

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



Volume 65, No. 8

65th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

\$1.00 Per Year

Nov., 1987

Jesus Calls The Sinner

This world is in an awful state—
You know this to be true;
So awake, poor soul, it's getting late—
The Master calleth for you.

Unto a life of holiness,
And from a life of sin;
He's waiting now your soul to bless—
Oh, won't you let Him in?

Seek Him while He may be found,
Call ye on Him while He's near;
He'll loose the soul that sin has bound
And remove tormenting fear.

A present help in time of need,
The Lord will be to you;
He'll prove Himself a friend indeed—
He'll surely help you through.

Behold, He stands at your door to knock—
Don't turn the Lord away;
You hold the key that turns the lock—
Do let Him in, I pray.

He'll guide your soul to heaven above,
To a land of eternal rest;
Where there will be peace and joy and love,
With the ransomed and the blest.

But those who reject His offered grace,
And wander on in sin,
Will wake up in an awful place—
How sad will be their end!

In hell there'll be pain and sorrow,
No water, rest, nor peace—
No hope of getting out tomorrow,
And torments never cease.

—Charles E. Taylor

Acceptable Service

We read in the Bible of the form and the power of godliness, and when we look about us in the world, we see more of the form than we do of the power. There seems to be so many people who are merely playing religion. They attend services and go through the form of worship. They are sometimes very strongly devoted to their creed and greatly attached to the organization of which they are members; but when you look for the power of godliness in their lives and the power to render acceptable service to God, you do not find it. This make-believe religion will do very well sometimes, if it is not considered a matter of very much importance. It may sometimes ease the conscience for a time, but it will not bring us into a position where we can render acceptable service to God and where our own souls will be satisfied to their depths. People may manage to get along with such a religion in this world, but it will not stand the test of eternity. Of course, it will not stand the real test for this life. The soul who has the form without the power of religion can never have that satisfaction and peace that true religion gives.

There are many people who go through the forms of religion and try to serve the Lord, but who never know whether their service is acceptable or not. I was once talking with a lady who had professed to be a Christian for many years and had prayed often. Speaking to me on the subject of prayer, she said, "I cannot say that God has ever answered my prayers." Think of it! Twenty years of praying and never a prayer answered! Still, there are many who would have the same confession if they would open their hearts. Their religion has so little of reality in it that it seems almost nothing to them. It is natural for such Christians to testify that they

"make many crooked paths for their feet" and that they "serve God in their weak way and manner." Such persons are not usually weak when it comes to serving self and the world.

The religion of too many people is like that of a man whom I once knew. Two religious parties had been holding their regular services in the same house. At last a strife arose among them as to which should have complete control of the house. This man who was leader of one faction told me that when they came together

heart goeth after their covetousness." Ezekiel 33:31. Isaiah, as quoted by Jesus, says of the same class, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me." Matthew 15:8. Of what religion they have Jesus says, "... in vain they do worship me." Verse 9.

Acceptable service to God can never be rendered with the lips alone. It must come from the heart. It is the condition and attitude of the heart that counts most in everything. If our

"Religion that can be put on with the Sunday clothes and taken off as easily never goes very deep into the heart or life."

one day for a final decision of the case, he took off his coat, threw it down upon the seat, and said, "You lie there and my religion with you 'till I whip out these people". Religion that can be put on with the Sunday clothes and taken off as easily never goes very deep into the heart or life. The service of such persons is always weak, because there is no heart in it. While they profess to worship God, their hearts are far from Him.

A certain religious professor went to work with a gang of men upon a public contract. He worked with them several weeks and then came home. A friend asked him, "How did you get along working with that gang of wicked men up there? What did they have to say about your religion?" "Oh," replied the other, "they didn't find out anything about it. I didn't tell them." It is just that way with many people. You would never find out anything about their religion if they did not tell you about it. There is no manifestation of it in their lives or characters. It does not show out in their words nor deeds; in fact, you would never suspect they had any if you did not go to church and hear them testify. Sometimes people will rise in testimony meetings and say, "I know that my Redeemer liveth". In this they often turn the truth into a lie, for they do not know that their Redeemer liveth, for they are not redeemed. They are the same old creatures that they have always been. They have no personal knowledge of God whatever, unless it be of His condemnation resting upon them. Ezekiel speaks of this class of people and says of them, "... they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they show much love, but their

hearts are not in the service, then our service is vain. Service to God, to be acceptable, must be the most real of all things. It must be the great outstanding fact of life. God hates mere form. It is an insult to Him. He knows whether we are in earnest or not, whether our service is just form or means all to us. Modern ritualism is a curse to the world. A true Christian heart needs no such form. When we draw nigh to God with our hearts, the Spirit within us makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. It is from a heart thus in earnest that true worship and devotion comes. It is from such a heart that true service flows.

Acceptable service can come only from a holy heart. God's standard for His worshipers is "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God. . ." Philippians 2:15. Sinners cannot do that which is pleasing in the sight of God. Repentance is the one thing upon which God centers their attention. To repent is the first thing for them to do. God loves to receive the service of the holy.

Service, to be acceptable, must always be willing service. God forces no one to serve Him. He lays down the principle that "... if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath. . ." 2 Corinthians 8:12. Our service is not judged by our ability to do great things. A child can serve as acceptably as a man; the ignorant as well as the learned. The soul who serves willingly, takes God's way gladly. He does not ask to choose for himself; he only asks what will please the Lord, and, once knowing that, he gladly does it. Paul said of preaching the gospel that if he did it willingly he had a reward. It is only the willing service that has the reward. Willing service does have

both a present and a future reward. Oh, for more willing workers who will not choose their own way or their own place or their own time, but who will give themselves into the hands of God and let His will be that which guides them from day to day, and thus find their pleasure in doing what is acceptable in His sight. God finds His pleasure in the willingness of the heart.

To be acceptable, our service must be sincere. Sincerity is the foundation of Christian character. Hypocrisy in anything is an abomination to the Lord. Deep sincerity and earnestness characterizes every true Christian. Without these there can be no true Christian character and no Christian service. Many people are not sincere with themselves, with others, nor with God. They are not satisfied with their lives, and they know that God is not, and yet they go on professing to be what they ought to be. They try to appear outwardly what they ought to be. They try to appear outwardly what they really know they are not. They desire the world to believe them to be something that they know they are not in reality. The people around us who gaze upon our lives, who listen to our words, and who see the play of emotions upon our faces know whether we are the true metal or not. God, who looks down from heaven and reads the very secrets of our hearts, knows also. God wants us to serve Him with a true heart.

It must be a reverent service. The Psalmist says, "Stand in awe, and sin not. . ." Psalm 4:4. Hebrews 12:28 says, ". . . Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." When our souls sense the greatness of God, we are then filled with a feeling of reverence toward Him, and it is only when we have this feeling of reverence that our service comes to have the quality of acceptable

eyes of men to behold; it is done as a loving tribute to the object of its love. Christ drew a contrast between the kind of service that is acceptable and the kind that is not. In Matthew 6: 1, 2, He says: "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward." The principle here set forth is that what is done with the purpose of being seen of men brings only the reward that men give; in other words, it is not accepted by the Lord as service to Him. Judged by this rule, much of the service of some so-called Christians is never, I fear, recognized in heaven at all. Our good deeds are to be done, not that men may see, but that God, who seeth in secret, may see, and reward according to His own will, and that He may regard them as service done to Himself and not for the reward of men's praise. It is simple, single-hearted service that pleases the Lord. Paul tells us what kind of life and service that pleases God: ". . . That we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour." 1 Timothy 2:2, 3.

We are told that a meek and quiet spirit is a thing of great price in the eyes of the Lord. Loud and boisterous conduct is not in harmony with the Spirit of Christ nor with true Christian character. Paul said, ". . . Study to be quiet, and to do your own business. . ." 1 Thessalonians 4:11. There is a quiet dignity about the work of the Holy Spirit, and if we are dwelt in and operated by the Holy Spirit, there will be a quiet

"Service that springs from true love never desires to display itself."

service. We cannot treat the service of God with careless indifference and have this reverence for Him. We must feel this before we can truly worship Him — before our worship will have that quality of genuine adoration that makes it worthwhile. If His fear is upon our hearts, we shall be very careful about our conduct. The question will be, not "Does this please me?" but "Will it please God?"

It must be an unostentatious service. Service that springs from true love never desires to display itself. What it does is not done for the

dignity in our lives that will count vastly more than any self-assertiveness. It is not the showy bird that sings the sweet song. It is not the noisy and showy man that makes his mark for God. The man who is truly godlike has no desire to put himself upon exhibition. He thinks, "Not I, but Christ", and not only thinks it, but feels it in the depths of his heart. —C. W. Naylor

(If you enjoyed this article, the book *Winning a Crown* from which it came, can be ordered from Faith Publishing House for the price of \$4.00, plus 91¢ for postage and handling.)

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).

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

Notice to subscribers: Whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your zip code number. The post office now charges 30¢ to notify us of each change of address.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single copy, one year \$1.00
 Package of 4 papers to one address, one year \$3.00
 Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

EDITORIALS

In Acts 17:11, the Church at Berea was commended because they were examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. Paul exhorted those to whom he wrote with such as, "I would not have you to be ignorant. . ." Rom. 1:13; 1 Cor. 10:1; 12:1; 2 Cor. 1:8; 1 Thess. 4:13. There were times when Jesus accused the people of being blind to spiritual things. Contrary to the common quote, ignorance is not bliss. There are definite benefits to be derived from a good understanding of the Bible and God's will for mankind. There are also penalties to be paid for being willingly ignorant.

The most important benefit we reap from growth in knowledge is the approval of God. This is plainly stated in 2 Tim. 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed. . ." This same verse also tells us that such study will spare us shame. There are many who would bend the Scriptures to their own benefits and thinking, and unless we have something on which to found our own lives, we will find ourselves believing one thing one time and something else another. Such an individual will have to go through some humiliating circumstances as that in which they believe is brought to nought.

History has proven that ignorance brings about fear, prejudice and superstition. It is a blindness that promotes darkness and despair. This is very true concerning spiritual things. It seems reasonable that people would want to gain knowledge just as rapidly as possible, yet we see many who seem content to remain in the state they are in.

We are instructed to ". . . grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. . ." 2 Peter 3:18. All Christians should experience growth. This growth must include spiritual growth and not only a mental growth. A growth in grace is something that affects the spirit of man and not just his thinking. If in our Christian experience we do not attain the ability to love more, possess more peace, patience, etc., then we are just adding to our prejudices and digging deeper the rut we are in.

Once a man sat before a fireplace, apparently wrapped in thought. Two friends looked at him, and one said, "Jones is thinking very deeply tonight". The other man, who knew Jones more intimately, replied, "Jones thinks he is thinking, but he is merely rearranging his prejudices". This is possible to do in spiritual matters. If our growth does not make us better people or produce more of the attributes of Christ, then we are merely going in circles.

U.S. Postal Service STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)		
1. TITLE OF PUBLICATION FAITH & VICTORY	2. ISSUE DATE 0184-660	3. DATE OF FILING Sept. 28, 1987
4. FREQUENCY OF ISSUE Monthly (Except August)	5. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION PRICE \$1.00/Year	6. ANNUAL CIRCULATION 11
7. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF KNOWN OFFICE OF PUBLICATION (Show street, city, county, state and zip code)		
Faith Publishing House, Inc., 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044		
8. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF GENERAL BUSINESS OFFICES OF THE PUBLISHER (Not printer)		
Same as line #4		
9. FULL NAMES AND COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESSES OF THE PUBLISHER, EDITOR, AND MANAGING EDITOR (Not printer)		
PUBLISHER (Name and Complete Mailing Address)		
Same as line #4		
EDITOR (Name and Complete Mailing Address)		
Maybelle Pruitt; X address on line #4		
MANAGING EDITOR (Name and Complete Mailing Address)		
Wayne Murphey; X address on line #4		
10. OWNER (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a proprietor, his name and address must be stated. (Form must be completed by owner.)		
FULL NAME		
Faith Publishing House, Inc.		
COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS		
920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044		
(This is a non-stock, non-profit religious and charitable corporation)		
11. KNOWN BONDHOLDERS, MORTGAGEES, AND OTHER SECURITY HOLDERS OWNING OR HOLDING 1 PERCENT OR MORE OF TOTAL AMOUNT OF BONDS, MORTGAGES OR OTHER SECURITIES (If none, so state)		
FULL NAME		
NONE		
COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS		
NONE		
12. FOR COMPLETION BY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZED TO MAIL AT SPECIAL RATES (Section 422 (2) (D)(iii) of the Internal Revenue Code)		
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes (Check one)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HAS NOT CHANGED DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> HAS CHANGED DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS (If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)		
13. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION (For information on correct use)	AVERAGE NO. COPIES EACH ISSUE DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS	ACTUAL NO. COPIES OF SINGLE ISSUE PUBLISHED NEAREST TO FILING DATE
A. TOTAL NO. COPIES (See Form 3500)	7027	7191
B. PAID AND/OR REQUESTED CIRCULATION		
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales	34	20
2. Mail Subscriptions (Paid and/or requested)	6632	6799
C. TOTAL PAID AND/OR REQUESTED CIRCULATION (Sum of B.1 and B.2)	6666	6819
D. FREE DISTRIBUTION BY MAIL, CARRIER OR OTHER MEANS SAMPLES, COMPLIMENTARY, AND OTHER FREE COPIES		
E. TOTAL DISTRIBUTION (Sum of C and D)	6666	6819
F. COPIES NOT DISTRIBUTED		
1. Office use, left over, unsold, uncollected, spoiled after printing	361	372
2. Return from News Agents		
G. TOTAL (Sum of E, F.1 and 2 should equal net press run shown on 4)	7027	7191
14. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete		
SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF EDITOR, PUBLISHER, BUSINESS MANAGER, OR OWNER <i>Wayne S. Murphey</i> Managing Editor		

Postmaster: Please send address corrections to: Faith Publishing House, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044.

SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PAPER—1 YEAR FOR \$1.00

We need to be more motivated to search the Scriptures and prove the things which we believe. As we do so, we should let it affect our inner man and cause us to draw closer to God and our fellow man. This is true spiritual growth.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

We would like to remind our readers that we stock over one hundred different books and have over 350 different tract titles. All of these are sold at reasonable prices. There is a partial listing of books printed in this issue. A complete book and tract listing will be sent to you free upon request.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

We still have a supply of the nice plastic covers for the *Evening Light* Songbook. The cover is similar in color to the songbook and is stamped with the *Evening Light* title and emblem. It is available for \$2.50, which includes postage and handling.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

The fall season has arrived here in Oklahoma. It reminds us that the year will soon be ending. It seems that time has gone so fast and there is certainly no prospect of it slowing down. The river of time is surely and swiftly flowing into the vast ocean of eternity. One by one our lives will close and we must pass beyond the reach of time.

Word was received on October 26, of the passing of Sis. Katherine Harmon of Loranger, LA. Although she had much to suffer, her outlook on life and her interest in God was bright. God blessed her in her last days. She lived an unforgettable life.

We want to extend our sympathy to her husband, Gerald, and daughter, De De Hayden. If you would like to convey your condolences, the address is: Route 1, Box 172-B, Loranger, LA 70446.

—Wayne Murphey

The Will of God

I worship thee, sweet Will of God!

And all thy ways adore;

And every day I live, I seem

To love thee more and more

Thou wert the end, the blessed rule

Of our Saviour's toils and tears;

Thou wert the passion of His heart,

Those three and thirty years.

And He hath breathed into my soul

A special love of thee—

A love to lose my will in His,

And by that loss be free.

—Selected

Partial List of Items Available



Adventures in the Land of Canaan by R. L. Berry. An instructive allegory of true-to-life experiences in the grace of sanctification. 128 pages in paper cover. Price, \$1.50 per copy.

Beyond the Tomb by H. M. Riggle. This excellent book of 288 pages deals with man, his present and future, in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00 each.

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, \$5.00 each.

The Christian Church: Its Rise and Progress by H. M. Riggle. Bound in a cloth cover, 488 pages. Price, \$6.00.

Evening Light Songs, shaped notes, with 512 pages in a cloth binding. The right hymnal for the Church of God. Price, \$6.50 each. A 10% discount is granted on orders of 12 copies or more placed at one time.

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, \$6.00 each.

Egermeier's Favorite Bible Stories. Thirty favorite stories with pictures for small children. Cloth bound, 128 pages. Size: 6½ x 9½. Price, \$7.95.

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, \$6.00 each.

Holy Spirit Baptism and the Second Cleansing by R. R. Byrum. Consists of 108 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00 each.

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, \$2.50 each.

A Religious Controversy by C. E. Orr. An 80-page, paper bound book presenting truths in an interesting manner. Price, \$1.00 each.

Guided by the Unseen Hand by Murphy Allen. An 84-page book bound in a heavy paper cover relating many experiences and inspiring answers to prayer centering around the 44 years of Bro. Allen's ministry. Price, \$1.00.

Food for Lambs by C. E. Orr in the German language. It consists of 127 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.00 each.

Tim and His Lamp re-written by Fern Stubblefield. This excellent booklet of 52 pages for children and young people is bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$.75 each.

Harry the Newsboy and Other Stories by Isabel Byrum. 32 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$.50 each.

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, \$3.00 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, \$1.50 each.

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

The Double Cure, or Redemption Twofold by D. O. Teasley. This book should enlighten the reader on the two works of grace, and correct the thinking of those who deny the cleansing element in sanctification. 160 pages of large print in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.00 each.

The Battle of Armageddon by O. B. Wilson. A clear exposition of this much misunderstood subject in an enlarged 24-page booklet by the author. Price, \$.50 each.

Divine Healing for Soul and Body by E. E. Byrum. Available ONLY in the German language, it contains 282 pages bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$3.50 each.

Bible Humility by J. W. Byers. An excellent treatise of this subject in 32 pages with a heavy paper cover. The price is \$.50 each.

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, \$5.50 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, \$1.50 each.

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, \$.50 each.

Life's Story and Healings by Nellie Poulos. This is a reprint of her first book, plus additional material. This volume contains 160 pages with a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.00 each.

The Cleansing of the Sanctuary by D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggle. Reprinted verbatim in 541 pages, cloth binding. Price, \$6.00 each.

Bible Readings for Bible Students and for the Home and Fireside compiled by S. L. Speck and H. M. Riggle. Originally published in 1902, this excellent volume contains 432 pages of Scripture references and comments on many Bible subjects. Nice cloth cover. Price, \$6.00 each.

Remember Now Thy Creator. 16-page booklet of a sermon by Ostis B. Wilson, directed especially to young people. Price, \$.25 each.

A Saloonkeeper's Daughter Saved was written by Bertha Mackey. This 16-page pamphlet is an inspiring true story. Price, \$.25 each.

Food for Lambs by C. E. Orr in the English language. This English version contains 168 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.00 each.

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, \$1.00 each.

The Hero of Hill House by Mabel Hale. A very interesting and inspiring true story, this book contains 224 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$3.00 each.

Lest We Forget by Sister Margaret Eck. 72 pages of many encouraging experiences with the Lord bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00 each.

Winning A Crown by C. W. Naylor. This book tells how to accept the plan of salvation and then goes into detail on how to keep the victory in every-day Christian living. It contains 368 pages in an extra-heavy paper cover. Price, \$4.00 each.

Paula, the Waldensian by Eva Lecomte. A 175 page book relating the touching story of a young girl who went to live with her uncle who was opposed to even the mention of God. Bound in heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.50 each.

Little People Sing Unto The Lord. A songbook composed of 115 songs compiled by Patricia Bell. Although the songs are especially for children, they are favorites that any age would enjoy. Bound in a heavy paper cover, the price is \$2.00 each.

Write for a complete list of other excellent books in stock at this office and ready for prompt delivery.

For postage and handling, add 70¢ for the first dollar and 7¢ for each additional dollar of total order.

Mail Orders to—

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, Okla. 73044

Prayer Requests

CT—"Pray for my sisters' protection and for her a peaceful place to live."

—Sis. Emma L. Williams

OR—"I need healing, please remember me."

—Grace Jones

LA—"Please remember me and my daughter."

—Beulah Johnson

Nigeria—Bro. Joseph Friday of Rivers State, Nigeria is seriously afflicted. Bro. Winston Dagogo has requested that the Church in America join in prayer with the Church there for Bro. Friday's healing.

OK—Rosa Gilbert is in dire need of prayer for healing.

MS—"Please pray for the following: My brother Warner is very feeble and suffers in different ways. I suffer so much from several ailments. Also pray for my unsaved loved ones."

—Sis Dorothy Bridges

OH—"Remember a special request, only God knows how to work it out."

—Juanita Blankenship

TX—"I still need prayer. I had a bad kidney infection but am better now."

—Sis. Jewell McCaskill

FL—"Please remember me in prayer. My memory seems to be failing. I also suffer with a bad back."

—Sis. Lydia Bennett

Jamaica—"I am asking you to pray for my neck. I had a fall in May '87 and my neck was injured. It is painning me a lot now."

—Martina Townsend

OH—"Please pray for my son, Jeff. The seizures are more often."

—Della Gutwein

OK—Frances Deforth needs a special touch of healing.

MO—"Please remember me in prayer. I need help from God."

—Hallie Pinkerton

MO—Sis. Goldie Knapp needs special prayer.

CARETAKER NEEDED

CHURCH OF GOD NATIONAL CAMPGROUND

MONARK SPRINGS, MISSOURI

We are praying that the Lord will burden one of the saints to fill the vacant position for caretaker at the national campground. The person for this job needs to have a burden for the work of the Lord, be capable of doing the numerous tasks required to maintain the church property, and qualified according to Acts 6:3.

The caretaker's house is located on the campground. The house is available to the caretaker rent-free in exchange for the work as caretaker. Water, electricity, and telephone (excluding long distance charges are also furnished at no cost.

If you are interested in serving as caretaker of the national campground, please contact me.

For the national campmeeting,

—Jim Wall, 5817 E. 64th St.,
Tulsa, OK 74136. (918) 494-9564.

NOTE OF THANKS

To the dear saints and friends scattered abroad: Greetings in Jesus' precious name. We are taking this opportunity to thank all of you who from time to time have given of your means, prayers, etc. to assist with our building fund project. The Lord is blessing. We now have the roof on the dining hall. May the Lord bless each of you.

Continue to pray for us as we remember you.

Sincerely in Christ,

—The Green Pastures Congregation

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

WICHITA, KS MEETING REPORT

Thanks be unto God that He knows all things and knows just what each of us need. He was so faithful, as always, and sent some very stirring messages during our meeting. The Word was so revealing and so awakening. Many sought for help at the altar of prayer. We are thankful that God loves His people and wants us to each perform at our peak and live godly to the very capacity of our ability. Truly God is good and we appreciate His dealings with each one of us. Our thanks to all of the ministers and saints that came and helped out in the meeting. All glory goes to God.

During the meeting we had one to leave from our midst. Sis. Isabella Williams passed away on Friday, September 25. She had been very ill and had many battles and even some failures along the way. The devil seemed always determined to defeat her. But she fought, battled, sought God earnestly and prayed to get everything clear. We feel sure she made it in and felt relieved and happy for her that she had the victory and was able to cross over to the other side. Her battles are all over; no more pain, sorrow or disappointments to endure.

Submitted by,

—Shirley Knight

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

HOLLY HILL, SC MEETING REPORT

We had a good meeting from Oct. 2nd to 11th. Souls were blessed and I hope that they will come closer to God. Men saw the light as the Word went forth.

May God bless each one for Christ's sake.

—Bro. Utson Platt

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

GENERAL SOUTHERN ASSEMBLY MEETING

This is the announcement of the 1987 Assembly meeting to be November 22-29. The purpose of this meeting is to bring godly sorrow and salvation to the sinner, the infilling of God's Spirit to the Christian and to build up, edify and refresh the Church. Come praying for the meeting.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. There are ten power and water hookups available for those with campers. Meals will be served and expenses met by freewill offerings. From Loranger, LA go two miles south and about three miles east on Hwy. 40.

For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about ten miles east of the Tickfaw exit (take Hwy. 442 east which runs into Hwy. 40).

For more information, call Sis. LaVern Manuel, (504) 878-6176, or Bro. Bob Forbes, (504)

748-4957. The chapel phone is (504) 878-2788.

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

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting will convene, Lord willing, at Pacoima, California, December 25, 1987 and continue through January 3, 1988.

Accommodations will be provided for all who attend. If possible please bring your own bedding. The expense of the meeting will be met by freewill offerings.

For further information, please contact Bro. Robert Sherman, 12312 Osborne Pl. Pacoima, CA 91331, Phone (818) 869-7593 or Bro. James Pierro, 11316 Glenoaks Blvd. Pacoima, CA 91331, Phone (818) 896-5331.

-----o-----

From the Mailbox . . .

LA—I was up early this morning seeking the Lord in prayer, realizing that time is fast passing. As I prayed I thought of the pecan with a full grown shell that drops to the earth. I was praying for souls to be all God is calling us to be, and the pecan stayed before me. I said, "Lord, what is this?" As I prayed I felt a deep sense of seriousness. The growing time, the developing time, the maturing time for the pecan that I beheld was over. There was no more time for it to become what might have been a full, fat, tasty nut. Whatever it might have become, the time to do so was past.

This thought brought a serious awakening to my thinking. Could the Lord be coming today? Is some soul going to be cut off today? I feel burdened to pass this message on. Oh, Lord, help everybody to get a picture of the seriousness of standing before God with only an empty, dry shell.

A pecan needs to have a bright, full shell, and the contents needs to be bright and full of oil. Then I thought of how we need oil in our lamps so that they will burn bright. You can, to some extent, tell if a pecan is good or bad. If the pecan is light, it will be dry and the contents will be bitter. Thus it is worthless and ready to be raked up with the leaves for burning. Precious souls, awake, check your hearts. Are they empty and bitter? Do not let the precious moments pass us by without notice. Let us all be clothed with humility and ready to meet the bridegroom. He is coming and we must be full of the grace and power of our God if we would go up with Him.

Today there is much deception in many strong forms. "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." 1 Cor. 10:12. "For not he that commendeth himself is ap-

proved, but whom the Lord commendeth." 2 Cor. 10:18. We do not have to spend time telling what we are, rather, let us seek a constant, purging, refining and cleansing by the Holy Spirit of God. He will brightly shine in our inner-most being with a light that will draw others to Him. Saints of God, pray on and seek out the needy. There is a work to be done.

Yours with a soul burden,

—Gladys S. Cashio

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

OK—Dear ones at the Print Shop: I hope all of your prayers have been answered. Anyway we know the Lord hears us when we pray. He is so good to all of us.

I am still enjoying the *Faith and Victory* paper. I am thankful for what you're doing in getting the truth out to others. I just wish everyone would read it and let it mean to them what it does to me.

A sister in the Lord,

—Minnie Pernicka

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

KS—Dear Ones: Special greetings to you this nice cool morning, after a nice gentle rain. There are so many things to thank God for every day.

The *Faith and Victory* is full of God's Word and good news that we need every day.

Please remember me in your prayers.

May God bless you in a special way.

—C. M. Waller

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

PA—Dear ones at the Print Shop: We would like to renew our *Faith and Victory* subscription for 5 years.

We thank the Lord for His kindness, mercy and love.

We hope everyone is well in body and encouraged in the Lord. The Lord has been so good to us.

We had a glorious tent meeting this year. It was a real blessing to my soul.

We want to thank all the saints who traveled far in laboring for the Lord.

May God bless you all at the Print Shop as you continue to print this wonderful paper.

With God's love,

—Bro. Stanley and Sis. Nancy Huss

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

CA—Dear Bro. Murphey and all the workers at the Print Shop: We send greetings of Christian love to each one there.

We are praising God for victory this "summer" day in October. It has been 105 degrees

this month so far, and it looks like today will be another hot one.

We had an earthquake recently. One girl died from an accident caused from it and another man died in a 30 ft. deep hole. Several others died from heart attacks. It centered mostly in San Bernardino. Los Angeles was also hit pretty hard. The Sunset Guest Home was shaken but no damage was done as far as we know of.

Christian love, —Sis. Agnes Huskey

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

LA—Dear saints and readers of the *Faith and Victory* paper: Warm greetings of love to each and every one of you, in the precious name of Jesus! We want to take this means to thank every one who sent cards, letters and memories, phone calls, gifts and everything you did in remembrance for our 50th wedding anniversary. It all meant so much to us and made our day a very happy one. May God bless every one for your kindness and thoughtfulness.

—Bro. and Sis. B. E. Goldsberry

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

Can— Dear workers in the Lord's Print Shop: Thank you for your prayers. The Lord blessed richly in our revival meetings. We had a baptism. Now, our next revival meetings are close.

Today is already Oct. 12th; Thanksgiving day in Canada.

Everyday brings us closer to eternity. Last month a dentist, Dr. Bird, 57 years of age, suddenly went into eternity — a car hit him. Henry Wiens, a patient of his, talked to him ½ hour prior to the accident and commented that it is good to know where you are going when you leave here and go into eternity. How important to be prepared at any time.

Thank you for the *Faith and Victory*, *Lamp of Youth* and tracts. What a blessing. . .

In Jesus' love, —Wilfried Froese

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

CO—Dear Sis. Maybelle: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I have not written for some time as I have been very ill. Almost a year ago I had pneumonia. The ones around me thought that I would not be here long. I suffered much and still have to have help all the time.

Please pray for my weak body. I am 89 years old and have had a good life;

I enjoyed the poem in the last paper, "Copy Jesus". It was so true and I am reading it over and over.

The testimonies and articles are so good.

May the Lord bless all of the workers. The world is so wicked and someday there will be a reckoning.

May God keep you and it is a wonderful thing to serve Him.

As always, —Sis. Bernice McKendrick

-----o-----

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

LA—Dear Bro. Wayne and all at the Print Shop: I have felt like I needed to write before now, but I am just getting to it. I want to say I do thank the dear Lord for His goodness to me recently.

I surely do thank you folks there for your prayers, along with the many other saints who were praying for me. I appreciate all the nice cards and calls from different ones.

While I was working on my riding mower, I just not thinking, reached down to pick up on the deck while it was running and got my three fingers (middle to my little finger) in the blade.

One finger had to be taken off just nearly to the first joint and the other two sewed up.

Brother Stanley Dickson, our pastor, and others went to the hospital with Marie and me and stood by us with their prayers. While there they found a problem with my heart which they wanted to treat. I refused and am trusting the Lord.

A few days after I came home I had a severe problem which caused me a lot of discomfort. I really don't know what would have happened if the Lord had not come to my rescue.

When my wife realized how sick I was she called different ones for prayer and the Lord came to my rescue and that just right away, but I was still having some problem. Bro. and Sis. Dale Doolittle came by to see us at that time and took our burden back to Guthrie with them. It is a great blessing to have a lot of saints praying for you. Marie was sick also at that time with a severe cold and the Lord had to help her.

We do appreciate so much the prayers of the saints wherever they were at different places over the country, also the cards and calls from different ones. I felt a special blessing from the Lord at different times and have rejoiced in this and appreciate so much what the Lord has done and is doing for me.

Please remember us.

Much Christian love,

—Manuel and Marie Mitchell

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

OH—Dear Sister Maybelle: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus.

I feel that I owe the Lord a testimony. I was traveling on the freeway last weekend and went to take the exit and due to brake malfunction

and slippery roads from the rain, my car went out of control. All that I could do is say, "Help me Jesus", as my car went off into areas off of the road. It means something to be prayed up before something sudden happens because there may not be time to get things straightened out if you need spiritual help. Thank God that I was prayed up. I didn't receive any injuries, nor did my car receive any damage. Thank the Lord.

Please pray for my unsaved children and I also desire prayer.

Your Sister in Christ, —Carol Addis

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

LA—Dear Sis. Maybelle, Bro. Wayne and co-workers: We appreciate your faithfulness in the printing work. I want to give a testimony of something special the dear Lord did for me several months ago. One morning as I was running water in my sink, the vision in my right eye suddenly became very distorted. I supposed that the water had splashed on my glasses, but when I removed them I discovered that the problem was in my eye. There was no pain involved. For a twenty-four hour period, it seemed that there was a swarm of black bugs before that eye. It then became as a web over my eye which was constantly moving from side to side, and my vision was much affected.

The malignant tumor on my right leg has affected the nerves of the entire right side of my body. I was presented with the thought, "This is the beginning of losing your vision in this eye," but God has not permitted it to be so. Praise Him!

Many dear ones were praying for me. After one week of this distressing condition, the Lord gave me a touch, and my vision was noticeably improved. Gradually, all the disturbing factors cleared away and sometimes the vision in this eye seems better than ever. All praise to the dear Lord!

Without question I know that the Lord is able to heal my body of this malignant condition. We have made a full commitment into His great hands, trusting His wisdom as well as His power, knowing all is well with God in command. Heaven is our goal.

We want to express heartfelt appreciation for the love and prayers of the saints everywhere.

Christian love, —Katherine Harmon

(This testimony was written just a little over a week before the Lord called Sis. Katherine home.)

—————o—————

Thoughts are like visitors: if entertained they will stay; if not, they will leave. Take heed what kind of thoughts you entertain.

—Selected

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From India . . .

Oct. 1—Dear Sister Maybelle Pruitt, Bro. Wayne Murphey and the dear ones in America: Loving greetings to you all again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ.

The Church of God in India is marching on with the flags of victory and new members are being added to the Church. The youth camp which we held at Karikkom during the 2nd week of September was a blessed one. The attendance was good. Most of them were of Catholic and Jacobite churches. We plan to arrange such youth camps once every 2 months, Lord willing.

Our mobile Gospel team work is also progressing. Since the day of Pentecost we find a band of men and women in the New Testament who are fervent in spirit. They were driven by a motivating force; that is the compassion of Christ for precious souls. To them all other things looked secondary. They preached with a fervour and passion. Their preaching was positive. They preached in homes, streets, market places, jails, ships, and even before the gallows. Let us follow their example.

Lord willing, our General Convention is scheduled to be held at Karikkom, Bethel ground, during the first week of January, 1988. We invite the saints in America to come over and attend the meetings. We will arrange conventions in other congregations also. This is a Macedonian call. Who is there to answer this invitation?

—John Varghese

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

From the Philippines . . .

Oct. 2—Dear Brother Wayne Murphey, Sister Maybelle Pruitt, the workers in the Print Shop and all the saints: Greetings in the wondrous love of Jesus Christ to everyone everywhere. On September 19, 1987 in the barrio "Kibatyaw", there was a live stock affair sponsored by the government of the municipality of Talisayan. The purpose was to increase the tax collection of the said town. There were many kinds of amusements and live stock displays for sale to the buying public. There was gambling, coin games and cock fighting. Liquor was being sold and even youngsters were drinking wine. This is the result of people who have not Christ in their heart and soul. I sat down and opened my Bible and read silently. Suddenly an old man sat beside me and asked me what I was reading. I replied, "I am thinking of my Lord, for the time will come that He will visit us with His judgment". The old man looked stunned at my response to him and said again, "What is that book you are reading?". I replied, "The Bible".

He said, "Oh! the Sacred Scriptures?" I said, "Yes, have you read them?" "Yes", he returned, "but I could not understand them." Then I read to him Acts 4:12. He invited me to visit their house every Sunday. I said "good-bye" to him and promised to meet him and his family the next time.

Yours for Christ,

—Bro. Leonardo Salvana

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

HONDURAS REPORT

We want to thank the saints for their contributions to the Honduras work. Sis. Liurie Sanders telephoned and said that she made it back to Honduras on August 9th. She sends her love to all the saints and asks for a continuance in your prayers as it seems that there are more doors opening up there.

There are several brethern who have an electric generator that they are putting into shape to ship to Honduras. We thank the Lord for that.

We have located a used truck and are in the process of purchasing it. The truck will be put into good running condition and shipped to Honduras along with a tent. We are still praying about a date in which to use the tent for a campmeeting. We are scheduled to go to Honduras as soon as the way opens up. Continue to pray for us all as we do for you.

Yours for souls,

—Bro. Louis Kimble and company

In Memoriam

Alvin Lucas was born May 29, 1929 in Manford, OK and departed this life July 23, 1987 at the age of fifty-eight years, one month and twenty-four days, in Los Angeles, CA. He was the son of Claude and Gladys Lucas.

Alvin was reared by his great-grandmother, Sister Haggard Johnson, who taught him the ways of the Lord.

Alvin was united in marriage to Loraine Shirley Dean Colbert, August 27, 1950 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Alvin was awakened early one morning by a big earthquake. He saw a big red glow in the sky and thought it was Judgment Day. He said, "It's too late to pray now!" Later, he found out it was a refinery that had blown up, he was so happy. Alvin knew he had another chance to get right with God and did something about it. In August of 1952 he accepted the Lord as his

personal Saviour, in Bakersfield, CA during a campmeeting of the Church of God.

In 1953, Alvin moved to Oklahoma City, OK with his wife and three children. He attended the Church of God, Green Pastures congregation. He was a Sunday school teacher, chairman of the board and janitor. He was always willing to do whatever was needed.

In 1962, Bro. Lucas move to Los Angeles, with his wife and much larger family, where he lived saved until the Lord called him home. Bro. Lucas labored in the gospel under the the pastorship of Bro. I. C. Chandler's teaching and instructions. Bro. Lucas was an ordained minister of God. He worked faithfully with his pastor until the Lord called him to do greater works. A certain cry was made. There was a need of a pastor. He did not immediately consider the call, but after much fasting and praying and waiting upon the Lord, he accepted the pastorship for the Church of God, in San Diego, CA in 1970. Many were saved and healed under his labors. His labors were not only spiritual but also manual, which included remodeling the chapel and laying in driveway and sidewalk for the church ground. Sometimes he would be working alone. The devil would say there's no one to help you! He would rebuke him and say, "I will do as unto the Lord!" and continued to work. Many times he told the saints. "I will like to wear-out not rust-out". He worked faithfully in the congregation with young and elderly alike. During his many, many years of travel to San Diego (260 miles round trip) he never complained about the distance. Bro. Lucas carried a heavy burden for his congregation and the Church of God in general. His last sermon on July 19, 1987, he exhorted us to "Dig Deep". *"He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock."* Luke 6:48.

While pastoring the San Diego congregation, he also pastored the Church of God in Los Angeles for a few years.

Brother Lucas' occupation was a truck driver for the past twenty-five years.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his loving devoted wife. Loraine Lucas of the home; six sons, Alvin Lucas, Jr., of Naperville, IL, Jerry C. Lucas of Arcadia, OK, Michael D. Lucas of Moreno Valley, CA, Milton P. Lucas of Upland, CA, George T. Lucas of Chino, CA and Marcus Ray Lucas of the home; three daughters, Mrs. Naomi Robert of Alta Loma, CA, Ms. Shelia F. Lucas of the home and Elizabeth A. Warren of

of Ontario, CA; fourteen grandchildren, his parents Claude and Gladys Lucas of Augusta, AR, his brother Van Musgrove and one sister Gloria Cole, both Chicago, IL; a host of relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were held in the Inglewood Cemetery Mortuary on July 31 with Bro. Woodrow Warren officiating.

NOTE OF THANKS

I would like to thank the saints for their prayer, calls, telegrams, flowers, food, visits, love offerings and support during the loss of our loved one.

—Sis. Loraine Lucas and family

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Oretha Isabella Faust Williams was born on October 14, 1948 in Wichita, KS to Oretha Ann and Howard Randall Faust, Sr. She went to her final home September 25, 1987 at the age of 38. Her father preceded her in death.

Isabella spent all of her life in Wichita. She married Terrell Duane Williams, her childhood sweetheart, on August 3, 1987. To this union five children were born: 2 girls and 3 boys. She grew up in the Church of God and gave her heart to the Lord in 1968. She had many trials and disappointments in her life but she fought a faithful fight and tried to live up to everything she knew. She was a loving and caring person. Her Mother's words are "She was a great child and my rose". She was always kind and did kind deeds for others. She had a missionary spirit even as a child and liked to tell others about her loving Saviour. She was a caring mother who wanted to see her children grow up being God-fearing Christians. Her special advice to others was: "Hold fast and be ready when He comes."

She leaves as survivors: her husband, Terrell Duane Williams, Sr.; daughters, Tonia and Linda; sons, Terrell, Jr., Michael and Isaac all of Wichita; mother, Oretha Ann Faust of Wichita; sisters, Oletha Goudeau of Los Angeles, CA and Gladys Tsimonjeal of Wichita; brothers, Freddie, Randall Rhonell, Virgil and Brian all of Wichita, and Michael of California; plenty of loving relatives and a host of friends and saints.

Memorial services were conducted in the Church of God Chapel, Wichita, KS with Bro. Lewis Williams officiating, assisted by Sis. Katherine Williams and Sis. Beverly Reed. Burial was also in Wichita, KS.

-----o-----

If you will closely study the life of Jesus and thereby discover what was the object of His life you will learn what is to be the object of your life.

—Selected

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Will you please make some discussion on biblical Christian perfection?

Answer: The term "perfect" and the term "perfection" are used a number of times in the New Testament and in some instances means or refers to different things. The context will determine it's application and meaning. But in no instance does it refer to human perfection or a human being, being out beyond human error in judgment or being complete in knowledge. Peter said in 2 Peter 3:18, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." This is clearly an open ended statement. It suggests no termination. It is not said here to grow in grace and knowledge until you "know it all" and there is no more knowledge to be obtained and until you have all the grace there is and no more grace to be obtained. The matter of Christian growth and development is a perpetual, continuous thing from the beginning of our salvation to the end of our life. Cease to grow at any time along the line and you will become stale and stagnant and if persisted in one will lose his contact and relationship with God. But don't ever try that out to see if it is so or not for this is not the will of God concerning you. But it is the will of God that you be continually advancing into new territory and areas in your experience and relationship with God and you being always fresh and vibrant making the way of God attractive to your associates.

In Matthew 5:48 Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." This statement of Jesus must be taken in context to get the proper meaning of it and the key word in it is "THEREFORE". This word refers back to what has been said before. The thought begins back in verse 38 where Jesus begins to teach about our attitudes and dealings with our fellowmen. He said here that it had been said back under the law "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." Now that was the standard under the law but Jesus taught a different standard than that. "Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." He said to resist not evil but if they smote us on one cheek, turn the other also, if they sued us at the law and took away our coat, give them our cloak also, and if they compel us to go a mile, go two. In other words, see to it that we give full satisfaction to our adversaries regardless of the injustices involved. Verse 42 says, "Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would

borrow of thee turn not thou away. Again the context must be strictly observed to get the proper meaning of this text. Jesus is certainly not teaching here promiscuous giving to every Tom, Dick and Harry. He is teaching that we should be willing to help our enemies if they are in need and not turn them away or discriminate against them because they had struck us in the face or had treated us unjustly but render aid to them if they are in need as though they were our friends.

Then in verse 43 He referred again to the law standard of loving our neighbor and hating our enemy. The law permitted this but Jesus in the standard He taught said in verse 44, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Then in verse 45 He makes His own attitude toward all human kind and says, "he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." It is in this respect that He says to us to be perfect even as He is perfect. Let us recognize that this instruction was given in connection with the thought of our dealings with and attitude toward all humankind (both friend and foe) and is accentuated by a declaration of His own attitude toward them all and this is the pattern for us to adopt in all of our dealings and attitudes toward every body. Let us also realize that the One who gave us this command and set up this standard is the One who has all power in heaven and in earth and is abundantly able to supply us with sufficient grace and power to reach it. Let us not settle for anything less than this, but just humble our hearts and earnestly seek God for that measure of grace which will enable us to live to this standard.

Let it be remembered that though God has mercies and a package of blessings for all mankind in general, yet He has a special package of special blessings for His own people who love and serve Him. This is made clear throughout the Scriptures in God's special dealings with them. He also teaches us to be this way. In Galatians 6:10 we read, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, ES—PECIALLY unto them who are of the household of faith". We are to make a specialty of favor to the saints, but never to discriminate against an adversary who is in need just because he is an adversary.

In Hebrews 10:14 it says, "he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified". In this text "PERFECT" means complete or finished. Man's salvation has two parts. He is first saved, (forgiven of all sin and trespasses when he properly repents of them) but that is only part of his

salvation. That work of grace in the soul does not in any way affect that native depravity or sin nature which came upon us all from Adam. Repentance could not touch that because we were not responsible for it hence, we would have no conviction of it or a godly sorrow concerning it. It is removed by the Holy Ghost with the blood of Jesus for it's cleansing by the means of consecration and faith. Salvation is not completed without this experience. Therefore, when we receive this sanctifying grace, that makes our salvation complete. Hence it is said we are perfected (completed or finished as pertains to our salvation). Perfection here does not mean we have reached the end of all spiritual growth and advancement in our spiritual lives. Far from it. We are just then prepared to launch forth on this venture and will be pursuing it the remainder of our lives.

In Colossians 1:28 we read, "Whom (Christ) we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man PERFECT in Christ Jesus". Again, "perfect" here refers to their being complete, entire, finished in their Christian experience. Paul said again in Ephesians 4:15, "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ". The objective of the Apostle Paul in all of his preaching and teaching was to nourish them up in every principle of truth, in all the ways of truth and righteousness, that he could present all his converts perfect, complete, entire, a finished product in the grace of God in Christ. He said in Colossians 2:10, "And ye are complete in him". This is the meaning of the term "perfect" in this text.

Now I have used 4 texts in this lesson referring to perfect or perfection. There are others which include important points but space is running out so I cannot go into them now. Perhaps I may be pursuing this subject further at another time because I do think that a clear understanding of it is important to every saint.

You will note that not one of the texts I have used in this lesson had any reference to being perfect human beings beyond making mistakes or erring in judgment. Some people, not having understood this, have judged and condemned themselves in regard to some innocent mistake they made and the enemy has taken advantage of them to impose upon them a spirit of accusation. Also, some who have not understood what Christian perfection is, have judged and condemned other people over some innocent mistake they made and have broken off fellowship with them when they should not have. Let us allow ourselves and all other saints to be human and live their lives freely and not under critical,

prying eyes; and let us have charity and patience with them in their mistakes considering ourselves to be human also. Watch for more on this subject next month, Lord willing.

HOME LIFE



A Word to Parents

Please remember that like begets like. What you want your child to be, be that very thing yourself in the fullest of its perfection. Correct your child correctly. Deal with it as God deals with His child. Scenes of childhood are not soon forgotten. I am now past seventy years of age and I remember distinctly some abusive words my father spoke to my mother sixty years ago. It was all because the bread was not baked to suit him.

What are the scenes in your home? Will the memories of home, when recalled in after years by your children be such as will give pleasure or pain? Your child will look at parenthood as he sees it in you. For the sake of that innocent child of yours do not stamp upon its tender mind the memory of harsh words or unholy acts. How sad that it will have such a picture hung up for it to look at all the days of its life. So live that every day you are hanging up on the walls of your child's memory pictures that are pure, holy and beautiful and it will brighten and purify the life of the child. Set such an example before your child as God sets before His child.

(Taken from "The Path of Life" 1931.)

YOUR CHILDREN

Take time to laugh and sing and play,
To cuddle them a bit.
Tell them a story now and then,
And steal a little time to sit
And listen to their childish talk,
Or take them for a little walk.

You do not know it now — but soon
They will be gone — the years are swift —
For life just marches on and on,

And heaven holds no sweeter gift
Than a small boy with tousled hair,
Who leaves his toys just anywhere.

Take time to hear their prayers at night.

To really cherish and enjoy
A little girl with flaxen curls,

And the small wonder of a boy.
They ask so little when they're small,
Just love and tenderness — that's all.

—Vermont Home Guards



HOW I LEARNED TO PRAY FOR THE LOST

We present here a remarkable testimony which we feel will prove to be of real help to many readers.

The letter accompanying this testimony says in part: "This is the result of my search for the right way of praying for the unsaved. I have found it to produce amazing results in a very short time. It seemed that there was no possible chance for one's loved one to ever return to their faith, and after over twenty years of fruitless praying, and after only a few short weeks of this type of praying we see them studying the Bible by the hour and attending every church service possible. Also their whole attitude towards Christianity has changed, and all resistance seems gone. I have taken my place of authority in Christ and am using it against the enemy. Oh, it is real! I have not looked at myself to see

if I were fit or not; I've just taken my place and have prayed for a quickening of the Holy Spirit."

We know that believers everywhere are burdened for unsaved or backsliding loved ones. However, many are praying in a spirit of fear and worry instead of in faith.

This has caused the writer to seek for definite light on how to pray, feeling the need of praying the right prayer, also the need for a definite promise or word upon which to base our faith when praying for the unsaved. Praise God, He never fails to give such needed help.

Perhaps because the salvation of some looked to us to be an impossibility, the first Scripture that was given us was Mark 10:27, "With God all things are possible."

The next Scripture had occupied our attention sometime before, but with new emphasis now: "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations (margin—"reasonings") and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:4, 5). This shows the mighty power of our spiritual weapons. We must pray that all this be accomplished in the ones for whom we pray; that is, that the works of the enemy be torn down.

Finally we were given the solid basis for our prayer—the ground of redemption. In reality redemption purchased all mankind, so that we may say that each one is actually God's purchased possession although still held by the enemy. We must through the prayer of faith, claim and take for God, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that which is rightfully His. This can be done only on the ground of redemption. We do not mean to imply that because all persons have been purchased by God through redemption, they are thus automatically saved. They must believe and accept the gospel for themselves; this our intercession enables them to do.

To pray in the name of the Lord Jesus is to ask for or claim the things which the blood of Christ has secured. Each individual for whom prayer is made should be claimed by name, as God's purchased possession, in the name of the Lord Jesus on the ground of His shed blood.

We should claim the tearing down of all the works of Satan, such as false doctrine, unbelief, hatred, etc., which the enemy may have built up in their thinking, and that their very thoughts shall be brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

In the authority of the name of the Lord Jesus claim their deliverance from the power and persuasion of the Evil One, and from the love of the world and the lust of the flesh. We should pray also for the quickening of their conscience, and that God might grant them

repentance and hearing ears and believing hearts as they hear or read the Word of God. Pray that God's will and purpose be accomplished in and through them.

Intercession must be persistent, not to persuade God, for redemption is of God, but because of the enemy. Our prayer and resistance are against the enemy, the awful powers and rulers of darkness. It is our duty before God to fight for the souls for whom Christ died. Just as some preach to them the good news of their redemption, just so others must fight back the powers of darkness on their behalf.

Satan yields only what and when he must, and he renews his attacks in subtle ways; therefore, prayer must be persisted in, even long after definite results are seen. We must hold what is taken for God against the enemy until such time as that soul is firmly established in the faith.

Satan has succeeded in keeping God's people in the dark about Christ's finished work on Calvary—and his defeat there. He has succeeded by deception in convincing the Church that he is almost, if not quite, as powerful as God, when actually he has no power at all, that is he has no legal standing, no rights, no authority.

The devil knows that when the Church fully realizes the utterness of his defeat, and how to use the authority which has been delegated to her, his evil reign is over.

Therefore, he seeks by every means possible to keep God's people in the dark, to prevent their knowing about and using the authority which is theirs.

"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ." "Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world." "... Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

—Selected

What Are You Seeking?

As I look through the windows of this tenant clay,
On the beautiful things of earth,
And see how their glories so soon decay,
Their value but a moment's worth.

I see the people as an angry throng,
As they're rushing far and wide,
With their glitter as they pass along,
They're never satisfied.

For things more beautiful, things more rare,
For pleasures more complete,
They are toiling, searching for the transient joys,
That only mean defeat.

For what would it profit you and me,
If the whole world we should gain;
Could we carry ought to eternity?
Would it cool the burning flame?

There are pleasures more lasting and joys more deep,
 Than these mundane shores can give;
 And after these do the wise ones seek,
 While in this land they live.

And using this world as a garment loose,
 That must soon be cast aside,
 They seek for the pleasures the Spirit produces,
 Just on the other side.

As we see by the light of the opening day
 The stars are all concealed,
 So earthly pleasures fade away
 When Jesus is revealed:

Beyond the gates on that golden shore,
 My heart is anchored fast;
 That evermore shall last.
 Where a robe and a crown and a mansion are mine:
 —Ulysses Phillips.

What Some Men Have Said About Thankfulness

"God has two dwellings: one in heaven, and the other in a meek and thankful heart."

—Izaak Walton

"Many favors which God gives us ravel out for want of hemming through our unthankfulness; for though prayer purchases blessings, giving praise keeps the quiet possession of them."

—Thomas Fuller

"The worship most acceptable to God, comes from a thankful and cheerful heart."—Plutarch

"Pride slays thanksgiving, but an humble mind is the soil out of which thanks naturally grow. A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves."

—H. W. Beecher

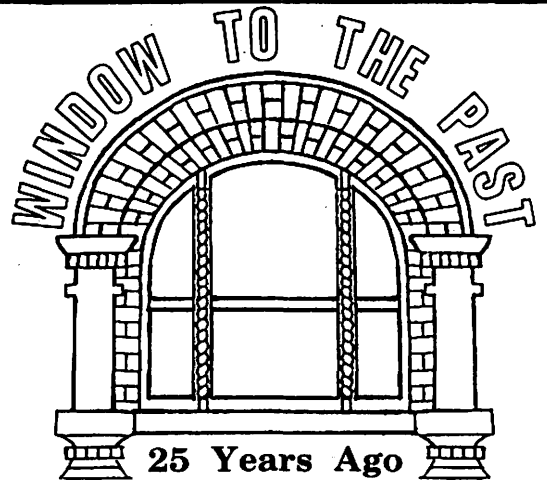
"When thankfulness o'erflows the swelling heart, and breathes in free and uncorrupted praise for benefits received, propitious Heaven takes such acknowledgment as fragrant incense, and doubles all its blessings." —George Lillo

"Best of all is it to preserve everything in a pure, still heart, and let there be for every pulse a thanksgiving, and for every breath a song."

—Konrad Gesner

"If one should give me a dish of sand, and tell me there were particles of iron in it, I might look for them with my eyes, and search for them with my clumsy fingers, and be unable to detect them; but let me take a magnet and sweep through it, and how would it draw to itself the almost invisible particles by the mere power of attraction. The unthankful heart, like my finger in the sand, discovers no mercies; but let the thankful heart sweep through the day, and as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings, only the iron in God's sand is gold."

—H. W. Beecher



Excerpts Taken From

November, 1962 *Faith and Victory*

"We have so much to thank and praise God for. My husband had a job and got laid off. He was out of work eight weeks, and spent all the money we had to buy gas to look for work, but did not find any. Then husband said, 'Let's pray'. We prayed to God for steady work, and he sent a man to our house, and gave husband a job. Thank the Lord!" —Bro. and Sis. Earl Freeman

"Two weeks ago in Llano Colorado [Mexico] four people came forward for spiritual help. This last Saturday evening (Sept. 22) the Lord again blessed in the singing and preaching. The interest is still high in El Alamo with approximately 75 in attendance Sunday morning. . . At Santa Catarina Sister Ruby Marken and Sister Edith Cole are meeting with opposition from the enemy but are of good courage and willing to carry the cross in order to see souls saved. They solicit your earnest prayers. The Huskeys are back in Rosarito after having attended campmeeting in Pacoima. A native brother named Thomas and his wife are a real asset to the work in Rosarito."

—Harland H. Smith

"Oh, dear reader, if you are not ready to meet the Lord, picture yourself looking up and seeing Jesus in the clouds calling this old wicked world to judgment. Can you imagine how you will feel when you realize your chance for heaven is forever gone, and you will be cast into the lake of fire where there will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth for ever and ever? People can go along careless and carefree in this life and get by, but what, oh what will they do in that last great Day?"

—Mrs. A. E. Flynn