

FAITH AND VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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Have Faith in God

When inclined to be discouraged,
And all hope seems to depart,
Don't forget that Jesus liveth,
And still has you on His heart.

When your load seems hard to carry,
And the burden no one shares,
Though the world seems not to pity,
Just remember Jesus cares.

When thou passeth through the waters,
And no earthly help you see,
Do not lose your faith in Jesus,
For He said, "I'll be with thee."

So dear heart, fear not, take courage,
For the Word of God is true.
Jesus said, "I'll never leave thee,"
But will guide while passing through.

—Selected, Author Unknown

LOOK

Look is used with certain words to express special meanings as, "look after," look for," to take care of, to expect, "look on," to regard or consider, "look out," be careful, watch, a sharp watch for someone, or for something to happen.—Thorndike.

Look, No. 1.—see; try to see; turn the eyes. We read in Gen. 13:14-15, "And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and LOOK from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever." We are confident that Abram obeyed God, he looked in every direction the Lord told him to, to all points of the compass, and to his vision there appeared a vast domain. Also, there came into his soul a hope, and an expectation that some day all this wide scope of territory would belong to him and his offspring according to God's promise. But he would never have had this hope if he had not lifted up his eyes and looked. He did not

become bewildered because of seeing adverse circumstances that for awhile surrounded him; but at the Lord's command he arose and began to walk through the land. He moved his tent over in the plain of Mamre, built an altar, and began to worship God.

Dear ones, if we will look in the direction God bids us, and move at his command, he will brighten our hopes, he will fill our hearts with song, and we will offer up the sacrifice of praise from the altar of our hearts and give glory to his name. Because we are confiding in his promise—and his promise never fails—when shadows fall and it seems at times the thing will not come to pass, we can, if we have received a clear vision of the promise through the telescope of faith as Abram (whose name was later changed to Abraham) upon authority of the promise against hope believe in hope. We can count the things that are not as though they were. Imagination will not do to stand on here. Presumptions, too, will fail. A definite knowledge of the promise of God is a sure foundation.

"My presence will go with thee, and I will give thee rest" brought comfort and peace of mind to Moses. When the storm was raging and fear filled every soul and hope was gone, "God hath given thee all them that sail with thee" gave courage to Paul, for he had seen the angel of the Lord. He said, "I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me." Some were obliged to get out into the sea and swim to shore, but the promise was intact, not one was lost.

We find that when God shows anyone anything, or gives that one a promise, He also places a divine responsibility upon him: "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Micah 6:8. When the shipmen thought to leave the ship and escape in life boats, so to speak, Paul told the Centurion and soldiers, "except these abide in the ship ye can not be saved." Although the promise had been given, there were certain duties and obligations that had to be performed by those concerned. After God had promised Abraham the vast domain, he said to him, "Walk before me and be thou perfect." Abraham obeyed God; and he looked by faith beyond the vision of the natural eye, and saw a

city that hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. We want to bear in mind this truth, that when God makes a promise, be it ever so clear and definite, there are always conditions to be met by the ones to whom the promise was made. When God says LOOK, he also says DO.

Some look at things out of their own lust or desire and have a great hope or anticipation that some day they will be permitted to enjoy the things they have seen or looked upon. And it is true that many people do enjoy blessings that God has not directly promised to them, but because of his great love and mercy, he sends the rain upon the just and on the unjust. In the same chapter that we read of where God told Abram to lift up his eyes and look, we also read that Lot lifted up his eyes and beheld all the plain of Jordan that it was "well watered everywhere . . . even as the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest to Zoar," Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan (10th and 11th vss.) "and pitched his tent toward Sodom" (verse 12c). No doubt Lot considered himself well blessed. He enjoyed prosperity in the well watered plains of Jordan. Doubtless he accumulated much wealth, his family grew up, and seemingly all his daughters had married, except two, and were living in homes of their own. They may have attained to some popularity in society, but it does not appear that God's blessing rested upon the choice that Lot had made. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" Prov. 14:12. Lot had looked all right, and he had seen desirable things, and he moved right into them. He only saw temporal things. His eyes had not been anointed with the eyesalve that would have enabled him to see beyond the perishable things of earth. His vision was blurred because he looked upon things that were perishable, although he was a righteous man. He could not be satisfied with the life his neighbors lived; from day to day his heart was filled with grief. Sin increased all around him, matters grew worse as time went on. His very soul was vexed. No doubt he had a longing to be away from it all. The God that knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation came to Lot's rescue, but he (Lot) had to leave Sodom, a pauper. He had to leave all his wealth behind, also his married daughters, his sons-in-law, his cattle, and all, and flee for his life. This time he with his wife and two daughters were instructed which way to look. "Escape for thy life, look not behind thee." Get out of the plain, go on up to the mountain. "But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt." Gen. 19:26. Jesus said, "Remember Lot's wife." She looked the wrong way.

LOOKING THE WRONG WAY

Many today are looking the wrong way; they are looking opposite to the way God is looking. They are not looking right; their vision is blurred. The Israelites, in their hearts, looked back down in Egypt. They began to long for the old flesh pots, garlic, onions, leek, melons, and so on. They should have been

looking toward Canaan, the land of promise. God was not pleased with their attitude, and many of them died under the wrath of the Almighty.

Dear reader, what is your attitude toward God's plan? Which way are you looking? The Israelites complained: "There is no water here, and our soul loatheth this light bread." God sent fiery serpents among them which bit the people, and many of them died. God in his mercy commanded Moses to make a brazen serpent and put it upon a pole that whosoever was bitten and looked upon it should live. And so it came to pass: "Life for a look."

That brazen serpent was a type of Christ. He was lifted up upon the cross that whosoever would look unto him by faith should be healed, or be saved. Yet thousands are looking the wrong way, trying to find a solution for the longing of their precious souls. Many are looking to strong drink to soothe their sorrows and relieve them of their burdens—all to no avail. "Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things." Prov. 23:13. Looking the wrong way and beholding the wrong things, instead of finding life and peace, folks are being taken into the snare of death. Jesus said, "Whosoever looketh upon a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Matt. 5:28. Job said, "I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?" Job 31:1. People think upon things that they look at. The love of the world, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, the love of worldly pleasure, strong drink, dope, strange women, wealth, and a host of other things have so beclouded the vision of multitudes that they cannot see God nor his plan which he has so graciously provided for them.

Jesus advised some to cast the beam out of their eyes so that they could see clearly. Peter tells us of a class of people "having eyes full of adultery, and that can not cease from sin." 2 Peter 2:14. Many today are looking the wrong way. Many have fallen into a horrible pit and are full of bitter remorse. They should earnestly repent and look to the God that made heaven and earth, and cry unto him with contrite hearts, begging for mercy, owning and confessing their sins with tears and anguish of soul. God would lift them out of their guilty state and give them peace and joy and put a song of praise in their mouth if they would turn their heart and eyes in the right direction.

There are many inducements in the world to attract the attention of those who have not made a covenant with their eyes and God. These attractions cause them to look the wrong way and follow the wrong path. There are many signs and placards along the path of life (not of ink and paper or boards) boldly portrayed, saying LOOK! Look this way. But the wise man says go not after them, give no heed to their inducements; their path leads to death, darkness, and despair.

LOOK UP AND ONWARD

"Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil." Prov. 4:25-27. It is a valuable asset for a traveler to be in possession of proper information concerning the road over which he expects to go. It is a wonderful proposition to instruct the young in the way of life, to invest in them knowledge and understanding that will be a safe guard to them on their pilgrimage through life: a trip from time to eternity.

"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, [look] and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls . . ." Jer. 6:16 Strive to enter in at the strait gate, when once you have entered the narrow way, keep looking straight forward. Run the race with patience, looking to Jesus who has gone on before. Consult the map, the Bible, the Word of God.

We read in James 1:25, "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." Looking into, and living up to, right standards will bring one into an exalted position of which he will have no need to be ashamed. "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Look up, let Jesus be your ideal; seek to be like him; he was a perfect example. Look on Him. "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." "Behold the man," you will find no fault in him. Look at the invisible One. "Wherefore seeing we 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, 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. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." Heb. 12:1-3.

There is a prize at the end of the way, a crown of life that is promised to those who endure unto the end. Jesus has conquered, he has gone on before; "look not behind thee." Jesus said, "Remember Lot's wife." Phil. 3:13b, 14, "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Dear reader, get your eyes fixed on Jesus, and not on faltering man. He is the source of all godliness and power, and will keep all in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on him. 3 John, 8th verse says, "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward." Or we might express it in another way: "Watch your step"; look where you are going; walk circumspectly; follow the Guide. "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Jesus is the al-

mighty force around which everything else revolves. He is the center of attraction. God has given him a name which is above all other names. To him all must look.

"THEY SHALL LOOK ON HIM"

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so Amen." Rev. 1:7.

There are many things and places of attraction in the world, many of beauty and renown, upon which men love to gaze. They feel a sense of satisfaction because of having had the privilege of looking upon one and another of these; such as, the Statue of Liberty, the White House, the Golden Gate, the magnificent bridge, the many parks, skyscrapers (including the Woolworth building) ocean-side views, and thousands and thousands of other things and places; also men of distinction: officers, captains, governors, Presidents, lords, kings, inventors, and on and on. Multitudes have made long and tedious trips to look upon one and another of these attractions; and some, millions have never seen. But there is one personage of attraction upon whom every eye shall look. Every eye shall see him, and every tongue shall confess that he is supreme, that he is the Christ, that he is the holy and just one. He is King of kings and Lord of lords. All who look to him now shall find life, peace, and joy. "There is life for a look at the Crucified One." He is the great leader. He will lead by the still waters, he will lead in the paths of peace. He will be a light as we pass through the shadows. He will be our guide even unto death—and will gather his jewels when he shall come again in the clouds of glory, and so shall we ever dwell in his presence. We shall see him face to face and be satisfied—yes, fully satisfied.

What about those who have no time to look to him now? no desire to worship and serve him? spending their life, energy, and strength seeking for the treasures that will not long endure and for the joy that only lasts for a moment to satisfy themselves in the life that shall soon pass away? They also shall see the Lord of Glory coming in the clouds. They shall be filled with anguish and weeping. What a great disappointment when they shall hear him say, "Depart from me, ye cursed." Oh, how sad! "These shall go away into everlasting punishment." But now there is "life for a look." Hear the great invitation: "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else." Isa. 45:22. Yes, there is life for a LOOK at the crucified One. "LOOK AND LIVE." —Ulysses Phillips

EDITOR'S NOTE

We have been over supplied with poems, articles, testimonies and obituaries for this February paper. We are compelled to leave some of them over for the next issue. We have reduced some of the obituaries to make more room for others. There were many obituaries for this month. We are sorry to have to leave any of them over. We may print a twenty page paper for March if the Lord so directs. Pray for us and the workers at the Faith Publishing House.

“FAITH AND VICTORY”

Editorials

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 RATES

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

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

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

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

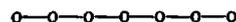
FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 713, 920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma
Phone Number 1479

The two months offer subscriptions will expire with this issue of the “Faith and Victory” paper, and our sincere desire is that you will subscribe for the paper for one year, if not for three years. The subscription price is 35 cents for one year or one dollar for three years. At these rates the paper is being sent out with a sacrifice on our part because we are anxious to get this living truth to souls all over the globe. You will find a subscription blank in your paper which will make it convenient for you to renew your paper and have this Water of Life “Faith and Victory” paper coming to your home for another year.

The Lord lays it upon our hearts to put out a positive gospel by the printed page, which and when believed will bring results. To merely hope the Word of God may be so or to think it is so, or might be so, will not bring positive results.

Let me quote some Scripture to you that if believed from the heart will bring positive results. Listen to the eternal and forever-settled Word of God: “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart [not just your mind] that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt [not may be] saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” When a man believes from his heart it will cause him to put forth action and he will turn from all of his sins, make his wrongs right, and live without committing iniquity. He will quit the world and its folly and revelry. He will quit card parties, drinking and gambling, tobacco using, joking and jesting, slang words, horse or car races, ball games, etc. He will quit dancing and attending other worldly affairs. He will cease to put on outward adornments, but will see that the inner man is adorned with the meek and lowly spirit of Christ. In other words, he will look much into the perfect law of liberty, which is God’s Holy Word, and will govern his life accordingly. He will not measure himself by some other person who may profess to be Christian, but will measure his life according to what he finds written in the Word of God. He will be led by the Spirit and Word of God that he may continue to be His son and an heir of eternal salvation. He will not join anything of an earthly origin. He will join only one thing, and that is what the Bible tells him to join in Jeremiah 50:5, “They shall ask the way to Zion [the kingdom, the church] with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant, that shall not be forgotten.” Read the next verse also.



When giving a farewell word to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul said, “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with charity.” 1 Cor. 16:13, 14. Just think of the great amount of good solid advice given in these two little verses of Scripture. It will be like a gold mine to that soul that will meditate upon and obey the truth contained therein.

Let us analyze his words a little and see if we can get near the precious truth set forth for the strengthening and edifying of a soul who is determined to follow Christ all the way.

The first part of the exhortation is, "Watch ye." You will find the word "watch" used often in the Word of God, and many other places it is inferred. In Matt. 24:42, we read, "Watch therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Read the warnings given before and after this verse of Scripture and obey them. In Matt. 25:13 we have the same warning given again. 1 Thess. 5:6, "Therefore, let us not sleep as do others; but let us watch and be sober." Read on to the end of the chapter and look to the Lord for grace and wisdom to practice what it teaches.

In 1 Peter 5:8 we read, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." And in the next verse it says, "Whom resist steadfast in the faith."

The next thought in our Scripture text is: "Stand fast in the faith." This exhortation is certainly greatly needed in these days of compromise and of letting down. In Gal. 2:18 we read, "For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor." Those who were saved and had light and turned away from the world with its folly, revelry, and adornments and then have gone back to them, have made themselves transgressors in the sight of God. They are weighed in the balance of the Word of God and will be wanting in the great Judgment Day, which is coming to all. 1 Peter 2:11, "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." Fleshly lusts would include overeating or surfeiting. We read in Luke 21:34, "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." There are many ways in which one can give way to the lusts of the flesh which war against you and finally destroy your soul. In 2 Cor. 7:1 we read, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. Tobacco using is a strong fleshly lust and makes the flesh filthy. All who profess Christ should look to him for grace to cease from such a filthy habit that wars against the soul. If we continue in such things and take up with other lustful things, we will be likened unto the sow or dog spoken of by Peter in 2 Pet. 2:22, "The dog is turned to his own vomit again and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire. Brethren, let us stand fast in the faith and not waver, give down, or faint.

The next thought in the quoted Scripture is: "Quit you like men, be strong." One definition for the word "quit" is to be calm, quiet. When men rise up against you to condemn or find fault, be calm and quiet about the matter and give God a chance to work. Behave yourself like a man that has perfect faith in God. Do not strive nor contend carnally. Paul teach-

es us that it would be better to take wrong than to accuse or find fault with the instrument God may be using to test and try you with. We should keep in mind that we are the just suffering for the unjust, and that our Christ-like behavior before men in time of trials and tests may mean the salvation of some soul. Or others who persecute may learn lessons they much stand in need of for the future good of souls in a general sense. If Paul and Silas had not conducted themselves in a godly manner when thrust into the Philippian jail, there would have been no earthquake and the jailer and his household would never have been saved. Think on these things. The last thought is, "Let all your things be done with charity." In other words, let the divine love of God be and live in your soul so it will be the promoting power of deeds done in the body. Paul tells us about what charity is in the 13th chapter of 1 Corinthians. He calls it "the More Excellent Way." Charity or divine love in the heart will never fail. Even though the body die, the divine love of God in the heart will live on and cause us to put on a glorified body to live with God forever. Our faith and hope which we now have will vanish when we are emerged into God by his divine love in the soul. We read in 1 Cor. 15:24 about the end and what will take place. Verse 28: "And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all." Verse 50: "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." It is the divine life of God in the soul that will cause us to put on an immortal body and thereby inherit the kingdom of God in heaven. How important it is that each of us see to it that we do not give way to fleshly lusts and thereby kill the life of Christ in the soul and have no glorified body with the blessed that die in the Lord. It is not enough to have a profession of Christ; we must retain the life of Christ in the soul as an individual member of his body, the church.

We read in Romans 8:9, "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." According to this Scripture, it is certain that one in a justified state must have the Spirit of truth or Christ with him; and when sanctified, the Spirit of truth in him (read John 14:16, 17) or he will be none of His.

Dear readers, let us believe a positive gospel and have a positive experience in our souls, which will bring joy and comfort in this world and a hope of glory will live in the soul and bloom out with our God in heaven some day.

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NOTICE TO CHRISTIAN YOUNG MEN

Since the military draft is still in effect, all of the boys of the Church of God who "are conscientiously opposed to military service by reason of religious training and belief" should make some definite commitments and written statements to that effect prior to the registration date at the age of 18.

Those approaching the draft age are sincerely advised to write a letter or statement which completely sets forth

their position as a conscientious objector, giving the basis or reasons for such convictions, and stating whether they are opposed to combat or noncombat service in the army, or opposed to both. This statement should be deposited with your pastor, a minister or established person in the congregation to be kept by him for future reference by the draft board or officer. The boys who are isolated from a congregation may send their statements to this office for future reference. The person's name who holds the statement should be given as a reference on Form 150, Special Questionnaire for Conscientious Objectors.

Experience has shown that numbers of our young men have carelessly permitted serious doubts to arise in the minds of the draft board as to their sincerity because they had never made any public oral or written statements on their position. Pastors, preachers, teachers, and parents should counsel and advise our boys on the conscientious objector position prior to the registration date.

Information on how to fill out Form 150, and the Selective Service rules of classification and appeal, as well as legal and technical advice, may be secured from the National Service Board for Religious Objectors, Room 403, 401 Third St., N. W., Washington 1, D. C. It is well to enclose an offering with your request for this service.

—L. D. Pruitt

SONGBOOK SUPPLEMENT AVAILABLE

The 16-page supplement which appears in the later editions of the "Evening Light" song book may be ordered from this office at the price of 20 cents each, postpaid. The supply is very limited, so get your order in soon.

NEW BOOK—Just Off The Press

This new book entitled, "THE WHOLE MAN, has 64 pages, is paper bound, and was written by Sister Lottie Joiner of Loranger, La. The price is 35c each or three for \$1.00, postpaid. Send for three or more of these books and treat your soul to a good feast. Pass the others on to your friends. Order from the Faith Publishing House or from Lottie Joiner, Loranger, La., R. 1.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Will every saint of God please pray for my husband to quit the drinking habit? He is not well in body. Please pray earnestly for the Lord to save his soul before it is too late with him. I desire prayer for my health and desire the help of the Lord to live a Christian life before my husband and family.

A sister, Ethel Hill.

I want all the saints who read the "Faith and Victory" paper to earnestly pray that the Lord will heal my head. I have such headaches till I can hardly sleep at night. I don't go to a doctor or take anything for it. I am trusting the Lord to heal it. Pray that my husband and I can get established in the truth. —Essie A. Carter.

Bro John B. Smith wishes to write to all the saints that will write him. His address is Bro. John. B. Smith, 1606 W. Airline, West Gastonia, N. C.

Dear ones in Christ,—I am asking you to please pray for me that I will receive that perfect love that casts out fear. I have been praying to be sanctified but I have not the victory yet. Please pray also that I will get a permanent job. Arthur A. Brown.

Dear Bro. Pruitt, I have an urgent request for my ingrown toe nail. It bleeds at times. Please remember our unsaved children that the Lord will save them.

Your sister, Verga McCoy.

MEETING NOTICES

There will be an all day meeting the fourth Sunday of each month at the saints' chapel, 1101 E. Pine Place, Tulsa, Okla., beginning January 27, 1957. These meetings will continue until campmeeting time, Lord willing.

Brother Sam Barton, Pastor.

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The saints of the Church of God are planning to begin their regular winter meeting March 1st, ending March 10th, at 800 N. E. 3rd St., Oklahoma City, Okla., if it is the Lord's will. We desire all the saints to pray for God's Holy Spirit to lead all through the meeting. Also pray that God will send Holy Ghost-filled ministers to help in this meeting.

For further information write or call Bro. Manly Spears, 2704 N. E. 19th, Phone GARfield 7-1033.

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MEETING REPORTS

All day meetings at Stockton, Calif. seem to be progressing. Sunday, Dec. 9th was our last meeting and we had a wonderful time in the Lord. The morning message was very good. Text, "Let not your heart be troubled." John 14:1. Also the afternoon message was very inspiring. Text: "Serving God without fear." Luke 1:73.

We have all day meeting every second Sunday, and we cordially invite you to come our way when impressed. Any one desiring to attend our services can contact Bro. C. Hattley by phone, Howard 5-8968. His address is 1650 East 7th St. Stockton, Calif.—Pastor, Bro. C. Hattley

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The annual assembly of the Church of God held at Guthrie, Okla. has come and gone. A larger number than usual attended the meeting. As the gospel was expounded from time to time, many expressed themselves that it was the best meeting that we have had for a long time. Many went to the altar for spiritual help. The divine healing service was also blessed of the Lord with a number accepting their healing.

—O. C. Porter

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Obituaries

Sarah Elizabeth Wymer, daughter of Amos and Orilla M. Filer, was born May 20, 1891 and departed this life Nov. 18, 1956 at the age of 65 years, 5 months and 29 days. She was married to William Alonzo Wymer Oct. 8, 1912 and to this union were born 5 children; two sons and three daughters. 2 children, her mother and husband preceeded her in death.

Mrs Wymer gave her heart to the Lord several years ago and lived a Christ-like life unto the end. She was a kind, loving mother, daughter, and sister. She was patient during her illness. She was dearly loved by all who knew her.

She leaves to mourn her passing: her father, Amos Filer; one son, Ernest Wymer of Mansfield, Mo.; two daughters Mrs. Fern Laub of Kansas City, Kan., and Mrs. Ruby Pope of Mansfield, Mo.; one brother, two sisters, seven grandchildren, relatives and friends.

Services were conducted by Bro. D. A. Gibson and Bro. Murphy Allen. Scripture text: 2 Tim. 4:6-8.

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Tola Anna Sorrell, daughter of Edgar and Rebecca Chester, was born at Elm Store, Arkansas on August 19, 1911 and departed this life November 20th, 1956 at her home in Myrtle, Missouri at the age of 45 years, 3 months and one day.

She was married to Audie Sorrell September 29, 1930. To this union eight children were born. She leaves to mourn her passing her husband, six sons and two daughters: Eva Lou Gaines of Myrtle, Mo., James Leon, Thomas Edgar, Audie Jr., Benny Lee, Samuel Perry, Paul Edward, and Rebecca Ann all of the home, also her mother Rebecca Chester of Kingsburg, California; three brothers and two sisters; relatives and friends. Her father preceded her in death.

She was converted at an early age and lived a devoted Christian life until God called her home. Funeral services were conducted by D. A. Gibson and S. E. Abbott.

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Gertrude C. Dixon was born to Mr. and Mrs. August Jacobs January 3, 1908 near Yorkshire, Ohio and departed this life Nov. 27, 1956. She leaves to mourn her departing, her husband, John Dixon: her mother, Mrs. Ola Wertz; three sisters, Mrs. Mary Dixon of Dayton, Ohio, Mrs. Florence Tharp of Missouri, and Mrs. Nellie Staugler of Dayton, one brother Herschel of Dayton, and a number of other relatives and friends.

She was patient in her affliction to the end. She left a testimony that she was ready to go, when her time came. She trusted the Lord to the last, and many times in her deepest suffering the Lord was so merciful to her and would stop the misery, and she would go to sleep. Just a few weeks before her death, in her weak voice she sang a few lines of the song "Just a little while to stay here, Just a little while to wait."

Funeral conducted by Carl Swart; burial, Memorial Park Cemetery, Dayton, Ohio.

o-o-o-o-o

William Roy Elwell was born Jan. 17, 1911 in Haigler, Nebraska and departed this life Dec. 2, 1956 at his home in Pomona, Calif. at the age of 45 years, 10 months, and 15 days. On Jan. 6, 1934 he was united in marriage with Virginia May Wilson. To this union 10 children were born.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia, also 6 sons: William Jr. (Billy), Charles (Chucky), David, Stephen, Wesley, and Donald all of the home; and four daughters: Helen Jean, Mildred and Marlene all of the home and Mrs. Carolyn Shirrell of Lomita, Calif. Also one brother, Leonard Earl Elwell of Palmdale, Calif.

Roy was stricken on Friday and died on Sunday. Those who were with him during his last hours testified that the Lord was very precious. All felt satisfied that he was ready to go.

Funeral services by Opal Wilson. Text: 2 Sam. 14:14. Burial at Altadena, Calif.

Notice of Appreciation

The Elwell family appreciates the cards, letters, floral offerings and contributions from saints and friends. We give thanks to God for all who shared the burden in this time of sorrow and bereavement.

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Josephine Flemings, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Flemings, was born in New Orleans, La., Oct. 11, 1868 and departed this life December 11, 1956 at the age of 88 years, one month and 29 days. In 1882 she was united in marriage to William Lampkins. To this union 11 children were born. Her husband and nine children preceded her in death.

At an early age she united with the Methodist Church. Later she accepted the truth as taught by the ministers of the Church of God.

She leaves to mourn her passing two children: Mrs. Dorthey Bell, Dover, Oklahoma, and Mrs. Rosa Eckford of Wichita, Kans.; twenty-seven grandchildren; seventy-

four great grandchildren; and three great-great grandchildren; and other relatives and friends.

Burial in Burns' Cemetery near Dover, Okla. Sermon by Bro. Ulysses Phillips assisted Sis. Ada Davis.

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Mrs. Hellen K. Jennings was born near Rockport, Mo. Oct. 1, 1909 and passed away in Mount Vernon, Mo. Dec. 14th, 1956 at the age of 47 years 2 months and 13 days. She is survived by her husband: Mr. Cecil Jennings; two daughters, five sons, and one brother.

She lived a sweet, patient Christian life. She was in very ill health the past three years but she loved to do things for the Lord. We expect to meet Sister Jennings in that home above.

Funeral by Bro. Whipple. Inter. Rockport Cemetery.

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Kathrine Penner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Abe Penner, was born March 21st, 1946 and departed this life December 17th, 1956 at the age of 10 years, 9 months, and 27 days. Besides her loving parents Abe and Eva Penner she leaves to mourn three brothers; Ruben of Fairview, Ernest and Ervin of the home; eight sisters; Mrs. Jack Harp, Margaretha of Enid, Malinda of Guthrie, Minnie of Oklahoma City, Susanna of Shawnee, Elizabeth, Esther and Ida of the home. Two sisters preceded her in death.

Our darling that God gave to our home to bless, is at rest in the arms of Jesus. Though her sufferings were great, she took them with courage. Her presence will be missed, but our loss is her heavenly gain.

Sermon by A. A. Penner assisted by Bro. Fred Pruitt. Text. Prov. 16:33.

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Mrs. Ethel Thompson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwards was born Aug. 22, 1900 and departed this life Dec. 19, 1956 at the age of 56 years, 2 months and 27 days. Her mother preceded her in death. On Dec. 9, 1922 she married Mr. Thompson. To this union 2 children were born.

Sister Ethel was reared in a religious home, accepting the Lord while a school girl. She often gave this testimony, "I am doing all that I can to get to heaven."

Sis. Thompson's survivors are: a husband, James A. Thompson of Wichita, Kansas; a father, Ozema Edwards of Okmulgee, Okla.; two daughters, Pauline Thompson and Lela Mae Young of San Pedro, Calif.; 3 grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services in Los Angeles, Calif. by Br. Trotter asst. by Bros. Barton and Weldon. Text: Eccl. 9:8.

Notice of Appreciation

The daughters of Sis. Thompson send appreciation to saints and friends for their expression of love and sympathy at the time of their mother's illness and their bereavement.

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William Jackson Sr., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Jackson, was born Nov. 5, 1887 and departed this life Dec. 25, 1956 at the age of 69 years, 1 month, and 20 days. He was united in marriage to Dueallie Hoffman, who preceded him in death. To this union 9 children were born. He later united in marriage to Mittie Toles.

He embraced the evening light truth at an early age. He testified that he was happy on his journey.

He leaves to mourn their loss: his wife, Mittie Toles Jackson; six children, William Jackson Jr., Mrs. Thelma Christopher, Mrs. Edna Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Annie Stills, Lucille and Dorothy Jackson; one brother, four sisters, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Services by Bro. Spears. Subject: "Refuge."

Sister Emma Olson was born March 15, 1876 at South Bend, Indiana and departed this life January 4, 1957 at the age of 80 years, 9 months, and 11 days.

She leaves behind: a son, Elmer Olson; three daughters, Mrs. Fred Whitcomb, Mrs. Clifton Baker and Mrs. Merlyn Mattison; also six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Sis. Olson embraced the truth of the Church of God, and remained faithful until the end.

Funeral services were conducted by Murphy Allen.

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Lela Gibson, daughter of Bro. and Sister R. M. Porter, was born March 3, 1905 at Webb City, Mo. and departed this life Jan. 6, 1957 at the age of 51 years, 10 months, and 3 days. She was united in marriage to Noah Gibson. To this union 3 children were born; a son and 2 daughters.

Left behind are: her husband, Noah of Springfield, Mo; one daughter, Mrs. Reba Keeper; a granddaughter, a grandson, her mother, Mrs. Pearlie Porter; one sister, Mrs. Pauline Lowe; four brothers, J. W. (Bud) Porter and Leo Porter of Springfield, Mo., Don Porter and R. M. Porter Jr. of El Monte, Calif.; saints and friends.

She accepted Christ as her personal Saviour, and through her last trying hours was faithful unto the end.

Funeral by Murphy Allen, asst. by John Wilson. Text: John 12:3-7, 1 Pet. 2:20-21, Heb. 10:38-39, Luke 9:59.

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EVANGELISTIC WORK AND EQUIPMENT

The house trailer and bus with tent equipment, which was used in tent meetings in four states last summer, is now parked for the winter here at the Office. The 1957 license plates for both vehicles will have to be purchased this month. The bus which hauls the equipment was originally a school bus and still bears the yellow paint. Some states forbid the use of yellow color for any bus except those for school purposes which have special recognition on the highways. This bus will have to be repainted before traveling again, and perhaps the trailer house will need painting. If so, we will try to do both in matching colors.

Another forward step in the spread of the gospel could be made if the Lord would see fit to provide the ways and means for another complete traveling evangelistic company to go out in another direction this coming season. The calls for meetings are so many that one tent cannot reach them all. If the Lord burdens your heart on this matter, act quickly. We must work "while it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work." "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields."

The greatest need in the work of the Lord today is that of qualified and consecrated workers. No doubt there are numbers of qualified ministers and workers, but yet are not sufficiently consecrated to launch out by faith and trust God to supply their temporal needs. The enemy of all truth would paint a black picture, but note the never-failing promise of Jesus at the end of the Great Commission: "And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." God's work is a high challenge, calling for those who will "endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." The Apostle Paul says further: "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." 2 Tim. 2:4. Jesus forewarned his disciples, lest their "hearts be overcharged with . . . cares of this life" and His coming would find them unprepared. The question is that when we come before the Lord in that reckoning day, will we bring leaves or sheaves?

Remember Jesus' request for prayer: "Pray ye the

Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth laborers into his harvest." Each worker has his special calling and field of labor. A number have been called and are faithfully sacrificing their time and talents to publish the gospel by the printed word which is reaching thousands of souls. During the recent Assembly meeting at Guthrie, there was a special moving of the Holy Spirit to call and lead gospel workers and singers into His work. We pray and trust that this move will continue and spread until there is a church-wide awakening to its responsibility to carry the gospel to every creature.

Whenever the evangelistic tent meetings are held in new fields out of reach of the saints who can come in to help, there needs to be at least five or six ministers and singers in the traveling company. It was that way with the companies that traveled in the pioneer days of this restoration movement.

The Faith Pub. House Missionary Fund co-operates with the Church in its evangelistic efforts, and is set up under the non-profit religious corporation laws of Oklahoma so that no one receives any personal profit therefrom but is used exclusively for evangelistic and missionary work. It can be expanded to create a revolving endowment fund to handle gifts of money and property, bequests of wills and estates, and trust funds for the sole purpose of the gospel work. It is not enough that the steward of God's blessings be faithful and deeply interested in God's cause merely during his lifetime and then allow those God-given material blessings to be wasted when he departs this life. It is possible that these things could work for the Lord many years afterward, and it could truly be said, "His works do follow him."

"Holy, dear brethren, we must be holy,
Living before the throne;
Self and possessions, all must be
Truly given to God alone."

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

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Testimonies

Mo.—Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,—We wish to extend to all the saints our thanks for your interest and prayers for our loved one during her long illness.

This is the second night I have spent at home since the passing of my dear wife and close companion in the Lord. First, I want to thank God for all His goodness to me; how He carries the burdens, how He comforts the heart and soul, how He wonderfully forgave me of all my sins about four years ago! How I praise his name for keeping me in the narrow way. It makes my soul lifted up, or I will say made light, when I saw how faithful my dear wife was unto death. I can feel and know better than anyone else how close she was to the Lord, therefore my heart is made light when I think of her future home. It is a wonderful comfort to just know and realize that when one passes on that it is well with his or her soul. Again I say, praise God.

The first night I spent at home I awoke at 1 a. m. and slept no more that day. My thoughts were so much on how each one showed their kindness to me and our daughter and mother (Sister Porter). Then this second night I awoke promptly at 2 a. m., my thoughts again dwelling on kindness each one showed. It seemed I could view each one as they helped in the last hour, when naturally "ones heart is at its heaviest—or as I shall say, at its breaking point. It seems I view each one passing by her for the last time; and as I have heard some ministers say, in looking each one over you readily pick out the

worldly—the one in a hurry to get back to this world's attention—and others you look at again are His children. They have a deep look of concern for the bereaved as well as for their soul. Then my thoughts carry me clear back to the loss of a friend, a very much loved one, Lazarus. His death brought a great crowd. It seems I can just see them comforting Martha and Mary. Then at last after the crowd had been there for some time, they heard of their real friend coming to comfort them. How they hurried to meet him! And now I can see the Lord going to a funeral just to set an example unto the world: how to comfort the broken hearted, how to feel with the broken hearted. He showed so much kindness, so much tender love that he wept also.

Now, friends—that is what Jesus called Lazarus—let us ever be very tender toward each brother and each sister in all love, showing brotherly love, helping each other to press on. Again I say, friends, let us press on, be faithful, read God's Word, let it soak in and be doers and not hearers only.

Again I want to thank each one from the depth of my heart for all kindness shown me during the 8 months of wife's sickness and at her passing on. May God fill each child of his with overflowing love in their hearts, one for another. Keep me in your prayers always.

Your brother in the Lord, Noah Gibson.

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Mo.—Dear saints,—I'm thankful tonight that I'm saved and still have that determination to live for the Lord, by His grace. I am happy because I have that peace that passeth understanding and joy the world can never give. I have found that the Lord's way is the best way there is. I enjoyed the assembly meeting so much. It was wonderful to see the young people move forward for the Lord. I trust each one will keep true.

The enemy comes with his discouraging things, but we don't have to listen to him. If we have Jesus abiding in us we can do like one minister said, ask Jesus to answer the door. When the enemy sees Jesus he always has to flee. It is wonderful to think of the greatness of God and see Him manifest his power in behalf of his children.

I've been about sick this week with a cold, but thankful that the Lord has undertaken and it is almost gone now.

Yours in Christ, Virgie Marler.

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Mich.—For the glory of God I want to give my testimony of healing of gall bladder trouble. I suffered off and on for several months, and would have had spells, but through the prayers of the saints I would get relief. A few days before Christmas I had the worst attack I had. I suffered several hours without ease, but finally I got relief. I thought I would die, and had but little faith for my healing, but I thank the Lord for the saints' prayers. They held on in prayer and faith, and the Lord has raised me up. Sister Corteway and Sister Wilkins of Kalamazoo came out and anointed and prayed for me. The pain was eased. I was so sore all through my body I could hardly move or be moved. I think God performed a miracle, causing my gall bladder to burst and clear out. The soreness gradually left, and now I have no symptoms of gall bladder trouble. For several days I ate mostly baby food, but now nothing that I eat hurts me. I am still weak, but I am trusting in God alone.

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Ky.—Greetings in the name of our loving Saviour, to all of the saints,—I am so thankful that the blessed Lord saved me and is keeping me each day in His way. He has done so much for me that I just can't thank him

enough. He healed me and took away the suffering I had in my jaw after having my teeth pulled. (There was a lot of poison present). I was very nervous, but, praise His dear name, I am not nervous now and can rest well at night. I thank the saints for their prayers. The Lord heard and answered and my gums are healing.

I have put all my faith and trust in the Lord and give Him all the praise for what he has done. I do love the Lord with all of my heart. He means so much to me. This world has no attractions for me. I only want more of my Saviour's love in my life each day and to be drawn closer to him. I want to be able to do more to please Him, and to lead someone to Him. I want to be a soul winner. I do need the prayers of all the saints that I may bear my cross and make it to heaven to be with the Lord forever. Your sister in the Lord, Mrs. J. T. Roberts

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Tenn.—Dearest saints,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name, this another day which he has made. Truly this day finds victory in my soul, which means more to me than all the world. Each day finds me with a desire to only want to know His will in everything I say and do and sink deeper and deeper into His will.

The Lord has given me so many things that I'll not be able to express in word what He has been and will be to me. I was washing at my sister's, who was sick, and while wringing the clothes out I got my fingers in the wringer. I didn't know how to work that machine, so I began to call upon the great King of the universe. He truly came to my rescue. I pulled my hands out and almost fainted, but I began to praise the dear Lord and they began to come back into shape. I have worked ever since, and they are like new, praise the dear Lord.

I'll tell you unbelievers, you don't know what you are missing. No one knows what living means until he has tasted of that solid Rock, Christ Jesus.

I have burdens on my heart and I want the saints to be agreed in prayer with me that the Lord will bring to pass my desires, and that I may wait patiently upon Him while He is working His will in me.

As I read the "Faith and Victory" paper, everything was food for my soul. Sister Barton's testimony meant so very much to me. I watched her while I was at the campmeeting and saw her working for the Lord. Truly all our labour will not be in vain if we hold onto the unchanging hand unto the end.

May the dear Lord ever bless and encourage each one of His children, is my prayer. Edith Gregg

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Mo.—Dear saints, greetings in Jesus' precious name,—I feel that it would please the dear Lord for me to tell what He has been doing for me. About two weeks ago I had a bad pain in my shoulder, and it seemed like it would take my breath. I began to call on God, asking Him to rebuke the pain, for I couldn't stand it. He gave me the victory, and I thank Him for helping me. A few nights ago I woke up with a pain in my stomach. It went all over me, and I couldn't lie still a minute. I told the dear Lord to rebuke the pain if it was His will, but I wanted His will to be done. I told Him if He would ease the pain I would write a testimony to the "Faith and Victory" paper. I got relief in a short time, and surely praised His name for helping me. I told the Lord I depended on Him alone because there wasn't anyone else around here to call on that I know of.

I don't know what I would do if it weren't for my dear Lord when all the tests and trials come. Please always remember me and my family in your prayers. I pray God to bless and take care of you all. Nancy Sweeza

Three Score Years and Ten

(February 6, 1957)

The Lord is good, and over me
His loving hand has been;
And he has blessed me here to stay
For three score years and ten.

Down in my heart I praise His name,
And I wonder now and then,
For what and why he kept me here
For three score years and ten.

So many friends that I have known,
Some younger too than I;
Have long since closed their eyes in death
And left us here to sigh.

But this I know that God is just,
And all his deeds are right—
And the death of his saints, we read,
Is precious in his sight.

Through Jesus blood I now am his,
He washed me from my sin,
And in his service I am found
At three score years and ten.

'Tis through no merits of my own,
No honor do I claim;
But homage allegiance give
To his most holy name.

My life is truly in his hand,
He gives me peace within;
I'm living now at his command
At three score years and ten.

—Ulysses Phillips.

Okla.—Dear saints everywhere,—Greetings this morning in the name of Jesus. It is now another year and the Lord has spared us to be here. Let us run this year for the Lord as never before, putting our whole trust in Him and standing steadfast in faith. I asked the Lord to please heal my baby of the upset stomach he had had for about three or four days and that I would tell his goodness abroad through the "Faith and Victory." The Lord wonderfully touched his body. At the time I asked the Lord to heal him he was vomiting. He instantly stopped and began swallowing. He didn't vomit his food up any more. I thank the Lord for this salvation—it's wonderful—and how He gives us the privilege of calling on Him to heal us.

This morning the car wouldn't start when my husband started to work. He came back into the house and said he would probably have to walk to work. Later he tried it and it still didn't want to start. I was singing, "God is Everywhere," then I began to pray that the Lord would make the car start, for he would have to walk about a mile and it was very cold. Also he would have to walk out of his way to tell some riders that they would have to walk. I said, "Lord, you said 'If ye abide in me,

and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you'." Right then the car started. What a mighty God we serve!

Pray that I'll get a chance to go to some of the camp meetings this year. Your sister in Christ, E. Jordan.

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Okla.—Greetings in Jesus' name:—This leaves me still saved and trusting in Jesus, praise His holy name! I was very sick about a month ago with stomach cramps. The pains were very severe, but I just trusted God on His precious Word and He healed my body. Thanks to my Heavenly Master, He gave me victory over sickness. Here is God's money to use as He sees fit. Sister Birdie Horn

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Tex.—I am praising the Lord for his wonderful blessings and His healing power. This is a testimony about the healing of my granddaughter.

She had had two operations for a growth in her rectum. It was sack-like and would burst and flow blood. My son called for me and I went. They asked me what I thought about taking her to the hospital about seventy-five miles away. I told them that I wanted them to be pleased; but I went to her room. My son followed me, and I requested that we fall upon our knees and pray. I do not know all I said, but earnest prayer went to the throne. I jumped up and shouted, "Son, she is healed!" And she was healed; the sack had passed while we were praying. Praise His name. The children asked again what I thought of taking her to the hospital. I told them that she was healed, but when they insisted I wanted them to be satisfied so told them to take her on but that the doctor would not find anything wrong with her. When we parted the child waved good-bye to me. I said, "Lord, she is going, but will come back as she is going." After three days my son called and said they could not find one thing wrong with her. I know God is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

I pray that this will help the Christian people and will cause some soul to be saved. Saints, pray for me; I want everything God wants me to have. Praise His holy name! Yours in Christ, W. O. Miller.

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Mo.—Greetings to all the saints:—Tonight finds me still saved and encouraged to live for the Lord. He has done so much for me I could never thank and praise Him enough.

While I was in Illinois with my sister my eyes began bothering me very much. Every time I put my glasses on they hurt worse, so I decided I would just take them off and trust the Lord to heal them. I knew he could heal my eyes the same as anything else, so I wrote to different ones of the saints for prayer. When we came down home I drove my car almost all the way home (at night) and my eyes didn't bother me at all. I surely do thank the dear Lord for it all. Now I don't even have to wear glasses at all.

There is nothing too great for God to do if we will only trust Him. I am very much encouraged to press the battle on for the Lord. Pray for me that I will always be what the Lord would have me be.

Your sister in Christ,

Eula Miller

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La.—To the faithful few scattered around:—I am encouraged today to press on for our Lord, and feel that it is pleasing to the Lord to write a few lines concerning modesty of dress.

God has showed me so very plain that to be dressed in modesty is to wear thick hose, thick material for our

dresses, to make our dresses long enough to hide our knees and legs, to make our sleeves long enough to cover our arms, and to make our dress necks up high enough to cover our nakedness in front. Dear saints, let us pray up and it won't be hard to measure to God's standard of modesty. He has only one standard for young and old.

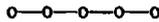
I believe that if we saints—younger and older—would let God have His way with us and dress as God would have us to; then when sinners, looking on our lives, get under real Bible conviction and get saved, they can see before they get saved what God requires in dress, and it wouldn't be so hard for them to measure up.

Can't we suffer or sacrifice just a little compared to what the Lord suffered for us? If we are ashamed of Jesus, He will be ashamed of us. God is not pleased with His people dressing like the world. The Bible says, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10. If you are guilty of thoughtless or willful immodesty, ask God to forgive you, then live a pure, clean, holy life before Him and man.

As most of you know, I have been very weak and afflicted in body for some time. Even though I am not able to do my housework and cooking, I am thankful for the way the Lord has heard and answered prayer in my behalf so many times and that I'm able to be up some during the day. I am also better in many ways, and I am thankful to the Lord whom we serve for it. I am still at my sister's near Baton Rouge, and my address is Mrs. Lorene Hilbun, Rte. 4, Joar Road, Baton Rouge, La., in care of Everett Hilbun, in case anyone wants to write to me. I love to get letters, and especially do they help me while I am not able to be out or around much.

A sister in Christ,

Lorene Hilbun



Kansas—Dear Saints of God,—This morning I am yet saved and more determined than ever before to press on for God.

I would like to tell an experience of God's goodness to me. The other night I went to the gas station with my uncle to get a grease job on his car. Realizing that it would take some time for the men to work on the car, I decided to remain in the car when it went up on the grease rack. I remember locking the door, after which I became very sleepy, so I lay down in the front seat of the car and went to sleep.

About ten minutes later I was awakened by my uncle tapping on the window for me to unlock the door and open it. He calmly said, "You had better get out now, Irene." When he opened the door for me to get out, flames were all around the car, which had somehow caught on fire. We had to walk through some fire to safety, but neither of us received a burn. Later I was told that the lift had punctured the gas tank causing the gasoline to run on the floor to the front where there was a small heater, which caused the car to catch on fire. One of the men had let the rack down and my uncle had awakened me.

Truly God's hand of mercy was upon me. Two minutes later I would have probably been dead, but God saw fit to spare my life. It truly pays us to be ready at all times because we never know when our time may come. Everything happened so fast until it gave us very little time to think. I feel that God had a purpose in permitting the whole thing to come about. Truly God showed his greatness unto me by taking me right out of the fire. I can sing that song: "My Surrender." I have given up all to my Saviour so dear. I am determined to stay in the center of God's will at all times.

Pray much for me.

Irene Andrews.

Oklahoma.—Dear saints, greetings in Jesus' dear name,—I am still saved and mean to go to heaven at any cost. Truly it is my heart's desire to live to please the Lord in everything I say or do. I would like to say that I am a young saint twenty-three years old. I have been saved since February, 1951; and truly I have grown deeper in the Lord through these years. I have gone through some very hard tests and trials, but I prayed earnestly for God to help me live to please him, and he did.

I read Bro. Pruitt's book, "God's Gracious Dealings," and it was very encouraging to me at the times when I needed help from the Lord. It taught me how to die out to self, also to trust the Lord for all things. Every test and trial I went through drew me closer to the dear Lord and taught me how to trust him more and more. Sometimes when trials would come, the Lord would put a verse of one of Bro. Ulysses Phillip's poems into my mind:

"Trials may come thick and fast;

But we are sure they will not last;

If unto Him we'll be true,

He's sure to bring us safely through."

I can say like Bro. Phillips and others that the Lord has brought me through many tests. If my faith would weaken I would pray and seek the Lord for heart faith, and He gave it to me. Sometimes I would fast and pray when going through some trials. If I would allow the enemy to put self in the way or some other hindrance I would have to go through those same trials until I could go through them without murmuring and could say, "Lord, not my will but thine be done." God has brought me through a lot. I know it was the Lord because I tried to stop things myself and couldn't do any good until I put everything into God's hands. Then the blessings began to come. Thank the dear Lord for the way He works!

I would like to say that going through some trials the Lord showed me that I had some of self in the way. I had been to the altar two or three times for sanctification, but had not died out to self like the Lord wanted me to. I prayed earnestly that I might die completely to self. I can say like other writers that Self is the hardest to die out to, but the Lord can help us if we pray earnestly and really want to. I have prayed many times for the Lord to help me to "want to." I realize that we have to really want these things if the Lord gives them to us. It means more than just saying it with the lips. We have to mean it from the heart.

I think it would be of some help if every child of God would read Bro. Pruitt's book, "God's Gracious Dealings." It is wonderful how the Lord has blessed him and other workers at the print shop in meetings and different places.

We had been praying earnestly for the Lord to give us a place to live. We are now living in a nice four room house. I thank the Lord for answering prayer.

I would like to say to all readers of the "Faith and Victory," please seek God for what you need. There isn't one thing too hard for him. He healed me of very bad heart trouble and a very bad case of ringworms. A merchant told me that he could heal those ringworms on me. I told him that the Lord would heal them, and He did. I thank the Lord for His goodness to his children.

I have a little boy nineteen months old. He got strangled on something. I was so frightened I called for my husband who had just left the house. When the child began to turn blue, the Lord reminded me of prayer, so I prayed and He quickly answered prayer.

I have an unspoken request I desire every child of God to remember in prayer. I desire the prayers of all the saints that I will be true and do the things the Lord has for me to do. Your sister, Clara Barnett.

Mo.—Dear Saints, Greetings in Jesus' dear name,—This leaves me with a deep desire to obey and fully trust our blessed Lord; as the song says, "Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey." How I long to keep humble and lowly! Time is swiftly passing by and soon our time to depart will be here and we will have to give an account to God for the way we have lived. My heart's desire is to leave here with everything clear between my Saviour and me, so I might win the crown awaiting all the faithful. The Lord has been so good to me, blessing me daily far above all that I can ask or think.

Again the Lord has wonderfully blessed us with a precious baby girl. All praise goes to Him. He has strengthened me so that I feel it is good to tell how God does bless us in the natural things. I have had complete care of my family (seven of us) since the baby was sixteen days old, and except for being a little nervous, I have felt fine. Oh, how precious is our Lord! It is a joy to serve Him. He will surely supply our every need; nothing is too great or too small but what He will help us. Oh, saints of God, let us be faithful. I desire your prayers that I will be more bold and lift up the standard more and more, as the world darkens. Your sister, Laverne Moles.

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Okla.—Dear children of God everywhere, I send greetings of Christian love.—For God's glory I desire to tell all who read this that God is real to me. In the year of 1897 He saved my soul and gave me peace and joy. Today Jan. 8th, 1957 I still am enjoying that peace in my soul. As soon as I was saved I joined the Baptist Church and lived to all the light that God gave me. In the year 1911 I came in touch with a dear saint of God. She was soon bringing to me knowledge through the Word, that I was living beneath my privileges in the Lord. I began calling upon the Lord more, and He began to unveil to me more light. As I would measure to God's Word, His approval was deeply felt. I sought for the Holy Spirit and received Him. We took the Lord for our healer (myself and eight children). Not once did we call for a doctor in times of sickness. The dear Lord always healed us. My children are in their own homes now, but the dear Lord is still my physician.

I desire to tell of God's healings to me these last years. In Jan. 1941 I began to hemorrhage. That of course, was unusual for a woman of my age of 58. I trusted God. Almost everyone said I had cancer. To make a long story short, this hemorrhage kept up for 15 years, then God healed me. The woman in the Bible had an issue of blood for 12 years and suffered many things of many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was not better, but rather grew worse (Mark 6:25-26). Praise the dear Lord I had already tried and proved the dear Lord for healing. I was saved from the expense and suffering of the physicians.

All honor and praise belongs to God. I do appreciate God's goodness to me. I desire to lift Jesus up. Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." St. John 12:32. Having proved God so many times in so many different ways I would love to tell to all, of God's love to his creation, and thank Him for His many benefits to me.

May God bless and encourage everyone is my prayer.
Yours in Christ, —Sister Fred Pruitt.

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Utah—Dear Saints everywhere,—Greetings of love in the precious name of Jesus, the only name under heaven whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12). There

are so many of you I would like to write to directly, but my present correspondence is almost more than I can keep up with. Since we have moved here, we are isolated from the dear saints we used to worship with, and we miss their sweet fellowship so greatly. Still, the dear Lord has not forsaken us, but rather, endeared Himself to us the more. He talks to us through His Word, and daily loadeth us with His benefits.

As the bells rang out, heralding the new year, my heart just sang up praises and thanksgiving to God, for His goodness and mercy. This new year I desire, by the help and grace of God, to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 3:18). Truly we are living in an age when we must let our light shine brightly, and our testimony ring out boldly for Christ, for souls are lost and dying without God, and without hope.

Sometimes we think we are being kind to people when we hold back on God's teachings. This is a great unkindness. Many of our loved ones are in terrible darkness, and if we love them as we should, we cannot help but declare the whole word of God to them, even if it seems to hurt at the time. A little in this life is better than an endless eternity of torment. Read Matt. 18:9 "And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire."

Today my eyes fell on a verse of scripture that echoed final despair. Jer. 8:20, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." This verse simply states the facts that many souls will wake up on that great Judgment Day. How terrible it will be for those unsaved. But there is still time to save them. Jesus said, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few." Matt. 9:27 (And is it possible that some of the labourers have become slothful, willing to be saved, but not willing to help save others?) Lord, help us. Signs of spiritual laziness are in evidence almost everywhere. When people go to meeting time after time and never sing a song of joy, never have a burning testimony, never pray, never respond to the good word of God, I question whether these are saved or not.

When I read or hear a good testimony of a saint who has STAYED on fire for God through the years, my heart swells with praise to God. The fire of love in our life will not go out unless we fail to keep it kindled. When we are saved, people will know it if they are around us very long. The Psalmist said, "My cup runneth over." Praise God! When our cup runs over, then others will receive a blessing too, if they are in a condition to be blessed. (Leaking vessels don't overflow.)

In closing I want to thank the dear Lord I am saved. My soul has passed from death to life, for I came to Christ the Bible way, confessing, repenting, and forsaking my sins. I thank the Lord I am sanctified, for I presented my body a living sacrifice in obedience to His Word (Rom. 12:1). The Holy Spirit is within me teaching me (John 14:26). The Lord has healed my body many times of afflictions great and small. Praise the Lord forever!

We appreciate hearing from the saints, and invite you to stop and see us if you are ever in our area.

With Christian love, —Alberta (Abbott) Cook.
1576 West 4890 South, Salt Lake City 7, Utah.

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Mo.—Greetings to all the saints,—I am thankful I can report victory in my soul. I am truly thankful for how God is helping me to live for Him in school.

Not long ago there was to be a movie assembly. My girl friend asked me if I was going. The devil said to me, "You might as well go, everyone else is, and there is no harm in it." Then I thought of the song, "What Would Jesus Do?" I asked myself this question, "Would Jesus go just because the others were going?" Then I knew exactly what to do. Praise the Lord! Surely the Lord did bless me for not going, and, oh! how happy I felt in my soul. I am so grateful to God for Christian parents who have instructed me in the right way. I realize that by obeying them and giving my heart to the Lord while young it has kept me out of many traps and pitfalls that the enemy has set for the young people. I desire the prayers of all the saints that I will deepen down in the things of God and that I will be a bright and shining light for Christ in this dark and sinful world.

Christian love, —Coquette Sorrell.

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Tenn.—Dear saints,—I feel I should give this testimony for the Lord. I am so glad for the security I find in Jesus. I am encouraged to follow the Lord by His grace to the end. Praise His blessed name! I want to tell of God healing my feet. This past summer I had a breaking out on them that would itch until I could hardly stand it. God healed it and also my ankles. They had swollen for years. After I would get up each morning and be on them a little while, they would begin to swell. I would like for the saints everywhere to agree in prayer for my healing of hernia, and for some souls that are on my heart.

Christian love, —Mrs. E. A. Smelcer.

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Colo.—Dear Sister Marie, Greetings to you with love in Jesus' precious name.—Your good letter of Dec. 22nd was received and thanks for requesting prayer for me. I think I told you how my head was stopped up and hurting after I had stood out in the cold so much. I thank God for seemingly sending angels early in the morning to bring to my mind verses of song, some I hadn't heard for many years like, "Pray in faith believing the promise is YOUR OWN," and other verses of songs. This was repeated several mornings very early until my head cleared and I was so happy to know that God cared so much as to send me this encouragement. I wanted to write about it right away but so many other things crowded in. I sent quite a few booklets on the new Bible with Christmas cards. I still have some booklets yet so will wait a while to order another fifty. I feel, as Bro. Pruitt, we should get as many distributed as we can for so many are being misled almost unconsciously. Please pray for my renter and me.

Yours in Him, —E. Coral Johnson.

Mich.—Dear saints everywhere, Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name.—The dear Lord has been so good to us, so I just want to tell about it, that God will be glorified.

A few weeks ago, my husband had an examination by the doctor. My husband had been in ill health for some time. He was hardly able to keep at his job, so in order to get off from work he needed a written slip from the doctor. He ended up with an Electro-Kardeogram (a heart test). The doctor told him, the news was bad, that he had had a coronary occlusion. It was a blood clot behind the heart and his heart was scared. He was supposed to have a change in work and no more heavy lifting, excitement, etc. He had resorted to the doctors' remedies but didn't feel right about it and said he wanted faith to be healed but felt he lacked the faith he needed.

He got real bad, after he heard this serious report and did so desire to get close to God. Word was sent to different parts for prayer. He also desired to talk with a minister about his condition, both spiritually and physically. The dear Lord sent Bro. and Sis. Abbott here to be with us a couple of days. As we both talked with them and prayed our consecration became deeper. They anointed Clarence, my husband, and we claimed the victory. Since then the devil has put up a real fight. He and I have been rebuking the devil and holding fast. He began to amend from the time he was anointed. At this date he is greatly improved in many ways. We have confidence that God will complete the work. He has been able to keep his job so far too. The spots that were on his nose are so much better. One is gone. His ear snapped one day and he could hear some. We believe all this will be all right. The greatest blessing of all is how he has drawn close to the Lord spiritually. He has read more since he has been ill, in the Bible and good spiritual books, than I suppose he has read in his lifetime. He prays much.

We thank the dear Lord for all His dealings with us for we know it's for our good. We know he is just getting us dressed up for heaven.

Our little girl Carol Jean was seriously ill Christmas Day. We think she had a strept throat. We prayed and prayed but it seemed like she was getting worse. She had been sick about a week. We finally called Bro. and Sis. Lawrence Sneed at Kalamazoo. We asked them to pray and to call Bro. and Sis. Gibson. They couldn't get in touch with them then because they were at the Guthrie Assembly Meeting.

Christmas night, she was so bad I just had to say, "Lord if you take her or leave her, I'll still trust you." We cried and pleaded with God and he witnessed to us that she was healed. Praise His name. Her eyes changed and it was noticeable to our oldest boy right away and also to me. The next day she got dressed and played all day without a nap. She could eat and talk. The second day she was about normal. Later some very foul matter passed from her nose. It was bloody and is still passing from her nose. We feel this was a miracle of healing.

Sis. Cora Brant has been recently healed too. Some of us thought she was surely going to pass on. Clarence, my husband, said, "This is no time to give up when someone is bad. This is the time to get on our faces and pray." We didn't feel like she was going to die. There were others too that had faith for her healing. We really felt that her gall-bladder bursted. She turned so yellow—she was almost a bronze color. She suffered agony and was so sick but God raised her up. Praise His name! She is up and around now, but still weak. She has experienced the Lord's healing touch many times and is a dear precious soul.

As we have reconsecrated ourselves to God we can look back and see where we could have done better. God has still loved us and we have tried to do God's will amidst the trials and tests of life.

We are looking to the Lord to send us a good solid spiritual minister to come and lead us and help us along in the Christian journey of life.

We still dearly love the saints and get homesick to see the ones we are acquainted with. We appreciate so much all the dear saint's prayers and interest in our behalf. Please pray for my back, nerves and mouth; also my son's ears.

Your sister in Christ, —Sis. Margaret Brant.

TRUE BELIEVING

True belief and faith in God are being undermined today by one of the most insidious and subtle tricks the devil has ever invented: the "only believe," and the "Acceptance" theory. Satan himself believes (James 2:19), so he cannot so much as hint to the rational minded that there is no God (Ps. 14:1), and having suffered defeat at Calvary, he dares not suggest to those whose eyes have been opened, that there is no salvation through faith in the atoning blood of God's sinless sacrifice. So he has set about to make null and void, if possible, this faith, by the infiltration of modernism into the churches. His method is to offer a substitute for soul saving faith, via a **mental acceptance only**; that the Gospel is true, and that Christ died for our sins, and rose again for our justification.

Preachers are bowing the knee to **Baal** (this false acceptance theory), that, although multitudes are made to realize their undone condition, and are brought to the very door of the Kingdom, they fall away, dead still, in trespasses and sin, not having contacted the source of life because of those who stand in the door, not entering themselves, nor permitting those who would, to enter.

The sinner is urged to "accept Christ" which is an **utter impossibility without old time repentance**, by which he comes to the place of acceptance. For Christ will be accepted by none; nor will He accept any, until they repent and are willing to part with every known sin.

No one who believes in God at all will deny the marvelous truth of John 3:16, nor will he discount the merits of Rom. 10:9, Mark 16:16 (and other like Scriptures) "If thou shalt confess . . . the Lord Jesus, and believe in thine heart . . . thou shalt be saved." "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." But that this is not enough, is evidenced by the fact that the same Lord who spoke these gracious words, said also, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." And again, "Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts." Luke 13:3, Isa. 55:7. In the light of these Scriptures, common sense will tell you that there is no salvation for you until you are willing to accept the whole truth and to forsake sin.

Since the Scriptures are in perfect harmony, one with another, our difficulty must be in deriving at the true meaning of the various words and phrases contained therein, and of ascertaining the depths to which they go. Let us consider the key word "believe;" this, evidently has a far deeper meaning than appears on the surface. True belief is an awakening of the soul to the facts of eternal realities—a quickening from the dead, by the Holy Spirit. Much light is shed on the word "belief" by an old definition given recently in "The Authority of the Believer" (used by permission). "The word 'belief' has a two-fold meaning fraught with deep significance. In it are two old Anglo-Saxon words, 'be,' to live or exist, and 'lifan'

which conveys the thought of accordance. Thus to believe anything, means literally to live in accordance with it. We are accustomed to consider belief, as simply mental acquiescence with some particular truth. But its root leads us to action; that which the mind accepts, the will must obey."

So to really believe the Gospel in the Bible sense, is to live according to its precepts; and to thus live, is to live eternally.

Surely, "Strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."—"Strive to enter in at the strait gate; for many I say . . . will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." Matt. 7:14, Luke 13:24. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov. 14:12. --Ethel Meadows.

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Calif.—Greetings to all the saints this new year,— I just came from the Pacoima Assembly Meeting. The last services were so blessed of the Lord. It just seemed like the Lord was so near that one could reach out and touch him. His presence seemed to overshadow every one—something that was real; everyone felt it. The Lord brought to my mind the Scripture in Psalm 103: "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name." I do get so much encouragement out of reading the Word of God. Recently I was reading the second chapter of Luke. When I came to the 36th and 37th verses I thought, "Here was a dear old saint ninety-one years old, and her way of serving God was in fasting and praying night and day." When I read this I just stopped and wiped the tears from my eyes. I read it over again thinking that not many of us (older saints) are doing that much for the Lord. I have but one thing in view: to be a worker for the Lord and do all I can while I am here. Amen. Sister Annie McKinney

BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll will be \$1.50; cards 10 cents per set.

MISSION OF THE TWELVE

February 3, 1957

Printed Portion: Matt. 9:35 to 10:8, 24-25.

Matt. 9:35. And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness, and every disease among the people.

36. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

37. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

38. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Matt. 10:1. And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

2. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

3. Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew

the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

4. Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

5. These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

6. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

7. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

8. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Matt. 10:24. The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.

25. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

Memory Verse: The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. Matt. 9:37, 38.

Practical Truth: As disciples, we all have a mission in helping to win others to Christ.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We today, should ask the Lord to enlarge our vision of the need of spreading the gospel—the good news—to all peoples of the world. If our vision of the value of one soul could be enlarged and then multiply that by millions and millions, then I'm sure we could pray with earnestness the prayer that Jesus asked us, his disciples, to pray. First we notice that Jesus, "saw" and then he was "moved with compassion," and then he called for an agreement of prayer. Can we say with Isaiah, the prophet, "Lord here am I, send me?" I'm sure if we will continually tell the Lord that and mean it He will show us what He wants us to do. He may not send you but he may want you to send someone else. He may want you to help send out thousands of tracts, booklets and papers. I'm sure he would put a burden of prayer upon you for those who go or for those around your own door step and invite them to Jesus. We need to encourage those that are young in the Lord to study the Bible and qualify themselves to work for Jesus.

Jesus gave his disciples, whom he chose, instructions as to where he wanted them to go and what to do. He assured them that they were no better than their master and would be persecuted. We need not be alarmed today if we are persecuted. The devil will try to contest everything that is done for God, but thanks be unto God, He gives us the victory.

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THE WARNING AND INVITATION OF JESUS

February 10, 1957

Printed Portion:Matt. 11:20-30.

Matt. 11:20. Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not:

21. Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

22. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable

for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.

23. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

24. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

25. At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes,

26. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.

27. All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

28. Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Memory Verse: Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me. Matt. 11:28:29.

Practical Truth: The warnings and invitations of Christ are for man's welfare and should be heeded today.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

There is a punishment awaiting for every person who has an unforgiven sin. The Bible teaches that "Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after." I Tim. 5:24. If we do not have our sins opened and confessed and cleared up and covered by the blood of Jesus while we are in this world they will be sure to meet us in the judgment, and we will be cast out into outer darkness with the devil and his angels. Truly we should see to it today that all is cleared between us and God.

Our lesson today brings out the thought very forcible that those who have heard the gospel and reject it will be punished severely in the day of judgment. When we read of the wickedness in Sodom and how not even ten righteous people could be found, yet they would have repented if they could have seen the mighty works and heard the gospel as Capernaum and would have been spared, it makes us shudder to think what will happen to the enlightened world today. People need to come to the rest-giver and find rest to their souls. We are living in a world of rushing here and there and unrest. Jesus' arms are outstretched to all and he is saying, "Come unto me."

PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

February 17, 1957

Printed Portion:Matt. 13:31-35, 44-52.

Matt. 13:31. Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

32. Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

33. Another parable spake he unto them; The king-

dom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

34. All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:

35. That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

Matt. 13:44. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

45. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

46. Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

47. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

48. Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

49. So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

50. And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

51. Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord.

52. Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.

Memory Verse: The kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. Matt. 13:45-46.

Practical Truth: Man's supreme treasure is the grace of God in the heart.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The word parable means literally something cast alongside something else. Jesus looked around him and used the things he saw to bring out precious truths. He saw the tree and pointed out the fact that it was once a small mustard seed that was put in the ground. He compared the kingdom of God to it. John the Baptist started preaching, "Repent and be baptized"; then Jesus continued preaching the gospel and his disciples carried it on after he was gone. After Pentecost 5,000 carried the gospel to all points of the then known world and even today we still are enjoying the precious truths of the Bible that was preserved for us by men and women that were willing to die rather than turn away from God. So it grew and continues to grow. The same thought is brought out in the parables of the leaven put in the meal, the treasure and the pearl, bringing to us the thought of our selling out body, soul, and mind to God for salvation. The true Christian will not feel the sacrifice too great in comparison to the joy, peace and rest that is found in Jesus; and not only that, but also a home in heaven.

A great day is coming and all will stand before Jesus and be separated—the good people from the bad—as the truth in the parable of the great net brings out. What a just God we have to give us knowledge and opportunity now to prepare to enter into heaven and miss the "furnace of fire."

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

February 24, 1957

Printed Portion:Matt. 16:1-12.

Matt. 16:1. The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.

2. He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red.

3. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?

4. A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

5. And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.

6. Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

7. And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread.

8. Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?

9. Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

10. Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

11. How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?

12. Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of the bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

Memory Verse: Ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times? Matt. 16:3.

Practical Truth: God is still at work in the world and through his Spirit is bringing things to pass among men and nations.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

It seems the age-old desire to see with the natural eyes is still in the world today. Jesus let us know that people in torment are wanting someone to come back from the dead and tell their loved ones about how terrible the place is and to not come there. But the rich man in hell was told that the people would not believe the sign even if one arose from the dead (Luke 16:28). Today people try to out reason the thing they see with their natural eyes. If God heals, they say the person just passed the crisis. If God causes a person to quit bad habits and their sins, others say that he had a lot of will power, thus discredit the power of God. How cunning the devil works to keep people from having working faith in God!

Jesus said he would not give them any sign but the sign of Jonas the prophet. We do not know what all this takes in but we do know that Jesus said, "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matt. 12:40) signifying that his burial and resurrection was the sign for them. In Luke 11:32 Jesus said the Ninevites repented at the preaching of Jonah and a greater than he is here. We will all stand before God without one excuse for not being saved.

—Mrs. Marie Miles.