

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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Pray and Believe

The Lord of hosts once spoke and said
That men ought always pray.
What ever the need, just go ahead—
Look up to God and pray.

Prayer is the key that's used by Faith
To unlock Heaven's door,
And if the answer does not come,
Go back and pray some more.

Just pray again, lift up your voice
With earnest, fervent plea;
He will regard your ardent cry,
And send relief to thee.

The unjust judge, who feared not God,
Whose heart was hard to press,
Was moved by the continued cries
Of a widow's distress.

And shall not God avenge his own
Who cry both night and day?
Does He not know? Does He not care,
Nor hear his children pray?

Oh, yes, the Holy One above
Who sleeps not, night or day,
Will wipe the teardrops from your eyes,
He will hear you when you pray.

Are you real sick, or in despair?
Does trouble come your way?
Are all your burdens hard to bear?
Just look up to God and pray.

Although the hosts of hell assail,
And darkness clouds your way,
The prayer of faith will sure prevail,
So do not cease to pray.

—Sel. by Mrs. Edd Whipple

Have You Tried Jesus?

"But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into

captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" Rom. 7:23-24.

There are thousands today who are in a state of unrest, dissatisfaction, and oppression; because they have been overcome by the forces of sin, and are longing for freedom, and peace of mind, groping their way in darkness and despair, seeking rest, and finding none. But we are glad to say there is hope for such ones. It is a blessing for any one in sin to become awakened to his wretched condition. It is a blessed thing to become disturbed to such an extent that one will begin to inquire and seek for a way out.

But, oh, how sad when one has become so callused and hardened in sin that he has no sense of his miserable condition, but is seemingly happy, and satisfied, surrounded with earthly substance, and riches of this world! But listen to the voice of inspiration, "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked; I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." Rev. 3:17-19.

One will never seek a better way so long as he is satisfied with the way he is in. Therefore, we say it is a blessed thing when one becomes awakened to his wretched and miserable condition in a state of sin. Some try one thing and some another, and some try many things to secure a condition of rest and peace, but to no avail. Some travel from place to place, some try fun, some try strong drink, wine and rum, trying to drown their troubles, trying to get satisfaction, only to awake to the fact that they are only going deeper and deeper in sin, and becoming more entangled in its coils, yet still their longing for peace has never been satisfied.

No, it is not to be found in the beer garden; not on the dancing floor; nor in the bar room; nor in any place of revelry or worldly amusement. Yet, many

have tried these things and are still dissatisfied. Some have become discouraged and almost despair of life. Their way is dark. "There is no peace to the wicked." Look weary one, there is hope. **Have you tried Jesus?** "Jesus never fails." He can bring peace out of confusion, light out of darkness, life out of death. He can satisfy your every longing if you will come His way. He died to save you, He is your best friend. Hear Him as He says, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. He can lift your load, and make your burden light. "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." Heb. 7:25.

Jesus is pleading for you now. Do not reject His mercies. Do not stifle that inner voice; but humble thyself, repent, confess, and forsake your wicked ways, and wrong doing. Call upon the name of the Lord with all your heart and you will find peace. It is the goodness of God that leadeth men to repentance. We read in Romans 2:4, "Or despiseth thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:7.

There is a way out. Jesus is the way. Jesus is the light. He is the Saviour of the world. He is our peace. He purchased your pardon on Calvary; His blood can wash away every sinful stain. All else will fail. Nothing else can for your sins atone.

TRY JESUS.

—Ulysses Phillips.

Okla.—To the saints and Faith Publishing House,—I greet you all in the name of Jesus. I had a hard spell last Monday evening. It lasted four or five hours. My strength left and it seemed my breath was almost gone. I promised the Lord I would write my testimony to the "Faith and Victory" if he would heal me. The Lord gave me some strength. I got better and went in the house and lay down across the bed with my head in the window so I could get air. Thank the Lord I have been going ever since. Pray for me.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Lizzie Randles.

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I've Been To Hell and Back

A. E. Amy

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN HELL?

Have you ever seen the souls living in torment—not dead and still, but actually living there?

Have you ever felt the heat of the flames reach out to engulf your soul?

I have, my friend! This is not a myth. It was not a dream. I HAVE BEEN TO HELL AND BACK!

Yes, all doubts of the possibility of there not being an actual hell were erased from my mind. For here, in this Twentieth Century, I saw into the ageless pit of Hell! What I saw, I shall never forget.

WHY DID I HAVE SUCH AN EXPERIENCE?

I will tell you. I was born thirty-four years ago to Godless parents. But, thank God, they both surrendered their hearts to Him in later years. I lived a fruitless life for twenty-eight years, marrying and bringing into the world three lovely children.

One Sunday, through the efforts of my daughter, I went to a Holiness church of which I knew nothing. After listening to the message, I found myself carrying my burdened heart to an altar, where I surrendered my all, and Christ marvelously saved me from my sins, as my part of a sinning world was a big one. He lifted me from the miry clay; old things passed away, all things became new. I put my hand in His and started the Pilgrim way. There was only one thing wrong, I didn't put myself on the altar of sacrifice. While I was indeed sorry for my sins, I wasn't really willing to pay the price to retain my redemption—a yielded heart. Finally, the world with its play things crept back into my life, and I laid my salvation aside. I took my eyes off the cross and kept them on the world for almost a year.

Then, one Saturday night I went back to church to a revival meeting with my husband, whom I had been dragging down with me. I had seared my conscience against anything that was being said. At the close of the meeting, my husband went forward and renewed his relationship with Christ. Up until then I felt Christ was standing by me, even in my backslidden condition. I had schooled myself to believe no one could backslide, but, in my heart, I knew better. The Holy Spirit stayed with me from Saturday night until Tuesday. I couldn't even sleep a full night. Early Tuesday morning, when I opened my eyes, I couldn't feel the Holy Spirit at all. He was no longer with me. I arose thinking I was thankful He had gone. I went about my daily chores. By noon, I was becoming aware of the fact I was still living, but it was as though only by habit. I had no normal emotions such as joy, sorrow or pain. I was indifferent to everyone and everything around me. Even my body felt cold.

Then I realized what had taken place—I was dead—still alive in the flesh, but dead to God! In low tones I called on the Lord; but there was no reply. With each passing minute, with each heart beat, I felt I was falling through space. At thirty-four years of age and in excellent condition, I was facing my eleventh hour. With a painted mouth and a burning cigarette in my hand, I called out to the Lord louder and louder, until I was almost screaming; but my voice came back and struck me in the face like an echo!

By now, most of the day was gone. The only revelation I had was to know that today was the day of salvation. There was no hope for my salvation beyond today!

Then it happened!!! I was walking from my dining room into the living room, when I knew not why, but I stopped. I stood still for a second, then I took a step to one side, and turning my head, looked over my shoulder. Suddenly, I saw flames—red hot flames! I felt their heat in my face. I jumped back

and turned fully around, dropping my eyes down to what should have been my living room floor. I looked into a large pit that was dark, except for the red light of the hot flames. The stench of burning souls filled my nostrils. The screams of men and women deafened my ears. I quickly put my hands over my ears trying to shut out their screams. I took another step back, but the flames shot up higher. The heat was causing me to perspire. I could clearly see into the pit. In the center, I saw souls lying one on top of the other, but all of them moving like a thousand maggots. All around the heap, I saw some souls running back and forth, back and forth—swinging their arms to and fro—pulling their hair, clawing at their throats. Their eyes were bulged almost out of their heads, smoke coming out of their nostrils. Their teeth were as big as the teeth of a horse. Their bodies were only bones covered with bright red skin, like a broiled lobster. As I stood watching, their screams kept getting louder. The flames were getting hotter and I thought they were coming up. Then, I seemed to feel the presence of some one else standing to my left. It was Satan! Real-Live-Breathing Satan!! He had a smile on his face that was almost a sneer. His arms were folded across his chest. As he watched me with big, burning eyes, he continued to smile. Slowly, he unfolded his arms, taking one and outstretching it toward that open pit, said, "Welcome!" With my hands still over my ears, I looked down into the burning mass again.

My soul cried out; I turned and ran across the room to the stairs. I quickly looked back to the place where Hell was opened and I saw nothing. All was gone. I slowly came back into the room, fell into a chair, panting for my breath. My whole face and neck were still burning from the heat of the flames. I realized then that Hell wasn't coming up—I was going to Hell!

Then my daughter came to me and told me our evening meal was ready. I mechanically took myself to the table, but the food would not go down my throat. I sat there as long as I could. Suddenly, I jumped up and went up to my bedroom, locked the door, and fell on my knees and tried to pray. I cried and prayed, prayed and cried, but I couldn't feel relief. I stayed there for nearly an hour. Slowly, I came back down stairs. I went to the phone and a friend of mine told me where the Young People were holding their regular cottage prayer meeting. Because I did not say I would go, my friend called the young woman in whose home the meeting was being held. She in turn called me asking me to come. But I was hostile and would not promise to go.

By this time my family were aware that something was wrong. My husband kept pressing me with questions, until I finally confessed that I had been up stairs trying to pray, why I called my friend, and of the Cottage Prayer Meeting. But the devil was behind my every move. I felt as though I could feel him breathing down the back of my neck. He kept telling me I was all right, that I didn't need to go but in the very bottom of my heart I knew that was wrong. I thought I would read the Bible: so I tried to read. My

husband still was pleading with me to go to the meeting, but I still wouldn't yield.

Editor's Note: If any of our readers has, in his possession, the rest of this article, I would be very thankful if it were sent to me.

MEETING NOTICES

The saints at Tulsa, Okla. are expecting to have a 10-day revival meeting beginning October 31 and continuing over two Sundays. They are praying God to send whom He wants to hold it.

The REVIVAL MEETING at Hammond, La. will begin Oct. 29—a revival and not an assembly. We are expecting Bro. Ostis Wilson and others. —M. F. Williamson

JEFFERSON, OREGON ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Assembly Meeting of the church of God in the Pacific Northwest will be held on the saints' campground, Hazel Street in Jefferson, Oreg., from Nov. 7th to Nov. 16th inclusive. Anyone coming by train or bus to Albany may call Sister Hilda Nielson (FAirfax 7-2564) or Bro. Noah White (FAirfax 7-2319).

Everyone welcome. Sleeping quarters and meals will be provided for all. We are trusting God to supply all our needs according to his riches in glory; choose the ministers He would send our way to preach the whole plan of salvation without fear or favor, and to fulfill all the precious promises of the Holy Word of God in the behalf of the household of faith.

By seeking God's leadings and graces individually, praying effectually, fervently, in the Spirit, humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God, and being submissive to all the Word and will of God we trust to see the Holy Spirit working and ordaining to the benefit of everyone present, both in soul and body.

For further information write Emma Busch, Rt. 2 Box 206, Scio, Oreg., or Noah White, Jefferson, Oreg.

Christian love in the one body of Christ,

—Albert W. Nielson.

The CHURCH OF GOD East of OKEENE, OKLA. desire that the Lord bless them in a meeting Nov. 7 to Nov. 16. The Lord willing, Bro. and Sister Abbott will be there, and any other ministers the Lord may send are welcome. Pray that God will send out the people.

Go east of Okeene 7 miles on Hwy. No. 51 to Mac's filling station, and turn south and go two and one-half miles. Contact either Bro. Louis Droke, Rt. 1 Box 84, or Bro. L. C. Wilson, Rt. 1, Okeene, Phone 18R525.

The WICHITA ASSEMBLY MEETING will begin Nov. 27, and end Dec. 7, 1958. We are expecting the Lord to send Holy Ghost ministers to help in this effort.

We desire your prayers, and co-operation that souls may be saved, sick healed, saints edified, and that the gospel be preached in its fullness.

The church is located at 1701 N. Ash Street. For information write Bro. Lewis Williams, Pastor, 1536 Platt St., Phone HO 48481.

The annual ASSEMBLY MEETING of the CHURCH OF GOD at LOS ANGELES, CALIF., Lord willing, will convene Nov. 28 to Dec. 7 inclusive at 1381 Walnut St. All are welcome. Please pray, for there are "Perishing souls at stake, my brother."

For further information contact Bro. I. C. Chandler, Rt. 6, Box 37, Bakersfield, Calif., or Bro. T. R. Summers, 207 E. 76th Pl., Los Angeles, Calif., Phone PL 8-8319.

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

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

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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.

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

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

Free-will offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. All personal checks and Post Office Money Orders should be made payable to Fred Pruitt, or to Faith Pub. House. All offerings and gifts given or sent to Fred Pruitt will be used in the general up-keep of the printing work unless you state that it is for personal needs. We make His work first.

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Editorials

I suppose that most all of our readers have noticed that we made a change in the heading of the Faith and Victory paper, beginning with the October issue. I had been thinking of changing the second title of the paper for several years but could not think of a name that we could feel God's approval upon until just before the October paper was printed. The words, "Church of God Servant," came into our mind and heart so plainly and clearly that we knew God had given us the words. The editorials were written and the paper was ready to be printed before we could get the new plate made and get it ready to use. Therefore, there was nothing written about it in the Oct. paper. The words, "Church of God Servant," expresses the mission of this paper so clearly that it is appropriate for a part of the heading. The title, "Faith and Victory," is proper and sufficient to express the general and world-wide mission of the paper, since it goes to every quarter of the globe. Faith in God is what it takes to have and keep victory in our souls. God says in His Word thus, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6. To fear God is the beginning of wisdom, for godly sorrow worketh repentance. To embrace him and yield your whole soul, body and spirit into his hands is understanding. Read 1 Thess. 5:23, 24. When you do this it shows and proves that you have full faith and confidence in God and he will preserve you in his love and you can be a possessor of that wisdom that comes down from above found in James the 3rd chapter and the 17th verse which we shall quote: "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and of good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

The sinner woman that came to Jesus in the Pharisee's house, recorded in the 7th chapter of Luke, was a penitent woman. Yes, she wept and humbled herself at the feet of Jesus and her tears fell on his feet and she wiped his feet with the hairs of her head. She had faith in Jesus that he would forgive her and He did forgive her. In the 50th verse He said to her, "Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace." Her broken and contrite heart with faith in Jesus brought victory to her poor soul. Thank God for faith and victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Godly sorrow, repentance, faith and victory needs to be preached to every nation, for Peter told Cornelius in the 34th verse of the 10th chapter of Acts on this wise: "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him and worketh righteousness is accepted with him." In 1 John 5:4 we read, "... and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." You cannot separate real, genuine faith and victory, for one is sure to follow the other. These two are just like

the two words found in Psalms 85:10 which speaks or refers to Christ's work in the soul of man, and it reads thus, "Mercy and truth are met together: righteousness and peace have kissed each other." You cannot separate the two words, righteousness and peace. If you have peace you have righteousness, and if you have righteousness you have peace. Thank God for righteousness, peace, faith and victory.

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In Isaiah the 55th chapter and the 7th verse we read, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." The exhortation is to seek the Lord while he may be found and to call upon him while he is near. You cannot get saved just any time you want to, but only when the Holy Spirit is convicting you of your need; then he is near you and you can seek him and find him in godly sorrow and repentance. You cannot get saved because you are sorry that your neighbor knows that you are an evil man, neither can you get saved because you are sorry that the law has caught you in evil doing. Godly sorrow is to know that God sees you sinning against him, breaking his commandments and rejecting the Lord Christ Jesus, His Son. When this godly sorrow comes into your heart, then He is near and you can repent, confess your sins and ask God to have mercy on you and blot out your transgressions, and He will be faithful to do it. A man might say from his head in a historical belief that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and his heart be full of pride and sin. In this way Satan gets many to take upon them a profession and their teachers tell them they cannot expect to live free from sin in this life, and therefore they drift along warding off conviction by consoling themselves that they belong to church and have confessed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. You cannot save your own soul any more than you could lift your weight off the ground with your boot straps. It is God that saves the soul. By humbling down before God in godly sorrow and confession, you can be in a condition where God will save you, but that not of yourself lest any man should boast. Eph. 2:9.

Neither can you keep saved yourself, but you can live in a meek and lowly condition wherein God can keep you saved. In Col. 2:6 we read, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him." You were low and humble when you received Christ into your heart, so look to him daily for grace to live that way every day and the God of peace will be with you. You cannot live that way without the help of the Lord, so you need to pray unto Him—pray without ceasing. You do not cease to eat to keep your body alive. In like manner, never cease to pray and thereby draw heaven's strength into your soul to have grace to live humbly and free from sin. In Eph. 2:8 we read, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; not of works lest any man

should boast." The only boasting that any saved soul has a right to is to make his boast in the Lord who shed His blood on Calvary's cross and brought salvation to all the world and will impart it to every soul in godly sorrow, repentance and confession. Satan has his subjects to confess Christ from the head and join his churches without any godly sorrow, confession and repentance and they ease their conscience and go on in sin and the pride of this world, headed for hell where the fire is never quenched and the worm dieth not. What a sad picture we see in this world of sin and woe.

God's true ministers are all wholly sanctified—men and women filled with the Holy Ghost—and they are not of this world even as Christ and the apostles were not of the world. The devil's ministers allow for sin to be committed and teach their converts that they cannot expect to live free from sin in this world. A statement like that is a big lie from the pit of hell. Read your Bible in the 3rd chapter of 1st John and you can see clearly that the children of God do not sin and the children of the devil do sin. Let us read some there and see and understand the positive and plain writing of John, the beloved apostle of Christ. "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth the law: for sin is a transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin." When you get in him you have no sin. The verse above says, if we have this hope in us we purify ourselves even as he is pure.

Sixth verse: "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you. [The Lord knows that there are many deceivers in the world.] He that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning, for this purpose the Son of God was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifested, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother." The sum of the matter is that the children of God do not sin and the children of the devil do sin. The false teachers in the world refer to the 7th chapter of Romans to prove that one sins when a child of God for, say they, Paul was a Christian and he sinned. They are so spiritually blind that they do not see that Paul was telling of his experience when he lived under the law in sin. Others use the first chapter of 1 John to prove that Christians sin, and they do not understand the scriptures. In the 7th verse we read, "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from ALL sin." In the eighth verse it reads, "If we say that we have no sin [to be cleansed from], we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." You will notice that "sin" is in the singular number and denotes or refers to that sin principle that passed upon all men through Adam's transgression. These young converts whom

John called "Little children," were justified but not sanctified and John was instructing them in the need of the second cleansing that their joy might be full, as he wrote in the 4th verse. In the first chapter of Luke we have these words, "That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life." In Hebrews 12:14 we read, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." I pray God that deceived souls may be able to realize their lost condition and measure their lives to the Word of God by the help and grace from above.

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Brethren, we are living in very perilous times and we should not allow the enemy to drift us away from the real truth of the Bible by cleverly wrested preaching or writing. God has saved us and put His Spirit in us that we would keep yielded into His hand so we will be real lights in this dark world by keeping ourselves unspotted and clean from this old sinful pleasure-loving world. We should not adorn our person to please the lust and pride of professors who are becoming blind through the desire of fame, love of money, and worldly honor. You look in God's "Holy Bible" and you will note that the declarations of God's Word are generally positive and clear-cut and this is for the purpose of bringing assurance to our souls and causing us to be strong in faith so we will be clear, bright shining lights in the world. There are some preachers and writers that do "straddling" work. They take a subject and straddle back and forth on it so much that after they get through they have not given out any clear light and souls are left in confusion while they drift on in compromise, while the teacher keeps covered up under the pretended love of God and voluntary humility.

Jesus says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15. Again in the 23rd verse He says, "If a man love me he will keep my words."

In the eighth chapter of John he says, "I am the light of the world: if any man follow me he shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." Again in 1 John, the first chapter and 7th verse we read, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin." Do you see how positive these declarations are? If we come out into the blazing light of the gospel and then later on begin to endorse and put on or take up with things that the Lord saved us from it is a sign that our soul is becoming darkened again and that true light is growing dim within us. By drifting we are breaking fellowship with those in the clear light.

Years ago I am told that some people used a cup of grease with a wick in it which they lit to have light in the house. Later on they got coal oil lamps which gave much better light, and later they installed the electric light which is very bright indeed. When folks begin drifting, adorning their person, and catering to the fashions and fads of this old sinful world, then

their light becomes like those going back to the coal oil lamp or the old grease wick, and in time is likely to flicker out and become one with the dark sects, creeds, and isms that are filling the earth. Jesus warns us about getting into darkness. He said, "If the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness." It is pitiful to see souls who once had clear light drifting toward the world and at the same time stoutly declaring that they are growing in light, or have more light or new light. The fact is, the more true light you have, the farther you will separate in spirit and conformity from this old sinful world and the less you will be harmonizing with it and the less you will be loved by it. The world will love its own. The more you fix up like those that are drifting and excuse and console their pet sins, the more they will like you as a religious leader and the more following you will have. It seems that there are so many religious teachers and writers that have "itching ears" and they find out just about what to preach or write to please most of the people and so they get their messages accordingly. The leaders of this "Reformation" that have drifted so far and corrupted the name of the church with the world, had their small beginning and led a great host of souls into darkness, formality and worldly wisdom. You talk with them today and they will declare that they are holding and teaching the same doctrines and say they have more light or new light. More light from the true God will never lead people toward the world in living, in words, or deeds, nor in human organizations nor in personal adornments, or fashions, or fads which the world delights in.

The more true light you have from God and manifest it the less the world and worldly minded professors will love you. If you have true light from heaven and Christ is abiding in your soul it will cause you to keep sweet and be patient and in heavenly love and compassion you will bear insults and with tenderness and yet with firmness you will teach those that oppose the truth and be firm and true to the living God. In other words, you will be honest with yourself, honest with God and honest with all of His creatures whether they be friend or foe—bearing and suffering with the weak and faltering and you will love the souls of those that are drifting inasmuch that you will instruct plainly and teach clearly so they would have a chance to see and recover themselves from this current that is pulling so many into darkness.

Again, we feel burdened to warn all lovers of the truth to steer clear of being a partaker with religious leaders who are putting darkness for light and are cleverly hiding under the pretended love of God with a feigned humility. The true love of God in the soul will cause one to bear and forbear and suffer, forgive and deal with much tenderness with those that are weak or have gotten into error, but at the same time will not endorse and pet them in wrong. The truth will seem to be "a hard saying," harsh and even sometimes cruel to those who do not have it in their hearts to obey it. The only safe place for any saint of God is to keep separated in spirit and in outward harmon-

izing as much as possible with this old determined, sinful, perishing world and its ways.

Sister Viola Atnip, who has been in Mo. for some time, is now back in the "Lord's Print Shop" filling her place in the Office work. We thank God for her service.

Our readers have been sending in a goodly number of names and addresses for the "Two Months" offer and we appreciate you working together with us in getting this Gospel to the people by the printed page. This is a good opportunity for you to do some missionary work for the Lord. This liberal offer expires the 10th of Dec. We are praying that you will not neglect your duty toward God and man in this matter. You that love the truth, please pass it on to others. We are looking to God to give us four thousand extra names to send the paper to in the two winter months when people read the most.

Obituaries

Nellie Martha Franklin was born Sept. 11, 1897 at Kincaid, Kans., to Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Pierce who preceded her in death. She departed this life Sept. 15, 1958 at her home in Grant Pass, Oreg. at the age of 61 years and four days. In 1913 she was united in marriage with Charles Franklin at Hominy, Okla. Eight children were born to this union. Her husband and two children preceded her in death.

Sister Franklin moved to Oregon with her family in 1923. She was a member of the Church of God for 32 years and was a devoted Christian mother, and a good example to her children.

She is survived by five daughters: Savola Schneider, Zella Silva, and Margaret Kliever all of Grants Pass, Ore., Ruth Chapman of Santa Clara, Calif., and Beth Keeler of Pasadena, Calif.; one son, Marvin Franklin of Grants Pass, Oreg.; two sisters: Amy Nelson of Grants Pass, Oreg., and Mattie Tompkins of Springfield, Oreg.; and eighteen grandchildren.

Funeral service was conducted by O. B. Wilson. Interment was in Granite Hill Cemetery.

Sister Lizora Fancher was born in Waco, Texas, May 19, 1874 and departed this life Oct. 5, 1958 at the age of 84 years, four months, and 16 days. She was united in marriage to Richard Fancher July 5, 1892. To this union twelve children were born. Her husband and five children preceded her in death.

Sister Fancher accepted the Lord when a girl of eleven years, living to all she knew and understood. She moved to Oklahoma City, Okla. with her family in 1929. In 1930 she was saved in the church of God, and here remained until her home going. She was a living testimony for the Lord, and truly a mother in Zion. She was a faithful and devout Christian, a loving mother, always patient and understanding, a dear sister loved by all.

Survivors are six daughters: Mrs. Hallie B. Jackson and Mrs. Ezella Gant of the home, Mrs. Eugenia Sayles and Mrs. Edna Sandles of Oklahoma City, Okla., Mrs. Mary L. Collins and Mrs. Rethola Carter of Los Angeles, Calif.; one son, Horace Fancher of McAlester, Okla.; one brother, Ollie Evans, and one sister, Mrs. Bertha Cook of Muskogee, Okla.; one stepdaughter, Mrs. Gertrude Mack of Okmulgee, Okla.; fourteen grandchildren, sixteen great-grandchildren, and many other relatives, saints and friends.

Sermon by Bro. Ulysses Phillips. Text: John 14: 1-3 and 2 Cor. 5:1-8. Interment in Pilgrim Rest Cemetery near Oklahoma City. May God bless and comfort the bereaved ones is our prayer.

Mary (Mollie) McCully, daughter of William and Nancy Jane McCully, was born at Chanute, Kans. Aug. 1, 1874 and passed away Sept. 20, 1958 at the age of 84 years, one month, and twenty days. In her early youth she moved to Harper, Kans. with her parents where they lived for several years, moving to Anthony, Kans. in 1908 where she lived until her death. On April 20, 1910 she was united in marriage to Christopher Benjamine Detweiler. To this union two daughters were born. Bro. Detweiler preceded her in death on April 3, 1950.

She is survived by her two daughters: Mildred of the home, and Mrs. M. L. Rust of Pomona, Calif.; one granddaughter, Joyce; three brothers: Manuel of Yakima, Wash., Marshal of Aline, Okla., and John of Harper, Kans.; several nephews, nieces, saints and friends.

Sister Detweiler gave her heart to God in early life and embraced the truth as taught in the early reformation of the church of God, to which she was loyal to the end. Her parents were early pioneer saints in Kans. and their home was the stopping place for many of the pioneer ministers. Her brother, Price McCully, was a minister for many years and well known among the saints. His picture is in the "Familiar Names and Faces." He passed away some years ago. Sister Detweiler will be greatly missed by the saints at Anthony since she was the oldest one of the congregation and knew it almost from the beginning. Though not able to attend services the last few years she kept in close touch with the work, and interested in its progress. She earnestly contended for the Faith once delivered to the saints and lived a life of sacrifice to help in the work of God. She trusted the Lord fully.

Funeral services conducted by Bro. I. D. Stover. Text: 2 Cor. 5:1-4; Num. 2:3-10. Interment in Forest Park Cemetery.

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Sister Sophie Earl, daughter of Willis and Martha Letcher was born October 24, 1886 at Dadeville, Ala., and departed this life July 4, 1958 at the age of 72 years. On Aug. 30, 1904 she was united in holy matrimony to Anthony Earl. To this union five children were born. Two preceded her in death. In 1937 she, with her husband, moved to Bakersfield, Calif. and made their home there until her death.

Early in her life she heard the gospel taught by the pioneer ministers of the church of God and was saved. She worked faithfully over a number of years in Kansas City, Kans., Pasadena, Calif., and later in Bakersfield, Calif., ministering to the saints and doing good to everyone with whom she came in contact.

She leaves to mourn her passing a faithful husband, Brother Anthony Earl; two sons: Anthony Earl Jr. of Pasadena, Calif., and Willis Earl of Bakersfield, Calif.; a daughter, Mattie Shaw of Fontana; two brothers: Tom and Charles Letcher of Bakersfield, Calif.; ten grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren; and other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. O. B. Wilson and I. Chandler. Text: Mark 14:8; Psa. 90:10. Burial in Bakersfield, Calif.

NOTICE OF APPRECIATION

I truly thank the many saints all over Calif. and Oreg. for their kind thoughts, prayers, cards, and telegrams. Very encouraging.

—Daughter, M. E. Shaw.

PRAYER REQUEST

To every saint of God who reads this, please pray earnestly for the Lord to give me complete victory and

success over the devil and all his agents, that I live a life of truth and obedience to God and fulfill all my obligations to Him, and sink down so deeply rooted in Him that the gates of hell can never prevail against me.

And do pray that the Lord will never let me be brought under any deceptive power of any type, but that the true Spirit of Christ reign and abide in me as long as I live and keep me for Jesus' sake against the wiles of the devil. Also that the Lord stop a deceptive influence which is poisoning many. It is destructive and spreading fast.

—One headed for heaven at any cost.

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Testimonies

La.—Greetings of Christian love to all the "Faith and Victory" readers,—I've been thinking for some time

about sending in a testimony of how the Lord had blessed since the Monark Campmeeting. I have been better in ways, and I thank God for it.

A few nights ago I woke up with a sore throat, but I got up and talked to the Lord about it and in just a little while all the soreness was gone. It was healed almost instantly and has not been sore any more. Some around here were having severe throat trouble.

I too want to give thanks to God for taking the cancer off my aunt's (Sister Conley) face. I gave in a request for her at Monark Campmeeting and had a handkerchief anointed. We came home from Monark on Friday and on the following Sunday Sister Simpson and I went to her house. Sister Simpson applied the anointed cloth. Praise God we know He is still healing His children.

A Sister,

—Velma Mancil.

o—o—o—o—o

Calif.—To the dear saints in the Print Shop,—I thank the Lord for you faithful ones who labor to get the truth to precious souls. I really enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory" paper. Tonight I am much encouraged to follow the Lord all the way. Though the Lord has suffered many tests and trials to come to me, yet I have it settled to go all the way with Him.

As I was meditating with the Lord this morning I was thinking what we have to do to get saved and to keep saved. I was thinking what we have to do to see our Father's face in peace when the last day comes. It means something to live a victorious life over the imposing power of the enemy daily. I want to live close to God here so I can see my Father's face in peace when I am called from labor to reward. The Lord impressed me to write on these thoughts or some of the things we must do to see God face to face in peace.

First, Luke 13:3 tells us we must all repent or we perish. Acts 2:38 says, "Repent and be baptized . . . and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." So we see we must repent and be baptized and we shall be saved. Then Isaiah 30:21 says, "This is the way, walk ye in it." 1 John 1:7 says, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another." Yes, God wants us to walk upright before him every day of our lives. To be forgiven of our sins is not enough: but we must walk in all the light God shines on our pathway.

Then we must "sit." Luke 10:42 tells how Martha was troubled about many things, but Mary sat at Jesus' feet. There are some precious moments sitting at Jesus' feet and feasting on heavenly bread. I do believe we, as saints, can get like Martha. We can get carried away with the cares of this life and miss the blessings Mary got as she sat at Jesus' feet. As the song, No. 175 says, "Sitting at the feet of Jesus, there I love to weep and pray." Surely I love to weep and pray at Jesus' feet and find grace and comfort every day.

Then we must kneel before God often as the Spirit leads us to. Let us read the Scriptures of those who knelt before God and prayer was answered. Daniel 6:10; Acts 9:40. As they knelt before God, God came to their rescue, and He will come to ours if we kneel in the name of Jesus with our hearts turned to God as Daniel did.

We must also "run." 1 Cor. 9:24 says, "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain." We must all run for this prize, for if we miss this prize, we have missed everything. So let us run this race with patience.

We have to "lay aside." Heb. 12:1. "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us." We must lay aside every weight as God shows us,

one by one. We might not think very much about little things, but dear ones, we must get rid of them to see God's face in peace.

We must also "strive." 2 Tim. 2:24 says, "A servant of the Lord must not strive." That is so. God has shown me we, as saints, must not strive for name, or honor in this world, or for earthly goods, but Luke 13:24 says, "Strive to enter in at the strait gate." Eph. 4:3 says, "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit." The Lord wants us to strive to enter in at the strait gate ourselves, and keep unity with our brother and sister. Then our lives will lead some lost souls to Christ. When God saved us He did not save us just to be saved ourselves, but so our lives can be a help to lead souls to him.

Then we must "endure." James 5:11 says, "we count them happy which endure." Mark 13:13 says, "He that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved." It profits us nothing to endure for a while. Mark 4:17 tells how some endured for a time, but when persecutions and afflictions arose, they became offended. Oh, Saints of God, let us hold on to God with our whole heart, lest we faint by the way. 2 Tim. 2:3 says, "Endure hardness as a good soldier." When a soldier in the army gets wounded, he does not give up, but recovers and goes after the enemy harder than ever. Let us not go down under trials and wounds, but let us go after the enemy in prayer before God so we can live a victorious life every day. Let us submit to God's will and receive the blessings He has for us.

So let us repent before God, walk upright, sit at Jesus' feet, kneel daily, run all the way, lay aside every weight, strive to enter in, endure to the end. Then we will see Jesus' face in peace.

Pray for me, and remember my unsaved companion and children before the Lord. —Naomi Jennings.

o—o—o—o—o—o

Oklahoma.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—I would like to send my testimony in, to thank the dear saints for praying for me. I feel like the Lord wants me to write this testimony. I thank the Lord that I am still saved and living for Him. I love the Lord with all my heart. I want to thank the Lord for giving me a joy in my heart. Dear ones, it is better to live for God than it is to live for the devil. I was living for the devil. I am thanking the good Lord that He saved me from the sins of the people of the world. I do not know how to thank the dear saints for their prayers. I want to do all I can for the good Lord.

Saints, I would like for you to pray for my sister, that she will get saved before it is too late to pray. Pray for me that I will be encouraged until the end.

Your brother in Christ, —William Adams, Jr.

o—o—o—o—o—o

Calif.—Dear ones in the Lord,—I have been wanting for some time to send in my testimony. The Lord has been proving Himself our Healer, our Saviour, our Sanctifier, our Strength in time of need, and has been proving us, His children.

We appreciated the prayers of all the dear saints in our behalf during the time I was afflicted. The Lord did wonderfully heal me, and made me stronger in body and better able to work and endure than I was before. I was bedfast for five months, and almost two months in a wheel chair. According to the natural course of this illness I should still be a semi-invalid, but our dear Lord saw fit to heal me and give me abundance of health. A good part of the time I was in bed I was unable to move at all. Much of that time Leora, my daughter, cared for me. Some-

times my mother came to relieve her and sometimes the dear saints.

The Lord has been leading us into a work here in Lower California, Mexico, among the Indians of the Santa Catarinas. A little over three months ago they had never heard the gospel! There is one girl who can read some. They cannot read the gospel for themselves, but they love to hear it. They have such a hunger for the Word of God. We have seen them come to 10:00 a.m. service about an hour early, staying on to hear more and more of the Word read, and to sing more, until it would be after two o'clock before they would leave. One Saturday night after service, we were reading to them from the Bible. It was getting so late I asked them if they didn't want to go home to bed, and they said, "No, read some more."

The Lord has been manifesting Himself to them by answering their prayers. They prayed for rain, and God sent an abundance of rain over a period of weeks, until now people are inquiring, "Why does Santa Catarina look like Spring, and all around it like desert?" The Indians answer that they asked God for rain, and He answered their prayer. They asked God for a teacher and He laid it on the heart of Dina Gonzalez, eldest daughter of Bro. Federico Gonzalez of Navajoa, Sonora, Mex., to go there to teach the children.

There have been as many as 65 children in a service. They have learned to sing a number of hymns and to quote a few verses of Scripture, but they all, young and old, desire to learn to read the Bible. When Dina comes, the Lord making the way, it will leave us free for adult reading classes and other needful work among the people.

Pray for us here, as we feel so greatly the need of Holy Spirit inspiration and guidance in every phase of this work. Also pray for each one who is participating in and co-operating with this work.

Sister Geneva Haite plans to be with us, Lord willing, to teach our children, and to help in the mission work too. Also, Sister Opal Wilson hopes to be with us from time to time as the Lord leads. The Lord blesses Bros. Harlan Smith and Bill Haite to be with us some. How precious is the Lord works, filling every need of the work.

Pray for the young people who are interested in this work, and pray that the Lord will raise up more workers, for there are two other tribes of Pai Pai-speaking Indians not too far away from these. We have appreciated so much having Bro. Bill Elwell and Bro. Clifford Smith with us on some of these trips.

Please pray especially for these Indians, that they hold to that which they have learned, and continue in the light. The chief of this tribe, Juan Arvallo, has a true testimony of salvation, and the work of salvation is manifested in different ways in his life. The Lord has shown him that he requires a pure life. Also, the Lord is teaching him to trust God for healing of his body. He testifies that God has given him victory, even in his thoughts. Pray for this brother, that God may use him to His glory.

We believe that God wants all the Indian tribes in Lower Calif., evangelized—and that would only be the beginning. Pray the Lord of the harvest that he send forth more laborers.

Much Christian love to all,

—Barney and Virginia Wittenborn and family.

o—o—o—o—o—o

Calif.—Dear Saints,—Tonight I am saved and encouraged to press on for the good Lord. I am so thankful for the many blessings He has bestowed on me. It has been a couple years since I have written a testimony, but those years have been full of blessings from God. Recently, He

blessed me so much during some trials that I was made to marvel at His power to keep from sin. God really has overcoming grace. "Salvation is the sweetest thing that mortal ever found;" and it keeps us sweeter, too!

As the time neared for the birth of our baby, I prayed often that God would give me grace to refuse medicine while in the hospital and to make the nurse willing to not give it to me. He did work very wondrously for us. God heard us when we called to Him. James was in agreement with me. Isn't it wonderful to have trusting husbands to rely on? I think we who have them should be more thankful than we are.

When our daughter was two weeks old I became very ill with high fever and chills, and in two days I lost seven pounds. God again came to our rescue in answer to prayer.

The baby seemed to have an eye infection when very tiny. It grew steadily worse. I asked the saints to pray for her one night at prayer meeting and the next morning one eye was well and the other much better. Today the other one is well, too, thank God.

I'll never forget how God healed our older child of severe rash he had just after he was born. He had it very bad when we brought him home from the hospital and nothing I did would stop it. He was about a month old when I came to my wit's end, and decided God would have to heal him. None of my oils, powders, lotions, and starches had any effect on him. One afternoon service during all-day meeting at Pomona, we had him anointed and prayed for. From that time the rash was gone. Isn't it wonderful to live for such a God? "I have given up all for my Saviour so dear, and His praises I ever shall sing."

Pray for us that we teach our children right. We want them to be reared like we were, so when they are out in the world for themselves there won't be any desire to leave God. I believe some of us young people who were trained in this doctrine so that living for God is our only thought, should take inventory of ourselves and see if we are instilling in our children, principles which will make living this way easy for them. Are we, by our daily actions, showing them the most important thing in life is doing right and living for God? Or are we making them think the important things are making a living, having a nice home, car, clothes, etc., or taking exquisite care of our bodies, home, cars, yards, etc.? Which principles were instilled in us and which are we passing on to our children?

Let us pray many of those travailing prayers that reach God's throne and save our children and loved ones.

Pray for us when you pray. —Mrs. James Huskey.

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

Okla.—Dear Saints and friends everywhere,—Holy greetings with much love to you all in Jesus' holy name. I am still saved, sanctified, and satisfied in God's holy way. I feel led of the dear Lord to write to each of you who may read these words of truth: things God has done for us.

My husband and I had gone to Hoffman to see about some business. We were in a hurry as it was looking rainy and my husband had promised someone he would be back in a certain length of time. On our way back our car stopped. It was very hot and uncomfortable for the baby and me to have to sit in the car while my husband worked on it. I felt led of God to pray for him and that the car would start, and so while I prayed and he worked, the Lord sent a man by who stopped to help us. It wasn't very long before the car started and we were on our way again. We made it there without any more trouble. I

surely thank God. We can call upon Him when we need Him and He is faithful to answer every time.

Another time the Lord heard and answered prayer was when my little nephew, whom I was keeping, had earache and a very bad cold. He was crying and seemingly was in much misery. So I asked him if he wanted me to pray for him and he did, so I called mightily upon the Lord. He didn't seem to get much relief when the first prayers were sent up so I prayed again and very soon he was up without any complaining.

I would like to tell of some more of God's gracious dealings with us in answering prayer. My oldest daughter, five years of age, cut her foot on a piece of glass. She came in and told me about it. It was still bleeding, but I didn't pay much attention as it was only a very small cut. But a moment or so later I noticed she had lost quite a bit of blood so I called her to me and took her foot in my hand asking my great heavenly Father, who could do all things, to stop the blood and He did just that, instantly. I surely think Him for His love and mercy to us.

I also had the tooth ache very badly and it caused me much pain and suffering. My jaw was swollen very badly. I called upon God for help for in that very time I needed Him—my suffering was so great that words can't express it. The Lord gave me a verse of the song, "Tis So Sweet." "Tis so sweet just to know that my Father loves me so," and then "Tis so sweet just to trust Him and rest." In a very short time something burst in my mouth, which I suppose was an abscess and from that very time on I rested from tooth ache. Thank our heavenly Father for His love and kindness to us.

Another time God showed His tender mercy to us. It was during the time of the Boley Campmeeting. Our little boy had a large growth which seemed to grow very fast. So I requested prayer for him at Okmulgee on a Sunday and we could see the very effect of prayer, for by the next week end the growth was gone.

Dear ones, can you see some of what I have to be thankful for, yet there is a lot more God has done and is doing for me. On our way home from the Boley Campmeeting the Lord laid a burden on Sister Annie Bell Allen's heart to pray about something, she didn't know just what. She said she prayed. Just as we started across an overpass going up hill in a very dangerous place, we had a blow out which took the car across the double line. If there had been some cars coming over that hill we would have been in great danger. We could see God's mercy and His burdening Sister Allen to pray.

Dear ones, let us be encouraged to press the battle on until the victory is won.

A sister in Christ who loves all, —Clara Barnett.

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

Mo.—Dear Saints,—Greetings in the name of our loving Saviour. What a wonderful privilege we have to serve such a great and loving Master. Our love for Him increases day by day and our desire is to please Him in everything we do or say.

It has been some time since we last testified through the paper but during this time God has been very good to us. His love is everlasting and never has He failed to come to our rescue in time of trouble. Many times He has healed in our home for which we do praise Him!

We are thankful for the baby daughter He has entrusted in our care and we desire to bring her up in the ways of the Lord. The day after her arrival I had a severe attack of sickness beginning about three in the afternoon, lasting until 12:30 that night. My dear companion had been faithful to pray but it seemed no relief

came. I told him the Lord would not allow me to suffer more than I could bear. About six that evening they called Uncle Edd Whipple for prayer and for a short time I had relief. Later the suffering was so great they called Sister Marie Miles for prayer. Still I hadn't received a complete healing touch but my faith was in God. Not once did I think of calling for human help but my calling was on the Great Physician whom I had learned to trust several years ago. Sometime near 12:30 I was about to drop off asleep when an awful knotting began in the lower part of my chest and upper part of my stomach. I could hardly breathe but called my husband. He and my mother came to my bedside and while they were in prayer I felt that great healing touch that calmed the storm. I think I dropped to sleep before they left my room and I slept an hour. Such sweet sleep it was after those hours of suffering. We can never praise the Lord enough for what He has done for us. We're encouraged to press on and trust Him to the end.

May the Lord bless each one of His children and keep them by His great love. We desire an interest in the saints' prayers that we'll stay in the center of His will.

Christian love,

—Lois Sharp.

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

Kans.—Dear Saints and readers of "Faith and Victory,"—I feel impressed to write a testimony for Sister Bond of Coffeyville, Kans. She is very feeble and cannot get around very easily because of hardening of the arteries.

On the 13th day of Sept. she fell, hurting herself very badly. Her son took her to the hospital and after taking X-rays the doctor said it was a broken hip. Sister Bond bore her pain with great patience and refused shots or drugs to deaden the pain. God saw her faithfulness and proved Himself great toward her. She told us that the Lord had deadened the pain a lot.

The doctor had planned to operate the 19th and put a pin in her hip, but the Lord looked on her in tender mercy and when they took another X-ray they said it only showed a cracked bone. They released her from the hospital and let her come home Sept. 17, two days before the time set for the operation. We just cannot praise the Lord enough for His blessings to her. She has been able to sit up, walk to the table, and bathroom. We know according to nature this is not a usual happening, but the Lord Sister Bond serves continually, has done this work for her.

She hopes this experience will encourage some other dear old saint to be faithful in trusting God who is able to do all things for His people. One of her favorite Scriptures is Isa. 46:4: "And even to your old age, I am he, and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you."

Today she had what might have been a light heart attack and is very weak, but the Lord blessed her and she is feeling much better. The saints here all love her, and she loves the saints. Until her hip got broken she would seldom miss meeting and always rejoiced to hear the Word.

Pray for Sister Bond.

A sister in the Lord,

—Margaret Eck.

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

Ore.—Dear people,—I want to say this to you people, you have been a blessing to me. Sunday a little book was handed me by one of the sisters where we meet to worship in Sister Locker's home. The title: "A Great Sacrifice," a message delivered at the National Campmeeting at Monark Springs, Mo., 1950. I have never heard the Word of God preached that way. So many truths I never understood were made clear. I praise the Lord for the truth. I

have searched for the true people of God. I have gone here and there but somehow I never found just what I was searching for until now. You are just plain common people with the world left out. Like Jesus said, "I am not of this world." I have been asked several times to join up with churches. It has always been "no, that is not what my Bible says." God said, "Come, and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant."

I am searching for more truth, and I have lots and lots to learn, but my heart is opened to learn. "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name."

I wanted to send in my testimony. I had been feeling bad and had such a pain around my heart, up along my neck, under my arm and between my shoulders. I called for prayer and the Lord heard and touched me. The pain is gone, praise his holy name. I know He is able to heal, for He has healed me in the past. We must believe and let Him have His way. I do thank the Lord for His love and goodness to me.

I would appreciate it if you could send me anything that would shed light on my pathway. I have always only heard the Word of God like those foul birds in those cages preach. I have not heard much holiness preaching, and so appreciate the truth.

Yours for more truth,

—Sister Viola H. Briles.

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

Ohio—Dear Saints and sinners everywhere,—Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. So thankful this morning to be a child of God. He is so wonderful to us all. I have been so burdened this day for my loved ones that are unsaved. Oh, if they could only see the mercies of God, and come to Him! I tell you, I am so thankful I heeded the call when Jesus came knocking at my heart's door. I have been blessed so much, I just cannot thank Him enough.

It seemed the Lord just impressed me this morning to write to my sister who is unsaved. I feel the Lord is dealing with her heart. I was just telling her I was so thankful this world does not have anything to interest me any more. I have had so much joy, peace, and happiness since the Lord saved me that I would not trade my salvation for all the wealth of the world. What the dear Lord gave me will last throughout eternity. But what this world has to offer will only last for a little while and then everlasting punishment.

We are living in such perilous times. The Lord is dealing with so many souls, but they seem to be in a spiritual stupor. If the Lord is dealing with you who read this, I pray you will heed the call. The Bible tells us God will not always strive with man. So please yield and get saved.

I have been saved a little over ten months, but they have been the most precious months of my 26 years. My family and I were privileged to attend Myrtle Campmeeting this summer, and I tell you it was like what I believe heaven will be like. I just sit and think sometimes, "Oh, if sinners did but know the joy in serving the dear Lord."

One of the sisters in our congregation here in Dayton passed out in Sunday school, Sunday. The saints laid hands on her and began to pray. Our wonderful Lord opened her eyes. I thank him so much for letting me see this. It increases my faith each time I see the power of God work. I intend to live for Him and do all I can for His cause by the grace of God. All that want to serve the devil and put their trust in man, can, if they want to, but I want Jesus, the One that can do all things. I love

Him today with all my heart and learn to love Him more each day.

So pray for my husband and me that we will stay true to our Saviour and always do His good will. I love all the children of God, and so thankful to find them all just alike, those I have met. Pray for my loved ones.

Your sister in Christ, —Verna Mae Samons.

o-o-o-o-o

Mo.—Dear Saints and readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper,—Tonight I am still saved and with my trust in the Lord, the only One that can save our souls and heal our bodies and give us sweet peace and happiness amidst all trials and sorrows. I am so glad I ever found there was a loving Saviour. He can take all our troubles, too, for He can hear our faintest whispers and knows our hearts' desires. When we have troubles and sorrows, and our hearts are burdened with cares and no one understands, Jesus knows and He cares. He comforts us. Just a little talk with Jesus makes it right, all right.

The Lord has been talking to me about a promise I made last winter when I had the flu. It settled in the left side of my head behind my ear. Oh, how I did suffer for several weeks! Sometimes the pain would be so sharp and cutting until I could hardly stand it. It would strike so hard in my ear and run down in my jaw as bad or worse than a tooth ache. I was anointed and prayed for and got some relief, then it would get worse every time I got out in the cold wind. I promised the Lord if He would heal me I would testify through the paper. I had an anointing cloth I had sent to Bro. Wilson for, so I laid it on my head and got in earnest prayer before the Lord and He fulfilled His promise and healed me, praise His dear name. Sometimes the Lord wants to prove us to see if we will stand true to Him through tests and trials.

Over thirty-six years ago I threw medicine away and told the Lord I would trust Him live or die. The Lord knew I meant it from the bottom of my heart. At the time I threw away the medicine I was suffering with many afflictions in my body. My body was a wreck of pain, day and night. I had stomach trouble so bad until I could hardly eat anything. When I would wake up in the morning there would be blood gathered on my teeth and lips from my stomach. I do not know what the trouble was, but the Lord knew, and He healed it. Praise His holy name. I now can eat anything I want to eat and can enjoy it.

A few weeks ago my sister and I were cooking dinner at my brother's house and I burned my hand. A pretty bad blister came inside my finger, on the side of my hand, and on my thumb. I was suffering with it. My sister was praying and I was too. I went in and lay down on the bed. The Lord touched my hand and healed it. It never did hurt any more. I got up and helped finish dinner. After dinner my sister said she would wash the dishes. I told her I could wash them. She said that warm water would hurt, but as I washed, it did not. The Lord had wonderfully healed it. In a couple days I did the family washing and it did not hurt, although the big blister was still there.

When I was lying on the bed I thought, "If just a burned hand hurt so, what would one suffer if the whole body were burning in torment?" What suffering it would be! I want to live so I can gain a better place than that. Oh, dear people, what will it mean to miss heaven and go to that place of eternal suffering where there is no water to drink to cool our lips and no cool air to cool the suffering body? I hope and pray that everyone who reads this who is not saved will go to the Lord in deep earnest prayer

and get saved and be ready to meet the Lord in peace and gain a beautiful home in heaven to forever be with the Lord.

Dear saints, remember me in your prayers.

A sister in Jesus, —Fannie Williams.

o-o-o-o-o

Calif.—Dear Saints,—Since reading the good testimonies in the October "Faith and Victory," I would like to tell of God's gracious dealings with me.

Once I heard Bro. Isaac Chandler preaching and he said if we would take care of our spiritual needs our physical needs would take care of themselves. I had some physical ailments, and desiring to get closer to God, I began to pray as Bro. Chandler had said. God has been so precious and taught me so many precious lessons. It seems my afflictions were multiplied, but through God's dealings in the afflictions He has taught me His will and His way. One of the most precious things I have learned is how God keeps His own. As long as we keep ourselves in the love of God nothing, I repeat, NOTHING can touch us except what God permits. We are surrounded by the power of God and NOTHING can penetrate the wall of salvation until God allows it. I had heard this taught, but today it is a living reality to me. And just to know that no human power, or evil power, or any other thing can get through to us as long as we keep ourselves wholly submitted to His will!! Oh, the glory of it! Now I see how the martyrs were able to stand true to the end: God enables everyone who will submit to Him to stand. Oh, this blessed holy rest! when we cease from our own works and let God take over our lives! He keepeth Him in perfect peace. Praise God for all His love to His children!

Many requests for prayer have gone in for me during the campmeetings and I do so thank all the saints for their love and care for one another. I truly thank all of you and especially Bro. and Sister Ostis Wilson who have carried the burden so faithfully and have visited me on several occasions. All my afflictions have had the "sentence of death" pronounced on them and I am now much improved. Pray for us that my family will all be saved and that I will continue faithful unto the end.

Much Christian love, —Gertrude Bunting.

o-o-o-o-o

North Ireland,—Dear brethren and sisters in the soon-coming Lord Jesus,—Some short time ago I was pondering over the saying of the R. Catholics here, calling Mary the mother of God. When I heard this statement it gave me an uneasy feeling, as if God needed a mother. I knew when the Lord Jesus came in the flesh He came by a good, pure virgin, but I still knew it was not right to say "the mother of God" as the Catholics say here in this part of the world and likely all over.

Well, one day I was pondering the saying, "Mary, the mother of God," and I was thinking, "Surely God, the great creator, did not need an earthly woman to become His mother," and just as I got this far with my thoughts a still small voice so plainly spoke to me and said, "God is a spirit." After that, oh, the flood of blessings I got! It opened out a great wide view to me. I saw then as never before that He is never weary or tired, nor slumbers nor sleeps. Nothing is too hard for Him, and nothing is impossible with Him. After knowing Him for sixty years I can say this is true. He is a wonderful, blessed God. Blessed is the man or woman, boy or girl, who puts his whole trust in Him. He is not a disappointment, bless His holy name forever!

Another thing I learned was that He is no respecter of persons, Acts 10:34,35. Then again one day lately as I

walked along the sea shore here gathering driftwood for my fire an inner voice spoke clear and plain. The saying was this: "God despiseth not any." Along with the words I saw a vision or a great picture of a multitude of people, all kinds—high and low. A big crowd appeared as on a screen around me and I saw in this big crowd of people a God over them who was ready to save all who came in faith to Him through the new and living way, Jesus, and accepted His sacrifice for sin, who gave Himself a ransom for all. As I went on, how I gloried in the wonderful God and Saviour we have, a blessed spirit, a God who despiseth not any," (Job 36:5) and a God who is no respecter of persons. Now as I rejoice in these truths I will pass them on to my brothers and sisters in the faith. We are told not to hide our light, but to let it shine. I do hope these three great truths will shine into the hearts of all who read them.

—Sister Margaret L. Dundas.

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Calif.—To the dear saints everywhere, greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I am thankful that I can report victory this morning in my soul—saved, sanctified and satisfied in this beautiful way. I can not find words to express my thankfulness to the dear Lord. He has and is doing so much for me, for which I am grateful.

It has been a long time since I sent in my testimony to the paper. I had an accident last Thursday three weeks ago. I sprained by right ankle. The Lord was so good—he permitted me to walk on it eight or ten blocks before I got home. Then I called a sister asking her to agree with me in prayer. After lying down about two hours I was not able to put my foot to the floor. That night I suffered severe pain. My children wanted me to go to the doctor and get an X-ray. I said, no, I am going to trust God, for He has been my healer many years. I called that night for prayer, which was prayer meeting night, and the Lord instantly took all the pain away and I slept good that night and thereafter.

I told the Lord if He would heal me of a complaint I have had in my body I would send in my testimony that it may encourage some one else to trust in the Lord for soul and body. I am past 72 years of age and it is truly wonderful what the Lord is doing for me. I am able to attend services four times each week, and on Sundays all day some times. It is wonderful to be truly saved and living for the Lord. My prayer and delight is in doing all that I can to help save souls. Pray for me that I ever keep my trust in God and do His will.

Your Sister in the one body, —Melissa Stewart

o—o—o—o—o—o

Louisiana—Praise the Lord for this wonderful salvation. I am happy in my soul for all my Lord has done for me. For years I have loved the Lord and tried to live for him as best I understood. I have tried to take in what a sanctified life meant. I was always told that it meant being dead to the world and alive in Christ. I tried to be that; I wanted to be and sometimes thought I was living a sanctified life. I surely gave up lots for the Lord. But all along the way, from time to time, I knew something was missing. I longed for deeper grace and often asked the saints and ministers to help me pray for it. But the key to how to obtain it, I found not. I have prayed much that the Lord would help me to be all he wanted me to be whatever it takes, and I really meant that with all my heart.

Last week I read the tract entitled, "Concerning You." The lesson in the tract was taken from I Thess. 5:18, "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God concerning YOU,"—even all the little annoyances of everyday life that try us, no matter how small or how large.

They spoke of how we should praise the Lord in and for the trial. When I read this I was somewhat annoyed and said, "I can't do that." I felt that some things were just too vexing for me to be thankful for, but as the week passed on I found I was having lots of trials and becoming more and more vexed. I also built up in my very heart a bitterness toward someone and by the last of the week I saw myself in a sad condition spiritually. I did not want to be that way, for my desire was to live in every way to the glory of God, but the enemy was almost having full control of me. I was wretched and so tired of that sort of an experience. I longed, greatly longed, for the grace of God that would fully save and keep the soul. So I went back and got that same tract, "Concerning You," and I read it again slowly and carefully. When I finished I said to myself, "I believe I can do that by the help of the Lord."

I went to my room and earnestly prayed and went to bed. Around two o'clock I had a dream. I dreamed I was so sick in body that the nurse realized I was no good in this life, so she gave me a shot to kill me. Just as it was taking effect I could feel life slowly leaving me and I knew I was dying. In this hour of death I said, "Oh, what about my soul," and I began to pray as hard as I could, pleading with God to forgive me and telling Him over and over that I was so sorry I had not served him better. While facing death I prayed through and felt, as I was nearing the passing point, a calmness and dim satisfaction that I would not go to hell, but the joy was not complete. While lying there in that valley of death, my regret of not being all I wanted to be for the Lord was so great I fought hard for life. I got to the point where I knew if I just gave up I would be gone, but I held on to life so hard that the death shot lost its power and I felt life returning to my body and I knew I was going to live. Then I woke up. I got up and prayed as earnestly as I knew how to pray and I begged the Lord to sanctify my nature and make me all I should be for Him.

I had been too burdened and concerned about the cares of life, trying to work them out and always fretting because my house wasn't clean, or because someone else wasn't doing his part. All this had also caused much unrest to my soul. I saw the damage it was doing and I was tired of it. After I prayed I asked the Lord to please direct me to the most important part of that book on sanctification—that I had need of at that time and place. With all sincerity and praying, I laid open it and my eyes fell upon the beginning of the part I needed most at that point. I read about five pages of the book and there I received the balance that was needed to help me go on to perfection. I understood it and received it to my soul with great joy. It was then and there that I was sanctified. Praise my Lord forever! It is wonderful! The heaviness in my heart left and joy and praise flooded my soul. At about three o'clock in the morning, July 12, 1958, a perfect work took place in my soul—something I know now that I have never had before. When it was done I saw myself sitting in a chair and felt that every trace of sin and guilt was gone and Jesus himself had moved in. There, to one side, I saw in a pile all the cares of life and burdens I had been carrying around inside of me. They were taken out and I lost the burden concerning them. They looked so unimportant to me now and it was there I realized how foolish we are to hold so tightly to earthly things and value them so highly. I learned to commit it all because we are the Lord's and all things are his. He has said, "No good thing will He withhold from them that walk up-

rightly." (Psalms 84:11).

"Whether I live or die, whether I wake or sleep, Whether upon the land, or on the stormy deep, When 'tis serene and calm, or when the wild winds blow, I will not be afraid—I am the Lord's I know."

I also learned it is by giving all that we receive all from Christ in return. Job's life story was so wonderful to me then—how he lost all, but still he held his integrity with God. When his trials and sorrows were fulfilled, more was restored to Job than he had before.

We do not gain anything by drawing back. "Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." (Hebrews 10:38) It is not until we give all that we receive all.

I only wish I could tell it as I know it now. Dear souls, you who are not enjoying a saved and sanctified experience, let me persuade you to pray for it and do not stop until you have the victory. It is for you.

Your Sanctified Sister in the Lord, Gladys Cashio
—oOo—

Ohio—Dear Saints,—Greetings of love to you in the name of Jesus. "I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications."

I ate some grapes the other evening while at work, and a short while later my stomach began bothering me. It seemed as though it had swollen. I thought maybe I had indigestion, or it may have been my appendix, since I had sharp pains in that area earlier. I prayed for and anointed myself. The Lord blessed me, but I was not healed. I went on to church services by faith. When I arrived I told our pastor, Sister Jones, about my affliction. She anointed me with oil and prayed for me. Then Bro. Jones prayed. We were in one accord. When I got out of the chair to go home, God had healed me. He removed all the swelling and hurting completely. It was just wonderful how he healed me. What a blessing it is to trust in our loving God. Yours in Christ, Annie Stills
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CHURCH OF GOD NATIONAL MISSIONARY FUND

On Oct. 19th the trustees of the Church of God National Campmeeting met in Coffeyville, Kan. in a special session, at which time the Church of God National Missionary Fund was set up, with Bros. Amos Porter, Albert Eck and Ralph Beisly, Treas., as a special committee on the board of trustees to receive and administer the funds, and have charge of the evangelistic tent project. Title to all the evangelistic equipment will be transferred to the National Missionary Fund. All future contributions to this project should be sent direct to Bro. Ralph Beisly, 407 Eldridge St., Coffeyville, Kansas.

—L. D. Pruitt, Secy.-Treas. Nat. Camp.
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FIRST SERVICES IN NEW COFFEYVILLE CHAPEL

The saints at Coffeyville, Kansas plan, the Lord willing, to hold the first services in their new chapel on Nov. 9th, which is their regular monthly Sunday for all-day services with dinner for all at noon. They extend a special invitation to everyone to meet with them in worship on that day. Chapel is next door east of Bro. Beisly's home.

The saints there have been sacrificing and faithfully working to complete the chapel. However, there is quite a bit of finish work and expense yet—seats, stoves, etc., so they have requested prayer that they will have the building ready on above date. They have endeavored to build on a pay-as-you-go basis. On my own, I would suggest that the saints remember the work there with an offering, and send it to Bro. Ralph Beisly, 407 Eldridge St., Coffeyville, Kansas.
—Lawrence Pruitt

BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll, \$1.50: Lesson cards, 10¢

CORRECTION, PLEASE

In the Sunday school lesson of Oct. 26th, page 16, in the Practical Truth the wrong word "impossible" was inadvertently inserted there. The word should have been "possible," which is obvious to all who know the truth. The sentence should read: "With God's help it is possible for us to resist temptation."

November 2, 1958

THE GALILEAN MINISTRY BEGINS

Printed Portion Mark 1:14-22

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21. And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.

22. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

Memory Verse: The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. Mark 1:15.

Practical Truth: Every Christian should, to the extent of his ability, be a fisher of men.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We find in our lesson that Jesus followed up the preaching of John and told people to repent because the "kingdom of God is at hand." The kingdom of God is the rule of God in the human heart and affairs. It is the plan of salvation in action.

It seemed that Jesus loved the sea. We often find him there in the accounts recorded about Him. In our lesson he called fishermen to be fishermen of souls. He needed men that were not afraid, men of faith, of patience and zeal. He wanted those who were not afraid of the deep or hard places—those who would not let storms cause them to lose faith. We find that these qualities were found in these men. When they heard the call, it is said, "They straightway forsook their nets, and followed him." This meant leaving a livelihood, yet they trusted God. Today God is calling for those who are willing to face hard things without murmuring, those who are willing to, with patience, hunt for souls without becoming discouraged, and those who will leave the shoreline and launch out into the deep things of God. Yes, those who will be so filled with the love and Spirit of God that they will with authority give out the Word of God, saying with confidence that God will save, heal, deliver, and keep every one who will come to Him.

November 9, 1958

JESUS DESCRIBES DISCIPLESHIP

Printed PortionMatthew 5:1-12

1. And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:
2. And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,
3. Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
5. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
6. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
7. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
8. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
9. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
10. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
12. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Memory Verse: Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Matt. 5:9.

Practical Truth: If we live as Jesus taught, we will be blessed.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson has many deep truths contained in it, and much more than can be brought out in a short time. The main thought is that the person who obeys God will be blessed in his sight and blessed in their souls.

Those who are poor in spirit and humble, will find help from God. Those who will mourn, with godly sorrow, over their past sins will be forgiven. The meek are precious in the sight of God. All of these attributes are contrary to the man of the world. He is naturally proud in heart and actions. He will not mourn over what he has done wrong but will try to justify himself. He will not be willing to suffer wrong without some retaliation. He will not pursue a course that will bring any persecution but change according to the occasion. This man of the world needs God. He needs to humble himself and ask forgiveness and then he can receive heart purity. Purity and impurity are primarily matters of the inner life, involving our desires, our thoughts and what we plan to do. To be pure in heart means more than the outward conduct being changed, but it means our very nature changed. This can be fulfilled in this life. "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." What a blessed state!—seeing God in everything that touches our life and feel His definite leadings and fellowship.

November 16, 1958

JESUS' HEALING MINISTRY

Printed PortionMatthew 8:5-17

5. And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,
6. And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.

7. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.
8. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

9. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me; and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

10. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

11. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

12. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

13. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

14. And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever.

15. And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.

16. When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:

17. That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

Memory Verse: Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. Hebrews 13:8.

Practical Truth: The Son of God who healed men in the days of His flesh wants His followers to know He heals today.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do we believe this? If we do, we must act like it. We must have faith as the centurion. He fully recognized Jesus' authority over diseases just as he had authority over his servants. Today Jesus has authority over diseases of all kinds. Just as He spoke the Word then and the centurion's servant was healed He can speak the word and we will be healed. We must believe this to receive from the Lord. We cannot doubt because that is not faith. We must not waver or we will not receive. "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. . . . For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord." James 1:6-7

Children of God, let us trust God fully. Live or die, be His. Trust Him! Tell God that you expect Him to heal you and if He does not see fit to do so, you will die trusting Him. Be just as firm to stand in trusting God for healing as the three Hebrew children stood in not bowing down to the image. They said, "Our God is able to deliver us, . . . but if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods." Dan. 3:17-18. God was pleased with their determination and He did deliver them even after they were in the fiery furnace. Are you in the fiery furnace of affliction today? Stand for God and He will not fail you.

November 23, 1958

JESUS AROUSES OPPOSITION

Printed PortionMark 2:18-28

18. And the disciples of John and of the Pharisees used to fast: and they come and say unto him, Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but thy disciples fast not?

19. And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? as long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.

20. But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

21. No man also seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment: else the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old, and the rent is made worse.

22. And no man putteth new wine into old bottles: else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled, and the bottles will be marred: but new wine must be put into new bottles.

23. And it came to pass, that he went through the corn fields on the sabbath day; and his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the ears of corn.

24. And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful?

25. And he said unto them, Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungred, he, and they that were with him?

26. How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the shewbread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him?

27. And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath:

28. Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.

Memory Verse: Do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord. Deut. 6:18.

Practical Truth: We must do right even if we make enemies.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The Mosaic law appointed only one day of fasting in the year and that is the Day of Atonement. During the Jews' captivity they observed four annual fasts. Public fasts are recorded in the Old Testament caused by special needs. Some private fasts are recorded.

In the New Testament "the fast" in Acts 27:9 is generally accepted as the Day of Atonement. The fast Jesus entered into and the weekly fasts are such as are mentioned in the first verse of our lesson. They originated some time after captivity. Jesus said that his followers would fast after He had gone to heaven. The dictionary says that a fast is the abstinence from food. A fast could mean abstinence from food for one meal, two meals or one or more days. There is not only a blessing to the soul in fasting but also to the body. Those who fast will "be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not." Isa. 58:5-12.

Trying to combine Mosaic ceremonies with spiritual freedom of the gospel was like putting new wine into old bottles and new cloth on old cloth. It just won't work. Holding on to the world with one hand and God the other won't work either. "Old things pass away and, behold, all things become new."

Sabbath means rest—a type of our soul rest through Jesus Christ. "He that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own work, as God did from his." Hebrews 4:4-11.

November 30, 1958

TEACHING BY PARABLES

Printed PortionMark 4:1-12

1. And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.

2. And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,

3. Harken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:

4. And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.

5. And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:

6. But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

7. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

8. And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

9. And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

10. And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable.

11. And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without all these things are done in parables:

12. That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

Memory Verse: Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only. James 1:22.

Practical Truth: Be sure we keep a tender heart so God's word will grow.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

A parable means a comparison or something cast alongside of something else. Jesus used many natural things as a comparison to spiritual things.

Our lesson brings out some beautiful thoughts about the working of the Word of God in the hearts of the hearers. Yet there are some very sad thoughts when the Word does not bring forth good fruit. How precious it is to tell the gospel story to a soul whose heart is open and receptive. Not very long ago I had this privilege and the person knelt in prayer and was saved.

When the gospel is preached there are varying results. The seed that is sown never takes root in those who have an indifferent attitude. It is like that which is sown on the hard footpath and the birds eat it up.

Some people seem quickly moved and touched, but a little temptation comes and they give up. They are the stony ground where the soil is scarce and they wither away—no depth or root in God. Others make a start but the cares of this life, the thorns, choke out the Word.

Thank the Lord for the good ground—they who have honest hearts. They make a decision and grow in grace and knowledge. They bring forth plentifully. This is the mystery of the gospel but well-known to God's children.

—Sister Marie Miles