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of publishing the Gospel

FAITH AND VICTORY

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Thoughts of Him

I love to dwell upon the thought
That Jesus cares for me;
It matters not what life may bring—
He loves me tenderly!

I may not see the path ahead
Or find my way with ease,
But Jesus leads me by the hand—
He knows the way—He sees!

The very thought of Jesus makes
My shadows disappear,
And when I come to Him in prayer
He draws so very near!

When I am thinking thoughts of Him
Earth's cares and troubles cease.
And o'er my soul there gently rolls
A sweet and precious peace!

—Georgia Adams

Purity Of The Mind

Many people seem to have difficulty in keeping their thoughts pure and their minds free from things they know are not according to the life of a Christian. If we closely follow the Word of God on this, as well as on other lines, we will have no trouble whatever. We are told to "gird up the loins of our mind." We can have the mastery over them if we just will. It depends much on what we permit our minds to feed and dwell upon. We will always have pure, holy and good thoughts and our minds will be pure and stayed on God and heavenly things if we obey the injunction in Philippians 4:8—"...Whatever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, *think on these things.*" Why allow our minds to dwell on impure or unholy things when there are so many good things of which to think?

If we would keep the loins of our minds girded up and, as an impure or unholy thought comes, banish it at once, there would be no crop of impure thoughts, for the soil of our minds would be continually kept pure. Nor should we listen to impure or unholy language, for it will make a greater or less impression on our minds that will have a reflection, and often when we want our minds for clean, pure thought, the enemy will try to bring these things to us to scatter and hinder the pure, holy thoughts we want for our profit. Neither should we indulge in, nor listen to impure and unprofitable stories or gossip. All these things have their influence,

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and the reflection on the soul and spiritual life is harmful.

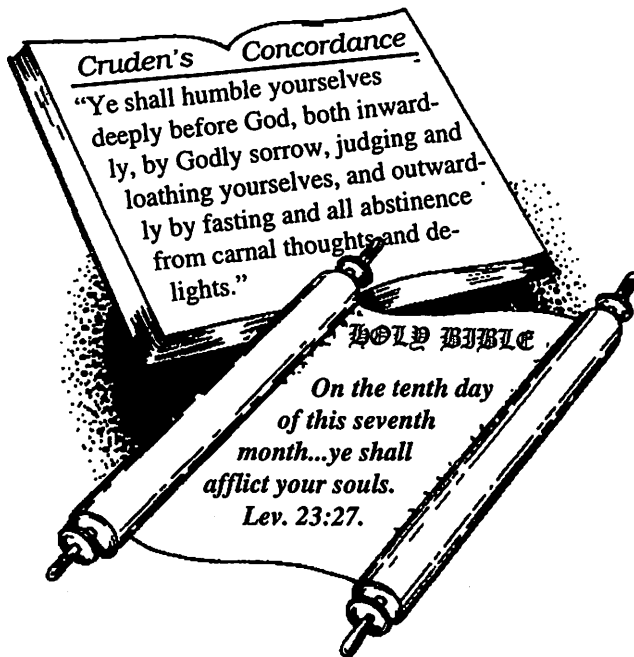
Let us guard our thoughts as well as our words. Let every thought be so pure that we would not be ashamed to have it written out that

all might see it. This is not impossible, for He whom we serve has promised that every thought shall be brought into subjection to the obedience of Christ. (II Corinthians 10:5.)

—J. M. Byers

God's Chosen Fast

By Sis. Patsy Cain



In the Old Testament, God's people were commanded to fast and afflict themselves once a year. In the New Testament, Jesus tells us when to fast: "But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast *in those days*." Luke 5:35. We're living in *those days* right now.

There are many different ways to fast: some people fast for twenty-four hours, some fast from a certain meal every day for a week, some fast from bedtime until the evening meal. Some people drink water when they fast, some don't; some people fast from a favorite food or activity for a specified length of time; some people are physically not able to skip meals at all. All these things are matters of personal choice and don't really affect the result of the fast; the important thing is that we learn to *afflict our souls* in our fasting.

To afflict means "to distress with mental pain; to trouble greatly or grievously; to defeat; to humble." This we must willfully do to our souls in order to accomplish "God's chosen fast." I especially like the definition "to

defeat;" the only way to defeat self is to afflict it. Self loves spiritual comfort and ease and grows fat and flourishing on them, while sorrow and trouble trim it quickly down to size. The soul is just the opposite; it atrophies with comfort and gets stronger in affliction.

In the 58th chapter of Isaiah, God spoke to the Israelites about their manner of fasting and how much it displeased Him. They carried out an appearance of fasting, but made no attempt to change their hearts or their sinful ways. In verse five He says, "Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul?" The margin says, "To afflict his soul for a day?" The fast that God has chosen for us is a fast that brings results, both in our own souls and in the souls around us—not just a day of going hungry, done once a week and forgotten between times, but a permanent commitment to afflicting our souls. "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?" Isaiah 58:6-7.

All of these precious spiritual blessings belong to us, but the Word plainly states that we will not obtain them except by fasting and afflicting our souls. In Matthew 17:21, Jesus, explaining to His disciples why they did not have power over Satan, says, "Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." This proves that there are things we can get from God by fasting that we cannot get any other way. I heard a minister preach on this scripture once, and he said, "Do you think this means that we should hope, if a strong attack from Satan comes upon us, that it will come on a day when we're fasting? No! it means we

"God isn't interested in seeing how long we can go without eating, or how loud our stomachs can growl, but He is interested in seeing us change to become more like Him."

should do our homework! If we know we need to fast in order to have power with God, let's do it—think of it ourselves and decide to do it, instead of waiting for a heavy trial and then wishing we had more power." Certainly there's time for fasting to meet a specific challenge, but if we are already undergoing the regular discipline of fasting and afflicting our souls, the power will be there when a sudden trial comes.

James 4:9 says, "Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness." God commands each one of us to do this. He doesn't mean for us to be sad and disheartened all the time, or go around discouraging others with our mourning, but *in our souls* to maintain an attitude of being afflicted, and mourning, and weeping: for lost souls, for people in trouble, for our own shortcomings, for healings, and most of all for Zion. It is a serious thing to neglect this, because some of these conditions *are not going to be changed in any other way*. Amos 6:1 says, "Woe unto them that are at ease in Zion!" And Hosea 10:12 says, "Break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord." Fallow ground is ground plowed and left unseeded, that will soon be taken over by weeds. If we ask Him, the Lord will show us the places in our hearts that are lying fallow, so that we can bring forth more fruit for Him.

My prayer for all of us is that we continue to fast in the way that God has chosen for us,

because that's what brings us victory over sin and self. Are we afflicting ourselves, sorrowing and mourning and *loosing the bands of wickedness*, or are we just going hungry once in a while? God isn't interested in seeing how long we can go without eating, or how loud our stomachs can growl, but He is interested in seeing us change to become more like Him. When we truly fast as God wants us to, we will see results.

One of those results is mentioned in James 4:11, "Speak not evil of one another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: *but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law.*" He's telling us that each man is responsible to God for his acts, not to us, for only God knows the heart. If we criticize (or speak evil of) a man's behavior without knowing his heart, (and who can know another's heart?) we're speaking evil of the law; we're saying that the law is concerned with men's actions and not their hearts. If we truly are "The Church of God," the only one of her mother, the Bride of Christ, we will not speak evil of one another. "Then," as Isaiah goes on to say in 58:8, "shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily:" We will be a strong, healthy, *victorious* "Church of God," not a shabby, "sort-of" church, as Brother Hargrave once said. Thank God for a Church triumphant!

The Life of Jesus Manifested in our Mortal Flesh

By Harlan Sorrell

(Continued from last month.)

Here is the secret to how we may be free from sin and have the very life of Jesus manifested in our mortal flesh. It is through dying to our flesh and fully yielding ourselves to the control of the Spirit of God. It is then that the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead will work *life in us*. But this life can only come through *your death to the flesh*. It is very true that "they that are in the flesh cannot please God." Rom. 8: 8. But what people need to do is to get out of "the flesh" and into "the Spirit." They need to be

delivered from the "carnal mind" and take on the "spiritual mind," the mind of Christ, through the regenerating and sanctifying power of the precious Holy Spirit. Christ has provided this experience for us *if we will follow Him to the cross and die*.

The real problem of sin in the flesh lies in the matter of a depraved heart and an unresigned self-will. "Know ye not, that to whom ye *yield yourselves* servants to obey, his servants ye are (Continued on page 12.)

**FAITH AND VICTORY
16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY**



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SUBSCRIPTION RATES



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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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Dear Readers:

This June issue of the *Faith and Victory* is being produced while the Oklahoma State camp meeting is in progress here in Guthrie. This makes for a very busy schedule for the Print Shop workers, who sometimes work both during the day and evening during press time, and who also wish to attend the meeting. But the work is done cheerfully and with the hope that the printed Word will be a blessing to those who read it.



While the U. S. economy may seem stable, and many people enjoy the fruits of career success, the general condition of our country has not fared as well. Social values have declined and time-honored institutions, such as universities and colleges established years ago on Judaic, Christian principles, have lost their way in the fog of "political correctness." Many are also wondering what is happening in our public school systems when so much violence is perpetrated by the students attending them.

These conditions can be dismaying if they become our focus, but is all lost? Not to the Christian, for II Corinthians 1:20 says, "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen." The old-time preacher, C. H. Spurgeon, used to tell the story of a man who when asked how he had faith, replied, "This is how I believe: I fall flat on the promise; I can't fall any lower."

God is interested in our welfare, and His integrity is constant. His character can be likened to the claim of a printer of old, whose trademark was, "I never disappoint." God has proven Himself to all generations, and He will still be encouraging, inspiring, and answering prayer right up until the time when this world is called into judgment.

When you are tempted to be downhearted because of what you see and hear around you, claim the promises of God, and "look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28.

Quite a number of former Print Shop workers have notified us of their intention to attend the workers' reunion on July 11. It will be gratifying to see those whom God has used in the past to publish His message.

Progress is being made on the new Print Shop building. We believe we will have it to a state of completion equipped to accommodate the workers' reunion.

The latest project has been the laying of over 2,000 square feet of floor tile. We have also done a little landscaping. Other undertakings before the reunion will be to make the restrooms and kitchen operable, bring natural gas into the building, and complete heat and air systems.

At this time our plans are to make the September *Faith and Victory* paper a special edition commemorating our 75th anniversary of operation, and to include a report and pictures of the workers' reunion.

I encourage former workers who have not already done so to send in memories of their involvement in the printing work so they can appear in this special issue.

We thank all the saints who have informed us of their prayers on our behalf due to the loss of our co-worker, Bro. Bob Sallee. The extra workload which his absence leaves is secondary to the loss of his affiliation. There are times when sadness settles suddenly upon each of us here, but our hearts are always comforted when we think of what Bro. Bob is enjoying. We solicit your continued prayers, especially for Bro. Bob's wife, Sis. Irma, and their children.

The gospel work in Malawi, Central Africa, which Bro. Bob had a part in getting started, has not been forgotten. Lord willing, negotiations will soon be in progress for having thousands of two different tracts printed in the native language for distribution there, as well as to the people of Mozambique.

Lord willing, Bro. Michael Smith will be returning to Africa the last part of August. In addition to spending time in Malawi, he plans to spend a couple of weeks visiting the saints in Ghana and Nigeria.

Please keep this work and Bro. Michael's burden in your prayers. —Wayne Murphey

CAMP MEETING DATES



Holly Hill, SC—May 31-June 7

Tulsa, OK—June 7-14

Jefferson, OR—June 12-21

Green Bank, WV—June 12-18

Coffeerville/Water Valley, MS—June 21-28

Loranger, LA—June 28-July 5

Fresno, CA—July 3-12

National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 17-26

Myrtle, MO—July 29-Aug. 2

Bakersfield, CA—Aug. 12-16

Boley, OK—Aug. 17-23

California State (Pacoima)—Aug. 28-Sept. 6



Meeting Reports and Notices

WICHITA, KS, MEETING REPORT

Isn't the Lord wonderful? "The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy." Psalm 145:8. We have found Him to be so.

God was faithful once again and blessed us with a good meeting. On Thursday night the singing was heavenly and the service was blessed and glorious. Heaven came down and glory filled our souls.

We were blessed to have outside ministers attending all 20 of the services during the meeting. The Lord richly blessed His Word. The first message was on "Preaching;" its importance and the need for it. We had messages on: "The Good Shepherd," "Discouragement," "Patience," and "Being Rewarded." We were exhorted to "Listen" (especially to the voice of God). We were emphatically told that we must have the Holy Spirit in us to be able to live a consistent holy life. Sis. Mary Lawson made it

very clear that endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit is unity with the Holy Spirit and not with the spirit of man. We were also encouraged to press, live holy and praise God always. We had two messages on loving our brother and how necessary it is to do so.

We appreciate everyone who came to be with us in our meeting. We were truly blessed.

—Shirley Knight

TULSA, OK, CAMP MEETING

The Tulsa, OK, camp meeting, Lord willing, will begin on Sunday, June 7th, and end on Sunday, June 14th, 1998.

The church address is 1102 E. Pine Pl. (The nearest main intersection is on Pine and Peoria.)

There will be morning and night services Monday through Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., with afternoon services on both Sundays.

All are invited to attend these services. Please come praying that every soul will get the help they need.

For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Charles Lowe, (918) 584-6838, or Bro. Charles Rhodes, (918) 272-9682.

Please note a change in our church telephone number: (918) 585-2442.

WV STATE CAMP MEETING

The West Virginia camp meeting will begin on Friday night, June 12th, and end on Thursday night, the 18th. Two services are scheduled daily, at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held on the White Pines Campground in Arbovale, WV, right off Highway 28 and 92. Lodging is available on the campgrounds as well as at nearby motels. There will be meals served daily.

This camp meeting is held to provide an opportunity for isolated saints in this area to attend services, as well as an outreach to the surrounding community. Ministers of the Church of God are invited to come and participate in this meeting. We are expecting another outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and urge everyone who can to attend.

In addition, we are planning an outreach to Washington, D.C., on the 19th of June, on the Friday following the meeting. We will leave early Friday morning and arrive in D.C. around noon, Lord willing. We plan to hold a couple of open air

sings and hand out tracts in the afternoon and evening on the mall between the Capitol and the Washington Monument. We will be spending Friday night in the nearby D. C. suburbs. Saturday will be left for sight-seeing.

The directions to the campgrounds coming from the South: take Interstate 64 to White Sulphur Springs, WV. You will then get on Highway 92 and go north to Arbovale and follow the signs. Coming from the North, you will go to Elkins, take (219, 250) south. Follow Rt. 250 until you come to Rt. 28, 92 in Bartow. Follow Rt. 28, 92 to Arbovale and follow signs.

For information about the meeting, the Washington D. C. outreach, or reservations for lodging, call Bro. Toney Samons at (304) 456-3017, or Bro. Marty Clevenger at (304) 456-3242.

JEFFERSON, OR, CAMP MEETING

The saints at Jefferson, OR, send a hearty invitation to attend the annual camp meeting held June 12-21. RV hookups and other sleeping accommodations are available. Meals will be served in the dining hall. Let us know if you plan to come by bus, plane or train so arrangements can be made to pick you up.

For those driving from Jefferson, go east on Marion Rd. approximately one mile, turn left on Skelton Rd. and go 1/2 mile. The chapel will be on the right. The address is 14810 Skelton Rd. SE, Jefferson, OR. For more information contact Bro. Bob Wilson, pastor, at (541) 327-3621, or Bro. Clifford Smith at (503) 581-4575.

We are entreating the Lord to send vessels of His choosing, add a few to the fold and sanctify this gathering with His holy presence. Your presence would be a blessing to the saints at Jefferson.

REVIVAL-OUTREACH SERVICES ALCOA-MARYVILLE, TN

Lord willing, the congregation here plans a Revival-Outreach meeting June 19-21, 1998. Friday and Saturday nights will be for outreach services at 7:00 p.m. Sunday morning services will be at 10:00 a.m.

Accommodations are limited, but there are nearby hotels.

Come praying that the Lord will have His way in the meeting. Those who desire to support this work and meeting may send offerings to Sis.

Carrie Porter, treasurer, 912 Runnymede Circle, Maryville, TN 37804.

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

**COFFEEVILLE/WATER VALLEY, MS
CAMP MEETING**

The Church of God of Water Valley and Coffeerville, MS, camp meeting will be held, Lord willing, June 21-28. There will be services nightly at 7:30.

We are looking for God to send ministers and workers of His choosing to help in the battle. Please come praying that sinners will respond to the invitation to attend, and souls will get the help they need.

Provisions will be made for everyone who attends.

The meeting will be operated by freewill offerings, and if you would like to make a contribution, you may do so by sending it directly to The Church of God, P.O. Box 84, Coffeerville, MS 38922.

For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Louis Kimble, (504) 467-9039, or Bro. Lessie Brown, (601) 675-2718.

LORANGER, LA, CAMP MEETING

Lord willing, this meeting will begin Sunday, June 28, with services daily through July 5th. Come for a blessing and please support this meeting in your prayers.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Power and water hookups are provided for those with campers. Meals will be served and expenses met by freewill offerings.

From Loranger, go two miles south and about three and one-half miles east on Hwy. 40.

For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about 10 miles east of the Tickfaw exit (take Hwy. 442 east which runs into Hwy. 40).

For more information write Nelson Doolittle, 51367 Narretto Rd., Loranger, LA 70446, phone (504) 878-6111. The chapel phone is (504) 878-2788.

Let us prepare and hold fast, for our Bridegroom is at the door!

FRESNO, CA, CAMP MEETING

The Fresno, CA, camp meeting will convene July 3 through July 12, 1998. There will be

7:00 p.m. services on Friday the 3rd, and Saturday the 4th. There will be three services on both Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. general service and 7:00 p.m. night service. Monday through Saturday, 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Directions to the church: coming from the north on 99, take the Belmont exit, go east about 3 miles to First St., turn right and go 2 blocks to Grant. The church is on First and Grant. Coming from the south; take Venture exit, go east to First St., turn left and follow to Grant.

For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Charles Taylor, (209) 348-9029, or Bro. Charles Parrish, (209) 221-6808.

**NATIONAL CAMP MEETING
MONARK SPRINGS, MO**

The National camp meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO, July 17-26, 1998. All are cordially invited to come and bring others to enjoy the blessings we are expecting from the Lord.

The Monark Springs campground is located approximately five miles east of Neosho, MO. It is one mile east and 3/4 mile south of the intersection of Highways 86 and 71 Alternate.

If you travel to Neosho by bus, you may telephone the campground, 472-6427, or Bro. Mike Hightower, 451-3636, for transportation.

The camp meeting is conducted on a freewill offering basis. There is no charge for meals or lodging on the campground. You are welcome to come and enjoy the meeting. We are confident that God will supply every need. Meals will be served in the dining hall. Dormitory space, tents and trailer spots are available on a first-come basis. Trailer spots include electricity, water and sewer hookups. Motels are available nearby, but reservations should be made in advance.

All correspondence about tents and dormitory spaces should be addressed to Sis. DeLoris Bradley, 1540 2000 Rd., Bartlett, KS 67332, phone (316) 226-3390. She will be coordinating requests for sleeping quarters on the campground.

There is a need for volunteer cooks to oversee the meals. If you could help in any way, please contact us.

—Business managers: Randel Bradley (above address), or Mike Hightower, 13974 Newt Dr., Neosho, MO 64850.

BAKERSFIELD, CA, CAMP MEETING

A cordial invitation is extended to saints everywhere to join with us in our effort for the expansion of the Gospel.

Our annual camp meeting date is Wednesday, August 12, through Sunday, August 16. On Wednesday through Friday there will be two services daily at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. On Sunday, Sunday School will begin at 9:30 a.m.; general worship services will be at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

We are expecting God to work mightily in our midst. We encourage you to join with us in our battle against sin. If you are unable to attend, please pray for the success of the meeting.

For more information contact Bro. Archie Sherman, (805) 871-1636, or Bro. Haywood Cox, (805) 366-4718.

DUNCANNON, PA, REVIVAL

Revival services are planned for September 16 through 20 at the Church of God chapel, Duncannon, PA. Morning and evening services are scheduled, with the first service being held on Wednesday evening.

Accommodations and camper sites are limited, but we are asking God to supply our spiritual and temporal needs. There are motels within a half hour's drive of the meeting, in the Harrisburg area.

For further details, and to acquire accommodations, please contact Sis. Virginia Myers, (717) 834-4541, or Bro. Stanley and Sis. Nancy Huss, (717) 834-4490.

The chapel location is 5 1/2 miles from Duncannon on Route 849, on the right side of the road. The chapel phone number is (717) 567-6988.

Pray for the Lord to have His way in sending His ministers and His messages, that His kingdom may be enlarged and edified.

—Sis. Barbara J. Campbell

CAMP MEETING TAPES

Tapes are now available of the 1998 Oklahoma State camp meeting held at Guthrie. The cost is \$2.00 each, which includes postage. For a complete list of tapes, or to order, please direct all correspondence to Janie Woodruff, 916 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, OK 73044, or call (405) 282-3310.



IL—Sis. Lavena Cole has several afflictions for which she desires prayer.

MO—"I have some special requests for prayer."
 —Sis. Nelva Stanley

OH—Juanita Blankenship has a burden for several people in her town who are in great need of the Lord's help.

OK—Sis. Alta Bock is still severely afflicted.

SC—Sis. Rhoda Blevin's daughter, Faye, needs a touch in her body.

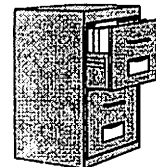
OR—"Please continue to pray for me. I still have infection in my body."

—Sis. Beverly Wattenbarger

NC—Continue to pray for the healing of Sis. Elaine Dunn.

OH—Bro. Keith Fuller has been seriously ill and needs the prayers of the saints.

OK—Pray for Sis. Irma Butler, who has been suffering much pain.



*From
 Our
 Letter
 Files*

KY—Faith Publishing House: May God richly bless everyone. My husband will soon be 86 years old and he has heart problems and a lung disorder. Please remember him in your prayers.

As for myself, I will soon be 75 years old and God has blessed me with good enough health that I can still do my housework and care for my husband, even though he can care for himself a lot, but his memory is failing.

Remember me and my two sons, and all their families, in your prayers.

God bless you all, —Wilma Horsley

MI—Dear Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary, and all of you dear ones: Greetings in the love of Jesus, our dear Savior. I am so sorry to hear about Bro. Bob Sallee passing away, but now he is with the Lord in heaven, and I pray for his family who are in sorrow. It is very hard to give up loved ones. May God give them strength at this time!

I need a healing touch. I have been feeling badly, but the Lord has been with me and helped me.

I get so lonely. I miss my dear mother and father. It is hard to not have them, but they are with God, and I will see them again when I die. It isn't good to live alone, but God does watch over His own.

May God bless each and every one of you in body and soul.

Yours in the Lord, —Sis. Olive Getterson

OH—Dear saints: I am so thankful that Jesus never fails! I am so glad He has given me truth and led me into the way of holiness.

Please pray for me. I have been told I have MS, but Jesus is the great Healer. I am in His hands.

Please pray for the Sandusky, Ohio, church. There is much sickness.

In His service, —Robert E. Myers

NC—Dear saints: I received your *Faith and Victory* magazine. I enjoyed reading it. Please send me a book and tract list, and a free sample of tracts. Also, please pray for my family. I am a widow and live alone. I have unsaved children and loved ones who need the Lord. Pray for my oldest son who has been sick for a while.

May God bless you and the work there. Keep it up. —Lura Wingler

Dear God: There is no way to express what I feel. How grateful I am! You know how I feel even though I can't vocalize it. You have closed my eyes to a world of wickedness, sin, sorrow and despair, and opened them to a beautiful place that I never have to leave. It is far more beautiful than a sunset or a lovely field. The place you have brought me to can never be fully valued because it never stops. It is limitless!

Christian love, —(Name Withheld)

WV—Dear Bro. Wayne and saints in the Church of God: I would like to take this time to thank my dear Lord and Savior for His love, mercy and blessings to me. First, I would like to thank my dear Lord for the truth, and for dealing with my soul. I had lived in Massachusetts, and the Lord moved me to West Virginia. I was not saved, and knew nothing about God. The Lord was working, and I had no idea what was going on. There's a scripture in the Bible that says, "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but God looketh on the heart." I Samuel 16:7. I thank the Lord that He could see what was in my heart. I hadn't lived in West Virginia very long until someone invited me to church. I hadn't been going to church very long until I sought for the Lord. It is the best thing that I have ever done in my life. I know in my heart that if I hadn't gotten saved when I did, that my life would be in a mess today. Oh, how I praise God for the truth!

I would like to thank the Lord for a battle that He has brought me through. On January the 21st I became sick, and it progressed into pneumonia. We cannot see what is ahead of us, and I did not know how bad things were going to get, but I knew in my heart that my God would take care of me. I was in my home for about two weeks, very sick. I had never been in a situation where I could not take care of myself. I would like to thank Bro. Marty and Sis. Tammy Clevenger, Bro. Nathan Carver, Bro. Jim White and Bro. Lloyd Cassell for the burden they carried for me. If it wasn't for them and the Lord, I don't think I would be here today. Bro. Marty and Sis. Tammy took me into their home. I was in bed for 11 days. I made a promise to the Lord that if He got me through this I would put my testimony in the paper to glorify His name. The Lord gave me a scripture, "Yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." Psalm 37:25. Praise God, the Lord did heal my body and gave back my strength. There are not enough words to say how much I appreciate God's mercy and love. If there is anyone out there who needs help, I want you to know that God is the answer. The Bible says that God is no respecter of persons. He loves you just as much as He loves me. The only thing you have to do is take the first step, and He will do the rest. I know we are living in perilous times, and I don't feel like it's going to be long before the Lord returns.

I would like to thank everyone in the Church

for their love and prayers during my sickness. May God have mercy on this world is my prayer. Love and prayers, —Sis. Donna Simonin

MO—Dear Ones: Just a line to let you know that we do thank the saints for their prayers and love. The Lord has been so good to us.

Bro. Audie looked like he was near the end several times, but the Lord helped him and he is still with us.

The other day, David, a helper and I were working in the woods, and a tree fell across my back. The Lord was there to bless me and I did not get hurt. He has been so good to help us through problems like that many times.

We cannot thank Him enough for what He does for us. My main aim is to live a life that will take me home to be with Him when the time comes. It is living the Christian life that leads others to Him.

One of my sisters was at the Guthrie Assembly meeting in December, and she was very impressed with the way things were conducted. I talked to her family the other night and they plan to come to the Monark Springs, MO, camp meeting this year....

We do not get to go to meeting as much as we would like to, but the Lord knows our heart. We love to get to be with the saints and hear God's Word.

Pray for us. —Clayton and Roberta Gaines

OK—Dear Bro. Wayne: We are thankful our Lord brought you back safely from your trip to the Philippines. As we travel this world we only see a part of it, and this world is only a part of the great creation God has made. We see and think, "What a mighty God we serve!" to have made all this and still have Him as our personal God and Savior. Of all the great things He has done, and is still doing, it humbles our hearts to know He still has the time to hear and answer our prayers—we are so unworthy of such a great sacrifice that was made for us—what a wonderful Savior! —Bill and Ruth McMakin



Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but, far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

—Benjamin Franklin



From Malawi...

"Thank you" to the saints in America for the gifts of food and Bibles. My people are very, very happy. God will be blessing you where you are. Thank you, thank you!

—Bro. Failos Namaozongo

(Editor's note: The foregoing thank you is in response to the food and Bibles which Bro. Bob Sallee purchased and delivered with the offerings which the saints in America provided.)



Ethel Pierro Dillard was born August 17, 1913, to James and Josephine Pierro. To this union six children were born.

Ethel attended elementary school at Slick and Newby, OK. She married Major Dillard and remained in Oklahoma until 1946. Later, they moved to Stockton, CA.

She loved people and was concerned about their souls. If she was near anyone for even a short time, whether it be a grownup or a child, she would talk to them about the plan of salvation.

Having been introduced to the Church of God by Bro. Isaac Chandler and other saints, Sis. Ethel fellowshipped with God's people from 1948 until her death. She was a missionary in her community by witnessing for the Lord in

banks, Laundromats, cafes, hospitals and convalescent homes. She was steadfast to the end.

Thank You

We wish to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, letters and all other means of comfort which you have shown to the family.

—Bro. Major Dillard and the Pierro family

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Lillie Mae Bramlett was born to William and Ocie Mae Adams on December 3, 1936, in Oklahoma City, OK.

Lillie was a very soft-spoken person, but always knew exactly what to say or do to make one feel special. She had love in her heart for everyone and the love and care that she portrayed in this life are enough to last forever.

Lillie gave her life to the Lord at a very young age. At that time, she became a part of the Evening Light saints of the Church of God in Oklahoma City. Later on, however, she listened to the voice of the Lord and moved to California—joining the Church of God congregation in Pacoima. Here, she met and married William Bramlett on March 1, 1973. To this union one daughter was born. In addition to this, Lillie became a mother to her husband's other ten children, whom she loved dearly.

After marrying, Lillie moved to Bakersfield, CA, with her husband and joined the Church of God congregation there. She enjoyed church activities. For example, she was always willing and excited to help out in serving food in the dining room when revivals and camp meetings were in session. Even if she felt a little tired, she would still push herself to help the church that she much loved and appreciated.

After her first winning battle with her illness, she decided to pursue her interest in quilting. From this interest, beautiful pieces were made. Although she said, "I'm not an expert," one could not tell by the beauty of the pieces that she had made. She worked at this interest until the Lord took her home.

Two brothers, a special niece (Phyllis Chandler), her parents and her husband, William, preceded her in death.

She leaves to cherish her precious memories her daughter, Robin Bramlett, of Bakersfield, CA; one sister, Frances Chandler and her husband Joseph, of Spencer, OK; one brother, William Adams Jr., of Oklahoma City, OK; one special nephew, Charles Chandler and his wife Diane, of Spencer, OK; five special grandneph-

ews, Matthew, Aaron, Andrew, Nathan and Quinton Chandler, all of Spencer, OK; seven stepdaughters, Beverly Madden and her husband, Kay, of Bakersfield, CA, Louise Pierro and her husband, David, of Clovis, CA, Sharon Smith and her husband, Bobby, of Fresno, CA, Joyce McClendon, of Orangeville, CA, Maxine Pounds and her husband, John, of Sacramento, CA, and Debra Bramlett, of Rancho Cordova, CA, May Frances Adu and her husband, Abraham; three stepsons, Alfonzo Bramlett and his wife, Darlene, George Bramlett and his wife, Mary, and Eugene Bramlett and his wife, Mona. She also leaves someone who became a large part of her life in her last years and whom she treated like a daughter, Michelle Crawford. Other relatives include twenty-two grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, uncles, aunts, a host of many other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were held at the Rolfe Memorial Funeral Chapel in Oklahoma City, OK, on April 1, 1998. Bro. Charles Chandler officiated. Interment was in the Trice Hill Cemetery, Oklahoma City, OK.

Thank You

We want to thank everyone for all of their love and prayers for us and our family. I especially want to thank everyone who prayed for our sister, Lillie Mae Bramlett, during the time of her extended illness. We do praise God for His mercy and love to her and to us, and for the extension of time that He gave us in answer to prayer. We miss Lillie so much, but thank God she is at rest and not suffering.

Continue to pray for us all that we will so live that we too can face death with the victory and peace that she had.

I want other saints who have recently been bereaved also to know that I am praying for all of you, too.

Love in Christ, —Sis. Frances Chandler

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Joseph Warner Forbes, a native of Clovis, NM, who lived many years in Los Angeles, CA, died March 25, 1998, at his residence in Foley, AL, where he had lived for almost twenty years. He was 81 years old.

Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Clotilde Forbes of Foley, AL; a daughter, Karen Elaine Forbes, of New Orleans, LA; two sons, Terry Warner Forbes and wife, Sylvia Ann, of Elberta, AL, and Joseph Kirk Forbes, of Hammond, LA;

two grandsons, Kurt and Scott Forbes, both of Elberta, AL; a sister, Sylvia Busbee, of Enid, OK; a brother, Ivan Forbes, of Sylmar, CA; also nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Vera and Erle E. Forbes, a sister, Leota, and a brother, Glenn.

A memorial service was held March 27, 1998 at Bayview Funeral Home's Foley Chapel with Pastor David Daniel officiating.

The Forbes family wishes to thank each one for the telephone calls, cards and prayers at this time of their loss.



The Life of Jesus Manifested in our Mortal Flesh

(Continued from page 3.)

to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Romans 6:16. Our mortal flesh can do neither good nor evil without the consent of our will; therefore, the flesh in itself is not involuntarily or essentially sinful. The real root of the sinfulness of any man's flesh, therefore, must necessarily lie within a deeper source—the heart and the will which control the actions of the flesh. It lies deeply imbedded within an "inherent nature" of the human heart and soul which has cried out for gratification of the creature's pleasure above the pleasure of the Creator ever since Adam and Eve fell from their original state of purity through one act of disobedience, which they committed in the interest of "self" and the "flesh." (See Genesis 3:6; Romans 5:12-21.) By this one act they lost the divine nature and image of God in which they had been created. They acquired in its place a "selfish" and "carnal" nature. This they transmitted to all their posterity.

Let us consider Jesus, the Captain of our salvation, of whom it is said in the scriptures, "He learned obedience by the things which he suffered." (Hebrews 5:8.) In order for Him to offer His precious body a sacrifice for our redemption He had to resign His will, didn't He? His flesh did not want to suffer. We see Him agonizing in the garden until His sweat was as great drops of blood, praying, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless *not as I will, but as thou wilt.*" Matthew 26:39. (Luke 22:44.) This is the place we must come to if we would be rid of the problem of sin in the flesh. We must resign our will to the will

of the heavenly Father and His will is that we share the likeness of Christ's death that we might also share the likeness of His resurrection. Our old man must be crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed.

Now let us turn to I Peter 3:18 and see what happened to Jesus as a result of His yielding His will to His Father's will and allowing His flesh to die. "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but *quickened by the spirit.*" Oh, praise God! His response to Christ's resignation of His own will and offering up of His flesh to death was the wonderful quickening, resurrection power of the eternal Spirit, raising Him up from the dead to die no more. And this is what happens to us spiritually when we surrender our flesh and self-life to be crucified with Him.

Listen: "Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.* Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." Romans 6:8-13.

God's purpose and design in this glorious gospel dispensation is that His Son Jesus come into our mortal flesh by the Holy Spirit, sanctify and hallow it, and then use it as a vehicle through which to manifest His own righteousness, holiness and divine graces before the world. This was the object of Christ's death, resurrection, ascension to the right hand of the Father and sending of the Holy Spirit to the world. Jesus is no longer present in this world as God incarnate. But "the church" is now His body on earth for that purpose. He has come into us through the Spirit; His life is manifested in our mortal bodies. We are married to Him. He owns our bodies. "Know ye not that your...body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." I Corinthians 6:15, 19-20.

"The church of God, which he purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28) is, in a sense, the incarnate Christ still manifested to the world. Christ's life is her life. In fact, it is the very thing that makes her "the church." Without the Christ-life we are not and cannot be members of His body. The Christ-life must dwell in us through the Holy Spirit. It is primarily infused into our hearts in justification by the new birth, or regeneration. (See John 3:3-8.) But it is perfected in us through entire sanctification by the presenting of our BODIES a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God (Romans 12:1).

Both "justification" and "sanctification" are the operations of the Holy Spirit in God's great work of redemption in recovering fallen mankind. But, whereas justification primarily infuses and introduces the Christ-life into the heart, sanctification provides it with full capacity of manifestation in our mortal flesh. It gives the Christ-life full control of the whole man through the Holy Spirit's possession of and right to THE BODY by our volitional offering of it as a living sacrifice to God. Thereby we "prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:2. "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification." I Thessalonians 4:3. "Because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation *through sanctification of the spirit* and belief of the truth." II Thessalonians 2:13.

That same Holy Spirit which destroys the "body of sin" and sheds abroad the great love of God in our hearts (Romans 5:5), which is the perfect law of liberty, will keep our "mortal flesh" free from sin so long as we keep our bodies yielded to His control.

A normal and mature Christian who has conformed himself to the will of God in sanctification, and is *filled* with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18), will naturally radiate the very likeness and spirit of Jesus. It will be seen in the way he (or she) speaks, acts, relates to others, clothes the body, and every other aspect of this mortal life. His life is "hid away," or immersed, with Christ in God. He has "risen with Christ" because he has died with Christ. (See Colossians 3:1-3; Galatians 2:20.)

A WARNING

"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time." I John 2:18.

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ *is come in the flesh* is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." I John 4:1-3.

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist." II John 7.

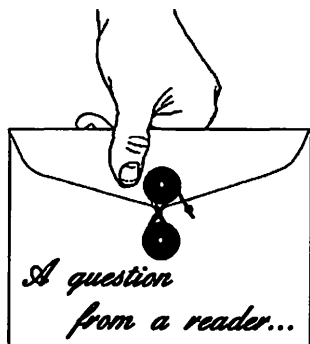
There are many people who will freely confess that Jesus came to us in the flesh, the incarnate Deity, born of the virgin Mary. That is a wonderful truth to confess alright, but even the devils have believed and confessed to that extent! (See Luke 4:41.) I believe the real issue is this: *Has Jesus Christ come into your flesh?* This is the very crux of the gospel and Christianity itself—the mystery which had been hidden from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints, which is *Christ in you*, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:26-27.)

Notice that I John 4:2 is not rendered in the King James Version as "Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ *has come* in the flesh is of God," but "Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ *is come* (present tense) in the flesh is of God." *Is Christ presently incarnate in you through the Holy Spirit?* This is what determines whether or not you are recognized and owned of God. I will here quote II John 7 and give the latter portion of the verse as it is rendered by "The Twentieth Century New Testament" and "Taylor's" translation jointly: "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come 'in our human nature...*such people are against the truth and against Christ.*"

Any spirit that denies the present incarnation of Jesus Christ in human flesh via "sanctification of the Spirit," whether it be a denial by formal doctrine or by actual works and deeds, is essentially antichrist. It defeats the very purpose and plan of God for mankind in sending His Son. We are living among a Christian society today which is infiltrated throughout with antichrists—persons who profess to serve Christ, but their fleshly works deny His presence. They confess Him from an intellectual perspective

but not to the point of allowing Him actual entrance into their flesh to possess and control their bodies by His Holy Spirit.

Friend, you do not have to serve sin with your flesh. If you will take up your cross and die with Jesus, you can have the life of Jesus manifested in your mortal flesh. You can experience the power of His resurrection if you will enter into the fellowship of His sufferings. "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh (that is, hath crucified the flesh) hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God." I Peter 4:1-2. Remember, *life springs out of death*. Will you die that you might have life? "Whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." Matthew 16:25.



Question: Bro. Wayne: There is a controversy in our town between the churches concerning the second work of grace. There are some who believe that when you get saved you "get it all." Then there are others

who teach a definite second work. Is it possible for you to address this subject in the Question and Answer column?

ANSWER: Dear Brother: In order to answer this question I would like to concede to some writings by the late Bro. O. B. Wilson Jr., which ascertains that these two works of grace require two different actions on our part to receive them.

The first step in salvation is a genuine repentance for sins committed. When this is thorough, complete and genuine, then God injects a faith into the penitent, broken heart to believe in Jesus Christ and His blood atonement for his forgiveness, salvation and the washing away of his sins. Then God, for Christ's sake, justifies the repentant sinner (absolves him from guilt of his committed sins) and counts him innocent in His sight because of his faith in what Christ did.

The forgiving of sins committed is not the sum total to the solution of the sin problem. There is another type of sin we did not commit that every person has, which cannot be repented of because we did not commit it and are in no way responsible for it. It is a genealogical thing. It is transmitted from generation to generation from Adam clear on down through the generations of humankind until now. Sin brought about a change in man's moral nature. In God's moral likeness and image, as he was created, he was possessed of "...righteousness and true holiness." Ephesians 4:24. (See also Colossians 3:10.) Now, instead of this "righteousness and true holiness," he becomes depraved and corrupt in his moral nature. (Ephesians 4:22, 25-31.) The fact that the moral likeness and image of God was effaced from the human soul by this means, is evidenced by the fact that when we obtain the salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ we are said to be RENEWED in that image. (Colossians 3:10.) In other words, it is a restoration to the image of God—hence we conclude it had been lost. As a result of this the moral nature of all mankind was affected in this way and became depraved and corrupt. Sin has become universal as a result of the sin of this first pair. (Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12; Romans 11:32; Galatians 3:22.)

The Scriptures conclude something about sin being hereditary, a depravity of nature to be handed down through the generations of mankind from the original parent. Genesis 5:3 says that "Adam...begat a son in his own likeness, after his image." His moral likeness and image was now depraved and corrupt and he could only transmit what he had.

For a thing to be hereditary it must be inherent in a child at birth, and not something acquired later on in life. Hence, this depravity of nature must be in the infant child at birth. Thus we see that the infant child just born is already one step below the plane on which God created man in His own likeness, after His image. However, we must not confuse this hereditary sin (or seed of sin, or principle of sin) with sin acquired or committed—one's actual transgressions for which he repents when seeking salvation. Some find the idea of our inheriting a seed of sin objectionable on the grounds that they cannot conceive of an infant child just born into the world being a guilty sinner. That is exactly right, but just what these people are doing is confusing sin inherited with sin committed.

Inherited sin is never productive of guilt. Even though the infant child possesses within him the germ or seed of sin from his first parent, Adam, he remains in a state of perfect innocence before God until he reaches an age of accountability to know right from wrong, and by an act of his own free will does the wrong thing. This is confirmed by a scripture in James 4:17, "Therefore to him that KNOWETH to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." But he had to KNOW it before it became sin to him. Further in John 3:19, Jesus said, "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." NOTE: The condemnation and guilt came when the light (knowledge of right and wrong) came to them and they rejected the right and chose to continue in the wrong. When the child comes to the age of accountability before God and falls into willful disobedience to God's law and becomes guilty of sin and a partaker of the sinful life, this is more than just the nature or principle, which in itself is not productive of guilt, but is the fruit of that nature or the projection of it into a way of life of actual sins committed which brings guilt and condemnation upon the soul. This, then, takes him a second step lower than the plane on which man was created.

God devised a plan of salvation by which man is restored back to the Edenic state in which man was created in the likeness and image of God and which was lost when sin entered into this world by the willful choice of our foreparents, by which they apostatized from God. (Genesis 3:1, etc.) And not only so, but Adam's sin brought about a change in man's moral nature and it became depraved and corrupt instead of having the righteousness and true holiness he had possessed before. Further, this morally depraved nature was transmitted to all generations of the human race. (Genesis 5:3; Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12.)

Now, it must be evident unto all that there are just as many steps going up the stairs as there are coming down. Since man has fallen two distinct steps below his created state, it would surely be evident that there would be two separate, distinct steps in his getting back to the original state of the likeness and image of God. Indeed there are two parts to our salvation;

two separate and distinct works of grace—justification and sanctification. Justification is the first step up and is the forgiveness and absolving from guilt of all our actual sins which we have committed when we properly repent of them and put our faith in the merits of the all-atoning blood of Jesus Christ for salvation. But it does not deal with that inherent depravity. Neither could it, because we could not repent of it, inasmuch as we were in no way responsible for it. Neither is it possible to recognize it so long as our conscience is crowded with guilt and condemnation for unforgiven sins. But after we are justified and absolved from guilt and are at peace with God and our burden of sin gone, it is then, in our efforts to live a holy life according to New Testament standards, that we become aware of the conflict going on within us.

The sanctifying work and grace of God is ordained in God's plan of salvation to meet this need and purge out that old depravity of nature and purify the heart and affections and fill us with the Holy Spirit and an indwelling, abiding Comforter, empowering us to meet all our problems of life and overcome them and enabling us to live a victorious, triumphant holy life according to New Testament standards. Then it must be evident unto all that one's salvation is not complete without this second grace. Some have lost out entirely with God because they did not press on into this experience when they became conscious of its need. When we become conscious of a real conflict within as we endeavor to live a holy life pleasing to God, then we are face to face with a decision in our Christian experience; either go on and die out to the self-life and consecrate our life to God for divine service and sacred use and lay ourself on the altar of sacrifice or service, or draw back unto perdition. (Hebrews 10:39.) It is either go on or go back; we cannot remain the same.

Hebrews 10:14 says, "He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." We see here that sanctification is the completion of our salvation. Hence, we can never say we are complete without this experience. In Acts 15:8-9, we find that God gave the Gentiles the Holy Spirit even as He had given Him to the Jews on Pentecost and PURIFIED their hearts by faith. Justification delivers from the power of sin and cleans up and purifies the outward life, but it takes a definite

"Inherited sin is never productive of guilt."

