

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



Volume 53, No. 4

53rd Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35¢ Per Year

June, 1975

Procrastination

Unto a youth the gospel came,
Exhorting him in Jesus' name
To turn from sin, embrace the truth,
And serve the Lord in days of youth.

The youth replied, "I know that's right,
But I won't turn from sin tonight;
A few more pleasures I will seek,
And then I'll turn, perhaps next week."

But next week came, and still his heart
Was not inclined from sin to part.
"A few more days in sin I'll live,
And then my heart to God I'll give."

Days passed by, and months rolled on,
And still he sang the same old song,
"Not now, but after awhile I'll pray
For God to wash my sins away."

The months and years went by so fast;
From youth to middle age he passed.
And yet his sins were not forgiven,
Nor was his name enrolled in heaven.

From middle age to old he went;
His body 'neath the years was bent.
"His conscience once so keen to feel,
No more was stirred at God's appeal."

Procrastination, in its awful stealth,
Had robbed his soul of heaven's wealth.
And so at last to sin a slave,
He died to fill a Christless grave.

O souls, behold, God says, **Today!**
Turn now from all your sins away,
Lest you should reach your doleful fate,
And cry at last, **Too late! Too late!**

—Ulysses Phillips

An Exclusive Christ

Jesus is the sovereign, universal King, and "only Potentate." He only is the Christ of God; He is the Saviour of men, neither is there salvation in any other. "Ask of me," saith God in the covenant made with His Son in the untold ages of the past—"Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen (Gentile nations) for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession."—Ps. 2:8. Not only is He Lord over all the earth, but "when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him."—Heb. 1:6. Jesus is the King eternal over all heaven and earth; yea, throughout the vast universe. His kingdom therefore is an exclusive kingdom. It leaves no place for any other. It is the stone that breaks all other powers to pieces, and fills the whole earth. His church is likewise exclusive; it does not "live and let live" other institutions called churches. The word of truth acknowledges no other church but the one divine fold founded by the Saviour. He who discerns the sacred body of Christ is bound to discard everything else; and he who acknowledges the confused multitudes of men's creeds, and party organisms, as churches, has never "discerned the body of Christ," which is the church. Eph. 1:22, 23; Col. 1:18, 24.

The Spirit of the God of the Bible is an exclusive Spirit. It repels and rejects every other spirit. God's children have all been "baptized by one Spirit into one body, and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."—I Cor. 12:13. This all-searching and eternal Spirit in the hearts of the redeemed of the Lord takes cognizance of what kind of spirits dwell in the hearts and bodies of others who claim to be the worshipers of God. If of opposite character, there is no fellowship. If all are in possession of the pure and gentle Spirit and nature of God, the blessed elements of heaven, their hearts flow joyfully together; and this is fellowship, pure, heavenly, and the source of much happiness. Thus the Spirit of God endorses himself, and excludes all others. The religion of Jesus Christ is exclusive in its nature. It compromises with no other. It justly assumes to be the only true religion, and announces all others as of the devil. This very characteristic has chiefly elicited the persecutions that have befallen Christ and His church in

all ages. Had Christ been willing to fuse with Jewry, and endorse along side of His own laws the laws and traditions of the Jews, they would not have crucified Him. Had the apostles grafted the new faith upon that Old Testament code that was ready to die and vanish away, then, says Paul, would the "offense of the cross have ceased."

At one time under the great persecution inflicted upon the saints of God by pagan Rome, the pagans offered to spare the lives of the Christians, and give them their religious liberty if they would but acknowledge their gods, and their religion as being also genuine. But this they could not do even to save their lives. Nay; only the system of divine worship that Christ founded is of God. It alone is the truth, and every other is a lie, and a fraud. As it was then, so it is now: to confess any religion and creed but the New Testament, is to deny Christ. To confess that there is any church but the one Jesus built, is to make God a liar. To be honest in the sight of God, and to stand upon the offensive foundation of the exclusive Christ, and His exclusive church, kingdom, and religion, is what stirs hell today, and calls out what little persecution saints have to endure in these last days which, however, may yet assume degrees of severity that will deserve the name of persecution. Oh, praise God! My soul says, Let it come as the providence of God shall permit, and He will overrule it to His glory, to the more perfect purging of His sanctuary, and to the spiritual improvement of His remnant.

The sects would have no objection to us accepting the Bible name, saints, if we would confess that they, in all their pride, tobacco filth, and abominable worldly conformity, are saints also. They would not care if we do use the title given by the mouth of the Lord, viz., "the church of the living God," if we would only confess that all the sects are likewise churches of God—sister churches. But this would be confessing a falsehood. The Lord owns no sisterhood of sects, but ascribes to "mystery Babylon" Rome, and a family of harlot daughters. The Bible gives no place for a plurality of brotherhoods in Christ. But one is your Father, and all ye are brethren, one family in heaven and earth. Eph. 3:15. "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."—Rom. 12:4,5. Only "one body in Christ." As we discern that body, and know that God has inducted us into the same, it would be dishonesty in the sight of God, and a base, cowardly compromise to please men, to admit that several hundred other bodies are also in Christ. Yea, it would be making God a liar, since His Word says there is one body in Christ, only one.

God has raised up a people who fully discern the body of Christ. They have taken their stand upon the platform of "all truth," as it is in Christ Jesus. By the process of salvation they have been taken into the one fold of Christ. John 10:9. The Lord Himself added them to His own body, the church. Acts 2:47. They teach and accept no other condition of membership in the church, than those conditions found in the Word of God. And by a life of perfect obedience to the divine will, of faith toward, and holiness unto the Lord, they have this witness that they please God, and are abiding

in the one and only church of God, which is the body of Christ, and which includes all the saved in heaven and earth. They with perfect consistency and loyalty to God, resist every other spirit but that which they have received of God; reject every other so-called church but that which Christ built upon the rock; and say to all honest disciples of Christ who have been falsely taught, and taken by men into men's churches, "Come out of her," "Come out from among them." And though this is the point of offense and persecutions, by the grace of God we will not compromise the truth to save our lives.

All sects are associated together on a plane of sisterly non-exclusiveness. They dare not teach "one God," "one body," "one Lord," "one Spirit," "one way;" because no one of them dare set up the claim of having and being in that one God, Lord, body, Spirit, and way. None of them hold a divine charter for their existence, hence no one challenges the right and title of another. In other words, all are without foundation in the Word of God; therefore they agree not to question each other's foundation. All have a glass house, hence must not throw stones at one another. But we repeat again, that in these last days God has raised up a people who believe the Word of God, and act accordingly. Christ has but "one fold," one church, and knowing we are saved into this one fold, to be consistent before God, and act out His word, we must ignore every other so-called fold or church.

With a view of destroying the work of God, the enemies of Ezra and Nehemiah proposed to join with them in building the temple and the wall. But they answered them, "The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem."—Neh. 2:20.

They were then an exclusive people unto the Lord, and their reformation at Jerusalem was a grand type of the present reformation, in which God is restoring a pure church, the bride, the Lamb's wife. "As the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith, that will I say." It would be bigotry for one sect to say, "We are the church, and all the rest are frauds." But for God's true saints, who follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth, and belong only to Him, and adhere only in "his body, which is the church," and which includes all saved men in heaven and earth, in or out of sect folds—for such to talk of other churches, would be inconsistent and God-dishonoring; yea, confusion. Therefore, be sure you are right, then go ahead, in holiness of heart and life, and let earth and hell rage. "Noah condemned the whole world." One man mounted on eternal truth can safely defy all the devotees of human creeds and systems on earth. There is "one God." Amen. Then all others are idols. "One body." Amen. Then all sect bodies are excluded. "One Spirit." Then all spirits not in fellowship with the pure in heart, are not of God. "One Christ," and all others are anti-Christ. Here we stand in defiance of hell and earth. Amen. —D. S. Warner

We can set our will against doubt just as we do against any other sin; and as we stand firm and refuse to doubt, the Holy Spirit will come to our aid and give us the faith of God and crown us with victory. —Sel.

The New Testament Church

When the Apostle Peter confessed his belief in Christ as the Son of God, Jesus said, "Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 16:17). Then Jesus went on to say that just as surely as He was the Son of God, He would build His Church and the gates of hell should not prevail against it (vs. 18). Have you received a similar revelation concerning Christ and His Church?

The Church Is the Body of Christ

We read in Colossians 1:18, "He is the head of the body, the church." Verse 24 also speaks of the church as being Christ's body. Christ is no longer incarnated in a human body, but His Spirit now dwells in His spiritual body. One time Jesus went about in human form doing good; now He is with us in spirit to work with, for, in, and through us to accomplish His work here on earth. We are told in I Corinthians 6:19-20: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." Thus it is evident that in this dispensation God "dwelleth not in temples made with hands" (Acts 17:24), but in the hearts of those who have been redeemed by Jesus' blood.

Members in the Body, the Church

Christ told Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again" (John 3:7). He also said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture" (10:9). In John 14:6 we have the words of Jesus: "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." And in I Corinthians 12:27 we read, "Now ye (the saved) are the body of Christ, and members in particular." This should be enough Scripture to prove conclusively that the body of Christ (the church) is composed of those who have experienced the "new birth."

The Head of the Body, the Church

"He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence" (Col. 1:18). The head is the seat of the intellect and has ruling power over the body. Thus the government in the church is charismatic (Holy Spirit rule). "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever" (Isa. 9:6-7).

The Unity of Christ's Body, the Church

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Ps. 133:1). Not only is it pleasant, but it is practical, for Christ prayed, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may

be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:20-21). It is the love and fellowship which Christians have for each other that convinces the world concerning the reality of the "new birth." This unity cannot be obtained by outward union, but must be of the inner man of the heart; "for by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body . . . and have all made to drink into one Spirit" (I Cor. 12:13). All Christians are motivated by the same Spirit and instructed by the same Word; therefore they should be one in spirit and practice.

"Of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her. The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there" (Ps. 87:5-6). Thus we see that when we are born again our names are recorded in the Lamb's book of life. It is not necessary that our names be written in a church ledger.

The Creed and Discipline of the Church

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Anything more than the Scriptures is too much; anything less is not enough. "I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" (Rev. 22:18-19).

The Name of the New Testament Church

The church is a family and is named after the Father and so it is called the family of God or Church of God. The Apostle Paul in speaking to the ministers said, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). Again he wrote: "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: grace be unto you" (I Cor. 1:2). He cautioned them: "Give none offense, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God" (10:32). Paul also rebuked the Corinthian church for not observing the Lord's Supper in the proper way: "What? have ye not houses to eat and drink in? or despise ye the church of God?" (11:22).

Paul also said, "I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God" (I Cor. 15:9). "Ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it" (Gal. 1:13).

In I Timothy 3:4-5 Paul instructed Timothy, a young minister, concerning the duties of a minister. A minister, he said, should be "one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (for if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)" —Sel.

"FAITH AND VICTORY"

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend campmeetings) by Lawrence D. Pruitt, assisted by Marie Miles and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

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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 restoration and promulgation 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 sinful world and entire devotion to the services and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

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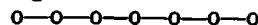
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EDITORIALS

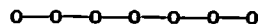


THIS JUNE ISSUE is going to press and in the mail just prior to the beginning date, May 23, of the Oklahoma State campmeeting here at Guthrie. The first service will start at 7:30 p. m. on Friday, the 23rd day of May. A large attendance is expected, including a number of people coming for their first time. A writer of old joyfully declared: "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together: whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord. For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever." Psalms 122:1-7; 125:1. Praise God for Mount Zion, the Church, which is the pillar and ground of the truth!



Jesus Christ, the Anointed One, said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matt. 4:4. If man were a wholly physical being like the animal, he could maintain that life by literal food alone. This scripture teaches very definitely that man is more than a mere physical being. Since man is also a "living soul" (Gen. 2:7), that soul is the eternal and responsible part of man. Its communion and fellowship with the Creator can only be sustained by continued obedience to "every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

In John 1:14 we read, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, . . . full of grace and truth." Jesus Christ was the Word incarnate in the flesh. "In him was life; and the life was the light of men." Jesus Himself testified, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven." John 6:51a. Again He said to His disciples, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you." John 6:53. To many of His disciples this was a hard saying, and He explained, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." John 6:63. By daily feeding on the Word of God in humble obedience, a believer maintains spiritual life and fellowship with our heavenly Father.



In the nominal Christian world there is a popular false belief that one should avoid doctrinal teaching. On the contrary, true Bible doctrines are essential to the victorious Christian life. In Second John, the 9th verse, we read, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son." The New Testament

is our creed and discipline for this present dispensation of grace, and it is the standard to which we must measure our lives. "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." James 1:25.

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Notice to Ministers:

A general ministers' meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Guthrie, Okla., on June 3, 4 and 5, 1975, which is just following the Oklahoma State campmeeting at Guthrie. The first service will begin on Tuesday, June 3, at 10 a. m. All the ministers are urged to be there on time.

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Bro. Bob Forbes, pastor at Hammond, La., began an evangelistic tent meeting, assisted by others, at Covington, La., on May 15. We trust the Lord has answered prayer and blessed their efforts in a special way in the salvation of souls. In June they plan to hold a tent meeting in Baton Rouge, La., followed by evangelistic tent meetings in other places through the summer as the Lord directs and opens the way. Pray that the gospel of Christ will be presented in the power and authority of the Holy Spirit for the deliverance of precious souls and the upbuilding of God's kingdom.

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Word was received that Sister Minnie Slinkard, a longtime reader of this paper who formerly lived in Indiana, passed to her eternal Home with the Lord on April 29, 1975, at the Golden Rule Home, Shawnee, Okla. Burial was scheduled in Indiana. May the Lord comfort all the bereaved relatives and friends. This writer and his wife went to see her just two days before her departure.

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The Lord graciously spared the National campground at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri, from damage when the terrible tornado struck the city of Neosho on April 24 and continued its course eastward about ten miles, passing south of the campground about three-fourths of a mile. None of the saints were hurt, but some had small property damage compared to what others experienced in the area. It was the worst destruction that this writer had ever seen, and the damage was estimated to run as high as seventeen million dollars, besides several killed and scores injured.

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Sis. Dolly Brown, a co-worker here in the Printshop, was called Monday, May 12, to her parents' home in Tulsa, Okla., where her grandmother, Sister Fannie Williams, had suddenly passed away that day. May the Lord comfort Sister Dolly and all the relatives in their bereavement.

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Bro. Tom Melot, minister of Guthrie, Okla., reported a profitable revival meeting which was held at Prattsville, Ark., recently. Other ministers assisted in that meeting, and the saints attending these

services were much strengthened in the faith. Bro. Melot held a revival meeting last week (May 4 to 11) at Myrtle, Mo., where Brother Edward Atnip is the pastor. The Lord blessed the preached Word in a special way and a number of souls sought spiritual help at the altar of prayer.

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In the month of June is Father's Day, which reminds this writer that his father, Fred Pruitt, finished his earthly labors on June 6, 1963—twelve years ago—after proclaiming the gospel of Christ from the pulpit and press for 47 years.

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Bro. James Huskey and Brother Lloyd Eck left Oklahoma on May 13, driving to Old Mexico to contact Bro. Efrain Huerta, a native missionary, and to pass out Spanish New Testaments. Pray the Lord to bless their efforts in that needy field.

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The 512-page, clothbound, Church of God hymnal, "Evening Light Songs," is now practically out of stock, and for lack of printshop help it does not seem that we will be able to get another reprint edition ready before September, 1975. The situation is beyond our control, but we are doing the best we can under the circumstances. God sees and knows.

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A reprint edition of the book, "Bible Readings for Bible Students and for the Home and Fireside," by S. L. Speck and H. M. Riggle, is in the process of publication. Originally published in 1902, this excellent volume contains 432 pages of Scripture references and comments on many subjects for Bible study. Bound in a nice cloth cover, this book is expected to be ready for distribution by July 1st. The price is \$5.00 each, plus 45¢ for the postage and handling. Send your order with cash for delivery in the month of July.

Write for our full price list of Bibles, books, and cards. Listed in our book stock are many of those excellent old books written by the pioneer ministers of the Church of God Reformation which had been out of print for many years. More of these old books of vital truth will be reprinted and added to our stock as time, means, and help permit. Watch for publication dates in future issues of this paper.

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When Jesus ascended up on high, He gave special spiritual gifts to men, designed to promulgate the New Testament truth, "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Eph. 4:12, 13. God's ultimate design for His Church is that of a "perfect man" in Christ. The unity of the Spirit must be maintained while believers are coming to the unity of the faith.

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Our sincere gratitude and appreciation are extended to all our readers who are so faithfully pray-

ing for and co-operating with us and our co-workers in getting the printed gospel messages out to this perishing world. Time is running out, and what we do must be done quickly. May God bless and reward each of you, is our fervent prayer. —Lawrence Pruitt

Partial List of Items Available

Birth of a Reformation—Life and Labors of D. S. Warner by A. L. Byers. A reprint with additional pictures of pioneer ministers. Cloth bound, 496 pages. Price, \$4.50 each.

What The Bible Teaches by F. G. Smith. A reprint of the original 1914 edition, containing 576 pages in cloth binding. This is a book that should be in every home. Price, \$5.00 each.

Holy Spirit Baptism and the Second Cleansing by R. R. Byrum. Consists of 108 pages in heavy paper cover. Price, 50 cents each.

Prophetic Lectures on Daniel and the Revelation by F. G. Smith. It contains 260 pages. Price for heavy paper cover is \$3.00 each; cloth binding is \$4.50 each.

The Cleansing of the Sanctuary by D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggle. Reprinted verbatim in 541 pages, cloth binding. Price, \$4.50 each.

The Christian Church; Its Rise and Progress, by H. M. Riggle. Bound in cloth cover, 488 pages. Price, \$4.00.

The Revelation Explained by F. G. Smith. Reprint of 1906 original edition (fourth reprint), plus two 17x22 inch wall charts in two colors. 464 pages in nice cloth cover. Price, \$4.50 each.

The Last Reformation by F. G. Smith. Just recently made available, this reprint edition contains 256 pages. Nice paper binding is priced at \$3.00 each, and the cloth binding is \$5.00 each.

Experiences of S. O. Susag is a record of the activities of S. O. Susag, a Norwegian who had many marvelous experiences and answers to prayer as an early-day minister of the Church of God. Originally published in 1948, the book contains 191 pages in a heavy paper binding. Price, \$1.25 each.

Life's Golden Gleanings by Ruby E. Stover. She records many experiences of her childhood, and how God answered prayer in marvelous ways in her family and through the years in the gospel work. 94 pages in nice paper cover. Price, \$1.00.

Available at this office are four records of songs by the Bakersfield Evening Light Singers. Each of these 33 RPM records has from 10 to 12 songs. These records are designated by number—No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4. Specify the record you want by the number. The price is \$5.00 each. This office receives no part of the profit from the sales, and the singers use the proceeds in the work of the Lord.

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OBITUARIES



Sis. Eugenia Sayles was born to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Francher in Marlin, Texas, the sixth of twelve children. She departed this life April 7, 1975.

She met the saints and embraced the truth as taught and practiced by the Church of God (Evening Light Saints).

She leaves to cherish her memory: three sons, Andrew, Melvin and Mervin, all of Oklahoma City; two daughters, Mrs. Bertha Howell of Detroit, Michigan, and Mrs. Alice Davis of Oklahoma City; thirteen grandchildren and a host of other relatives, saints and friends.

Bro. Herman Kelly conducted the funeral services, assisted by others.

Note of Thanks

We wish to express our appreciation to all of the saints and friends for their prayers and acts of kindness shown during the illness and death of our mother, Sis. Eugenia Sayles. God bless you one and all. —The Family

Sister Irma Allen was born April 5, 1905, to George and Charlotte Allen in Tunnel Springs, Alabama. She departed this life on March 30, 1975.

On January 31, 1924, she was united in marriage to Peacho Simpson. A daughter was born to this union. Her husband preceded her in death.

In 1953 she was saved in the Green Pastures, Okla., campmeeting, remaining faithful to God unto the end. She attended services at 800 N. E. 3rd in Oklahoma City, Okla. Showing hospitality and ministering to the saints' needs was an outstanding trait of Sis. Irma. Often she and her sister insisted upon doing the laundry for the ministers who resided in their home during the meetings.

She leaves to cherish her memory: a daughter, Mrs. Novella Bolden; her twin sister, Mrs. Ora Horn; a brother, George Allen of Boley, Okla., and a host of other relatives and friends.

Bro. Herman Kelly conducted the services, assisted by Bro. Lewis Williams and Bro. Otis Hill.

Note of Thanks

The family of Sister Irma Allen wishes to express their appreciation to all who showed kindness, love, and consideration in sending flowers, food, cards, letters, offerings and especially, their prayers. May the Lord richly bless each one. —Sister Ora Allen

Notes of Appreciation

We express our appreciation to all the kind and wonderful people who assisted during the illness and passing of our mother and aunt, Sister Lula Caughron; also for the beautiful flowers. Thanks, and may God bless all of you.

—Robert Caughron, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Carroll and Mrs. Floreine C. Dragon.

I deeply appreciate the cards and letters from the saints, also the interest of their prayers at the time of the death of my dear companion, William Cramer. Just

when we thought we could give our time together in this mission work here at the Home at Shawnee, Okla., God saw fit to leave me alone to do the work. Yet I do praise God for His comfort. He doeth all things well. I do not mean to complain, but I do thank and praise God for His concern for our souls and our need of a closer walk with Him. Bless His name! I mean to live to please Him who died for all men. —Sis. Edith R. Cramer

Campmeeting Dates For 1975

Following are the Church of God campmeeting dates for 1975, and more complete announcements of each will appear in later issues:—

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, Okla.—May 23 to June 1.

Ministers' Meeting at Guthrie, Ok.—June 3, 4 and 5.

Holly Hill, South Carolina—June 6 to 15.

Tulsa, Oklahoma—June 6 to 15.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 13 to 22.

Due to the time of the Ministers' Meeting, the congregation at Jefferson has changed the date of their campmeeting to June 13 to 22.

Oakland, California—June 20 to 29.

General Southern at Hammond, La.—June 27 to July 6.

Ojos Negros, Baja Cfa., Mexico—July 1 to 6.

Akron, Ohio—July 5 to 13.

National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri—July 18 to 27.

Missouri State at Myrtle, Mo.—August 1 to 10.

Bakersfield, California—August 1 to 10.

Boley, Oklahoma—August 15 to 24.

Blackford, Kentucky—August 15 to 24.

California State at Pacoima, Calif.—August 22 to 31.

Fresno, California—September 5 to 14.

CAMPMEETING AT HOLLY HILL, S. C.

The annual campmeeting of the Church of God at Holly Hill, South Carolina, will be held, Lord willing, from June 6 to 15, 1975. Everyone is invited to come. We have places for you to stay and a place to eat. We pray that God will send Holy Ghost ministers to bring us God's Holy Word.

For more information, contact Bro. Hutson Crummie, R. 1, Box 42, Holly Hill, S. C. 29059, phone 803-496-5231.

With Christian love, —Bro. Hutson Crummie

OREGON STATE CAMPMEETING

The Oregon State Campmeeting of the Church of God (Evening Light Saints) will convene in Jefferson, Oregon on June 13, and continue through June 22, Lord willing. Those who come by bus from either north or south should come to Albany, Oregon, if traveling on an express bus. Some of the local schedules come through Jefferson. If you travel by train, get off at Salem as trains do not stop in Albany. When you arrive, phone

928-7223 or 327-2855, and someone will pick you up at the station.

The meeting is financed by free-will offerings only and the ministers who work in the meeting are supplied by the same means. We urge all saints and lovers of the truth throughout the Northwest to attend this meeting as it is the only campmeeting of the Evening Light Saints in this area. There are cabins and a dormitory available on the campground and also a limited number of places available in the saints' homes. All who come will be cared for.

We are expecting several ministers to be present who will be able to preach and teach God's Word with the inspiration and anointing of the Holy Spirit. The truth of the gospel will be expounded in a way that all souls may be enlightened, instructed, edified, built up and strengthened. Let every one come with a true purpose heart to do good and to receive good.

We will be looking forward to seeing you at the campmeeting on Friday, June 13, and on through the meeting, Lord willing. Yours and His in the Master's service, —Ostis B. and Evelyn Wilson

6505 N. E. Sunset Dr., Albany, Ore. 97321

CAMPMEETING AT OAKLAND, CALIF.

The campmeeting of the Church of God in Oakland, Calif., will be held, Lord willing, at 9330 Walnut St. from June 20 to 29, 1975.

All are welcome, and come praying for the salvation of sinners and for the encouragement of the saints. The effectual fervent prayers of the righteous availeth much.

For further information, contact the pastor, Sister Velma Smith, 2066-81st Ave., Oakland, Calif. 94621, phone 632-8211, or the undersigned at 1447-72nd Ave., Oakland, Calif., phone 635-1786.

—Sister Doris Washington, Sec.

GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMPMEETING AT HAMMOND, LA.

The General Southern Campmeeting of the Church of God will begin on Friday, June 27, 1975, in Hammond, La., continuing through Sunday, July 6, 1975.

All the saints of God of all nations are extended a warm invitation to come and be with us in this meeting. We are praying that God will send in ministers of His choosing to preach the truth and to expound the gospel in its fullness that souls will be awakened to their spiritual needs. We are expecting God to work in a mighty way in the saving of souls and the healing of bodies.

All who come to the meeting will be cared for. Meals will be served as usual in the dining hall on the campground. Space is available on the grounds for campers and trailers, along with electrical hook-ups and sewer disposal facilities. Sleeping facilities are in the dormitory, and rooms are available for ministers, aged saints and families who need them. There are no charges for the beds or cots. The meeting is supported by free-will offerings.

Those coming by auto and traveling on I-55, turn east on I-12 at intersection and travel east until all traffic exits at the Hammond exit. Turn north toward

Hammond on Hwy. 51. Go to the first street going west past the first traffic light at the city limits. Continue west until you see signs showing directions to the campgrounds just off White Street. Those traveling by bus or train, upon arrival call Bro. Max Williamson, phone 345-4566, or Bob Forbes, phone 542-1144, and someone will pick you up.

Come praying that God will open up the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing into our souls that we might not be able to contain it.

Yours in Christ, —Bob Forbes

TULSA, OKLA., CAMPMEETING

The Church of God campmeeting on the corner of Norfolk and Pine Place in Tulsa, Okla., will be held June 6 to 15, 1975, Lord willing. Everyone is cordially invited to these services, and all who come will be cared for. All who can, please bring bed linens and pillows. Pray much for the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon this meeting.

For additional information, contact the pastor, Bro. M. D. Gaines, 2932 N. Lewis, Tulsa, Okla. 74110, phone (918) 425-8946.

—Maple Littlejohn, Sec.

OHIO STATE CAMPMEETING

The Akron, Ohio, campmeeting of the Church of God (Evening Light) will be held in the name of the Lord on July 5 through the 13th, 1975, at the chapel located at 419-421 W. Thornton, Akron, Ohio 44307.

All nations are welcome to attend each of these services. Come at the beginning and camp with us until the end. We have space for trailers and campers to park. Dormitories and the dining hall are on the ground. All expenses will be met with free-will offerings. Contributions may be sent to the treasurer of campmeeting funds, Bro. Darnell Abbage, 1436 Honodle Ave., Akron, Ohio 44305.

We pray that all the services will be led by the Holy Spirit, and the preaching by Spirit-filled ministers. All are invited to come. All the gifts of the Spirit are needed—helpers, prayer warriors, teachers and gospel workers. Come, all that need help in body or soul.

For further information, contact Sister Hazel Clark, the pastor, 555 Fernwood Dr., Akron, Ohio 44320, phone 376-5371 (a new number). The chapel phone is 762-2286.

—Sister Hazel Clark

SUMMER REVIVAL IN GEORGIA

A revival meeting will be held in the Church of God chapel in the Cross Green Community at Swainsboro, Ga., from June 28 through July 4, 1975. All are welcome to these services. The Lord will send ministers of His own choosing to preach the gospel. —Sister P. R. Bowers

ALL-DAY SERVICES AT GRUBBS, ARK.

All-day services will be held, Lord willing, at the Church of God chapel in Grubbs, Ark., on Sunday, June 1, 1975. You are cordially invited to attend these services and worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.

TENT MEETING AT BATON ROUGE, LA.

An evangelistic tent meeting is scheduled to be held at Baton Rouge, La., Lord willing, on June 11, 1975 and continue as long as the Spirit of the Lord leads.

We invite all the saints in this area, who possibly can come, to be with us in this Baton Rouge meeting. Lord willing, Bro. Curtis Williams plans to help us in this meeting. For any further information and the location of the tent, please call Bro. Max Williamson, phone 504-345-4566 or Bob Forbes, phone 504-542-1144, or write to me, Bob Forbes, 109 White St., Hammond, La. 70401.

—Bob Forbes

OKLAHOMA CITY MEETING REPORT

Our annual spring meeting (April 3-13) at Third and Phillips Streets in Oklahoma City, was truly a blessing and a wonderful success. For this we give God all the praise and glory. The attendance was perhaps the largest we ever had. Souls were saved and many sought the Lord for spiritual help.

We appreciate very much all the visiting saints who came from far and near to help in the battle of soul-winning. We express our sincere thanks to the visiting ministers and their companions who came and shared in the battle. We thank the dear Lord for how He laid the burden for the meeting on Bro. E. J. Trotter's heart. We still feel the effects and are profiting from the messages. —Bro. Herman D. Kelly, Pastor

BOLEY, OKLA., MEETING REPORT

"The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." Psalms 126:3. This is how the small congregation at Boley, Okla., expresses our appreciation, thanksgiving, honour, and praise to the dear Lord for the glorious spring meeting He gave us, for the Word of God that He sent forth anointed by the Holy Ghost, for the souls that yielded to the Lord, and for the believers that consecrated their lives to the Lord to be filled with the Holy Ghost, sanctified wholly. Others sought deeper depths in the Lord. Six followed the Lord in water baptism. Praise the Lord!

The singing on Saturday p.m., May 26, was edifying and anointed of the Lord. During the singing a young Sister felt burdened to teach a lesson on love, exhorting the saints to abstain from pride and prejudice. The Lord surely anointed the message for good to our souls.

We are very thankful to the Lord for the ministers He sent, both local and out-of-state, to help in the battle against sin. May the Lord reward each one.

—Sister Katherine Williams

One of the great marvels in the human body is the fact that inside of every brain God has placed a little instrument called conscience to enable us to detect right from wrong! Even a little child knows if he is telling a lie!

If we listen to the dictates of the conscience and follow them, the conscience stays sensitive and tender and can show us what is right. But if we continually ignore those dictates and follow our own way, the conscience will soon be rendered insensitive and be of no use. —Selected

PRAYER REQUESTS

Calif.—Still remember Sis. Lois Longley. "We praise the dear Lord that Lois is quite a lot better than she has been any time since that severe attack that looked like it might take her life Everyone has been so wonderful in co-working with God's great ministering hand, in what we feel is His restoring of Lois back to health again." —Robert Longley

Mo.—Remember Bro. Alsia Sorrell in prayer. He needs much help in his body.

La.—"I am better but not healed of the shingles. Please pray for me." —Sis. J. H. Brown

Canada—"I am very sick. I have been off work for four months... told that it is cancer.... Please pray earnestly for me. Our Lord can heal. I trust the Lord.... I would like to stay with my family a little longer. I am fifty years old." —Richard Mielke

Ill.—"We need prayer for our bodies that God will heal us." —Bro. and Sis. John Matlock

Mich.—"Pray for my son that the Lord will save him. He has high blood pressure and sugar diabetes. He wants to be saved. He has quit smoking and drinking." —Sis. Anna Dixon

Texas—"Remember Lisa in prayer. She fell a week ago and hurt her knee. It is swollen and is very painful. She is unable to walk on that leg."

—Carolyn Holland

Okla.—Sis. Lottie Porter fell in the yard and injured her leg. She crawled into the house. She has been unable to be up but very little since that time. She has suffered much, yet the Lord has helped her. Remember her in prayer. She testified that since the saints had been praying for her, after the last request had been put in the paper, that she has been better, yet is still looking for complete healing.

Okla.—Still remember Sis. Alta Bock in prayer for complete healing.

Kentucky—Bro. Curtis Williams and Bro. Mart Samons will need your prayers for their bodies as they get out in tent meetings this summer. Remember them and all of the ministers who are laboring for souls. Ministers carry burdens for many souls that the saints do not know about. God's work requires much wisdom and strength.

Ore.—Bro. Jimmie Linch still needs prayer. He is looking for complete healing. His legs give him much trouble. God has helped him very much at times.

Some have written and asked how I am feeling. I want to praise the Lord for how He healed me of heart trouble, and also of low blood sugar and severe weakness. I have very little trouble now with high blood pressure. I can eat anything and can do without food for many hours without any ill effects. This is something I could not do for a number of months. For several months I continually had a hurting around my heart, but I do not have that any more and have not for over a year. Oh, it is so precious to trust the Lord! It seemed in 1973 that many times the Lord was going to take me, but He has spared me for a purpose. My life belongs to Him. I work every day at the office except Sunday.

I count it a privilege to trust the Lord. The other night, Bro. and Sis. Roger White brought their little boy

over to my house. He was riding with his daddy on the bicycle and got his heel in the spokes. It was cut, bruised, and swollen. They had prayer for him and the Lord touched him and took the pain away. They wanted to know if I thought it was broken. After watching him and checking it, we decided that it wasn't. They have not been saved very long, and of course had trusted in doctors before. I mentioned to them that if that accident had occurred when they were not saved, they would have taken him to the hospital immediately. They agreed that it was true. They said they were so glad that now they could trust the Lord and did not have the fear that they used to have. Bro. Roger said he had such fear before he was saved; that when he would get sick, he was afraid to go to sleep because he thought he might die. Now he can sleep and trust the Lord. It is truly precious to be the Lord's. We had prayer and the next day, their little boy was doing fine and running around like nothing was ever wrong with his foot.

As the camp meeting season is here, let us pray, preach, testify, work, and expect God to deal with souls. When we work on the campgrounds, or in the kitchen, we want to remember that if any soul is blessed, we are having a part in God's work. We want to do everything with souls in mind and upon our hearts. "Do all to the glory of God." —Sis. Marie Miles

MEXICO MISSION REPORT

Ojos Negros, B. Cfa., Mexico (April 28)—We had a real good service yesterday with 23 present. The Lord richly blessed. It encouraged me that, when I asked that someone dismiss the service, a five-year-old girl dismissed it in prayer. I am so glad these children are being taught to pray.

The Lord made it possible for me to find a used typewriter almost identical to mine which was stolen, reasonably priced. I left it to be changed for Spanish material.

Continue to pray for all of us.

Your Sister in Christ, —Opal Kelly

Ap. Postal 284, Ensenada, B. Cfa., Mexico

NIGERIAN MISSION LETTER

Southeast State, Nigeria (April 29)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and other saints: Greetings in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, who so loved us that He came down from heaven to loose us from the hands of Satan. Let's praise Him!

Thank you very much for your encouraging letter of April 2, and the enclosures. I am strictly adhering to the instructions therein The extra amount sent in April was distributed to the most needy souls with the co-operation of the other two designated faithful brothers..., and the recipients acknowledged thanks to God for the donors. The cost of living rises every day, so life becomes bitter in a number of homes where the residents have no secular employment. As a result, they cannot buy in the market, and some eat once in two days. Pray very much for these souls. The enclosed newspaper clipping confirms the situation.

On April 7, I wrote Bro. Melot and informed him of the prevailing situation I am completely standing

for the truth, and to the end of my life I rejoice if I can die for my Jesus' cause I am particularly grateful for the light of sanctification, and I must continue to enlighten others.

Pray for me and for the gospel work here. I am doing the same for you.

Yours for the truth, —Nse B. Umanah

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (April 20)—My dear Bro. Pruitt and all others there and abroad: Greetings again in the precious name of Jesus Christ who is worthy to receive glory and honour and power. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: according as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." Eph. 1:3-4.

Thank you very much for your letter dated April 1st, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude. "O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing."

Yes, Brother, the Avoor chapel was opened for service in the last week of March and we had a very blessed and profitable meeting in that chapel for two days, together with the opening service. Avoor is a Hindu area, and may God use that chapel for the conversion of many Hindus from death to life, and from darkness into this marvelous light of Christ.

In the first week of April I was at a place by the name of Pazhanji, north of Kerala, to participate in a campmeeting there. We were blessed in many ways. God empowered me to speak the message which He wanted to give to Pazhanji for four days.

We have been printing tracts and small pamphlets for free distribution at our Faith Publishing House here. Several months ago I applied to the Government for a sanction for a regular publication. Thank the Lord, last week I got the sanction from the authorities to print a magazine each month by the name, "Evening Light," in the Malayalam language. Lord willing, I wish to publish the first copy of "Evening Light" in May or June. Surely, your prayers are essential for its promotion. The price of paper is very high here. Most of the writings in the "Faith and Victory" paper can be translated into our language in this magazine. I shall send you the first copy of it. May God help us to spread the "evening light" truths throughout our country by this regular paper. We expect the prayers and co-operation of saints everywhere in this connection.

Dear ones, surely my heart will be there in all of your campmeetings like those I attended with you last year.

With love and prayers, I am yours in His service, —John Varghese

We cannot do good to others save at a cost to ourselves, and our afflictions are the price we pay for our ability to sympathize. —Selected

He who would be a helper must first be a sufferer. He who would be a saviour must somewhere and somehow have been upon a cross. —Selected

FROM THE MAIL BOX . . .

Ohio—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt and Sister Marie: Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ "Who is our light and our salvation."

In the recent meeting here in Akron, the Revelation study, or rather, the inspirational messages brought forth by Bro. O. C. Porter, were anointed by the Holy Spirit and accompanied the inspired gospel of the Revelation. The Brother's explanations of God's Word in visions, prophecies, fulfillments, and "things that must shortly come to pass," plus many charts, were truly a blessing to our souls in godly knowledge and instruction in righteousness.

Another answer to prayer was how the Lord anointed Bro. Mart Samon's with the healing touch each evening and morning of the week-end services. The Lord gave power and authority in each message. Our souls were inspired, and some souls were saved and sanctified, and bodies healed. God gave faith and courage to those being tried in severe trials.

We appreciated all that attended these services, and especially thankful for each one who came a long distance to worship with us. May the Lord bless each one. —Sister Hazel Clark

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Kansas—Dear Sis. Anna Marie: I just felt like writing a few lines concerning my niece who has cancer. Before the discovery of cancer, she had made plans to be married. I did not know until lately that the young man had been married before and has a living wife. Sis. Marie, it is so sad! The mother is heart-broken and cries so much of the time. This adulterous marriage could be a real trap of the devil to ensnare her soul completely. Please pray for her and for her soul.

All this has brought a thought to my mind how parents need to teach their children from the cradle the things of God and to live the very things they teach. After children reach adulthood, or even in their early teens, it is often too late. How they need to be taught the ways of God, what His Word teaches, what they must do to be saved and how they must let Him lead them in their lives! Otherwise, they will end up with a life of sorrow and regret.

Here is a young girl, just turned 19 years of age, with this dreaded disease upon her body. She has not been taught the commandments of God and "thus saith the Lord." She has not had a godly example in the home, nor close loved ones who know God and are able to give her comfort and instruction. What a pity!

If there are any parents with young children reading this, who don't know the Lord, they need to fall on their faces and repent of their sins. They need to call upon God for mercy and walk in the fear of God, so they can teach their children to fear God and to walk in His statutes all the days of their lives. How many parents will face God and their children at the Judgment Day and be guilty of failing to teach them the ways of God! It will be sad to have their children look at them and say, "Mother and Father, you never told me these things. You failed to teach me."

Many good fathers and mothers are providing all the comforts of life, all the pleasures they can, keeping the home, and yet neglecting the most important thing in the

life of a child, which is to teach him to put his faith and trust in the Almighty God. He is the only One who is able to comfort us when the hardest trials and heartaches of life are upon us. He is the One who is able to heal our bodies, souls, minds, and make us whole again. If He doesn't see fit to heal, He can give us the comfort, strength, and peace that we need until we leave this world of trouble and sorrow. He can be to us a little sanctuary.

I would to God that parents would awaken and come to the realization of how serious a matter it is to have the responsibility of little souls placed in their care and keeping. It is one of the most serious things of life, just next to salvation. Even if children turn to their own ways when they are old enough to choose, at least you have the satisfaction of knowing that you taught them what God said.

Please pray for my niece. She put her arms around my neck tonight after I talked to her. She is a sweet and pitiful girl. She needs the comfort that only God can give, and more than anything else, she needs salvation. —Sis. Wildenna Huffman

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Michigan—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt and co-workers: Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We hope and pray that all are well there. Wife is gaining back some of her strength. For several weeks she was so weak and suffering so much that she was not able to do much of her housework. For the last week I have been having trouble with my left hip . . .

It was certainly good to hear that Bro. Stover, Bro. Williams, and Bro. Samons are able to be about now. We hope the campmeeting there will be a success in the saving of souls. Yesterday we received the May "Faith and Victory". Oh, how we enjoyed it! We do remember you in prayer day by day that you will be healed . . .

Yours in the Faith, —Floyd Hines

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

La.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and all: We are humbly thankful to God for the many blessings He bestows on us in this life. I have better health this year than in 1974. I am almost back to normal. Praises be to God!

Wife's condition remains about as usual. (Sister Nichols suffered a stroke eleven years ago which made her an invalid and he has cared for her all these years.) We are still trusting God to help us in this long, hard trial, and enable us to live a more perfect life for Him.

I trust all is going well there with the printing work and with you and all the workers. We see the printing work today as being more vital to spreading the gospel truth than ever before because people will read when they won't come out to services . . .

May God bless all of you and the work in general.

Yours in Christ, —G. A. Nichols

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

La.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: Greetings in Jesus' name. We pray God to continue to richly bless you in soul and body and your labors at the Printshop.

The Lord has been precious to us and given us many blessings the past nine years that we have served as

pastor here at the Oak Grove congregation at Lorange, La. The Lord has released us from these duties and we plan to move in the near future. We love the dear saints here and it is with reluctance that we leave them. Their love, care, and unity of agreement assured us that they would have continued to take good care of us in our remaining years.

We have appreciated the help and labor of Sis. Lavern Manuel here in the congregation. She has carried a real burden for the work of the Lord, working in harmony and unity for the good of all.

Sis. Probst and I can say we have many precious memories of God's blessings to those that were saved, sanctified and the many testimonies of God healing their bodies in times of sickness. He has been our Healer and Keeper also.

May God help us to watch and pray, for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Our new address is P. O. Box 1224, Sapulpa, Okla. 74063.

—Bro. and Sis. Herbert Probst

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mo.—Dear Sister Marie and everyone else that is working there for lost souls and for God's glory: Enclosed is a small offering to be used wherever it is needed.

I love to read the "Faith and Victory" paper and I love to read your letters. I hope the campmeeting will be good and souls will be saved. To God be the glory. May God bless you all. —Jewell Lane

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Kan.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Thank you for your good encouraging letter. I appreciate it very much.

When I thought about my trials, God brought it to my mind how that Jesus did no harm to anyone; in fact, "He went about doing good," and yet His enemies hung Him on the cross.

Peter spoke of people suffering for righteousness' sake. Furthermore, he considered it praiseworthy if we suffer for righteousness' sake, and warns us to not suffer "as a thief or an evil doer, or a busybody (or a meddler) in other men's (affairs) matters." I Pet. 4:15.

I thought how that I want my trials to continue, if so be that I must go through them, which would be far better than getting careless and backsliding! I know that "all things work together for good" to us who love the Lord. God has a plan to work out in you and me, and we must not shrink back from the instrument that He uses to purge us. We must pray for courage and strength to press on, and let Him perfect us. "He that endureth to the end shall be saved." When I think of Job, Peter, Paul, and a host of other valiant warriors, it gives me courage to fight on!

Thanks be to God for this great salvation!

—Homer W. Fee

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Va.—Dear Brethren and Sisters: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. May God bless your hearts is my prayer.

Keep up the good work. I get my big, little "Faith and Victory" paper. We surely do enjoy it. I would like to order two books at this time . . . —C. H. Sullivan

—————o—————

"No one grows old by living—only by losing interest in living."

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Ohio.—Dear Brothers and Sisters and everyone at the Printshop: We here in Sandusky are still working and labouring for the Lord. There are not many of us, but the Lord is surely blessing here.

The "Faith and Victory" paper is a blessing. We surely enjoy it. It is food to our soul. Thank the Lord! We are sending and giving the paper to everyone we come in contact with.

I can't begin to tell how the Lord has blessed me so many times. He is always there when I need Him. Today with tears of joy flowing down my cheek, I thank the Lord for how He undertook and came to my rescue one more time. I started down the stairs at work with a basket of clothes. I lost my balance and missed the step and fell down all the steps but about three. It hurt me so badly that I couldn't cry or holler. After sitting there about three minutes, my sister and a friend helped me up. I called on God and He heard my cry and undertook. Thank the Lord, no bones were broken, but my right arm and hip were badly bruised. Praise the Lord, I feel fine today! Some say I have a blood clot in my hip but God says otherwise. I believe Him. He is always right. With God, all things are possible. I could go on telling what the Lord has done for me, but space does not permit me to.

Please pray for my husband and my unsaved children I mean to go right on until the battle is won. —Sis. Grace Green

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ga.—Dear Sis. Marie, Bro. Pruitt and all: Greetings in the name of our wonderful Lord and Saviour, who shed His precious blood for the world

The Lord has healed my little grandson, who had a rupture since he was small. We were asked by different ones to take him to the doctor and let him be operated on, but we kept trusting in the God of heaven, believing that our God would heal in His own good time. The faithful prayers that all of you sent up along with our prayers to the Lord have been answered. Who wouldn't want to serve a God like this? We thank the God of heaven and all of you who agreed with us in prayer to the Lord for the healing of our grandson from that rupture. Psalms 27:14; Psalm 48:14; Psalm 46:10; I Samuel 12:24. —Sister P. R. Bowers

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W. Va.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. Your letter I received Monday and the books I received Tuesday. I was so glad to hear from you and receive the books. The print is much easier to read than it is in the book, "What the Bible Teaches", that I got on November 13, 1925 I knew Bro. F. G. Smith and his wife real well. Sis. Smith married Sidney Warner after Bro. Smith died. I only saw her once after that. I guess about all the dear old saints that I knew have passed away. I am so glad you can publish their good books.

How pleased I am to tell you on Monday, April 28, a precious soul came here and got saved. It was her birthday. She was 57 years old The peace and joy filled her soul. She was so happy Please do pray for her that she will get to service. I hope she can get to

the tent meeting at Green Bank. That is the first soul that has been saved since I came here. Our first service was July 14, 1974, and there were only two at church. Sixteen is the most that we have had since I came back here Pray for the little group here that each one will try to help others get saved.

—Sis. Flora Hinzman

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GOD RESTORED LIFE TO CHILD

Okla.—Dear Saints: We want to thank the Lord for all that He has done for us. It makes us feel that God really does love and care for us more than we are sometimes able to comprehend.

We want to tell how God brought back our little two and one-half year-old boy, Richard, to life on April 5th, 1975. Paul and I were real busy working in the garden and trying to get it planted. Our garden is right beside a creek, which is fairly deep in several places. We tried to keep constant watch over Richard as we knew that he loved to play in the water. We had finished planting the last row of potatoes and I was getting ready to go to the house. Paul reminded me to check on Richard before I went. It just came to me that we hadn't heard anything out of him for the last few minutes. I went on toward the creek, and headed for the house. I thought I'd better look around the creek for him. First, I saw his little play horse floating in the water and fear went all over me. I glanced farther into the water and saw Richard floating, but completely under the water. I rushed into the water, screaming for Paul to come and help. I got to him first and grabbed him up. Paul hurried and took him from me. We both rushed to the bank with him and started working with him, trying to get the water out, because his stomach was so tight and full. He was so lifeless and blue. We could see he was already dead. We didn't know what to do. We knew that the only chance for him to come back to life would be through God. Paul laid him on the ground and started blowing in his mouth. We just feel that God taught Paul what to do in this case, as he has never used mouth to mouth resuscitation before. We really thought we were too late and that he was too far gone, but we were not giving up that easy.

I was praying continually while Paul worked with Richard. I looked up and told God that He could put life back into him again. I really meant it and my faith was really made strong at that moment. Just soon after that, Richard began to blow air out and finally started breathing very weak and slow. Then he started a weak cry and I was so happy and thankful. By this time our neighbors were there. They had already called for an ambulance. I called some of the saints for prayer. By the time the ambulance got there, from Guthrie, which was about 15 minutes later, Richard still didn't know anything, but we felt he was going to be all right. We have thought many times afterwards how thankful we are to have God to look to in times of need, as our son would have been dead a long time before, if we had depended on the ambulance coming and taking him to the doctor.

At the hospital he was getting back to normal, but still was in a state of shock. They took an x-ray of him to see if there was any water in his lungs, and there

wasn't. Only his stomach was full of water. It was surely a miracle! How could there not have been water in his lungs when we found him completely under the water? We know God had His hand over him and didn't allow it to be. Also, there were no after effects of any kind. We had our little boy committed into God's hands and He saw fit to spare his life for some reason. We surely want to teach him about the Lord.

—Paul and Lynette Sorrell

NINETEEN YEARS OF SPIRITUAL BONDAGE

When about 29 years of age, I became convicted of my need of God and something real in my soul. The church which I attended was at a very low spiritual ebb. This fact drove me elsewhere for spiritual help. Being ignorant of the devil's devices, I became an easy prey to this delusion.

I had a sister in Portland, Oregon, who urged me to come to their camp meeting, which I did, never dreaming that it might not be scriptural.

Being in earnest, I was a constant seeker until at last I abandoned myself to what I thought was God's Holy Spirit. I fell prostrate under this power and uttered **STRANGE SOUNDS** which I could not understand. I was told that I had received the Holy Ghost and had the evidence! I knew something had happened to me and concluded that I had the baptism.

This deception is terrible and I warn everyone who reads this to beware of strange doctrines and seek the old paths which our Fathers have trod and which have stood the test of time.

The thing that disturbed me most as time went by was the fact that while I could still speak in tongues I did not have victory over sin and carnal uprisings. I was often distressed about this and would retire to my room to pray, but instead of praying, another spirit would take possession of my faculties and I would begin to speak in an unknown tongue. When this ceased, my desire to pray was gone. When I was disturbed about it a voice seemed to say: "The spirit prayed for you," and although this was disappointing, I reasoned that it must be all right or I would not be able to do it. I was ignorant of the fact that this was a deception.

One day while at the home of a sister, I picked up a book and through curiosity, opened it and my eyes fell on these words: "How do you know to whom you are praying when you pray in an unknown tongue?" I closed the book immediately but the work was done; I could not get away from those words as the question had been raised in my mind by God's Holy Spirit.

Some time later a voice spoke to me and said: "You cannot have hatred and jealousy in your heart and have the Holy Ghost at the same time." I recognized the voice to be the voice of the Lord and answered at once: "Of course not."

From that time on, He began to show me that this spirit which I had been coddling, was **not His Spirit!**

I began to groan for deliverance. He also showed me that I had to have help. Later, I learned He was preparing me through the prayers and concern of two sisters who lived over 200 miles apart from me. The Lord sent one of my sisters to visit me. Although I had not made known to anyone my unrest of soul, she proved

to be God's chosen vessel in the work of my deliverance. She manifested such a sweet spirit that almost at once I felt at ease in confiding to her my misgivings with regard to this experience. She immediately got in touch with the other sister and together they sought the Lord for guidance.

After much prayer and fasting, they were led to lay hands on me and with my consent, they rebuked that demon spirit of counterfeit, in the name of Jesus. This they did three times but after the very first time the confusing voices were stilled and I could pray and seek the Lord in reality.

It was a great relief to be free from this spirit of fear and bondage which for nineteen years imprisoned and hounded my steps when I sought to renounce it. I was accused of sinning against the Holy Ghost, but thank God, I have found that it is only the devil's guard around that false evidence.

Thank the Lord that the day of deliverance came and I was gloriously saved and later sanctified. **Now it is real, and the Holy Spirit is His own witness.**

He satisfies every need and every longing of my soul. Now, for the first time in my life I have victory over sin and carnal uprisings, for the carnal nature has been purged away, doubts and misgivings are gone, and **peace, sweet peace of God's love, and His great gift of salvation is mine.** Praise His wonderful name!

There are no more fears or deception—no more chains of darkness to bind me. The blessed Holy Spirit, the divine Comforter, is abiding and bringing perfect rest to my soul.

Before closing my testimony, I want to again warn precious souls to beware of this snare for it is with difficulty that deliverance is wrought after one has become a victim.

If you have a friend or loved one who has stood by the old paths through the years to whom you can go for prayer and counsel, go at once for help, but if not, go to God alone in prayer confessing your need and desire and He will make a way for you, for He has said: "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." Believe Him to do it and He will not fail you. "Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate." Heb. 13:12. Do not approach an altar where deception is being taught or where this doctrine is held.

—Mrs. W. A. Gifford

WILLFULNESS

Willfulness is a childish reaction to life. Its chief results are friction and frustration. The person who insists on having his own way about everything has not learned one of life's principal lessons—the lesson of humility. He lacks respect and consideration for other people, and he often offends by attempting to dominate every situation.

No person can have his own way about everything. Sometimes one cannot have his own way about anything. The willful person must train himself to recognize his own motives and to distinguish between those situations in which his way may be the best and those in which he merely wished to rule.

—Sel.

What Is Eternal Security?

The Bible Promises Security—

The Bible clearly teaches the security of God's faithful people. Christ's sheep, who hear and follow Him, "shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of" His hand (John 10:27-28).

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life" (John 3:36), and nothing, we read, "shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:39).

These, and many others, are precious promises for every born-again believer. They may be taken at face value, and trusted 100 cents on the dollar.

But Security for Whom?

However, these promises teach us the vital importance of continuing to walk with Him in obedience and trust. For His sheep are those who hear His voice and follow Him. Those who are not following Christ are not His sheep, but are "lost sheep" (Matt. 10:6)—sinners to be brought to repentance. (Luke 15:6-7).

The secure sheep are the ones who follow the Shepherd. Following Christ does not mean freedom from mistakes, infirmities, or human shortcomings. It does mean to live without conscious and willful sin; for "whosoever abideth in him sinneth not . . . he that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:6-8).

Security for the Saint—Not the Sinner

There is a type of security teaching which says that a child of God may live in sin and yet be assured of final salvation. Such doctrine is completely out of harmony with the whole tenor of God's Word. The "perseverance of the saints" is a glorious reality; the "perseverance of sinners," whatever their previous standing, is a delusion and a snare.

While the believer has everlasting life, the backslider has departed "from the living God" (Hebrews 3:12) and must be warned of the fate of those "who draw back unto perdition" (Heb. 10:39). For saving faith is a present-tense, up-to-date, obedience to Christ. [Eternal life is in the Son, Jesus Christ. "And this is the record that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in the Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." 1 Jno. 5:11, 12. When a person stops obeying the voice of the Shepherd, Jesus Christ, and quits loving Him and following Him in all truth and righteousness (John 14:15), he loses Christ out of his life, and consequently he loses that eternal life which is in the Son.]

Backsliders Are Lost

We are told by some that "he who is once born cannot be unborn." The problem here is the failure to understand that spiritual and physical birth are not analogous in every detail. And one detail is the matter of choice. One is born physically totally apart

from his own choice. But none is born spiritually without his own choice. Power of choice precedes every spiritual birth and the same power of choice can bring spiritual death.

As a truthful man cannot lie, and an honest man cannot steal, so a child of God cannot commit sin. He who lives in sin is not a child of God, whatever his profession or his past.

All May Be Secure

God has promised eternal life "to them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality" (Romans 2:7). —Selected

The Sin of Backsliding

"And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:62. The great sin of backsliding is generally overlooked by the people of our day. May God help us to see that it is a grievous thing to betray our God after He has so kindly redeemed us. How may we know the backslider? Let the Word of God answer. "The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways." Prov. 14:14.

There are two classes of backsliders; one class will acknowledge their condition and quit professing; the other class will continue to profess and will not acknowledge their condition. How may we know them? They shall be filled with their own ways. They are not submissive to the brethren; will not receive reproof; manifest a stubborn spirit; are often very bold in their profession; manifest a picking and fanatical spirit, and as the Word says, they are filled with their own ways. God be merciful to them and save them from their uncleanness. "And the Lord said unto me, The backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah. Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger forever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God." Jeremiah 3:11-13.

While the backslider does justify himself, the Lord does not. Yet there is mercy for him on the condition that he acknowledge his iniquity and his transgression. Instead of doing this, if you speak to some of them about getting back to the Lord, they begin to acknowledge and confess some sin or supposed sin of others. It is your own sin, poor backslider, that you must confess. He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall obtain mercy.

How does God look upon backsliding? "Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the Lord thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord God of hosts." Jer. 2:19. God says that the awful sin of betrayal is a bitter thing. Is

it not so? Look at the husband that betrays the confidence of the wife, or the wife that betrays the confidence of the husband. Is it not a bitter thing? We bear the relation of wife to Christ. I once read of an American traveling in England. On stopping at a certain hotel he met a man whom he took to be an American and asked him if he was. "Yes," he said, "I am an American, but I have not a friend in America." The other asked how this came about and the answer was, "I am Benedict Arnold, the traitor." This man had betrayed his country and his countrymen. How must the poor awakened backslider feel, who has betrayed his God and all his brethren in Christ? What is his condition? "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." 2 Peter 2:20-22. How often we see this, that such is the case; men return to swearing, the use of tobacco, drinking, and many other like things. Women return to fashion and style. God pity the people! "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places seeking rest and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept and garnished. Then goeth he and taketh with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation." This is true. Man who would have been horrified at the thought of an oath before they were saved turn to bitter cursing and many other things, thus showing their worse condition.

Will God receive them if they return? "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him." Hosea 14:4. Read also Luke 15:11-32. Is it necessary to backslide? I refer you again to the Word. Rom. 8:35-39; 2 Peter 1:4-10. Many other scriptures plainly set forth the fact that it is not necessary.

Now, brethren, you that are saved, be true to God, to yourselves, and your brethren. And you that are backslidden, oh, will you turn to God and be saved? Confess your sins, forsake them and believe on Him. Your will is the hinge on which the door of mercy will open wide for you to enter the kingdom of His grace. —Elihu Key

Afflictions cannot injure when blended with submission. —Sel.

The tests of life are to make, not break, us. Trouble may demolish a man's business, but build up his character. —Sel.

He Won Me to Christ

I suppose that loyalty to my father [Willis M. Brown], as well as due credit to his strong personality, would suggest that to me personally he was the most remarkable man I ever knew. But there was a man who also influenced my father more powerfully than any other man, and therefore a large part of my father's influence upon me would go to the credit of this man.

In my lifetime I have traveled somewhat extensively both around the world and over the world. It would be a foolish boast to intimate that any distinguished person in the world remembers me personally or knows me by name. Nevertheless, I have in my travels seen and met personally many of the men whom the world calls great, and as I compare these men of known reputation with many brilliant and able men unknown to the world—when I lump these altogether and compare them with the man of whom I am thinking—I feel very sure that the illiterate, unknown evangelist whom I first met fifty years ago, in January 1895, was by all odds the most remarkable man I ever met.

As nearly as I can tell, it was January 14 when I, an eleven-year-old farm boy, dragged my way through the winter mud of southern Illinois to my home on the hilltop. There my mother told me that the preacher was in the sitting room. I had heard a great deal about this preacher and was eager to hear more. He was an uneducated country man from southern Indiana who had come into our country in a most unusual manner.

As I look across the span of fifty years, I can see very clearly that he was not only an uneducated man but one whom people would call an intense fanatic as well. I certainly have much reason to be thankful for this, because if his devotion had not amounted to the intensity of passion I doubt if he would have ever found his way into our community. And if I had the choice to make I would ask for ten times as many fanatics in our work as we have at the present time. Of course, I am opposed to fanaticism, as all intelligent men are, but I have found that when a man is an honest fanatic he can be tamed down and taught, and some good will come out of such a highly tensioned life. But when he is cold and halfhearted, all the discipline of life seems ineffectual to tone him up to the passion and power of a fruitful Christian life.

God sent him into our country to preach the gospel, he felt. He rode as long as he had money, and then leaving the train, he walked, carrying his two grips and dragging his weary feet through the mud and snow.

He was going into a completely strange country where he knew nobody. At last he grew too tired to walk farther. On his knees under a tree he prayed for guidance and there he felt led to go to a small house where he was kindly welcomed. In that neighborhood he preached and held a stirring revival. One

night he went to bed intending to go home the next day, but in the night he received a leading of the Lord to go to Mount Zion, and although he tried to disobey the leading, he arose the next morning, after a sleepless night, with a decision to go to Mount Zion. My father was a drunkard, an infidel, and a gambler. For fifteen years he had not attended church services, but on the day when the Lord sent Brother Willis Bunch to Mount Zion, he sent my poor lost father there to hear him and my father was saved within a few days.

Now this is the man who was at our house sitting by the fire. I was very deliberate about doing the chores that night. Perhaps they had never been done better before because I hesitated to go into the room and meet this strange man. For fifty years I have pondered over that dramatic moment in my life. There never was a greater one for me. As I placed my hand upon the doorknob I trembled. I was deeply afraid, not knowing why. But now I know, for on that day I met the Word of God. I met my fate for all time and eternity. I met a man who in spite of his extreme views was a holy, consecrated man of God, a man who was literally incandescent and aflame with the eternal fire of the Spirit. That man turned the current of my life.

As I entered the door I saw a big man sitting by the fireplace. He was, perhaps, more than six feet tall, broad shouldered, with a big black beard sweeping nearly to his waist, and he wore a fine Prince Albert coat.

Never have I seen a man more alert in his efforts to win souls. As soon as he saw me enter the door he did not wait for me to approach him, but arising from his seat he came to meet me. He knelt down upon the floor beside me, put his arms around me, and began to talk to me lovingly and intimately about myself, my soul, and my Lord. Leading me to the fireplace, he sat down and took me upon his knee, for indeed I was very small compared with the giant man that he was. There he continued the discourse on heavenly things, as if I were somebody very important whose soul's salvation was a matter of the deepest urgency.

He was going to begin a meeting in our neighboring schoolhouse, but in the meantime he fell ill, so the rest of the family went to meeting and I stayed at home with the preacher. He was not too ill to sit by the fireside and talk to me. There earnestly and lovingly he led me to the Lord Jesus Christ, and that night while he was not able to go to the schoolhouse to preach, he won me to the Lord. He lighted a lamp in my soul.

Brother Bunch has long ago gone to his eternal reward. . . . He lived a good life and ended his days in the order and peace of the Christian way. He was not a great preacher in the eyes of the world, but he won my father and me to Christ.

From a personal viewpoint, he was the greatest preacher I ever met. With all my heart I thank God that I met him when I did, for I am sure that no living man could ever thrill me again as that man

thrilled me when he brought, in humility and Christ-like passion, the living coal of the gospel to press it to my lips; when he stirred and moved me from the very depths of my being with the mighty challenge of the coming of the Word of God.

Oh, that God may help us to see that we can never give people anything better than the gospel! We can never do anything more for them than to get them saved. We shall never be better remembered for anything than for the sacred work of bringing a soul to Christ.

—Charles E. Brown

OUGHT

This word "ought" we find is used many times in the Word of God. It means "duty bound, obligated to do or not to do."

Bro. Paul wrote in Heb. 2:1, "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." Our Brother Paul tells us in Phil. 4:8, to think on "whatsoever things are true... honest... just... pure... lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." He also tells us that "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Cor. 5:17. He also tells us that the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. By this we see there is not any place for any fruit of the flesh, yet sometimes we see such fruits as snobbishness and haughtiness, especially towards the older ones. Let us watch that we neither strike back in word or in deed. May God help us to watch our words and actions toward all and especially towards the older ones. Let us show much patience toward them always. Bro. Paul, in Eph. 4:2, tells us we should forbear with one another in love, and also to let all bitterness, evil speaking (or speaking to injure) unkindness, harshness, unpoliteness and rudeness be put away from us. Oh, may God help us to be so careful to show love to each other, and never be guilty of making hurtful or rude remarks in answer to others, no matter what they say. Oh, let us be careful how we use our tongues.

Bro. James tells us (James 3:16-18), "For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." Until we look unto these words of counsel and obey each one, we are not pleasing God, but grieving Him.

Oh, God help us to stop playing salvation and get down to earnest obedience. Let us strive to be more like Jesus as we travel on our Christian way.

"Can a hasty word ever be unsaid? Or an unkind deed undone?" —Sis. Allis King

The perfect victory is to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and thus to triumph over self. (Rom. 13:14). —Sel.