

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Church of God Servant

Unto Him shall the
gathering of the
people be.

God Is
LOVE

YE SHINE AS
LIGHTS IN
THE WORLD.

JESUS
SAVES

The night cometh,
when no man
can work.

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75th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

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GO TO THE ANT, THOU SLUGGARD

By Bro. Phillip Kelly



I waited and watched for a great thing to do,
A miracle to work, a healing to pray through;
For God often works through a mortal like me,
That His grand power the world may see.

Yes, I waited and wondered at the apostles'
great deeds,
And fasted and prayed and hoped for some
leads;

To solve the mystery of a spiritual gift,
And I did very little, sin's load to lift.

As I lingered the Lord spoke through His Word,
He said, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard;"
For the ant does not wait a renowned thing to
do,
But fiends for herself and for others too.

If the young need tending, she guards them with
care,

If it's food that they need, she looks
everywhere;

If she happens to find too large of a piece,
She takes what she can, but her work does
not cease.

She solicits some help and before very long,
One crumb at a time the large piece is gone.
Her purpose is not recognition or fame;
Her goal is to work every day, just the same.

You can learn from the ant to do what you can,
Assisting the world in discerning My
plan;

Just attack the large piece, one crumb at a time,
And leave to Me the wonders and signs.

For many were there with Peter and Paul,
Though most of them worked no miracle at
all;

But like an army of ants they ventured on out,
Spreading My gospel to the world all about.

The power I had I still have today,
I continue to use it in My own chosen way;
So whatever your position, whether great or
quite small,
Just do what you can for one or for all.

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Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 27

"So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give
thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to
all generations."
—Psa. 79:13.



KEEPING STIRRED

I would like to share with you some lessons the Lord has been teaching me about stirring myself up. To stir means, "To rouse from inactivity, contentment and indifference." To be stirred means, "To be emotionally moved or strongly affected." In Exodus 35:21, when Moses requested gifts for the tabernacle, the Bible says, "And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing,..." God only accepts a willing sacrifice, and from time to time circumstances will come that rouse us, but He will not continually stir us up. We must take responsibility to do that ourselves. Imagine if I were to take a job but I failed to show up for work. The employer might call me and wake me up, and then I would say, "Yes, I like the job and I want to work for you, but no one awoke me." After he fired me, the man might think to himself, "If she really wanted to work for me she would find a way to wake herself up."

"We must stir ourselves awake in the service of the Lord. The parable of the ten virgins is too plain to disregard. Those women had not soiled themselves with the world, they were still virgins, but they were asleep! Can we afford to miss heaven because of "inactivity, contentment and indifference?" These are very heinous sins, but they kept half of those professing Christians out of heaven. There is a song that says,

"Let none hear you idly saying, 'There is nothing I can do'

While the souls of men are dying and
the Master calls for you.

Take the task He gives you gladly, let His
work your pleasure be,

Answer quickly while He calleth, 'Here
am I, O Lord, send me.'"

I believe an important part of keeping ourselves spiritually stirred and awake is keeping alive constantly in our minds the death Jesus died for us. It helps to picture Him on the cross, brutally beaten and bleeding, suffering, struggling for breath hour after hour. This graphic picture before me every day keeps my soul tuned with His, my mind aware of just what my

salvation cost Him, and it stirs my heart to thankfulness, praise and adoration, and away from lethargy and complacency. It inspires humility and deepens my desire not to give Him less than my best in return.

This stirring of ourselves is like shaking a jar of potpourri; it sends out the beautiful fragrance of Jesus' love and sacrifice to all around us. Song of Solomon 4:16 says, "Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits." This spiritual exercise benefits us enormously, inspires those around us, and also blesses the Lord.

The Lord has been stirring me to ask Him to open my eyes to the needs around me. It is good for each of us to ask Him every day to send us someone who needs love and understanding, so that He may show His love to them through us. Ask Him for the abused ones, the molested ones, the drug users, the unloved and unlovely. We must not go blindly on enjoying our salvation by ourselves while people around us are robbed and beaten by Satan. Instead, we can be like the good Samaritan, who "went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine." The oil represents the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit, and the wine, the joy of salvation. Surely we have those in abundance to pour out to others if God will but open our eyes to the needs!

In addition, we must stir ourselves every day with the nearness of eternity, the awful, burning endlessness of hell, and a keen awareness of souls separated from that place by only a breath. It is easy and more comfortable to the flesh to begin to think of hell as somewhat remote from us in time and space, but it is not so. Hell is real, and hundreds go there every day. Only by exercising ourselves to confront this reality daily can we effectively carry a burden for the lost. Our spiritual eyesight will be sharpened and focused as we think on hell.

I am stirred by the scripture in Joshua

By Sis. Patsy Cain

17:16, where the tribe of Joseph (speaking of their portion of the Canaan land) said, "...The hill is not enough for us:..." Praise God! I haven't reached the place where I am so satisfied with what God has done for me that I am ready to say, "This is enough for me, the giants can have the rest of the land." Have you? I want the grapes of Eschol, the milk and honey, the figs and dates and pomegranates. I treasure my experience of sanctification beyond anything, but it is not enough! How sad were God's words to Joshua as he lay dying: "There remaineth yet very much land to be possessed." Six of the tribes that crossed into the Canaan land failed to drive out the inhabitants and possess the land. They made a league with them instead. The result of that folly and indifference is found in Judges 2:10, "...And there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord,... In one generation after Joshua, the people had forgotten God; they were contented and asleep. Can this happen to us? Of course it can.

We live in the most luxurious civilization there has ever been. Comforts once unavailable even to the wealthiest kings are so common we rarely think about them. In many ways, it is a good time in which to live, but it can work against our salvation unless we consciously stir ourselves, break up our fallow ground, look for more giants to slay and more lands to possess. I love the example of Benaiah, one of David's mighty men, in II Samuel 23:20. "...He went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in time of snow." I like to think of it this way: The army is encamped because the weather is too bad for fighting. All the rest of the men are sitting around the camp, mending their gear, sleeping, bragging and eating. But Benaiah so loves to fight that he goes out by himself, looking for something brave and valiant to do to test himself, to keep himself stirred up and in fighting trim. May we all do likewise!

The foolish Israelites refused to go into Canaan because they were afraid of fighting the giants, when God had promised repeatedly that He would deliver them and drive out the inhabitants. We must not be

hindered in spiritual growth by fear of giants. I believe we can learn to love spiritual battle and even seek it—not fighting in desperation, with our backs against the wall from Satan's attacks, but joyfully, dynamically, on the offensive, driving him back and defeating him by God's power because the land we possess is not enough. The words, "There remaineth yet very much land to be possessed," can also be a stirring challenge. No matter how much we learn, how close we get to God, there is always more land!

As I studied this subject, the Holy Spirit led me to this scripture in Zephaniah 1:12, "And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The Lord will not do good, neither will he do evil." What a serious thing, to be settled on one's lees. Lees in wine are the dregs, the impurities and sediments; the coarser parts. Picture a bottle of wine held up to the light of a candle; all impurities would be instantly apparent. Yet we can become comfortable with that, content to let a few little things slide by, always intending to do something about this or that fault and yet never getting around to it. When we do that we are saying in our hearts that the Lord doesn't really care, it's not that important, it will get fixed somehow—He will not do good, neither will He do evil. But He does care. Wine represents our salvation that He died so horribly to buy for us. Can He have intended that we receive that pure wine from Him, and then pour it out to other souls with impurities in it? I think not. We must be stirred up to fight self and Satan, to keep that wine pure and untainted. Hebrews 2:1 says, "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." One translation says, "Lest we should go drifting past them." It takes a constant, conscious effort on our part to keep what we have and go forward—to keep ourselves stirred up, to be awake and ready when the Lord calls for service from us. I pray that the Lord will anoint these thoughts to your hearts and inspire you as He did me.



"Picture a bottle of wine held up to the light of a candle; all impurities would be instantly apparent."

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).

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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 50¢ 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 \$3.00
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 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.

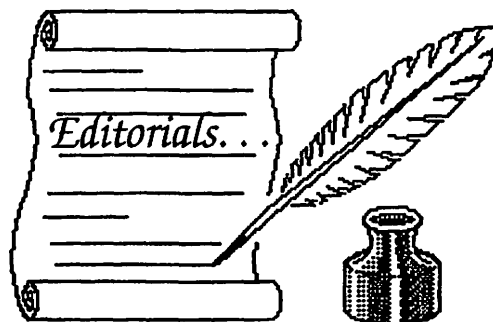
A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

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

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In the last several years our country has been warned by its leaders of one crisis after another, ranging from the issue of health care to the starvation of children in our public schools. A current outcry concerns the threat of "global warming." Not all scientists educated on this phenomenon agree as to whether it actually exists, so it is possible that all efforts to alleviate the "greenhouse effect" could be in vain.

But there is a condition existing in our country, and the world in general, of which we should be alerted, and of which all effort exerted to correct the problem would be well spent. This plight was identified and prophesied of by Christ two thousand years ago. In Matt. 24:12, He said, "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Our leader's efforts would be better directed to warn of the coldness of people's hearts than the warming of the atmosphere.

Other conditions in the last days were prophesied of in II Tim. 3:2-5, "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

Our country prides itself on being civilized. To civilize means to "put things in an orderly manner." This is what God did when He created the world. As a Mastermind at it, He instituted order in the universe, then gave us His Word, which if we follow, will result in a disciplined society.

It is a misunderstanding to think that civilization is brought about solely through technology. Heathen lands are not civilized simply through westernization. And though the United States has become a leader in scientific knowledge, consider the chaos created in our courts

over the issue of cloning and other similar modern technological advances.

Civilization is also not created solely through political means. Sometimes, in fact, it complicates issues. Think about the incivility caused by preferring a woman's right to abortion over the baby's right to live.

Civilization, in general, is most effectively established when a home has both a father and mother, with each operating in the order set forth by the Bible, and fulfilling their God-given responsibility of teaching their children how to live moral lives.

We are living in a time of spiritual coldness, and it is the responsibility of those who have knowledge of spiritual values to sound the warning, identify the crisis, and let the light of the Gospel flow out of their lives to penetrate the darkness of sin.

On October 15, I left Guthrie in the Print Shop van, taking the book, "Moral Law," authored by Bro. Clifford Wilson, to a bindery in Illinois. After delivering the books, I made a circuitous route through several states, and had the pleasure of visiting with some of the saints.

Before returning home I enjoyed the fellowship of Sis. Margaret and Sis. Elaine Dunn, Sis. Rhoda Blevins and her daughter, Faye, as well as others in North Wilksboro, NC. Sis. Elaine has not been well in body, and is looking to the Lord for healing.

On Sunday, Oct. 19, it was a privilege to be in meeting with the congregation at Vanceburg, KY, where Sis. Mary Hughes is pastor, and where the fervency of their desire to please God is inspiring.

I was also able to spend a short time in the home of Bro. Paul and Sis. Lynette Sorrell in Hagerstown, IN. To see the remarkable recovery Bro. Paul is making from the severe injury he received while riding a horse is encouraging.

Due to the many miles traveled, I returned home with a grateful heart for God's protection, and for the love of the saints.

Whiter than Snow and Little Dot, is now in stock and ready for sale. This 135 page book contains two different stories which will be of great interest to children. Bound in a heavy paper cover, it sells for \$3.00. When ordering, please include postage and handling of \$1.00 for the first dollar, and 10¢ for each additional dollar of the total order.

Moral Law, the book authored by Bro. Clifford Wilson, is currently at the book bindery, but should be in stock here at the Print Shop soon. We are accepting orders, if you wish to send them now. Cost is \$10.00 per book, with postage and handling at the rate mentioned previously.

Our appreciation is renewed daily for those who have a love for the Gospel and assist the work of God in general through the various funds established here at the Print Shop. Your support and prayers are crucial to our publishing operation, as well as for every other gospel endeavor we are involved in at this time, and we are encouraged that, through God's people, the work will continue to prosper.

May God's blessing be upon each of you, our readers, and warmest wishes for an enjoyable Thanksgiving Holiday. —Wayne Murphey

Prayer Requests

NC—"Please remember my mother, Sis. Bunice Hope, in your prayers. Her health is failing right now, but I believe God is going to bless her to feel much better."

—Sis. Angela Taylor

IN—"Please pray for me. I have a bad ear infection. Also pray for my mother, Sis. Dessie Wilson. She needs a touch from the Lord."

—Jimmy Wilson

MO—"I still need prayer for the complete healing of the places on my face and jaw."

—Sis. Mamie Butcher

MO—"I need your prayers for my eyes, and I have diabetes."

—Norma Allen

OR—"I have a prayer request. Please pray for my daughter, Ann Long, who has cancer."

—Wilma Jenkins

MN—"I have bronchitis which has gone into asthma. It is getting worse, so I would appreciate prayer."

—Lee Hilton

FL—"I desire prayer that my ears will be completely healed."

—Kathleen Williams

TN—"Remember Bro. Jimmy McDonald in prayer. He needs healing."

—Sis. Mary McDonald

LA—Charlene Bryant, daughter of Bro. Randall and Sis. June Flynn, is suffering from multiple sclerosis. She has two small children and needs her health to raise them. Do pray for her. Their son, Dean, is also having some health problems.



NORTHPORT, AL MEETING REPORT

Praise God for His manifold blessings! He was so faithful to the small congregation at Northport, AL and blessed them with a good meeting. Bro. John Clement had two blowouts on his way from Louisiana to the meeting, so with the preacher not there yet the first service was short and over when he arrived. Our group (4 from Wichita, KS) did not leave Alexander City, AL (from my sister-in-law's) early enough, and arrived a few minutes after Bro. John and his family. But the Lord blessed all the services thereafter and the singing was good, as well as the messages, testimonies and exhortations. Bro. John Clement preached two messages and Bro. Louis Kimble two. There was good altar work as different ones sought help and strength from the Lord. The congregation was refreshed and blessed and were so happy to have the saints with them from Mississippi, Louisiana and Kansas. There was plenty of good food and Christian hospitality, and we praise God for it all.

Would the saints everywhere please pray that God will save some more people there and add to the congregation? We appreciate the good courage and steadfastness of the few there. "...But God giveth the increase."

—Submitted by Shirley Knight

NEOSHO, MO REVIVAL

The Neosho, MO, congregation would like to announce a revival meeting for Wednesday, November 19th, through Sunday, November 23, 1997. We extend a hearty invitation to all who can come. We are expecting Bro. Darrell Johnson from Dallas, TX to be able to be with us for this meeting. Please come praying with a burden for souls, both for the saved and unsaved.

Contact Bro. Bob Huskey (417) 628-3425,

or Bro. Vada McMillian (417) 451-0278, for further information.

E-mail: jrhuskey@sofnet.com

MARYVILLE-ALCOA, TN SPECIAL SERVICES

Lord willing, the congregation here in the Maryville-Alcoa, TN area, are planning a Singspiration on Saturday, Nov. 29, 1997 at 7:00 p.m., with services on Sunday morning at 10:00. Accommodations are limited but there are plenty of motels nearby. Everyone is welcome.

For further information contact Bro. & Sis. Dwight Porter at (423) 984-2348, or Sis. Mary McDonald (423) 977-6997.

AKRON, OH MEETING NOTICE

The congregation at Akron, OH will be having a FALL meeting starting December 1, and continuing through Sunday the 7th. Bro. Toney Samons, of Green Bank, WV, will be bringing us the Word of God. On the weekend of December 5-7, he and Sis. Jeanie will be presenting the "Family Life" services.

Services will be held at 7:00 p.m. nightly. All are welcome to attend. We are expecting an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Please pray for our meeting that needs will be met and souls will be saved. If you would like further information, contact Bro. Keith Fuller, pastor, at (330) 864-1128, or Bro. Waymon Parmer at (330) 836-1907.

OAK HILL/PHELAN, CA FALL WEEKEND MEETING

Lord willing, there will be a singspiration held on Saturday, November 8, at 7:00 p.m., with Sunday services on November 9, at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Please pray much for God's anointing to be in each service.

For further information you may contact Bro. Travis, Sis. Alice or Sis. Alicia Johnson at (760) 261-2564.

ASSEMBLY MEETING, PACOIMA CA

The annual assembly meeting at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA, will convene, Lord willing, Friday night, Dec. 26 at 7:30 p.m. There will be three worship services daily, 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., commencing Saturday,

Dec. 27 and continuing through January 4, 1998.

The Lord abundantly blessed the camp meeting last August. We expect another profitable meeting through your prayers and the support of all who can possibly attend.

For information, or assistance, contact: Sunset Guest Home, (818) 899-2022, or Bro. Ed Sorrell (818) 834-4947.

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 91st annual Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held at Guthrie, OK, from December 26, 1997 through January 4, 1998. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U.S. The first service will be held Friday evening, December 26th at 7:30 p.m. Daily worship services throughout the remainder of the meeting will start at 10:15 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. There will also be a morning prayer service at 9:00 a.m. and a youth service at 6:00 p.m.

The campgrounds are located east off of Sooner Road on Lake View Road, which is a little over four tenths of a mile south of the intersection of South Division and Sooner Road. All who come will be cared for. The expenses of the meeting will be met as usual by freewill offerings.

We especially urge the saints in Oklahoma and the surrounding states to attend this meeting. Pastors and gospel workers, encourage your congregation to spend part of their Christmas holidays at this meeting. Come praying with a burden for the unsaved and for all those who need help in soul and body.

Please send all contributions for the coming State Assembly Meeting directly to the State Treasurer, Sister Brenda Wilkins, Rt. 6 Box 797, Guthrie, OK 73044. Phone: (405) 282-0566.

CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT

Dear saints:

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. We thank God for the glorious Gospel! And whom the Son has made free is free indeed! I would like to report victory through Christ our Lord, and to everyone that believeth that He is the Son of God. We have been in a battle the last five months, but thank God we see a light at the end of the tunnel. Glory to His precious name!

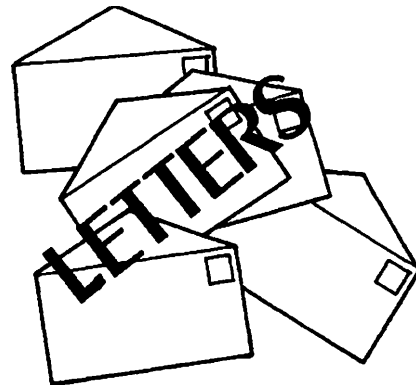
We have been held up for over two years on the building of our chapel. The city did not want to issue us a permit. They sent us through many changes, but thanks be to God, through the prayers of the saints, we were issued a permit on the 30th of September. We have a limited amount of time to rebuild the chapel and very little funds to work with. So our cry for help goes out to all the saints of God.

An estimated cost of the building is \$45,000 to complete. We have approximately one year before our building permit expires, and they may not issue us another permit. They have been trying to condemn the building, and if the building is torn down, they will not permit us to build at all. Please pray and see what the Lord will have you do concerning this matter.

For anyone wanting to help, with your presence or offerings, please contact: Bro. Louis or Sis. Diane Kimble, (504) 467-8842; Bro. John Clement (504) 831-6771. Mailing address: Church of God Missionary, P.O. Box 73835, Metairie, LA 70033.

Faithful in the service of the Master,

—Louis Kimble and congregation



CA—Dear saints: I praise the Lord every day for the miracle He performed on me.

In June of 1996 I was diagnosed with cancer. I had surgery in July, 1996, and was told that the cancer was as big as a golf ball but that they had gotten it all. Also, out of ten lymph nodes I had cancer in two. The doctor said with chemo and radiation there was a 70% chance it wouldn't come back.

I had chemo and radiation, but within three months I found a lump in a lymph node in my neck. It was the size of a walnut. I went to the doctor and he did a biopsy and told me it was cancer. He told me it was treatable with radiation, but not curable. He sent me to the chemo-

therapist. The chemotherapist told me it was not treatable or curable. He gave me six months to one year, maybe two years, to live. He said it didn't make any difference if I had chemotherapy or not, there was less than a 50% chance of it helping....

I haven't been to church in years. The little church I used to go to was sold, and there are no saints close around. I knew I needed prayer and God. I had been praying for two years for God to help and change me and show me how to live for Him. I realized I needed guidance. I asked my mother, Doris Pihaylic, if she would contact Bro. James and Sis. Charlotte Huskey and ask them to pray for me, and if there was any way for them to come and see me. I knew that, if I was going to die, I wanted to be saved so that I could go to heaven. I also knew that if God wanted, He could heal me completely, or if it was my time to pass on, then let it be.

Thank the good Lord, Sis. Charlotte and Bro. James Huskey, with Bro. and Sis. Reed, came to my mom's not even a week later. It was wonderful. They gave me courage and prayed for me. I knew God was going to heal me.

I had my first chemo and two weeks later I went to the doctor for blood tests. I told him my cancer was shrinking. He told me it wasn't possible, that the chemo had not had time to work. After the fourth chemo treatment I was leaving and he called me back and felt of my neck. All he could say was, "It's the size of a pea!" I said, "Yes, I told you it was shrinking." I told him of the saints praying, and that I believed God healed me. He would not acknowledge this.

After radiation I was sent back to the chemotherapist. There was no longer anything in my neck. Praise the Lord, it was gone! The power of the Lord is stronger than anything in this whole universe. I praise the Lord every day.

I am having trouble getting rid of my bad habits and I need your prayers. Also, I would love to hear from some of the saints to help me fight the devil. He keeps putting doubts in my mind about it coming back.... —Katie Poncia

612 4th St., Orland, CA 95963

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IN—Dear Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary: Greetings of warm love from our hearts to yours! We were overwhelmed by the concern shown to me when I was hurt. I wanted to let you know how much it meant to us, and how we really appreciated it. May God bless each of you. It surely melted our hearts.

None of us know what a day will bring. But, as we follow the Lamb of God, and completely trust in Him wherever He leads, and whatever He permits, we can be assured that we will come forth conquering. Let us follow the One who conquers all, even death. All praise, honor and glory be to Him forever!

I was hurt very severely. I lay flat on my back for 3 1/2 days. I could not turn or move anything except my arms and feet. The swelling in the lower part of my body caused all normal functions of my organs to cease, which caused intense suffering. Our Lord did not leave nor forsake us. Each time I thought I could not take anymore, He made a way. Praise Him always and forever! I am up and walking with the aid of a walker, but still very weak and sore. I am so thankful for every hour of being up and free from the suffering.

This has given me a great compassion for the many people who are dependent on others for care. The only effective way to touch another is through true compassion. I was very touched by our heavenly Father, and all of you that showed so much concern for me. Do you suppose the Lord could awaken our vision? Do we really know how to touch another? How many actually lead another soul to accept Christ on the basis of His love and compassion for them? "For when we were yet without strength,... God commendeth his love toward us,... Christ died for us!" Romans 5:6-67. What wonderful and powerful tidings!

Listen! Do you hear the tramping of the army? Where is the battlefield? There have been more Christian martyrs in this century, in China, and other countries where believers are persecuted, than in many previous centuries. They are persecuted because they believe, live and tell of Christ. Am I a part of that great conflict? Am I getting so familiar with the swiftly progressing tides of perversion that they don't appear deadly? Unless the homeplace is maintained, it will deteriorate, and we sincerely appreciate those who "paint the fences and stop the leaks." May God bless you. Yet, should not a healthy Church produce converts? Those that go out from it, across the street, to the jails, missions, nursing homes, etc., go not only to tell, but to listen and accept. They listen and accept because they are born of love. They are empowered by the same love that drew them. They were accepted just as they were. They were

poor, naked and blind. They are now free—free to grow, learn and produce. In so doing, they became rich, clothed and can now see.

Again, let me sincerely thank each of you for your prayers, interest and phone calls. Also, for those that came and helped, and those that offered to come. I know you meant it and God accepted it as such. Let us now concentrate on others who are down, whether it be physically or spiritually. (Hebrews 12:12.) Let us keep our eyes on Jesus; He will calm the storms of life that toss our souls.

We love all of you because of Him who first loved us.
—Paul and Lynette Sorrell

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KS—Dear saints: Greetings of love in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I was recently reading Psalm 107:6, 8, 13 and 15. "Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses." "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" As I read that, I realized I hadn't done all I could to praise the Lord for His goodness. Please forgive me for being so late to send in my testimony.

Some time ago I was driving on the way home from out of town and had stopped at a red light in a city we were going through. When the light turned green, I couldn't move. It seemed as if someone had pulled the plug on my energy and response mechanism. My body would not obey what my mind was telling it to do. I heard my husband ask me what was wrong. I couldn't tell him. He told me to take my foot off the peddle. I couldn't do that. He managed to get my foot off the peddle and maneuver us over into an empty parking lot. He got me out from under the steering wheel and we headed for the home of some saints that lived in that town for prayer. I was helped into the house and to a bed. They prayed until I felt I was well enough to continue the trip home. Thus began months of being in and out of bed with severe weakness, irregular heartbeat, a heavy feeling in my chest, and periods of feeling like I was going to pass out. About a year later, during our fall meeting, I was feeling like I was fighting to stay conscious. I knew I would have to have prayer to be able to drive home. The ministers anointed me and prayed. As soon as they were through praying I felt like a different person. Praise God! I haven't had any of those severe spells or anything even

close to that since then. Praises be to our God! He IS just the same today.

Just recently, I was expecting our fourth child and was having to be on strict bedrest because of early contractions. I had an appointment to see the obstetrician at 35 weeks gestation. When I went in I was having pretty consistent contractions. She wanted to put me right in the hospital and put me on two or three different medications to stop the labor. I told her I would just go home and hold it off for another week. She said, "No, you'll probably have this baby tonight." We went home and called around for prayer, saying that we needed another week's time, and two weeks would be even better. The Lord heard prayer and gave us two more weeks. The baby came and was still about three weeks early, but she was a well and healthy 6lbs. 10oz. All glory to His name! God still hears and answers prayer! I thank Him very much and thank everyone who knew about either of these conditions and labored in prayer for us. I have found out how important and necessary the saints are, and they have become even more dear to me. I feel so unworthy of the mercies of God. My ever increasing desire is to be a follower of God as a dear child.

Yours in His name, —Sarita Phillips

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OH—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings to you and all of the Lord's workers at the Print Shop. I am still encouraged and very thankful to God to be doing as well as I am. I really appreciate all of the saints and their love and their prayers for me and all of my loved ones.

I really rejoice to hear how God is blessing Sis. Karen Sallee. He is also blessing Sis. Melinda Carter. The enemy is still battling her, so she still needs our prayers.

Please continue to pray for me and all of my loved ones and the congregation here. Also, please pray that more souls will be added to the kingdom of God before it is too late.

I really do thank you all very much for sending out the gospel by the printed page. I truly appreciate the *Faith and Victory*, and the *Beautiful Way* papers and all of your good literature.
—Sis. Janice Shaw

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OH—I have special thanksgiving in my heart today. I am so unworthy of the miracle the Lord has wrought in my behalf. I hardly know where to begin. There is so much I have to tell so that

everyone will understand what the Lord has delivered me from.

About four years ago, when I was fourteen, I began to notice the changes in my health. I noticed that I started having bad colds; and then I had pneumonia twice. Except for this I had always been in excellent health. However, my problems did not stop. I was taken to several doctors. Some thought I had allergies or sinus problems. It seemed that if the weather would change a little, I began to have shortness of breath.

It was not until I went to San Francisco, CA in November, 1994, for Thanksgiving, that things really reached a climax. The damp weather greatly affected me. I returned home and that night I was unable to sleep because of the shortness of breath and wheezing. The saints were called for prayer, but yet I still had to go to the doctor. The doctors, at that time, began to seriously consider that I had asthma.

I began taking medicine for the asthma because of family circumstances. Through the years, I still had periods of not being able to breathe and had to get special breathing treatments.

I had never attended anywhere but the *Path of Life Christian School* in Akron, OH. I had not really lived as close to the Lord as I should have. This was not because of a lack of examples of how the true Christian life should be lived. My pastor, Bro. Keith Fuller, laid before me the pattern that I should follow, but at the time I really didn't pay much attention to where I would spend eternity.

It was during the year of 1995 when we had a revival, that I really got saved. During the early part of 1996, I had been counseled about sanctification, and my mother had given me a book to read. In it I read that sanctification opens the doors to serving the Lord more fully, and clears the way for trusting the Lord for healing of the body.

Later that year I saw a member of our congregation, take a stand to trust the Lord. I turned to my mother and said that I wanted to trust the Lord for the healing of my asthma. My mother told me to start praying about it and I did. Without my being aware of it, the Lord began to start getting me spiritually ready to take a stand.

We attended the Monark Springs, MO meeting in July of this year. After leaving there we

stopped in Indianapolis for a few days. While there my mother told me it was now time to fast and pray for the healing of my body. On Tuesday, the 29th day of July, we called the saints to agree in prayer with us during the hours of 8 a.m. through 12 noon. My brother, Jake, my mother, and myself went down to prayer. We spent that time in reading scriptures on healing, singing songs and reading testimonies of divine healing.

The next day my sister-in-law, Teletha, took me to prayer meeting where I testified to trusting the Lord for the healing of my body. That following Sunday was the last Sunday I was able to be in service for three weeks. That night, and for the rest of the week, I had very little relief, and my body steadily declined....

During that time the saints were praying for me and carrying a burden for my full deliverance from asthma. It was a very difficult time. That week and the weeks following, my condition was as follows. My best time was in the morning. The nights we had to pray for me while I sat in the chair, or was propped up in the bed for hours. I dreaded having to get up at nights because I would get out of breath just walking a few steps. I could not eat much in the day time, and after 3 or 4 p.m. it was just impossible, because I could not get enough air to breathe and eat, too....

The last of July my father had purchased plane tickets for us to go to the Youth Roundup in Wichita, KS. On the Sunday of the week we were to leave I was still in bed, but the Lord let me know it was His will for me to go by faith, not doubting His ability to take care of me. The Lord blessed me all through the retreat not to have any problems, even though my body still was not strong when I left. By the end of the trip, I was stronger than I had been when I left.

Just recently, the enemy came against me in a very real way. We must always remember that the enemy is against us and will be until we leave this earth. On September 30th the enemy came against me; and I remember telling the Lord I just could not take being sick again, and then I don't remember anything more. At that point, that's when the saints' prayers must have carried me through. I know I have been healed. I just want to thank the Lord for deliverance from a four year battle with asthma. I humbly ask each one of the saints to continue to pray for my soul that I would ever be what the Lord

wants me to be. The song #158 in the Evening Light Songbook, "All the Way" reflects best what I feel in my heart, but cannot in words express. "He led me forth with joy abounding; Again I whispered, All the way."

With love, your sister in Christ,

—Melinda S. Carter

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LA—Dear ones at the Publishing House: I want to tell you how pleased I am to have the book from your Publishing House, *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. During (my husband's) this long illness, the Lord has blessed me so many times by bringing meaningful scriptures to my mind to relate to him. Much of the time before I had the book I would have to search for the source. This book has helped me so very much.

Ken has gone "downhill" in the grips of Alzheimer's disease. He is helpless and sleeps almost all day and night. My heart is full of gratitude for the quiet, peaceful spirit that surrounds him. God is merciful to us, and I can feel His great love each day.

Christian love, —Gertrude Pickett

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CA—Dear saints: Hope all are well there, and I am so glad to hear about Sis. Sallee's healing. I can relate to her suffering as I have had malaria, too.

I am 84 years old and I feel very well except for some arthritis. Some days I can hardly walk, and other days I do very well. I do my best to keep up with my housework. At times it seems like the Lord gives me reprieve, and I am thankful I can carry on. Pray for me and my family.

Christian love, —Sis. Mary Reece

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MI—Dear Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary and all of the dear workers in the Lord's work: Greetings in the precious and holy name of Jesus. May God bless you all richly in body and soul. I thank you very much for your prayers which I need so much.

On September the 5th, I had something bad happen to my left foot. It was at night. I had read my Bible and fallen asleep. I woke up after 1:00 a.m. and got up out of my chair. My foot had fallen asleep, and it started going in all different ways. I couldn't stop it. I sat down on my end table, near my couch. I thought my foot would break. My toes tried to go under the sole of my foot. My ankle swelled up real large. I couldn't

walk or step on it. I got real sick to my stomach and I thought I was going to die. I prayed to Jesus to help me so I could walk, and He helped me, but it was so sore. Each side of my foot got black, red and blue, but praise God, He gave me a real peaceful sleep that night which I needed.

I never had such a thing happen to me in my life. But it does show how great our Jesus is. He is always there on time when we need Him. He sure has helped me through my life. I can't praise Him enough for all the times He has healed me....

I sure enjoy reading the testimonies in the *Faith and Victory* paper. They are such a blessing to read.

I will close for now. May God bless you all with strength and good health.

My love and prayers, —Sis. Olive Getterson

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OR—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in Jesus' name. I did so enjoy the September *Faith and Victory*. I always give my papers away when I finish them. I pray for you all there, and am glad you are getting a nice Print Shop building built. I try to support the work you are doing, and thank the Lord for the truth.

I am having much pain with arthritis and my feet are swollen. I hope you will earnestly pray for God to relieve the swelling....

Christian love and prayers,

—Sis. Grace Jones

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CA—Brethren: Christian greetings! May our Lord richly bless you in your endeavors to serve Him.

Recently a Christian brother shared several issues of the *Faith and Victory* with me. They were indeed a blessing. The tone in which the articles are written is real refreshing. They lacked the arrogance portrayed by many "Christian" writers. Praise the Lord!

Recently my youngest daughter told me that the baby she was carrying may have Down Syndrome. The brothers in our intercessory prayer group agreed with me for healing. The report came back negative, but there was water on the baby's kidneys and surgery would be necessary moments after birth.

Once again the brothers agreed for complete healing. Praise the Lord! Little Jonathon came a week earlier than expected. He has been given a clean bill of health and weighed in at 7lbs. 8oz. and was 19 inches long.

Please pray for this new daddy. He wants to do right. He is a young Christian. Pray for my daughter, also....

In Him,

—Jim Snyder

MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings to you this fall morning. Fall is one of the seasons that I like best. The weather is pleasant, the fall flowers are in bloom, the leaves on the trees will soon be beautifully colored and there is a bit of relaxation from the heat and hard work that accompanies the summer. The good Lord knew what was best for us when He gave us the four seasons.

I hope all is going well for you and all of the faithful workers there at the Print Shop. We appreciate all the good books, tracts and papers that go forth from there. I trust God will ever keep His hand over the work and cause it to prosper and redound to His glory, and to help souls to be prepared for eternity....

Your saved brother, —T. V. McMillian

CA—I would like to give some information in the *Faith and Victory* about my father. Some knew him as Bro. W. W. Crawley, and others knew him by his name of Warner Washington Crawley. People have asked me when he was born and when he died.

My father was born on May 9, 1875, to Elder and Mrs. George Washington Crawley, in Birmingham, AL, and passed away at 97 years of age on December 9, 1972. He accepted Christ at an early age and was born into the Church of God in 1912, under the ministers, Bro. R. Robinson and Father Winn. He was an ordained minister and preached the Word of God for more than fifty years. He often walked many miles to the church, and sometimes he crossed a river on a cable to get there.

He was married for 73 years to the same wife, a record that few people can match. His wife was Ollie Henson, and they had 13 children, 21 grandchildren and 24 great, great grandchildren. —Sis. Fletter Johnson

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Look back to Jesus and thank Him!
Look ahead and trust Him!
Look around and serve Him!
Look into your heart and worship Him!
Look up and expect Him!
—Selected by Audrey Carver



Sis. Josephine Foster, the daughter of Benjamin and Daisy Foster, was born March 13, 1920 in Bristow, OK. She grew up in Bristow, but as a young woman, in 1943, she moved to CA seeking employment and a better opportunity for her son. Being reared in a godly home and nurtured in the truth, and attending church services regularly, she proved Proverbs 22:6 which says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." It was in Oakland, CA, following a message by Bro. Woodrow Warren, that she rededicated her life to the Lord and served Him faithfully in the Oakland congregation.

In 1988, she heard the voice of the Lord calling her to move to Bakersfield, CA, to spend time with her brothers. In the Bakersfield congregation she served the Lord and His people faithfully, often recalling her childhood days of camp meetings and testifying of how good God is to us. Her seat in the congregation is vacant, but we believe she is now in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord dispatched His angels and called her home on Friday, July 18, 1997.

She leaves to cherish and celebrate her homegoing, one son and daughter-in-law, San Juan and Murlene Johnson; one granddaughter, Carale Johnson; two sisters and their husbands, Magnolia and James B. Wilson of Richmond, CA, Narine and Charles Reese of Bakersfield, CA; one aunt, Ethel Jackson of Bakersfield; many nephews, nieces, great-nephews, great-nieces, cousins, saints and friends.

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Derrill G. Smith died September 23, 1997 at his home. He was 52. He was born July 13, 1945, in Shawnee to Charles R. and Betty (Tait) Smith. He graduated from Shawnee High School in 1963 and attended American Business College and took courses in nursing home administration at the University of Oklahoma.

He married Ruby Belcher on October 16, 1964, in Shawnee. He lived in Shawnee most of his life and held management positions with

Mobil Chemical and Central Plastics. He was administrator of the Golden Rule Nursing Home at the time of his death.

Bro. Derrill was a member of the Gordon Cooper Church of God where he served as a trustee, Oklahoma Nursing Home Association and Johnson Community Town Council.

Surviving are his wife, Ruby Smith, and son, Tim Smith, of the home; son and daughter-in-law, Derrill Jr. and Ramona Smith, Shawnee, OK; daughters and sons-in-law, Anita and Tony Foreman, Newalla, OK, Lori and Chad Stacy, Shawnee, OK; nine grandchildren; mother, Betty Smith, Shawnee, OK; brothers and sisters-in-law, including his twin, Merrill and Beulah Smith, Midwest City, OK; David and Robin Smith, Chuck and Kathy Smith, all of Shawnee, OK; sisters and brothers-in-law, Anna and Charles Jantz, Terri and John Madden, all of Bristow, OK, Betty and James Nicholson, Shawnee, OK, and many other relatives.

Preceding him in death were his father, Charles R. Smith, and brother, Charles Milton Smith.

Funeral services were held at the Northridge Church of Christ with Bro. Michael Smith officiating. Burial was in the Johnson Cemetery.

Ruth Lois (Dolly) Gideon was born on November 17, 1903, and departed from her earthly home September 27, 1997 at the age of 93.

Sis. Dolly was born south of Manchester, OK, to William and Louisa Reid, the youngest of eight children. She spent her childhood on the family farm and graduated from Spring School in 1922. She married Lawis Gideon in 1922, and two children, Max and Dixie, were born to them. Both her husband and son preceded her in death. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Dixie and Al Harris of Wichita, KS and four grandchildren of Hutchinson, KS.

Sis. Dolly attended the Church of God all her life, was saved and sanctified in her middle years, and remained a steadfast and faithful child of God until her death. She was a quiet Christian who believed that actions speak louder than words. Her philosophy of life was to love God, pray about everything, work hard, and cherish her family and friends.

Sis. Dolly loved to go to church and camp meetings, and had a deep love for the saints. When she could no longer attend services, or see to read, she had others read God's Word to

her, join her in prayer and singing hymns. These things seemed to bring her much comfort and encouragement during the many years she was an invalid. She was almost blind and deaf, and could not even feed herself or turn over in bed for over four years, but she patiently endured and did not complain. She spent the last few years of her life in the home of her daughter and son-in-law, and her sweet spirit richly blessed them. She longed to go to her eternal reward and passed away peacefully in her sleep.

She leaves to those who knew and loved her a wonderful example of a life anchored in God.

Funeral services were conducted on September 30, 1997 by Bro. Wayne Murphey at Williams Funeral Home in Anthony, KS, and interment was at Forest Park Cemetery, Anthony, KS.



*He's
The
Lily
Of
The
Valley*



By Sis. Juanita Montgomery

Yesterday I pulled the last of my zinnias since most of them were past their beautiful stage. I have enjoyed these flowers so much. Before discarding the plants, I picked the pretty blooms which remained. It will be my last bouquet for this year.

This morning while eating breakfast, I looked closely at each perfect, colorful flower. I found myself thinking, "Lord, I can see Your face, or just You, in each one. Maybe that is why they are so special and I love them so much!"

In my morning devotion I read an article in which the writer called Jesus "The Lily of the Valley." I couldn't seem to get past that thought. If Jesus is "The Lily of the Valley," He is like a beautiful flower. Then I thought of last Sunday's message which brought out the fact that when we are saved, we are God's children. If we are



God's children, then there will be some "family resemblance" revealed as we grow spiritually.

When people look at us, do they see a flower? A flower is beautiful to look at. It is even better when we enjoy the lovely fragrance coming from within. If others see Jesus in us, we must look like one of His brothers or sisters. When others get close enough to somehow touch our lives, do we put off a wonderful fragrance? Maybe we get bumped or hurt, or in general, not treated like we feel we should. What comes from within? Is the fragrance as wonderful then as it was when we were just a flower in the garden being admired but not touched?

In my flower beds, weeds and grass will grow close to the flowers. Sometimes they are sizable before I see them. Then it is so difficult to pull them without damaging the flowers. In life we can let the cares of life, or anything the devil can slip in, grow until people can hardly recognize our spiritual walk with the Lord, or see any "family resemblance." When someone offers to help remove the "weeds" in our life, are we going to be hurt or offended? Or, are we going to recover and grow more beautifully because of the fresh soil and plant food given us in love?

I love my plants and work them gently. Quite often I feed them "Miracle Gro." Does not a kind, loving word or deed, offered in the Lord's name, cause a miracle growth in our lives?

I want to always remember, Jesus is "My Lily of the Valley." He is so beautiful to me. Oh, how I love the sweet fragrance of love He permits me to enjoy when I walk with Him.



"Thy Word Hath Quickened Me"

By Sis. Kay Stover

This morning I found two verses about life that encouraged me. "This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me." Psalm 119:50. "It is the spirit that quickeneth (brings life); the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." John 6:63.

If we have affliction (trial, tribulation, distress) that causes our heart to be heavy, we can run to One who gives comfort right in the midst

of the trial. By reading His Word that is inspired by the Spirit, we can have renewed strength and the heart that drooped can soar instead.

I dug up some flowers from the yard on a cool evening and put them in a container inside. The next morning they were all drooped and wilted. After I watered them they perked up and looked fine. God's Spirit and Word brings life to withered souls much like water brings new life to a wilted plant. Once a plant is dead, water will not help, but God can revive souls that are past the drooping stage and are dead in trespasses and sin!

If your soul has lost vitality, or perhaps died because of the load you carry, don't be discouraged or lose hope. "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." Praise His name!



QUESTION AND ANSWER BY BRO. OSTIS B. WILSON Reprint

QUESTION: Please give us a lesson on how to raise our children and teach and train them.

ANSWER: In Psalm 127:3-5 we read, "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."

God ordained that the man (Adam) and the woman (Eve) which He created would be joined together in holy wedlock and that they should produce children (offspring) and bring forth fruit unto God. This first pair was the pattern for all succeeding generations. God adds children to a marriage as one major means of blessing the parents, enriching their lives and giving luster, cheer and pleasure to the home and family. In these verses He teaches that the children are a valuable asset to the parents and are a source of strength and support to them.

We need first of all to recognize the value and importance of our children in God's sight. They should be precious and of prime importance in

"Every set of parents has a good missionary project in their own home."

our sight also. They are a blessing from God and are the heritage of the parents from Him. In Genesis 33:5, Jacob referred to the children which God had **graciously** given Him. In Genesis 48:9 Joseph said unto his father, "...They are my sons, whom God hath given me in this place...."

God, however, gives children to parents for a specific purpose beyond what has yet been mentioned. Within those little bodies are souls for whom Christ died and which are precious in God's sight. He has intrusted those souls to the care of parents that they might train, teach and nurture them in the ways of the Lord, and so beget within them a desire for salvation and to love and serve Him. He wants to increase the population of heaven and the size of His own family with those souls, and has strictly charged the parents to whom He intrusted them to do all in their power to take good care of those souls so they may be returned to Him as redeemed at the end. Every set of parents has a good missionary project in their own home.

In Psalm 48:12-13 we read, "Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generations following." Psalm 102:18 says, "This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord." We see, then, that God values our children as much as us and He wants them to be saved the same as us. He expects us to bring them up knowing the same truth that we know and believing in the same God. He charges all parents with the responsibility of teaching and training their children in a way that they will know what salvation is and how to get it. We will be held accountable to God for failing to do this as much as we will be held accountable for failure to do God's will on any other line. Please read in connection with this Deuteronomy 4:9-10, 8:6-9, 11:18-21, to see how diligently God commands His people to continually have these truths before their children.

Adam Clarke, commenting on Deuteronomy 6:7, says that the Hebrew word used here (diligently) means to repeat or do a thing again. He further says at this place, "God's testimonies must be taught to our children, and the utmost diligence must be used to make them under-

stand them. This is a most difficult task; and it requires much patience, much prudence, much judgment and much piety in the parents, to enable them to do this good, this most important work, in the best and most effectual manner."

If we want our children to really get a firm hold on the truths of God's Word, we must diligently teach them in a spiritual way, not just like a school class or teach the Bible like a school book, but we must be very spiritual ourselves and teach them in that atmosphere—by example as well as precept. We must be obeying and practicing God's Word ourselves and let our children see it in actuality as it is being taught to them. In other words, teach them the truths and principles of God's Word and then tell them, "Now just watch me and I will show you how to do it and how it works out in everyday living." If we can't do this, we are totally defeated to start with.

This is the way Jesus taught His disciples and us. I Peter 2:21-23 says that Christ left us an example that we should follow in His steps. In John 13:15 Jesus said, "...I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done..." That is the way He taught His disciples and us, and that is the way we must teach our children if we want them to really get it. If you want to really confuse your children and discourage them, then just try the old "Don't do as I do; but do as I say" theory. II Timothy 2:6 says, "The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits." This will apply to you teaching your children as well as your pastor teaching you. This is of extreme importance.

(To be continued.)

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Not The Way We See It

By Burbridge R. Copeland

One of the most deceptive and dangerous things afflicting a person's life is his or her own personal opinion. One's own personal opinion can be coddled and pampered as our own baby, or even exalted to where we kneel to it in esteemed reverence. Often it is said that every person has a right to this highly prized and treasured creation, but any opinion has flaws.

I appreciate other's advice and directions, but I have got to have something a little bit

better. Like the "more noble" folks at Berea (Acts 17:11), I have to search the Scriptures.

In this journey from the cradle to the grave, I dare not trust my own personal opinion. I can't possibly risk my life on something as flimsy and faulty as I have found my opinion to be.

I have had to change my opinion again, and again, and again, because many times I have found it out of step with common truth and God.

The very process of learning proves over and over again that the opinions of the greatest human thinkers have to undergo modification from decade to decade, in order to bring them up to seeming plausibility; lest important theories lag and lose reliability in the face of what has newly been accepted as fact.

No one knows it all but God, and He has given to us an eternal, infallible yardstick whereby we also may know what is truth. Jesus declared of the Word, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Matthew 24:35.

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