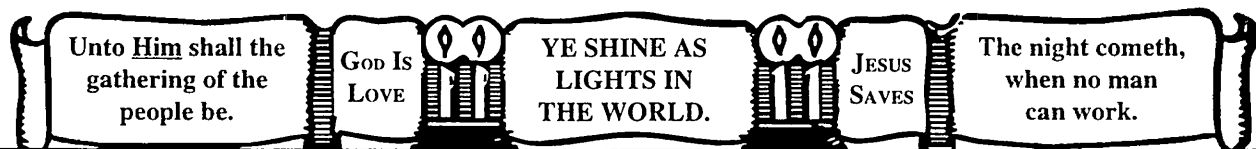


# FAITH AND VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



Volume 76, No. 7      75th Year      Guthrie, Oklahoma      \$3.00 Per Year      Nov., 1998

### Christ At The Door

Taken from *Wonderful Jesus*

By Charles S. Ludwig



*"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."*

*Revelation 3:20.*

The enemies of Christ were foolish enough to think that they could silence John the Revelator. He was imprisoned on the isle of Patmos, but this exile did not become a handicap to him. The island became for him an observatory. It was there that he saw what no other human eye has ever beheld. Through his telescope of faith and prayer, God revealed to him the wonderful words of the text quoted here. This promise was directed to the church in Laodicea; there is, however, one phrase that gives us all a claim to it: "If any man." Thank God, that includes us all.

The importance of Christ's message is revealed in the first three words of the text: "Behold, I stand." In the past, when God desired to send a message to mankind, He had usually spoken through a servant. When He wanted to rebuke David for his sin He did not speak to him

personally but sent Nathan with the message. Elijah was a very important prophet and one of the most prominent, yet God never appeared to him personally. Angels were sent with the messages and ravens brought him food, but Elijah never personally, except through prayer, spoke to God.

It was a red-letter day in Mary's life when she learned that she was to become the mother of the Son of God. The results of that event were to reach to the far corners of the earth; yet God, knowing its significance, did not speak to her Himself but sent the archangel Gabriel. But our text tells us that Christ personally stands at the door of our hearts and knocks. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" His standing at the door demonstrates His wonder-

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ful love. When we comprehend that He is standing at the door of our hearts, taking upon Himself the form of a servant, we are made to realize that God means business.

It is hard for us to think of Almighty God knocking at the door of a man's heart; things like that are not common to us. Kings do not go to the homes of their servants. But Jesus Christ, the King of kings, does just that. It is a fact, for it is so recorded in God's Word. That which is written is written, and God will fulfill His Word.

Then, too, we have the testimony of personal experience. Christ has knocked at the door of my heart. I was there when it happened. Have you had this experience? It is for everyone: "If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

The pleadings and woings of God come in many different ways. I once overheard an argument between an arrogant youth and an elderly Dutchman. Said the youth, "I do not believe in this fable about God. Where is He? I cannot see Him." The Dutchman replied by pointing upward to the stars, "Do you see those stars in the heavens? Do you know that they are multiplied millions of miles away? Do you know that they are rushing around at tremendous speed and yet never collide? Who put them there?" The youth walked away silently. God knocked at that young man's heart that night.

When a certain man first became a scientist he was an avowed atheist. Today he is a Christian. Why? Because he saw so much in the test tube! He saw, in his search for truth, that there is a Wisdom much higher than man's wisdom. It is He who has told us that there are as many atoms in a drop of water as there are drops of water in the Mediterranean Sea. That is a fact too great for our minds to comprehend, but we acknowledge the skill of the scientist who discovered it. How much more should we think of God who made the atoms in the beginning! When we think of these marvels of nature we can feel something knocking at the door of our hearts. It is God knocking through the medium of science.

An old hunter had just returned from a long hunt when someone said to him, "Bill, have you been to church since we saw you last?" Listen to

his amazing reply: "I have attended preaching every day, Sundays and all, for the past six years. Sometimes an old grizzly gave me the sermon, sometimes it was a panther; often it was the thunder and lightning, the tempest or a hurricane on the peaks of the Sierra Nevadas or in the gorges of the Rocky Mountains." The old hunter could feel God speaking to him wherever he chanced to be. He could hear God knocking at his heart through the medium of nature. I think that is what Austin Miles meant when he wrote:

I come to the garden alone,  
While the dew is still on the roses;  
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,  
The Son of God discloses.

Has a voice ever spoken to you softly and seriously while you were traveling on the highway? Have you watched the glowing embers of a fire become white ashes while someone seemed to take the brush of memory and paint pictures before you? Have you ever stopped suddenly in your morning walk when a voice said, "John, I want you in My work?" Oh, how God pleads with the souls of men!

Almost everyone who refuses to let Christ come into his life does so because he believes that Christ is a hard master, "Gathering where He has not sown."

One time a great Scotch preacher was given some money to take to one of the poorer members of his congregation. He put the money into his pocket and started out to the widow's home. Reaching the door he knocked eagerly, anticipating the woman's reactions. But no one answered the door. He tried another door and another, only to find that every door and window had been securely bolted. The next day he called again. This time the lady came out and invited him inside. No sooner was he seated than she began to cry bitterly. "You see," she explained, "my landlord came yesterday for the rent and I didn't have a cent." The minister asked her what time the landlord had come and she told him it had been about eleven o'clock. "Well, what did you do?" asked the minister. "Oh," she replied, "I bolted all the doors and windows." It was at that hour that the minister had called. She had mistaken her friend for the landlord. And so have many done to Christ. They have bolted Him out, thinking that He has

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But Jesus  
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come for the rent. We should remember that "God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

Let us go a little farther. "If any man hear my voice, and open the door,..." The first implication here is that there are those who cannot hear the voice of God. That sounds like a paradox, but it is true. When Hannibal knocked on the gates of Rome the Romans heard him and begged him to depart. Hannibal was mortal like the rest of us, yet the citizens heard him. How is it that some can hear men and not God? I think there are two reasons for that. One of them is that there is too much noise and confusion on the inside. The "jazz" of the world drowns the Savior's voice. The other reason is that they have ignored Him too long. When I first went to Africa I was awakened at four o'clock every morning by the sound of heathen funeral horns, but after a few months I did not hear them any longer. It was not that they had ceased blowing; I had merely become accustomed to them. In getting used to them, I got to the place where they no longer annoyed me. Oh, the mistake of ignoring God until His voice cannot be heard. "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near."

Again the Scriptures reveal that there are those who hear but do not open. "If any man hear my voice, and open the door,..." I think I can hear someone saying, "But why should I open my heart to God? Is He not the infinite? Does He not have all power? Why does He not open it Himself?" He does not open it for the simple reason that He cannot. There are some things that even God cannot do, and that is one of them. God has given man the power of choice.

When Holman Hunt had completed his famous picture of Jesus standing at the door with a lighted lantern, he showed it to a friend. The friend told him that he had made a serious mistake: he had forgotten to put a latch on the door. "No," the artist replied, "that is the way it should be. You see, the latch is on the inside." If you would have Christ come into your heart you must open the door yourself. You have your hand on the latch. It is you—not the minister, not the lay member, not the Lord—but you, that

must open the door. Every time you push the door shut you are crucifying the Lord again.

The story is told that Henry Ward Beecher was in his study preparing a sermon when someone knocked on the door. Mrs. Beecher had been instructed not to open the door regardless of who called, so she politely ignored the knock. But the knocking did not stop; it continued for a half hour. Finally Mrs. Beecher became impatient and opened the door. Standing there in the rain was Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States. If the President were to call at your home you would feel flattered, but now someone far greater than the President is knocking. Will you let Him in, or force Him to stay out in the rain?

There are people who would like to give their hearts to the Lord, but they are afraid they could not keep an experience. Listen to the last words of the text: "I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." I was standing at the source of the Nile in Uganda when a native tapped me on the shoulder and said, "I want to show you something." He took me to a little hill just outside the thriving city of Campalla, and this was his story. "Thirty years ago the king of Uganda had all the missionaries in his camp killed, but before they died they managed to lead six page boys to Christ. After the execution the king went through the village to his home,

**There are people who would like to give their hearts to the Lord, but they are afraid they could not keep an experience.**

but on the way he found six boys kneeling by the roadside praying. They were the boys who had found the Lord. The king asked them what they were doing and they replied, "We are praying to God, our heavenly Father." The king then ordered them to stop, but they did not stop; they prayed all the more. The king, now very angry, had them taken to the public square and there, before a great concourse of people, their hands and feet were cut off and he commanded them to be thrown into the flames. While the boys were burning and suffering untold agony, they sang praises to the Lord."

Where did the boys receive strength to do that? God was there helping them. Remember the words of John: "I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." If you will come to Him, He will give strength to sustain you. You will be able to sup with Him. Oh, what a privilege! It is yours if you will open the door.

## 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: When 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.

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Single copy, one year ..... \$3.00  
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 Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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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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### FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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**"Go your way,  
and tell John what  
things ye have  
seen." Luke 7:22.**

John was in prison, in the castle Machaerus, and it certainly was not a cheerful place to be. There was little encouragement in that place and in John's circumstances to foster hope. As a result, he wanted reassurance that Jesus really was the Messiah.

We cannot fault John for his need of consolation, for we need it often ourselves. Although we live in a bleak world where encouragement toward believing in a personal Christ is sometimes rare, our fate is not held in the hands of a whimsical tyrant like Herod, as was John's.

Jesus did not present lengthy arguments to prove that He was the Messiah. Instead, He directed the attention of John's messengers to the work He was doing. He also did not quote proof texts from the old law, for John already knew them. John needed something tangible which his faith could rest upon, and Jesus knew this.

Christ's response to that situation reminds me of the story of an atheist who once asked an Oriental how he knew there was a God. The man answered by inquiring, "How do I know whether it was a man or a camel that passed my tent last night?" He knew by the footprints. Then he pointed to the setting sun and asked, "Whose footprint is that?"

By observing the footprints in the Gospels you become convinced they were made by the divinity of the Messiah. They are to be found by the gate of Nain, the grave of Lazarus and coming forth from the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.

Christ's footprints lead on today. We have seen Him comfort those who were cast down, and put new courage in their hearts. We have seen Him dry the tears of those who have suffered great loss. And His ministry still includes ministering to the sick and dealing with unbelievers.

Just as Christ knew His actions would be of greater value to John than His claim to being

the Messiah, our actions carry much more influence than our professions. People are more impressed with the kind of footprints we leave in life than they are with our creed. They need to see a positive effect in our personal lives. Let us live so they can.

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**Through the kind offerings of the saints,** God is making it possible for us to go forward with the purchase and installation of 30 interior doors on the new Print Shop. The cost of building materials is constantly increasing, so we feel it expedient to complete each phase of the building project just as soon as the financing becomes available.

After the installation of the interior doors is complete, the two remaining major phases are the ceiling tile with insulation and paving the drive and parking. These two projects are currently projected to total \$24,600. Several less expensive tasks will also have to be completed before we can occupy the building.

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**We offer sincere condolences** to two families who have recently suffered the loss of a companion and parent.

On October 23, Bro. Waymon Parmer of the Akron, OH, congregation, passed from this life, leaving his wife, Sis. Nancy, and their children. His death came after several weeks of severe illness. We pray that the grace of God will uphold his family in their grief. If you would like to communicate your condolences to the family, the address is 553 Glendora Ave., Akron, OH 44320.

Sis. Izetta McCray, of Wichita, KS, was taken suddenly from this life, leaving her husband, Bro. Theodore, and their son, Abdiel, to cherish her memory. Sis. Izetta had a way of endearing herself to others and she will surely be missed by many.

You may extend your sympathy to Bro. Theodore and Abdiel by addressing your correspondence to 2450 N. Belmont, Wichita, KS 67220.

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**October has been a productive month** in which we have been able to reprint many out of stock books and tracts. Pray with us that the Word we seek to sow beside all waters will result in a harvest of souls for Jesus Christ. (Isa. 32:20).  
—Wayne Murphey



OK—Sis. Marilyn Rendall desires prayer for her jaw which has been giving her problems.

OK—Sis. Mary Jones would like prayer for the residents of the boarding home she lives in.

OR—"Please continue to pray for my wife, Hope, as her health continues to fail."

—Andrew Pruitt

OK—Sis. Thelma Fields desires prayer for her hands. They are causing her much pain.

KY—Pray for Sis. Mary Hughes. She is suffering from a serious affliction.

LA—"I sincerely desire prayer. I had shingles almost six years ago, and at times it is still very painful. I also have severe pain in my back caused from degenerative joint disease."

—Sis. Myrtle Savoie

KY—Sis. Kay Griffith has requested prayer for her daughter and 13-year-old grandson.

MN—Bro. Lee Hilton had the flu and it triggered his asthma problem.

#### **Standing Prayer Requests**

Sis. Alta Bock  
Bro. Jon Busbee  
Sis. Mamie Butcher  
Bro. Nathan Carver  
Sis. Tammy Clevenger  
Sis. Elaine Dunn  
Sis. Olive Getterson  
Bro. Ben Harrison  
Sis. Janice Johnston  
Bro. Louis Kimble  
Sis. Melissa Lynch  
The Lounds sisters  
Sis. Lois Sharp  
Bro. Max Williamson



#### **Meeting Reports and Notices**

##### **LORANGER, LA, ASSEMBLY MEETING**

The Loranger, LA, Assembly Meeting will begin Wednesday night, 7:30 p.m., November 25th. There will be services daily through Sun-

day, November 29th. Come for a blessing.

If you are unable to be here, please back the meeting earnestly in your prayers. Above all, let us every one prepare, hold fast and watch for the Bridegroom's soon coming!

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.

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### OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

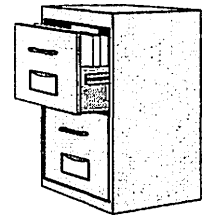
The 92nd annual Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held at Guthrie, OK, from December 25, 1998, through January 3, 1999. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U.S. The first service will be held Friday evening, December 25th, 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 morning prayer services and youth services, the times of which will be announced at the meeting.

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 congregations 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, 1023 E. Prairie Grove Rd., Guthrie, OK 73044. Phone (405) 282-0566.

From  
Our  
Letter  
Files



MI—Dear Bro. Wayne and workers: Greetings to you all in the holy name of Jesus. I pray you are all well. I pray for your work in the Lord.

I am in pain right now. I have pain in my back and ribs. I pray to Jesus to heal me. I am 72 years old and living alone isn't easy. I know my dear Jesus can heal me.

Thank you for the special edition of the *Faith and Victory*. It was so nice to see all those dear ones again—it made me cry. They were such wonderful saints of God. They are now enjoying their rewards in gloryland. Praise the Lord!

May God bless each and every one of you richly in body and soul. —Sis. Olive Getterson

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AR—Dear Bro. Wayne and all: Greetings of love to all the saints, there and everywhere. I am sitting here in my lift chair—I can't do much any more, but at least I can pray and sing. I still hear pretty good, and I feel pretty good. It has been a long time since I have written. For a while I was so shaky, but the Lord has helped me to be more steady. I thank Him so much.

I still love God and am determined to hold on until God calls me home. I miss my dear husband and pray I can meet him in heaven.

I don't hear from many of the saints any more—only through the *Faith and Victory* paper.

Pray for me and my children. Pray for our nation and other nations.

May the Lord bless the work there and everywhere. —Sis. Nellie West

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KS—Dear saints: Praise the Lord!

Thank you for your work on the *Faith and Victory*. What a blessing it is to open the mailbox and find it there. The Lord works in small and large miracles—from a paper in the mailbox to a victorious healing.

Our grandson, Joshua, is just one of His miracles. This August, at four years of age, he had a tumor in his throat that was closing off his windpipe and had to be removed. When he went to the doctor to be admitted into the hospital, God had taken the tumor away. The doctors

couldn't explain it, but we could. We are so thankful for everyone bearing this burden to the Lord in prayer. The saints are so precious to us all. We know every prayer that went up for Josh was a part of his healing. I am so thankful God has mercy and loves us so. We are so thankful to be a part of God's family, and have Joshua healed and happy. Thank the Lord.

Yours in Christ,

—Sis. Carol and Sis. Linda Stanley

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WA—Dear Bro. Murphey and workers at the Print Shop: "I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psalm 34:1.

I am so glad to write you all once more and let you know we are on the Lord's side. I rejoice that the Lord saw fit to turn me around and give me His salvation, so that I can have a hope with those who love the Lord.

I am so thankful for Sis. Janie Woodruff sending me the tapes of your church services at Guthrie, so that I can keep learning more about how to serve the Lord. I also love the *Faith and Victory* paper, to read the testimonies and articles of God's people....

May God bless you, —Sis. Naomi Jones

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OH—Dear Bro. Murphey: May God continue to bless you and your family, the people of God everywhere and all the workers at the Lord's Print Shop. I really appreciate and thank the Lord for you all and your faithfulness in getting the gospel out. The gospel is what the world needs to hear and obey.

I really thank the Lord very much that we all are doing as well as we are. We have some heavy burdens and needs in our congregation right now. Please pray with us that the Lord's will might be done in every situation. I am very thankful that we have a great High Priest, Jesus, who is touched with the feelings of our infirmities. I am also very thankful that we can come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

—Sis. Janice Shaw

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LA—Dear Bro. and Sis. Murphey: The 75th anniversary edition was very interesting and I did enjoy reading it.

Bro. Clifford Wilson's account of the very difficult task of setting up the new folding machine, and his question about what would happen if he sometimes got in a hurry and

thought all the prep work was not necessary, caused me some deep thinking. I took a pen and began marking that, because I felt Jesus was saying something to me in one of my hardest battles: "Remember, I came to show you the way if you will just follow My directions given to you in My Word, and if you will take the time as never before to study My life and pray more diligently to be more like Me, you will have the grace and strength you need." In the Old Testament I recall Nehemiah 8:10. "The joy of the Lord is your strength."

My two younger sisters and I remember the days of helping Bro. and Sis. Orr get out the paper, *The Path of Life*. As a young teenager I well remember one of his sermons, using Psalm 42:1. "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God." And I recall dear Sis. Orr having this to say, "I'm hanging very loosely to things of this world." We loved them. When I graduated they gave me a book in which he wrote, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God." (Matthew 3:3.) That was the year he died.

May God bless and encourage,

—Sis. Gertrude F. Pickett

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AR—Greetings to all: We trust that you dear ones are well and of good courage at this time.

We are enjoying the wonderful blessings of God in salvation, and learned through the years that God's ways are always the best way to follow. Thank the Lord....

With love to all in Christ,

—Roy and Virginia Harmon

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WV—Dear sisters and brothers: I talked to you several days ago. I still want you to know how I have appreciated your work of love. You have brought hours of happiness to me.

God carried me around for many years, helping me to raise my four children. Now, for nineteen years, He has given me health to care for senior citizens. If I can make it until 1999, then I will stop....

This year I really failed on tomatoes, but the flowers were really beautiful. My three sons have green thumbs—they like gardens and flowers. I've taught my one great-grandchild, who is now four, to use a hammer in his hands—right or left, either. He loves to help me work outside. He helps me in the kitchen too.

Pray for me and all my loved ones.

May God bless you all, —Sis. Melba Powell

MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings to you once again in the precious name of Jesus, our living Lord. I hope all is going well with you and all the workers there at the Print Shop.

I have greatly improved from the shingles, for which I am grateful to God and to the saints for their prayers and kindness in different ways. This has been one of the hardest physical afflictions that I have experienced. But I am thankful for the lessons that I have learned. I am glad for the dross that has been removed. It has drawn me closer to God and helped me make a deeper consecration to God. Therefore, I am greatly encouraged to be faithful to the Lord and to His cause....

With Christian love, —Bro. T. V. McMillian  
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LA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings of Christian love to all the *Faith and Victory* workers.

It was good to get our *Faith and Victory* paper this week. I always look forward to getting it each month, and get a blessing from it, but the last two have been interesting and a blessing in a special way. Surely the work started from the Lord's leading of dear Bro. Pruitt to print the paper with the pure truth of the gospel, and He has made the way for it to be carried on to this present time. We trust and pray it will continue on until Jesus returns for His Bride.

I have enjoyed the book *God's Gracious Dealings* so much. I was acquainted with many of the dear ones referred to in the book.

I first met Bro. Pruitt at our Assembly Meeting in Hammond, in 1930. Then he came to the camp meeting in 1931, bringing the two oldest girls, and Lawrence and Maybelle. We were in close contact with the Pruitt family down through the years. I loved them all dearly. As long as Bro. Pruitt lived, he came to the Hammond camp meeting most of the time. Then when Byron married Clarice, Lawrence and Maybelle were here often, as well as Marie. I still miss them at our meetings.

Lawrence, Maybelle and I were all near the same age. All of them are gone now, and at 87 years of age, I know my time is short.

The Lord has been so very good to me. I have been a widow for over 37 years, and He has stood by me in such a wonderful way. It isn't easy to grow old, but it is wonderful we can have our dear Savior with us every step of the way. It must be an awful thing to be, as a song says, "Growing Old Without God." Thank the Lord, all who will choose to serve the Lord can have the

wonderful hope of being with Him when this life is ended.

May the Lord bless all of you workers there as you labor to send out the gospel to a lost world.  
—Sis. Alta Flynn  
— — — — —

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne and workers: I want to tell you about my sister, Joyce Cordoza. I called for prayer for her. She had surgery on her brain, which was very serious, but thank the Lord, she came through that real well. About five weeks after that, she was going to have to undergo surgery again for a vertebra in her neck that was out of place. I called for prayer again. The day of the surgery she was already in the operating room when her doctor looked at the pictures made the day before and announced that she didn't need to have the surgery because her vertebra was back in place. I thank the Lord for His goodness and for the prayers that went up to our Father's throne. The nurses and everyone there thought it was a miracle.

We thank you so much for all the prayers that went up for her. We still have some very urgent prayer requests we would like for everyone to pray about.

We thank you so much for the work you are doing there. It's wonderful to be able to call on God's family for prayer anytime there is a need. We can never thank Him enough.

Love to all, —Sis. Doris Pihaylic  
— — — — —

LA—Dear Brother Wayne: Praise the Lord for His good blessings! We love the Lord and are endeavoring to serve Him by His great help. We are thankful to have victory in our souls. Though the burdens of life can be many at times, we are thankful that through Jesus we can be overcomers.

My dear husband, Max, has good and bad times. Some days he is very restless, but then there are days he gets along quite well. His confused mind seems to be what makes him restless. We know the Lord is with us and we just take one day at a time. We have really enjoyed the *Faith and Victory* paper, especially the September and October issues. I was truly blessed in my soul.

One person of old asked, "What is truth?" God's Word is truth, and I am thankful for it. Surely it is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our pathway. (Psalm 119:105).

Please remember us in your prayers as you think of us.  
—Sis. Lula Williamson





### From India...

September 18, 1998—Dear Brother Wayne Murphey: Greetings to you and the dear saints in America. I enjoyed the special edition of the *Faith and Victory* published in connection with the 75th anniversary of the Faith Publishing House. It was very interesting to read the past history of many faithful servants of God who

sacrificed their time, health and talents for the glory of God. Since 1974 I have had the chance to visit the Faith Publishing House seven times. My prayers are for its growth and expansion.

During the first week of September we had camp meeting for the youth, one at Ehalakudy and another at Kootarvila. I attended both meetings. About one hundred young people attended each camp meeting. Both camp meetings moved several young people toward God.

Lord willing, we will have two days of ministers' meetings during the first week of October. This conference will help renew the strength of the ministers as eagles. (Isaiah 40:31).

By the grace of God all of our congregations are going on fine. Let us see through the eye of prayer every day.

Yours in Him, —Brother John Varghese



**Frieda Pahl** was born the daughter of John and Karolina (Wolf) Beirwagon on June 27, 1897. She passed from this life on September 22, 1998, at the age of 101 years. The Beirwagon family immigrated from Korajeek, Romania, to the United States in 1901, and made their home in North Dakota. Life was extremely hard. Their worldly goods consisted of what they could carry, and their first home was a dugout on the prairie. Freida taught herself how to read and write both German and English, and was an avid reader.

Freida and Sam Pahl were married on December 23, 1915, at Sam's parents' place. After the wedding everyone changed clothes and went out to milk and do chores. They had five children; Sam, Clifford, Curtis, Edith and Beverly; 21 grandchildren, 49 great-grandchildren and 6 great-great-grandchildren.

Sam and Frieda farmed in North Dakota until 1936 when they lost their farm due to drought and the depression. They then moved to Oregon where they farmed. Sam passed away in 1954. In her later life, Frieda Pahl lived in Gladstone, Oregon. When she was unable to care for herself any longer, she came to reside in Woodburn, Oregon, where she was well cared for and happy until the time of her passing.

### A Tribute to a Real Saint of God

There are times in life when we need someone who truly manifests the true spirit of Christ in her daily living. Sis. Pahl was such a woman. Now she has gone to her great reward. She came to know the saints, and called them her people, at a little neighborhood church in Gladstone, OR. Brother Chuck Elwell was pastor there at that time, along with his wife, Sis. Coquette. Sis. Pahl walked to this little church house faithfully every Sunday and Wednesday for service. She was such an encouragement and blessing to the little group worshipping there. She was always praising God!

One Sunday, as was her usual custom, she faithfully went to service. The pastor's brother and family, who had moved to town, were in service that day. This man had known God as a young person, but in his early twenties he had gone the way of the world, and for fifteen years had gone deep into sin. The altar call was given at the end of the service, but this man made no move to get right with God. Then, the spirit

moved on this little 83-year-old lady. She left her seat, which she had never done before, and never did again, and went to this young man and spoke to him that it was his time to get saved. He said, "No, I am not ready." But she would not take no for an answer. With her little frail frame, she took hold of this big strapping man and began to pull him toward the altar. Then the spirit spoke to this man and said, "Now is the time. Go!" The young man went, and Jesus' blood cleansed and pardoned *all* his sins, which were many. There was great rejoicing in that little church house in Gladstone, and all over the hills of heaven. I know, because I was that man. Praise God for Sis. Pahl and her faithful life.

—Bro. Steve Elwell



### Presence

By Bro. James McMurrin

"Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh." II Corinthians 10:1-2.

In this passage we notice that Paul is stressing a difference. The difference is between what he writes and his physical presence. Some might think this is a contradiction, or an indication of a fault. However, there is something more important to notice here.

Paul's writings, which are bold, are made not by his wisdom, are not motivated by his desires, and in the end are not supposed to reflect his physical being. They are done by the inspiration of God, and as such, the boldness with which he writes is not his own. It is the certainty given him by the Holy Spirit. It is the definite proclamation of someone who has seen the truth of what he is saying beyond any doubt. The certainty of that knowledge leads to boldness.

However, his physical presence is another matter entirely. Physical "presence" is usually determined by the flesh. It is a reflection of your own personality, an emanation—or product—of your own being, your own desires, your own self-will. A servant of God does not seek his own following, or seek to have his own charisma. Meekness and gentleness "of Christ" is the hallmark of the person who is following Christ.

Thus, you do not seek to advance your own person, nor seek honor for yourself. You let yourself be considered "base," for the only importance to your being is the message you bring.

That message is the salvation of God, and the spiritual realities which exist in this world and outside of it. Those are the important, foundational things which give meaning to all that is. Those are the things that we need to be bold about. When a person realizes that this world and this flesh are nothing but a temporary stage in the true purpose of their existence, personal "charisma" and fleshly exaltation are not just undesirable, but are downright worthless, and the desire of others to have it seems ridiculous.

One way to see if someone has been truly touched and sent by God is to see what kind of physical presence he or she tries to establish among others. Someone who seeks to dominate others with his own accomplishments and/or importance is someone who has not been humbled by the Spirit of God. No one can stand in the presence of God and not come away with an awe inside, and a greatly reduced sense of self.

May we continue to seek the presence of God, so that His boldness will be in our hearts, and Christ's meekness in our lives. We are not doing this for ourselves, but for Him.



### Sorting Things in the Closet

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

In the autumn and spring I like to clean my closets. I sort out the clothes we will need for that season and store the others away. Often there are clothes that the children have outgrown, or that we don't need. These I put in a box and give away. Clothes that we will keep I wash and check for any mending that may need to be done. This tends to be a continuous job that never ends.

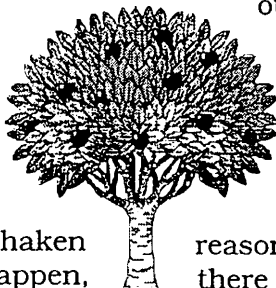
So it is as we pass through the seasons of life, we sort through occurrences and circumstances that affect us and we learn from them. In our mind we separate what is good to keep and throw the bad away. A pessimist dwells upon the bad and will keep the negative on his mind more than he should. Though an optimist looks for the good in every situation, he can become careless and not get the lessons intended for his spiritual growth. To be indifferent to problems and trials is immature or irrespon-

## *Cling to your Maker*

By Bro. Ernest Moles

Before my wife and I moved to California to live, we owned a farm in West Plains, Missouri. In the spot where we grew a garden, there was a Golden Delicious apple tree.

One year when the apples were ripe and ready to pick, I got a bucket and sack and went out to the tree. Putting my hand on the side of the tree I gave it a shake, and dozens of apples fell to the ground. I didn't think I had shaken the tree hard enough for that to happen, so I took my pocket knife and cut one of the apples open. There was a worm in the heart of it. I cut more apples open and they all had worms in them. I shook the tree some more, until all the apples quit falling,



then looking up through the branches I saw there was only one apple still hanging on the tree, and it was on the tip-top branch. I shook the tree to get it to fall like the others, but it wouldn't turn loose. I shook the tree until the leaves began to fall, but still the apple stayed. I got a ladder, climbed to the top of the tree, picked the apple and cut it open. There was no worm in it. That was the reason it was able to cling to the tree—there was nothing in the heart of it to weaken it. It had the strength to cling to its maker!

Until God comes and "picks" me, pray that I will endure to the end. (Matthew 10:22.)

sible; yet to worry takes away the peace and joy that is rightfully a Christian's. How long should we be concerned, and when should we stop worrying about a problem?

There is a closet we need to go to—the closet of prayer. (Matthew 6:6.) This is where to take all the assortment of troubles, trials and worries to the Lord. In each problem, ask Him, "Is there anything in this situation that I personally can do to make things better? Lord, are my attitudes right about this matter? What needs to be changed in my heart?"

If you wait quietly and sincerely before the Lord, He will answer. (Psalm 91:15; Isaiah 65:24.) He speaks with authority and He will never contradict the Holy Scriptures. When He tells you something to change, have the willing determination to obey Him, and He will give you the strength and grace to do so. Jesus has said, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." (II Corinthians 12:9; Ephesians 3:14, 16.)

Sometimes the Lord will show us that there are feelings and attitudes that we have outgrown or that are imperfect. (I Corinthians 13:11.) We must put away these imperfections that the Lord's work in the situation will not be hindered. "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put

away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 4:31. Often we must do mending and repairing on our hearts in our closet of prayer before the victory will come.

As we humble ourselves before the Lord, He is able to help us overcome inward conflict. Once we have our own selfish ways, thoughts and attitudes in subjection to the Lord, He has more liberty to work for our good and for the welfare of others. The righteous robe of humility covers our humanity and makes us beautiful in God's sight. "Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." I Peter 5:5-7.

Often the burden or problem is too big for us. If we cannot do anything about it, we must give it to the Lord. Cast all your care upon Him. He has broad shoulders and He can carry burdens that are entirely too big for a human. Give Him your worries, fears and frustrations, because He does care for you. He has given us many promises and He never fails. "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence

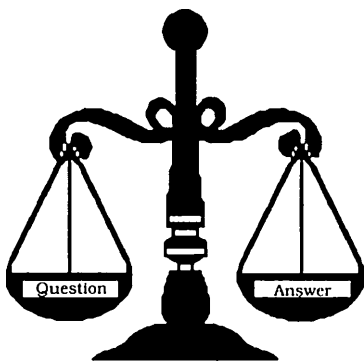
toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." I John 3:21-22. When we are obeying the Lord, we need not worry. We must simply cast our cares upon Him and keep our confidence in Him.

Anything we cannot change or help, we must leave with the Lord to carry. *Don't worry*. It is a waste of time and energy. We can cast away the burdens that don't fit our shoulders and put on patience and peace of mind. We must give all the "what ifs" to Him because they will tear holes in our peace of mind. As we obey the voice of the Lord, He will direct us into the future. He already knows what is before us. Let us keep our confidence in Him. "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." Heb. 10:35-36.

As we journey through life, let us continually go into the closet of prayer and sort out our troubles and trials before the Lord. Clothed in humility, we can cast out misfit thoughts and attitudes, give our troubles and cares to the Him, and keep patience and confidence in the Lord.



## Where's the Balance?



Dear Bro. Wayne:

I have a problem regarding carnality in my life. It seems I'm committing the same sins over and over, even though I fervently pray and ask God for forgiveness and deliverance. Will God continue to forgive me over and over? And how can I get complete victory over the flesh, so I can go on and be all that the Lord will have me to be? Please list some scriptures for help, and I desire your prayers. Thank you. —Name Withheld

Dear Brother:

Thanks for your e-mail. First let me respond by saying there is no stigma in being tempted. Even Christ was tempted of the devil. (Matt. 4:1.) Of course, it is God's will that we overcome temptation and thus glorify Him, proving to the world that there is power in His name.

God will forgive you every time you truly repent. In Luke 17:4, Jesus told His disciples they should forgive their brother seven times in a day. In Matt. 18:22, He said seventy times seven. That would infer that we are to forgive our brother just as often as he asks for forgiveness. If God requires that of us, surely He has no less a standard for Himself.

Don't let the devil convince you that there is no point in asking for forgiveness because you have failed in the past, and that you might as well give up. Seek forgiveness just as often as it takes in order to get to heaven.

One of the first things to do to overcome failure is to pray the prayer which Christ taught His disciples. (Matt. 6:13.) Every morning ask God to not allow temptation to come your way which you are unable to overcome. Jesus also said, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

This prayer for God to spare you from temptation is very important, but it is also needful that as you go through the day you avoid placing yourself in circumstances which have led to past failures. And don't grow lax in this. As you find victory the devil will cause you to become less dependent upon God and not to pray or watch as carefully, and then suddenly you may find yourself susceptible again. The scriptures tell us to "Pray without ceasing." I Thess. 5:17. That is so we will avoid becoming careless about our souls.

Now, in the event that you should find yourself in temptation, there are other protections which will keep you from sin.

Do you remember how Christ answered the devil when He was tempted? It was always with scripture. And do you remember what Joseph said when he was tempted by Potiphar's wife? "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" Gen. 39:9. This indicates that in order to sin we must be drawn away from God in our minds. We are less likely to sin when thinking about God and His Word. So have a scripture in your mind at all times. In your devotions or meditations, find one which blesses

your soul, and carry it with you throughout the day. If you find yourself tempted, focus on what God has blessed you with.

The scriptures also say, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." A part of submitting yourself to God is, as already stated, praying for Him not to lead you into temptation, asking for something to think upon and watching. Then if you should be tempted, resist by refusing to let God be driven from your thoughts. "And he will flee from you."

Temptations have a life span. They are feelings through which the devil works, and which come and go. If you will resist those feelings, they will leave. It doesn't mean they won't return, but salvation is accomplished in our lives one victory at a time.

At the end of each day, don't forget to thank God for helping you that day. When you offer

praise and thanksgiving to God, He will pour out grace upon you, and by that grace you will become stronger in your soul.

"Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." II Pet. 3:17-18.

You will find that as you grow in grace and in maturity, those things which once tempted you will have less and less of an allurements. And then as you review your life, you will be glad that you did not give up, but worked on the problem, gained the victory and fostered a close relationship with the Lord that will ultimately land you in heaven.

May God bless you and fill you with over-coming grace.

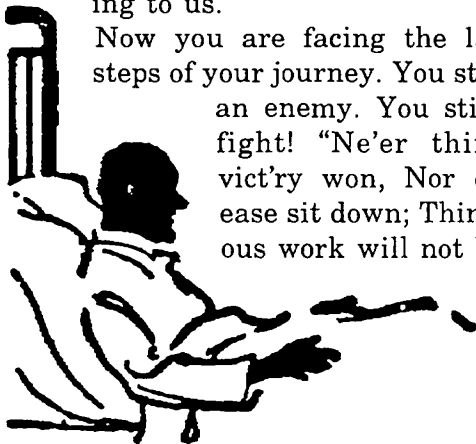
## To the Elderly

By Sis. Jeanne Eck

This little note is especially to my Brothers and Sisters who are aged, just waiting for your call home.

First, I want you to know how much you are loved and appreciated! Many of you have served the Lord for many years, and have laid a foundation of faithfulness and integrity on which we are building. Thank you! Yes, to God be all the glory and praise, for it has been Him every step of the way. But we are grateful for His grace manifested in your lives, and it is a source of much courage, strength and uplifting to us.

Now you are facing the last few steps of your journey. You still have an enemy. You still must fight! "Ne'er think the vict'ry won, Nor once at ease sit down; Thine arduous work will not be done



Till thou hast got the crown." There are still battles to be fought, but the Lord will never leave you.

The enemy would have you feel that no one cares about you anymore. Of course, he is a liar! He would desire that you feel impatient toward the Lord for tarrying His coming to you, and for your imperfect health. But remember that the Lord is still fulfilling His will in your life, right down to the very last breath. His love will never cease, and His Word will never change.

This wonderful truth of the Bible, which you have so faithfully believed and passed to us, we are passing to our little ones, by the help of the Lord. What a wonderful chain! It links us together in the Lord as His Bride, one with heaven and one in our purpose and goal.

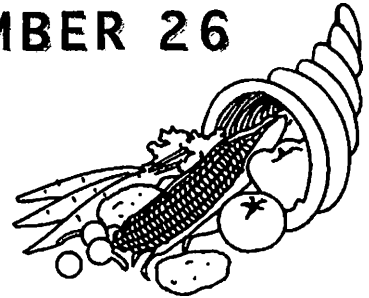
Dear, sweet, aged saints, and all who are on your way there, let us be true. Heaven will be worth it all. What fools we would be to miss it!



## THANKSGIVING—NOVEMBER 26



God has two dwellings:  
one in heaven, and the  
other in a meek and  
thankful heart.  
—Izaak Walton



Many favors which God gives us ravel out for want of hemming through our unthankfulness; for though prayer purchases blessings, giving praise keeps the quiet possession of them. —Thomas Fuller

Pride slays thanksgiving, but an humble mind is the soil out of which thanks naturally grow. —A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves.

—H. W. Beecher

If gratitude is due from children to their earthly parents, how much more is the gratitude of the great family of men due to our Father in heaven.

—Hosea Ballou

The worship most acceptable to God comes from a thankful and cheerful heart.

—Plutarch

If one should give me a dish of sand, and tell me there were particles of iron in it, I might look for them with my eyes, and search for them with my clumsy fingers, and be unable to detect them; but let me take a magnet and sweep through it, and how would it draw to itself the almost invisible particles by the mere power of attraction.

—The unthankful heart, like my finger in the sand, discovers no mercies; but let the thankful heart sweep through the day, and as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings, only the iron in God's sand is gold!

—H. W. Beecher

When thankfulness o'erflows the swelling heart, and breathes in free and uncorrupted praise for benefits received, Heaven takes such acknowledgment as fragrant incense, and doubles all its blessings.

—George Lillo

When I find a great deal of gratitude in a poor man, I take it for granted there would be as much generosity if he were rich.

—Alexander Pope

Best of all is it to preserve everything in a pure, still heart, and let there be for every pulse a thanksgiving, and for every breath a song.

—Konrad Gesner



"The true saint knows that he has not yet believed until he has believed in the midst of doubts, or hoped until he has hoped when all seemed lost, or loved until he has given all and counted it nothing, or served until he has served in the midst of overwhelming difficulties, or sung to God until he has sung in the night."

—Selected by Sis. Patsy Cain

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**A Missionary's Experiences in Mexico** by Carrie L. Sheppard. 60 pages, bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50.

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Problems

By Sis. Loyce Davenport
Psalm 37:40
Job 14:1

Problems are pit stops we must make on our journey here below in order to make it to heaven. God has made every hindrance conquerable, so don't spend a lot of time talking to others and looking for solace or agreement. This ends up being needless pain we try to bear all because we do not carry it to God in prayer. Pray without ceasing. The trying of your faith worketh patience. (James 1:3.)