). This first, or spiritual, resurrection makes people blessed and holy.

When a man dies a natural, or physical, death, and is raised from the dead, we call it a physical resurrection. Jesus died a physical death and had a

physical resurrection. All of us shall have a physical resurrection on the great Judgment Day.

A man can be dead and alive both at the same time; for instance, he can be dead in sin and alive physically. "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth" (1 Tim. 5:6). She is dead in sins, but alive physically.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and they that hear shall live" (John 5:25). Jesus is here speaking of a spiritual resurrection. The dead spoken of here are the dead in sin. When they hear (obey) the Gospel, the Lord forgives them of their sins, and resurrects them from the dead in sin. Then they have everlasting life. Then they have part in the first resurrection. They are blessed and holy.

"Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light" (Eph. 5:14). The dead mentioned here are the dead in sin. They are sleeping in sin. They need part in the first resurrection, which would make them blessed and holy.

—Joshua Peavy.

What Must I Do With Jesus?

This question was asked by Pilate, and the same question is presented to all mankind. It is the most important question that could be asked. Some will say, Oh, I'll wait a while; there is no use to hurry. I intend to yield to Him some time later. I am not ready to give up the world and its pleasures. Another will say, not today. Another, What can He do for me? I know nothing about Him; I have heard about Him but that is what someone says and I don't believe it. Another will say, I don't need to repent, I am not a bad fellow, I pay my debts, I do not lie to my neighbors, I go to Sunday School and church and put money in the collection plate and shake hands with the preacher. Another will say; I'm not interested today. But the Word of God says, "Today is the day of salvation . . . harden not your hearts." Remember these words: "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."

Jesus came from God, born of a Virgin, and was kept and nourished by Joseph and his mother Mary from birth to manhood. At thirty years of age he began to preach salvation to mankind, telling them to repent of their sins. He is our salvation. Without Him we would perish. He is our Saviour, the Son of God who suffered, bled, and died on the cross of Calvary that we—that is, all mankind—through him may have eternal life. Oh, what a Saviour that volunteered to give his life a ransom for us that we might live eternally.

How sad it is to see so many just go on in their own way, serving Satan, and appear to be satisfied serving him. Oh, sinner, ask yourself this question now: What will I do with Jesus? He is speaking to

you now, for He says, "I stand at the door and knock, if any man will open the door I will come in to him and sup with him and he with me."

There are only two masters: Jesus is one and Satan the other. If you have repented and are doing God's will by walking in His way, your master is Jesus. But if you are walking in the worldly ways, Satan is your master. You cannot serve two masters at the same time. You will love the one and despise the other. When the Holy Spirit speaks, causing you to say within your heart: What must I do with Jesus? fall on your knees with a broken and contrite heart. Ask God, for Christ's sake to save you from your sins. Confess to Him that you are a sinner and want His mercy and he will save you from your sins. Then you must take up your cross and follow Jesus, for he is the way, the truth, and the life, and there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. Do not put it off. Today is the day of salvation. Harden not your heart. We know not what the morrow will bring. We are all just one step from eternity. Oh, sinner, do not put it off. Do not go to hell. God loves you. He loved you so much He gave His only begotten Son on the cross of Calvary that we might be saved. He is speaking to you now. Fall down on your knees and repent of your sins and be saved.

Our Jesus, though rich, was willing to lay it all aside and become the poorest among men that we might be made rich through his poverty. 2 Cor. 8:9. And though He was pure and Holy, He was willing to be made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. 2 Cor. 5:21. And though he was a King and could have commanded legions of servants to obey Him, He humbled himself and became the servant of all men. Mark 10:42-45.

Ask yourself: What must I do with Jesus? It is up to you whether or not He comes into your heart. He wants all men everywhere to repent and have eternal life. He does not want anyone to perish. He loves you and gave His life on the cross of Calvary that all might be saved. He wants to come into your life and give you joy, peace, and happiness now, right here in this present world, and make it possible for you to occupy that mansion he has prepared for all who would serve him to the end in true holiness.

Jesus loved us while we were yet sinners, and suffered and died that we might live. Ask yourself the question: Why am I not serving Him instead of the devil? Be honest; think it over. Look at yourself as he looks at you. He knows your heart; there is nothing hidden from Him.

Is the life you are living leading your children, your loved ones, and friends to Jesus? or is it leading them to serve Satan? Satan, the old devil, and Jesus stand before you. The Word says: Choose ye this day whom ye will serve." Oh, sinner, if you will humble yourself to Jesus he will lift you up and give you joy, peace, and happiness, and give you a new heart and fill you with his love. Do not put it off. Today is the day of salvation; harden not your heart.

— Your brother in Christ,

J. T. Roberts

PRAYER REQUEST

Pray for a sister in Christ, age 83 years, suffering with arthritis. Pray that God may rebuke Satan that he may withdraw himself from her, that she may receive healing of her afflictions, in Jesus' name. —Bro. Erdman

Dear saints,—I recently got saved while visiting my brother in Guthrie and desire to find work where I can be in the saints' meetings. I would care for an old couple. Pray for me that I find work and that I keep saved. I have been saved before but have had troubles in marriage and other difficulties and did not keep saved.—Clara Windle, 221 W. Springer, Guthrie, Okla.

—oOo—

Minn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt, Greetings in the name of Jesus,—We left Phoenix April 3rd and came through Kansas, making ten stops. Many were interested; one sought the Lord. Others said they would like to go to camp meeting. I told them it was not far to Guthrie. I believe the Lord wants us to cover the same territory again some time. The Lord is blessing wherever we go.

Especially remember a man and wife here in Austin. They have an invalid child. I believe they will get saved. They are not drunk on Babylon wine. Pray that God will heal that child, if it be to his glory, and save the father and mother. We found a woman in Missouri that had been out of the hospital two weeks. She had not been able to work (we had met her before). She could hardly move. After we prayed for her, she got right up and began to work. She was living on some juices. I told her God had healed her and she could eat anything she wanted. She had not had any appetite. She began to eat. When we left on our way north, we stopped over night and she was looking fine and doing her work as usual. God is still on his throne. How I can see that the harvest is past; it is a gleaming time. Many have never heard the first step to salvation. God said He would send hunters and fishers. I am glad he called me. They will not come, so we must go and find them and bring them in. Pray for us that we will ever be in the center of his will at all times, that where He leads we will follow.

We were in Minneapolis awhile. We have traveled about 3000 miles since leaving Phoenix.

—N. G. and Clara Olson.

—oOo—

MEETING NOTICE

The young people at Los Angeles, Calif. extend a hearty invitation to all to attend our Monday night youth meetings which has been changed from being held in the homes. Brother Isaac Chandler will continue to be with us if it is God's will, every first and third Monday night of each month. The meetings will be held at the Church of God chapel, corner of Naomi and Walnut St. Phone Richmond 75793.

—I. A.

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Fruit Of The Lips

"I create the fruit of the lips; peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the Lord: and I will heal him." Isa. 57:19.

Too many speak with the lips, and their heart is not in what they say. Nothing but leaves will be gathered by those who look to the lips for a harvest to fill the barn. This is most true. If you let the

lips alone, they produce mischief and trouble and not much else. The lips, moreover, cause pain and evil all around, which the heart alone cannot do. The heart is as an oven closed up. The tongue is as a fire raging abroad, setting on flame the course of nature when it is itself set on fire of hell. The fruit of the lips is just what the root of an unrenewed, unregenerated heart causes it to be. The fruit of the lips is a blessing and a curse, according to the man whose tongue speaketh. The fruit of the lips may be compared to Jeremiah's figs (See Jer. 24:1). The good, very good; but the bad, exceeding bad, exceeding naughty figs that cannot be eaten. Our text tells us that God creates the fruit of the lips, but this must be understood of course that He does not create the fruit of the lips as we commonly see it. But the good fruit, the true fruit, the fruit worth gathering, that which should be the fruit of the lips, of this God is the creator. Because the natural fruit is so evil, it needs the Lord again to step in and make us new creatures and our fruit new also. And what is that fruit which the Lord produces from a source which is naturally so barren?

First of all, it is the sacrifice of thanksgiving, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to his name (Heb. 13:15). The lips should continually pour forth a wealthy traffic of song, bearing abroad the products of a grateful heart. Another fruit of the lips should never be forgotten, and that is prayer. The lips of little children can compass prayer and the mouth of the aged may not fail to utter it. This is a God-created fruit. He that abounds in it is as a vine which God has blessed. Woe unto the mouth which is silent at the mercy seat, for it will one day be dumb at the Judgment seat. Those lips are cursed that never pray. "Behold, he prayeth" is an absolutely necessary sign of the possession of grace in the heart. True praise never flowered from those lips upon which prayer has never blossomed. Be ye sure of this, that prayer and praise are grapes of the same cluster, and the lips which are barren of the one are bare of the other. These two fruits of the lips God creates wherever His grace enters. Furthermore, when there is prayer and praise, another fruit of the lips is testimony.

Do you produce this, dear friends? Has God created it from your lips? It is the bearing witness to others of what God can do because you have received it in your own experience. God blesses on purpose that we may tell other poor souls how he can bless the sons of men, and yet there are Christians who appear to have received great mercy from God, but they keep the matter hidden. Oh, be not such, I pray you. If you have good tidings in your heart, bring forth the fruit of the lips and tell it. Fine words are not forceful, it is the heart which prevaleth. Tell thy neighbor that Jesus died; tell thy neighbor that Jesus came into the world to save sinners; tell thy neighbor he is welcome to Christ. Tell him that Christ hath saved thee. Do not hesitate to tell him of thine own tasting and handling of the good Word of life, for this is a most profitable fruit of the lips.

—Harvey Johnson.

"If you go to hell it will not be simply because you had a bad start, but because you made a bad finish.—G. S.

There seems to be many people today trying to get saved by feelings; also, some, after getting saved, are trying to keep saved by feelings. Noah's Ark was a type of Christ. If these dear people would ask themselves the question: "Was Noah saved by feelings or by the Ark?" they would no doubt soon find rest and peace in Christ regardless of feelings.

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Roll of 5 "Faith and Victory" papers, one year	\$1.00
12 papers each month, one year	2.00
25 papers each month, one year	4.00
50 papers each month, one year	7.50
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NOTICE OF PRICE INCREASE

Beginning with the third quarter (July, Aug., Sept.) there will be a change in price of Sunday School literature. Primary Picture Roll will be \$1.50; cards 10 cents per set.

BIBLE STUDY

WRITING FOR PERILOUS TIMES

July 1, 1956

Printed Portion: 1 Pet. 2:19-25; Jude, vrs. 3, 17-25.

1 Pet. 2:19. For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

20. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

21. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

22. Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

23. Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

24. Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

25. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Jude vrs. 3. Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

17. But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

18. How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

19. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

20. But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

21. Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

22. And of some have compassion, making a difference:

23. And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

24. Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

25. To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Memory Verse Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Jude verse 3.

Practical Truth: No matter how many persecutors or false teachers arise, it is possible to remain true to the faith.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In this quarter we will be studying the nine New Testament books from Hebrews to Revelation. The parts will be taken from them for study, with the purpose in view of giving encouragement and faith to persecuted Christians.

One little Korean boy said, after a lesson in Christian faith and courage, "I am ready to face the future." Even so, it is with us, living in these perilous times and last days, we need faith in God who will give us courage to face the future. If we have our faith anchored beyond the veil we can boldly march on for God with courage.

Our lesson teaches us to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." If we do this it will mean some suffering. Since we are in the last days, mockers do arise walking "after their own ungodly lusts, having not the spirit." They will come against us in different ways and we need much wisdom and need to be kept prayed up and build up in the love of God so we will be able to help them or to be able to suffer patiently. Jesus was our example of patient endurance of unjust suffering. We will not receive a reward if we suffer for our own faults and mistakes or as a "busybody in other men's matters" but if we suffer for Jesus' sake we will receive a reward. Victory will be ours if we obey Jesus' command to "pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."

JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

July 8, 1956

Printed Portion Hebrews 1:1-3; 2:1-4; 6:1-3.

Heb. 1:1. God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2. Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3. Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Heb. 2:1. Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

2. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward;

3. How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

4. God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Heb. 6:1. Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

2. Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

3. And this will we do, if God permit.

Memory Verse: God . . . hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son. Heb. 1:2.

Practical Truth: Because Jesus is the Son of God, his revelation of God and of the way of salvation through him is true and final.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The letter we are to study for three weeks was written to the Hebrews. Today, about half of the Jews in the world are in America and half of these are in New York City. These people as well as we, need to understand the truths set forth in our lesson. Need to understand that today God is speaking to us through His Son, which is none other than Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus, the "brightness of God's glory," the express image of his person, SAT DOWN on the right hand of God. He had completed His work of redemption. God had finished His plan of salvation for all mankind. Now it is up to us to accept His plan or reject it. We want to give "the more earnest heed" to Jesus' words. We will not escape if we neglect salvation. Our doom will be sealed if we live carelessly and death overtakes us unsaved. We need to ever seek God for greater understanding of His will in us. "Go on to perfection," if you stop in a justified state you will find your need of repentance again. You need the power of the Holy Spirit living in you to keep and preserve you unto Jesus' coming. The Holy Spirit will be your guide and leader. Don't neglect going on and getting all God has for you. Are you going on? A normal Christian is like a normal boy—always active, growing, hungry, eager to assume large responsibilities. Jesus came to give the "more abundant" life (John 10:10).

JESUS IS THE SAVIOR OF MEN

July 15, 1956

Printed PortionHeb. 2:9-13; 4:14-16; 5:7-9.

Heb. 2:9. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

10. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

11. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

12. Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

13. And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.

Heb. 4:14. Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

15. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Heb. 5:7. Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

8. Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

9. And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.

Memory Verse: Being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him. Heb. 5:9.

Practical Truth: Jesus can be our Saviour because he made atonement for sin.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson brings out the fact very forcibly that Jesus is truly the Son of God. He lived in heaven, but took on human flesh, was made lower than the angels, became willing to taste death for every man. Jesus was a real man and felt sufferings, weariness, hunger, pain, and heartaches. He was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin. Did Jesus have to come here and take on the human body? No, He did it willingly. Because He did it willingly. He was "crowned with glory and honor." Surely today we should give praises unto Him and glorify Him for His great love to us.

Since the great love of Jesus has been proved to us, let us not be afraid to come to Him in prayer. Let us come boldly; let us come with confidence and assurance in our hearts that Jesus will help us in every time of need. When Queen Esther came to the king to ask of him a favor, she did not know for sure that he would hold out the golden sceptre of mercy to her; but we need not doubt when we come to the throne of grace. We know that we have an High Priest, "that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God," and that He is "touched with the feelings of our infirmities." Praise the Lord. It gives us the courage and confidence to come to him with boldness. The sceptre of mercy is always held out to us. Let's ask with faith, knowing God will help us.

WE BELONG TO A GREAT COMPANY

July 22, 1956

Printed Portion:Heb. 11:32 to 12:2.

Heb. 11:32. And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

33. Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

34. Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

35. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

36. And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

37. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

38. (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

39. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

40. God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Heb. 12:1. Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Memory Verse: Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Heb. 12:1.

Practical Truth: The fact that we belong to a great company who have stood true should be an incentive to us to endure every test.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Faith connects us with heaven. Faith "wrought righteousness, obtained promises" for those men and women of old and will do it for us today. The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is a recital of what faith did for many. Can we put our name to the list? We are serving the same God. "Without faith it is impossible to please him."

Do you feel that your lot is hard in life? If you do, won't you read the verses in our lesson again? Have you had to live under any of the circumstances mentioned? If so, the same God that brought these great warriors through, who were seeking a resurrection to eternal life will bring you through if you will have faith.

I'm thankful to God for the faithful servants of God that we have today. Those who will declare the truth of God's Word in the face of strong opposition. I believe we have Peters and Pauls today that will not back down regardless of what may come against them. Thank God there is genuine faith, accompanied with zealous deeds in the world yet.

"Seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses," let's take courage and press on with patience, keeping our eyes on Jesus, "the author and finisher of our faith."

SUFFERING AS CHRISTIANS

July 29, 1956

Printed Portion: 1 Pet. 1:3-9; 5:6-11.

1 Pet. 1:3. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4. To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

5. Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

7. That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

8. Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

9. Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

1 Pet. 5:6. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

7. Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

8. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9. Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

10. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

11. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Memory Verse: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 1 Pet. 5:7.

Practical Truth: Godly people who suffer as Christians in this world will be abundantly rewarded in the world to come.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The book of 1 Peter is written for the chief purpose of encouraging those who are suffering for Jesus' sake. The first part of our lesson today points us to the "lively hope" that we have within us of receiving "an inheritance incorruptible" eternal in the heavens. The lesson ends with results of suffering. It will "make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." Our suffering is temporary; the glory is eternal.

Notice when it says, "If need be." Sometimes it's needful for us to suffer. For in sufferings we learn obedience. Jesus learned obedience through sufferings. (Heb. 5:8) Peter wanted to help him out when they came for him in the garden but he said, "The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" (John 10:11) We each have a sup of that cup that Jesus drank to take. As the song says, "He drank the whole cup but we only take one sup." We cannot do good to others save at a cost to ourselves, and our afflictions are the price we pay for our ability to sympathize and help. In 1 Cor. 1:4 we find it teaches us that we are able to "comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."

So dear ones, cast your cares on the Lord, knowing that you are "kept by the power of God," and you can in the name of Jesus, "resist steadfast (steadily) in the faith" the devil that comes roaring against you.

—Mrs. Marie Miles.