

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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The Virgin Birth of Christ

The virgin birth of Christ, our Lord,
Abused and fantasized
Doth still great blessings now afford,
Though oft' it is denied.

The lowly maid from Galilee
Before her wedding date
Was found with holy child-to-be,
Which made her quite low-rate.

As Joseph mused upon this plight,
The secret was made known
Of Christ the everlasting Light
'Mongst mortals to be shone.

And Mary, in the manger shed,
Brought forth her first-born child:
The Son of God in mankind's stead
For sinners reconciled.

The Son of God, the Son of man,
Born of a virgin fair
Into the realm of earth's short span
To bear our sin and care.

His Father was the Lord most high,
Jehovah, God of love;
Oh, glorious truth to never die
In earth and heav'n above!

We cherish all the wond'rous worth
Of Christ who knew no blot.
We call her blessed who brought Him forth,
Yet her we worship not.

Sweet Mary loved her Son divine,
Believed and hoped in Him,
Received the Spirit, helped to shine
The gospel's diadem.

Some day the heavens shall unfold
Christ's everlasting reign;
With all the saints on streets of gold
Eternal life she'll gain!

—Leslie C. Busbee

The Birth of Jesus

The decree of Caesar that all the citizens of the Roman Empire should be taxed sent every person to his own city. This taxing was really an enrollment or a registering of all the people, perhaps something on the order of a census. Joseph, the husband of Mary, was of the lineage of David, and, as he was living in Nazareth of Galilee at that time, it became necessary for him to make the long journey southward to Judea and the city of Bethlehem. It was here in this vicinity that David, the son of Jesse, made his start in life and proved the faithfulness of God. And it was of this city that the prophet spoke when he prophesied that "out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel: whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

It is very inspiring to visualize the setting of this wonderful account of the birth of Jesus, and just what it meant to those people. Mary was great with child, and a long trip of that sort was a very trying ordeal for her. But the decree had to be kept regardless. "While they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered." It is not known just how long they were there in Bethlehem. But we do know that "there was no room for them in the inn." There was a purpose in this. It was the will of God that the baby Jesus should be identified in a special manner. Thus it was that He was born and Mary, His mother, "wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger." I am sure that it was not pleasant to the flesh for these dear ones, but consider the value of that holy Child that was born unto them!

To the shepherds in the nearby fields watching their flocks "by night" came the angel of the Lord with this wonderful message: "I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Try to imagine the feelings and the emotion in these lowly men's hearts as they saw and heard all of this! Try to visualize in your mind the reality of the heavenly host praising God, and let what they said sink deep within your inmost being: "Glory to God in the

highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Truly, this was most wonderful to them and more so to us.

Then let us notice the reaction of these men to the heavenly vision: "Let us now go . . . and see!" "And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger." What joy they felt in their souls as they beheld the holy Child lying in the manger, a sign to them that this was the long-awaited Messiah, the Saviour that God had promised! "And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered. . . ." How could they keep from telling what was so wonderful to them?

Now let us turn and look at Mary, the mother. She "kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart." Do you ever do this? Are you too busy with the cares and occupations of life that you have no time to be still and ponder on the good things that the Lord has sent us? Mary was in a blessed place and position, was she not? Although we do not worship her, we must confess that she was blessed above all women in this way. Oh, this is all so sacred and pure, so true and precious!

Now look once more at the shepherds. "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God." Oh, what joy was in their bosoms—ringing and swelling music and gladness never to be forgotten! We hear no more of these lowly shepherds, but I am sure that this night was sacred to them as long as they lived.

Despite the objection to the thought and celebration of Christmas and the disapproval of the saints with the way the world carries on at this time of year, let us not discredit the real and true meaning of the birth of Christ. There is no wrong in letting one's mind dwell on this thought on a special day, but rather there is much good. A vision of this from the Bible will inspire and bless the soul. It will remind and assure us that Jesus was born as a man-child to be the Saviour of us all. The joy that was promised to all people can be ours also, as we worship and obey Him.

—Leslie Busbee

Human Evaluation Versus God's

I recall reading of a father who spoke of his little daughter as one whom people were attracted to. It seems that she met with a mishap one day and injured her mouth in such a manner as to make it appear that the injury was a natural deformity and not a temporary disfigurement. The father took the child to the store the next evening and noted the difference in the manner in which people reacted toward her, as compared to how they had before the accident. The greetings and smiles that usually came her way were replaced by rejection. In fact, she was simply ignored. This upset the father who saw the injustice of the situation. Why should a child suffer rejection for a circumstance over which she had no control?

Intellect and beauty are two things that many pride themselves on, never considering the fact that such qualities were inherited gifts, and not earned by the individuals possessing them. The capacity to

acquire learning differs in individuals. Those less endowed at birth should no more receive blame for their lack of capability than others should receive glory for their greater potential. It is true, however, that some cultivate and make better use of what God has given them than others.

The difference between God's evaluation of an individual, and that of man, is aptly described in the Scripture that declares, "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." (1 Sam. 16:7). God's manner of judging worth is the standard which we should adopt.

The thoughtful and kind individual will show a friendly interest in all, not just the intelligent, the beautiful, or the influential. As one sign declared, "God loves the unlovely." It might be well to absorb the truth in this poem:

"Beauty is only skin deep,
But ugly is to the bone;
Beauty always fades away,
But ugly holds its own!"

A fairly recent publication of a popular family magazine contained the story of a heart attack victim's last hours. A friend who was well acquainted with the dying man told somebody nearby, "He made people feel good about themselves." There is food for thought in that statement. It is a product of Christian charity to be interested enough in someone else to make him feel valuable as a person. It is a trait which sets the matured Christian apart from the world, for the world lives to exalt self. Self demands pre-eminence, even at the expense of others. Perhaps you are acquainted with the type of individual who must have the last word in a conversation. He feels that he must stalk off the field of verbal battle having ungraciously subdued his opponent. He has forgotten that the real purpose of discussion is to arrive at the truth, not direct a blow at another's self esteem. Such a one may feel he has won the argument, but in actuality, he has lost a friend.

In a society which promotes the flesh and makes it of primary importance, God help us to inspect our motives and daily actions. We are vulnerable to the influences about us and our values can become perverted and tainted with the flesh. It is encouraging to know that with the aid of the Holy Spirit and a diligent and continual dependence upon God, He will help us to maintain a perspective and perception that aligns with His Word.

—Mary Murphey

OUR HELP

When God is our Companion,
As we walk the road of life,
There is help for every problem
And grace for care and strife!
And we'll find that we've been happy
All along the path we've trod,
When in faith we've made the journey
Hand-in-hand along with God.

—Jon Gilbert

Before an individual can show mercy he must have obtained mercy. This same fact is true with all the virtues of character that belong to Christianity.

—Clifford Wilson

Humility, God's Way

In the fifth chapter of Matthew, we are presented with a series of nine inestimable beatitudes, each setting forth some feature of spiritual condition or character wherein men are blessed. Another noteworthy beatitude has strayed and we pick it up in the eleventh chapter, sixth verse, where it reads: "And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me." It will brighten the light some if I render the quotation from Weymouth, as, "And blessed is every one who does not stumble and fall because of my claims."

In view of the fact that since we are considering man's eternal salvation, the paramount question here would seem to be, "Why should anyone be offended in Christ Jesus?" What was there about Jesus that should repel anyone? Truthfully, His earthly blessings were manifold: He healed the sick, He fed the hungry multitudes, He blessed and comforted in sorrow and in death, He showed compassion on all who were the unfortunate victims of circumstances, and He offered solace and comfort to the heavy laden and burdened (Matt. 11:28). But Jesus declared, by inference, that there would be those to whom He would be offensive and repellent, and give an occasion for stumbling. One thing Jesus knew would repel many, in the Jewish national structure, is that He would not justify their expectations and hopes to restore the Davidic kingdom. As disappointing as that was to those who, through the misinterpretation of Old Testament prophecies, had built up their high anticipation that when the Messiah came He would bring about the refurbishment and restoration of their national kingdom, and, I may add, to those also among modernist religionists who, today, are hopefully looking for the same thing, Jesus had a far more excellent plan. He was to become the Mediator of a "better covenant, which was established upon better promises" (Heb. 8:6). His would be the kingdom of the spirit (significantly as: "I, John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ" Rev. 1:9). He would show that all men are precisely in the same condemnation; and likewise, to each and all, the gospel of Christ offers precisely the same salvation, with precisely the same eternal consequence for all who refuse it. He would show that there is no favoritism in the gospel for, "Christ is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34).

Another thing is: His gospel demands humility. His gospel repels and offends the world. In the ancient world, we are told, humility was considered a humiliating vice, and is still the evaluation of the world today. The spirit of the world is to pamper sin and pride, to play up to selfishness, to demand one's "rights," to serve self and to win for self regardless of the adverse effects on others. But Jesus sheds a warning light on this worldly attitude thus: "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted" (Matt. 23:12). The beloved apostle Paul testified to both Jews and Greeks that he had been among them at all seasons, "serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears" (Acts 20:19), the perfect example of salvation.

Christian redemption is based on faith which involves renouncing all human redemptive powers

and plans. Men like to feel that by education and moral discipline they can correct the ills of the individual and of the world. Indeed, the necessity for faith as the basis of salvation is repellent and offensive to the modernist with his perverted conception of the "innate deity" and to the humanistic religionist. Yes, the popularly approved rationalism is offensive to and repelled by Jesus' teaching. His fervent prayer is: "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes" (Matt. 11:25), because, "Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom as a little child, he shall not enter therein" (Mark 10:15).

Again, Christ's sacrificial standard of consecration and service offends and repels an age of ease and comfort. This generation has become used to having everything smoothed out—no ravel or complications. Sin has graduated to nice names and has become a mere psychosis or imprudent mistake. The name "Christian" has lost its distinctive quality and has become a conventionalized term, applying to anyone who belongs to a civilized community; that is, he is not a "savage" (barbaric), he is a "Christian." Jesus' requirement to "take up thy cross" repels a pleasure-loving world. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God" repels and offends the carnal human heart that would first serve self. "Treasures in heaven" seem foolish to one without any spiritual understanding or vision. Depravity has eaten deeply into the heart of humanity; revenge is the norm of the world. But God's way is, "Put on there, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering, forbearing one another, and forgiving one another. . . ." (Col. 3:12, 13).

Jesus Christ's moral standard seems harsh and unrelenting in the light of today's liberal attitudes. His demand for honesty, sincerity, righteousness, purity, mercifulness, and open dealings with our fellow men repels a world of loose moral standards. Again, let us notice God's way: "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" (1 Pet. 5:5, 6). Yea, a world that is unashamed to accept and declare the idea that "the end justifies the means" finds divine standards of righteousness repellent.

I conclude these few, simple remarks with, the only true happiness is found in being right with God. Let us praise Him for His beautiful beatitudes that teach humility, a sense of our unworthiness, our guilt as sinners, repentance, salvation, and reward in heaven. Blessed (happy, or not subject to fate) is the man who finds nothing repellent in Jesus Christ: humble, believing, sacrificial, righteous, merciful, and loving. Remember, Jesus Christ will not change His plans. His demands and His standards are constant and never optional. We must change or be changed, and when we are so transformed by His saving power, we find joy, peace, rest, and purpose in His will. Indeed, we find that place of blessing in Him where nothing about the Lord Jesus Christ offends or repels us.

—Earl D. Langley

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 camp meetings), by Maybelle Pruitt, Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044 (USPS184-660).

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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 that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for 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 service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

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EDITORIALS



We send Season's Greetings to all of our readers. This issue brings to you the same message which the heavenly host brought to this world almost 2,000 years ago: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14.

It is our aim and our goal to spread this good news to hungry souls. Many thousands of pages of gospel messages have been mailed out through this paper, as well as books and tracts. Yet it is but a drop in the bucket compared to what needs to be done for the Lord. There are many fields that remain untouched with the pure, simple gospel message. By your help we want to extend our bounds. We appreciate those who have supported this work and trust that God is blessing you for it. The expenses of printing are great and we have needs for which we are trusting God. Much of the work done here is of a technical nature, yet God has provided qualified workers. We are grateful for their dedication.

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We trust that many of our readers are making plans and will be able to attend the Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting here at Guthrie, which is scheduled to be held, Lord willing, Dec. 21, through Dec. 30, 1984. A more detailed announcement appears elsewhere in this issue. If you are not able to attend, remember to pray for this meeting that God might have His way in all that is said and done; that sinners might find the peace of salvation.

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We have in stock 1985 wall calendars. Each calendar measures 7¼ by 13½ inches, and includes a colorful nature scene for each month. The price is \$1.50, plus 75¢ for postage and handling. These calendars would make excellent gifts.

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We will soon have available bound volumes of the eleven issues of the *Faith and Victory* paper for the year 1984. The price is \$1.00 per book, plus 65¢ for postage and handling. We are accepting orders now.

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From time to time we advertise in the *Faith and Victory* cassette tapes that different individuals offer for your listening edification. We would like to clarify that we do not handle the tapes here at the Print Shop. When you see tapes advertised, be sure and note the address to which you should write in order to purchase them.

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In September of this year we printed 2,000 copies of a book by Bro. Danny Layne entitled, *He Lifted Me Out*. We are almost completely out of the first edition and have already printed another 2,000 copies. The 24-page books, which include several pictures, are rapidly distributed. If you haven't obtained a copy of it yet, you may want to do so right away. Order several and give them to your friends. The price is 25¢ each. Please include 37¢ for postage and handling for three books or less. For those who order four or more books, the postage and handling will be at the regular rate of 65¢ for the first dollar and 7¢ for each additional dollar of the total order.

"For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honor to that part which lacked: that there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it." 1 Cor. 12:24-26.

I believe the key to these verses is the word "tempered." When a piece of metal is tempered, it is put through a process of heating and cooling. This makes the metal strong. When one member of the body of Christ suffers, the other members will share the burden, and this will form a bond of love. When one member prospers in the things of the Lord, the other members rejoice with him, and the love of God will be able to flow from heart to heart. The end result of this process is a strong Church into which the devil can work no schisms.

Some time ago, several of us were working with a large piece of cast iron. It was quite a formidable-looking structure. However, since we needed to break it into several small pieces for loading, we applied a sledge hammer and dealt it several strong blows. The structure promptly broke in two. If this had been tempered metal, such would not have happened. It would not have been brittle. May God help us not to be brittle. May we be tempered with love, and therefore able to bear with one another without a "touchy" or condemning attitude. We should be willing to go through the fire and also the good times together so that we can look back upon these times with a satisfied sense of unity which has bonded us together. We will then present a structure that the devil cannot sever by his blows.

—Wayne Murphey

Partial List of Items Available

Birth of a Reformation—Life and Labors of D. S. Warner by A. L. Byers. A reprint with additional pictures of pioneer ministers. Cloth bound, 496 pages. Price, \$5.50 each.

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What the Bible Teaches by F. G. Smith. A reprint of the original 1914 edition, containing 576 pages in cloth binding. This is a book that should be in every home. Price, \$5.50 each.

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Personal Experiences of S. O. Susag was written by himself, a Norwegian who had many marvelous experiences and answers to prayer as an early-day minister in the Church of God. 192 pages are bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.75 each.

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Christian Baptism, Feet Washing, and the Lord's Supper by H. M. Riggle. This excellent doctrinal book on the three ordinances of the New Testament contains 264 pages in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$3.50 each.

The Christian Church: Its Rise and Progress by H. M. Riggle. Bound in a cloth cover, 488 pages. Price, \$5.00.

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God's Gracious Dealings by Fred and L. D. Pruitt. This enlarged Seventh Edition is a history of this gospel publishing ministry in the Church of God for the past sixty years, as well as a record of the work of the Church at large. Contains 496 pages, including more than 100 pictures, in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00 each.

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

Must We Sin? by D. S. Warner. This 24-page booklet records the supposed conversation between Bro. Light and Bro. Foggy on the sin question. Price, 25¢ each, or 5 copies for \$1.00.

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Lest We Forget by Sister Margaret Eck. 72 pages of many encouraging experiences with the Lord bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 75¢ each, or 3 for \$2.00.

Memoirs of George E. Harmon, sponsored by Vera M. Forbes. This is a brief autobiography of our beloved Bro. George Harmon, a long-time minister in the Church of God, including the record of the memories of a few others who knew him. It will inspire your faith in God. Its 56 pages with four pictures are bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 60¢ each, or 2 copies for \$1.00.

Food for Lambs by C. E. Orr in the English language. This English version contains 168 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50 each.

Food for Lambs by C. E. Orr in the German language. It consists of 127 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00 each.

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Heart Talks by C. W. Naylor. Consists of 59 chapters with a different subject treated in each chapter. It contains 280 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.50 each.

St. Paul and His Gospel by G. P. Tasker who was an early-day minister and missionary of the Church of God Reformation. This inspiring book contains 88 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00 each.

He Lifted Me Out by Danny Layne. Just recently made available, this book contains 24 pages, including some pictures. Price, 25¢ per copy.

A Saloonkeeper's Daughter Saved was written by Bertha Mackey. This 16-page pamphlet is an inspiring true story. Price, 15¢ each, or 7 copies for \$1.00.

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Salvation is the only true adornment: therefore, the one which everyone must seek to obtain and that which God alone can give. This will shine forth with the fruits of the Spirit in true loveliness, and cause us to greatly glorify Him in good works, which come spontaneously from the hidden man of the heart, and make us a diadem of beauty in the sight of God. A heart thus filled with God will have no room, need, nor desire for the vain, worldly, outward adornments.—J. W. Byers

In Memorial

Ralph Joseph Posey was born January 6, 1912, and entered into eternal rest September 13, 1984, in Akron, Ohio, at the age of seventy-two years.

For many years, Bro. Posey faithfully attended services at the Church of God in Akron, Ohio. His desire was to do the Lord's will. His family and friends will remember him as being a kind and generous giver, willing to help in whatever way he could. He was a hard worker, yet had a cheery smile for those he met.

He will be greatly missed by his faithful and loving wife, Lutherine, of forty-three years. Other survivors include two sons: Richard Posey, of Italy, and David Posey, of Akron; six daughters: Rochelle Posey, and Nancy Parmer, of Akron, Elaine Carter, of Canton, Ohio, Catherine Posey of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Patricia Cox of Miami, Florida, and Germaine Christian, of West Germany; one brother: Rodgess Posey, of Akron; and twenty-three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Keith A. Fuller, assisted by Bro. James Bruner. Burial was at Lakewood Cemetery in Barborton, Ohio.

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

OKMULGEE MEETING REPORT

Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt and workers together with Him: Our revival meeting in Okmulgee began October 22 and ended October 28, 1984. The Lord was faithful to send His Word and His Spirit to accompany it. A variety of ministers were present all during the meeting, and the saints were encouraged to press on, to deepen their decision and commitment with Christ. A woe was given to those still in sin and in the broad way. Because iniquity abounds, the love of many is waxing cold, and souls are trapped and bound by the enemy. They seem not to realize the danger they are in. Oh, we must continue to hold on to God for the lost. We must pray the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous. We are still pleading, "Wait a little longer, please Jesus. Give us a few more days to get our loved ones in."

We are grateful for God's gracious dealings in the meeting and for all the dear ones that helped to make our meeting a success in Jesus' name. We are encouraged to press the battle on unto the end. We need prayer that when these souls that have gone out into deep sin come back to God, we will have enough godly love to accept them. Let us all remember the parable of the prodigal and his brother, and the real, true love of the father. "We know we've passed from death unto life because we love the brethren." (1 John 3:14).

Yours in His service, —Sis. Erma Johnson

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OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 78th annual Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Guthrie, Okla., beginning December 21, and continu-

ing through December 30, 1984. A hearty invitation is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people.

The chapel is located on the corner of 6th and W. Warner Ave. The dining hall and dormitories are located in the same block for your convenience. All who come will be cared for.

We are praying for, and expecting the Lord to send Holy Spirit-filled ministers to preach the Word of God and to help anyone to present their spiritual and physical needs to the One who came to heal the broken-hearted, and to set the captives free from sin. Saints, come praying with a burden for those in need of spiritual and physical help. These are critical days in the world's onward march to eternity, so let us labor faithfully while "it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work."

The expense of the meeting will be met by free-will offerings. All contributions for the meeting should be sent directly to the state treasurer, Bro. O. C. Porter, 7 Karl Drive, Guthrie, Okla. 73044. For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Leslie C. Busbee, at 417 N. 11th St., Guthrie, Okla. 73044. Phone (405) 282-2421.

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CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting will convene, Lord willing, December 21, 1984, and continue through December 30, 1984. The camp grounds are located at 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, Calif. 91331. Phone (213) 899-9021.

Accommodations will be provided for all who attend. All who can do so should furnish their own bedding. The expenses of the meeting will be met by freewill offerings.

The Lord has richly blessed in past meetings and has never failed to send His Word with rich anointing and power. We are confident that all who come expecting a blessing in humble readiness for it will not be disappointed. We urge every saint of God to make special effort to support the meeting in attendance, and particularly in prayer.

For further information, contact Bro. Robert Sherman, 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, Calif. 91331. Phone (213) 896-7593, or Bro. Edward Sorrell, 15831 Olden St., Sp. 64, Sylmar, Calif. 91342. Phone (818) 362-0014.

Prayer Requests

Cal.—"We are sick; please pray for us."

—John Matthews

La.—"Sis. Elva Joiner needs prayer."

—Randall Flynn

Calif.—"I'm not so well; please pray for me."

—Margaret Hall

Mich.—"Please pray for my father and me; also my cousin."

—Olive Getterson

Ala.—Sis. Frances Everhart needs healing of shingles and other afflictions.

Idaho—Sis. Ruby Marken's sister, Wilma Harris, needs prayer.

Okla.—"I have an urgent request."

—Sis. Erma Johnson

Mo.—Sis. Connie Schudy desires prayer. She has high blood pressure.

Remember the dear ones in foreign countries who need help in many ways. Some countries have no food and so they are suffering. As we help these dear ones, we are doing it for Jesus. —Maybelle Pruitt

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

MISSIONARY REPORT OF MEXICO

Dear Sis. Maybelle: Time has certainly slipped away from me and it has been such a long time since I have written to you. I wonder if it is that way with you, too, and with others, also. It seems that there are always things a person has to do and there are just twenty-four hours in a day. However, I think that being busy is better than being unoccupied and this way time just goes so very fast.

We are grateful to say that we love the Lord and still have a burning desire to live for Him faithfully every day; to live in a way that the Lord might get glory from our lives and we somehow might touch souls with our influence of living for God. My heart is so burdened and heavy as I see the influence of the world on every side. I'm not burdened especially for me, but for the children who have to be under the influence of teachers, and children whose parents don't love the Lord and haven't taught them what is right, and who have scarcely any morals at all. It is just the influence of the home against the influence of the world and the children will have to choose.

Last weekend, we went to Mexicali and on down to where we used to live to be with the people a while. We also went to the gravesides of the children's mothers because Nov. 2 and 3 were decoration days in Mexico. The cemeteries in Mexico are so very different from those of the States but the people had cleaned the cemeteries up and had so very many wreaths and flowers, mostly of what they made themselves. The children made some, also.

One man whom we know so very well has quit drinking—going on two months now. We are so grateful, for he seemed to be almost too far gone to ever be normal again. He isn't saved, and we are praying that he will see his need of being saved so that he can have power in his life. We carry a heavy burden for those whom we lived with so many years in Ejido Patzcuaro, and who are so scattered now. It would be impossible to visit and be with them all in one weekend. When we go, we have services where we are invited, and we visit and pray or sing with others. Sometimes we feel encouraged, and other times we are pretty disheartened which gives us more of a burden. We haven't gone over to Ojos Negros or to Chapultepec for a few weeks now, but feel that soon we will be able to do so. Usually we go some time in November or before Christmas with some of the saints from Pomona, Pacoima, and Bakersfield. There is a great need for more workers in Mexico, and we are earnestly asking the Lord to talk to souls, for there are still hungry, searching souls along with some who have grown cold in their experience with the Lord. We want to see souls grow and prosper in the things of the Lord, and be able to carry a burden for souls themselves, that the work of God go forward

in Mexico. It could be that in the near future the government in Mexico will not permit the gospel to be preached. We need to be up and doing and taking advantage of every opportunity we have. Time is getting away from us and souls are steadily going on and on, closer to eternity without God. How sad.

I guess I will close for now, trusting that all is well with you and yours there at the Print Shop. We think and pray for you all very often, and we appreciate you and the great work there more than we can express.

With much Christian love, —Edith Lara

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From India . . .

Oct. 20—Our dearly beloved elder Sister Maybelle Pruitt and the dear saints at Guthrie and scattered abroad: We send our Christian greetings to you all again in the holy name of Jesus Christ, which is our hope. May the grace, mercy, and peace from God, our Father, and Jesus Christ, be with you all forever.

Last week I was in the northern regions of Kerala for four days programs. We had a very blessed monthly meeting at Trichus. There are more chances for the expansion of our work in the northern region of Kerala State. We look high for the urgent needs of that area.

Lord willing, our 19th General Convention at Karikkom is scheduled to be conducted by the first week of January, 1985. We invite the dear saints in America to come over and participate in the convention. Those who feel burdened to come over, please let me know earlier. The coming of the saints from America to India is a real encouragement for us.

We pray for the dear ones in affliction in America. May God heal and deliver them from the furnace of affliction.

With love and prayers, —John Varghese

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From the Philippines . . .

Oct. 22—Dear Sis. Pruitt and Bro. Murphey: Greetings in the loveliest name of all in heaven and on earth—the name of Jesus. Because of His great sacrifice on Calvary, we are now enjoying the blessing of salvation. Someday He will come again to take us home to heaven. We desire to bring this good news of salvation to others also. . . .

Sis. Helen Sarmiento quit going to school and she is now working zealously for the gospel. I asked her why she did not continue her studies, and she answered me that she did not want to waste her time because Christ is coming very soon. There is another sister whose husband has left her and said that he will not come home until she will forsake the Church of God and return to the Catholic church. She said that she cannot do that because she loves Christ more than anyone else.

The young people are planning to have their tent meeting on Nov. 1 and 2, in the lot where the church building is being built. They hope to have a big group with young people from different denominations being invited and expected to attend. May God help these young people to be deepened down in the truth and live holy lives. Many people around us are becoming interested to study the Word of God because of how the saints act and dress. Please pray earnestly for these young people.

Thank you so much again for your prayers, vision, and support for the Church of God in the Philippines. Thank you so much for the *Faith and Victory*. . . .

Your brother, —M. S. Tangunan and saints

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Oct. 17—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings to you in the name of the Lord! We received your letter with joy, peace, and love in God. . . . It is always our happiness to hear good news about God's service. That is why we are very thankful for your inspiring words of God that you have sent to us. You have not seen me personally but God has seen our hearts.

Presently, we are under a crisis due to the recent crucial situation of our place, but still I can assure you that we continue bringing the truth to the nation. We are planning to re-open our radio broadcast if God will permit. I believe that with your prayers we can accomplish this work for the Lord. The coming of Jesus is very soon and there are still many souls crying for salvation. It is our responsibility to preach to them the whole truth of God. Mark 6:15, says, "Go ye unto all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." I believe that it does not mean that we will go around the world, but rather that we can help that the gospel will be preached to the whole world.

Please don't forget to include us in your prayers as we are also praying for you there. We love you all in Christ.

Yours in the service of the Lord,

—Bro. Samuel R. Espinosa

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From the Mailbox . . .

Tex.—Dearest Maybelle: My thoughts have been on the events of late: the election, the nation, and God's holy people.

God's hand still controls all the events of this old world. This great country was given, built, guided, and increased by the unseen hand of God.

America, God's land, has been a great blessing to all the earth. It is still one of the freest nations on earth. By God's will, it has shared its wealth and many missionaries to other countries. Other nations have prospered and gained great spiritual awakening because of America and because God's people obeyed Him in all His callings.

Enormous blessings from God have come to this land. If we, as God's children—blood-washed and Spirit-filled, do not go to the throne of grace and hold to the horns of the altar, this country is in grave danger. The old false prophet has for several hundred years spued forth false doctrine and evil teachings, with the sifting in of paganism. This is the eminent danger: forces causing degeneration and decay in every avenue of American life. To my sorrow, many who are the children of God are being led away.

My heart trembles when I read in the Old Testament of the disobedience of the Israelites in the wilderness. Many of them lost their lives as well as their souls. Moses pleaded with God for the people in Ex. 32:31-33. Today, we, as God's children, must intercede for mankind. Pagan worship has infiltrated the nation. My eyes see evil everywhere. My cry and prayer to the Holy God we worship is for His mercy. In John 15:10, Jesus says, "If you keep my command-

ments." This stipulation "if" is quite solemn. Only if we heed the outstretched arm of God will this nation continue.

My dear friends, these thoughts were on my heart and mind as I was reading the *Faith and Victory* paper. Do tell to all the need for the Church to pray for these troubled times, and, oh, the great need for brotherly love. We need each other!

I appreciate the paper so much. Give my love to all at the Print Shop. —Betty Anderson

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N. Car.—Dear precious ones at the Print Shop: We greet you sincerely in our Lord's name. God is surely blessing us richly this morning. I was sitting here and meditating earlier about humility and contentedness. Oh, I do enjoy humbling myself before the living God! I just love seeing myself as nothing; as helpless, and then lifting my eyes to God as a magnificent figure. I do want to view Him as the mighty One, the omnipotent One. There really is a deep blessing when we count ourselves, works, feelings, and desires as nothing, and go about quietly doing His will. "Oh, the sweetness and completeness of perfected holiness." We realize that our Lord Jesus humbled Himself and made Himself of no reputation and so we follow His pattern for His graces and glory to be seen in us.

You all stay close to God and continue publishing the truth.

Love and prayers, —Sis. Ivy Lennon and family

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Calif.—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. The 1984 revival and camp meetings are gone. I thank God for blessing me to attend part of four revivals and five camp meetings, also two singspirations. God surely sent His Word on every line. We, as saints, should be better equipped for the race. I have heard so many messages. I would like to tell about those that the Lord brings to my memory.

I heard one about "Hope." The minister said that when you lose hope, you are in trouble. We must always keep our hope, no matter how dark it gets.

I heard another message on being normal. It's "normal" to want what is ours, and hold on for our way, but God is looking for His saints to be "abnormal." Isaac could have debated about the wells being his father's, but he just humbly dug another one. It's normal to defend yourself, but Jesus didn't defend Himself. He never said a murmuring word. God is looking for those He can use.

Another message dealt with "A Scarecrow." This one said that the devil will magnify a trial and make it look larger than it is. He is just trying to scare you. Tell Satan to get back, and then keep on going. The farmer puts a scarecrow in the middle of his garden to scare the birds away from his crops. He usually puts it where the best vegetable is. That's the way Satan does, too. He knows where our best blessing is, so he tries to scare us away from it. He is a bluffer, but we can say, "Satan, get behind me."

Another message spoke about "You." If you want to see a better Church, you be better. Some say that the Church isn't what it used to be. How is **your** life? How is **your** victory? You need power in your life; power to keep the victory; power to overcome every

obstacle in life; and power to shut your mouth. The message bearer stated that you need power to have "shut up" grace. If you want the Church to be better, you be better!

I remember another message about "Dare We Complain?" The minister said, "There are two things that don't go together: thankfulness and complaining." He mentioned that so many times we ask God for sunshine, and then we complain when it's hot. Many want patience, but do not want to wait. We ask God for rain, and then we complain about the mud. Whoever heard about rain without mud? God wants to refine His people by purging them. We should be thankful and content.

The messages were all so deep and soul searching. I really learned a lot this year and I mean, by God's grace, to have a better hope, to be one of God's abnormal saints, not to let the devil scare me, and to be content with such that I have.

I have a burden that I believe the Lord would be pleased if I mention before I close. I meet so many young saint women who are having severe problems in the home. I'd like to say, "Hold fast," young people. God will take care of you. The Bible says for the older women to teach the younger ones. We are to teach them to be keepers at home. Please, young mothers, if you don't have to work out and leave your children, don't. The mother's place is in the home to take care of the children, and to love her husband. If you have to work, God knows all about that. God wants you to spend time with the family in devotion, and to have time to communicate with your husband when he comes home. The mother is to be an example. If she obeys the head of the house, the children will, too. I carry a burden for our young people, and I want to be an example.

Pray for me, —Naomi Jennings

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Kans.—Dear ones at the Print Shop: Greetings in the love of Jesus. Surely He loves us far more than we can tell.

I felt it good to tell the saints how the Lord blessed Sis. Ruth Murphey during her last illness. We felt that the Lord just stood by her. We could see her strength leaving her so fast. She was longing to go home and wanted to be cared for at home. We thank the Lord that He called on different ones to come and help her. We appreciate the relatives who were a help, too. The cards, letters, offerings, phone calls, and flowers meant so much to Sis. Ruth. Those of us who were there tried to answer her mail but may have failed some, so we want to say "Thank you" for her. She surely did appreciate it all. We were glad that when her washer went out, there were funds to rent a washer. We needed an electric hospital bed to make it easier for her, as well as those caring for her, and there were funds to take care of that. She had made all arrangements for her funeral and the expense of that was taken care of. We appreciate the saints caring about her needs. May the Lord bless each of you who made her last days easier.

She was very patient in her suffering. Some were concerned that her suffering would be so great. One evening a relative who is a nurse came to take the place of another relative and she said, "Surely the hand of the Lord is upon her." She also said that she had seen so many in like condition that no amount of

medication could ease the pain. We thank the Lord for blessing Sis. Ruth in this way. Oftentimes when she would be so sick, prayer would be offered and she would fall asleep. We who were there felt the backing of the saints' prayers.

We here at Coffeyville miss her so much, as she often came to minister to us. Her last message here was, "The lips of the righteous shall feed many." As I stood by her bedside one day, I expressed our appreciation to her in coming to preach to the few here. Sometimes she just wasn't all that well to travel those miles. . . .

She carried a burden that I want to put in as an unspoken request. We endeavored to enter into the burden with her while she was living and I'm sure she would appreciate the saints still praying for this need.

May the Lord richly bless each one of you.
Yours in His service, —Sis. Inez Beisly
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Calif. —Dear saints: Greetings to you in the name of our blessed Lord. I see that it's time to renew my subscription which expires next month. I truly do love and cherish this monthly Christian paper and wouldn't be without it. May the Lord continue to bless and support all of the workers at the Print Shop. . . .

Yours in Christ, —Sis. Katherine Pique
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Tex.—We would like to express our thanks to all the dear saints who have faithfully sent out the truth in many forms in their service for the Lord. Of course, most of our thanks is for our wonderful Lord who has made it all possible for us to receive all this spiritual food! The reading material, albums, and cassettes are a wonderful help to all in their walk with God. I know that we surely appreciate all the songs and messages we have been able to hear on tape, because it's the next best thing to being there with the saints in meetings! We are unable to go to meetings very often due to lack of transportation, but the Lord has showered us with many blessings, uplifted our spirits, and most of all, He has helped us to remain encouraged!

The Lord has used all the tapes, reading material, etc., to His glory, as many of our lost loved ones have heard the tapes while we were playing them, and they have read a few tracts also. We desire to continue to use all that we have to the glory of God.

We desire the prayers of the saints as we continue to say and do all we can for the ones around us who are in sin, and also the ones who need encouragement through fiery trials. Pray that we will remain encouraged so that we can be a shining light to a world full of darkness.

With much Christian love and prayers,
—Sis. Jan Wood and Sis. Velda Ellis
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Mo.—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings of Christian love in that name which is above all names, the one name at which every knee shall bow sooner or later, either in the ecstasy of full and complete salvation or in the horror of final damnation. May He grant that we reach every possible soul with His "good news" before the latter overtakes them! Surely the "prince of darkness" is working overtime today, and wielding

many powerful forces at this time, both to prevent the true gospel from going forth and then from "taking root" if it does break through. Truly, time is short and what we are going to do must be done quickly if any are to be rescued from the clutches of evil before His trumpet rends the air with the announcement that "Time is no more," probation is ended, and the Day of Judgment has arrived!

To this end I have been operating a literature and tape ministry for the past several years. By His grace and help we are able to get material behind prison bars, across state lines, and sometimes even country boundaries, and into many homes which have not heard the true gospel of Christ. I am encouraged with many of the responses received and at present there are nearly 300 on our mailing list. I would certainly appreciate the prayers of both yourself and all saints everywhere, that our Father would continue to glorify His name through this ministry and increase His harvest through it.

Now I would like to increase the tape ministry, and have purchased equipment so I can make good quality copies of cassette tapes. If any readers have some especially good sermons or songs taped at any of our camp meetings or elsewhere that they would like to donate to this ministry, I would be very happy to receive them. If they want either the original or a copy back, please include \$2.00, if possible, to cover the cost of materials and postage, as I work on a rather limited budget.

May the star of hope and the sunlight of His love brighten your hearts during the holiday season and throughout each day of the New Year, if He tarries that long.

Your brother in Christ, —Jim Broker
512 Frazier St., Mound City, Mo. 64470
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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Mo.—For years I have been living in a fearful condition before the Lord. Jesus said in John 14:23b, "If a man love me, he will keep my words. . . ." I thought I loved Him deeply and my heart yearned for Him. I prayed, and read the Bible, and attended services almost regularly. However, because of the remorse, shame, guilt, and condemnation, I felt because I was not keeping all of God's will and was indulging in things I knew to be wrong, I could not actively participate in the services. I felt so condemned and unworthy! Yet I "loved" the Lord. I was so thankful for His mercy and His blessings!

After I let the devil beat me down, life seemed so hard and unfair! There was a quiet fighting and rebellion against what life had handed me.

The dear Lord recently, in His great love, has been warning me so often with Scriptures similar to this one in Rev. 3:3: "Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee." I knew I was not worthy to stand before the Lord. It seemed that every time I opened the Bible, I read a warning from God to "watch," to "pray," to "repent."

Praise God! On Sunday night, October 28, 1984, I made a full commitment of my life to God to crucify my flesh and to walk by His grace uncondemned.

Thank God, I am saved and free from bondage.

Only God knows how I covet your prayers for grace to be unwavering in my walk with God henceforth.

—Nava Jo (Short) Hutchinson

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Okla.—Dear saints: Greetings of love in the name of our Lord this beautiful morning. I do appreciate all the Lord's blessings to us. I am thankful to be saved and encouraged to live for the Lord. Our desire is to please Him with our lives.

I feel very thankful how the Lord has blessed me in my body the last few months. I have had severe headaches for the last few years. It affected my vision and my blood pressure went very low, leaving me very weak. Some in the congregation had really gotten under a burden for me, and the Lord had blessed me and I hadn't had one for a few weeks before the Monark Camp Meeting. The last Saturday of the meeting, I wasn't feeling well. As the day passed on, I became sicker. By evening I was very sick and in a weakened condition. The saints came to the cabin and really prayed to God and the Lord blessed me once again. I was very weak in body for a few days afterwards. The Lord has blessed me in my body since and I do thank the Lord for it. I trust the Lord completely for whatever my problem is. I know He can take care of it.

We had some very heavy burdens but the Lord was faithful to us and helped us much. I surely felt the saints' prayers. It meant so much when they called to tell us that they were praying for us. I do thank each one of the saints everywhere for your prayers. Please continue to pray for us. We want our home to be a godly home and our lives to be an example of the Church.

Christian love, —Ted and Alta Bock

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Okla.—Dear ones: Greetings of Christian love in the precious name of Jesus, "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." (1 Pet. 1:8, 9). I thank God for salvation through Jesus Christ.

I thank God for His loving care over me through the years since I was young. One time especially comes to my mind when I was sick with the flu. That night was prayer meeting and I pressed to go on to meeting, desiring to be anointed according to the Word (James 5:14). The next afternoon, while lying in bed, the Lord reminded me of a brother's experience not long before I had the flu. The Lord had impressed him that he should press against the affliction and get out of bed. When he obeyed, God sent the healing. I realized that God was wanting me to do likewise and as I obeyed, God healed my body. Someone later remarked about me not having been very sick (because I didn't have to stay in bed very long). I knew, however, that it was because God had sent His healing touch to my body.

I am yet waiting on the Lord for the healing of my ears. Having been anointed according to God's Word, I am waiting on God, trusting Him to bring this to pass. Pray for me that I keep a steadfast faith to the receiving of my hearing.

Your sister in Christ, —Fern Stubblefield

Question and Answer Column

by

Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Please explain Matt. 6:13. Why would Jesus teach us to pray, "Lead us not into temptation"? He would never lead us into partaking of temptation and I did not think He would lead us into the presence of temptation. James 1:13, says, "God tempteth no man," and then we read where Jesus was led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. I can't seem to get these Scriptures working together, so I would appreciate some explanation on them.

Answer: These Scriptures do indeed appear contradictory and baffling on the face of them and this question may be of importance to more people than just this questioner. These Scriptures are not contradictory when rightly divided and understood.

The word "temptation" has a double meaning which, when understood, will help us to understand the apparent contradiction here. One meaning is, "an inducement to evil." Another meaning is, "try, test, prove, probe." The text in James 1:13, "God cannot be tempted with evil; neither tempteth he any man," means that He does not tempt men with evil, or endeavor to induce them into evil. In Matt. 26:41, Jesus admonished His disciples to "Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation." The strong temptation for evil was right at hand and lying just immediately ahead of them. It came upon them and Peter fell grossly into it to the point of denying the Lord Jesus with cursing and swearing. The others fell into it also in a lesser degree than Peter in that they forsook Him and fled. The only one of those twelve who stood with Him that memorable night was John the beloved disciple. This is what is meant by entering into temptation—partaking of it or being victimized by it. Then Jesus continued in the last part of Matt. 26:41, to say that "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. Many who fail to recognize this important truth feel that if they are willing in their spirit to live for God and seek earnestly to please Him in their lives, that somehow God will overlook and consider the frailty of their flesh if they give way and are overcome in the time of temptation. This is not the case. When one is overcome in the time of temptation and victimized by it, and partakes of it, it requires repentance before he can be restored, regardless of how willing his spirit was to live for God. Peter went out and wept bitterly (bitter tears of repentance) when he was struck with the reality of what he had done. When one has a deep sense of the reality and truth of Jesus' words, "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak," he will be constantly and continuously seeking to build up himself on his most holy faith (Jude 20) and to be "strengthened with might by his spirit in the inner man" (Eph. 3:16). This way, when he is enthralled and enveloped with temptation strong and keen, the power of the spirit within will prevail over the weakness of the flesh without, and he will not fall a victim to the temptation. One great comfort that we have, and really the only one that we need, is, "Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4). As we

yield ourselves more and more to the workings of the Spirit of God in our lives, the truth of this statement will be more and more confirmed unto us.

The other meaning of the word which is "to try, test, prove, or probe," means that God tempts us all in this sense. Dan. 12:10, says, "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried." God will surely have a tried and proven people to take to heaven. The reason for this is clearly apparent. God, in the beginning, created man in His own image and after His own likeness, which is declared to be "righteousness and true holiness." We all know how man (Adam) failed and committed sin, and as a result of that all his posterity, the whole human race, was plunged into sin (Rom. 5:12). We see all around us the appalling effects of this and the ruin of the race which has resulted from sin. Now, in approximately 6,000 years, the world has become almost an unbearable place for a righteous man to live. If this degree of ruin and devastation has been wrought by sin in 6,000 years, pray tell me if you can, the extent of the havoc which would be wrought in that eternal world without an end if anything faulty or evil were to get there. Every person who enters those portals will first be tried to the limit that he may be thoroughly purged from every imperfection and impurity before he is accepted in that company. God is absolutely taking no chances this time.

All of this relates to the text to which the question relates: Matt. 6:13. In this text Jesus taught us to pray, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." Adam Clarke says in his commentary on this text that the phrase interpreted here "Lead us not into temptation," means, in the translation from the original Greek text, "Bring us not into sore trial." He also says that several of the primitive Church fathers have added to this the phrase, "which we cannot bear." He further adds that "The word not only implies violent assaults by Satan, but also sorely afflictive circumstances, none of which we have, as yet, grace or fortitude sufficient to bear." Then he says that "Bring us not in," or "Lead us not in," is a "mere Hebraism; God is said to do a thing which He only permits or suffers to be done."

A key text in this connection is found in 1 Pet. 1:6, where it says, "... though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations." The key words are "if need be," and this refers to what has been said before about God testing, trying, purging, and purifying everyone to prepare them for heaven. One of our songs contains these words: "God is sweeping through the nation with an awful searching eye. Every spot of imperfection must be purged, or hope must die." God is the One who determines "if need be." He determines when one needs a trial and what kind of trial it should be. He sees every spot of imperfection about us; even the ones we do not see and realize ourselves. He has decreed that all these things must be purged and His method of purging them is through the trying, testing, proving, and probing experiences of life. He permits only those things in our lives which He sees will accomplish His desired end: the purging and purifying of the soul, and the perfecting of us in the image of His Son, Jesus.

He taught us to pray right along with, "But deliver us from evil." Some render this, "Deliver us

from the evil one." We can be sure that in all those trying experiences God sees necessary to subject us to in order to prepare us for heaven, the "evil one," Satan himself, will be on hand to attempt to take advantage of us in the trial and seek to persuade us to cast away our confidence in God or take a wrong attitude toward God, our circumstance, or people connected with our trial. The devil will try to hurt us in some way, but we can be assured that if we keep our trust in God and remain subject and submissive to Him that His grace will be sufficient, and the trial will never be too great for us to bear. This is spelled out in certain terms in 1 Cor. 10:13, which you may read as a conclusion.



HOME LIFE

Just a Boy

I sent him off to school each morn'
 All bathed—so clean and sweet,
 His shirt so white, his pants well brushed,
 His hair combed nice and neat.
 I kissed him as he left the house
 And warned him to keep clean,
 Be careful of his playmates,
 Avoid the rough and mean.

I watched for him when school was out,
 And wondered if I'd see
 A boy just half as clean
 As I dared hope he'd be.
 He came around the corner,
 His face as black as dirt,
 One pant leg up, one pant leg down—
 Three buttons off his shirt.

I don't know why I dared to hope,
 To beg and plead and pray,
 When such a pitiable sight
 Came home to me each day.
 One day he couldn't go to school;
 His spirit brave and bold
 Was steeped in restless fever—
 His body hot, then cold.

I prayed, "O, God," but not for help
 From homely household task;
 I prayed for strength to grant each wish
 Those precious lips would ask.

I prayed that I might once again
 Sew buttons on his shirt,
 That there'd be smudges on his knees
 From kneeling in the dirt.

I sat beside his bedside
 And held his fevered hand,
 And clasped that spirit to my heart
 Which sought that far-off land.
 In the darkness of my room at night
 I prayed again for joy—"O, God!
 You can send me tons of dirt to wash—
 You gave me back my boy."

—Selected

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

One summer day I was resting in a park and meditating. People were continually moving along on a near-by path. Presently a mother and three children came along, and the mother sat on a bench a short distance from me. For a while the children rested on the bench also, asking many questions and receiving replies such as, "Don't ask so many questions," "Leave me alone for a minute," and "Run along and play."

"Play what?" I said to myself.

Finally, one by one the children left the bench and the mother. I was interested and curious. I decided to observe further doings of these children and their mother. Presently the two older girls had their heads over a trash barrel, searching through it to see what they could find. A quick yell of, "Get out of there and quit doing that," put a stop to the search. The girls seemed at a loss as to what to do next, but soon all three of them were playing "skin the cat" over the back of a bench; but this was soon ended by a harsh command, "Quit that, you ———; you'll tear your clothes off you." Next the two smaller girls walked a short distance through the green grass when the mother screamed, "Come back here." Soon after they came back they began to pick up pieces of gravel and bits of sand and popsicle sticks. "Throw all that junk down and quit doing that. You'll get as dirty as pigs." They wandered around a little more, and finally found a paper with some pictures. They huddled together looking at the pictures in this paper, and when discovered were asked to throw the paper in the trash barrel and come sit by Mother. Dear little children, with active minds but without guidance and helpful direction! What kind of citizens will they become? Quite soon the little group of four left me.

Yes, I think, too, that the mother was tired and needed rest, but I do not think this kind of a trip to the park rested her nor helped her children.

It did not seem enough to me to sit there and observe this situation without trying to solve the problem. And since this is only one case among many in the lives of parents and children, I know it will do all of us good to think about it and to solve it together. Just now I can almost imagine I have a group of you mothers together. No doubt you are already thinking of the different things you could have done in this situation. But since we are here and there in our separate homes this afternoon, I will tell you what I decided I could have done.

I thought I would have tried the following. I might have asked the children to walk around under

the trees, finding and placing on a bench as many different kinds of leaves as they could see. Then I might have compared the leaves, with the children's help, and have them tell me which they liked best, and why. I would talk with them about God's world and the beauties of nature, various purposes of leaves, etc. I would have had them pick clovers, promising to show them how to make wreaths and chains. I would have asked them to search the trees for birds' nests, and to have counted the birds they saw. I could have shown them how to take tiny sticks and pin leaves together for a small rug or cover.

Many ideas have come to your mind, I know, and many things could have been done to guide and direct these active minds educationally. Our children are eagerly reaching out to learn, and yet we take advantage of very few opportunities for learning.

The other evening I was busy at my desk and my five-year-old daughter came near with her own little Testament in her hands. I was busy, but something said, "here is a good opportunity; take advantage of it." I pushed my work aside and asked her if she wanted me to read some stories from her Bible. "Yes, Mother," and her eyes sparkled. "Let me sit on your lap, too." Up she jumped, and I turned to such stories as I knew would interest her: "Jesus feeding the five thousand," "The sick man at the pool," "Jesus calling the children to Him," and several others. It was an interesting experience to watch her as I read these stories from her Bible. She had heard them in Sunday School, and no doubt could see the pictures in imagination as I read to her. I could tell it was wonderful to her that they were in her Bible, too. We had our prayer together, and off to bed she went.

Rather early one morning I was out in my kitchen, starting the day's work, and all at once I heard this little daughter coming, all excited, and when I understood her words she was saying, "Is it our house, Mother? Is it our house?" I wondered for a moment, then heard what she had been awakened by. A fire engine was sounding out its alarm on the way to a fire. "No, darling, it is not our house. Aren't you glad?" When she was fully satisfied, she slipped back into her bed.

Again I was impressed that here was an opportunity. I ceased my work in the kitchen and went to her room.

"Listen, dear," I said, "now would be a good time to thank the heavenly Father that our house is not burning, and that we do not have to hurry and throw our things out of doors. And too, we can pray for the people whose house is burning." You may know that this was a wonderful opportunity for us to experience the genuine atmosphere and value of prayer. Is it not sad that some parents laugh at such earnest remarks?

One day I went to visit a sister in our congregation, riding a bus. Before going, I had telephoned to my friend, inquiring where to get off the bus. When I reached the corner, stepped off the bus, and crossed the street, I saw three small girls, and one of them was my friend's six-year-old child. My first thought was that she was playing near this corner; then I thought perhaps she had come to the store for her mother and happened to be there. She skipped along

ahead of me at times, then we would walk and talk together, and I kept wondering about it.

Quick as a flash, I was made conscious of what had really happened. I asked, "June, did you come over to the bus line to meet me and show me the way to your house?"

She smiled and nodded her head, and went skipping ahead again. When I reached her again, I said, "Well, June, I am so happy you came to show me the way, and I think you are a little helper and a good girl to do it." She gave no answer except a smile and a skip, and a satisfied expression that I had discovered what she had done. I do not know when I shall forget the sensation I had when she realized that I actually discovered that she came on purpose to meet me. I then asked God to help me use this incident to make me more watchful to respond and guide active minds. —Selected

"Greater is He"

Here are a few headlines from one newspaper during one week's time: "Cocain Defendant Sentenced to Prison," "Homosexuals Threaten Public Health," "Unruly Crowds Clash with Law after KSU Win," "City Jury Sentences Killer-Rapist to Death plus 500 Years," "Drunk Driver Charged with Manslaughter." All of us will agree that there is evil in the world around us. We lock our doors at night, we lock our cars, and we are careful to safeguard against evil doers because there is plenty of evidence evil is nearby. We read about it, hear of it, see some of it, and know about it. We are living in the last days. Read 1 Tim. 3:1-9; Rom. 1:26-32. If the total percentage of people will agree and believe there is evil or crime, then why won't they agree and believe there is good and evidence of God?

First, we must realize that there are anti-Christ movements today. Secular humanism is one of them which is prevalent among our government officials. Humanism is a doctrine centered solely on human interests and values. "Man is supreme—there is no God," they say. They believe in the theory of evolution, a theory that is often presented as fact in many schools and textbooks. Humanists believe that everyone has a right to full sexual freedom. They believe that everyone, regardless of age or condition, has a right to determine the values and goals that affect their lives. They believe that everyone has the right to do his own thing, whatever it may be. Humanists admit there is crime. They believe in preventing it through their trained, devoted psychologists. In short, secular humanism is the Communist religion. How prevalent is humanism? Recently we had an avowed humanist running for President of the United States.

Not only is the devil busy roaring about, but he is also quietly nibbling at the minds of unsuspecting Christians. Day by day, bit by bit, the devil will work on the mind of a Christian. He knows that if he can work unbelief into the mind, then he will destroy the evidence and power of God working in man. Recently, over the radio, a minister was thanking God for forgiving him when he sinned, even when he deliberately sinned against God. This minister was announcing that Christians sin every day, but God forgives them of it. "Thou believest that there is one

God; thou doest well; the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" (James 2:19, 20). This false idea will soon lead to unbelief. There is no evidence or fruit of a changed life. The Christians who follow this teaching will begin to realize that they are no better than they were before becoming Christians. Therefore, they will think that there is no power in salvation. Total unbelief then slips in quickly. To thousands of people in our sophisticated society, saying, "I am a Christian," merely means, "I am civilized."

People who don't believe God has keeping grace over sin will have a hard time believing God can work miracles. In a poll that was taken of the delegates in the National Council of Churches, 62% questioned miracles of God. The Lord cannot bring about miracles with unbelievers. Jesus met with unbelief, and He was even accused by the scribes of casting out devils with devils in Mark 3:22, 23. Nevertheless, Jesus continued to work marvelous miracles among those who believed. After Jesus arose from the tomb, He did not go to those who had accused Him, but He showed Himself to the believers. God, the Father, and Jesus, the Son, are real to those who believe. A believer's life will bring forth evidence that God has made a change in the heart and mind. Believing brings forth faith. "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Heb. 11:6). Faith in God gives one the privilege to trust in all the good promises of the Word of God.

Now, what are these promises? Here we come to a very serious problem. In 1978, a George Gallup poll found that 42% of the American population agree that "The Bible is the Word of God, and is not mistaken in its statements and teachings." However, the knowledge of the Scriptures was very poor. Only 40% could name even five of the Ten Commandments. A smaller percentage could not name the four Gospels. We need to know the Bible and the truth that it holds for true believing Christians. Jesus Himself said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Matt. 11:29). "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31, 32). Believe in God, let Him work in your life, and there will be more evidence of His goodness. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Tim. 2:15).

Let us notice this: everyone will agree that crime and evil are around us today, but cannot agree on the goodness and power of God. Christians, take a fresh hold on the power of God so that there will be more evidence of God. Let us deepen down in the Scriptures so that we can refute the propaganda of the evil forces. Secular humanism and communism have brain-washing theories in order to bring about their results. Christians can find the answers for our freedom and crime prevention in the Bible. The Word of God, believed and practised, is the answer to any

problem, whether it be individual, community, national, or international. We believers know this to be so. "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." (1 John 4:4). —Connie Sorrell

What Some Men Have Said About Sin

"Few love to hear the sins they love to act."

—Shakespeare

"Use sin as it will use you; spare it not, for it will not spare you; it is your murderer, and the murderer of the world: use it, therefore, as a murderer should be used. Kill it before it kills you. You love not death; love not the cause of death."

—Baxter

"It is as supreme a folly to talk of a little sin as it would be to talk of a small Decalogue that forbids it, or a diminutive God that hates it, or a shallow hell that will punish it."

C. S. Robinson

"Bad men hate sin through fear of punishment; good men hate sin through their love of virtue."

—Juvenal

"There are three things which the true Christian desires in respect to sin: justification, that it may not condemn; sanctification, that it may not reign; and glorification; that it may not be."

—Cecil

"If I were sure God would pardon me, and men would not know my sin, yet I should be ashamed to sin, because of its essential baseness."

—Plato

"Sins are like circles in the water when a stone is thrown into it; one produces another. When anger was in Cain's heart, murder was not far off."

—Philip Henry

"It is not true that there are no enjoyments in the ways of sin; there are many and various. But the great and radical defect of them all is that they are transitory and unsubstantial, at war with reason and conscience, and always leave a sting behind. We are hungry, and they offer us bread; but it is poisoned bread. We are thirsty, and they offer us drink; but it is from deadly fountains. They may and often do satisfy us for the moment; but it is death in the end. It is only the bread of heaven and the water of life that can so satisfy that we shall hunger no more and thirst no more forever."

—Tryon Edwards

Take Up Thy Cross

We find not our solace by drifting
On the beautiful, calm sea of glass,
Nor can we find peace that is lasting
By searching for things that must pass.

But that peace, worthwhile and enduring
Is wrenched from the soul by our tears,
And the solace and soul-rest we covet
Must be sought amid tempest and fears.

We must loosen our grip on possessions;
We must give all, that we may retain.
We must leave all, if we wish to find it
In abundance, when He giveth again.

Our loss and bitter disappointments,
The suffering, the chastening rod—

Can become the good seed for rich fruitage
If left in the hand of our God.

He uses the base and the weak things
To help us grow up and be strong;
He giveth the dark night of sorrow
That our hearts may be filled with His song.

The shadow of death and bereavement
May make our hearts quiver with pain,
But ere long the midnight has left us,
Our soul some rich treasure will gain.

Let's look not for smooth, easy sailing,
Or a life without sorrow and tears,
Nor for days to be filled with our wishes,
Or a light, giddy way through the years.

Are we willing to climb rugged mountains?
To walk in the rough, stony way?
To be left alone when we suffer?
Not sidetracked by what others say?

—Edna Hays Hollandsworth

The Power of the Name



"The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." (Prov. 18:10).

I learned a wonderful lesson, years ago, from an old heathen named Mochuana in Bechuanaland—S. Africa. We were traveling and I climbed out of the wagon one day and walked toward a canteen. Of all the figures there I seemed to see only one: a poor old man with only a few filthy rags partially covering his equally filthy body, loathsome with sores; his loathsome face and bleared eyes so repulsive that one shrank from the sight.

The old man was just staggering toward the saloon to get another drink when I said, "Old man, I want to speak to you." He turned around stupidly and gave assent. I asked him why he was killing himself with this drink. "Why?" he answered. "Why, you know why, because I can't help it." I said, "You can help it—you need not go on drinking." "What," said he, "do you think any man would be so foolish as to go on taking that stuff if he could stop it? No, no! You English know that well enough, therefore you bring this stuff to us. You know when we once taste it, we can never be free again, never, never. For months after that canteen was opened I never went near it. I saw how it diseased my neighbors: how they went mad after they had been there; how they gave their cattle and their sheep to the white man there. And yet one day I let a mate take me over to taste the white man's magic. I thought I would only taste a little drop. That was five years ago; well you know how it is when you drink the white man's magic. You would never leave off again. I drank and drank. I drank that time till I drank all the money I had by me, then I went home and brought a goat to the canteen man. My wife cried when she saw that I had also come under the spell of the white man's stuff, but it was of no use. I could not stop. I drank out all my goats and sheep and oxen and my cows and wagon. He has them all, and now I am sick and half-blind with these sores and I only want to drink, drink."

"But how do you get the drink if you have no more things to sell?"

He chuckled. "Oh, I get it. When all my money is gone the canteen keeper gives me drink till I owe him a pound, then he won't give me any more, so then I get my brother-in-law to lend me his wagon, and weak as I am, I gather wood till I get a wagon load. Though I am sick, the longing for the drink makes me strong to collect the load. Then I go to Kimberley to sell it and I bring home sometimes three pounds to the canteen man here and I drink every day until I drink all the money out. Then he lets me drink after that for another pound, then I have to get more wood, so I live."

I plead with him, then asked him if he would not stop for the sake of his wife and children. He laughed a strange despairing laugh. "You ask, don't I want to get well? Don't I want to get well? Don't I want to give my poor wife something to buy food with? Of course I do. What man would not like to be well of this disease? Why do you talk so? You know as well as I do that there is no help for me—that there is no doctor on earth who can cure a man of this witchcraft." "There is, there is!" as it rushed over me: "They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick."

I told him of Jesus, that loving One who healed all the sick that came to Him. As I told him of one and another who had come to that Jesus and had been made whole, those bleared eyes seemed strained with eagerness and he broke in on me, breathless in excitement. "Is it true? Is it true? Are you telling me true? Where is this man? Tell me, tell me! Is He in Kimberley? Oh, take me to this Doctor. I will give Him all the money for the wood I gather till He has ten loads or even more, only take me to Him." I told him that the Doctor asked for no money, He wanted no pay, only for people to ask Him to make them well. But here came the difficulty to explain to him how he could ask the unseen Christ. He was quite a heathen, and knew nothing about God. I explained to him the coming of Christ to live and die for us here, and the saving power of that Christ. But he wanted to see Him. I got my Bible, and turning to Acts 3, told him word for word the story of that lame man to whom Peter and John brought the message, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk," and of what came to pass—how that helpless man got that perfect soundness in the presence of them all. I told him that the same Jesus was with us now and would heal him if he asked for it. The blessed Spirit carried the message home. That darkened mind drank it in. At last he said, "Tell me the name." I told him. Then he said, "How must I ask Him?" I said, "Just here, we can ask Him." We both knelt and prayed. In a few broken words I asked that God would glorify His Son Jesus and show His almighty healing power in this poor life. Then this poor old drunken heathen said himself, "Great Doctor, make me well." He rose and asked me again, "What is His name?" "Jesus," I said. "Jesus, Jesus"—he went away murmuring to himself.

After a few days a woman approached me. "Mister," she said, "is it you who spoke to my husband last week? Oh, what did you do that he is cured of

that drink?" "Why," I said, "did he not tell you?" "No, he said he did not know if he might speak of it, but oh, Mister, he is cured! He has never been to that canteen again, though he has money in his handkerchief still. Yesterday I was afraid he was going. One of his drinking mates came to him to go to the saloon. He had half a crown and begged my husband to go with him. He took hold of his arm and they went half-way to the place. Oh, my heart was sore, but all at once my husband turned around and pulled his arm loose and came back. Oh! He is cured, he is cured!" Here the man came up. Such a transformed face and with tears of joy he said, "It is all true, Mister, all true, what you told me. My wife wants to know, but I did not know if I might tell her." He seemed to feel so wondrous a power might be too sacred to speak of. "Oh, yes," I said, "you may tell all." "Then, wife," he said in an awed whisper, "It's a name, just a name." Then, turning to me, "May I tell the name?" As I nodded my head, he softly spoke the word, "Jesus." It is impossible to convey in words what was borne in my soul then. It has come to me in hours of greatest darkness and brought victory. It has given me hope for the most helplessly lost lives. Thousands of drink and dope and tobacco slaves have been set free by telling them of that record in the third chapter of Acts.

Brothers, sisters, enslaved by drink, or any other evil habit or passion—"Take the name;" it has untold power. That old heathen Mochuana found it able to save, able to deliver, able to give perfect soundness to his poor diseased body, his helpless will-power, and his degraded soul. "Jesus, just Jesus, a name," so he described it to his wife. He told us that all he had done after leaving me, was to say that name to himself and the crave of drink went away from him, and he felt just like before he had ever tasted the stuff. He said his "mouth felt clean like a little child's," and his body was well and strong.

On the day when he allowed his companion to get him to go toward the canteen, he said, "When I was going, all at once the old disease came back—I felt it burn in me. I wanted the drink. The sickness was on me again, and I was so frightened, but just as I was half-way to the canteen, there by that bush, I called out softly three times: 'Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!' and the disease just left me at once and my body felt cool and I turned back. So you see it's just a name."

Oh, blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that name stands eternal in its saving power. It is for you and for me to lay hold of it. There is no habit, no disease, no need, no fear that this name is not "more than conqueror" over, and we can say with the old African, "It is all true, all true. I am healed through the name." "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth." Phil. 2:9-11. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners shall inherit the kingdom of God." 1 Cor. 6:9, 10.

—Selected