

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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In Every Thing Give Thanks



In ev'ry thing give thanks to God
And count His blessings o'er;
Be filled with praise and gratitude
For all His boundless store.

Let not the strain of mortal toil
And dark distressful days
The joy and peace within you spoil
Or dim your song of praise.

Much better than a woeful mind
To have a thankful heart;
To view the many mercies kind
God's faithful to impart.

Sin not against our gracious King
By murmur or complaint;
Cast all your care on Him, and sing:
Just be a thankful saint!

Wage strongly life's great battle, know
That victory is sure;
God's watching over us below,
Our hope is so secure.

The wrong shall fall, the right prevail,
And sorrow soon shall dim,
No foe can in the strife avail
While we cling close to Him.

Be thankful for the future bright
That saints of God possess;
Be thankful for the gospel light
That shows His holiness.

Life's burdens oft are hard to bear:
They tend to weight you down;
But learn to cast on Him your care:
Trade for a smile your frown.

In ev'ry thing give thanks, be glad;
Rejoice in God today;
By His kind hand of love be led
On up the shining way!

—Leslie C. Busbee

True Christianity

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There is some danger of falling into a soft and effeminate Christianity, under the plea of a lofty and ethereal theology. Christianity was born for endurance; not an exotic, but a hardy plant, braced by the keen wind; not languid, nor childish, nor cowardly. It walks with strong step and erect frame; it is kindly, but firm, it is gentle, but honest, it is calm, but not facile; obliging, but not imbecile; decided, but not churlish. It does not fear to speak the stern word of condemnation against error, nor to raise its voice against surrounding evils, under the pretext it is not of this world; it does not shrink from giving honest reproof, lest it come under the charge of displaying an unchristian spirit. It calls sin sin, on whomsoever it is found, and would rather risk the accusation of being actuated by a bad spirit than not discharge an explicit duty. Let us not misjudge strong words used in honest controversy. Out of the heat a viper may come forth; but we shake it off and feel no harm. The religion of both Old and New Testaments is marked by fervent outspoken testimonies against evil. To speak smooth things in such a case may be sentimentalism, but it is not Christianity. It is a betrayal of the cause of truth and righteousness. If anyone should be frank, manly, honest, cheerful (I do not say blunt or rude, for a Christian must be courteous and polite); it is he who has tasted that the Lord is gracious, and is looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God. I know that charity covereth a multitude of sins; but it does not call evil good, because a good man has done it; it does not excuse inconsistencies, because the inconsistent brother has a high name and a fervent spirit. Crookedness and worldliness are still crookedness and worldliness, though exhibited in one who seems to have reached no common height of attainment.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Cor. 15:58.

—Horatius Bonar

Christ's Holiness

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That which casts the most radiant halo of glory over the life of Jesus of Nazareth is the spotless purity of His character. Many persons have been noted for their piety and benevolence insomuch that their names are enrolled in honor on the tablets of history; but never was there a life so pure and exemplary as that of the lowly Nazarene. From His birth holiness was a part of His nature. The Psalmist gives a beautiful account of Him in the following words, "In the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth." Psa. 110:3. While He possessed no marked physical charms, had "no form nor comeliness," yet, as we consider His holiness as well as His other attributes, we behold Him, indeed the "fairest among ten thousand, and the one altogether lovely."

Man is conceived in sin, and is by nature a child of wrath. If he attains to holiness it is only received through the merit of another. But not so with the "Son of man." He possessed in Himself original and absolute holiness. One apostle in writing of Him says, "For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens." Heb. 7:26. By this we understand that it was necessary according to the plan of God that He be possessed of this attribute in order that He might atone for the sins of the world. In fact, the prophets who prophesied of Him, and the ceremonies and types of the Old Testament all pointed to this kind of Redeemer.


The sacrificial offering under the law must be without spot or blemish. It was the duty of the officiating priest to examine the sacrifice in order that no crippled or defective animal be offered. Peter assigns a reason for this in the following words: "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but by the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." 1 Pet. 1:18,19.

But the apostle does not stop here, he informs that Christ came into the world not only to redeem us but that He also left us an example that we should follow in his steps: "who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." 1 Pet. 2:21, 22. Hence we must consider Him, and imitate His life and character. Having put off the old man we must "put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Eph. 4:22-24. "For if the first-fruit be holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root be holy, so are the branches." Rom. 11:16.

How great is God's mercy in providing means whereby we may be partakers of this precious fruit! While we behold Him in all the essential purity of His character, it is the Father's design that we be conformed to the same image. "But we all with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Cor. 3:18. And,

again, "when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." 1 John 3:2, 3. —G. Q. Coplin

Filled With Knowledge of His Will


In the apostle's prayer for the Colossian Church he desired that they be filled with the knowledge of the will of God in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. This desire is one of deep importance to every child of God. The saints at Colosse were in danger of being deceived by false doctrines, and although the apostle had perhaps never seen them face to face, he had heard through Epaphras of their spiritual condition, which was very commendable in every respect. But there was danger ahead, and while they were doing well at that time, there was a deception being planned for them in the Judaizing and other formal doctrines that might soon rob them of the spiritual life. It was the spiritual life that they must maintain if they would continue to be saved, and to be an ornament to the gospel of Christ.

In thinking of the necessity of being filled with the knowledge of God's will, we see that it was no more important for the saints in that day than it is for us in this day where there are so many deceptions and schemes of the wicked one to cause us to lose our spirituality. The knowledge of God's will is every thing to us, for unless we seek and obtain this knowledge and apply it in every detail of our life, we will find our feet ensnared by some of the many deceptions around us. It is only the knowledge of God's will that out-generals the shrewd plots of the enemy. In our human knowledge and judgment Satan will most certainly prove too much for us. This is where we are so much in danger of failing. We sometimes think we have some good knowledge and judgment of our own, and attempt to make use of it in spiritual things, but it cannot accomplish the right object. Satan can play with us at his own pleasure as long as we depend upon defeating him by this means. It is the knowledge that God gives of spiritual things that secures for us the victory.

In our present opportunities in the clear evening light, we have much knowledge at our command if we but make use of it. There never was an age or a reformation with so much knowledge of spiritual things. The pages of God's Holy Word never were so illuminated to a people on earth as they are now to the saints in light. The momentous problems that have puzzled the minds of men and women of other generations, and have been hidden from many who desired to look into them, are now revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. In reading the history of our fathers, we see how they welcomed with joy every ray of light that came to them, and many prophesied of the clearer light that would soon shine. They walked in all the light they had, and many sealed their testimonies to the same with their own blood. They

How precious to know the will of God concerning us in this dark world! In it we are safe; it is the sweetest treasure on earth, for in it we have every good thing. It is the safest place on earth and it assures us of the glory of the world to come. We do not want to see how near we can get to the outside of His will and still be in it, but we want to keep in the very center of it day and night, for here flows the grace and joy from the throne of God. Though it may sometimes mean persecution and suffering, this will all be sweetened by the assurance that it is God's will.

Dear saints, I want to entreat all of you to take heed how you walk in the knowledge of God's will. If we do not sacredly heed all the light that God gives us, this very light will become darkness. Our eyes will become dim, and our power of discernment weakened. God gives this light and knowledge for our spiritual protection, and there is no excuse for our being ignorant of His will, nor of the devices of Satan. The more we know about God, the more we know about the enemy, for it is the knowledge of God that exposes the enemy. This is all for our safety in this life, and for our entrance into heaven. Our failing to obtain this knowledge and to retain it, means our failing to gain heaven. There is danger of looking upon this too carelessly and becoming negligent in the daily application of this heavenly knowledge. We must look diligently, lest we fail to apply it. May God help us to cherish it above everything on earth and to be filled continually with it. —J. W. Byers

The Purity of God's Handiwork

"Unto the pure all things are pure, but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving, is nothing pure; even their mind and conscience is defiled." The above Scripture shows how purity of mind imparts purity to external things; it gives an insight into those who think God's thoughts after Him. The impure in thought can not even look on the pure and think them pure, but from their own evil and impure thoughts they put evil construction even on the beautiful handiwork of God, and think many things were created for lustful and evil purposes.

No wonder that from such a source there are so many evil minded, impure children brought into this world who, in turn, are clothed with the same impure thoughts and minds that possessed their parents. We, as parents, should be clothed with pure minds, then teach our children the purity of the Lord's handiwork in all His created beings. How mankind is becoming degenerated! One generation after another, handing down unclean and evil thoughts, are not able to look on the beautiful design and plan of God in His work of reproduction, without vulgar and impure thoughts.

What can we expect of the offspring? If the parents' minds are defiled, will they not be likely to impart the same to the children? How can they teach them to look at God's plan in purity, if they

themselves put a vile and evil construction on it? Usually children look at things from the same standpoint as the parents, hence, let the children be taught purity in word and action. Give them a foundation for clean and pure thoughts, and clean and pure actions will result. Be yourself all you want your child to be. Do not correct and punish him for things or even words and action, that he sees in you.

Sometimes parents think they can do things without their children seeing or hearing of it. Parents, the reflection will be there and sooner or later the tale will be told. Let your children think their parents are the purest in the world, and try by every word and action to prove it so to them. It will have its impress on their hearts and lives. Do not allow anything in yourself, you would not want developed in your child.

The noble and pure man or woman you want to see in your child, let it be a reflection of what he sees in you. Weeds grow very easily, but good fruitful plants, need great care and tender, patient tending. It requires an effort to live pure and holy, just as it requires great care and labor to keep your garden clean and free from noxious plants.

The world is full of unholy and evil instructors, who are at every turn ready to find your children, but with the foundation of purity, have them fore-armed and fore-warned, and they can, to a great extent, judge and choose for themselves. Many parents say they want to keep their children's minds pure and innocent, hence neglecting to tell them things they should know, because they think they will find them out for themselves. Yes, dear parents, they will find them out sooner or later, and from what source? You may find out sooner or later that they have had more information than you had any idea they had, and of what nature is it? Be warned, and you yourself see to the information your child needs.

There is a vast difference between ignorance and innocence, and remember that your child can not always stay in innocent ignorance—knowledge will come through some medium. Be your own child's instructor; then you will know what his needs are, and supply the information as he has need. —Jennie M. Byers

A Christian loves God, and desires to glorify Him as much as he possibly can. The way to glorify Him most is by bearing the "peaceable fruit of righteousness." You cannot bear these fruits to perfection without prunings, chastenings, and scourgings. You should be willing to endure the chastenings that you might bear more fruit.

O dear saints, every time you are chastened of the Lord, you are simply made capable of bearing more fruit, which results in greater peace to your own soul, and makes you to be to others all that God designs. Remember, this chastening brings a greater yield of peaceable fruit: a greater yield of peaceable fruit brings more glory to God; therefore, endure the chastenings without a murmur. —C. E. Orr

FAITH AND VICTORY

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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 other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044 (USPS184-660)

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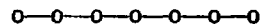
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EDITORIALS



"IN EVERY THING GIVE THANKS: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning YOU." First Thess. 5:18.

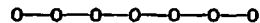
Obedience to this simple direction by the apostle Paul will bring victory to a troubled soul when nothing else will. As one has written, "The very simplicity of it all is the greatest stumbling block to many souls. This is a remedy for many spiritual ills, but it has to be personally applied." God has promised to give the "garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness." In Psa. 50:23, He says, "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God." The Psalmist David in his writings has given very many exhortations to praise the Lord. In the very last verse of the Psalms he writes: "Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord." Psa. 150:6.



Where Are the Nine? . . .

When Jesus was on earth, He met ten men who were lepers. They stood afar off, and lifted up their voices, and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" Jesus said to them, "Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten lepers cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger." Luke 17:12-18.

Generally speaking, man in his unregenerate condition is unthankful and ungrateful for the many blessings that he receives. He is like the hog eating acorns under the oak tree and never looks up to see or recognize where the acorns come from. Those who have been made new creatures in Christ are given thankful hearts, and they know that every temporal and spiritual gift comes from the Father above. Let us ever offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, realizing that in Him we live, and move, and have our being.



We are very thankful for the GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS that we have received since the October issue was put in the mail. Many more names to whom we could send the paper would certainly be appreciated and the Lord will reward you many-fold. Continue Sending Yearly Gift Subscriptions . . .

Write or PRINT PLAINLY the names and addresses of your relatives, friends, and neighbors on a SEPARATE SHEET of paper from your letter, and send the list and remittance at these rates:—Single copy for one year, 35c; and additional yearly subscriptions are priced at three addresses for \$1.00. Please send in all the subscriptions that you can,

and do it NOW, so we can start sending this gospel paper of vital Bible truth. Let us continue to be "workers together" in God's great cause to rescue the perishing. The reward will be eternal joy in the presence of our Lord and Saviour when the "golden sheaves" are brought in. Thank you, and may the Lord bless and prosper your efforts in this gospel literature ministry.

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Beautiful 1982 Wall Calendar with Scripture . . .

This 1982 Wall Calendar has beautiful nature scenes in color for each month with Scriptural emphasis. Size 7½ by 13½ inches. Price, \$1.30 each, plus 70c for postage and handling, which is a total of \$2.00, postpaid to your address.

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Scripture Text Christmas Cards — 14 cards in box. Sunshine Line—price per box, \$2.50, plus 90c for postage and handling. Order your supply NOW!

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Microfilm Reader to Be Purchased Soon . . .

Thanks to all who contributed your freewill offerings to the special fund in order to purchase the film reader, by which one will be able to view on a screen and read the pages of the Gospel Trumpet paper from its beginning in 1881 to 1920. We expect to purchase the film reader very soon, and it will be available for use here at the office for interested readers and researchers. However, we have no plans at present to print the film in book form, though we may select articles and information from those issues for reprinting in our publications. Again, thanks for your interest and concern in this worthy project.

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The annual autumn meeting at Spencer (Green Pastures), Okla., where Bro. Charles Chandler is the pastor, closed with victory on October 18. Ministers were present from California and Kansas, besides some in-state ministers. The Word was preached clearly and definitely, and a number of souls received help at the altar of prayer.

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The Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting, the largest winter gathering of God's people in the U. S., will be held, Lord willing, at Guthrie, Okla., from Dec. 25, 1981 to Jan. 3, 1982. Further announcement of the meeting will appear in the Dec. issue.

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The Conscience—What Is It, and Its Function? . . .

Cruden's Concordance defines the conscience as "that God-given faculty within us which decides as to the moral quality of our thoughts, words, and acts. It gives consciousness of the good of one's conduct or motives, or causes feelings of remorse at evil-doing. The conscience can be educated, or trained to recognize good and evil, but its action is involuntary. A good conscience is one which has no feeling of reproach against oneself, and does not accuse oneself of wilful wrong. Acts 24:16."

What will bring a good conscience? "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the

eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God." Heb. 9:14. "Having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience." Heb. 10:22.

What kind of a conscience would God's people have? "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience." 1 Tim. 1:5. "Holding the mystery of faith in a pure conscience." 1 Tim. 3:9.

What brings real joy to the child of God? "For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience," 2 Cor. 1:12. "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost." Rom. 9:1. "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God." First John 3:21.

When unenlightened by the truth, is the conscience always a safe guide? No. The Apostle Paul wrote thus of his misguided actions before his conversion: "I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth." Acts 26:9.

The fate of the lost with their conscience:—

"Hope will end, but conscience never,
With thy spirit it will fly,
Yea, torment and chide thee ever,
Where the worm shall never die."

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Man Changes the Clocks—Not the Time . . .

About twice a year in most of the states of these United States man changes their clocks forward and backward. Many people remark that they are changing the time by this operation, but actually the fact is that they are not changing time one iota. The movement of the sun and moon which govern daylight and dark remain the same as God designed it. The clock is just man's instrument for measuring time and it can be changed at his will, but God's master time clock cannot be manipulated by human hands, though perhaps man would like to do so if he could. God still rules in the final analysis.

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This writer is still very grateful to the Lord that He gives me strength each day to keep going in His service. Through the pain and torment of this affliction I am made to wonder at times how much longer I can keep going, but the answer to that question is fully in God's hands. He can do what He will with His own property. By the help and grace of God I want to keep laboring in His cause as long as He gives ability to do so. Your continued prayers and concern will be greatly appreciated.

If the Lord does not come soon, there is a point in time when others must take over the management of the Lord's Printshop. Pray that God's man or couple will step forward at the proper time. It would be well for them to work with us a while before that final transition.

May the Lord bless all who so faithfully support this gospel literature ministry. —Lawrence Pruitt

In Memorial

Jimmie H. Goudeau, the son of Pete and Leone Goudeau, was born in Mansura, La., on Feb. 13, 1905, and departed this life on August 27, 1981, at the age of 76 years, 5 months, and 27 days.

Bro. Goudeau married the late Mary Ann Prudom on Feb. 23, 1927. To this union six children were born. One son preceded him in death.

On May 14, 1955, he was married to Lois Cravatt. He was a faithful, loving husband and father, and a member of the Evening Light Church of God, Hoffman, Okla., until his death.

He leaves to mourn his passing: his wife, Lois C. Goudeau, of the home; two daughters, Mrs. Helen Goudeau and Mrs. Juanita McCorn, both of Tulsa, Okla.; two step-daughters, Mrs. Doris Ann Fant of Okla. City, and Mrs. Barbara Taylor of Kansas City, Kan.; three sons, Norbert Goudeau, Wichita, Kan., and Carl and Marcellus Goudeau, both of Tulsa, Okla.; 28 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; a host of other relatives, saints, and friends.

The funeral service was conducted at the Church of God chapel in Hoffman, Okla., by Bro. Woodrow Warren, and interment was in the Sacred Heart Cemetery at Grayson, Okla.

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Bro. Lloyd Gerald Smoot, born October 13, 1911, in Eldorado, Okla., was called from this life to his eternal home in heaven on Sept. 28, 1981, at the age of 69 years, 11 months, and 15 days.

He passed away at his home at Baton Rouge, La., where he and his wife, Sis. Nadine, had lived for the last 2½ years, since moving from Bethany, Okla., near Oklahoma City, where they had lived for many years.

Bro. Lloyd had been in a severe battle of affliction and test of faith for about four weeks before the Lord called him home, but he fought a good fight, kept the faith, and gained his eternal reward and the victory through Jesus Christ.

He is survived by his faithful wife, Sis. Nadine Smoot; one daughter, Mrs. Brenda Kinchen of Baton Rouge, La.; one son, Alan L. Smoot of Oklahoma City, Okla.; three brothers, Archie A. Smoot of Oklahoma City, Okla., Avery J. Smoot of El Paso, Tex., and Orvie B. Smoot of Afton, Okla.; two sisters, Mrs. Aimee Butler of Oklahoma City, Okla., and Mrs. Vada Means of Clovis, New Mexico; three granddaughters, many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted at the Thomas Funeral Home in Hammond, La., by Bro. Mart Samons and Bro. Bob Forbes, with graveside services conducted by Bro. Max Williamson in the Oak Grove Church of God Cemetery near Loranger, La.

—Bro. Bob Forbes

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A little vexation patiently borne will be rewarded by greater strength of character.

—C. E. Orr

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

CALIFORNIA STATE CAMPMEETING REPORT

Thankfully, we would like to report how God so especially blessed in the California State Campmeeting held in Pacoima, Calif., from Aug. 28 to Sept. 6. God's special presence was felt from the outset of the meeting.

A true spirit of prayer and conviction was felt throughout the ten days as evidenced by the active altar work. Those who came to the altar for help were determined to have complete deliverance and victory, and prayed through to that end. In some instances, this resulted in all night altar services, but the dedicated ministers were faithful to work and pray through with the individuals to complete victory.

We especially appreciate all the ministers and saints, both out-of-state and local, who came with a burden and stayed from beginning to end of the meeting. The attendance was unusually good throughout the ten days.

—Edward Sorrell

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LOS ANGELES AUTUMN MEETING

The annual fall meeting in Los Angeles, Calif., 1381 Walnut Street, will convene at 7:30 p. m., Sat. night, Nov. 28, with a singspiration. On Sunday, Nov. 29, will be all-day services. Meeting nightly through Sun., Dec. 6, 1981. On Friday, Dec. 4, there will be 10:30 a.m. service, and night, 7:30 p.m. On Sat. and Sun., Dec. 5 and 6, there will be day services at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.

All are welcome to attend this meeting. Please come and worship with us.

For further information, contact Bro. A. Lucas, our pastor, at 918 W. 62nd Pl., Los Angeles, Calif., 90044, phone (213)759-3962, or Bro. T. R. Summers, 711 W. 85th Pl., Los Angeles, Calif. 90044, phone (213)752-1135. —Submitted by Sis. Leon Phillips

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HAMMOND, LA., ASSEMBLY MEETING

The annual assembly meeting of the Church of God on the General Southern Campground located on Fifth Avenue in Hammond, La., will be held, Lord willing, from Nov. 22 to 29, 1981, which is Thanksgiving week.

The new entrance to the campground is on the north side of Fifth avenue, approximately six blocks west of the intersection of Fifth Avenue with Business 51 Highway South and Old Covington Highway in Hammond. This intersection is the third traffic light for those coming from the south off Interstate 12. Turn left onto Fifth Avenue at third light and go about six blocks.

We wish to extend to all saints of all nations a very warm welcome to come and be with us in this meeting, and enjoy the fellowship of the Spirit in the brethren. We are praying that God will send

the Spirit-filled ministers of His choosing to preach the Word of Truth needed in these last days.

Meals and lodging will be provided again as usual. The meeting will be supported on a freewill basis.

Please come praying that God will send forth His Word under the anointing of His Spirit; that souls will be saved, bodies will be healed, His saints stirred to a closer walk with the Lord, and a close unity with the brethren.

For further information, contact the undersigned whose address is Rt. 2 Box 67, Amite, La. 70422, phone (504)748-4957. —Bro. Bob Forbes

NEW CHAPEL AND SCHOOL BUILDING AT SPRINGFIELD, MO.

Our hearts are full of praises and gratitude to God for all He has done for us in Springfield, Mo. Our new chapel and school building here is nearly completed, and it has been wonderful to see how God has blessed and helped us. It inspires us to keep trusting Him for the remainder of our debt.

We want to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to all those who have listened to the voice of God and helped us by contributing manual labor and also financial help. We can never repay each one in a material way, but we pray that God will abundantly bless and reward you for your sacrifices made for Him.

Pray for us here. It is our desire to be faithful stewards over all the Lord has blessed us with, and to put this new chapel and school to good use for Him. We want to be a bright, shining light in this city that others will be drawn to Christ. "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32.

We also want to announce a singing Saturday, Dec. 5, with an all-day meeting and a dedication service on Sunday, Dec. 6. We extend a warm invitation to all to come and share the blessings of God with us.

For further information, contact Brother Ed Johnston, 1745 W. Olive, Springfield, Mo. 65802, phone (417)865-5668, or Bro. Terry Allen, 2761 W. Sylvia Ct., Springfield, Mo. 65803, phone (417)865-9287. —Ed Johnston

Prayer Requests

Miss.—Pray earnestly for Sister Ethel Lowery who needs healing of her nerves and victory over the harassment of the devil.

Ind.—Remember Bro. and Sis. W. R. Brewer in prayer for their healing. Sister Brewer had a stroke in June, 1978, from which she still suffers.

Okla.—Continue to pray for Sis. Thelma Sprague who is sorely afflicted. Her children have gone to Missouri to return her to her home in Guthrie.

Fla.—The undersigned talked to Bro. Hargrave in Goulds, Fla., at 10:30 p.m., on Oct. 23. They are

in the midst of a fiery trial in regard to their Bible position of trusting God for the healing of their 12-year old daughter Rachel. By court order she was taken from their home, placed in the hospital, and operations performed on her head for brain tumor, and now the doctors say that she will require medical aid the rest of her life. The State has charged Bro. Hargrave with medical neglect, seeking to get permanent custody of the child. The trial is scheduled for Nov. 13. Rachel is seemingly better, and her mother is with her almost every evening at the hospital. The child herself is requesting the saints everywhere to pray that she be released from the hospital and returned to her home.

The Christian school in the Goulds congregation is continuing daily on a reduced time schedule.

Bro. Hargrave requested that we express to all the saints their thanks and sincere appreciation for their prayers, phone calls, letters of encouragement, love offerings, and all the kindness shown to them during these trying times, and also requests your continued fervent prayers for them until the victory is won. In the true family of God, where one member suffers all the other members of that same body suffer with that member. Let us prevail in prayer with faith believing for Bro. and Sis. Hargrave and Rachel. Their address is H. H. Hargrave, 22345 S. W. 117th Place, Goulds, Fla. 33170. —L. D. Pruitt

FOREIGN FIELD REPORTS

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

South India (Sept. 15)—Dear Bro. Pruitt, the saints there and everywhere in America: We send our Christian greetings to all of you again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ who "art worthy to receive glory and honor and power." Rev. 4:11.

Thank you very much for your kind letter dated Sept. 1, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude and appreciation. When I opened the *Faith and Victory* paper, the smiling picture of Sister Marie Miles stopped me for a long time from other work, and I started to refresh my memory of my visits in America from 1974 to 1980. Surely she was a great blessing to all the saints, and we miss her more and more every day. May God select another saint to fill up that gap.

For the last two weeks we have had continuous and heavy rain which is a hindrance to our building of chapels. But the rain may stop soon. The indoor meetings are in progress everywhere. Our God is so faithful, and God's Word is as full of promises as the heavens are full of stars. All of them are payable upon demand according to the conditions named. They are made freely, and they are paid fully. . . . Praise the Lord!

Our 16th general campmeeting commences the second week of January, 1982, and we invite the saints in America to come over and participate in these meetings. We expect some dear ones to get the direction from God to come.

We continue to pray for your physical healing. May God give you special strength in body and soul, is our prayer every day.

Yours in Christ's service, —John Varghese
o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

VISA SECURED FOR INDIA

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt, workers at the Print Shop, and all the saints everywhere: Greetings in Jesus' dear name.

On Sept. 25, 1981, I sent an application for a visa to enter India again this winter. One week later, on Oct. 2nd, I received a Tourist Visa for a three-month stay there. This is the fulfillment of a two-year trial of faith, and I am very happy for the privilege of returning to India again. Personally, I should like to have stayed for a longer period of time, but God knows what is best, and I do thank Him for the three months I received.

I will be attending and taking part in the conventions again this winter, and I have a real burden for the children. I desire your prayers that I will go in the fullness of the Spirit, that precious, never-dying souls will be saved, and that God will be ever present during the whole trip.

The Lord willing, I will leave Oklahoma City on Dec. 16th, arriving in Trivandrum, India, on Dec. 19th, where Bro. John and Sis. Sara Varghese will meet me.

If anyone has any of the old Standard Bible Story Picture Rolls that are not being used, I would appreciate borrowing them to use in India. I would like to have them as soon as possible so I can know what I have to work with. Someone has loaned me the Standard Picture Roll for Fall, 1971, and the Life of Christ Picture Roll, Part 1, so I would not need either of these rolls. You can contact Bro. Pruitt concerning this request.

Yours for souls in India, —Sis. Dorothy Keiser
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NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (Sept. 28)—Dear Brother Pruitt and saints of the Most High: Greetings in the precious name of the holy Lamb of God whose death was God's way of providing salvation for all men.

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." Acts 20:28. The head of the Church is not the fallible pope, but the infallible Christ who walks in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks, and whose prerogative it is to remove any one of them. Rev. 2:5.

Thank you for your letter dated Sept. 1, which arrived far behind normal mail time. Its enclosure of donations to aid in the chapel construction was received intact with immense thanks to God's children in the U. S. who love to help in the Lord's work in Africa. Direct communication was taken up with the congregations who channeled their donations through you. . . .

Preparation to get the chapel roofed is under way. Twenty-nine of the estimated forty bundles of corrugated iron sheets for the roof have been bought. The next expensive item is that of planks to carry or support the roof. Faith in God will bring the building to completion.

An evangelistic meeting of three days' duration was held at the town of Ezionum, attendance of which by the inhabitants was massive. Response to the altar call after each day's meeting was encouraging.

In our house to house witnessing, a lady by the name of Alice Odili, aged 31, greatly vexed with unclean spirits, was discovered abandoned in a small, dusty, dark room with her leg chained to the trunk of a tree to restrict her movements, as she posed a threat to life, chasing people about with a matchet and being destructive to property. . . . The evil spirits were commanded in Jesus' name to move out of Alice forthwith, and they obeyed! Praise the Lord! To God be the glory for the mighty work being done in His name! With the evil spirits cast out of Alice, she is fully back to freedom and normalcy. This noble testimony caused a great many to say, "Of a truth the Lord is with the Church of God." Sister Alice is here with us at Kwale. The Church is deeply touched with her case, and a fund is being raised to provide her with wearing material and an amount to keep her going. Her pictures are enclosed with this letter to Bro. Pruitt.

Yours in the Master's service,

—Titus U. E. Enu

From the Mailbox . . .

Ind.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and workers: It is with deep sympathy for all the family of dear Sister Marie Miles, and all who knew her, that I greet you. We never had the privilege of meeting her, but have for a long time read her articles in the *Faith and Victory* paper and were blessed by them. May our dear Lord comfort the many hearts that have been saddened by her passing away.

We like to pass out the good gospel tracts and the *Faith and Victory* paper. . . .

We want to request the saints to pray for the healing of my body. I had a stroke in June, 1978, and am still suffering, in my eyes and head especially, as a result of it, but I know God knows my need and is able to heal my body. My husband also needs prayer. We believe the Bible Church of God, the way Bro. Warner preached the truth in the early days.

May God bless your work there, is our earnest prayer. It is a wonderful work. May the good work go on until Jesus comes or calls us away.

Yours in His service,

—Bro. and Sis. W. R. Brewer

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Pa.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and saints at the Lord's Printshop: May God bless you with health, strength, and in every way you stand in need. I'm

happy in my soul, feel fine in body, and I'm very much encouraged to go all the way with the Lord. Praise His dear name! . . .

Christian love, —Sis. Agnes Gaston

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear Sis. Maybelle and Bro. Lawrence: My thoughts and prayers have been for you many times during these past weeks. I'm sure the Lord has blessed with sustaining strength and help for all your many burdens and needs. There's just no way we could go on without Him. The Lord is so precious in our times of loss and disappointments. "Never a burden that He does not carry; never a sorrow that He does not share; Whether the days may be sunny or dreary, Jesus is always there." "He knows and He cares, each burden He bears; He drank the whole cup, while we take but one sup; our sorrows He shares!" . . .

May the Lord bless each of you and all the workers there with special courage and strength to keep the gospel truths going forth. We all look forward to receive each month the good news, and we do appreciate all the sacrifice and labor so faithfully made.

Love and prayers, —Eva Probst

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Okla.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Maybelle: We send greetings to one and all. This leaves us still saved and sanctified, pressing on for the Lord.

We enjoyed our five years in the Guthrie congregation after being isolated so long in Dallas. It was a little taste of heaven. Now I am enjoying living next door to my son and his family, which I appreciate and enjoy. Our congregation in Sapulpa is growing, and I love every one of them. The Lord is doing great and mighty things among His people. We are blessed to have been called to be one of God's little ones, of which I feel I am the least.

It will never be the same going to Guthrie and Sis. Marie not being there. We miss her. We know she fought a good fight of faith. She is now enjoying what the Lord had prepared for her. May we each one work on faithfully until He calls us to our reward.

The October issue of the *Faith and Victory* is so good. The old-time teachings need to be stressed more.

. . . We are still holding on for your healing, Bro. Lawrence.

May the Lord bless each of you, is our prayer.

—Sis. Edith Wall

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mich.—Dear precious ones: Greetings in the blessed name of Jesus. Just a few lines to thank and praise my dear Lord for healing my foot. In the month of May, I had a bad sore which opened and drained. It was so painful at times, and I suffered much. I couldn't be on my feet for very long at a time. The foot looked very red around the open sore. I

believe it was an ulcer from a broken vein. My daughter sent a handkerchief to Sis. Marie Miles to be anointed for my healing. When I received it back in July, I applied it to my body. Thank the Lord, He heard all of your prayers and ours, and touched my foot and closed up the hole on my foot. I have a little pain at times yet, but I know the Lord healed me. I thank all you dear ones for being so faithful and standing by me with your prayers. You will never know how much it meant. I know the Lord will bless each and every one of you.

I'm still trusting the Lord for the sore on my face which won't heal. I have had it for many years. Also, I need a touch for my hearing. It isn't good, but our dear Lord can do anything.

I still praise the Lord for sparing my life in 1973, when I fell into the basement eleven steps down. I broke my wrist and couldn't walk for many weeks. All of you stood by me with your prayers and I was healed. I had a lot of pain. I trusted God, and He set my wrist and helped me to bear the pain. It wasn't man, because I didn't go to any doctor. The Lord is my Healer. All glory to His name! Dear Sis. Marie sent me a nice get-well card at that time. I appreciated her kindness so much. She wasn't well at that time either. She was such a wonderful saint. May God bless her soul forever!

Thank you all again so very much. Our prayers are for all of you.

Christian love, —Sis. Therese Gettersen

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Minn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the helpers in the Print Shop: The Lord is my Saviour; I shall not want. He leadeth me day by day in the holy way. When this life is over, we will be with Him in a long eternity.

The greatest thing that I have done in this life is when I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour. First, I asked Him to forgive all my past sins. He said, "I will put your sins as far as the east is from the west," and now I am walking in newness of life. Praise His holy name! Glory to God in the highest! . . .

Much Christian love and prayers,

—Andrew Senti

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ala.—Dear ones: Greetings in Jesus' name. I am so glad that I can say I am a child of the King!

Sometimes I do not feel well in body, but then I think of my Home where I'll have a brand new body and be with Jesus forever. This makes me rejoice.

Please continue to pray for the salvation of my lost loved ones, and that I may be the witness to them and to others that God would have me to be. . . .

Yours in Christ,

—Leora Frink

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Have faith in God,

Let nothing you dismay;

Glorify His Name on high,

When you praise and pray.

—E. M. Brandt

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Can you explain why Cain's offering was rejected and Abel's offering was accepted as in Genesis 4:3-5?

Answer: I do not know if I can explain this to anyone's satisfaction other than my own, but I will try according to my best understanding. The Scripture referred to reads thus: "And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: but unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell."

It seems evident that the practice of making offerings to the Lord had already been established at this time and a time appointed for them because the text reads, "In process of time" this happened. And it seems to indicate that both Cain and Abel showed up at the place at the same time as if by appointment. Cain was a tiller of the soil (farmer) and he brought an offering of the produce from his labor (the fruit of the ground). This has always been an acceptable offering to God, and He commanded the children of Israel at the time of their harvests to present the first fruits of their wheat, barley, olives, and the like to the Lord, and said in Num. 18:12-13, that the best of these things which the children of Israel offered to the Lord was to be given to the priests as their portion. So it would appear that up to that point the offering itself was not the problem. This was a thank or gratitude offering.

Hebrews 11:4, mentions Abel's "gifts" (plural). Abel, no doubt, brought the same kind of thank or gratitude offering as Cain. But he also brought a lamb from his flock in addition to this. A lamb was always a sin offering, typical of "The Lamb of God" Jesus Christ, our great sin offering. In bringing a lamb, Abel acknowledged himself to be a sinner in need of an atonement and redemption, and offered it for his sins. Cain's sacrifice lacked this and showed an attitude in him not to recognize himself as a sinner and showed a lack of penitence and humility, and light consideration of the promise of a redeemer. There are many such as he today who make a sacrifice to the Lord but don't go far enough, and therefore the sacrifice they do make is not acceptable.

But let us look a little farther into this and see how it may affect us and apply to us today. The text says that to Abel and to his offering God had respect and to Cain and his offering he did not have respect. Let us notice that God connects the offering right up with the offerer, and if He cannot respect the offerer, He cannot respect his offering. John mentions Cain in 1 John 3:12, and says he was of that wicked one and his works were evil. No doubt his attitude was defective in that he showed no penitence and recognition of sinfulness and need

of an atonement and redeemer and did not include in his offering a suitable sacrifice for this purpose. But beyond that, he had evil works in his life and evil in his heart which God knew, and this all together rendered him unacceptable to the Lord and consequently his offering was not acceptable.

Let us pursue this idea a little farther and see if that is always God's attitude toward people. In Isa. 1:13-15, we read, "Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you; yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood." Here is described an outline of the very system God ordained for the children of Israel to worship Him. But also here is a strong indictment He laid against them in their backslidden and corrupt state. And He makes it very positive that it is all an abomination to Him and He hates the whole thing—all the rituals and ordinances and observances which He Himself had commanded being carried on by a backslidden and corrupt people. He could not respect them so could have no respect for their offerings.

Proverbs 15:8, says, "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord," and Psalms 66:18, says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." God will not even hear and respect our prayer unless the heart is right toward Him and we are acceptable to Him.

In the first chapter of Malachi, God is pronouncing some pretty strong judgments against the children of Israel for their wrong doings and their insincerity in their offerings and service to Him, and in the latter part of verse 10 we read, "I have no pleasure in you, saith the Lord of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand." Again we see He would not accept their offering when He could not respect them. Prov. 28:9, says, "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination." God requires strict reverence and obedience to His Word, and if one fails to honor and reverence God's Word, his prayer will be abominable unto God. This all is emphasizing the fact that if God cannot respect us, He cannot respect our offering. This is forever His attitude.

In Malachi 3:3, speaking of the work of Jesus Christ in salvation, says, "And 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." Mention is made here of the "Sons of Levi" because the priests were of that tribe, and the entire tribe was set apart to take care of the tabernacle and minister about the holy things. They were typical of the redeemed ones in this dispensation who are a "royal priesthood" (1 Pet. 2:9), and are made "kings and priests unto God." (Rev. 1:6;

5:10; 20:6). The tribe of Levi with its priesthood was a special, particular type of the New Testament priesthood (the saints who are a royal priesthood) and whose duty and responsibility is to minister about the holy things of God.

We see in this text that they had to be saved, redeemed, purified, purged, cleansed from their sins and made holy before they could be acceptable to God and offer an acceptable sacrifice to Him. Let us face up to it and accept it; God cannot have respect to our sacrifices, service, and worship to Him until He can have respect unto us.

The real clincher text in regard to Cain is 1 John 3:12. "Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous." There is no itemized statement of the evil works which he did, so we don't know. It is just merely stated that "his own works were evil." Even by the standards of that period he was a villain, and God could not respect him; hence, could not respect his offering.

Perhaps some in our day are doing much work for God and making great sacrifices for Him whose hearts are not right in His sight, and who have attitudes, feelings, resentments, affections, motives, and desires in their hearts which are not acceptable to Him and their lives are not clear before Him. Consequently, they are not receiving God's approbation and blessings upon their lives which would ordinarily be experienced if they were in a condition where God could have respect to them and then to their sacrifices.

Ask Our Father, and Thank Him



"Mama, I want a drink of water."

"Mama, read a story to me."

"Mama, help me put my shoes on."

The needs of her children take the majority of a mother's time throughout the day, and often take a little from her sleep time, too. However, she loves them so much that even when her feet are tired, her back hurts, and she sits down in a chair to rest, she still does not forget they will be needing her. She soon will hear a baby voice calling, "Mama, Mama!" So pulling together what strength remains, she investigates the call.

Isn't our heavenly Father somewhat like this? He is never too tired to respond unto a call from one of His children whether they be afflicted, troubled, or needing comfort and cheer. He is on call night and day, caring for things little or big, while we are even unconscious to the world. He is our Father, but He is an omnipotent God. "I am Alpha, and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, **the Almighty**." Rev. 1:8. We can hardly fathom the greatness of God, our Father. "Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool." Isa. 66:1. Such a great,

mighty God—we are so small in His presence—yet He calls Himself "our Father." As our Father, he cares for our needs and He gives us the privilege to "Ask, and it shall be given you . . ." Matt. 7:7.

When a baby is born, it has an automatic method of letting its mother know when it wants something: it cries. So it is with a newborn babe in Christ. When a sinner calls upon the grace of God to save his soul, he becomes a newborn child of God. Immediately he begins to ask for grace, strength, and wisdom to meet the opposing forces around about. Often before the call comes, God is already there, working out the troubles and trial even when His child knows nothing of it yet. ". . . before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear." Isa. 65:24. What a comfort and privilege a child of God has! The Lord does love His children! Is our love for Him as great? How eager are we to do His requests?

Sometimes a mother may make an agreement with her child. "If you will pick up your toys, Mother will read a story to you." This way she can see how eager the child will be to do her command. Also, it will show her how much respect and love her child has for her. How it hurts if the child keeps demanding his request but never heeds his mother's! Usually this brings punishment to the child, and then when he does obey, it isn't with nearly as much joy even when the story is read. The Lord's requests are often "an agreement" with His child or children. Even the privilege of asking has an agreement with it—we must believe on Him. James 1:6-7, says, "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering: for he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord." We must believe.

Also, above all, we must keep the Lord's commandments. Study out the Lord's commandments, and behind each one of them you will find a promise the Lord has given. The Lord deals with His children as a loving father; however, we must not forget that He is God. A certain rich ruler asked of the Lord what he must do to have eternal life and he went away sorrowful when he learned "the agreement" he would have to make in order to have his request answered. (Luke 18:18) The Lord was grieved that the rich, young ruler did not want to distribute his riches in order to inherit eternal life, but the commandment was given, and if the rich young ruler would not obey the Lord's request, punishment was sure to follow. As a father, the Lord says: "Ask and it shall be given you." As God, He says, "Keep my commandments." Ask, ask, and ask again is sometimes the way of a child of God, but the Lord is mindful of us. He is a good Father. Matt. 7:11.

Another family situation comes to mind where the mother may put the shoes on her child that asked her to do so, and then the child walks away with them on, never thanking his mother for her help. Sometimes the mother will prompt the child to make him say, "Thank you"; however, half the thanks has already slipped away. It means so much more when

the child says, "Thank you" out of the love in his heart! The Lord had a similar experience when He cleansed ten lepers of their affliction and only one turned back to glorify God. (Luke 17:12-19) The nine who left without praising God did not become leprous again, but the Lord did miss their praise of thanks.

What are the ways in which we can thank the Lord for what He has done for us? Keep His commandments? Believe on Him? Yes, indeed! And there are still other ways in which to worship Him also. Verbal thanks through prayer will reach the ear of God just as the request does. Thank Him in prayer and thank Him with songs throughout the day. Sing aloud, sing in your heart, sing while no one else is near, sing with the Church of God. Learn the songs of Zion and sing them over and over. The Lord our God acknowledges praise through singing and He expects it from His children. Luke 19:40.

When we ask of the Lord, let us be ready to meet the commandments concerned, believing our Father loves us and will answer for our good in due season. Let us accept the answer from the omnipotent God. Yes, we are given the privilege to ask of Him as a child asks of its father, yet we are commanded to love and respect Him as Almighty God. Let us daily thank Him from the peacefulness of our hearts. As God and Father both, praising and singing will surely please Him. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

A Vision of Heaven and Hell

Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Webster defines vision: "unusual discernment or foresight of a happy or dangerous event; something beheld or revealed; awareness of objects; consciousness."

We also read in Prov. 22:3, "A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself:" which means to withdraw from sight; put out of view; to turn away, as the eyes or face, in displeasure; shame. "But the simple [those devoid of wisdom] pass on, and are punished."

All of life should be a looking forward to future perspectives, heaven or hell. We may ignore the facts, but they still remain the same. The ending of life is right before us. We need a "bird's eye" view of the broad, vast eternity. It is all summed up that life on earth is the shortest period in man's existence, and eternity is the longest period in man's existence. It is a world without end.

In the light of these facts, the devil has people so entertained that the voice of conscience can't be heard. Millions are being entertained through the medium of worldly pleasure, sports, television, worldly ambitions, deceitfulness of riches, strong drink, drugs, and perverted appetites of the flesh. In the modern hospitals, television occupies nearly every room, even those rooms where people are dying of cancer and other dreaded diseases. Why? Because man can't stand to be alone with himself. It is hell

on earth for a sinful man to be alone with his conscience of wrong doing in his past life. Man has sought out many inventions to drown out the voice of conscience. Eccl. 7:29. The god of this world has blinded their minds. 2 Cor. 4:4. They can't see the ending of their actions. In the whirl of society, man has no serious thoughts of the future.

In the secluded hours, when nothing stands between man and the whispering of his soul (Job 33:14-26), the Holy Spirit deals with man's heart, bringing visions of the awfulness of sin, uneasiness, discontent, remorse, and fear. Hell becomes a reality as a place of total absence of all that is good and lovely. Heaven becomes a desired place, where there is a total absence of all that is bad and ugly. Conviction grips his soul, and sins of the past become a heavy burden. He is now aware of his condition. His guilt is more than he can bear. He is ashamed of his sins against God. He now has a vision, a broad view of eternity. Godly sorrow worketh repentance. 2 Cor. 7:10. The battle is now on. The devil persists that he should wait awhile and fulfill life's pleasures. The world of pleasure invites with promises that cannot be fulfilled. He counts the cost: heaven or hell, which shall it be? **Heaven**, with all that pertains to joy, peace, and ecstasy of bliss; the total of all that gladdens the soul; the permanent, unlimited, and boundless land of love, delight, and holiness; the eternal light that has no ending. **Hell**, with all that pertains to hatred, sadness, remorse, blackness of night; the total of all that is miserable, unpleasant, and hateful; the permanent, unlimited, and boundless land of eternal blackness and hopelessness, where the screaming conscience coupled with ruthless demons is tormented forever and ever; eternal darkness that has no ending; without God or a Saviour.

In the valley of decision, he makes the wise choice. He pleads his case at the mercy seat in prayer. With godly sorrow that worketh repentance to salvation, he asks God's forgiveness of all past sins, forsaking them to sin no more, and believing from the heart that his sins are forgiven. Rom. 10:9-10. He claims the promise of deliverance (Luke 1:70-75), and becomes a new creature, with a clear conscience. 2 Cor. 5:17. He makes restitutions.

Oh, soul away from God, stop and consider the ending of your life. Start looking forward to future perspectives, either heaven or hell. The choice is yours. A school class motto read, "As we face the future, where will the end find us?" Unless you are sure you have what it takes to bring you safely through the storms of life to an eternity in Heaven, then you had better turn your life around and consider a change. Without this vision, the people perish.

—Bro. Donald Sharp

Grant me, Lord, a loving heart,
A will to give and share,
A whispered prayer upon my lips,
To show I really care. —E. M. Brandt

How to Make a Delinquent Child



Please read Prov. 22:6. "Train up a child in the way it should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." It is implied here that children will never forget their early training, or the lack of it. Remember God formed man, but the home, the school, and the street informs him, and sin deforms him, and only God through Jesus Christ can transform him.

It is important for us to remember that the clock of life is wound but once, for we will not pass this way again. We should so live that we help others to make the most of life, by living for eternity, while living here. The present is all we have, and no one can tell just when the clock of life will stand still for us. We should endeavor with all our heart to live for God, influence others to live for God, and to leave the world a better place than we found it.

With these thoughts in mind as parents, we should be true to our God-given responsibilities of rearing our children in the way that they should go, and not just leave it up to them. We may wonder why some youngsters develop into well adjusted adults, while some others go wrong.

Here are a few thoughts that may help us understand. If a child lives without love and affection, he will no doubt be without love and affection as an adult. If a child lives in a home of hostility, he will grow up to be hostile. If a child lives with fear, he learns to be afraid. If a child lives in a home where his parents are contentious and do not respect one another, he will no doubt be contentious, and show no respect for others. If the parents use foul language, it will no doubt grow up using foul language. If the parents are sincerely honest, it will influence him to be honest. If the parents believe in God, it will influence him through life to believe in God. If a child lives in a home where fairness is displayed, he will be influenced to be fair. If the parents respect the rights of others, he will be influenced to respect the rights of others. If the parents respect the laws of the land, he will be influenced to respect them also. If a child lives in a home where there is hatred, he will be influenced to hate. If the parents have high moral standards, this will influence his standards in life.

The child that receives the proper training is influenced to be a decent citizen, and one whose training is neglected is on the road to becoming a delinquent, and a hippie.

Here are some results when we neglect our God-given responsibilities in training the child. Begin at an early age to give the child everything he wants, and he will grow up to believe that the world owes him a living. When the child picks up bad words, laugh at him. Never give them any spiritual training. Avoid the word wrong or sin, so they will not have a guilt complex. Pick up everything they leave lying around, freeing them from any responsibility. Be sure their food is clean and

good, but let their mind be filled with garbage. Give the child everything he wants, and at all cost do not frustrate him. Take the child's part against neighbors, teachers, policemen, and make him feel that all the world is against him. When he gets in trouble, console yourself by saying, "I never could do anything with him." If you are guilty, prepare for a life of grief, for you will no doubt have it. Remember—you have a choice. Do choose the right one, is my prayer.

—Carl P. Burton

Suffering for Jesus



If we will read verses seven and eight of the third chapter of Paul's Philippian letter we will learn that he "suffered the loss of all things" for Jesus. If we should take time to consider this fully we would find that it means very much.

It is hardly possible to approach to any considerable degree of likeness to God without passing through suffering. When we consecrate our all to God at the very entrance of the Christian way it is then that we receive the stamp of the divine image upon the soul; but our being molded more fully in that likeness and strengthened in the divine character is only brought about when as we go on our pilgrim way, we are called upon to experience suffering. The actual experience is needed. If we still cling to God and love Him, though we are called to suffer for His sake, it is quite certain evidence that our love is genuine. We can have trust in God as a real, fixed principle in the soul only as circumstances bring trust into actual exercise.

Consecration and faith unites us to God, but suffering strengthens that union. Suffering strengthens our hearts in submission to the divine will. Submission to all the will of God is a sweet and precious soul experience, but we can scarcely realize the blessedness of it until some deep suffering brings that submission into exercise or puts it to the actual test. We may very frequently meet with happenings that test our submission to God. We may experience some physical suffering, or some loved one may be brought near to death, we may lose some property, or lose reputation—all of these will help us into a deeper experience of submission.

God would not only have us submit to His will, but love submission. He would have us love suffering, not for suffering's sake, but for His will's sake. I hardly think we can reach a state of mind where we delight in suffering, glory in tribulation, and take pleasure in denials for the sake of suffering only; but, like Paul, we glory knowing that tribulation worketh patience, and patience experience. Rom. 5:3. Suffering, therefore, is necessary to a deep Christian experience. We may have a mind-picture of true piety and considerable understanding of union with God, but it is suffering that makes this union a real experience.

When we have reached the experience where we can welcome suffering in recognition of the divine

will; when we can embrace the trials, when we can leap for joy in persecutions, we have reached the "*cleft in the rock*"—a hiding-place in God. Our reputation might be assailed, our motives aspersed, our actions misrepresented, insinuations might be cast against us, but these only help us hide deeper in the cleft and be silent.

A most valuable lesson to learn and one that is only learned fully through more suffering, is that of *keeping still*. When our reputation is assailed, our actions misrepresented, our motives misunderstood, and our influence in danger of being destroyed, the natural disposition of man is to speak, and to speak hurriedly. He feels that something must be done, and that it must be done at once. But just then is the time to hide in God and be silent. Oh, how blessed to look up to Jesus and know that He knows you are willing to suffer the loss of all and keep silent!

Some years ago the writer thought he had attained to quite a depth of Christian experience, but as the more severe trials came and his soul struggled through, he found that he had only struggled through to the border of a vast, unexplored territory before him. This convinced him that there are heights and depths in the Christian experience attainable only through suffering.

We will lean upon God only when all other supports are removed. It is necessary that all supports but God be now and then taken away. In fact, it is difficult for one to know that he is leaning upon God unless all other stays are gone. Many who are surrounded by kind friends and Christian brethren and who are in health and have their garners full may think they are leaning upon the Lord, but when all these things are taken away they may find that they had many supports other than God. But the Lord is good and He will bring us to lean entirely upon Him. Though this can be done only through suffering, the experience is so blessed that it causes us to love the suffering. The deeper the trials the more precious God is to the soul.

Suffering loss for Jesus is the way into the secret presence of God. The little chick never runs under the mother's wing for protection until danger threatens. Trials cause us to seek a hiding-place under God's wing. There a feeling of security fills the heart and an inexpressible joy the soul. Suffering loss for Jesus makes God most real and heaven most precious.

—C. E. Orr

NEARER AND DEARER

Nearer and dearer, Lord, Thou art mine,
Nearer and dearer, my all I resign.
Nearer and dearer in joy and in strife;
Nearer and dearer each day of my life.
Nearer and dearer, sweet Jesus, remain;
Nearer and dearer my blessing and gain.
Nearer and dearer 'till life is past,
Nearer and dearer in Thy presence at last.

—Edward M. Brandt

The Three Gardens

After God completed His creation of the world and all that was in it, He made man. The making of man was not without purpose, as we find that God showed us as well as Adam what this purpose was. Gen. 2:15-17, "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

What a wonderful place for man to be. God had provided this for him. It was for his use and benefit. He was to care for it, and it would provide him with all that was needed in his life. How could anyone think of turning away from such a wonderful gift, or to misuse it? It truly was God's gift to man.

God made this man a help meet. From Adam's rib He created woman and presented her to Adam. Into this beautiful setting trouble came. The devil, in the form of a serpent, came tempting and lying. He presented the argument that the reason God had forbidden them to eat of the tree was that if they did, they also would be as gods. You won't die. "The more I know about everything the better I will be," seemed to be Eve's thought. How many today seem to think the same way—ever learning, but never coming to the knowledge of the truth. Eve listened to Satan and did eat, then gave to her husband who also ate. Devastating guilt came upon them. Realizing that what they had done was wrong in the sight of God, they clothed themselves with leaves and hid when God came into the garden. Because of this disobedience, they were driven forth from the garden and were never again allowed to enter therein. Perhaps they, like Esau, sought to reclaim their birthright, even with bitter tears. This was the first garden, and sin caused Adam and Eve to lose their home.

There is the second garden: it is the garden of Gethsemane. Here God's only Son came in the hour of His agony and concern for man. Hear the words of God's Son. Matt. 26:38-39, "Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." Again He prayed in verse 42, "He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done."

I know we do not like to think of it, but we all have to go into this garden. Jesus told some of His disciples that they would have to drink of the cup He drank of. Are we any better than they? Rejected of men, mocked, scoffed, cast out and in spirit crucified. We will never leave this garden and gain admittance into the third garden unless we are willing to say, "Thy will be done in me."

When God placed Adam in the garden, he was a new creature, the first man. So to be in God's garden, where the tree of life is, we must be a new creature. 2 Cor. 5:17, "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away: behold, all things are become new." This is the only way to gain entrance into the new garden of God, which is the Church His Son built. Gal. 6:15, "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature." As God placed man in the garden, He also places man in the Church. 1 Cor. 12:18, "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him."

Truly, this garden is the land flowing with milk and honey. It is where the flowers never fade, and the Son is always before us, giving us light that we can clearly see the way in which we are to walk.

—Elias McCart

Ballad of the Unborn

My shining feet will never run
On early morning lawn;
My feet were crushed before they had
A chance to greet the dawn.

My fingers now will never stretch
To touch the winning tape;
My race was done before I learned
The smallest steps to take.

My growing height will never be
Recorded on the wall;
My growth was stopped when I was still,
Unseen, and very small.

My lips and tongue will never taste
The good fruits of the earth;
For I myself was judged to be
A fruit of little worth.

My eyes will never scan the sky
For my high-flying kite;
For when still blind, destroyed were they
In the black womb of night.

I'll never stand upon a hill
Spring's winds in my hair,
Aborted winds of thought closed in
On motherhood's despair.

I'll never walk the shores of life
Or know the tides of time;
For I was coming but unloved,
And that my only crime.

Nameless am I, a grain of sand
One of the countless dead,
But the deed that made me ashen grey
Floats on seas of red.

— Fay Clayton

Be Thou Faithful!



So often we see people who start to serve the Lord, but in a little while when a trial or test comes they give down, thinking that God is a hard master and they cannot serve Him because He permits them to pass through some dark seasons. Did these souls start with a decision to be true? It does not appear so. It seems that they received the seed immediately with gladness, not stopping to count the cost, never thinking that sometimes they would have trials, but rather seeming to think that all they had to do was to ask the Lord to forgive them and then the Lord would keep them saved and all would be sunshine without much effort on their part.

Doubtless these souls promised the Lord they would stand true, but either forgot or neglected their promise. Dear reader, did you ever promise the Lord you would be true and then when a little test came give up your experience? If you have done so, decide now to be true to God; He will give you grace to stand the tests. What if the three Hebrew children had given up when they saw they would be thrown into the fiery furnace if they refused to fall down and worship the golden image? Would they have convinced the people that God was able to keep them no matter what came to hinder them? And Daniel, when he heard of the decree that was made, if he had ceased to pray to God with his window opened toward Jerusalem because he feared the people, would he have convinced anyone of the power of God to deliver His people in time of a test? But because of his trueness and firm decision, he convinced the king of the power of God insomuch that a decree was then made that all people should tremble and fear before Daniel's God.

Your influence will amount to little unless you are true to God. Had you ever thought that because you had given up you had caused some soul to be lost? If you think seriously about this matter and that some soul is perhaps dependent upon your trueness to God, also think of the loss of your own soul should the Lord come while you are away from Him, you will surely decide that through trial or discouragement, affliction or peril, you will be true to the dear Lord.

Should you serve the Lord for years and then give up at the last, your soul would be lost just the same, for we read in Rev. 2:10, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Do you desire to wear a crown of life? The only thing required of you is to be faithful, and this one thing means so much. It takes in everything. Think about it, dear one, what it really means. Are you decided to be faithful?

—Selected

"And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." Matt. 3:10.

Love



Many good things have been written on this subject; but it is as inexhaustable as God Himself, for "God is love." It is the one thing above all others that is needful in the Christian life and experience.

Paul, in his writing to the Colossians, calls love the "bond of perfectness"; and to the Corinthians he writes, "But now abideth faith, hope, and charity [love], . . . but the greatest of these is charity." In the preceding chapter he had been enumerating the different gifts of the Spirit and its various manifestations, and after exhorting them to "seek earnestly the best gifts," he added, "But yet show I unto you a more excellent way." The more excellent way he proceeds to show in chapter thirteen.

Many today are seeking the various gifts—miracles, prophecies, tongues, healing, etc. This is good if sought in the right way and for the glory of God. However, Paul declared that we might have all of these, and yet, if we did not have love it would profit us nothing.

We may gain much knowledge if we have not sufficient humility, but never much love. It is the heavenly element that flows into our souls from the glory world and causes every fiber of our spiritual being to pulsate with divine life and power. I once worked in a coal mine where the coal was mined with machines operated by electricity. The power was generated at the power-house on the outside, and the current was carried into the mines on two large wires—one positive, and the other negative. The positive wire conducted the current from the power-house to the machine and the negative wire was used to make the return circuit. The machines of themselves were heavy and cumbersome and could scarcely be moved by the efforts of two strong men, but as soon as connection was made with the wires they immediately became very powerful, and capable of doing a wonderful amount of work. If from any cause the connection was broken, they would instantly become dead and powerless again.

I have thought that this very well represented God's love, it is both positive and negative. "We love him because he first loved us." God's love became positive toward us when it first flowed into this world in the person of the Lord Jesus. He found us dead and powerless to help ourselves; but He laid down His life for us, and as by faith our hearts were connected to Him our souls were quickened into life and filled with the heavenly element of love. We now became the negative wire, so to speak, and His love began to flow back to God in streams of thanksgiving and praise, and to work in us mightily for Jesus and lost souls He died to save. Praise the dear Lord!

Another thing I noticed when in the mine was that the farther away from the power-house we were the weaker the current was and the less effectually the machine would work. Let us keep as near as possible to the heavenly world that the Lord may more effectually work in us to His glory, and that the life of

Christ may be powerful in our souls.

In a flower garden we sometimes see flowers of many different shades and colors, but yet they all belong to the same species of flowers. So-it is in the Christian life—we see many different graces, but they all spring from one heavenly plan of love. The different graces are only the different manifestations of the one thing. As someone has said, "Joy is love victorious; peace is love at rest; longsuffering is love suffering; patience is love under trial; goodness is love at home; kindness is love at work; faith is love in conflict; temperance is love denying herself; humility, gentleness, meekness, etc., are love's adornments." Praise God! How wonderful is the plan of divine grace! No wonder Paul says that "love is the fulfilling of the law," and James calls it the "royal law."

If you should ask me what the Christian life is made up of, I could find no better answer than the one word *love*. As the blood is the life of the physical body, so love is the life of our spiritual being, and of the body of Christ, the Church.

Beloved, let us live close to God and seek earnestly for more of this heavenly love. Let us remember the words of our Lord Jesus, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." John 15:10. —J. B. Branam

I'm Thankful



I'm thankful that I'm thankful,
For were I not, I'm sure
I'd miss a thousand blessings
That come flocking to my door.
So I stand there at the portals,
And with a smiling face,
'Til my soul is filled with rapture,
And it's heaven here below
Just to know my Father loves me,
And is caring for me so.

For did not the Master teach us
That we all should thankful be
When He broke the loaves and fishes
On the shore of Galilee?
It is only he who's thankful
That the Father seeks to bless
With His richest, choicest treasures,
Joy and peace, and happiness.
So I've learned this simple lesson:
If any good would flow to me,
In my heart I must be thankful
For his wondrous gifts so free.

—F. G Swartz

(Selected by Virginia Myers)

"Behold, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord, which by night stand in the house of the Lord. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord." Psalms 134:1, 2.