

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Our Heavenly Father



The Father of mercies, above and through all,
The God of all comfort and grace;
His wisdom abiding, we list for His call,
And yearn for a glimpse of His face.

Our Heavenly Father, our Parent of love,
We're kept in His wonderful Name;
His kingdom receiving that comes from above,
To blot our transgressions and shame.

His offspring are we, of His fam'ly to share,
The wealth of His blessed estate,
Joint heirs with His Son, who has gone to prepare
A home while we tarry and wait.

His law we will honour, respect, and obey,
Partake of His holiness here;
We'll trust Him and walk in the beautiful way,
And follow as children so dear.

He cares for creation; the fowls of the air
Are fed by His bounteous store.
Much more then for us He will faithfully care,
Supplying our needs ever more.

Our Father in heaven is holy and just,
So wise in His dealings with men;
To rev'ence and honour and praise Him we must,
Unmoved by the world and its sin.

He chastens, He scourges, He giveth rebuke,
But all for our much better good;
His purpose our profit, if we will but look
For blessings in all like we should.

Invisible Father, yet real and so near,
His eye never slumbers in sleep;
His arms everlasting surround us while here,
Our souls in His favor to keep.

His will and His Kingdom, His name and His law
Exalted forever shall be;

In fervent devotion, in meekness and awe,
We'll serve Him glad-hearted and free.

—Leslie C. Busbee

Spiritual Sacrifices



"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." I Pet. 2:5. The entire Church of God, under the New Testament, is here denominated an holy priesthood. This signifies that under the New Testament, every child of God is his own priest, to offer his own sacrifice unto God, and not as under the law to have another sacrifice for him. The sacrifices we offer unto God are different from those offered by the Levitical priesthood. They offered literal sacrifices, while we, as the text before us asserts, offer unto God spiritual sacrifices.

The spiritual sacrifices we now offer were predicted by the prophets. Malachi prophesied, saying, "From the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same, my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the Lord of host." Mal. 1:11. This text must be interpreted in a spiritual sense; because it relates to the sacrifices of the New Testament. It shows that the spiritual sacrifices, in the new dispensation, would be offered in every place, even from the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same, and not, as under the law, in a particular locality only.

In another place Malachi prophesies concerning the coming of Christ, as follows: "He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness." Mal. 3:3. The sons of Levi were the tribe from which the priests were chosen in Old Testament times, but as this text relates to the new dispensation and as all are priests in this dispensation, the sons of Levi mentioned here constitute the entire host of Christians. They were to be purified and purged as gold and silver, that they might offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. This purging is wrought by the blood of Jesus Christ in every heart that receives New Testament salvation, and is the only preparation necessary to qualify us to officiate in the spiritual priesthood of the new dispensation.

The offerings of the Old Testament were, generally speaking, sin-offerings. Such offerings were under the law offered daily, but the sacrifices of the New Testa-

ment, as shown by the prophecies I have quoted, are offerings in righteousness; that is, offerings offered unto God in a righteous life. Paul, in his epistles, gives us a clear explanation of the spiritual sacrifices offered under the New Testament. In Heb. 13:15,16 he says: "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." According to this text, the sacrifice we are to offer unto God is doing good; that is, a holy life before God, communicating, or giving, and offering our praises unto God, the fruit of our lips.

God was never perfectly satisfied with the literal offerings of the Old Testament. The prophet Samuel once said unto King Saul, "Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to harken than the fat of rams." I Sam. 15:22. These words show that Samuel understood that God cared more about people living a righteous life before him than he did for the offering of the literal sacrifices that were offered in his day.

In Psa. 40:6 David says unto the Lord: "Sacrifice and offerings thou didst not desire; . . . burnt offering and sin-offering hast thou not required."

In this text God expresses dissatisfaction with the literal sacrifices of the Old Testament. It was proper that men should have offered such sacrifices in that time, and God does not mean to teach in these texts that it was not; he is only showing that such sacrifices are not perfectly satisfactory unto Him.

In Hosea 6:6 we read: "For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice: and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings." Jesus quoted this prophecy in the New Testament—"But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Matt. 9:13. "But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless." Matt. 12:7.

In these texts we have additional proof that even while the Old Testament sacrifices were being offered, God was not perfectly satisfied with them. It was always His desire that His people should offer unto Him a holy life, but as they were not enabled to do this under the law, the blood of animals was the best sacrifice that they had to offer unto God; hence God accepted those who made such offerings.

While God was not satisfied with the literal offerings of the Old Testament, he is perfectly satisfied with the spiritual offerings we now offer, and He says so in His Word. Malachi, in speaking of the offerings of the new dispensation, says: "Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord." Mal. 3:4. Peter says the spiritual offerings we now offer are acceptable unto God. I Pet. 2:5. Again, Paul says, after commanding us not to forget to do good and to communicate, "With such sacrifices God is well pleased." Heb. 13:16.

As has been stated before, the sacrifices of the Old Testament were, generally speaking, sin-offerings. Since under the Old Testament men did not obtain grace to live sinless lives, the sin-offering had to be offered at intervals continually; hence, under the offering of these sin-offerings, the people led a life of continual sinning

and repenting. The offering of the sin-offering ceased with the death of Jesus Christ, who then became the great sin-offering for every human creature. Since that time there is no daily sin-offering to be offered. The death of Christ has purchased for us a salvation which enables us to live continually without committing sin; hence under the New Testament, the righteous people need no repentance. Luke 15:7. Repentance is not now to be repeated at intervals as under the offering of the Old Testament sin-offerings, but under the New Testament all who live to their privileges, live without committing sin, and offer unto the Lord, continually, only the sacrifice of a holy life.

As a proof that the sin-offerings are no longer to be offered since the New Testament has been given, I would refer to the words of Paul, who, after he had quoted a prophecy from the thirty-first chapter of Jeremiah, in which the prophet foretold that under the new covenant there would be no longer a remembrance of sins, adds: "Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin." Heb. 10:18.

Holiness-opposers do not comprehend the spiritual sacrifices that true Christians offer under the gospel; they hold that no man can live free from committing sin, and that all must lead a life of continual sinning and repenting. In this they are setting forth, in principle, the very sin-offering system of Moses' law, which went out of force nearly two thousand years ago.—Wm. G. Schell

The Spirit of Compromise

Compromise—"A settlement by arbitration or by mutual consent reached by concessions on both sides; a reciprocal abatement of extreme demands or rights, resulting in an agreement." —Webster.

To compromise the truth of God's Word means to arbitrate with the devil and concede that he is partly in the right; to abate the extreme demands of full salvation, Bible unity, divine healing, etc., and agree with the adversaries of truth. This world is filled with the abominable spirit of compromise. Men who should live and die by the right are abating the extreme demands of eternal truth and agreeing with the world, Babylon, and the devil. Why should any man or woman stoop so low as to compromise with the enemy of all good, and lower the standard of eternal truth for filthy lucre or worldly applause? God help us to be true and stand for the whole truth, which saves from sin and makes God's people one. I would sooner face the dark legions infernal till the last drop of blood had flowed from my veins, and die a victor for King Jesus, than to compromise one inch with the world, the flesh, or the devil and be monarch of earth. God wants men and women who will not shrink or falter even though they may have to wade through fire and blood.

Nothing will blind the eyes of a man or woman quicker than a touch of compromise. The old life of sin does not look so bad when viewed through the goggles of compromise; the plain dress, conversation, and deportment required by the Bible does not seem so necessary; Babylon with her stilted lords and steeped halls seems to be "not so bad after all"; and, in fact, many things of the devil seem to be much better than when viewed

through the telescope of truth. Oh, who will be faithful unto death and never yield to the foe?

Manifestations of Compromise—Those who are affected with a spirit of compromise are always over-careful about offending people by telling them the truth when such precaution is uncalled for. When a minister comes to preach the Word of life they will be heard to say, "Now, brother, you will have to be careful about preaching too strong, or the people will not attend the meetings." The manifestations of compromise in a minister are about the same as in other people. He will "prophecy smooth things," scarcely ever mention Babylon, unity, feet-washing, or divine healing, except in a very mild and compromising way. You no longer hear his bold denunciations of the sin of division, and his preaching lacks zeal and anointing. God has no use for compromising preachers. The only kind He can use are those filled with fire and judgment mixed with love and wisdom. A preacher who is on the compromise line will often preach on fanaticism, and make more allowance for conscience than God allows. He will choose subjects that "tickle the ears" rather than "prick the heart." He will preach much about love and almost construe the Bible to teach that we can love the world with its pride and fashion.

Along with the spirit of compromise goes the spirit of worldliness. Parents who are too conscientious at first to dress gay themselves will array their children in worldly attire and foster the seed of pride in their young and tender hearts. I know of nothing that will cause people to let down the standard of truth quicker than a spirit of compromise and devastation quickly follows, spoiling God's vineyard and binding souls for eternal night. The approach of compromise is so stealthy that sometimes an honest soul is, for a short time, almost stifled and overcome by it. Nothing will blind one's spiritual eyes and pervert the vision, turning light into darkness, and darkness into light, much quicker than a spirit of compromise.

—Selected

A Broken Creation

For three days, a large group of people had been without food. Many of them had come a long distance. Now it was time for them to go home. Without food, many of them would fall by the wayside and die. What should be done? The answer to this question would have been too big for man to take care of in the days of this event. In the wilderness, where this group had congregated, there was not enough food for all, but there was one Man among them who knew the answer. After finding out what food supply they had among them, He took the seven loaves and the few fishes, blessed them, brake and gave them to His disciples, who fed the four thousand and took up seven baskets of leftovers after all had eaten to the full. (Mark 8:1-9).

We want to give this event a spiritual application of a sinner coming to Jesus and being blessed. The sinner hears the call of Jesus who says to him, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. With a "broken and a contrite heart," the sinner falls at Jesus' feet, confessing his sins, turning away from them, and with godly sorrow seeks His forgiveness. Jesus forgives the sinner of his sins. As

God looks down upon him and sees that he has accepted Jesus' death on the cross as taking his punishment for his sins, God forgives him and his sins are cast from him as far as the east is from the west. They are remembered against him no more. Praise God! What a glory fills the heart of the sinner! His soul is filled with joy and he is light and free. No longer does he feel that condemnation upon his soul. Now he belongs to God and has placed his life into Jesus' hands. Just as the loaves and fishes were placed into the hands of Jesus, now we see the one who has been forgiven in the hands of Jesus. There he is without one reserve. He has cut himself off from the worldly desires that once ruled him. He has given his thoughts, heart, and life into the hands of the Blessor. Waiting, with a perfect surrender of his will to the perfect will of Jesus, he lies there in His hands. He looks up to the Blessor and says, "Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Hold o'er my being absolute sway! Fill with thy Spirit, 'till all shall see, Christ only, always, living in me!" The power of God flows from the Blessor as He blesses him, and he becomes a broken mass of clay in the hands of the Master. Now the Master can use him to be a blessing to those who have a hungry soul. Jesus "blessed, brake and gave."

Only the broken creation can God use to His glory. They must be broken in self-will. Their personal ideas must be forsaken and worldly reputation renounced. Their fleshly affections must be abandoned and they must utterly yield for the Holy Spirit to come into and fill them, so they can be used to the glory of God. Only then can God work through them to help others who may need help to find their way out of the darkness of sin into the glorious light of Jesus Christ and receive salvation.

At certain times of the year we see waving fields of grain ready to be harvested. First, the grain of wheat had to be put in the earth, then by death that inner heart sprouts forth and bears hundreds of other grains. The shell around the heart is broken, and from that breaking and death of the kernel springs forth life to feed the hungry.

We see Jacob, who was full of schemes, using his personal knowledge of deceptive methods to get ahead of others around him, waiting at Peniel, waiting to meet his brother who had vowed to kill him. He had used all of his methods, but yet he felt helpless. He had turned to God and there he wrestled with the angel until the break of day. His natural strength had been broken and he was crippled in his thigh, but he held on, as he needed a blessing. His plea was for God to not let him go without a blessing. He could not give up unless the Blessor blessed him and accepted his broken will. He couldn't face what was before him without God to help him. God did bless him and changed his name. Now he was ready to face what was to come and victory was his. Reconciliation was made with his brother. Oh, it pays to be one of God's broken creation!

Only when Jesus allowed His body to be broken by thorns, nails, and spear was His inner life poured out as a river of peace, flowing out to this sin-cursed world so that sinners could come, drink, and find peace. Praise God for His willingness!

Oh, let us become one of God's broken creation. Only then can He work through us to His glory.

—Sis. Marie Miles

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.

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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.

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 teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 25:2; 1st Chron. 29:9; II Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Free-will offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House.

A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

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To Doubters

Believe your beliefs and doubt your doubts. Do not make the common mistake of skeptics, doubting your beliefs, and believing your doubts. —Sel.

EDITORIALS



CHRISTIAN GREETINGS TO OUR READERS:

According to our usual policy, no paper was published for the month of August, which allowed time for our faithful co-workers and all of us to attend campmeetings in July and August. However, activity continued here at the Lord's Printshop through most of the summer. The orders for gospel literature were filled almost every work-day.

Quantities of gospel tracts, papers, and booklets were sent or taken to various campmeetings for free distribution. Your free-will contributions have made this literature ministry possible, and thereby you are laying up treasures in heaven, as Jesus commanded. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matt. 6:21.



Our co-workers are back from the campmeetings and trips, and are busy in their respective departments in the office and shop, printing and mailing out the gospel literature. "The Beautiful Way" paper and the "Bible Lessons" for the fourth quarter of 1978 are in preparation for the press. Thousands of English, Spanish, German, and Philippine tracts have been printed and mailed out. The cloth-bound book, "Bible Readings for Bible Students," which is now out of stock, has been reprinted and should be available in October. Several other smaller books have been reprinted. As soon as possible we want to print the out-of-print cloth-bound book, "The Better Testament" by Wm. G. Schell, which was originally published in 1899 with 420 pages. Pray with us that the soul-saving gospel of Jesus Christ will continue to go forth to this sin-laden world and that many more souls will be gleaned out of darkness into His marvelous light.



Brother George Hammond returned to the States from the Philippine Islands the last of June, having labored in that needy mission field for about three months. This was his third trip to those Islands. The report of his recent trip appears on another page of this issue.



The 41st National campmeeting of the Church of God, held at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri, was very profitable as a time and place where many souls found the joy and peace of salvation, believers were sanctified, and other spiritual and physical help was received in answer to prayer. The attendance was large, filling the tabernacle to capacity several times, even though a new, all-metal, 12 by 60-foot section had been added for this meeting. Many new people attended from over the U. S., as well as our German and Dutch brethren from Ontario, Canada, and Edmonton, Canada, some of our missionaries in Mexico, Bro. Titus Enu from Nigeria, and Bro. John Varghese from India.

Our Bible Book Store was open on the grounds where Bibles and other gospel literature were made

available to those in attendance. It was our pleasure to meet many of our readers whom we had known before, as well as a number of new people who were attending the meeting for their first time.

The dates of the campmeeting next year were set for July 20 to 29, 1979.

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As noted in the July issue, we are endeavoring to reduce the space allowed for obituaries so we will have more space to devote to the gospel for the living. However, as you see, quite a bit of space has been used in this issue for obituaries. So the reduction process may be gradual, but be prepared with love, grace and forbearance.

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Overseas Native Pastors Still Active in States . . .

Brother John Varghese, native pastor in South India, was taken to the campmeeting at Hammond, La., by Brother Richard Madden, pastor at Sapulpa, Okla. After their participation in that meeting, they returned to Bro. Madden's home. Later, they attended the National campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri. Bro. Varghese attended a couple of days of the campmeeting at Myrtle, Mo., and returned to Bro. Madden's home. By that time he was desiring to return to his native India and field of labor. Bro. Madden escorted him to the airport at Tulsa, Okla., from which Bro. Varghese departed on August 8th on the 12,000-mile flight to his homeland. He wrote that the Lord gave him a safe return in answer to prayer.

Bro. Titus Enu, native pastor in Nigeria, West Africa, participated in the campmeetings at Oakland

and Fresno, Calif., then returned to Guthrie by plane. We took him to the National campmeeting in Missouri where he was very pleased to meet all the saints again and to participate in those services. After that meeting he flew back to California and participated in the campmeeting at Bakersfield. At its close he returned to Guthrie and attended one day of the campmeeting at Boley, Okla. Then on August 21st, Bro. Robert Eckenwiler left Guthrie in his car to take Bro. Enu to the California State campmeeting at Pacoima which will be in progress from August 25 to Sept. 3. Bro. Enu expects to leave the States about September 8th to return to his native land of Nigeria, W. Africa.

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"Evening Light Songs," the 512-page Church of God hymnal, is expected to be in stock at this office by the time you receive this paper.

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Ministers' Meeting Begins October 17 . . .

A general ministers' meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at the chapel here in Guthrie, Okla., beginning at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 17, 1978, and continue as long as deemed necessary. This meeting is called and announced by the agreement of a number of ministers in several states for the purpose of considering and advancing the welfare of the work of God in general. The ministers are urged to attend. Come praying, expecting the Holy Spirit to guide and direct in these deliberations.

The dining hall and dormitory facilities close to the chapel will be available to the ministers. Offerings for the support of these facilities would be gratefully received, and they should be sent directly to the State treasurer, Sister Frances Deforth, R. 5, Box 1, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

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"We must beware of the flattery of the world and its patronage. We must be more afraid of flattery from the camp of the enemy than of persecution. Read the pages of Church history. Persecution never did the Church of God harm, but compromise with the world has always robbed it of its purity."

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This writer is still holding up the shield of faith in the long battle of affliction, knowing that faith is the victory that overcomes the world. After we have done the will of God we must have faith and patience to obtain the promise even as Abraham of old, the father of the faithful. Through your continued prayers God supplies daily strength amidst the pain. Praise His holy Name!

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Our grateful thanks and appreciation are extended to the saints and readers who have so faithfully stood by us through the summer with your prayers and support of this gospel literature ministry. May the gospel reach many more thousands of precious souls while the Lord delays His coming.

—Lawrence D. Pruitt



Bro. Titus Enu, left, and Bro. John Varghese

In Memorial

Elizabeth Jewell (Lindsey) Whitley, second child of Elbert Shelby and Roxie Elizabeth Lindsey, was born June 5, 1905, at Norton, Indian Territory, and departed this life August 5, 1978, in Marshall, Texas, at the age of 73 years and two months.

Sister Whitley was united in marriage to Leslie Lee Whitley on March 2, 1921, at Ardmore, Okla.

She was a housewife and mother with a great concern that her children would live for the Lord. In various rural communities where they lived, Sister Whitley would gather the children together for Sunday school, as she loved to teach them about Jesus. In her later years she never failed to tell others what God had done for her. During her last illness, her main concern was for the salvation of souls—her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Her survivors include her husband, Leslie Lee Whitley of Marshall, Texas; four children, Mrs. Joe (Anecia) Dutton of Odessa, Texas, Harry D. Whitley of Sacramento, Calif., Bennie Lee Whitley of Alice, Texas, and Mrs. Virgil (Twyla Gayle) McMillian of Bossier City, La.; one sister, Mrs. Herschell (Lavena) Whitley of Ardmore, Okla.; four brothers, J. B. Lindsey, Russellville, Ark., W. S. Lindsey, Keota, Okla., C. A. Lindsey, Slidell, La., and J. H. Lindsey, Alto, Texas; 21 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren, and many other relatives, friends, and saints.

The funeral service was conducted at the Sullivan Funeral Chapel, Marshall, Tex., by Bro. Clifford Wilson, assisted by Bro. C. C. Carver, and Bro. Curtis Williams. Interment was in Colonial Gardens Cemetery, Marshall. (Text, Rev. 14:13).

(Editor's note: May God speak the words of comfort to Bro. Lee and the Whitley family in their bereavement. This writer has known and appreciated Bro. and Sis. Whitley and family for more than 50 years. —Lawrence Pruitt)

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Geraldine E. Pruitt was born July 15, 1920, and died July 12, 1978, at Phoenix, Ariz. She leaves to mourn her passing, her husband, Frank E. Pruitt, other relatives, and friends.

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Sister Marian Porter Polk was born on December 15, 1878, and departed this life July 22, 1978, in Fresno, California, in her 100th year.

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Anna Mae McKinney, of Whittier, Calif., was born Nov. 23, 1878, at Monett, Mo., and went to her "heavenly Home" on Aug. 5, 1978, in her 100th year. Sis. McKinney was a woman of great faith in God and His Word. She is survived by two daughters, two sons and many other relatives.

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Phebe M. Chandler, the youngest of the twelve children of Ellen and James Chandler, was born Nov. 12, 1914, near Fallis, Okla., and quietly departed this life on Aug. 17, 1978, at her home near Choctaw, Okla., following a lengthy illness.

At an early age Sis. Phebe was saved in the Church of God. At her passing she was a member of the Church

of God congregation at N. E. 57th and Denver Streets, Oklahoma City, where she had faithfully served as a deaconess and church treasurer.

She leaves to cherish her memory: One foster daughter, Patricia L. Harris, of the home, and a host of other relatives, saints, and friends.

The funeral service was conducted at the Church of God chapel, 57th and Denver, Okla. City, by Bro. Herman Kelley, assisted by others. Interment was in the Hillcrest Memory Gardens.

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Lela Lydia (Knight) Jones was born October 19, 1907, at Smithland, Texas, to William H. and Mary E. Knight. She departed this life on July 5, 1978, in Berkeley, California.

In Oakland, Calif., she met and married Clay H. Jones in 1952.

Lela accepted the Lord as her Saviour and was a member of the Church of God congregation at Oakland, Calif., where she attended many years until her death.

She is survived by a devoted husband, Clay H. Jones of the home; one brother, Frank Knight, and three sisters, Mattie L. Simpson, Bertha B. Long, Gwen M. Nealy, all of Tulsa, Okla., and a host of other relatives.

The funeral service was conducted at the Church of God chapel in Tulsa, Okla., by Bro. Woodrow Warren, assisted by Sister Eva Hardman and Bro. Leslie Jones. Interment was in the Pleasant Grove Cemetery, Tullahassee, Oklahoma.

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Osceaola Brown, the son of Samuel and Eliza Brown, was born March 30, 1900, in Quero, Texas, and departed this life on Feb. 11, 1978.

On Feb. 1, 1923, he was united in marriage to Edna E. Thompson in Okmulgee, Okla. To this union one son, Benford, was born.

Osceaola united with the church congregation in San Bernardino, Calif., in 1971.

He leaves to mourn: his wife, Edna Brown; his son Benford, and other relatives.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Calvin Hobbs, and interment was in Mt. View Cemetery, San Bernardino, Calif.

REPORT OF FRESNO, CALIF., CAMPMEETING

The Fresno, Calif., Church of God campmeeting has come and gone, but we desire your prayers that the blessings we received will continue.

The Lord was so very good to send us Bro. Titus Enu from Nigeria, Africa, to inspire within us a greater desire to reach for higher heights and deeper depths in God. From the first Saturday on, the altar was filled and refilled with souls seeking salvation, sanctification, and making deeper consecrations. On the last Saturday 15 converts followed the Lord in the ordinance of water baptism.

Many said it was the best meeting they had ever attended in their lives. In the last Sunday afternoon service many consecrated their lives more fully to God by the laying on of the ministers' hands. Such rejoicing throughout the meeting this writer has never seen in one ten-day meeting.

We thank God for His mercy and the outpouring of His Spirit upon us. Also, we thank those who labored with us in their prayers and helps. —Lavern Moles

REPORT OF REVIVAL AT WICHITA, KAN.

The saints at Wichita, Kansas, give thanks and praise to the Lord for granting us a most blessed meeting from June 23 to July 2. He was faithful to send ministers of His choosing who skillfully used his two-edged Sword and much was accomplished. Many sought for spiritual help at the altar of prayer and several sought for salvation. Most of the salvation-seekers were backsliders returning home to Zion and we trust they will remain faithful this time.

The Word was rich, deep searching and reached many hearts. Sad to report many did not yield to the faithful call of the Spirit. We appreciate all the saints who came to help us in the battle. There were people from as far away as Florida and we believe all received spiritual blessings from God.

—Submitted by Shirley Knight

MEETING REPORT AND REVIVAL ANNOUNCEMENT

We are here (Aug. 14) in Marion, Ky., in a tent meeting. The Lord is blessing the meeting. People are coming out that probably never heard the truth before. Pray the Lord to give us wisdom to deal with souls. Also, we need strength from the Lord, as we are so busy, and don't see any stopping place. We are to be in Shreveport, La., to start meeting the 27th of August. Then to Albany, La., to help Bro. Bob Forbes in a tent meeting. Then home to try to finish our chapel.

Lord willing, we will start a revival meeting in the new chapel at Green Bank, W. Va., on Oct. 7th to go as long as the Lord leads. All that come will be cared for.

I would like to thank all who helped on the chapel. It is a miracle how the Lord supplied the needs.

Pray for us as we want to finish our course with victory. We love the Lord, love His truth, and His people. May the Lord bless His people everywhere, is our prayer.

—Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons, P. O. Box 127,
Green Bank, W. Va. 24944; phone 304-456-4469.

ALL-DAY MEETINGS AT DAYTON, OHIO

All-day meetings will be held each second Sunday of September, October, and November at the Church of God chapel, 622 Tyron Ave., Dayton, Ohio. You are welcome to these services. If you need directions, phone Bro. John Gutwein at 513-426-8159.

URGENT FINANCIAL NEED IN THE MISSION WORK IN DALLAS, TEXAS

Two years have passed since the Lord laid the burden on our heart to go to Dallas, Texas, to help get a work started there for Him. Realizing that He wanted the Church of God in Dallas, we humbly obeyed the Lord and by His help we have done what we could. Thanks to

the Lord for the other ministers who have shared in this burden in the work at Dallas. A few souls have been saved and others are looking toward Zion. All honor and praise to God for all He is doing.

A chapel is needed in Dallas very much. Buildings have been rented heretofore, but they are very expensive. We have been looking to God in prayer that He would supply a chapel for the services. With many thanks we acknowledge that the Lord is opening up a way for one. The saints are in the process of purchasing a chapel at this time. Since they are few in number, they are in dire need of financial help. Should there be anyone who would like to share in supplying this need, it would be very much appreciated. You may mail your contribution directly to the treasurer, Sis. Doris Hardman, 9520 Ferguson Road, Apt. 2057, Dallas, Texas 75227.

Yours in His great name, —Katherine Williams

Prayer Requests

Ore.—“Sis. Beatrice Spaur went into her house Sunday night, Aug. 6 from meeting and fell. . . . She fell full length on her left side. . . . She couldn't move her left leg or hip. . . . Earnestly pray for her.”—Sis. Grace Jones
Ohio—“Pray for my son who is under the drink habit.” —A mother

Texas—Sis. Carolyn Holland desires healing for her eyes. When she sews or drives, they hurt her.

We had letters from two mothers wanting prayer for their boys who got into bad company and need to be saved. Pray earnestly for these boys. One boy was saved and felt a call to work for God, but now needs help, as he is in company with those who use dope.

The Lord is still healing His trusting children. Although we may wait long for Him to come, He will come. He lets us be tested and tried, but let us be faithful to Him. He will see us through.

The first part of the year I had wanted to visit my younger brother who lives in Phoenix, Ariz. He had not been well, and had to retire from his work. I longed to see him. In February I thought about a time to go, and that time didn't work out. Then when I thought of another time, my brother's step-daughter and her three children came to be with them for a month, so I put it off until they left. In June I felt very impressed of the Lord to get my plane ticket a month ahead for July 6th, so I could save 40%, which I did. I left June 6th and enjoyed my visit, but on Monday after I got there my brother's wife had a stroke in the night. We had had a nice visit that evening and she said she felt well, so it was a shock to us. She was taken to the hospital the next day. That night she had a massive stroke, went into a coma and died on Wednesday. Since my brother had heart trouble, it was such a shock to him and he was put under sedatives. It was a shock to me, and I was also concerned about my brother. The Lord had planned the right time for me to be there. I stayed a week longer than I had planned, but my heart gave me some trouble. I came home and went to the National campmeeting, still having pains around my heart and very weak. Thank the Lord, He touched me and only two or three times after that did I have trouble. I can

testify that it has been two weeks since I have had any trouble. Oh, it is precious to trust the Lord completely for the healing of our bodies! He never fails.

God surely blessed in the campmeeting at Monark Springs (Neosho, Mo.), and also the few days I was at Myrtle. How I do thank God for our young ministers who are carrying the burden for the work of God! Bro. Tom Melot told the saints at the Monark campmeeting that they should fast and pray for souls to be saved at the first part of the meeting and not wait until the last part. Thank God, on Monday night 81 people went to the altar for help. It was a glorious meeting, and the convicting Spirit of God fell because of continued prayer in the meeting. Prayer is what moves God upon His throne. May God bless our young brothers and sisters who are stepping out in the preaching of God's Word and in other phases of His work, is my prayer. Saints, pray much for the work of the Lord and the workers. The devil works on them more than anyone else.

—Sis. Marie Miles

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

South India (Aug. 14)—My dearly beloved Bro. and Sis. Pruitt, the dear ones at the Faith Publishing House, and the dear saints everywhere in the United States and abroad: We send our loving greetings to all of you again in the sweetest name of Jesus Christ, the source of graces and all spiritual and temporal blessings.

By the measureless mercy of God I came back home safely on the 10th of August and now I am doing all right in my soul and body. I appreciate the valuable prayers of the saints in America for my safe trip. When I reached my home all my co-workers and many of the saints were waiting for me in my home and we had a night meeting here. I explained to them my experiences in the States, which was a real blessing to them as they were very anxious to know these wonderful spiritual experiences and practices. My visit in America during the last two and one-half months was a real blessing to me, which enabled me to make consecrations to do the Lord's work more earnestly and diligently. I appreciate the kindness of the saints everywhere. It was a great privilege for me to meet Bro. Titus Enu from Nigeria, Bro. Irineo Rama from Mexico, and the brothers and sisters from Canada. I am especially grateful to Bro. and Sister Richard Madden, and the members of that family who took care of me and took me to the campmeetings in distant places in their car, driving many miles. May God bless that family. Also, I appreciate the hospitality of you and Sis. Maybelle while I stayed in your home. I earnestly continue to pray for your complete healing. I don't mention all names here, but we are grateful to all the ministers and saints there for what they have done for us. May God bless you all abundantly!

Now I am visiting all the congregations here. The construction of two new chapels was finished, and now we urgently need chapels in three more congregations where they don't have a place to assemble. Our campmeeting ground at my place is too small, so we plan to move the campmeeting to a new location which is a little larger in size. We will have to make that ground level, and also build two buildings or parsonages on it. For all these urgent needs we look to the Lord to open the way for the expenses. The saints' prayers are invited.

My wife sends her special love to each dear sister there.

Yours in His service,

—John Varghese

REPORT FROM OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO, AND SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

Dear Ones: Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, who shed His precious blood for the world.

Through the words of Paul, "Let us go again and visit our brethren . . . and see how they do," from a message in the Oklahoma State campmeeting, the Lord dealt with me about returning to Ojos Negros, Mexico, to help prepare for and be in the campmeeting there. I went contrary to feelings and the Lord blessed. He blessed the meeting and saved two souls the day before campmeeting started. Bro. Escobar writes that these two are much encouraged and pressing on. One is 69 years of age and has been a Catholic all her life. The Lord sent four ministers to help preach His Word. The ordinance service was especially precious. There was such sweet fellowship throughout the entire meeting. One lady was saved in Ojos Negros and has moved away. Recently, her husband was saved and they desire to be baptized at Bro. Escobar's convenience.

On my return, my own work was far behind, but the Lord has blessed to get a list of Spanish tracts and the tract, "Modern Gift of Tongues Exposed," printed in Spanish. The Lord is providing new addresses, too, so that the literature reaches a more extensive area. Cassette tapes of messages from Ojos Negros Campmeeting are being sent to all on the tape list and 52 stencils are ready to be run on the mimeograph for distribution of children's material. We praise the Lord for all.

Pray for all of us who are working in one capacity or another to get the Word to precious souls.

Yours in Him,

Mayarino and Panchita Escobar, Ap. Postal No. 284, Ensenada, B. Cfa. Mexico, and Opal Kelly, 919 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

PHILIPPINE MISSION REPORT

Wisc. (Aug. 13)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the saints: Greetings of peace and joy through the grace of God, our Saviour. Thanks be to God for His unspeakable Gift which we can never fully comprehend. What manifold blessings He has bestowed upon us by our Lord and Saviour!

Zechariah said that "at evening time it shall be light." God is surely opening doors around the world for the true light that lighteth every man that will behold it. Amos said, "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will send a famine in the land." That day is surely upon us. Millions of people who have lived in darkness are looking for this light today more than ever before. Likewise, millions living in our enlightened country have eyes, but do not see. I was truly amazed at the many opportunities that God showed me to spread the truth there in the Philippines, as well as elsewhere in the world. I surely pray that the saints will be stirred more than ever before with a missionary mind and spirit. God has given us the truth and this is what

hungry souls are looking for. Denominations claim that it is possible to keep 60 native missionaries as easily as one foreign missionary, and when these natives love the Lord and truly serve Him they are more effective.

I was quite disappointed when I arrived in the Philippines this year because of false brethren, but God led me to see the great harvest that is there all over the islands. Saints, beware of these men who write here from different countries for your sympathy and support as many have been doing. Some are being supported extensively under claims of supporting other ministers or putting up chapels when it is only being used for their own gain. May the Lord rebuke them, "for they have gone in the way of Cain and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward."

I encouraged all the sincere pastors that I became aware of, who had left the denominations, to strive to earn their own living as the Bible teaches us that the workman is worthy of his hire. Only when they trust in and love God can He prosper them in the true work. The truth has only been known a few years in the Philippines, and many of the pastors acknowledge the witness of the truth to their hearts. They are hungry and eager to learn the truth. One of the new brethren I met has had a congregation for two years which he started, and has three workers in it who go out to different "barrios" (new settlements near the mountains) each week and the congregation is supporting them to do this as much as they can. They have to take "jeepneys" as it is five to fifteen or twenty miles away. They, in turn, are teaching some promising converts in each of these "barrios" to instruct the people. There is a very low ebb of spirituality all over the islands, but there are many hungry souls we met as we traveled. They need instruction in the truth. There are very, very few Bibles, and most groups only meet once a week on Sunday morning. Spiritism is very strong, as there is much superstition, but they are willing to learn the true way of salvation. There are a number of false spiritual healers who have a great following because of the healings. Few, if any, of the organized churches teach any truth on salvation or on holy living. "Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof; from such turn away."

The Lord led me to nine or ten men who are sincerely working for the Lord. It is hard for them to support a family and work full-time for the Lord. One young Brother in Mindanao is working with his hands to support his family and renting a building for services, plus about \$30 a month for a 15-minute radio program. He left a denomination because he wanted to work for the Lord and not have man telling him what he should do. His fellow-pastors made fun of him for being so foolish when he could be receiving regular support from the denomination, but he would rather struggle than work under their restrictions. His father also works repairing watches until he has enough to support him a while. Then he goes up to the mountain to preach until his money runs out. God is truly working through these honest and humble souls. The son's name is Cel Candelas. Another Brother, Ric Taboclaon, has a great interest to preach the gospel in these mountain "barrios."

Bro. Encabo and Bro. Jover on the Island of Cebu are working together. Bro. Encabo has a pump boat that he can take about 12 people to the island near

Cebu for services whenever he can save enough money to buy gas. Each trip costs between \$25 and \$30. Bro. Encabo and Bro. Jover are zealous in handing out tracts, and Bro. Jover is working on translating many into the Cebuano language. I believe Bro. Pruitt has already printed about nine titles of these translations and sent thousands of copies to them. Bro. Jover is also translating about 80 songs from *Gospel Anthems* into Cebuano, and when they are able to get a tape player, we plan to send them a tape with the music so they can sing the Church of God songs. Bro. Nisperos on the island of Tuyen is doing the same thing into the Ilocano dialect.

The Church of God teachings are new in the Philippines, but the people are willing and anxious to learn the truth. I believe God is truly opening up many opportunities to take the truth all over the islands. It would be a great blessing if one or two were able to come over here and visit the churches and learn the way of the church. They also need Bibles and teaching materials for the vacation Bible school and their Sunday school, translated into their dialect. We surely need to pray the Lord of the harvest to send out workers to help teach these in the way of the Lord. If we can go to visit them, it is a great encouragement. They are hoping to have a camp-meeting next winter, and it would surely be good if one or more of our ministers could go and be with them. If we don't go, we can help the ones who are laboring there that their families need not suffer. I encouraged all the pastors to support themselves as much as possible, and all of the brethren I met were endeavouring to do it.

Jesus said in John 4:35 "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." Proverbs says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." May we see the true vision of the fields that are surely ripe now unto harvest.

—Bro. George Hammond

From the Mail Box . . .

Calif.—Dear Sis. Marie: This is a day that the Lord has given us, may "we rejoice and be glad in it."

We are blessed richly here in Orland. We hear some precious truths. God's Word is our highway to heaven. We must live close to the Lord, watching and praying each step of the way. It is a precious privilege to be one of God's little children in this world. Without Him we could not make it. If precious souls would only "taste and see that the Lord is good," they would be through with the broad way.

The hymn we sing, "The Half Has Never Yet Been Told," is so true. God's love, care, and mercy for us is beyond telling. May the Lord stir all His children to a deeper and closer walk with God. The Lord is very precious to me. Without Him life would be very miserable.

Pray for us here in Orland, as we pray for you.

—Letha Reece

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Okla.—Dear Sis. Marie and workers: We are still saved, encouraged and pressing on in Jesus' dear name. Our precious Saviour supplies all our needs, protects us day by day and furnishes us grace to stand in these evil days. I do thank and praise Him for it.

I just came home from a very good spirit-filled prayer meeting. The dear Lord is still blessing our congregation in Tulsa. Continue to pray for us, and we certainly do the same for you and the work there. We do appreciate the work at the Print Shop. May God bless each of you, is our prayer.

—Theresa Gaines

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Mo.—Dear Sis. Marie: Thanks for your good letter which was encouraging. We were not able to attend any of the Monark Springs campmeeting this year, but our hearts were there. We are encouraged to fight this good fight of faith. One of these times we will have fought the last battle. How wonderful it will be to meet our Captain face to face and to enter into the beautiful place Jesus has gone to prepare for those who have fought the good fight of faith! It gives us courage to press on.

Trust you are feeling much better and that all at the Print Shop are encouraged. Please pray for us. May God bless all of you.

—Bro. and Sis. F. E. Wilson

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Minn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: This leaves me well in body and soul, looking for the coming of our Lord and Saviour, Christ Jesus, and for that Home He has prepared for all His blood-bought saints that will last in a never-ending eternity. We are living in a time which we have never witnessed before. It just appears that the Lord is right at the door, ready to break through the clouds where every eye shall see Him, every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that He is the Christ to the glory of God the Father.

There is so much to pray about in these days of trouble, which causes me to believe we are nearing the end of time, and soon we will be in eternity with our Lord and Saviour.

May God's richest blessings be upon all His saints, is my prayer.

—Bro. Andrew Senti

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Calif.—Dear saints and gospel workers everywhere: Greetings of love with our blessings and prayers in Jesus' dear name.

Some of you may know that I have not been well for over a year — very weak and nervous. One dear lady offered me her walker, and another a cane. I was thankful, but accepted none. Neither was my faith weakened in God.

The campmeeting season was coming on, and we desired very much to attend the Holly Hill, S. C., meeting. We had known and worked with that congregation for over twenty years. Yet we were not able for such a long trip. But Jesus says (Mark 9:23), "All things are possible to him that believeth." We had read this text many times over the forty years we've been saved. Now I realized my weakness and my need for strength and endurance, and there was only one way to obtain it — believe in God! So, we prayed, "Lord, I do believe you will protect us and bless us with needed health and strength, and make us a blessing in that meeting to your glory. Amen." This was also our last prayer before leaving home for the Los Angeles airport to which our children took us. We had prayer together, bade them goodbye, and boarded the plane about 10:00 p. m. About eight o'clock the next morning we were in Charleston, S. C., and no worse for the long ride. Two sisters from Eutawville, near Holly Hill, and part of that congregation met us. How happy we all were to see

each other again! We were soon off to Holly Hill with one stop at the market, then on to our cabin on the campground. How good to be home again! Everything was tidy and neat. These dear people find a way into your heart.

The Lord had impressed two of His Holy Ghost ministers to come to Holly Hill for this campmeeting, July 2-11, 1978. We were glad to see them, and praised God for sending them. What a blessing they were to the meeting! I fully believe the truth was preached on every line clear and plain. Bro. Abbott preached as the Lord led, and other ministers likewise. Some stayed only a few days. Truly, it was a wonderful campmeeting. I was glad to be there. The Lord blessed me and I was able to walk across the grounds to the chapel three times a day. I missed only one service. If there were any who attended this meeting and failed to get the help they needed, such can truly say that a prophet had surely been among them.

The two ministers who came first remained for all the meeting. We did, too, and even two weeks longer. It was hard to leave the saints. Their fellowship and hospitality will be long remembered. They took us to the airport at Charleston and we left at 10:00 p.m. Our children met us at Los Angeles and brought us home about daylight the next day. Yes, it pays much to believe God. Oh, for grace to trust Him more! Pray for us.

Yours in the Master's service,

—Bro. and Sis. S. E. Abbott

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Mo.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: Greetings of love, and thanks for the box of *Faith and Victory* papers.

Bro. George Hammond and I returned home last Sunday (Aug. 6) from a trip of over 2,000 miles, scattering the good news by the gospel tracts, booklets and papers over Iowa, North and South Dakota, and Minnesota. We did a lot of personal work and some preaching at Mound City, Mo. We believe that some of these gospel seeds will germinate and bring forth fruit to life eternal. Eccl. 11:1,4,5,6; I Cor. 15:58.

My phone number has been changed, and some of the saints have been confused. My new number is 417-746-4250.

Love and prayers,

—Egbert Allen

Rt. 2, Norwood, Mo. 65717

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Ind.—Greetings in Jesus' name: Enclosed is \$1.00 to renew our subscription to the *Faith and Victory* paper. We are not sure just when it is up, but please extend it for another three years from the date it expires. We get many blessings from the writings and witness of the saints who write in to the paper.

We are still here by ourselves, yet with Jesus and trusting only Him. Praise His name!

Love to all,

—Bill and Mary Riemann

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Kans.—Dear saints: We surely did miss getting to attend any of the campmeetings this summer. The winter will be long without any meeting in the summer. His grace is sufficient as we continue to covet your prayers.

We felt an answer to prayer in regard to our foot and leg. It was sorely swollen with much pain. We asked Edgar, our son, to have the saints pray for us at Monark campmeeting. We surely do thank God for

answering prayer for us. It is surely precious to have an interest in the prayers of the saints. We surely do love God's children. They are so very precious to us and so often do we think of all of you. For those that bear the labors of the work or for those that are bearing a load of affliction, we know His grace is sufficient. Just to be content and satisfied in the will of God is precious. Take courage, dear ones, and keep faithful. Continue to remember me. To all who are going through great tribulations, read Rev. 7:13-15.

—Sis. Lavina Martens

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Miss.—Dear Sis. Marie and saints: I am so very thankful for all the good papers and wonderful tracts that are put out by all the workers. What a blessing it is to everyone who loves God, wants to live for Him, and desires to learn more and obey His Word! Praise the good Lord!

I ask all of you to remember me in your prayers. I need a touch from God. May God bless everyone there, is my prayer.

—Sis. Viola C. Touchstone

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Va.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings of love in the precious and holy name of Jesus. How could I ever repay Him for all He has done for me? Praise His sweet name! Truly, Jesus is good to me!

I want to tell you how the Lord healed John, our oldest son, who had a seed wart on the bottom of his foot. About ten warts began to spread out from the one wart. They began to run down his foot. He said that they hurt him. The Lord told me to have him anointed and prayed for at the Green Bank, West Va., campmeeting and that He would heal him. The Lord told me that He wanted John to learn that He could heal him. The saints anointed and prayed for John. From that time, he and I began to watch his foot. I knew the Lord had heard prayer and that the warts would leave. They began to fade, until now there are only slight signs that they were ever there. Praise the Lord! I got a blessing from this experience and I know that John really learned by this healing. Praise the Lord! He is truly the "same yesterday, and today, and for ever." I think of that song, "Tell What the Lord Has Done For You." He has done so very much for me that I could never praise Him enough! "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation." Psalms 68:19.

—Sis. Nancy Wagoner

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La.—Dear saints: We are thankful that through Jesus' grace and power we can report victory in our souls today. Praise God!

"Ye shall not see wind, neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, that ye may drink, both ye, and your cattle, and your beasts. And this is but a light thing in the sight of the Lord: he will deliver the Moabites also into your hand." 2 Kings 3:17,18.

To human thinking, it was simply impossible, but nothing is too hard for God. Without a sound or sign, from sources invisible and apparently impossible, the floods came stealing in all night long; and when the

morning dawned, those ditches were flooded with the crystal waters, and reflected the rays of the morning sun from the red hills of Edom.

Our unbelief is always wanting some outward sign. The greatest triumph of faith is to be still and know that He is God. The great victory of faith is to stand before some impossible "Red Sea," and hear the Master say, "Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord," and "Go forward!" As we step out without any sign or sound—not a wave or splash, and wetting our very feet as we take the first step into its waters, still marching on, we shall see the sea divide and the pathway open through the very midst of the waters.

It is not the part of faith to question but to obey. The ditches were made, and the water came pouring in from some supernatural source. What a lesson for our faith! Oh, for that faith that can act by faith and not by sight, and expect God to work although we see no wind or rain.

It seems the *Faith and Victory* gets better all the time. I was especially blessed with the last two issues (June and July); the articles "Faith and Trust" by E. E. Byrum, "Thoughts on Prayer" by H. G. Neal, and "Examination" by Bro. C. E. Orr were very timely.

I want to testify to the Lord's goodness and blessings to me. As many of you know, I have a very bad heart condition which is the effect of rheumatic fever. I have had continued soreness and pain in my chest for the past four years, and have not been able to do much of my housework during that time. I have other afflictions also that contributed to this. But through God, for the past two months the Lord has touched and healed my body in a miraculous way. I have better health and more strength than I've had in a long time. I hardly have any chest pain or soreness. How we do thank and praise God for His healing touch! I want to use the strength He gives me to labor in His vineyard and not be as the man with only one talent who hid it in the ground.

Bro. Lawrence, we daily hold you up before the throne of grace for complete healing. We know people don't like to use the word *cancer*, but God has all power and is just as able to heal cancer as He is the slightest illness, or just a common headache. We are claiming your healing through the power of God and holding a real rebuke in our heart against your affliction. We are living in a time when many are growing weak in faith . . . , but we must not let the waves frighten us or weaken our faith. Pray on and simply take God at His Word. May God bless all of you dear ones who are laboring so faithfully there at the Lord's Print Shop.

Pray for us, as we have some very urgent requests.

—Sybil Goldsberry

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Illinois—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt: God has been good to us. I told the Lord if He would heal me I would write my testimony.

Last year, the 5th of July, I went into the hospital for a checkup. The doctor found I had a bad heart condition and might have a heart attack anytime. He said I would have to lose 40 pounds of weight, and to come back in a month. I came home and did much praying about the matter. Then I went to the doctor again and he ran a cardiogram. He said he could not believe how much better I was. I told him it was through prayer that God had made me much better. Praise His

holy name! I went back in June and he said my heart was in good condition. Thank God for that, and I thank all the saints of God for praying for me.

With Christian love, —Sis. Louise Matlock

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W. Va.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt, and all the saints scattered abroad: This leaves us with victory, saved and sanctified, and living for the Lord.

We appreciate the *Faith and Victory* paper very much. We have been a subscriber for many years.

It was our happy privilege to attend the National campmeeting at Monark Springs, Mo., this summer for the first time. We would like to thank all of you for the loving way we were cared for, and for the wonderful fellowship with the saints of God. Of the many campmeetings we have attended, this was the greatest. We are made to believe that the entire meeting was under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

We will always remember Bro. and Sis. Austin McMillian. They were so kind to us during our stay.

Yours in Christ,

—Elder and Mrs. Anthony W. Snider

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Ala.—Dear Sis. Marie: I feel well today in body and soul. Thanks be to God for His goodness and mercy to us. I do love Him with all my heart, and I want to serve Him as long as I live, so I may have a home with Him in heaven where there will be no sorrow, pain, disappointments, misunderstandings, and not even death will come. Won't it be wonderful there? My heart's desire is to be the example Jesus would have me be that others would see Jesus in me and also want to follow Him.

Jesus has been so very good to me. By His help I have attended four campmeetings this summer. I have been made to see more clearly that God's way is a narrow, strait, and holy way. We must press with all our hearts to get into the kingdom of God. We must also keep pressing, looking to Jesus and toward heaven, if we stay in the kingdom.

Surely we are living near the end of time. The world is getting more wicked each day. Even the church-world, professing to know God, has "only a form of godliness, but denying the power" of God to set one free from sin. The Bible says, "From such turn away." People are falling away from God on every hand. The Bible says there will come a falling away before His coming. Let us all keep our eyes on Jesus, be ready, watching, and praying for His coming.

Much Christian love, —Sis. Pearlene Whitson

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

Mo.—About a year ago I was healed of a hurting under my shoulder blade. It had hurt me most of my life. It was tender and burned and felt sore. I would have to lie on my back to rest my shoulder. One day it was hurting, so I prayed just a few words to God. I didn't think about it again for a day or two. It was well, praise God! I can't thank God enough for His goodness to me.

I have a 16-year-old grandson who hurt his back several years ago. It hurt him a lot and he took treatments. The doctor said he could not cure him, as he had curvature of the spine. He didn't give much hopes of his getting any better. The doctors wanted him to go to the hospital, but he didn't go. Then I started praying for him. After quite some time, I said,

"I believe God has healed your back." He said, "I do, too." He never complains and he can do hard work such as laying sewer pipe, digging trenches, and operating heavy machinery on construction jobs. Is it any wonder we love to serve a God that can do anything? Praise His name!

God has so many blessings for us if only we believe His Word. We have enjoyed many miracles and healings in our family, which includes in-laws as well as our children.

—Sis. Goldie Knapp

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

Okla.—Dear brethren in Christ: I am thankful for the many blessings that God has bestowed upon me. I am grateful for the Highway of holiness, and I am so very glad that He permitted me to know the truth. Holiness should possess our thoughts and be our way of life, for without it no one can see the Lord. Surely, I want to see Him and by His grace I'm living holy every day. Only by His grace can we live free from sin and the opposing power of the enemy of our soul.

Today I received a letter from Ramona Esquer (some may remember her at Monark campmeeting in 1965) which I would like to share:

"My dear unforgettable Charlotte, I hope that you are enjoying good health and that the peace of God is reigning in your heart.

"I am very happy in these days, because I have received many very great blessings from God. My smallest girl was in the hospital and the doctor told me, 'I can do nothing more, I have done all that I can do for her. I cannot save her.' In these moments, I remembered a testimony given by Bro. Ernest. Then with faith, I begged God to heal her. My little girl was relieved and healed in a moment. When the doctor saw the change, he exclaimed, 'This is a miracle!' The child was released and I returned home with her walking. Thank God, Sis. Charlotte. God is very great and has total power. In these days I have received great experiences. God is with me each moment. Glory to God!

"Please pray for my brother who is very sick with his nerves. My mother is a little better, but she suffers much because of my brother, Antonio. 'For I know that the Lord is great and that our Lord is above all Gods.' Psalms 135:5."

We praise God for those He has called to be His children, and are still trusting Him although they have been away from the saints for many years. This makes me realize more than ever before that the seed sown for Christ is not in vain. Praise our God!

I also wish to thank God for blessing in the Bible schools in Dallas, Texas. Sis. Doris Hardman and Sis. Judy Antel are spending the summer having Vacation Bible Schools at community centers in different parts of Dallas. God is blessing by saving souls and also in making contact with hungry souls who are too old to attend the Bible schools in these different communities. Only God will know when the seed sown in these schools will germinate and grow. Let us all pray that God will bless His Word wherever it is sown.

Souls are perishing everyday. Can we sit at ease and watch them go into eternal punishment? Ask yourself these two questions, "Do I Believe in Eternal Punishment? What Am I Doing About It?"

—Charlotte Huskey

La.—Dear Bro. and Sister: Our oldest son Craig, who is now seven, had eczema on his legs from about the top of his thighs down for about three years or more. The places on his legs would get extremely inflamed and caused him a great deal of pain. We were not saved at first, and, of course, we were going to the doctors, but he was not being helped to any great extent. We had started giving him shots just before we got saved. This was in April or May of 1977. After getting saved, we quit giving Craig the shots and started holding him up before the Lord for healing. For about six months nothing seemed to change, but, of course, the Lord was hearing prayer. One evening I was reading the book by Bro. Susag, and he was telling how the Lord told him He was going to give him the overcoat of which he was in much need. Bro. Susag had to wait quite a few months, eighteen, as I remember, but he never gave up on the promise of the Lord for the coat. Finally he acquired the money to buy the coat. At that moment the Lord spoke to me and said that He was going to heal Craig. From then on, I stood on the promise and testified to the promise of God. However, through ignorance, I would still ask the Lord to help Craig and bless his legs. This went on for about four months or so.

We went to the West Virginia campmeeting, and during one of the Lord's messages He told me to stop praying for that which I had already received of Him. From that moment on, I did not pray about Craig's condition. Praise His holy name! Within two to three weeks, Craig's legs were completely well and as smooth as could be. I praise the Lord for this victory in our child's life, and I know that Craig is healed. We are resisting Satan who would like nothing better than to take away the blessing. As the song says, "Jesus is just the same today." —Stanley and Aline Dickson

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Okla.—Dear Sis. Marie and saints: Just a word for the Lord. About June first I was grievously ill. During the campmeeting in Tulsa, Okla., I received my healing. Praise the Lord! He is still in the healing business if we only have faith to trust in Him. Read this Scripture, John 15:7.

—Sis. Florence Holman

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La.—Dear Sis. Marie: I feel that the Lord wants me to write and tell of His blessings to us.

Dana's right eye has been crossed since birth, and the last couple of years it seemed to have gotten worse. Sometimes the left eye would cross, too. I became burdened early this spring, and felt it was time for the Lord to work. The saints in our congregation got under the burden with me and fasted and prayed. The Lord was faithful and gave me a witness that Dana's eyes would be healed. St. John 20:27-29 was precious to me. It was my promise; also, the song "I Will No Longer Doubt Thee." After that, different ones of the saints came and told me that the Lord had let them know Dana was healed. Her eyes slowly started getting straight. The devil is still working, trying to discourage, but I know that the Lord has healed her.

I do need your prayers. The devil is working so very hard in many ways to discourage, but I am determined to make heaven my home. I don't want anything to get in the way. —Diane Melot

Ohio—To all the saints near and far: Greetings of holy love in Jesus' name, the One whose precious blood has saved my soul from all sin, sanctified my nature, satisfied my longing heart, and fills me daily with heavenly blessings in Christ Jesus. Glory to His holy name!

Surely, I can truly say the Lord God Almighty has visited me. Two months ago, the Lord gloriously delivered me of our ninth child. The Holy Ghost made plain to me to write my testimony. I'm so glad that the Word of God is yet true today, and that all of God's children are led by the Holy Ghost. Indeed, He is our Leader and Guide through this dark world, and Overseer of the living Church of God, which Christ purchased with His own precious blood. Praise His name forever!

I have not always had such grace and glory reigning in my soul. At one time in my Christian experience, I was not as fervent in my service to God as He requires. But God, who is faithful to every soul, awakened me to the desperate need of my soul. Surely, Jesus turned my failings into blessings.

Dear ones, I might say here, if you mean to have faith in God in these wicked and perilous times, be assured that God honors His Word and a life that abides in it. I have learned that perfect obedience brings invincible faith in God. He has been with me to deliver me naturally of my last four children, which medical science says is not possible when one has had a Caesarean operation. Glory to God, I serve the true and living God, who does impossible things for His children all the time. All these children were delivered in the hospital without the aid of any medicine or anesthesia. The doctor had tried to discourage me from having any more children, as he was afraid for my health, but God saw fit otherwise. He gave me complete healing to my body and grace to bear with those who did not understand God's gracious dealings with my soul. Truly, in this time we are living, the world frowns on a large family, but glory to God, I thank Him for every child, for it has been the means of bringing me closer to my Lord. We now have eight healthy girls and one boy. God gave us the one boy for my husband's salvation, to which I do attest this day. God is surely true to His promise, if we keep our end of the covenant. Surely, it is up to us how much of God's truth is lived in our everyday life. One does not get faith in God suddenly, but by daily living a humble and obedient life. Ready "to avenge all disobedience, when our obedience is fulfilled." 2 Cor. 10:6. My husband had said that if God would give us a boy he would get saved. God was merciful and faithful to his soul. Today my husband, Clifford, is saved and encouraged. The delivery of our last child was a miracle indeed. My body was weary and worn. Sister Hazel Clark, who was at that time our faithful pastor, and Clifford, my husband, were at the hospital praying that God would deliver me speedily. He miraculously did this! Glory to His name! Truly, we appreciate the awesome manifestation of God's mercy to our family.

I do earnestly covet all the saints' prayers, as does my husband and daughters who are also saved. Knowing that Satan "seeketh whom he may devour," we covet prayer for our entire family. —Virginia Grimes

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Is it scripturally correct to say that "God was made flesh and dwelt among men"? If this is correct, give the scriptures to prove the statement.

Answer: I do not know of any direct scripture that says this in these words. However, it seems to me this thought is inferred in a number of scriptures. What the scripture spells out in regard to this is, "And the WORD was made flesh, and dwelt among us." John 1:14. But John 1:1 says, "... The WORD was God." This is the same WORD which was made flesh and dwelt among us. I Tim. 3:16 says that "God was manifest in the flesh." 1st John 5:20 says, "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life." Also in Isaiah 9:6 we read, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: ... and his name shall be called ... The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Here the Son, Jesus, which was given is called THE MIGHTY GOD. Truly, the Father and Son were one and in Him that part of the God-head, the second Person in the Trinity, took on human form and flesh and dwelt among men. God in Christ was clothed in mortal flesh. Evidently God the Father did not assume human flesh, but God the Son did. And we conclude that the Son is an equal part of the God-head along with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

All scriptures pertaining to the incarnation of Jesus Christ would have a bearing on this and be connected to this thought, but they are too numerous to insert here. Therefore, it seems to me it could be said that the scriptures say it in so many words that "God was made flesh and dwelt among men," but it also seems to me that the whole tenor of the scriptures on this line teach that this actually happened.

Famine In Denominationalism

It is an obvious case in point that, in virtually all sectarian churches today, formal religious practice is declining. Church attendance is down, and more and more people, young as well as old, are rejecting the traditional ways of worship. Sadly, though it may seem, growing numbers are abandoning belief in God and are refusing to be guided by heretical creeds, church manuals and catechisms that, for better than three centuries now, have been the petted fondlings of an anti-Christian movement known as Protestantism—denoting the divided and humanly-controlled governments of man-made churchianity.

Since denominational creeds have always superseded the Bible in point of authority and since, for centuries, many of these creedal tenets have flaunted their unreasonable beliefs and have invited ridicule, is it any wonder, therefore, that many thinking people are awakening to the evil being practiced and can no longer see any use in these shallow ceremonies and the formalistic ways of these churches and other non-Christian religions? The Apostle Peter has an expression which

is perfectly adaptable to the condition, in his second epistle, 2nd chapter, stating tersely in the 13th verse: "Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings, while they feast with you." "False prophet" is the appellation given in Rev. 19:20, and elsewhere, by which Protestantism is known in Bible prophecy. Owing, therefore, to the "666" conflicting views of this colossal system of religion, the epithet—"false prophet"—is very well taken.

But what are a few of the unsound doctrines—false reasonings—of this modern deceptive system? All right, let us name **division**, the first and probably the principal evil because it incorporates several others, such as church-joining while, at the same time, it promotes envy, hatred, strife, and jealousy which all are manifestly the fruit of a carnal tree. Let there be no mistake, sect-making is in direct conflict with God's Word—and inexcusable.

The holy and loving Christ Jesus before leaving this world, and infinitely aware of the Church's future, recognized the dangers of division and prayed with great fervency that His followers might be "one"—"one" in institutional unity as well as "one" in love with the brethren and "one" in love with God. With penetrating perception and perfect comprehension, Jesus, the all-magnificent and omniscient One, knowing the evil designs the arrogant perpetrator of discord would visit upon His people in the not too distant future, prayed this preeminent prayer: Father, "... 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. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one: even as we are one; I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one: and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." (John 17:20-23). This very **oneness** among those professing to be God's people is the very thing the "world" is not seeing and does not "know" and, consequently, they are not "believing." In fact, the modern world has never seen anything at all like Christian unity exhibited in modern organized churchianity; nor has this type of Christian unity existed for centuries except in certain exclusive places where the power, Spirit, and presence of Christ is given free witness in the hearts of His people. As one brother ably expressed the situation: "Many errors have crept into the church in the past, but none more subtle and weakening than this of division."

The Apostle Paul, too, saw this innovation of evil that had already started to play havoc with the church. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, and in no uncertain terms, but with feeling and persistency, he admonished the saints many times by expressions synonymous to the following: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." I Cor. 1:10. Paul gives this admonition here because already there were those spiritually shallow brethren who were saying, "I am of Paul, I of Apollos, I of Cephas," just as today there are those who are saying, "I am a Lutheran, I a Baptist, I of Wesley, and I a Methodist." What! "Is Christ divided?" Paul asks, "Was Paul

crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?" "For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?" (Chapters 1 and 3 of I Cor.). One might naturally suppose that consecrated, redeemed students of God's holy Word would pause here and seriously review this fundamentally sound deduction which Paul so reasonably draws from a perverse, worldly, and carnal situation; a situation so diametrically opposed to God's very nature and to every tenet of the gospel as to be entirely out of harmony with and foreign to the divine economy of God's Church. But, no, egocentric professors will not pause here to consider the text's spiritual implications. Paul asks, "Is Christ divided?" Certainly, this is a worthy question, and worthy of a sound conclusion.

A number of years ago, while discussing this subject with a group of church women and calling their attention to a number of these texts which contradict this practice of divisions in the body of Christ and, also, the practice of sect-making, one woman was heard to remark with a show of indifference and flippancy, "Well, I don't see what we are going to do about it." This gave me an opportunity to reply that, in my estimation, it seemed to me that there is, indeed, something of immeasurable value, spiritually applied, that each individual can do to help rectify this sinful situation. We can, each humbly sanctified heart, covenant with God to obey His Word. The one word is *obedience* which can make the difference and becomes the key word in discovering the whole solution to the problem. We can, each one of us, obey the voice from heaven which adjures: "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." Rev. 18:4,5. The object to this "come out" call is spiritual "Babylon the great" which is "fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." Rev. 18:2. Ah, yes, and let us not forget that the reference to Babylon is also made to her as the "mother of harlots" (17:5), her unchaste daughters, who also represent the "false prophet" or Protestantism and altogether make up that wicked city of spiritual Babylon, a city doomed to eternal destruction (ch. 20:10), God's judgment having already been pronounced upon her and now in effect. "Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine, and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her." (ch. 18:8). Is it any wonder that God's people are commanded to "come out of her?"

Indeed, denominationalism is experiencing a famine, so bleak, so devastating, so void of those wholesome qualities of the divine Church that her fall from grace and her starving condition must be apparent to any spiritual mind. Hers is the type of famine predicted by the prophet Amos, viz., "Behold the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord," (Amos 8:11)—a desolating dearth in spiritual food! Babylon's fall is spiritual and moral because she has rejected God's Word and has refused the leadership of the Holy Spirit, substituting for these the self-rule of human government.

Therefore, while the decreed purpose of the Deity is being witnessed in drawing these very trying human events toward their final consummation, we have the gratifying scene depicted before us of the thousands of the humble though victorious servants of God who have given heed to the call, "Come out of her, my people," and they take their stand, not on the site of ancient literal Jerusalem as of yore, but on the "sea of glass," and they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb (Rev. 15:2-4). Yes, God has provided something better for His redeemed sons and daughters than "Babylon," the land of spiritual confusion.

—Earl Langley

Are You of That Holy Remnant?

Matt. 7:13,14, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Dear ones, which gate have you entered? Are you really willing to lose your life here on earth, so to speak, to gain a home in heaven? Matt. 16:24-26, "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matt. 19:29, "And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life." Matt. 6:19-21, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Luke 17:33, "Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it." John 6:53-58, "Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever." John 15:26, "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me."

Dear ones, aren't these wonderful promises? We should seek to draw close to God and be in the multitude "which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues," standing before

the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands. This is still only a remnant compared to all earth's population. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 7:21.

Remember the story of the flood? Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives were the only ones saved. Remember the wicked city of Sodom? God couldn't find even five righteous people in it, so it was destroyed with brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven. Lot's wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt. Remember when Gideon attacked the Midianites? He had thirty-two thousand soldiers and God told him there were too many. Only three hundred soldiers stood the test; they held their weapons in one hand and drank from the other hand. Remember the story of the ten virgins? Only five virgins went in to the marriage supper.

So, we see God chooses only the ones who are faithful. Let each of us draw close to God, search our lives daily, and seek to be in the City which John saw coming down from heaven. —Sis. Pearlene Whitson

Not Moses, But Abraham

The Christian's spiritual progenitor is not Moses, but Abraham.

The great doctrine of faith takes us back to Abraham and thus antedates the Law of Moses by 430 years. This is the argument of Paul in Galatians 3:15-18 and Romans 4:9-16.

There is a mistaken notion abroad that in the Old Testament salvation came by obedience to the Law, while in the New Testament it comes by faith. The truth is that since the beginning of the world no one was ever saved in any way other than by grace through faith.

"The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." But grace and truth came by Jesus Christ long before the incarnation. When God slew those beasts (presumably lambs) and gave the skins to Adam and Eve for clothing He was telling them in symbolic language that the redemption of the race would be by the merit of innocent life laid down. Not by law but by atonement would they and their descendants be ransomed from the Fall.

This idea was never wholly lost to mankind. When the Law was given it was accompanied by a system of sin offerings and atoning sacrifices leading straight to the Saviour who was to come. When John pointed to Jesus and exclaimed, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world," he was identifying Christ with all the sacrificial lambs that had been offered for sin from the time of Abel to the appearance of Emmanuel.

The idea creeps into much evangelical teaching that the Old Testament is a book of justice and judgment without a ray of mercy, grace, or love to lighten the darkness, whereas the New Testament is filled with mercy and forgiveness. The truth is that mercy and justice, love and judgment are found in both the Old and the New Testament in about equal proportion. Not two Gods but one wrote the Bible, and the unity of His perfect character reveals itself in all parts of the Scriptures.

It may come as a surprise to some to learn that there is as much about mercy in the Old Testament as in the New, but such is actually the case. Grace is found throughout the Old Testament, and love also is found there in abundance. Justification by faith is an Old Testament doctrine. It was first associated with Abraham, appeared later in the writings of David and Habakkuk and was shown by Paul to be one of the most vital doctrines of the New Testament. Thus the organic unity of the Bible is confirmed.

It is a heartening thought that no one ever had or can have any advantage over another in his search for God. No matter what the dispensation or the circumstances, everyone who came to God came by faith. Those of ancient times looked forward to the cross and those of later times looked and must look back to it. Everyone and anyone may find forgiveness and cleansing through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and any progress in the knowledge of God, any growth in spiritual stature must come the same way. Our spiritual ancestor is Abraham whose faith pleased God, brought an imputation of righteousness and made him the father of the faithful.

We Christians are the sons of faith and the heirs of liberty. Let us stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free. —A. W. Tozer

Self-Searching Thoughts

Just recently, an apparition of thought seized me, shook its finger in my face and demanded, "Just what are you accomplishing in life, anyway?" The shock and rapidity with which this entered my mind activated some self-searching thoughts. I began to assess my accomplishments and attainments. "Just what was I learning?" I asked myself. "How was I developing and expanding my knowledge? What talents and accomplishments could I attribute to myself? What skills had I begun and mastered?" In essence, "What am I worth?" was the chief question with which I faced myself. After calculation and self-examination, I must admit, I felt rather disappointed in the outcome of my questionnaire. My evaluation placed me in the category where I felt like an ordinary, not too exceptional individual, with limited knowledge and few skills. This was rather downheartening—until I recalled the standard by which we are to examine and judge ourselves, the comforting, reassuring, heart-searching Word of God.

The story of Mary and Martha came to my mind. Martha was laboring and accomplishing something (in the sense we so often measure accomplishment), while Mary sat at Christ's feet and absorbed the Word of God into her heart and soul. The solacing words of Jesus rang within me, "But one thing is needful," just one thing (Luke 10:42)—and that one thing is to "fear God and keep His commandments." Eccl. 12:13. What a comfort and joy to know that earthly accomplishments and achievements are not what I must depend on for entrance into the kingdom of God. To choose that good part, which cannot be taken from me, is my heart's desire, and to receive the reward of having chosen it will be the ultimate eternal attainment. —Mary Murphey

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