

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

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My Daily Prayer

Bless me, O my Saviour, keep me
 Thru the darkness of this life;
 Keep me in thy presence near thee.
 Thru every storm and strife.
 Help me, Lord, to e'er be able
 Just to know thy mind and will,
 And to eat at Father's table
 With love and peace be still.
 How very precious is His promise
 To all those who will obey.
 Never be a doubting Thomas,
 Let the Father have His way.
 Our lives then will prove a blessing
 To some lost and erring soul,
 If we will only learn the lesson:
 Let quietness be our goal.
 Dear God, come just now and teach me
 While I sit low at thy feet;
 The schooling of my precious Saviour,
 It alone, will be complete.
 Oh, I love to sit and listen
 To my Jesus while He talks;
 And the soul, how it will glisten,
 If we only with Him walk.
 Lo, how sweetly Jesus tells us
 When from right we step aside;
 He rebukes His own with kindness,
 Helps us to in Him abide.
 He will never let us falter,
 But will guide us all the way,
 If we keep all on the altar,
 And be sure to watch and pray.
 Help me, dear God, to be careful,
 Of all that I do and say,
 That my life may prove a blessing
 To some traveler every day.

—Pauline Brown

"Your Closet"

Jesus said, "When you pray, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." (Matt 6:6). Paul says, "Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and body and soul be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (II Thess. 5:17, 18, 23). There is so much in these few verses, a book could be written and yet not include all that could be obtained.

"When you pray"—let us pursue this thought a little. When do you pray? Paul says, "Pray without ceasing." I Thess. 5:17. Do we all do this? We hear people say, "I just don't have time." We are told to "enter into thy closet." "Well," some will say, "if I stay in the closet all the time, I will never get anything done!" Did Jesus do this? Jesus said, "Foxes have holes, and birds have nests, but the Son of man has not where to lay his head." (Matt. 8:20). Did Jesus ever tell us to do anything He did not do himself? No! Then if He had no home, where was His closet? "The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:23-24). Wherever we are, if we have the Holy Spirit we can just shut the world outside and be alone with the Lord—"when thou hast shut the door." God does not try to outshout a lot of noise. God wants our undivided love and attention.

Find your closet and stay there until you are created in "the image and likeness of God." "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." (Matt. 5:48).—Bro. Jim Wilson

The Three Prayers

Here is an old and beautiful story of how one Christian lady dreamed that she saw three others at prayer. As they knelt, the Master drew near to them. As He approached the first of the three, He bent over her in tenderness and grace, with smiles full of radiant love, and spoke to her in accents of purest, sweetest music. Leaving her, He came to the next, but only placed His hand upon her bowed head, and gave her one look of loving approval. The third woman He passed almost abruptly without stopping for a word or a glance. The woman in her dream said to herself, "How greatly He must love the first one, to the second He gave His approval, but none of the special demonstrations of love He gave to the second; and the third must have grieved deeply, for He gave her no word at all, and not even a passing look. I wonder what she has done, and why He made so much difference between them?" As she tried to account for the action of her Lord, He Himself stood by her and said, "Oh woman! how wrongly hast thou interpreted me. The first kneeling woman needs all the weight of my tenderness and care to keep her feet in the narrow way. She needs my love, thought and help every moment of the day. Without it she would fail and fall. The second has stronger faith and deeper love, and I can trust her to trust me, however things may go, and whatever people do. The third woman I seemed not to notice, and even to neglect, has faith and love of the finest quality, and her I am training by quick and drastic processes for the highest and holiest service. She knows me so intimately, and trusts me so utterly, that she is independent of words or looks, or any outward intimation of my approval. She is not dismayed nor discouraged by any circumstances through which I arrange that she will pass; she trusts me when sense and reason and every finer instinct of the natural heart would rebel—because she knows I am working in her for eternity, and that what I do, though she knows not the explanation now, she shall understand hereafter. I am silent in my love, because I love beyond the power of words to express, or of human hearts to understand, and also for your sakes that you may learn to love and trust me in Spirit-taught, spontaneous response to my love, without the spur of anything outward to call it forth. —Selected by Bro. Earl Bliss

THE HOUR OF PRAYER

Child, amidst the flowers at play,
While the red light fades away;
Mother, with thine earnest eye,
Ever following silently;
Father, by the breeze of eve

Called by harvest work to leave—
Pray: ere yet the dark hours be,
Lift the heart and bend the knee!

Traveler, in the stranger's land,
Far from thine own household band;
Mourner, haunted by the tone
Of a voice from this world gone;
Captive, in whose narrow cell
Sunshine hath not leave to dwell;
Sailor, on the darkening sea,
Lift the heart, and bend the knee!

Warrior, that from battle won
Breathest now at set of sun;
Woman, o'er the lowly slain
Weeping on his burial-plain;
Ye that triumph, ye that sigh,
Kindred by one holy tie,
Heaven's first star alike ye see—
Lift the heart, and bend the knee!

—Selected

Humility In Prayer

"And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:" Matt. 20:27. The one who does the most for God is God's best servant. It requires humility to serve. God loves humility and the humble; therefore when approaching God in prayer, one should do so with utmost humility.

Humility is surely a condition of the prayer of faith. It must precede the bestowment of spiritual blessings.

"He that shall humble himself shall be exalted," and "whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased." (Matt. 23:12). "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." Isa. 57:15. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face. . . ." (II Chron. 7:14). "Taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him." (Ps. 34:8).

One of the most offensive sins to God is pride, self-exaltation, self-worship. True humility is a state of the heart in which we gladly own the truth even though it may seem to be detrimental to our own best interests.

The most acceptable prayer is offered by him who realizes the true contrast between the supreme Being and himself. To "think oneself to be something" when "he is nothing," is to fail in attracting the attention of God that an audience may be gained with him. Those who consider themselves so high above their brethren need to exercise care lest before God they would

seem to usurp the mediatorial office of Jesus.

The prayer that reaches God comes from the lips of the one who takes the most humble place at the foot of the cross and at the feet of his brethren.

Whom do we address in prayer? Answer, "the high and lofty One." (Isa 57:15). Permitted to enter the immediate presence of the governor of a state, one feels very humble. Allowed to step to the side of the President of the United States, one feels very much more humble. Attempting to gain an audience with and converse with the King of kings and Lord of lords, the Highest of the high and lofty ones, how much more humble should one feel than to come to the governor or the President! Yet how little reverence and humility most of us show when coming to Him in prayer!

There is an old adage that "familiarity breeds contempt." Can it be that the frequency with which we are allowed to come to God in prayer is causing contempt for God, so that we fail to reverence Him as we should? Can it be that this is one reason for so many unanswered prayers today?

Winds obey His voice. He chains the angry waves to the shore. He yokes the whirlwind to His chariot and carries a prophet to the skies.

"All things are naked and open unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." (Heb. 4:13). He knows the very "thoughts and intents of the heart," and may we not believe that the answer to prayer is granted or withheld, in many instances at least, because of the wrong intent or purpose of the heart of the petitioner, because of a lack of real heart humility?

Three thousand years ago the inspired writer sang, "Who is like unto thee, O Lord." Nineteen hundred years ago an inspired writer, as he caught a song from the lips of an angel choir, sang, "Who shall not fear thee and glorify thy name." (Rev. 15:4). Humble hearts today are falling on their faces before Him singing to His holy name "praise and honor and glory and majesty."

A million beats of man's heart are fainter than one throb of God's benevolence. A million trees loaded to the breaking point with the most luscious of earth's fruits but poorly imitate "the fulness in Christ." A million billions of quadrillions of worlds—all people—feeding on His bountiful supply can never exhaust it. Then what reasons have I for pride in my heart? What reasons for humility?

Yet many, yea, all too many, sit down to their daily meals, three or four times a day and are too proud to humble themselves enough to bow the head and render thanksgiving to Him from who cometh "every good gift and every perfect gift." (James 1:17).

Those who would prevail with God in prayer must put God first in everything. Man must take second place. May this not sometimes be the lack in some who have no faith except certain ones pray for them? Are they not putting man ahead of God? Are they not reversing the order which God intended?

Exalt God—humble self, is the sure road to answered prayer.

As He taught the disciples, we are to pray first, "thy name," "thy kingdom," "thy will," and second, "give us," "forgive us," "lead us," and this is the true model of all correct praying. (Study Matthew 6:9-13.)

God's blessing ever follows humility of heart. A revival of humility must precede a revival of souls. Such a revival is the crying need of God's Church and God's people today. The proud in heart are fast usurping the place but not the power of the blessed Holy Spirit.

Reasons for humility are:

1. It is enjoined. "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord." (James 4:10). "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time." I Peter 5:6. "Put on therefore . . . humbleness of mind." (Col. 3:2). "Love mercy and walk humbly." (Mic. 6:8). "Be clothed with humility." (I Peter 5:5). ". . . For without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5.

2. Because of the humble origin and frailty of our bodies. "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." (Gen. 3:19). While personal beauty and attractiveness are to be appreciated, yet they are not to be worshiped. With more humble praying today and less strife and emulation, individuals will be better, communities will be better; nations will be better; the world will be better.

3. Because of our limited knowledge and consequent liability to error. "The foolishness of God is wiser than men." (I Cor. 1:25).

Luther said, "I fear the pope self more than I fear the pope of Rome."

4. Because of the moral corruption of an unclean heart. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." (Jer. 17:9). There is no conceivable wickedness into which man may not fall if left to himself and without God. Yes, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: . . ." (Prov. 28:13).

5. Because of the sins of our past life—both heart and outward sins. Many of us should feel mightily humiliated to have our past thoughts and deeds "open and naked" even before our fellowman. This will someday happen except for the blood of Christ. Not because of our own goodness or our own virtues are we guiltless, neither can we be, but because of Christ's power

(continued on page 15)

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EDITORIALS

As this *Faith and Victory* comes your way we trust it finds you enjoying the best of life. From a human standpoint, considering the problems that are common to man, the best things in life may seem rather elusive or simply a mirage of the future. But I am convinced that a Christian's close relationship with God provides the greatest source of satisfaction.

Notice the question in Matthew 27:11 which was put to Jesus. "And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest." Jesus did not look much like a King as He stood there bound, yet He answered, "Yes, I am a King." His acknowledgment may have appeared irrational to those looking on. If there was any capacity for tenderness in the hearts of those present, their observation of His physical distress should have stirred them to pity. This man declared himself a king, but where was his throne, his crown, his subjects and the respect that is the basis of royalty, they may have wondered.

How different things are today. Now Jesus Christ is sitting "Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only is this world, but also in that which is to come." Eph. 1:21. In heaven He is honored as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The earth has felt His influence, and the respect meted to Him is immeasurable. The heart-gladdening reality of the matter is that Jesus was just as much of a King when He stood before Pilot as He is today. This brings meaning to the verse, "And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." Rev. 5:10. The songwriter knew the joy of the experience when he wrote, "I am reigning, sweetly reigning, Far above this world of strife, In my blessed loving Saviour, I am reigning in this life." Likewise, the one who penned, "Tis a kingdom of peace, it is reigning within, It shall ever increase in my soul; We possess it right here when He saves from all sin, And 'twill last while the ages shall roll."

The truth of this matter is, the best things of life are not temporal and cannot be taken away by man. It was not within Pilot's power to strip Christ of His inner peace, joy, or self-respect. These Christ had gained by walking with God and they were His to enjoy.

One person aptly stated, "A title, position, or authority does not bring respect. You either have it or you don't." It has also been said that, "Respect is not something people take away from you, it is something you lose yourself." Thrones that glitter, crowns that sparkle, wealth, power and position are things which appeal to the flesh and bring temporal adulation and self-

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promotion, but the Christian who walks humbly with his God shall have that joy which no man can take from him. (John 16:22).

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We were saddened when we received word of the recent passing of Bro. Benson Taylor of Nigeria. He passed in his sleep on Sept. 26. Bro. Taylor has been a minister to his people for many years and has corresponded with this office since about 1975. We never read anything from him which would cast a shadow upon his Christian example, nor do we remember of any conveyance from anyone in Nigeria of anything that would tarnish his character. To the contrary, we know that he stood by his convictions though it might have been easier to capitulate to majority sentiment. Bro. Taylor had not been well the last couple of years, but his letters were always positive and expressive of great faith.

His place will not be easily filled. It has been arranged for Bro. Onimite Alalibo to oversee the Tombia congregation and Bro. F. Nath-Igbani to be in charge of the Port Harcourt congregation. Pray for these works as well as the family of Bro. Taylor.

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It seems there are many doors open to the gospel. We recently received a letter from an evangelist in Nigeria who wrote in part, "I have a church building here which I started to build for the people of God since Sept. 1986. I will hand over this church to your mission to claim it for herself, to care over us as a mother. I have six branches here in Nigeria waiting for your approval, so dear sir, kindly lead me to the light of success."

We have received copies from Bro. Josiah Pah of Monrovia, Liberia, of their registration as "The Church of God" with the Liberian government. He has also notified us of a recent storm which damaged the roof of their chapel. At this time they are trying to raise the funds to have it repaired.

Bro. Joseph Chikoti from Zambia, Central Africa, has written that for the last four years God has been dealing with him to be a missionary in Europe. Now it looks like there is a possibility of an opening in West Germany. He is a young man with a wife and three children. It is his desire to do just as God leads him.

There are many doors open, some of them right around where we live, but in order to take advantage of the opportunities, the saints must make a spiritual dedication and a financial commitment. I would like to stress that it is going to take more than a zeal to expand a movement. We must be motivated by a true love for souls.

We are exploring several avenues in which to expand the *Faith and Victory* circulation. Perhaps at a later time we can give more details on what has been accomplished and how you can help us. We do desire your prayers that the Lord will bless our efforts.

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We would like to remind our readers that the "Question and Answer" column is available to any reader who would like a particular subject addressed. Bro. Ostis Wilson welcomes all questions, and those that are appropriate will be printed.

—Wayne Murphey

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.

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Personal Experiences of S. O. Susag was written by himself, a Norwegian who had many marvelous experiences and answers to prayer as an early-day minister in the Church of God. 192 pages are bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.50 each.

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Food for Lambs by C. E. Orr. The English version contains 168 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.00. Also available in the German language and contains 127 pages. Price, \$2.00.

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¢.

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

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.

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.

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.

The Battle of Armageddon by O. B. Wilson. A clear exposition of this much misunderstood subject. Price, 50¢.

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¢.

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.

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at large. Contains 496 pages, including more than 100 pictures in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.50 each.

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Prayer Requests

AZ—Frank Pruitt, the son of Fred Pruitt, has been diagnosed as having cancer. Please remember him in your prayers.

OK—Bro. Alton Stubblefield has been experiencing a severe illness and needs prayer.

AR—Sis. Mary Foster has some physical needs and also desires prayer for a loved one.

TN—"Remember me in your prayers."

—Oscar Mason

CA—"We need your prayers for our daughter; she is better but still needs help."

—Vivian Hattley

AR—"Sis. Vera Dotson fell and broke her hip. Sis. Pearl Steele and Sis. Sarah Garton are in need of prayer."

—Wanda Evans

MI—Sis. Olive Gettersson needs complete healing.

CA—"Please pray that God will restore my vision."
—Sis. Agnes Huskey

AL—"Pray for my nephew who has a brain tumor."
—Sis. Pearlene Gerald

KY—"Pray for my son; he needs salvation."
—Ann Elam

NOTE OF THANKS

I would like to take this means of thanking everyone who showed their concern by calling and sending cards, letters and flowers during my recent illness. Above all, your prayers on my behalf were greatly appreciated. God has abundantly blessed me and I give Him the praise for it. Please continue to pray that God will give me strength. —Sis. Emma Dilley

Campground Relocation Progress Report

The Guthrie campground relocation project is moving forward by faith into phase three. An order has been placed with a local steel company to manufacture the red iron main frames and other red iron and materials that go into the building's main structure and roof. Delivery date has been set for November 20. Hopefully, erection can begin shortly thereafter.

At present, adequate funds are not on hand to cover the total cost of the steel structure. The committee felt however, that we should exercise faith, place the building on order and trust the Lord to supply that which is presently lacking by the time payment is due in December. We solicit your prayers as we take this step of faith, that this obligation can be met when it is due and that we can continue with the rest of phase three once the structure is erected.

We want to thank every congregation and individual that has expressed their love to the saints here by contributing words of encouragement and financial assistance to help this relocation project move forward as much as it has. While there is still much land to possess in the project so to speak, we are so thankful for every step that the Lord has enabled us to take already. Please pray for those responsible for the oversight of this project and that every need will be supplied. If you feel the Lord would have you contribute to this project you may do so by sending it to: Church of God, c/o Brenda Wilkins, Rt. 6, Box 797, Guthrie, OK 73044.

—Bro. Bob Sallee for the Campground Relocation Committee

"Real glory springs from the silent conquest of ourselves."
—Selected

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

DUNCANNON, PA TENT MEETING REPORT

We wish to report that the tent meeting held in Duncannon, PA was felt to be a great blessing to those attending. The messages challenged us to search our own hearts and lives, as well as to reach out to others. The morning Bible studies were informative and interesting. Sharing thoughts, views, and experiences of others surely widens our insights to God's Word and ways. Some were saved, some were baptized, and all were blessed. Our gratitude goes out to all who labored, supported, and prayed for the success of the meeting and to God, above all.

—The Duncannon congregation

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WICHITA, KS MEETING REPORT

Our Wichita Fall Meeting proved to be a blessing to us. The Lord sent His Word with power and authority on needed lines and stirred us to move on up to higher ground. We were especially exhorted to go to battle to win and reminded very explicitly that our God is a mighty and great God and able to do all things and grant whatever we need. The magnificence and grandeur of God was brought out in different messages and truly we can see God's greatness clearer than ever. May we be encouraged to be stronger and deeper saints and strive to be dear children. We appreciate each minister that came and broke the bread of life to us. May the coming days find us all up and doing, busy for our Lord.

—Submitted by Shirley Knight

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GUTHRIE, OK REVIVAL REPORT

In I Thessalonians 5:18 it says, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

It is the will of God for the saints to be stirred and edified in the things of God through the preached Word. The saints here at Guthrie have much thanksgiving for the wonderful meeting the Lord gave us here in October. The meeting was exactly what we needed, with some altar work through the meeting. We sincerely appreciate all who came from near and far to attend the services. Your presence was an encouragement to us all.

—Bro. Carl Shaffer

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MISSOURI STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

We are happy to report that the Missouri State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God, held at Myrtle, MO, Sept. 27-Oct. 1, was richly blessed of the Lord again this year. The Lord was faithful to send in Holy Spirit filled mini-

sters, and the Word which was brought forth was a rich spiritual feast to all the saints who came. We were challenged and greatly encouraged to press the battle on in these last evil days, and to do more than ever before to win a few more souls to the Lord's side before mercy's door is forever closed to mankind. We thank the Lord for His blessings and favor extended to this meeting, and for each sacrifice made by the saints and ministering servants for the meeting's success. I'm sure the profit will be eternal.

—Bro. Harlan Sorrell

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ASSEMBLY MEETING, JEFFERSON, OR

The annual Assembly Meeting of the Church of God, Jefferson, OR will be held, Lord willing, Nov. 3-12. During the week, services will be at 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., with three services a day on the weekends. Anyone coming by public transportation please contact us and we will meet you at the proper terminal. R.V. and camper hookups are available on the grounds.

Please come praying for the meeting. Those needing further assistance may call Bro. Clifford Wilson, (503) 362-4384, or Bro. Clifford Smith, (503) 581-4575.

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LORANGER, LA ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Loranger, LA assembly meeting will be held, Lord willing, November 19-26. We are looking forward to these services for spiritual blessings from the Holy Spirit. This announcement is so you can come too!

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

For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about ten miles east of the Tickfaw exit (take Highway 442 east which runs into Highway 40). The chapel phone is (504) 878-2788. The phone number of Bro. Ed Wilson, the pastor, is (504) 878-4559.

Come with a burden for the meeting and praying for the benefit of souls.

—Nelson Doolittle

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MUSKOGEE, OK SERVICES

The small congregation here in Muskogee, OK is very thankful for the building that God blessed us to purchase one year ago in November. Lord willing, Sister Mary Lawson will be in services with us on Saturday night, November 25, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday morning at 11:00

a.m., and afternoon service at 2:30 p.m. We invite precious souls, both saved and unsaved to come and be with us. I'm sure you will receive a blessing.

We thank God for Sister Lawson. She has been faithful to bring forth some wonderful messages that have been a real blessing to our souls.

For further information, contact Bro. and Sis. Leo Johnson, phone (918) 687-4564.

The chapel is located at 301 North 15th St. It is on the corner of 15th and Court.

—The Muskogee congregation

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LOS ANGELES, CA FALL MEETING

Our annual fall meeting of the Los Angeles, CA congregation will convene on Sunday, Nov. 26 and continue nightly until Sunday, Dec. 3. Night services will begin at 7:30 p.m.

On both Sundays, Nov. 26 and Dec. 3, Sunday School will be at 9:30 a.m., morning service 10:30 a.m., lunch 1:00 p.m., afternoon service 2:30 p.m. and night service 7:00 p.m. In the evening service of the last Sunday the young people will be encouraged to lead it. On Saturday, Dec. 2, the 7:30 p.m. service will be a singspiration.

Everyone is welcome and invited to attend. Please come and pray for the services to edify all and that souls will be saved.

For further information contact: Bro. T. R. Summers (213) 752-1135, Bro. William Johnson (213) 325-8277, or Sis. Hazel Clark (213) 292-9658. The chapel phone is (213) 745-9474.

The chapel is located at 1381 Walnut Street, which is on the corner of Naomi and Walnut Streets.

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GOULDS, FL REVIVAL

Lord willing, the Church of God in Goulds, FL will be having a revival meeting December 20-24. Services will be 7:30 nightly. On Sunday the 24th there will be all day services. All are welcome. For more information contact the pastor, Bro. Herschel Hargrave at (305) 258-4102. The church phone is (305) 251-3873.

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CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting will convene, Lord willing, December 22-31. The campgrounds are located at 12312 Osborne, Place, Pacoima, CA 91331. Phone (818) 899-9021.

Accommodations will be provided for all who attend. The expenses of the meeting will be met by freewill offerings.

We are confident that all who come expect-

ing a blessing in humble readiness for it, will not be disappointed. We urge every saint of God to make a special effort to support the meeting in attendance and particularly in prayer.

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

—Bro. Jim Kutra

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GUTHRIE, OK ASSEMBLY MEETING

Lord willing, the Guthrie, OK Assembly Meeting will be Dec. 22-31. Please watch for a more complete announcement in the December issue.

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From the Mailbox . . .

CA—Dear. Sis. Maybelle and saints everywhere: We send our love in Jesus' name.

We are having lovely weather. Everything is so beautiful in fall colors. We have been busy canning some late relishes with our green tomatoes and peppers that were in the garden. I don't like to waste food as there are so many dear people that don't have good things to eat like some of us do. I give lots of things we can to others as we have plenty.

The world is so sad, I try not to think about it too much. Paul speaks of things so easily besetting us, but we are still encouraged to fight the battle on. I am sure heaven will be worth it all.

Our children are unsaved and I am holding on to faith and prayer. Jesus has answered some of my prayers about the children. Pray with us for our children and relatives. I am always grateful to have the dear saints to turn to in times of burdens and problems. It seems they come quite often in different situations.

I pray we could get a minister up here. I believe we need to gather together and have a lot of praying. That seems to be more important than anything else I can think of. The world is in such shape and a lot of us have children that are not saved. We are told to pray without ceasing.

Christian love,—Bro. and Sis. Underwood

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CA—Dear Brother Wayne: Greetings this morning in Jesus' dear name. I am glad to report that we are still saved and determined to make heaven our home. Through the grace of God we have victory in our life mid the trials and tests that come our way in this sinful and wicked world that we live in. Praise God for His abounding grace.

Trust the work of the Lord there at the Print Shop will prosper in the midst of these controversial times. Oh, that much prayer will be offered for the needs among God's people. Pray for me.

Christian love and prayers,

—Bro. Jim Kutra

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TN—Dear Bro. Wayne and saints at the Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' name. I am glad to report that I am saved and happy in the Lord. Pray for my family that they will be saved before it is too late.

I want the *Faith and Victory* paper to keep coming. It is food to my soul.

Your brother in Christ,—Willis McLemore

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MO—Dear Sister Maybelle Pruitt: Greetings of Christian love to you and each one of the workers in the Print Shop.

I am still rejoicing over the Lord sparing my foot and healing my ankle. I do thank and praise the Lord. He has been so good to me all through this affliction and the years I have had allergies.

I want the Lord to get all the glory, honor and praise for my life and for healing my body. In answer to our prayers, He always gives us what is best for us. Praise His precious, holy name.

Oh, what a blessing the September *Faith and Victory* paper was to me. I enjoyed every testimony and every word of it. I pray for you each one and also for those in the foreign lands. We all need to pray for each other. . . .

I am just a humble servant of the Lord and I am determined by God's help to please Him in all that I do and say. He is a wonderful Saviour to me. I can't thank Him enough.

Again, I want to thank each one of the saints for their prayers for me during my afflictions. I thank the Lord and I am praying for you each one.

Your sister in Christ, —Lena Bowman

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LA—Dear ones in Christ: We greet you in the precious name of Jesus, our Saviour, sanctifier, healer and all in all. We are so glad to be one of His children.

I want to thank all the saints that offered up prayers in behalf of my husband, Max, when he was in such a battle of suffering. He suffered terrible pain in his eye which brought on nausea. He had about three different attacks which was almost more than he could bear. He begged the Lord from time to time to take him, but the Lord saw differently and left him with us awhile

longer. We are so thankful. He is now doing very well. It is so good to be able to have the saints come in and help us carry our burdens. Those that weren't able to come lifted us up in prayer so many, many times. How we thank each one of you for your interest in us. Max received so many cards, letters and phone calls which meant so much to us both. We thank the Lord for the wonderful family of God as well as our dear children who stood by us.

May the Lord bless the work there and cause it to prosper for Him. We lift you up in our prayers from day to day.

God bless all,—Lula and Max Williamson

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MO—Dear saints at the Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' sweet name. I am so thankful for salvation. Our salvation is free. It has been paid in full by our dear Saviour who suffered and died on the cross for all the world. Won't it be wonderful when we see Jesus? I am still looking and waiting for Him to come. It may be very soon.

Please help me to pray for my loved ones to get ready to meet Him when He comes. I feel so burdened for the lost, that I pray day after day for them. I am trusting God to help them to wake up to the fact that they are lost without Christ.

May God bless each one at the Print Shop is my prayer.

With love from your friend and prayer partner.
—Sister Eathel Hill

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LA—Dear Bro. Wayne, Sis. Pruitt and all the workers at the Print Shop: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. We are thankful to be saved, sanctified and pressing the battle on. We are just coming out of a revival meeting which was held in Loranger, LA by Bro. Hargrave. The Lord really anointed His Word and our souls have been blessed. By the time this writing reaches your hands, the meeting will be history, but thanks be to God we can meditate and feast upon the spiritual meal that our Father has sent to us. Praise God.

We received a call from Sis. Liurie Sanders in Honduras, Central America desiring Bro. Hargrave and myself to come over for meetings in the middle to latter part of November of this year. We are praying that the Lord will work things out for us to go. If there is anyone desiring to contribute to this cause for the work of the Lord it will be much appreciated. These are some new areas that are desiring meetings. All contributions should be mailed to: Church of God Missionary, or Bro. Louis Kimble, P. O. Box 73835, Metairie, LA 70033. We covet your

prayers and support at this time. May God bless all of His people. Pray for us.

Yours for souls in Central America and abroad,
—Bro. L. Kimble, Bro. H. Hargrave
and company

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MD—Dear ones there: It has been a long time since I wrote to you. I am 67 years old now and still living for our blessed Saviour.

I have been writing to all who I know that know the worth of prayer to pray that a beer tavern next to our place would be closed down. Will you please ask everyone that you know to agree in prayer that God will work it out. He can do the impossible. He can move mountains; surely He can have a tavern closed for good. We live about 200 feet from it and the people and owners have caused much trouble. God is not too busy to hear our cries against this evil that is destroying women, men and children. . . .

The bar is by the road and our right of way is where the parking lot is. Right by our fence, about 25 feet or so from our house, a family of three, as well as two others were all killed. The drunk driver also died, which made six in one accident. This happened October 1. God help us we plead. I know you understand how alcohol and drugs are destroying our loved ones. . . .

God bless you all there and I am praying God will keep His work going and souls saved.
Love to all,
—Sis. Clements

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Testimonies And Answers To Prayer

CA—Dear Sister Maybelle and saints: Greetings in Jesus' name. I am so thankful I can write this letter. I told the Lord when He heals me I would write my testimony to the *Faith and Victory*, and tell of the Lord's goodness unto me. For about a month before I got sick I would open my Bible to Job 2:3-6, and a deep burden would fall upon my heart. About a month later, it became painful to walk and use my arms. I grew worse by the passing days. Then I became very sick. The bones in my body hurt me so bad I don't know how I bore it, but I felt the nearness of the Lord. . . .

I was so sick that if I was laying down, someone would have to pull me up, or if sitting down, someone would have to lift me up. I could not write, dress myself, or drive a car.

I want to thank the Lord for giving me such encouraging Scriptures and songs, and most of all for healing me.

I would like to thank the Lord for my husband and children who cared for me, also for the ministers that came to anoint and pray for me, and the saints who came to sing to me. It

was a very dark time in my life, but the Lord stood by me and healed me.

I am a thankful saint,

—Sister Mary Ann Johnson

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OK—To the precious saints of God: We want to let you all know how much we appreciate your prayers for us concerning the birth of our son, Benjamin, on April 7. We are so grateful for the bond of love and the unity we felt manifested. So many of you have called or written to let us know of your support and prayers and we deeply appreciate all your concern. We were surely depending on the Lord's help and are so glad for His mercy and His blessings. Saints all around the country were in earnest prayer for us and we know the Lord never left us alone. He has given us encouragement through His Word and through songs, and we praise Him for all the good He allowed to come to us even though our situation was so bad. One Scripture we have repeatedly thought on since Benjamin's birth is Isaiah 48:17, "Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go."

We are settled and determined to raise our son in the fear and admonition of the Lord. We love all of you dear people and desire the Lord to bless each one that prayed for us. We have many things to be thankful for and we do praise the Lord for how He carried us through. We pray He will bless you all and keep us all together in the love of God.

Sincerely with much love,

—Galen and Lisa Kelly

[Editor's note: This testimony was received on April 18, but due to our oversight it has not been printed until now. We regret the delay.]

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OH—Dear saints at the Print Shop and abroad: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus. We write these few lines with much thanksgiving and praise to the Lord. In April we had a special prayer request for our son, Jeff, put in the *Faith and Victory* paper. He had been having several bad seizures each month since Thanksgiving of last year. We want to thank the saints for their importuning in his behalf. He is only having about one bad one a month and the light ones are fewer too. It is wonderful how the Lord is blessing him! We know it is in answer to prayer.

We appreciate your prayers and desire continued prayer for him. We know God can heal him. He is still living for the Lord and is still able to work.

We just felt we should tell what the Lord has done for him. Thank you for every prayer in his behalf. Some sent him cards of encouragement, and that has been a real blessing to him too. We thank you.

Christian love and prayers,

—Della Gutwein

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From the Philippines . . .

Sept. 27—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and Sister Maybelle Pruitt: Greetings in the wonderful gospel of Christ, to saints and servants of God. We always hope in the faith of the "Word and Spirit" of our heavenly Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, of your undying and diligent effort in serving Him.

We are grateful and thankful for the Lord's mercy that He allows us to serve Him as we move along the journey in this world and to spread His gospel in the remote barrios of Baraugs of Misamis Oriental.

Last September 7, in Talisayan proper, there was a Baraugs seminar of all Baraugs officials. While they were in a recess, a group of Baraugs captains, together with some councilmen of their barrio, gathered in a plaza talking about the gospel which was a part of their seminar. I happened to pass by and heard what was being said. I was only listening to their ideas and opinions, but one happened to apprehend me and told his fellow councilmen that I belonged to the Church of God, so they asked me to tell some about my faith.

Many in the group believed what I said, but one who was influenced by a little liquor argued. He was without sufficient basis and was not accepted by the majority.

I have faith that those who agreed were open to the truth. I know that God has many ways that His Word and Spirit ministers to the hearts and minds of people in the last days.

Please pray for us in far places. Give us more strength and courage in the Lord with your love, faith, and wisdom that we may overcome the spirit of evil in this world.

Your spiritual brother in Christ,

—Bro. Leonardo Salvana and family

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Oct. 3—Dear Sister Pruitt and Brother Murphey: Greetings to you all in Jesus' name. May this letter reach you in good health, happy, full of grace and hope while you are all busy for the Lord's work. Thank you for the *Faith and Victory*, your prayers and your words of encouragement. How sweet it is to be together in the holy family of God, where we can find love,

care, and understanding to each other.

I want to give you a short report about the gospel work we are doing at present. We are now busy working in San Jose and Cabanatuan. Sometimes I go to Cabanatuan to help my daughter, Ruth, who is now giving full time work there. However, I cannot neglect the Church work in San Jose because the people are becoming more interested about the Church of God. There are many requests for Bible studies which makes us busy every day.

Some of our brothers and sisters are very much encouraged for the Macedonian call. Some brothers from Caridad and from the city went to the town of Talavera because of an invitation for Bible studies. They said they will be the ones to go, and when it is needed they will ask me to go later.

I am happy for a brother who is newly saved. He is an ex-government official. He is now busy studying the Bible and teaching it to his relatives and friends. He is an influential man in the community which gives him the opportunity to teach the Bible to the people.

My daughter, Ruth, has many schedules now for Bible studies in Cabanatuan. There are signs of a plenteous harvest of souls in that city. It was hard to find a place for her to stay, but at last the Lord gave her a very nice place. It is at the center of the city, where she can live and gather for worship. The rent is \$65.00 a month. We are praying fervently for the Lord to help the gospel work in Cabanatuan. We are doing our best to establish self-supporting congregations. That is our goal so that we shall not always be a burden to you dear saints in the U.S.A.

Servant of Christ, —M. S. Tangunan

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From India . . .

Sept. 29—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt, Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear brothers and sisters everywhere in America: Greetings to you all dear ones again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ. I was glad to note that the camp meetings of this summer were over with many blessings and victories in the Church in America.

The 2nd week of September was the national festival week in our state and we conducted several meetings including youth camps, women's meetings, street meetings, house visitings and night meetings in different parts of Kerala State during this week. Many got the chance to hear the Word of salvation and several got saved. "Soul winning" was the theme of discussion in the youth camp.

During the 2nd week of October we will have a revival meeting at Karikkom Bethel Chapel. We plan to arrange a minister's con-

ference also on October 14. Our General Convention in January of 1990 will be the Silver Jubilee Convention. We desire to publish a souvenir in connection with our silver jubilee. Please pray for the blessings of these programs and projects. . . .

Yours in Him,

—John Varghese

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From Mexico . . .

Oct. 6—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and Sis. Maybelle Pruitt: We greet you in the glorious name of Jesus Christ, hoping that this finds you with good health and very encouraged in the service of the Lord.

We write these words with love and send blessings for everyone of you and to all the saints which love and serve God with all their hearts. Well, God is so very great and real that even the smallest matters He takes care of for His people. We know, because He has been very precious to us and the work here in giving us a small congregation that is very encouraged, dedicated and consecrated to the Lord. We also have a very good group of young people which are very active for the Lord.

Last Saturday, September 30, we went to the mountains for a spiritual retreat. Every young person testified and prayed with tears, and two came forward to consecrate their lives. It was a beautiful time for me, and an experience in which the young people rekindled their attentions and motives. Blessed be the Lord forever! (Phil 2:18).

Likewise, the adult brethren are praying that each one will complete the ministry which God has given them. This is one good disposition of the Church, each one wanting to work for the Lord: "Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth." I Cor. 10:24. "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." Phil. 2:4.

We had a beautiful camp meeting in which souls came to the altar for salvation and others for sanctification. We also wish to manifest our deep gratitude for those brethren which visited from the different places. It was a great blessing and we are very content for having had them here. We remember each one with much love.

We are working for the Lord and ask your prayers for some brethren which are considering the Church of God. One is the director of a Bible institute, and I believe he is wishing to leave all this with men and be led by the Holy Spirit.

Greet all the saints, for always I remember them very, very much.

Yours in Christ,

—Mayarino Escobar and family

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Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Among the many doctrines in the Bible are the two dealing with salvation—the doctrine of election and the doctrine of free-will. There are many passages in the Bible on both of these doctrines and many books written, etc. Now my question is simply this—How can we fit these two opposing doctrines together so as to form a reasonable part of the whole? The entire Bible must somehow fit together as God's whole Word, so there should be some logical answer to this confusing matter. Frankly, I don't see how both of these doctrines can be in the Bible, but they are, and how do we explain them?

Answer: In the first place, let us recognize and be persuaded that there cannot possibly be two mutually contradictory doctrines in the Bible. For such a case to exist would certainly raise questions in our minds about God Himself and doubts as to the credibility of the Bible as God's Word. Mutually contradictory doctrines may arise, and often do, out of men's interpretations of the Bible, but they never exist in the Bible itself when properly interpreted and understood.

I see the two doctrines as being mutually compatible, blending into each other and each incorporating the other and the doctrine of *free-will* enveloping the doctrine of *election*. The doctrine of free-will is so definitely and so broadly established in the New Testament that it could not possibly be questioned as pertaining to the plan of salvation and the economy of God's grace. We are told in John 3:16 that "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son; that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:14-15 says, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." Revelation 22:17 says, "And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." II Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord . . . is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." This would certainly destroy the idea of God's electing (choosing) certain ones to be saved and excluding others from being saved by an act of His own will and sovereignty. This thought is further emphasized in I Timothy 2:1 where we are exhorted to pray for all men, and verse 4 says that God would have all men to be saved. I Timothy 2:6 says that Christ gave Himself a ransom for all. I Timothy 4:10 says

that God is the Saviour of all men. Hebrews 2:9 says that Jesus by the grace of God tasted death for every man.

I have referred to several Scriptures and could go on and on with many more to show that salvation in its provisions is universal and available to all men, but in its application it is individual and on a *whosoever* will basis. Anyone who is saved must be willing to be saved within the scope of the economy of God's grace, to come under the covenant provisions in the terms of the gospel and meet the demands of God's Word. Anyone who will do this will be saved.

Now I have stated that the doctrine of *free-will* envelops the doctrine of *election*. But how? The term *Elect* is used a number of times in the Old Testament in reference to ancient Israel, who in that time were the chosen people of God. God had elected (chosen) them as a peculiar people, separated unto Himself from all the other peoples upon the earth that in them He might reveal His glory, power and holiness; to whom He could deliver the oracles of God (the law), extend and perpetuate the covenant and promises made to Abraham, the originator of their race, and through them bring Jesus Christ into the world.

Therefore they are referred to as the *Elect* in different places throughout the Old Testament. But in the New Testament the term *Elect* or *Election* is extended beyond the limits of the Jewish nation to include all, both Jews and Gentiles, who are redeemed from sin through faith in the merits of the all-atoning blood of Jesus Christ.

In the first four verses of the 11th chapter of Romans, the Apostle Paul argues that God has not cast off His people, Israel, and confirms it with the fact that he himself was an Israelite and had obtained mercy and been saved by faith in Christ. Also, he refers to the time of Elijah when a remnant was reserved unto God in a time of Israel's deep apostasy and idolatry. Then in verse 5 he says, "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace." Note on what grounds the election of this remnant was reckoned. It was not by virtue of being the children of Abraham according to the flesh, nor by the keeping of the law, neither by circumcision, nor by any of the conditions on which the election of ancient Israel was predicated. It is on an entirely different ground—"According to the election of grace." But there are only eleven references to "grace" in the Old Testament. Two of them are prophetic—Zechariah 4:7 and 12:10: one referring to God's mercy in a time of deep trouble (Ezra 9:8); and the Psalmist spoke of grace being given to his lips in prayer. (Ps. 45:2).

All the others refer to the grace of one person to another, or of the king to individuals, etc. The Old Testament was not an age of grace, but it is said in John 1:17 that "Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

Therefore the election spoken of in Romans 11:5 was not an Old Testament kind of election, but it was the "election of grace" through Christ which only a remnant of the Israelites obtained. John 1:11-13 says, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born . . . of God." Those among the Jews who received Jesus Christ when He came and believed on His name constitute this "remnant according to the election of grace." Adam Clarke in his comments on Romans 11:5 says, "The election of grace simply signifies God's gracious design in sending the Christian system into the world, saving under it all those who believe in Christ Jesus, and none else. Thus the believers in Christ are chosen to inherit the blessings of the gospel, while those who seek justification through the works of the law are rejected." Again he says in his comments on verse 6, "and this is done according to

This group of Israelites, who were elect according to grace received Christ and believed in Him, were born of God, and became children of God in reality. This great majestic company of faith champions survived the complete spiritual collapse and downfall of the Jewish people and came through with faith and belief in the promises, looking for the Consolation of Israel. This group came through, merged into, and blended with the spiritual body of Christ and entered the spiritual Kingdom of God. It was absorbed into a much greater and broader "Election" which included all of those from every nation under heaven (both Jews and Gentiles) who believed in Christ and received redemption by faith in His blood.

The term "Elect" means *chosen, selected*. Several translations drop the term *elect* and insert the term *chosen* in its stead in all texts where "Elect" is mentioned. *The Amplified Bible* retains the term *elect* but in each case inserts in parenthesis the terms *chosen, select*. Then we read in Ephesians 1:4, "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." The choosing or electing here does not refer to particular individ-

***"God has a vote, the Devil has a vote,
and I have a vote, and whichever way
I vote is the way the election is going."***

the election of grace, or the rule of choosing any persons to be the people of God upon the footing of grace, which takes in all that believe in His Son, Jesus Christ."

To this the Scriptures bear conclusive evidence, for it is written "whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely," (Rev. 22:17); and "whosoever believeth in Him should . . . have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

Romans 11:7 says, "Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for." They desired to continue as the chosen people of God with all the power and glory of their kingdom which had been in time past. But they did not recognize the Author of eternal salvation when He came, so did not accept Him, but rejected Him, therefore failing to obtain what they desired. This verse says further, "But the election hath obtained it." We have seen that the election were those who believed in Jesus Christ and received Him, thus were born of God, became His children in reality. Therefore they inherited all the blessings of the gospel, entered into the spiritual kingdom of God (righteousness, joy and peace in the Holy Ghost—Romans 14:17), and obtained the fulness of what they sought after.

uals, but that God had chosen or selected a plan for people (all people) to be saved, and this was through Jesus Christ and Him only, by believing in Him and yielding themselves to Him for salvation. Thus it is said that we (all the people of whatever nation, kindred, tongue or people) are chosen (elected) in Him, for there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. (Acts 4:12).

Now let us look at a very important text regarding "election." In II Peter 1:10 we read, "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:" This Scripture teaches us that we have a part in our election. Someone said a long time ago in regard to the "election," that "God has a vote, the Devil has a vote, and I have a vote, and whichever way I vote is the way the election is going." In Romans 6:16 we are told, "to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness." Again Romans 6:13 says, "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, . . . and your mem-

bers as instruments of righteousness unto God." Thus we can see that the yielding of ourselves to one master or the other is in our own hands, subject to our own will and our yielding determines our election one way or another.

II Peter also teaches us that our election can be lost after it has been gained. "If ye do these things, ye shall never fall." The inference here is that if we fail to do these things and give diligence to this, we will fail.

This is exactly what happened to Israel. They were the elect of God, but they lost their election status and were cut off because of unbelief (Romans 11:20). Verse 17 speaks of the Gentiles being grafted in and verse 20 says they stand by faith. Then verse 22 says, "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity, but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off." This all makes it very clear that our election is determined by us and how we yield ourselves, that our election can be lost after we have obtained it if we do not diligently work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

HOME LIFE



That Trying Child

"Corrine is such a trying child," the tired mother was saying. "Her disposition is so unlike my own that often I am at a loss to understand how to deal with her. I am only now beginning to see encouraging results from my long, continued efforts to train her rightly."

As I listened to these comments from the mother of one of our Sunday school pupils, I could not help recalling an incident so strikingly similar which occurred a number of years ago.

Another tired mother whose time was crowded full of household duties and parental responsibility had among her flock an unusually trying child. Restless, high-tempered, seemingly "inclined to do evil as the sparks are to fly

upward," was the reputation of this little "black sheep." How often that mother sighed as she tucked her darlings in their beds, and wondered fearfully what the end would be of her mischievous little one! How often she poured out her heart in earnest prayer and tears to God, asking for wisdom to guide that child aright! And were those prayers and tears and daily efforts in vain? Ah, no. Today that child's life is a constant demonstration of the transforming power of the Holy Spirit; those pent-up energies are now finding an outlet in Christian activities.

Mothers, yours is a noble calling; God has entrusted you with the sacred responsibility of molding character for eternity. None other can accomplish this task as effectually as you can. You may not realize now what a bearing your influence has upon the lives of your little ones, but only a few more years will tell. And that trying child—perhaps you have seen such a one, not only in the Sunday school, but around the fireside of your own home—that child needs, along with your faithful and timely corrections, your earnest and constant prayers. Those very dispositions which now annoy you may, by your proper efforts and influence, be directed into channels of usefulness, and that child which causes you the most anxiety now may, if you faithfully do your part, in later years recompense you with the richest blessings.

—Elsie E. Egermeier

Humility In Prayer

(continued from page 3)

and blood were our sins removed "as far as the east is from the west," (Ps. 103:12), and cast into the sea of forgetfulness forever.

6. Because of our absolute dependence. "We brought nothing into the world and shall take nothing out." (I Tim. 6:7). "Every good and perfect gift cometh down from the Father." (James 1:17). For our food, our raiment, the air we breathe, the water we drink, the ground on which we walk, the granite and the stone and the wood with which we build that which we call home, together with thousands of other necessities, we are dependent on Him.

7. Because God blesses the humble and makes them soul winners.

8. Because pride is to God one of the most offensive sins. "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." (James 4:6).

9. Because the humblest is the greatest. He who would be great, let him be your servant. "He that humbleth himself shall be exalted." (Matt. 23:12).

What attitude do the humble take toward others? "In lowliness of mind let each esteem

other better than themselves." (Phil. 2:3).
 "In honor preferring one another." (Rom. 12:10).
 "Subject one to another." (I Pet. 5:5).

Humility is the very perfume of heaven.
 Christ "made himself of no reputation." (Phil. 2:7).

If we could only all pray earnestly to see ourselves as God sees us!

The proud depends on and covers his sins: the humble deplores and confesses his. The proud treats his big sins as little sins: the humble his little sins as big ones.

Faith increases as humility increases. Answered prayers pile up as humility grows. Poor lost souls will reap the benefit of our faith through our answered prayer if we but humble ourselves more, and more, and more.

—Taken from *Availing Prayer* by Fay Martin

Preparing For Harvest

Jesus came to seek and save the lost, and that should be the most important and primary purpose of every child of God. To be used by the Lord to help another person find salvation, we must be saved, or "born again," as Jesus tells us in the third chapter of John. Our life has to be "an epistle," showing God's love and mercy in our lives, and this will be apparent to others because, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (II Cor. 5:17). Only as we are experiencing the peace that Jesus promised can we reveal it to others. Only as we find rest from our burdens of sin will we be able to convince others of the truth of Jesus' statement: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. All we are or have, we have received freely, as it is written, "...Freely ye have received, freely give." Matt. 10:8. It is also true, that we can not give something we do not have, therefore we must "hide His Word in our hearts," pray fervently, and be completely surrendered to God's will in every area of our lives. Each of us must go to the Lord in prayer with a complete submission of our will to His, to learn how we may do what He would have us to do.

Jesus said, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7. May this promise permeate every part of our being so we can ask for and receive the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives, then we will be shining lights to all we come in contact with, and Jesus, the Light within us, will draw others to Himself. The love that Jesus has for all men must show in our lives if we are to be effective laborers in His harvest.

—Bro. Bill Busch



Excerpts Taken From

November, 1964 *Faith and Victory*

"It is with sad hearts for our loss that we acknowledge the departure from this world of our dear Sister Opal Wilson from the mission field in Nigeria, Africa. On Sept. 19 a telegram was received from Bro. Ostis B. Wilson that his wife was very sick. This urgent request for prayer for her healing was phoned to several congregations across the country. About three days later another telegram came to this office from Bro. Wilson that Sis. Opal was critically ill. The Church here and abroad went into fasting and prayer for her recovery. The Lord heard those petitions and saw those tears. Yet God in His infinite wisdom declined to answer in the way that we desired, and called her to eternal rest from her earthly labors at 10 p.m., Sept. 24, after a number of days with pneumonia fever. She and Bro. Wilson had gotten wet in a heavy rain, from which she took pneumonia.

This is the second missionary to Nigeria to depart this life this year. Bro. David Madden passed on April 28, just a few days after returning to the States. Such occurrences we do not fully understand and we may be inclined to question why, but we must ever remember that God is still God and that we are His children."

—L. D. Pruitt

"Threatening breakers of destruction,
 Doubt's insidious undertow,
 Shall not sink us, shall not drag us
 Out to ocean depths of woe.

For His promise shall sustain us,
 Praise the Lord, whose Word is true;
 We shall not go down or under,
 For He saith, 'Thou passest through.' "

—Annie Johnson Flint