

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

USPS184-660

## Church of God Servant

At evening time  
it shall be light.  
—ZECHARIAH 14:7

GOD IS  
LOVE

YE SHINE AS LIGHTS  
IN THE WORLD.  
—PHILIPPIANS 2:15

JESUS  
SAVES

Unto Him shall  
the gathering of  
the people be.  
—GENESIS 99:10

Volume 70, No. 11

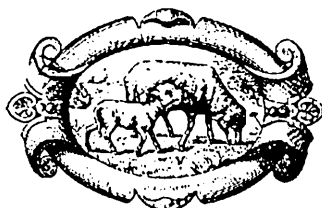
70th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

\$1.00 Per Year

Feb., 1993

### Twenty-Third Psalm



O Lord, my Shepherd, since 'tis thou who leads  
I'm led in love, and love meets all my needs.

Let me not wander to the barren hills,  
Nor long to drink from far-off, bitter rills,  
With vision blinded to green pastures near,  
Ears deaf to murmur of still waters clear;  
But let my faint soul, by these restored,  
Walk in right paths with thee, my loving Lord.

No evil can befall me as I tread  
Down the dark path to join the silent dead;  
For He who trod that shadowy way before,  
To comfort me will tread the way once more.  
The feast which thou so freely dost provide,  
My enemy shall taste it by my side.

In overflowing cup we'll pledge new love;  
Our hearts will be anointed from above.

O Shepherd kind! if I but follow thee,  
Goodness and mercy e'er shall follow me,  
Until, with gathered flock, I lie at rest  
Within the fold by thy sweet presence blessed.

—Selected



## Perfect Submission

By Carol Cole

We are living in such a fast-paced age, and feel so many pressures in life. Situations arise and decisions have to be made. We may not realize how desperately we need God, but our decisions can affect us, and also our loved ones, for a lifetime.

The tempter is always present when it is time to make a choice. He is so beguiling. How can we really know the Lord's voice? Jesus said He was our Shepherd and we are His sheep. "...he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice." John 10:4.

In our busy world, it is very easy to get ahead of our Shepherd instead of following, but Jesus has a very important lesson for us to learn—follow Him. When we are following our Shepherd, we know His voice, as it is so calm and soothing to our soul, and we feel so at rest and submissive to Him. One song writer so beautifully expressed it:

"Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love."

If we get ahead of our Shepherd, our mind will be filled with doubts and fears, confusion and unrest. However, the Great Shepherd of our souls is always faithful to deal with us. Here are His loving words to the care-laden heart. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:28-29.

The lesson Christ wants us to learn is "perfect submission." When we have learned that God's ways are so much higher and better than our ways, and then we willingly yield to God, we experience a deep quietness, sweet peacefulness, and fullness of joy that will flood our innermost being.

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27.

So our peace doesn't depend on how well things are going for us; it depends upon our submission to God. Some of the verses of this familiar song say so well the way to follow our Shepherd.

"He leadeth true; I will not question,  
Tho' thro' the valley I shall go,  
Tho' I should pass thro' clouds of trial,  
And drink the cup of human woe.

"God's way is best; heart, cease thy struggling  
To see and know and understand;  
Forsake thy fears and doubts, but trusting,  
Submit thyself into his hand.

"Thy way is best, so lead me on-ward,  
My all I give to thy control;  
Thy loving hand will truly guide me,  
And safe to glory bring my soul."

How can we sing a song like that from the depths of our being? We can if we obey the words of our Shepherd. "...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Matt. 22:37.

What do you think about? This will be the determining factor of whether you are choosing your own way or God's way. When we can get to the place where we cease our own struggling "to see and know and understand," and it doesn't matter how God chooses to work something out for us, we have begun to learn about "perfect submission." When you have totally submitted, you don't feel the hurt or burden nearly as much, for Jesus is leading the way.

Instead of focusing on our own sufferings, focus in on the sufferings of Christ. It will most certainly make your own sufferings look small in comparison, and help you learn "perfect submission."

When Jesus willingly came to the earth in the most humble manner possible, He came with the purpose of healing the brokenhearted and setting the captives free. He comprehended the depths of His sufferings before He even came. In Psalms 22:1-19 we can read one of the prophecies made about Christ. "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me?... But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head... They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint... My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death... They pierced my hands and my feet... They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture."

Surely we can trust and be in perfect submission to the one who died for us. "...It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for 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." Romans 8:34, 38-39.



## Scripture—Prayer—Song

By Connie Sorrell

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." I Timothy 2:1-6.



Our Father which art in Heaven, in humble gratitude I kneel before thy throne of glory, thanking thee for the quiet and peaceful joy thy spirit has put within my heart. I greet this new day of my life in praise to thy Son, Jesus Christ, who gave His life as a ransom for the redemption of my soul.

I thank thee for the freedom to fellowship with thy saints in spirit and in truth. Please continue to lead us in all godliness and honesty, for we know that this is good and acceptable in thy sight. Our desire is that thy will be fulfilled—that all men and women be saved and come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Give me this day my daily bread, as my trust is in thee alone to supply my every need. Thy past showers of blessings have been sweet to my soul. Because of them, I have gleaned strength in faith to trust thee more for grace and wisdom, food, raiment, shelter, and for the welfare of my family and friends. Indeed, thy horn of plenty satisfies each need my hopeful heart brings unto thee.

Now, I ask that thou keep me as the apple of thine eye, ever seeing myself as thou seest me: a small, insufficient child always needy of thy

love and wisdom. In due time, when thy Son shall appear in the clouds, I must be ready to meet Him. Therefore, keep me, O Lord, I pray.

Bind me closer to thy family of saints. Draw each one of us closer together by the cross of grace, and forgiveness, that we may draw closer unto thee, our Heavenly Father, and unto thy Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.



I'm satisfied with Jesus, he's everything to me;  
He saved my soul from torment, and awful misery;  
He gave me peace and gladness, yea, more than I deserve,  
And since my Savior found me, him I have gladly served.

I'm satisfied with Jesus, and I will tell you why,  
He sanctified my nature and fitted me to die;  
He filled me with his glory and leads me ev'ry day,  
And keeps me now from falling, and in the holy way.

I'm satisfied with Jesus, I find he's all I need,  
He healed me soul and body, and makes me whole indeed;  
He gives me food and raiment, yes, all I eat and wear  
He beareth all my burdens, my sorrows and my care.

I'm satisfied with Jesus, whatever he may do,  
And this same satisfaction is waiting now for you;

I'm satisfied with Jesus, wherever I may be,  
And while I now obey him he's satisfied with me.



## Teaching



Teaching is leaving a vestige of one's self in the development of another. If you have ever seen the light of understanding shine in another's eyes, where no light shone before; if you have ever guided the unsteady and unpracticed hand and watched it suddenly grow firm and purposeful; if you have ever watched a young mind begin to soar to new heights and have sensed that you are participating in this unfolding of the intellect, then you have felt within you the sense of being a humble instrument in the furtherance of mankind.

—Pat McGuffin

## 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 Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, OK 73044 (USPS184-660).

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, OK)

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 35¢ 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 Ex. 25:2; I Chron. 29:9; II 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. All donations are tax deductible.

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, OK 73044  
Office phone: 405-282-1479; home: 405-282-6170.

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

## Editorials

"And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself." Mark 3:20, 21. The previous verses to this text tell about how Christ chose out twelve apostles from the ones who had answered the call to follow Him. This was the ministry being put into action, and immediately gaining momentum. The scene described would be an inspiring sight to behold. The people were so enthusiastic about hearing the words of life that they gave Christ and His apostles no time to take refreshment. This enthusiasm was not generated by the crowd alone, but it was undoubtedly a reflection of Christ and the apostles. They were convicted by, and convinced of this gospel, and it was presented in such a way that it caught fire. When Christ's friends heard about what was going on they judged that Jesus was simply carried away with Himself, and they went out to restore calm. If Christ and the disciples had been carried away with themselves, which it is even possible for religious people today to do, the course of history would have been drastically altered. The truth of the matter is, they were carried away with the power of the gospel.

Enthusiasm is, and always has been, an integral means of sharing the gospel, and it goes farther than just a salesmanship job. This enthusiasm is a heart-felt joy. It has been related that one Chinese convert of many years ago said, "We want red-hot hearts to tell us of the love of Christ." In reading biographies of successful Christians, such as Luther, Wesley, Finney, Moody, and many others, it is noted that enthusiasm was a powerfully motivating force. Therefore, it is important for us to know the source of this enthusiasm; how to keep it, and what its effects are.

True religious enthusiasm has its foundation in faith. Have you ever seen a salesman who didn't have total faith in his product? The Christian who finds he can't wholeheartedly recommend his salvation needs to either get a new and deeper experience, or at least take a refresher course at the feet of Jesus. An inventor's persistence in creating is his faith in the workability and usefulness of the product. It was Columbus' faith in discovering his goal that maintained his passion. So it is in Christianity; enthusiasm is founded on faith.

Enthusiasm must be fed or it dries up. In simple terms, a car that doesn't continually have gas put into it, is of no better purpose than a storage container. It is impossible for us to keep up enthusiasm unless enthusiasm has something to feed on. A showy, emotional enthusiasm won't last long. This is the rock that whole movements can make shipwreck on. But there is such a thing as a sustained, rational, responsible enthusiasm. The thing which sound enthusiasm feeds on is lucid truth. It is when the mind feeds upon such things as God's grace and mercy, God's omnipotence, the kingdom of God, the resurrection and heaven, that enthusiasm is spawned and fed.

Anything with power, must of its own destructibility be watched. We have alluded to the revival that enthusiasm genders, but if unwatched, it makes fanatical, out of balance people. It can create prejudices, hatred and gross injustice. History shows us the inequities in religious and racial realms warped enthusiasm has wrought. There are safeguards for this. One is to have contact and fellowship with healthy, stable Christians. Be wary of anyone who has a hobby horse to ride. This particular kind of enthusiasm can very possibly be created by personal ambition, and/or grievances. Interrelate to those who have a balanced, complete diet; who aren't mesmerized with any one particular doctrine so much that they can speak of nothing else. Be careful of the attitude that forges ahead at the total abandonment of those with age and experience. We recognize that all of us must work out our own salvation, but an absolute and irresponsible disregard to how God has worked through others is not a healthy enthusiasm.

Enthusiasm is a very contagious attitude. If the Church is to operate at its optimum, it needs to be filled and overflowing with the enthusiasm of salvation. Let us each one strive to be a properly governed power plant of this most desirable quality.

— — — — —

We still have a stock of 1993 wall calendars. The calendars measure 7 1/4 X 13 1/2, and have a colorful nature scene with a Bible verse for each month. We will be glad to send you as many as you can use for the price of \$3.00 each. This includes the postage and handling.

— — — — —

The article, *Teasing*, by Bro. Ed Wilson, which was printed in the December, 1992 *Faith*

and *Victory*, is now available in tract form. If you request this tract, and send along a self-addressed, stamped envelope, we will mail you several free of charge. Otherwise the price of the eight-page tract is 15 for 75¢, or 100 for \$3.00.

— — — — —

Many of our readers desire to know the dates of the Church of God camp meetings scheduled for 1993. In the past we have printed as complete a list as possible in the March issue. To make that issue this year, we kindly request that your information be in this office by February 20.

—Wayne Murphey

## Prayer Requests

NC—"Remember Sis. Angela Taylor in prayer. She may be suffering from pneumonia."

—Sis. Bunice Hope

IN—"Please remember me in your prayers that God will touch my body, and pray for my unsaved loved ones."

—Sis. Dessie Wilson

CA—"Sis. Verlone Williams has requested prayer for her cousin, Shirley Wilkes, who has a serious ailment."

MO—"I am asking that the saints pray for my wife, Grace Bernett. She has arthritis...."

—Wiley Bernett

AR—"Please remember me in prayer; and my daughter."

—Mrs. J. C. Morris

OK—"I have some heavy burdens."

—Sis. Opal Bradley

SC—"Pray for me. I am sick in my body."

—Jurine McElhaney

MO—"I am not well. Please have prayer for me."

—Grace R. Smith

CA—"Please pray for me. I am having trouble with my eyes."

—H. Francisco

## Bible Questions for Juniors Gospel of Matthew

For sometime I have been impressed to compile a series of booklets on the gospels and the book of Acts, geared especially for our youth. The objective is to encourage them to read the Bible. We are presently compiling five separate booklets, done in workbook style, which contain fill-in-the-blanks, puzzles, illustrations, maps and quizzes.

We have completed booklet I, The Gospel of Matthew, which contains 41 8 1/2 x 11 inch, single-sided pages, bound in a heavy paper

cover. The selling price is \$2.50 per book. **Send your orders to:** Olive A. Davenport, 1406 W. Trenton St., San Bernardino, CA 92411. Booklets II through IV will be available later.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

### Writings Needed

I am still piecing together a daily devotional of the ministers and leaders of the Church of God. I want to thank each one of you who have already contributed to our inspiring book but we still need more to complete a year of daily thoughts. The devotional does not need to be long, just 100 words or so, after stating a scripture that has meant so much to you. A brief insight into your spiritual establishment, a childhood stepping stone, a short testimony of healing, overcoming sorrow, help in time of need, etc., is acceptable. Please send your contribution as soon as possible because some are already requesting a book, and we want it ready as soon as possible. Thank you. **Send them to:** Sis. Connie Sorrell, 320 N. 2nd, Guthrie, OK 73044.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■



## MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

### BAKERSFIELD, CA REVIVAL

Lord willing, the annual Bakersfield, CA revival will be held February 12-21. We are fasting and praying for a greater outpouring of God's spirit among the saints, so that enslaved souls can be set free, and those who are saved will consecrate themselves for that indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We want everyone to be revived, inspired and edified into a richer, more abundant life through Christ. We are asking and expecting God to heavily anoint Holy Spirit-filled ministers, and other gospel workers, to join with us in this special battle against sin.

There will be nightly services Monday through Friday, and 3 services on both Saturdays and Sundays. For more information contact Bro. Archie Sherman, (805) 871-1636.

—Sis. Janice Herring

### SPECIAL SINGING

The Church of God congregation near Warrior, AL invites you to a special singing on March 6, at 7:00 p.m. On Sunday, March 7, there will be regular Sunday services.

The chapel is located two miles west of exit 289 off I-65, approximately 25 miles north of Birmingham, AL.

For further information, call Bro. Marshall Whitson, (205) 647-6325, or Bro. Roy Herron, (205) 647-7869.

— — — — —

### Midway Church of God Young People's Gathering Jena, LA.

Activities have been planned for young people by the Midway Church of God for the first weekend in March. Lord willing, this time of fellowship will begin Saturday morning, March 6, consisting of various activities. There will be a singing at 7:00 that evening. On Sunday there will be morning services and dinner on the ground.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Sleeping accommodations will be provided. For more information, call one of these: Gerald and Marcia Mitchell, (318) 992-5225, Ben and Linda Rabel, (318) 992-5155, or Manuel and Marie Mitchell, (318) 992-5872.

— — — — —

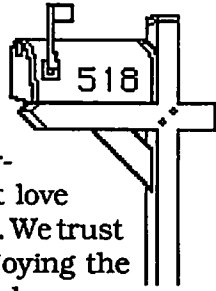
### WICHITA, KS SPRING MEETING

Lord willing, we plan to have our Wichita Spring Meeting April 16-25. We desire God's power to come down and bless us in every way that is needed. He knows what everyone who will be attending needs, and He knows how best to supply. Therefore, we are trusting Him in every way to lead, guide and work. If God impresses you to come, please do. If you can't come, please pray.

If you need to contact anyone, you may call Bro. Raymond Johnson at (316) 264-5803, or Bro. Emanuel Gracey at (316) 778-1848. The chapel is located at 1701 N. Ash, Wichita, KS 67214; phone (316) 267-9582.

—Sis. Shirley Knight

## FROM THE READERS. . .



CA—Dear Saints: Greetings in the name of Jesus. He is worthy to be praised for His great love and mercy to His faithful saints. We trust everyone there is well and enjoying the rich benefits of serving the Lord.

We would like to testify of the healing power of God. Our youngest son was recently stricken with a severe disease. I first noticed it one day when I was trying clothes on him. I noticed a rash beginning at his ankles and spreading up to his waist. As I looked closer I could see the rash was really caused by hundreds of broken blood vessels. The Lord witnessed to my heart that this was very serious. The next day Jairus bled from the nose and mouth. We took him to our pastor for prayer.

We described Jairus' condition to a friend who looked it up in a medical book. It was listed on the same page as leukemia, which is a disease of the blood in which the platelets that hold the blood cells together start attacking themselves. The victim develops the rash on the lower body, nosebleeds develop, and then the internal organs begin bleeding, followed by death.

Of course we were burdened, and knew that if the Lord did not heal him he would die. We began to examine our lives before God. God began to show where ground had been lost. But He didn't stop there. He forgave and brought us together in a new and wonderful way. He gave us a unity that we had not had before. We made our apologies to one another, cried and prayed together. The scripture is true when it says, "...what clearing of yourselves..." (II Corinthians 7:11.) After we put our house in order, we were instructed to lay hands on our child and pray in unity, which we did. My husband was inspired right away that Jairus was healed. It took longer with me. I seemed to have it fixed in my mind that we were in for a long hard battle. The nosebleeds stopped. After seven days the rash was all gone. The power that came with being clear before God, and with each other, brought our prayers before the throne of God. God in His great mercy reached down and healed our son. What a mighty God we serve!

Parents, with unity we have power; power to reach God and send the devil to flight!

Yours in Christ,

—Bro. Bryan and Sis. Sheri Rich

SC—Dear brothers and sisters in the name of Jesus: I want all the saints who know God hears and answers their prayers, to pray for me for both soul and body. I desire that God will bring love into our family, and that the Lord will rebuke the enemy. I would like to see the souls of my children and grandchildren saved. I have faith, and believe that the Lord said when prayers come up before Him as a petition, it will move Him on His throne.

I want you to also remember my brother, Utson Platt, that the Lord will give him strength to continue his work.

We plan to set aside the 6th day of February to fast and pray. Also I want you to remember my brother, Orna, who is real sick, that the Lord will raise him up once again and save his soul from sin.

In the name of Jesus, our Lord,

—Sis. Mamie Knotts

IN—Dear ones: We sure do trust all is well with you. God was so good to spare us through 1992—so many went out to meet their reward. My son left us on January 13, 1992. I am so glad he was ready to meet the Lord...

May the good Lord bless and keep you there in His care as you labor for Him.

Please remember me and my family when you pray. I have arthritis and other trouble.

Yours in Christian love, —Mary J. Rogers

OK—Dear Bro. Murphey and all at the Print Shop: Greetings to you with love. I do hope all of you are doing well in this new year. I am so thankful for the *Faith and Victory* paper. It is so wonderful to have.

As I got up this morning, I was thanking the Lord for another day. The song, "I Am Satisfied," came to me. I thought of so many people who have new cars, new homes and a good job, but they are not satisfied. They do not have the Lord in their lives. I thank God that I am satisfied.

I have an unspoken request I would like for the saints to pray with me about. Also I need prayer for my eyes.

Yours in the Lord, —Della Mustin

MI—Dear Bro. Wayne and workers: Greetings in the blessed Lord's name. I pray you are all well and happy in the Lord's work, starting another year. Praise God, I am doing fine, and I thank all of you for your good prayers. The Lord is so good to me. He stood by me so faithfully,

helping me through another year when I was sick. In October He touched me, made me well, and gave me strength to carry on....

I do want to live closer to Him the rest of my life. We are weak, but He is our strength....

Much love and prayers,

—Sis. Olive Gettersson

OR—Dear Bro. Wayne and all at Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' name. I just finished reading the January issue of the *Faith and Victory*, and received much encouragement from the testimonies and articles in it. The fellowship of the saints is very precious and joyous. Each and every request for prayer mentioned is known to God, and we are confident that He will respond to each one in the way that will work the most good for all that are involved. Praise, honor, and glory to our heavenly Father, and Lord Jesus, His Son and our Saviour!

We hope this finds all there well and enjoying the service of our Lord, in the work that is so beneficial to so many people. Our health and circumstances are about the same as usual....

We have had some freezing rain and snow the past week or so that has been responsible for a number of accidents, but thank the good Lord, neither we nor any of our family have suffered because of it.

Please continue to remember us in your prayers, and we will do the same for you.

With Christian love,

—Bro. Bill and Sis. Doris Busch

OH—Dear Bro. Murphey: Please put another notice in the *Faith and Victory* for someone to come and stay with Sis. Essie Abbott in her home.

She is some better. We are thankful and appreciate all the prayers that people have prayed for her. She couldn't have made it this far without them. Please pray the Lord will heal her body. She is still looking to Him. Thanks.

—Tressie Adkins

OK—*Faith and Victory*: Will you please put me on your prayer list? I am now 87 years old and my health has been very poorly since 1988 when I lost my husband. I have been a Christian since I was 15. My mother and father were excellent parents who loved God and lived it. I can still see myself at the altar of prayer.

I took care of one son, the eldest in my personal family, who had multiple sclerosis for

21 years. He loved the Lord. I know he went to Heaven. So did my husband, mother, father and four brothers and sisters. I intend to meet them.

Sincerely,

—Lydia Blake

CA—Dear saints everywhere: We greet you all this morning. The dear Lord has sent plenty of rain. I appreciate very much our dear Savior, who gives us all things. I never feel worthy of His blessings.

I want to thank all of you for helping us pray for our son, who was at the time driving all across the U.S.A. The dear Lord has spared him, and he visited us at Christmas time.

Pray for us, that we will meet in that last day to live together with Jesus our Lord.

Christian love and prayers,

—Sis. Lois Underwood

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne and all at the Print Shop: We send greetings of Christian love, a wish for a good and happy new year, and for much good to be accomplished in the Lord's work....

We are thankful for answered prayer; when a few times lately, I have suffered. We do thank the Lord for it all.

We have some unspoken requests before the Lord and are expecting Him to work them out as He sees best, and in His time.

May God bless you all there, is our prayer.

—Sis. Eunice Cole

AL—Dear Bro. Wayne and staff: Thank you for the paper, and the many prayers you have prayed for me and my son. Keep praying for him, that someday, somehow, God will save, heal and sanctify him.

I have a friend who is in real bad shape. Unless God undertakes, she doesn't seem to have long to live. Please pray for her, that God will gloriously heal her. I almost grew up at her home. She has served the Lord many years. We love all of you.

—Jeanette Mooney

AR—Dear Bro. Wayne: When you get this, the meeting there will be over, passed forever. But what was accomplished for the glory of the Lord will last forever. We trust God had the praise and glory to the extent that all were blessed. I got a blessing just knowing some of God's children were in a meeting, feasting at His table.

I trust all of you at the Print Shop have a joy-



filled year in 1993. I hope all of God's great family will have the same, and all of us be drawn closer to God and to each other. "Blest Be the Tie that Binds."

Things are about as usual down Arkansas way. God is mindful of all of us and the work here. His blessings are many and rich.

My desire is to stay true, and I ask for more love; all God can trust me with, as I give it out to others. The world is in need of more love. Its sinful condition is full proof. So, as the song says, "I Cannot Be Idle." Lost souls are crying out for help, so let us pray for the desires of hearts while we have time and opportunity.

"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming." 1 John 2:28.

I need your prayers. The Lord has done great things for me. My foot is better, the sciatic nerve problem in my legs comes and goes, but I am available for the work God has for me to do.

Love is forever and ever, —Sister Lou Bray

— — — — —

OK—Dear Bro. Wayne, workers at the Print Shop, and all God's people: I bless God, the Divine father of the whole world. I recently had a trial...and I thank the saints of the Tulsa Church of God for their prayers for me. Most of all, I give praise to God, the heavenly Father, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit....

—Sis. Leverta Brisker

— — — — —

FL—Dear ones in Christ: I feel I owe God a long overdue testimony. I praise Him for saving my soul and for keeping me saved up to this present time. He is dear to my heart and has been with me through every trial, heartache and test I have had to face. My dear husband and I have surely been tested over the past year and a half. We have had four deaths in our family, have had to experience major life-threatening illnesses in two of our parents and have both had afflictions ourselves. We are isolated in this area from a Church of God congregation and have had to learn to lean hard on God. Isaiah 41:10 has been our stay and encouragement many times. We are so thankful God has given us each other to pull together through whatever we face. A Christian marriage is one of the most beautiful, blessed unions, and we are so appreciative to God for bringing our lives together to walk as one. Many times we, as the author wrote long ago, have been driven to our knees by the

overwhelming realization that we had nowhere else to go.

Many of you who read this have been praying for my father, Willard Underdown. I am so thankful to say that God has spared his life through all he has been through. He suffers most of the time and still needs prayer. Please remember my dear mother, Helen Underdown, also, as she has many burdens and has had to suffer many things. She has remained faithful to God through it all.

As I write this, I am battling a physical affliction, and would appreciate your prayers. My faith in God has been increased as He has answered many prayers for us. We have seen Him turn situations around when they seemed impossible, and I know He is more than able to heal my condition. By faith, as you read this, I will be much improved or healed completely. I am learning more and more to take God at His word. 1 John 5:14, 15 tells us that if we know He hears us then we know we have the petitions we asked for. If we fervently pray until we pray clear through—we will feel an assurance that, yes, He has really heard. The answer is as simple as that, if we know beyond a shadow of doubt that He hears us, then we are convinced that He has answered. Then it is up to us to hold on to that fact and never doubt that the answer is on its way. It is so simple, that we fail to grasp it many times. It is human nature to make it more complicated than it is. I praise God for prayer and the comfort and hope it brings to a weary heart. I love my dear Jesus more than anyone or anything in this world.

Please pray for me that I will never fail God nor let Him down. Also pray for all of our unsaved loved ones. One of my sisters, Dessie, needs earnest prayer as she is in a domestically violent situation, and needs God's protection.

Sincerely in Christ, —Sis. Cheryl Smith

— — — — —

NC—Faith and Victory staff: Greetings of love in the New Year 1993!

I would like to share a word of testimony. Coming home from work, I had a bad headache. I tried to get supper, but I just couldn't seem to function normally. However, I managed to get through it.

I finally laid down on the couch, but felt no better. I even went to bed for a half hour, and didn't feel any better. Finally, I got down on my knees, beside the bed.... I tried to pray. Then I felt Him saying, in a matter of minutes, "Get up

and praise the Lord!" I got up and my head was fine. He took the pain away!

He has touched me other times. I love the Lord.

Pray for my loved ones; also a special unspoken request....

In Jesus' name, —Anna Hypes

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

## LETTERS FROM THE MISSION FIELDS



### Mexico Report

**January 9**—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings of love. I trust you are all keeping warm. In California we have had bad weather. It was too cold. Now it is too wet.

The Lord gave us about two tons of clothes the day before the big rain this week. I was going to call Goodwill to come and get it, but then I heard Tijuana was requesting help. So after visiting the mayor of Tijuana, they gave me a letter to get by customs, and I was able to take three big loads in my pickup. The last load, last night, I took to Bro. Humberto's. But due to their road being impassable, we put the clothes in a house close to the road, and they will distribute it later. I also put some in my storage.

One man and his wife were swept into the water with their bed in the night, just down the hill from Bro. Humberto's. They have not found the bodies. At least 14 have been counted dead. I heard on the Tijuana news that some areas are in much need of food and water. Roads are gone, and some houses have been swept down the canyon. The ones in the Tijuana congregation are all fine, but they had no electricity last night. They are alright in Ensenada also.

Pray for the officials of Tijuana and Ensenada, as the big problem now is repairing the streets. There is danger of sickness from all the filth in the streets. The mayor of Tijuana is requesting help from the States in way of earth-moving equipment, dump trucks, pumps, food, clothes, blankets, etc.... —Bro. James Huskey

— — — — —

**January 12**—Dear Bro. Wayne and saints: I greet you in the holy and precious name of our Savior Jesus Christ, hoping that all of you and those around you are in good health. I pray that you will prosper in everything you do.

Beloved brethren, there is joy in my soul for the mercy that the Lord has shown. He has been so good to our lives in the way He teaches us and takes us in His hands to polish us with love and patience. He does this to make us useful and beautiful in His eyes, and in that manner show the world His glory and power through us. What a privilege it is to enjoy the reality of the power of God. He gives us this power not because of something that we did, but because of His grace and mercy to make us instruments of God. In this manner we can help others be happy and show them that only Christ can change and help us.

The Lord has surely been blessing His work here. We have had wonderful services, and every Sunday the church is full. There is a hunger for the truth. Please pray for all of us here.

We will be having a revival on April 8-11. We desire your prayers. The congregation here always think of you and send their love to all the saints. Thank you for your prayers and support to the work of the Lord here. May the Lord bless you richly and my prayer is that you'll stay true to the Lord.

Your brother in Christ,

—Mayarino Escobar and family

### Honduras Mission Report

Greetings in Jesus' name. We want to update you on the work being done and planned in Honduras. The Lord has been blessing the work and souls are being saved. That is a big accomplishment in our time. In the last contact we had with the brethren that live in La Ceiba, they were progressing nicely on their building project. Blocks were laid up to the windows. Their plans are to be finished and ready for a meeting the first of March. There are plans being made for some of the brethren from the States to be there for that meeting.

The work on the island of Roatan is also going forward. The congregation in Politilli Bight is encouraged, and there are some more souls waiting for some of the brethren to come and baptize them.

As of this writing, the plans for the missionary group from the States are to go to Roatan the last week of February for services there, and then fly on to the mainland and have services with the brethren in La Ceiba in their new

chapel. We also hope to visit some other places on the mainland during that 2nd week.

We desire your prayers and support for the efforts that are being made to spread the Gospel truth in this field. Any donations for this effort may be sent to: The Church of God Missionary, P.O. Box 73835, Metairie, LA 70033. There is still a \$1500 debt on the building project that was completed last fall in Roatan.

Yours for the Honduras Missionary Company,  
—Bro. Toney Samons

Dear Bro. Wayne, workers and saints: Greetings to all of you in the holy name of Jesus. I am so thankful and encouraged for all the Lord is doing for us. I have been sick so many times and He has healed me.

We don't have words to thank the Lord, and the saints, for what they have done; and for sending the saints over to work on the chapel, and for sending the car. What a blessing it is to be in the family of God.

The Lord is blessing here. Sometimes we don't have time to go to all the calls. Souls are still getting saved and being blessed. All the saints from here send their love.

Yours for souls, —Sis. Liurie Sanders

#### From India...

December 15—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear brothers and sisters in America: We send our loving New Year greetings to all you dear ones in the precious name of Jesus. We thank the saints in America for their prayers and support for the progress of the Church of God in India.

In India, the Hindu-Muslim relationship is getting worse. Two weeks ago, Hindus demolished a Muslim mosque, which led to a bad situation. But now it is almost settled. Our state is free from these problems.

Our convention at Nadukkunnu ended with many blessings. The convention at Nayarangadi starts on December 20. Our 28th general convention starts on January 6, 1993. Please pray for the blessings of all our efforts here. I once again invite your attention to support our ministers every month. Our prayers are for you all every day.

Yours in Him, —John Varghese



"To know the will of God is the greatest knowledge; to do the will of God the greatest achievement."

## IN MEMORIAM

**Elmo Smith** was born in Richwood, WV, on February 3, 1927.

In 1939 he moved to Seattle, WA, and worked for the city of Seattle for 30 years. He started attending all the camp and assembly meetings at Jefferson, OR, in 1959, while his aunt, Beatrice Spaur, was there.

On January 3, he called and said, "My friends here think I have heart trouble. So I guess I must be pretty bad off, but I don't have any pain. I'm trusting the Lord. No one is with me here, only you folks there." Four or five days later he passed peacefully in his sleep.

He leaves to mourn his passing, brothers, Leslie, Joe and Bill of the Seattle area. His parents, two brothers and one sister preceded him in death.



## Question and Answer

by

**Ostis B. Wilson**

In the last few articles we have been considering some of the difficult stumbling blocks to the two works of grace doctrine of justification and sanctification. We will here consider another important scripture that has been a major stumbling block to some in understanding this wonderful truth.

Romans 8:9 says, "...Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." The reason this has proven a stumbling block to some, is that they have interpreted this scripture as referring to the Holy Spirit, and consequently conclude that one could not be saved without possessing the Holy Spirit. Hence the conclusion is, that a complete salvation is obtained at one time. But I do not interpret this text that way and for the following reasons:

We would certainly agree that Christ's spirit was holy. There's no argument there. He knew no sin. (II Corinthians 5:21). "Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." I Peter 2:22. He was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15). Hence He was holy and possessed the spirit of holiness.

Christ also possessed the Holy Spirit within Him, (He came upon Him in the bodily form of

a dove at His baptism) the same as we possess Him when we are sanctified or baptized with the Holy Spirit. But the Holy Spirit is a distinct, definite personage, and is always identified in His own person, the same as Jesus, the Son, and God, the Father.

The Holy Spirit is a member of the triune Godhead and is co-existent with God, the Father, and Jesus Christ, the Son. In Hebrews 9:14, He is called the eternal Spirit. And He is as distinct a person as either of the other two. Therefore, it would be no more proper to refer to the Spirit of Christ, meaning the Holy Spirit, than it would be to turn it around and say the Christ of Holy Spirit. In either case, we would be failing to observe the proper distinction between distinct persons.

Now let us notice some other scriptures which use the term "spirit of." In the one referred to above, (Romans 8:9) we read of the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ. But let us look closely at this as we pass. It is said in the first part of this verse that, "Ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you." I agree this could refer to the Holy Spirit because that is the name of the entire Godhead. But there is a period at this point, making the sentence complete. It expressed the complete thought. Then the verse goes on to say, "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, (not the Spirit of God this time) he is none of his." Then the next verse goes on to say, "And if Christ be in you," etc. Here it seems to me that the Spirit of Christ in the last part of verse nine and Christ Himself in the first part of verse ten, are used interchangeably.

This seems to me to correspond quite well with a couple of texts in the third chapter of II Corinthians, verse six, that say God has "made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life." Verse 17 says, "Now the Lord is that Spirit..." Here it is declared the Lord is that Spirit, and it is clear that it is not the Spirit of Christ, but Christ Himself is the spirit, or heart, or life, of the gospel message. Surely there would be no question in anyone's mind but that the Spirit and the Lord are used interchangeably in these two texts.

But let us go further in considering texts

which make reference to the "spirit of." In Ephesians 4:23 it says, "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind." In I Corinthians 2:11 it says, "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?" I Corinthians 2:12 says, "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world," etc. Revelations 16:14 says, "For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles," etc.

In all the foregoing texts we read of the spirit of God, spirit of Christ, spirit of man, the world, the devil and spirit of your mind, but nowhere do we read of the spirit of Holy Spirit. Again I say that He is a definite personage, and is always identified in His own person. This distinction must be maintained to produce proper sense.

It would, no doubt, be easy for us to understand that the "spirit of your mind" would refer to the tendencies, disposition, nature, actions and controlling influences of one's mind. The "spirit of the world" would refer to the natural tendencies, dispositions, controlling influences and behavior of the world. Then the "Spirit of

Christ" would refer to the nature, disposition, tendencies and behavior of Christ.

In I Corinthians 6:17 it says, "But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit."

This corresponds with Romans 8:9 which says, "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Surely all who are saved and joined unto Christ are made a partaker of His Spirit, which, as has already been observed, is His nature, disposition and characteristics of life and behavior

In II Corinthians 3:17, the Spirit of Christ is declared to be a spirit of liberty. It is a spirit of obedience, as stated in Philippians 2:8, where it is said that He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Hebrews 10:9 says, "Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God." Matthew 26:39 says, "And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." Matthew 26:42 says, "He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done." John 4:34 says, "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his

**"The Holy Spirit is a member of the triune Godhead and is... as distinct a person as either of the other two."**

work." John 8:29 says, "And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him."

We receive that same spirit of obedience when we get saved. John 14:15 says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." And John 14:21 says, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me." etc. In Hebrews 5:9 we read, "he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."

The Spirit of Christ is a spirit of humility. Philippians 2:5-8 says, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." In Matthew 11:29 Jesus said, "...I am meek and lowly in heart..."

But we are instructed in Philippians 2:5 to let this mind, or disposition, or nature, or characteristic be in us. Jesus said in Matthew 5:3, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: (humble spirit) for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Again Peter says, "But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." I Peter 3:4.

Christ's spirit is a spirit of mercy. Matthew 12:20 says, "A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory." This same spirit is to dwell in them who are joined to Him. In Matthew 5:7 Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." Again in Luke 6:36 Jesus said, "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful." This comes in line with the very same thought as is dealt with in the fifth chapter of Matthew which concluded in verse 48 with these words of Jesus: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." It is the same thought and sums up to being perfect in mercy, and in our attitude toward our fellowmen. Read Luke 6:35 and Matthew 5:43-48. Jesus forgave His enemies and died to save them, praying, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

In Malachi 4:5 there is a prophecy concerning John the Baptist, which comes in good place here. It says, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the

prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord." To prove that this was John the Baptist, we refer you to Matthew 11:10-14. "For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare the way before thee. Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come."

Now someone may say, "How could John the Baptist be Elijah or Elias?" But this is clarified in the statement of the angel to Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist in Luke 1:17, "And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children..."

This makes the point clear and throws some light on the text in Romans 8:9. John came at a time of deep apostasy and great spiritual darkness such as Elijah, the most outstanding of all the prophets, came to Israel. John turned the hearts of the people to God as Elijah had done in his day, and he manifested the same vehemence against error, and the same zeal and boldness for truth that Elijah had shown in his day. It brought a great spiritual awakening the same as Elijah's work had brought, so it is said he went in the spirit and power of Elijah in so much that he was called Elias.

This is the way I see our having the Spirit of Christ. It is in our possessing within ourselves that same vehemence and righteous indignation against sin and error; the same zeal and boldness for truth and righteousness, the same humility, meekness, gentleness, mercy, obedience, behavior and every other characteristic of Christ Himself, and doing His work. Colossians 1:27 says, "...Christ in you, the hope of glory." Ephesians 3:17 says, "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith..." John 6:56 says, "He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him."

The way, then, that I interpret having the Spirit of Christ is to have Christ living within us, and the Christ-life predominant in all our behavior because the Lord is that spirit.

## A True Experience

By Sister S. E. Abbott

It was late afternoon when the Greyhound bus rolled to a stop in a large midwestern city. I hurried to the ticket office to check my departing bus, only to learn I'd just missed it, and would have to wait two hours for another. I checked my luggage, walked about the place a little, saw small groups of men loitering here and there, but I don't recall seeing any women travelers. This gave me a very uneasy feeling, when I realized I must spend two hours there. I decided to go for a walk and talk to the Lord about the matter. I said, "Lord, you know it was not my fault I missed the bus. Surely you have a purpose in this." I had not gone very many blocks when a strange feeling and heavy burden came over me. I felt deeply constrained to return to the station, which I did, and, glancing at the clock, realized I had been gone only fifteen minutes.

There were now about a dozen people sparsely seated on the long benches, and a lively conversation was going on. I noticed a few women folk among the group which made me feel less ill at ease, especially since one woman held an open Bible on her lap. I listened intently until I felt I could discern the theme of their controversy. As I drew closer, the man sitting opposite the woman with the Bible said, "Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins." She answered and said, "I thought there was more to it than that." "Read it yourself," the man said. "Acts 22:16," and so saying, he turned and read that portion of the text from his Bible.

By this time I could plainly see the leadings of the Lord in the whole thing. Jesus said, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled," and here was a soul hungry for God. I walked around to where she was sitting and seated myself beside her, asked her pardon for interrupting but added: "I've been listening to your conversation and maybe I can help you." She smiled, yet looked very sincere as she soberly stated her question. "What I want to know is what preparation should one make in life to be able to go to heaven when he dies, or just what to do to be saved. Now this man, [indicating the one seated opposite us] says, 'Be baptized and wash away your sins,' but it seems to me that isn't enough."

"Well," I said, "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 3:16). Now turn to the 8th chapter of John." But she, being so unfamiliar with the Bible, said as she placed it on my lap, "You find it." "Oh, here it is," I said, as we read together several verses dealing with the thought, "If you die in your sins, whither I go ye cannot come." Jesus was teaching the people here that SIN would keep them out of heaven, so we must get rid of SIN in our lives or we cannot go to heaven.

"That's what I want to know," she said. The man on the opposite seat interrupted by saying, "Acts 22:16 plainly tells us . . ." But I answered, "Let us see a little further here. God hath said, 'that the world through Him [Jesus] might be saved,' therefore we need to learn more about Jesus, for it is through Him and by Him that the plan of salvation was made. In Matthew 26:26-28 it says, 'And he [Jesus] took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, [His disciples] saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, **which is shed for many for the remission of SINS.**' Here again in Heb. 9:22, '**without shedding of blood** is no remission [of sins].' Again we read in 1 John 1:7-9, '...and the BLOOD of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from ALL SIN.... If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.' Here in Col. 1:13, 14, we find some folks who had obtained salvation by obedience to His Word. 'Who hath [or has] delivered us FROM the power of darkness, and hath [or has] translated us into the kingdom of his dear SON: in whom we have redemption through HIS BLOOD, even the forgiveness of SINS.' Dropping down to the 20th verse we read in part, ' . . . having made peace through the blood of His cross.' Notice in these scriptures nothing is mentioned of water baptism to take away sins."

"But why don't you read Acts 22:16?" queried the male voice.

"Oh, yes, Sir," I nodded, "if you will please be patient we shall indeed read your text." Directing my explanation to the woman again I explained, "You see, we are dealing with **spiritual** things, not **literal**. You know there were oceans, lakes, and rivers of water before Jesus came into the world, and there still are. If water baptism could wash away sins, there would have been no need for God to send His Son into the world to suffer, bleed and die to make the plan of salvation. He is often referred to as 'the LAMB of GOD,' and in Rev. 13:8, '**the lamb**

**slain from the foundation of the world.' Praise the Lord!**

We read in the second chapter of Acts of some folks who asked the question of how to be saved. We read most of the chapter and explained that this was at Jerusalem at the Jewish feast of Pentecost, and the Holy Ghost had recently descended from heaven into the hearts of the hundred and twenty souls. The Apostle Peter, being filled with the Holy Ghost, spake the word with great boldness and power. Among other things he told these wicked people that they crucified the Lord. Reading the 37th verse, "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do [to be saved]?" Peter tells them, "**Repent**, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...." Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and there were added unto them about three thousand souls." Notice here, "they that gladly received his word," and His word was first of all, "**REPENT**." Baptism came later. Before

length in chapters 21 and 22 and explained that Paul was a prisoner at this time, and was being carried into the castle for security from the angry mob who sought his life. He asked permission to speak to the people, which was granted, and he was quoting what Ananias said when he had visited him in Damascus more than twenty-five years before. Now let us read in Acts the 9th chapter the original account of this matter. Saul of Tarsus, being zealous for his Pharisee religion, had authority from the high priests to persecute the Christians. On the way to Damascus he was stricken down by a light from heaven above the brightness of the noon-day sun, fell to the ground and was blind. This great educated man humbled his heart, had a conversation with the Lord, and trembling with astonishment, asked, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" He was told to go into the city, etc. We also find he was blind three days, did neither eat nor drink, and God, speaking to Ananias, said of him, "Behold, he prayeth." Now the 17th verse, "And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands

---

## **"In all the Apostle Paul's teaching, never does he teach or advocate water baptism to save from sin."**

---

Jesus made His ascension back to His Father. He gave this commission to His disciples, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" Mark 16:15,16. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom. 10:10, 13).

These Scriptures teach us how to be saved. First, we must believe God and repent, confess to God we are sinners, and ask Him for mercy and forgiveness. We must pray and call upon His name with a sincere and humble heart, until He lifts our burden of sin and satisfies our hearts with the joys of salvation, so we can "live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." (Titus 2:12.)

Now, let us read Acts 22:16.

"That's what I'm waiting for," said the male voice.

"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." At this point we read at

on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even JESUS, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost." Ananias did not mention, "Be baptized and wash away your sins." This man Saul, who had met GOD in such a miraculous way, had humbled his heart, submitted to God's will, been fasting and praying, lo, these three days, **had no sins to be washed away**. Furthermore, if Saul were yet a sinner, God would not have sent Ananias to him that he might be filled with the Holy Ghost. God's Word definitely proves that the Holy Ghost is not given to sinners. Moreover, Ananias addressed him as "Brother Saul" (both men were saved). In all the Apostle Paul's teaching, never does he teach or advocate water baptism to save from sin. But the Word teaches us that, following an experience of salvation, we should follow the Lord in water baptism. It's an ordinance of the church, signifying to the world that a personal experience with God has taken place in the heart. Paul writes in Romans the sixth chapter, "Shall we



continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Before Ananias left, Saul received water baptism.

In "rightly dividing" the Word of truth we must interpret the phrasing in Acts 22:16 in harmony with the tenor of all the other Scriptures on the plan of salvation. Jesus was baptized, being our example, but rest assured, NO SINS went down the Jordan.

By this time the man had quietly slipped away. He had asked questions and so had the woman during this discussion which lasted more than an hour and a half. God gave liberty and helped to answer each one according to His Word. The woman thanked me and said, "I believe I know how to be saved now." As I arose to leave there were perhaps twenty-five or thirty persons gathered around, listening. One elderly man put forth his hand and said, "Little lady, you got it right, you got it right!" "Are you saved?" I asked. "No," he said, "Not now, but I was saved when I was young, and I got it just like you said." "Well," I said, "God will save you again if you will come to Him the Bible way." "I know it," he said, "Will you please pray for me?"

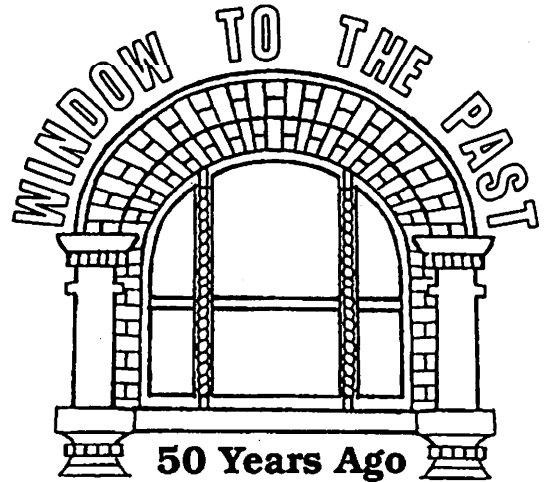
I hurried for my luggage and was the last one to board the bus. As I took the only vacant seat, I looked across the aisle, and there sat our opposer. Several hours later and 150 miles further south, he made his exit. The bus driver laughingly said to the patron behind him, "There goes the preacher, and some preacher he is. Usually he is wide awake and talks a great deal. Surely he wasn't feeling well tonight—he was so quiet."

During a recent illness, I inquired of the Lord if there was anything I could do that would be to the glory of God and prove a blessing to souls. The Lord brought the above experience so vividly to my mind, although it happened several years previous. He impressed me to write it and send it forth. So we trust it will accomplish the purpose for which it is sent.

(Available in tract form.)



**Subscribe to this paper 1 year for \$1.00.**



### **Excerpts Taken From Feb., 1943 *Faith and Victory***

"The State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God, held at Guthrie, Okla. during the holidays, was much better attended than the saints expected. Because of hampered traffic and gas regulations, we were not expecting many to be able to get to the meeting, but God has a way of helping those who pray, for His eyes are over the righteous."

"Since we are planning on building a chapel in Green Pastures, [OK] I thought it wise to notify you through the *Faith & Victory*.... We have gone to the war board to see about building, and the limit on church buildings is \$1,000. The building will be 24x30 ft. in size, and will cost about \$500.00. This is a new field, and ripe for harvest. There are eight old saints and seven young ones." —E. W. Sanders and Johny Johnson

"The Lord has a good working force here in His Print Shop. Sister Geneva Ray prepares the Sunday School Lessons, operates the Intertype, and assists in other work. Bros. Vada McMillian and Clifford Wilson operate the printing presses and paper folders. Sis. Dorothy Byers does secretarial work, proofreads, and is very useful in other lines of office work. Wife keeps very busy with correspondence and housework: cooking, washing, ironing, and other household duties. My job is the editorial work and heavy correspondence, and general overseeing of the shop work.... We all do our work as unto the Lord." —Fred Pruitt