

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

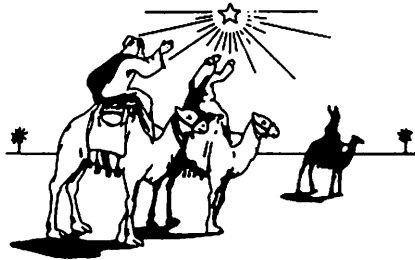
USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



Volume 65, No. 9 65th Year Guthrie, Oklahoma \$1.00 Per Year Dec., 1987

SEASON'S



GREETINGS

Christ is Born

Christ is born, the King of Glory.
 Born in yonder Bethlehem;
 And the shepherds heard the story,
 Which the angels brought to them.
 Christ is born, the King of Glory,
 Born to save the human race.
 Tell, oh, tell the wondrous story
 Of His tender love and grace.
 Christ is born to bring salvation
 To a fallen, sinful race;
 Preach to ev'ry tribe and nation
 Of His love and saving grace.
 God in His great love and kindness
 Saw this world all lost in sin,
 Lost in darkness and in blindness,
 And no peace and rest within.
 So He sent a mighty Saviour
 To set all sin's captives free;
 By His pow'r and by His favor
 All may have the victory.
 Hallelujah, tell the story,
 And proclaim His wondrous birth:
 Christ is born, the King of Glory—
 King of kings of all this earth.
 I am glad to say serenely,
 Christ is also born in me.
 May I ask the question keenly,
 Is He also born in thee?

—F. F. Ortmann

Christmas

Oh, how exciting the Christmas season is with all its activities. We can be so busy wrapping all those gifts — gifts, gifts and more gifts. Why, the higher the piles, the bigger the smiles! But wait, whose birthday are we celebrating anyway? Ours? No! Somewhere amongst the shuffle of it all, we forget it is Jesus' birthday! Maybe you are like me and you wonder what you can give to our Unseen Guest. Well, I asked that question one Sunday after church. Excitedly I inquired, "Jesus, what do you want for Christmas? I mean, your birthday?" I felt sort of funny as I asked that question but the answer came in loud and clear. What was it? He said, "I want you!" Oh, the joy that flooded my soul! It wasn't the answer my materialistic mind had conceived. He just wanted me and He just wants you. He wants you to give the gift of your willing heart and mind. Even if you feel you have little to offer, this Christmas and throughout the New Year, let us all work towards giving our deserving Lord the gift of ourselves. As we give our time, effort and money, let's remember whose birthday it really is and whom we should ultimately be trying to please. In Col. 3:23, it says, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men." Let us work together and as individuals at making this the best birthday our blessed Saviour has ever had!

—Neil Mickelson

HEROD ANTIPATER'S DEFENCE BEFORE THE ROMAN SENATE IN REGARD TO HIS CONDUCT AT BETHLEHEM

Taken from: The Archko Volume.

"*Noble Romans:* In the case whereof I am accused, these Jews are of all people the most superstitious, and more to be trusted than the Hindoos. . .

"As to this great excitement at Bethlehem, three strange, fantastic-looking men called on my guards at the gate, and asked them where was the babe born that was to be the King of the Jews. My guards told me of it, and I ordered the men to be brought into court. I asked them who they were. One of them said he was from Egypt. I asked what was their business. He said they were in search of the babe that was born to rule the Jews. I told them that I ruled the Jews under Augustus Caesar. But he said this babe would rule when I was gone. I told him not unless he was born under the purple. I asked him how he knew of this babe. He said they had all had a dream the same night about it. I told them that the devil played with our brains when we were asleep. He drew a parchment roll from his bosom, and read in the Hebrew language: 'Thou, Bethlehem, least among the kingdoms of the world, out of thee shall come a man that should rule all people.' I asked him who wrote that. He said the God of heaven. I asked him where he got that parchment. He said it was the law of the covenant of the Jews. He also said a star had travelled before them all the way to Jerusalem. I told him his God was mistaken; that Bethlehem was not a kingdom, neither was it the least in the kingdom of Judea. I told them that they were superstitious fanatics, and ordered them out of my presence.

"But the excitement grew until it became intense. I found nothing could control it. I called the Hillel court, which was the most learned body of talent in Jerusalem. They read out of their laws that Jesus was to be born of a virgin in Bethlehem; that he was to rule all nations, and all the kingdoms of the world were to be subject to him; and that his kingdom would never end, but his appointees should continue this rule forever. I found this court just as sanguine as those strangers, and, in fact, it was in everybody's mouth; I thought I could discover already a sort of deriding and mocking spirit among the lower classes in regard to the Roman authority. Now, it is my opinion that the scene that occurred at Bethlehem was nothing more than a meteor travelling through the air, or the rising vapor from the foot of the mountains out of the marshy ground as is often the case. And as to the noise heard by Melker and those shepherd-

boys, it was only the echo of the shepherds on the other side of the mountain calling the night-watch, or scaring away the wolves from their flocks.

"But although this was nothing but a phenomenon of nature, and the whole thing a delusion, it did not better the condition I was in. A man will contend for a false faith stronger than he will for a true one, from the fact that the truth defends itself, but a falsehood must be defended by its adherents: first, to prove it to themselves, and secondly, that they may appear right in the estimation of their friends. But the fact is, this case is about as follows: The Roman taxation was cutting off the support of the priests, and they were smarting under it. Again, the double taxing—that is, the tithes to the priests and the tax to the Romans—was bearing heavily on the common people, so that they could not stand it, and the priests saw that one of them would have to go unpaid, and, as they saw the Romans were the stronger, they wrote these things in the Tosephta, and read it daily in all their synagogues and temples, that the Jewish mind might be prepared for the event, knowing that they could magnify a mote into a mountain, when it came to anything outside of the common laws of nature, and knowing that if they could get the common people to believe in the things there would be no end to their fighting. And from all appearances the excitement was fast driving the people that way. It had already become a by-word with the children of Bethlehem and Jerusalem that the Jews had a new king, that neither Caesar nor Herod would reign any more, that they would have to pay no more taxes to keep up the Roman government. Such talk and sayings were common among the poorer classes of society.

"So I saw an insurrection brewing fast, and nothing but a most bloody war as the consequence. Now, under these circumstances, what was I to do? In my honest judgment it was best to pluck the undeveloped flower in its bud, lest it should grow and strengthen, and finally burst, and shed its deadly poison over both nations, and impoverish and ruin them forever. My enemies can see I could have no malice toward the infants of Bethlehem. I took no delight in listening to the cries of innocent mothers. May all the gods forbid! No; I saw nothing but an insurrection and a bloody war were our doom, and in this the overthrow and downfall, to some extent, of our nation.

"These are the grounds of my action in this matter. I am satisfied I did the best that could be done under the circumstances. As my motive was purely to do the best I could for my whole country, I hope you will so consider it, and I submit this statement for your consideration, promising faithfulness and submission to your judgment."

—Herod Antipater

Concepts Forbidding Daily Sin

DRAWING POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST

The majority of people today believe that we are going to sin a little every day. How this thinking must grieve God who gave His only begotten Son to "take away our sins" (1 John 3:5) and give us the power (Holy Ghost) to live a holy life in this world. This thinking is denying the power of the Holy Ghost and in so doing, it denies the Holy Ghost that Jesus spoke of in Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." Jesus also spoke of this power in Luke 24:49. "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." This is the power Christ promised to send so that we could live free from sin "being sanctified by the Holy Ghost." Rom. 15:16. "Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us." 2 Tim. 1:13, 14.

OLD COVENANT VS. NEW COVENANT

Sin has always been an abhorrence in the sight of God. Under the law or the old covenant God abhorred sin, but the power (Holy Ghost) had "not yet been given" (John 7:39) to keep people from sinning. The Adam nature was always present within the spirit of man.

Under the new covenant we have the power (Holy Ghost) to keep us from sinning by the removal of the Adam nature. It is unthinkable that God would give His only begotten Son to "take away our sins" and that we can live no better than they did under the law, still sinning a little every day!

Did Christ die so that we can live in sin and not have to make daily sacrifices as under the law and plead that because He made the final, perfect sacrifice that His blood covers our sins so that we can still sin a little every day? It is so absurd to even think God would take away the daily and yearly sacrifices for sin and offer His Son as the ultimate sacrifice "to take away our sins" and that we can live no better than those under the law. Those that have this belief are saying in effect that under the new covenant, God makes it easier for sinners by no longer requiring these sacrifices of them!

TEMPLE OF GOD

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy,

which temple ye are." 1 Cor. 3:16, 17. The Spirit of God cannot dwell in an unholy place. Under the old covenant the Spirit of God dwelt in the temple only after it had been cleansed and sanctified. Since our bodies are now the temple of God, if we are the sons of God, then the only way the Spirit of God can dwell in the temple now is for it (our bodies) to be cleansed and sanctified. It is unthinkable to believe that the Spirit of God will dwell anywhere less holy than under the old covenant.

OLD CREATURE VS. NEW CREATURE

Whenever we are born again we become a new creature, and old things are put away. We do not continue in the same pattern as before. We were sinners before we were saved, but after we are born again, we are free from sin and walk in newness of life. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Cor. 5:17.

DEAD IN SIN; DEAD TO SIN

Before we were born again, we were dead *in* sin. "And you hath he quickened, who were dead *in* trespasses and sins." Eph. 2:1. But now we are dead *to* sin. "Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead *to* sin, live any longer therein?" Rom. 6:1, 2. If we are dead to something, we depart from it and separate ourselves from it. "Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." Rom. 6:18. This leaves no room for daily sin.

CHRIST DESTROYED THE DEVIL

Those who believe that they sin a little every day are denying the power of Christ and are saying the devil has more power. This is denying the Scriptures. Heb. 2:14, says that Christ destroyed the devil, "that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil." All things have been put under Christ's feet and this includes sin and the devil. "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church." Eph. 1:22. The only power the devil has in this world is that which people allow him to have. Christ offers a better way. "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not." 1 John 3:6. "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." 1 John 3:8.

We could keep compounding the Scriptures proving that the inspired Word of God plainly
(continued on page 14)

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.

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.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way as the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 25:2; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

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

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

In order to comply with the Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 518, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044
 Office phone: 405-282-1479; home: 405-282-2262.

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

Editorials

We send Season's Greetings to all of our readers in the name of Christ who was born 2,000 years ago and lives today. We trust that your holiday season will be bright and happy from a personal experience of the good news which was announced centuries ago by the angel of the Lord to the shepherds of Judea: "Fear not: for, behold, 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."

This Christmas season may find you without the health you desire or the financial situation that you had hoped for, and these things may seem to be a blight upon the joy of this occasion, but we can look beyond temporal things and find our hope and joy in the One who perfected and brought to fruition a plan of deliverance from the blight of sin.

0—0—0—0—0—0—0—0—0—0

In the December *Faith and Victory* paper of last year, we sent out special subscription envelopes in which we offered ten names, 1 year for \$5.00. There was good response to this offer. If you have been receiving the *Faith and Victory* paper as a recipient of this offer, your subscription will run out within the next couple of months. There will be a special renewal envelope placed within your last paper for your convenience in extending the subscription. We trust that this paper has proven a blessing to you and urge you to be diligent in renewing the subscription.

0—0—0—0—0—0—0—0—0—0

My family and I had the privilege of attending the Assembly Meeting at Jefferson, OR. We truly appreciated the fellowship we had with the saints there and felt God's blessings. The congregation has labored diligently to provide nice facilities for their meetings and we trust much good will be accomplished because of their efforts for souls.

0—0—0—0—0—0—0—0—0—0

Aunt Maybelle Pruitt, along with her sister, Maude Hornbeck, are spending the week of Thanksgiving in Loranger, LA. They are attending the Assembly Meeting there and Aunt Maybelle will also be able to spend Thanksgiving with her daughter-in-law, Sis. Clarice Pruitt, her granddaughter, Genece Doolittle and family.

0—0—0—0—0—0—0—0—0—0

This is a busy time of year for us here at the Print Shop. We have prepared this issue for the mail and now must finish the *Beautiful Way* papers and the *Bible Lessons* by Dec. 15, which is for the first quarter of 1988. After this is accomplished we will begin the January *Faith and*

Victory with the thought in mind that the Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting here at Guthrie begins on Christmas day and runs through January 3. During all of this we also continue the mailing of book and tract orders as well as answer correspondence. We are thankful to have willing and dedicated workers who make the work go smoothly.

There are several out of print books which we have been asked to reprint. We will be doing so as soon as time and means allow. We will notify you as the books become available.

We want to express our thankfulness to the Lord and to each of you who have helped us through this year. We are glad for all the material that we have been able to send out, and yet there is much more we would like to do. Almost daily we receive requests from people in foreign countries for any kind of religious literature that we can send. This literature is, with very few exceptions, sent to them free of charge. Over the years we have financed this foreign literature ministry out of our general funding. Due to the high expense of printing, utility bills, etc., we are not able to fill these requests like we wish.

Here are excerpts from two letters recently received:

"Greetings to you all and all your good workers in the Print Shop, in the name of Christ. I am very grateful for the magazines, especially the last one. The messages really help me. My soul was really longing for good food like those. To you who are supplying us with magazines and books, together with other good literature, we say thank you. Everybody here sees the work we are doing and says truly there is a God. I will go forward as the Holy Spirit and the angels lead me. Although I have many trials, I am obeying the commandment of Jesus, 'Go ye'. Please send some books, songbooks and Bibles to us. Pray for this work here."

"...In fact, dear publishers, I got your parcel sent to me. Immediately I brought the parcel out of the box. One of the five ministers who went with me to the Post Office got the parcel and took his two copies of the pamphlets. Others were given one copy. More are needed. I personally went away with *The Second Coming of Christ* and *Must We Sin*. These two booklets have helped a lot. There are souls won to Christ though the booklets. Others are given to the new converts to read and pass on to others. Other useful booklets would be of great importance. Your ministry is highly needed in this part of the world. We strongly appeal to you to kindly send us as many copies as the Lord would provide."

There is also much to be done in our own country. There are thousands who are suffering

physically, mentally and spiritually because of Satan. We are living in a corrupt generation which kills infants, uses others in degraded ways for profit and one which is threatened by a dread disease as a result of violating God's laws. It is one which in general has turned their back on God. There is much to be done in spreading the gospel. We must be the angels who proclaim the "good news".

—Wayne Murphey

Prayer Requests

CA—Please pray for Sis. Margaret Hall. She fell and her left arm was broken between her shoulder and elbow. She suffers so much.

CA—Sis Wyona Drummer needs prayer.

IA—Please remember Bro. and Sis. Charles Mason in prayer.

CA—"Remember us in prayer. Ruth is not well and I have allergy and eye trouble."

—Bro. Ed Upton

OK—Sis. Mamie Norcutt fell and fractured a rib. Pray for her.

WV—"Please pray that God will completely heal my eyes."

—Essie Ray

OH—"Please pray God to heal me of heart trouble."

—Essie Abbott

CO—"Pray for my wife; she needs healing as she is sorely afflicted."

—Bro. Peter Wiens

Nigeria—"I want a Church of God in my area and someone to come and teach us."

—I. Asonye

TN—"Pray for our pastor. He has cancer. Also remember all the Church in prayer."

—B. Washburn

Ghana—"Please continue to remember me in your prayers, both spiritually and physically; also for my unsaved loved ones."

—F. Owusu

OR—Remember Bro. Charles Elwell who has been down in his back.

LA—Sis Lavern Manuel has recently been in an automobile accident and needs prayer for possible injuries and other afflictions.

From the Mailbox . . .

CA—Dear Bro. Murphey and workers at the Print Shop: We send greetings of love in Jesus' dear name.

We are claiming victory over the devil with all his plans against our soul. Sometimes the battle gets pretty hot, but I am still on the winning side. Praise the Lord. I thank God for the trials that have come to me that have drawn me closer to God.

I will be 88 years old on the 23rd of this month, but I am still able to see how to use the sword against the enemy. God has been, and still is, really good to me.

With Christian love, —Sis. Agnes Huskey

OK—Good morning, dear saints. This is another day He has given us. May we use it to His glory, for God so loved us that He gave His Son for us. What a sacrifice for our redemption. It reminds us of when Jesus wept over the death of Lazarus and the Jews said, "Behold how he loved him." We can say also, "Behold, how He loves us." We thank our heavenly Father for His plan of salvation to get us to His heaven, and thank our dear Jesus for carrying out His plan. We are encouraged to go on until the crown is won.

The *Faith and Victory* seemed extra special this month. We were blessed by the articles, editorials, etc. Pray for us. We pray for you all daily.

—Bill and Ruth McMakin

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MO—Dear Sis. Maybelle: Greetings in the name of Jesus. When we look around at all the sin and suffering of the people that are serving the devil, it really makes us thankful that we know how to serve God. It pays to serve Jesus. It pays every day! Time and space would not permit us to tell all He has done for us, and still is doing every day. . . .

May the Lord bless and help us all to be true and faithful to Him until death.

Christian love, —Joe and Aquilla Sorrell

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MO—Dear Sis. Maybelle and all the saints at home and abroad: Greetings in Jesus' love. We can still praise the Lord for good health and for salvation.

We had a good trip to Green Bank, WV, and feasted for a week at a good revival meeting. The Spirit was there and we all received food worth the trip.

Thank you for the letters you write to us. It really encourages us to draw closer to the Lord. We all need each other's prayers to stay faithful, so pray for us as we pray for all there at the Print Shop.

Christian love,

—Arthur and Alice Johnston

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

KS—Dear ones at the Print Shop: Greetings in the love of Jesus. We are thankful for victory through Him and we desire to be found faithful.

We thank the Lord for a good tent meeting. The Lord sent in help, and also sent the good, rich Word of God. We still rejoice in it. He also gave us good weather.

Before the meeting, the Lord gave us a Scripture that proved a blessing. We rest in Him to bring out good results.

Pray for us here.

Christian love, —Ralph and Inez Beisly

GA—Dear saints: Greetings in His dear name. We are near the end of another year.

God has been so good to us. He has bestowed His many blessings upon us. May God's choice blessings be with you throughout the holiday season. I have been receiving the *Faith and Victory* for fifty years.

Pray for me that I keep humble at His feet.

In Jesus' dear name, —Mary M. Dorsey

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

CA—Dear Sis. Maybelle: Holy greetings this blessed day with its bright sunshine. I am blessed in my soul although I am in much pain because of a bad fall. I broke my left arm between the shoulder and elbow. It is not too good for someone who is 83 years old. I need much prayer. . . .

In much Christian love, your sister in the Lord,

—Margaret Hall

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OK—Dear precious brethren and saints: Praise the Lord for the victory in Christ and the great workings of His Spirit in our lives. After nearly fifteen years with the precious congregation of saints at Guthrie, Oklahoma, the Lord made it very clear to our hearts that He wanted us to be transferred to work with the dear congregation at Enid, OK. He has graciously, through the kindness and love of the dear precious brothers and sisters of both congregations, helped us to relocate here in Enid. It was about the hardest thing in life I ever had to bring myself to do. My heart is knit with the dear ones there in the Guthrie congregation, but duty and the will of God was so clear and my greatest desire in this short life is to please the Master. The love and confidence that has been shown to us in this move from the holy brethren has overwhelmed our hearts. We want to pledge and consecrate ourselves anew to the Lord and His saints.

Our new address is: Leslie & Sylvia Busbee, 619 W. Mulberry Ave., Enid, OK 73701. Phone (405) 233-6011.

We are still consecrated and ready for service anywhere He calls us to go. Remember us in prayer that we will continue to be a vessel meet for the Master's use until He calls us from labor to reward. Come and visit us at any time and feel free to call us for prayer.

Yours in the service of the Master,

—Leslie and Sylvia Busbee

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

CA—Dear Sis. Maybelle and friends of the *Faith and Victory*: We will stop other things to be able to write a little letter, greeting each of you lovingly in the most precious name of all,

"Jesus." I am so grateful today that because of this name we can be saved, keep saved, and have a hope of an entrance into the realms of glory after death.

I was reading in the *Faith and Victory* paper of November a part of an article written by Bro. Harland Smith 25 years ago. There he mentioned about myself and Sis. Ruby Marken being in the battle but endeavoring to be steadfast. I am so grateful that grace took us through 25 years ago. That grace and God's power has seen us through all these times and we are still endeavoring to be steadfast and faithful. We certainly do appreciate each of you who have prayed for us and had a concern for us and the effort for souls in Mexico.

Last weekend we went to Chapultepec in Mexico where Bro. and Sis. Mayarino Escobar live. We spent Saturday evening and night with them and then were in services with them on Sunday. We felt that the trip was a profitable one and the Lord did bless us while there and in the services. The new chapel looks really nice and is comfortable with its windows and the cement floor in. They need a little paint inside and out and on the front door and it will be in good condition. There was a goodly number out to meeting in the morning service. There were a lot of children and good attention was given to the Word.

As I look and think back over the years, it seems my heart is sad and heavy not to see any more results of the labor and expense rendered. Yet as I pondered, it came to me that God wants obedience and faithfulness. We all want to see results, but if we are obedient to God, then we must leave the results in His hands. Many have heard the gospel, or could have heard it. Many heard, obeyed, and were saved, and then went away. Oh, but we are grateful for the faithful few who were faithful to the end and died saved and those who are still saved today. Some have gone away saying, "It is a hard saying. Who can hear it?" It is so sad, but true.

We hope to go below Mexicali this weekend to visit in homes and have services where invited. As always, we earnestly desire your prayers that we can live in a way that God can use us in His service.

I want to thank each one for your prayers for us, your concern for the work of the Lord in Mexico, and for your offerings and gifts of love to help make it possible for us to go. May God bless each one is my prayer.

In Christian love, —Sis. Edith Cole Lara

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

OR—Dear saints everywhere: Truly we are serving a prayer-hearing and answering God. We thank Him today for the miracle He performed on our little girl.

On July 27, we were in the process of moving from an upstairs apartment to a house. Around 7:30 that evening our youngest daughter, Christy, fell through the rails ten to twelve feet onto concrete.

Due to certain circumstances we took her to the emergency room at the hospital. By this time she had no eye contact, had thrown up, and a big knot had appeared on the left side of her head in the back.

I don't remember a time that we have prayed any harder than we did all the way to the hospital and throughout this whole ordeal. The Lord was very near and dear to us all the way.

When we got to the hospital, they rushed her right in and we were sent to a private waiting room. After a while, they came and told us that she had stopped breathing a few times and had had several seizures, including two or three hard ones. The neurosurgeon said she had a concussion and a fractured skull, and that they might have to do surgery. He also wanted to drill a hole in her head to insert a pressure monitor.

By this time, Sis. Karen Luehring had called the saints for prayer and several of them had arrived at the hospital. We all went to prayer and then went up to the neuro intensive care unit. While we were in the waiting room there, we were down praying again when the neurosurgeon opened the door. He quickly closed it as he saw we were in prayer. After prayer Irwin went into the hall to see what he wanted and the nurse told him that the neurosurgeon had already left the hospital. The pediatrician told us that they were ready to drill the hole in Christy's head when she woke up. Praise the Lord!

The next day we were told that after the doctor had opened the door and had seen us in prayer, he went back to the intensive care unit and said something like this: "I was fixing to tell them that we wouldn't need to drill the hole and they were having prayer meeting." Another doctor then spoke up and said, "Well, we know who gets credit for this one, don't we?"

We are so thankful that there is a Higher Power in whom we can put our trust. The Lord is still watching over His children, and He will never leave us nor forsake us. The day of miracles is not over. Thank the dear Lord. The doctors and staff were amazed at how Christy

pulled through. The Lord is still on His throne and we surely thank Him for all He's done.

We also want to thank each and every one for your prayers and support during this time. You might continue to remember her in prayer, as at this time the X-rays taken of her skull show no sign of her fracture healing. Other than that, she's back to normal.

I could write a book telling what all the Lord has done for us, but I know this is getting quite lengthy.

I just wanted everyone to know what the Lord did for our girl and we give Him all praise. Our desire is to make heaven our home whatever comes our way. Pray for us as we do for you.

Your brother and sister in Christ,
—Irwin and Wanda Wattenbarger and girls

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OK—To the dear saints of the Church of God: I feel my duty to testify of the blessings of God. I am much encouraged in the Lord. The Lord is blessing us here at Four Corners, OK. The Lord never leaves us alone. He sent His Holy Spirit to be our teacher, guide, and comforter. He is everything we need Him to be.

When Bro. Clifford Wilson left us, we felt so lonely, and yet we could lean upon that strong arm so we just put our confidence in God. I had not been very strong in my body and I knew I needed the saints here to help me so that we could hold up, and the Lord is blessing us all as we labor together. The Lord does not always give a message to preach, but He gives His Word to feed our souls. He has blessed us with some wonderful Bible studies on many good subjects. God is so precious and we give Him all the praise and glory.

This morning I have been looking to the Lord for Sis. Lori LaCroix. She and her husband, Mark, have been in a severe battle as Lori has had an affliction since February, but the Lord gives them grace to be true to Him. I read in Luke 4:18, of how Jesus took the book and read the words that are found in Isaiah 61:1-3. "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the

Lord, that he might be glorified." Praise the Lord for evermore. Jesus said to the people, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."

Dear ones in Zion, what more could we ask for? He has all we need. Let us all look up to Jesus. He loves His people. I am so glad I can say I am one of them. I just want to live a clean, holy life that will be an encouragement to others.

I have not written since the camp meetings, so I want to say that my soul was truly blessed, both at Guthrie and at Monark. I am still opening up the treasures I received at both meetings, and feasting on the good Word of God that we heard.

The Lord has been sending us some ministers of His choosing to help us out here and we do thank the Lord for each one and give God all the praise. God is so good.

May God bless all of His saints.

Christian love, —Sis. Margaret Eck

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

CA—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt, Bro. Wayne Murphey, and all of the faithful workers at the publishing house of the *Faith and Victory* paper. The paper is a "white-winged messenger" winging its way, not only across the U. S., but in other countries, also. We thank the Lord for your faithfulness, courage, and zeal, and praise God for the people of God who believe His holy Word.

The preaching and prayer of our brother, the Apostle Paul, in Eph. 1:18-23, is still as effective now as it was when he spoke those words concerning the exaltation of our Lord Jesus Christ who is "King of kings," "Lord of lords," and "Alpha and Omega".

I haven't written you all for a long time, so I would like to testify that my soul is happy this morning. There is nothing between me and my Saviour. . . .

Sincerely, in Christian love,

—Sis. Hazel Clark

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MO—Dear saints of God and greetings to all at the Lord's Print Shop: I feel inspired to write my testimony for the *Faith and Victory* paper. My heart is overflowing with the goodness and righteousness of our God and I just want to share my blessings and sorrow with God's people.

Many of you have already heard that on June 25, 1987, my dear husband, Paul Cole, passed away with what was apparently a heart attack. His death was our loss but heaven's gain. Paul was saved when he was twelve years

old and he always kept a deep love for God in his heart. The song, "Press On" in our hymnal, *Evening Light Songs*, is a good testimony of Paul's life. Here are some of the verses:

Press on, my brother, sister,
And face the deadly foe;
Thro' Jesus Christ we'll conquer,
While trav'ling here below.

Press on, and let thy failings
A blessing to thee prove;
No wave of care or sorrow,
Thy trusting soul shall move.

Press on, 'mid strong temptation,
Tell Satan he must flee;
In Jesus' name resist him,
And vict'ry thine shall be.

Press on, forever trusting,
In faith believing too;
In spite of doubt or feeling,
God's Word will take you thro'.

Some years ago during the Monark Springs Camp Meeting, Paul had a severe heart attack. Different times we called for prayer and the Lord did see fit to spare Paul's life. In two weeks time, Paul was able to go back to work.

The Lord impressed upon Paul's mind that life here on earth is only one heart beat away from eternity, and he strove to maintain his integrity with God. We *all* should live in readiness, for "Soon the summons from the portals of the mansions in the sky may be sounding your departure; you must then take time to die."

God, in His wisdom, love, and mercy revealed to Paul and me that his time here on earth would be shorter than most people have, so we tried to enjoy life to its fullest and God gave us six more golden years together. Our children were a little older and better able to cope with the loss of their daddy when God saw fit to take Paul on to glory. We would never have chosen to go through this deep grief, but we are learning to accept God's will.

God has revealed Himself more to us than we have ever experienced before and we can comprehend more of His precious truths and love for all mankind. This is helping to fill the great vacancy that is in our home. I want to live closer to the Lord than ever. I would be afraid to become careless or indifferent to God.

The Church is more resplendent to me than ever before, shining in all her beauty, power, and glory. "Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her

palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following. For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death." *Psa. 48:2, 12-14.*

I praise God that I am in the Church of God! I want to dwell in her courts and enjoy the sweet fellowship of His people. The devil hates love and unity, as he recognizes that as the source of power within the Church. Let us all be on our guard for the devil's cunning and subtle devices that he is constantly trying to inject in our midst.

How my heart swells within me to consider God's love to His creation; how that "in the fulness of time" He sent His only beloved Son down here to suffer and die for us. Jesus left a *perfect* example for us to follow. All of the graces of God were manifested in His life: love, mercy, forbearance, kindness, humility, gentleness, and meekness. Dear reader, can you see these fruits in your own life?

All the forces of hell tried to overcome our Saviour, but praise God, He won the victory! Jesus triumphed over sin and death. The grave couldn't hold Him and He is now seated at the right hand of God interceding for us. What comfort that should give us to know that we can take everything to Jesus in prayer and know that He will commune with God, the Father, and work in our behalf.

I don't want to fail to tell how God has wondrously helped me in my body. A few weeks after my husband was taken, it looked like my time had also come. I knew that if I didn't get immediate help from God my heart couldn't work much longer. The pressure was very great and I felt myself slipping away. My folks got in earnest prayer and called different ones for prayer. At first, my faith couldn't take it in. I just felt it would be easier on me to die and not face my grief, but my youngest son knelt down by my side and started pulling on my arm. It had an affect on me and I realized I must believe God could heal me. I opened my eyes and could almost hear an audible voice say, "It's not your time to go yet." From that very moment I began to mend. Thank God, I am in better health now than I've ever been! I feel that my strength has been renewed as the eagles'.

I want to serve God all of my days and walk circumspectly before Him.

Your sister in Christ, —Carol Cole

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OR—To the dear saints all over who read the *Faith and Victory* paper. I send Christian greetings of love. I pray for the prayer requests in the paper and receive much encouragement from its contents.

We just closed a very successful Assembly Meeting here at Jefferson. I have never heard any better messages. They were all uplifting and inspiring. Some went to the altar for encouragement and help; others went for salvation. A number of saints came in from Canada, CA and WA.

I want to thank all the saints who have prayed for my afflictions. God gave me strength to help in the kitchen with others. I haven't sent in a testimony for a long time, but I am still pressing on toward heaven with a deeper determination. There is no turning back. I am too near the end of this life now.

Remember Bro. Charles Elwell of Gladstone, OR, who is suffering from a severe back attack and was unable to attend our meeting. He is a faithful pastor. We all missed him and many prayers were offered for him.

Continue to remember me that if it is God's will I may be healed of this arthritis and poor circulation. I am submitted to suffer until He sees fit to heal me.

Yours in His service, —Sis. Grace Jones

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OH—I should have written this much sooner. I am sorry that I haven't. God has been leading me to do so.

Several months ago, or maybe a year ago, I found a prayer request in the *Faith and Victory* paper for mental illness. I prayed for that request, but I'm sorry that I didn't try to contact that person. I can tell you that God heals mental illness. A lot of it is the devil. He tried to destroy my life.

I was told by doctors that religion had affected my mind and I believed them. For years I sought help through doctors. They couldn't heal me. Things got worse instead of better. The devil put me under a deception.

I got acquainted with the Faith Publishing House and they began to pray for me. I prayed for God to free me from the devil. I had to pray more than once before I found my precious Lord again.

If you believe there is a God, which we know there is, you had better believe there is a devil. He deceived me.

God freed me from the devil and his deception. He began to reveal to me how the devil had deceived me. I began to walk with God once again. I was free of the devil. Thank God. I can't tell you how happy I am. I thank God every day for setting me free. Oh, how grateful I am for my freedom and peace of mind. May this help someone.

In Christ's service, —Juanita Blankenship

OK—Dear Bro. Wayne and workers at the Lord's Print Shop: Love and greetings in the name of the Lord.

On October 29, I had the misfortune to cut three fingers of my right hand on a table saw. Although the injuries were minor compared to those that many others have received, they were painful and possibly dangerous. But overnight, or so it seemed, word of my accident reached many of the saints and congregations. Calls began to flood us from all over the U. S., from dear brethren, made doubly so by their expressions of love, concern, and eagerness to help with prayers and means, until it seemed I was borne along through the pain-filled hours on a cushion of love and good will. One brother said, "When you are up through the nights and can't sleep, just remember this brother will be awake, too, and on his prayer bones for you." I was up through some nights and his words were a comfort to me.

In direct answer to the prayers of the saints, my fingers have been healing with no sign of infection and the Lord has blessed me by never allowing the pain to be more than I could bear. Two of the fingers will be shorter than before, but they should be useable, and I am thankful for that.

We are humbly grateful toward all those whose love and support in many ways have meant so much to us during this trying time.

Christian love, —Ed and Roberta Wilson

—————o—————

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From Mexico . . .

Nov. 3—Dear Sis. Maybelle and Bro. Wayne: I give thanks to my God for the privilege to be saved and for His grace and mercy that He has for all those He loves. By His power we are able to write you desiring to be with you and those that love the Lord. 1 Thess. 1:2-4; 2:17.

Esteemed saints, your consistency and permanency in the work of God has given me great joy. I pray now and all the time that God will bless the work in the Print Shop and that God will bless those that sustain the work with their offerings. We are all workers together in one form or another for the cause of gaining souls for the fold of the Lord. We should all pray for the ministers that all may be true servants of God. In all places there needs to be a true awakening, for it is necessary that we are ready and prompt to obey the voice of God.

Oh, glory to God! How precious He is! He lives and by Him we live. He overcame and by Him we overcome. When the Christian sings, it makes the devil cry. When he prays the devil

runs and when he does not sin the devil tries to kill the Christian, but he cannot! The devil doesn't give this happy life and neither can he take it away.

I praise the Lord today and always because He is *great*! We have had rich spiritual blessings here. Our chapel is full some Sundays and many have a desire to live for the Lord. We wish very much your prayers for them, please. Last Sunday there were just a few, but they had much joy that they now have the truth. It is difficult to work for the Lord here because there are many religions and many are deceived. For this I ask you to pray that more will see the light of the truth. We have been in contact with some who don't live close to here, but seem to be very sincere. We hope that soon there will be more congregations of the Church of God. Pray for the work in Mexico.

Yours forever, —Mayarino Escobar

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

From Nigeria . . .

Oct. 16—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt and the called of God: Greetings in the matchless name of Jesus, the great Prince of Peace. We see His pity for us in our sin, and His sympathy with us in our sorrow and bereavements. Praise Him forever!

As expected, the Lord eventually became the victor at Umuachi-Afor where the saints hitherto were subjected to heart-rending molestation and persecution by the heathen population of the Umuachi-Afor community. The action taken collectively by the saints of the Most High of the Kwale area congregation silenced them.

The Lord is given free hand to carry out His will in our midst. Fasting and prayer was fixed for Oct. 1-7 and accordingly observed. It fetched us enough oil in our lamps to keep on shining in the Spirit. Ours is to do our best and be at our best when no eye save God's is watching.

Yours in His service, —Titus U. E. Enu

In Memoriam

Katherine Harmon of Loranger, LA was born June 12, 1924 to Bro. Oscar and Sis. Etta Williamson. She departed this life to meet the Lord on October 26, 1987.

She was united in marriage to Bro. Gerald Harmon in June, 1947. She accepted the Lord at an early age, and loved and trusted Him until He called her home. Her interests were not in

what she could do for herself, but in what she could do for others. Her life was a wonderful example and so fittingly portrayed by the words of the song "A Beautiful Life" that was read during her memorial service. She was dearly loved by many.

Her memory is cherished by her husband, Gerald Harmon; a daughter, DeDe Hayden; a son, Kelly Harmon; two grandchildren: Brooke and Sean Harmon; a brother, Leroy Williamson; six sisters: Myrtis Flynn, LaVern Manuel, Alta Flynn, Hazel Savage, Cwilla James, and Shirley James; and many more relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held at the Oak Grove Church of God in Loranger, LA on October 28, and were conducted by Bro. Charles Smith and Bro. Bob Forbes. Burial was in the church cemetery.

NOTE OF THANKS

We wish to express our heartfelt appreciation for the love, concern, and many prayers for us and our loved one. We want to thank every one for the cards, flowers, food, and love offerings. May God bless each one.

—Gerald Harmon and family

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

This is a continuation of the discussion on "Christian Perfection" from last month's *Faith and Victory* paper.

I will begin with references concerning Jesus Christ and His perfection. In Heb. 5:9, we read, "And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." We see here that Jesus being made perfect was all-important to our salvation. But what did this involve and how was it accomplished? Heb. 2:10, says, "For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings." I acknowledge frankly that for many years I was not able to comprehend the idea of Jesus being made perfect. The reason was because I always thought of Jesus as being perfect. Now here comes God's Word talking about Him being "made perfect" through suffering. Actually, He *was* morally and spiritually perfect from time immemorial. Only after He had personally encountered every temptation and suffering in His flesh and lived His life on the

same plane that we have to live ours, could He be able to lead us to glory.

Heb. 5:8, says, "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered." I never got the full import of this, either, until one day this week while meditating on a message that Bro. Keith Fuller had brought one day in our Assembly Meeting on the sufferings of Jesus. There is no such thing as suffering in heaven where Jesus was until He left there and came here on a mission of redemption. Then when He took on Himself the seed of Abraham and was clothed in human flesh and lived as one of us, He had to learn to take orders and obey. Phil. 2:8 says that Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient unto death. Luke 13:23-33, makes it clear that His death was His perfection. Verse 33 says, "Nevertheless I must walk to day, and to morrow, and the day following: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem." This is a clear reference to His death at Jerusalem and "the day following" tomorrow would be the third day. Verse 32 says that on the third day He would be perfected. This confirms that His death was His perfection. Also, Heb. 2:18, says, "For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted."

Then we have this concerning the perfection of Jesus: Jesus learned obedience through the things which He suffered (Heb. 5:8), and it was through suffering that He was made perfect (Heb. 5:8, 9 and Heb. 2:10). Therefore, when Jesus had faithfully obeyed His Father in submitting Himself unto every kind of suffering and temptation that humankind could possibly encounter in life and had overcome it all to the final and even His death; and came out in the end with a perfect score offering Himself without spot to God, He was then completely, thoroughly, entirely, and totally qualified to be a perfect captain of our salvation to lead us to glory. This is what the term "perfect" means in regard to Christ being the captain of our salvation; completely, thoroughly, totally, entirely qualified and able to do this and lead us to glory. It has no reference to perfecting Him morally, spiritually, intellectually, or in any of His divine attributes.

Now I will consider Paul's references to "perfect" in the third chapter of Philippians. In verse 12, he says, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect. . . ." Connected to verse 11, this would seem to be a reference to the resurrection of the dead as attaining and being made perfect. But I feel certain, by the general tenor of Paul's writing in all his epistles, that Paul had a clear vision of

greater and greater accomplishments in his spiritual life and Christian experience and He was striving for and reaching out for deeper depths, higher heights, longer lengths, and broader breadths in the things of God. This being true, he could never reckon himself to be perfect so long as he could envision greater depths and heights out ahead.

So I am reckoning this reference to "perfect" in verse 12 to involve this idea even though it might be a direct reference to his resurrection. However, he said in verse 15, "Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded. . . ." Here is a reference to some who are perfect. I am picking up the thought here that Christian perfection is a progressive thing. He declared himself to not be perfect but he also said, "Let us [you and I] therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded. . . ." This is equivalent to saying, "I do not claim to be perfect, but I am perfect." "Ah, come on," you say. "You are talking in riddles now." Well, so be it; that's just the way it is. Let me illustrate with a student in school. Take, for example, a small child in the first grade. He will learn little one, two, and three-letter words, and 1+1, 2+2, and 3+3 problems, etc. If, at the end of the year, he can spell all those little words and work all those little problems correctly, that is perfect for him in the first grade. But it would not be perfect for a student in college. He is supposed to know more than that. All the way up from the first grade to college he can be perfect all the time; year after year, grade after grade; but never be perfect for the grade ahead of him at any time. It is this way in the Christian life. A brand new convert (a babe in Christ) may have completely satisfied God and be up-to-date with Him and be perfect in his relationship with Him, but that would not at all be perfect for the person who has been saved for ten or fifteen years. He is supposed to understand more about God and know more truth than that new convert.

The Christian life is a continual and perpetual growth and development. In 2 Pet. 3:18, we are admonished to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." We may be perfect before God but to maintain that state of perfection, we must be walking in the light, measuring up to the truth, and continually climbing up to higher and higher levels of divine grace. What is perfect for you now may not be perfect for you a year from now, and certainly will not be if you maintain a normal pace of growth in grace.

Phil. 3:15, says that all who are perfect should be "thus minded. . . ." "Thus minded" would refer to something said before, and ac-

tually is a foundation for everything said from verse 1 clear through to the 15th verse. This would include having a mind to worship God in the spirit and having no confidence in the flesh (verse 3); counting the things which are gain to us in the things of the world and of the flesh as loss for Christ (verse 7); counting all things as loss and of no value in order to win Christ and counting the knowledge of Christ as a very excellent thing (verse 8); being found in Christ and having the righteousness of God in our lives through the faith of Christ and not having our own righteousness (verse 9); seeking to know Jesus Christ and the fellowship of His sufferings and being conformed unto His death (verse 10); seeking and desiring to attain unto the resurrection of the righteous (verse 11); having a recognition of not having yet attained and not yet being perfect, but steadfastly pursuing those things (verse 12); and having a tendency of heart and disposition of mind to forget the things behind and reach forth unto those things which are before and to press on to the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ (verses 13 and 14). All of this is involved in the mind of the perfect Christian.

After all, Christian perfection is not a matter of being "right on target" every time in all of our choices and decisions and judgments and understandings, but it is a state and condition and attitude of the heart toward God; having the right motives and purposes in everything we do, even though we may fail sometimes in our methods of doing them. God's Word says in 2 Chron. 16:9, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. . . ." 1 Sam. 16:7 says, ". . . The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." Oh, how often we err in our judgments of one another because we look on the outward appearance and after the seeing of the eye and the hearing of the ear we fail to discern the motive and purpose in the heart of the person who was trying to do something good and failed in the proper method of doing it. This is a stark tragedy, but is oft repeated. God help us!

Eph. 4:13 speaks of us all coming to a perfect man. The margin here says, "to age." The meaning of "perfect" in this place is to grow up, or come to age or maturity in our Christian experience. The same thought is set forth in 1 Cor. 14:20, where it says, ". . . In malice be ye children, but in understanding be men." The margin here says, "perfect" instead of "men" in the text (grown up, fully developed people spir-

itually).

I trust you will consider what I say and the Lord give you understanding in all things. Let us all quit looking for the perfect human who is "right on target" every time and never makes a mistake. You will never find him. There is no such. Let us allow our brethren to be human and forgive them for their human errors and innocent mistakes, and let us go on striving for the faith of the gospel.

What Some Men Have Said About Obedience

"The first law that ever God gave to man, was a law of obedience; it was a commandment pure and simple, wherein man had nothing to inquire after or to dispute, for as much as to obey is the proper office of a rational soul acknowledging a heavenly superior and benefactor. From obedience and submission spring all other virtues, as all sin does from self-opinion and self-will."

—Michel Montaigne

"No principle is more noble, as there is none more holy, than that of a true obedience."

—Henry Giles

"It is vain thought to flee from the work that God appoints us, for the sake of finding a greater blessing, instead of seeking it where alone it is to be found; in loving obedience."

—George Eliot

"Thirty years of our Lord's life are hidden in these words of the gospel: 'He was subject unto them.' "

—Jacques Bossuet

"Obedience to God is the most infallible evidence of sincere and supreme love to Him."

—Nathaniel Emmons

"To obey God in some things, and not in others, shows an unsound heart. Childlike obedience moves toward every command of God, as the needle points where the lodestone draws."

—Thomas Watson

Conforming to Christ

Do you often wonder at your trials of life? I have, many times. Sometimes it seems like all one can do is cry, "Why? Why?" Have you ever felt like Job, who said, "I was at ease but he hath broken me asunder. He hath also taken me by my neck and shaken me to pieces. . . ." Have you ever cried in the night, "Lord, please stop. I can't take any more. Give me a break, a time of rest," and yet the trial continues? On and on, unrelenting, it seems like even the heavens are closed up. Prayer after prayer, the self-searching: "Did I displease you, Lord? Tell me what I did so I can correct it," but there is nothing.

Then — “God, are you still there? Please answer me. . . .” The plodding on continues. I can’t give up; I won’t give up. God must be real. I know that He is there. He *must* be there somewhere. Oh, child, “blessed are they that have not seen and yet believed.” Believe with all thy heart. Does the thread of faith get thinner and thinner until it becomes so fine as to be almost transparent? Still must be the determination: I *won’t* give up.

Then one day there is a glimmer of hope. Hope, divine assurance, a sunbeam into the deep reaches of the soul, and God speaks, “I love you. I have not forgotten you.” “Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands. Thy walls are continually before me. . . .” “Oh, Lord, I doubted! Did I fail you?” The Lord answers, “I am always here; do not be dismayed. I won’t leave you. Although the clouds of this life hide me from your view, my eye pierces through it all. Be faithful.”

Why does the Lord put us through such hard times? It is so that we can become conformed to the life of Jesus. Conformed is to become like something else.

It isn’t easy to change a thing from its present form into a better, more complete form. And when that thing is the life of a person, the work is that much greater. I suppose there is nothing as complex as a human life. It began to form its personality from its first breath and has been affected by everything that has passed by it since then. When God is given back that life, He has a lot of work to do to get it ready for heaven. One thing that it is good to remember is that we have been bought and we are no longer our own. We barely know our ourselves and seldom do we understand ourselves. God is the only One who can know the depths of our heart and have the whole understanding of our personalities. So it is best and wisest not to try and change ourselves into what we think we ought to be. What we do need to do is to submit to the hand of God. The more pliable we become in His hands, the more able He is to make us into what we should be. The more submissive, the more quickly the work can be done. It is not easy to do this when your trials are hard upon you, but it is absolutely necessary that the work might be completed perfectly. The more fully we can submit the easier it becomes.

One effect of our trials is that they make us less and less while God is more and more. Our Father wants us all to understand why He is allowing these things to happen to us. He does not want us to be afraid. We are in no danger as long as we continue to love Him wholly and

walk only in the Bible way. So fear not, weary, tested one, God is close by. Hope thou in God.
—Elizabeth Redington

Concepts Forbidding Daily Sin

(continued from page 3)

teaches that a Christian does not continue to sin. “For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.” Rom. 6:5-7. “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Rom. 6:23.

Those who are sinning a little every day are being led by some other spirit than the Spirit of God. “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.” Rom. 8:16. A Christian is led only by the Spirit of God. “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” Rom. 8:14.
—Joyce Hall

“Greater is He that is in You”

“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.” While meditating on the latter part of this verse, the Lord began bringing some more of His Word to my mind. In Judges, we have the record of Samson who was a man of mighty strength. Before his birth, his mother was instructed that she should not drink wine nor strong drink. No razor was to come on his head, for he was to be a Nazarite unto God from his mother’s womb and his special work was to begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines. (Judges 13:4, 5). On one occasion when Samson was going down to Timnath, a young lion roared against him. “And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.” Judges 14:6. He was enabled to do this, not by his own natural strength, but by the extra strength given to him by the Spirit of God. When different needs arose, the Spirit of God came upon him, enabling him to meet the need, again and again. Our God is great, greater than the powers of Satan that sometimes roar against us, spiritually speaking. When God is dwelling within us by His Spirit, when the need arises, as it did with Samson, He is able to enable us to overcome.

In 1 Kings 18, we read of Elijah standing alone (no other prophets with him) before the

children of Israel on Mount Carmel. The 450 false prophets of Baal had offered their sacrifice to their idol god, Baal, but no fire had been given to consume the sacrifice. Elijah prepared an altar and the sacrifice just as God had commanded. Then he had them to fill four barrels with water and pour it on the sacrifice three times (12 barrels). He also dug a trench and filled it with water around the altar. Then he prayed a simple prayer and said, "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench." 1 Kings 18:36-38. The same mighty God that sent that fire is dwelling in us by His Spirit. Satan may pour water on us, so to speak, in many different ways to hinder and discourage and cast us down, but the God that sent the mighty fire to burn Elijah's water-soaked sacrifice and the wood, and stones and even the dust, is able to help us to overcome.

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom. 8:35, 37-39.

Over three hundred years ago, John Bunyan was imprisoned for preaching the gospel and conducting worship services in a manner which appeared more in accordance with New Testament principles than the services of the established Church of England. He spent more than twelve years in prison, but while there God opened up a way through which he could reach far more souls than he ever could have in his ministry otherwise. It was while there that the Spirit of God gave him the inspiration to write *Pilgrim's Progress* which has been widely circulated and read. Even after three hundred years have passed, we now are still receiving benefit from reading it. Through the very means that the devil used to try to silence Bro. John Bunyan's voice in preaching, God used it in a way that he has actually preached to many more. God's grace enabled John Bunyan to en-

sure the hardships of prison, for he had One dwelling with him that is greater than he that is in the world. —Fern Stubblefield

How To Get Saved



"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10. What does it mean to be saved? To be saved simply means to be delivered from sin; to have sin removed from our lives.

What is sin? "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." James 4:17. "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." 1 John 3:4. Transgression means to violate a command. So, to sin means that we knowingly violate a command of God.

Even a child can understand what it means to violate or break a rule. Most of us can think of the guilty feeling that followed when we ourselves disobeyed our parents. We now know that with sin comes a feeling of guilt. Adam and Eve sinned. Their guilt caused them to want to hide from God. Cain sinned when he slew his brother. His guilt caused him to lie by saying that he didn't know where his brother was (Gen. 4:9). Sin separates us from God. One act of sin leads to another, thus adding more guilt upon us.

Sometimes a person can get so hardened that he can do wrong and not even feel guilty about it. When one gets in this condition it is sad indeed. That is because they have continually disregarded God's Word. Then there are others who are more sensitive and would like to rid themselves of their guilt. God is merciful to both and will seek to draw them to Him. He sends conviction upon them. There is a feeling of desperation as one's guilt is continually before them.

To feel the guilt of our wrong doings is a good state to be in, for if we follow the right steps we will soon be in God's favor. Do not push away this feeling as some do in various ways: reveling, drinking, and even overindulgence in the normal pursuits of life. Others will try to be good in their own power and will succeed for a while. One young man was under very heavy conviction. The Lord, in His faithfulness, had directed him just where to go for help. He was instructed in the right way, but he did not want to make a change in his life. He wanted that feeling to go away because he said that it was interfering with his life. That is what the Lord wanted: to interfere with and change his life around, but he would not heed and in less

than two weeks he was in trouble and has been much of the time since.

There is only one way to rid ourselves of this guilt. Since we have transgressed the law of God, it is only natural that we should confess to Him our wrong and ask His forgiveness.

Just as a fugitive willingly surrenders himself to the officer, admitting to his crime, so we likewise come to the Lord, admitting and confessing our wrong with godly sorrow. 1 John 1:9 tells us plainly, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." When we have done our part, Jesus will certainly do His.

God causes us to know that He has done His part by removing the load of guilt from us. We are *saved*, a new creature, a Christian. We no longer feel the weight of our sins for truly we are made new. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Cor. 5:17. Old things have passed away, we have forsaken the old life of sin, and are now beginning a new life with Christ. Always ask Him to help you. He is ever willing.

—O. A. Davenport

Meditation

Lord, I don't always pray out loud—

But I meditate on Thee;

No matter where I am

I know You're hearing me.

I may be washing, or cooking meals,

As I have a busy hand—

Sweeping floors, or making beds

But humble before Thee stand.

I may not travel around so much—

Lord as I older grow,

I stay at home and read Your Word

And watch Your blessings flow.

Teach me how to pray dear Lord,

I'd like so much to know—

The prayers to save my loved ones

And help me spiritually grow.

Now as I meditate dear Lord,

I know others do the same;

For when we cannot go to church

At home, we praise Your name.

I may not have a master mind—

Nor any doctorate degrees;

But when I do a service Lord—

I do it unto Thee.

—Bessie W. Woods



Excerpts Taken From

December, 1937 *Faith and Victory*

"Man is failing to be wise if he only lives for the present world. If his plans are only to give the body comfort, alas! alas! all will be a failure. If we seek to save our life here we'll lose it in eternity. We must build our hopes beyond this life. We must make preparation daily to live again in heaven, sweet home above."

—Ruth Murphey

"Pecos, Texas. Dear Brother and Sister Pruitt: I am sending 25 cents for a year's subscription to the *Faith and Victory*. I love to read the little paper. I get so much good out of it, especially since I am away from all the dear saints. Pray for me that I may be faithful to the end."

—Mabel Melot

"Vital Christianity is more than a code of ethics, a set of rules and regulations, a creed or a doctrine to which one must subscribe. It is a life to live — an exertion of divine unction. There is seen in Christianity the power of the resurrection. That inner, responsible being is made alive to God from a dead state of sin. The Holy Spirit comes into the heart and directs the issues of life."

—L. D. Pruitt

"Intentions are to build a dining room 28 by 46 feet with a cooking room added. The building will be erected in the community park at Monark Springs, MO, 6 miles east of Neosho. The building will remain in the park and will be used by the community for meeting purposes, excepting the times that the saints desire to use it. We the Church of God have access to the park for the purpose of camp meetings or other meetings as we choose. So we feel this is a great step of advancement."

—Treasurer