

FAITH AND VICTORY

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Christmas Hymn

Through the solemn midnight ringing,
Falls the sweet, triumphant singing
Of the choir of God.

Hear the message they are bringing;
Hear the answering song upspringing
From the echoing sod.

From the sad earth's stricken places
Lift the tear-worn, furrowed faces;
Christ, the Lord is born—
Born to bear our cross and sadness;
Born to change our gloom to gladness,
Bring our night to morn.

Soft the music grows, and tender.
Loving hearts, what can ye render
To the Christ, your king?
Praise in voices fail and falter.
What that's worthy of His altar
Can His children bring?

—Author Unknown

The Closing Year

How soon the year has passed away!
How soon its race was run!
And of the work I planned to do,
How little has been done!

I vowed to more of kindness show
To those who were in need;
To help the fallen, save the lost,
And sow the precious seed;

To soothe the sorrow, dry the tear,
And others' burdens bear;
To be more Christ-like every day,
And in His work to share;
To live more pure in mind and thought,
And evil habits shun;
To be more careful of my words,
And kind to every one.

But as I look back o'er the past
And view the things I've done,
The very work I planned to do
Has only been begun.

On every side were open doors
I might have entered in;
On every hand were sinful hearts
I had the power to win,

On every side were saddened hearts
And heads bowed down with woe,
Where dearest joys had fled away—
To these I did not go;
And when some hard and crushing blow
The trusting heart had broken,
A kindly word would heal the wound—
That word was never spoken.

Shall I go on through all the years
And all these duties shirk?

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Shall I presume upon His love
 And fail to do His work?
 Can I expect to wear a crown
 And join the blood-washed throng?
 Shall I, with saints and angels, join
 To sing redemption's song?

No; I must bravely take my cross
 And do His work in love,
 Assured if I will do my part,
 I'll share his joy above.
 Lord, give to me thy grace divine,
 That through each coming day,
 My feet may ever keep the path
 That leads the upward way.

—Author Unknown



Why God Extends Time

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

As our world closes a millennium of reckoned time, I marvel at the patience of God with mankind. With due respect, I asked the Master Creator an ancient question, "What is man that thou art mindful of him?" Psalm 8:4; Hebrews 2:6. I found an answer through study and prayer:

Humans are wonderfully made.

On the sixth day of creation, God made the first man from the dust of the earth, and since that time humans have reproduced the same type of cells and body structure designed in the first man and woman. Scientific studies cannot ignore this fact.

In 1953, when James Watson and Francis Crick deciphered the body code labeled DNA, they exposed the fact that the body's 100 trillion cells contain a nucleus with 46 chromosomes. Each one is made of a long, coiled strand of DNA. Thousands of sections along every strand represent genes, which are coded instructions for making the proteins needed to construct a complete human organism.

Every human being has a unique DNA code built into his body similar to a personal fingerprint profile. However, researchers have found genetic markers on the Y chromosome that may have been passed from father to son for more than 100 generations. (National Geographic, Oct. 1999, pg. 69.)

Our Creator set this awesome pattern into effect thousands of years ago, but the DNA of

each person is still composed differently for each individual. With the psalmist of old, we can truly say, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." Psalm 139:14. Human beings are above animals, birds and fish. We reason and remember, communicate and invent. We are more than just bones, muscles, and skin—we have a soul created in the image of God. (Genesis 1:26-27.) The soul of man craves love and acceptance. Our Creator programmed this desire into us so that He could give us His love and receive ours in return. Remember, God is love. (I John 4:8.)

Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us when He sent His only begotten Son into the world! Jesus Christ came to save all people from their sins and He made a way for all of us to enter heaven. Now the spirit of man can bond with the Holy Spirit of God, allowing Him to teach us how to be like Jesus Christ. (John 14:16-17; I John 3:22-24.)

The world wide web of humanity did not just bang-crash into existence, but our Master Creator planned each one of us as a unique individual. He is mindful of man because He put part of Himself into our creation.

God made man to worship Him.

Our heavenly Father does not have people puppets moving and bending by invisible strings. Instead He has given everyone a free will to serve Him or to reject Him. His instructions are simple:

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Rom. 10:9-10.

With the heart we must believe that God is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him. (Hebrews 11:1-6.) Through faith we ask God's forgiveness of our sins. When we trust in Him, we live a testimony of the commandments Jesus Christ fulfilled. It is our faith that preserves the earth, for we are the salt of the earth. (Matthew 5:13-16.) Our savory testimony of faith is a sweet odor unto the Lord.

With the mouth we let others know what

kind of nature our heart has, if we have sin (Matthew 7:20-23) or if we are pure. (James 3:10-18.) We are exhorted to speak in "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:19-20. The Lord takes pleasure in hearing praise unto Him from honest lips. Let us rejoice in our salvation and let others know about this redemption plan.

Hungry souls still thirst for redemption.

A current report on a tribe of people considered one of the poorest in the world tells us how the Khmu are eager to learn about God. The Khmu people have faced a past of oppression and struggle for survival. Many Laotians and Thais have despised the Khmu and regard them as less than human. The Lao, who are strong Buddhists, capture many Khmu and force them to work for them, calling them "Kha" meaning "slaves."

When missionaries brought the gospel to the Khmu tribes in Vietnam, Thailand, China and Burma, the response was overwhelming. Having faced so much rejection and hatred, the Khmu are naturally drawn to our loving Father. They are hopeless people with nowhere to turn. This is why the Khmu people are turning their hearts to God. (The Voice of the Martyrs, Nov. 1999, pg. 2-4.)

As never before, the salvation story of Jesus Christ is reaching into every corner of the earth. From the richest palaces or most intellectual institutions to the poorest slums of slavery, the Gospel is slowly penetrating into the darkness of sin. Over satellite broadcasting, millions of people in hundreds of countries can hear the Word of God read to them.

What was the great commission that Jesus commanded of His followers? "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:19-20. This commission is our responsibility, and by the grace of God we can do our part to spread the gospel unto all the

ends of the earth just as Jesus said: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14.

Our heavenly Father is mindful of His harvest, seeking out the poor in spirit to redeem their souls from hell. He has a beautiful place prepared for His children and He sent His Son to live, die, ascend and intercede for us that we would have a way to live with Him for eternity.

God knows our need of Him.

Today the world of six billion people counts its years and conducts its annual cycle of events in memory of this crucified figure. It is a curious fact that in all ages and all societies, large numbers of people are attracted to the gentle, not the strong, to the sufferers and not the successful. Jesus touched on this tender spot in humanity—the kindness and compassion within us—and in doing so founded what is arguably the most influential of all religions. (Reader's Digest, Dec. 1999, pg. 62-66.)

In the last two millennia of the Christian era, mankind has conquered many diseases, natural disasters, famines, poverty and illiteracy, but we have not conquered death. Death is still a mystery that arouses fear in the unregenerated human heart. In Jesus Christ we find a key to this international threat on life. He offers us a firm promise of another world beyond and the means to enter it. Because our Father loves us, He sent His Son to give us faith, courage, and hope. Through His Holy Spirit we communicate with Him in prayer. He knows our need of Him and He makes Himself available to us anytime, anywhere, always, even unto the end of the world.

My child,

I am mindful of you because

You are wonderfully made;

I am pleased when you worship me;

*Your faith and trust in me touch my
compassion;*

I love to feed your hungry soul.

*I know you need me so I have made a way,
through My Son,*

For you to live with me some day.

With love, —Your Father

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, 4318 S. Division, 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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES



Single copy, one year \$3.00
 Package of 5 papers to one address, one year \$12.00
 Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21, and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ—the same gospel that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for the body. James 5:14-15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way as the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Ex. 25:2; I Chron. 29:9; II Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Freewill offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House. All donations are tax deductible.

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

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

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Our world is nearing a significant occasion—the end of a millennium. During this month of December, people are planning on how to close the 20th century and enter the 21st. Since the year 2000 is both an end and a beginning, it seems even more momentous. There

are those who expect this landmark event to bring catastrophic changes to the world.

In the midst of the prophetic predictions, confusion and anticipation, it makes one wonder how God views the change from one millennium to another.

A passage of scripture gives us a glimpse into the answer to this question.

"This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." II Peter 3:1-8.

Perhaps you have heard it was 2000 years from creation to the flood which destroyed all mankind except for Noah and his family. In researching this premise, I learned that ancient historians have placed the date of the deluge all the way from 2348 to 3246 BC. The most commonly accepted date seems to be 2348 BC.

Concerning this event, Genesis 6:12-13, says, "And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said

unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth." God's time frame for destroying the earth was not in years, but determined by the condition of man's heart.

Years are man's timing. God deals in terms of eternity. From His lofty position in heaven God's view is not as narrow and focused as ours by the passing of days. What impacts Him is how the overall condition of mankind affects His great heart of love. He isn't hurried by a year, a decade or a millennium in working out His plan of redeeming souls or calling the earth into judgment, for He thinks as One who lives in eternity, One for whom a thousand years is as a day.

When Christ returns to reward the righteous and punish the wicked, it will be at a time least expected, except for the righteous to whom Jesus exhorted, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Matt. 24:42.

So as we anticipate January 1, 2000, let us keep in mind that the historic significance of a new millennium is secondary in relevance to God's perspective and time frame, and how His Kingdom is prospering upon the earth.

As reported in the November *Faith and Victory* paper, the Print Shop offices have been moved to the new facility at 4318 S. Division here in Guthrie. During the month of November, we were also able to transfer part of our book stock. Hopefully, the mailing department will soon be completely situated at our new location, and we will be able to process mail orders in a timely fashion.

A new telephone system is in operation at the Print Shop. We realize this takes some getting used to, especially on the part of our callers. The new system incorporates an auto attendant. This feature enables you to reach the person directly with whom you wish to speak, or if that person is unavailable, it enables you to leave a voice message.

Upon dialing the number for Faith Publishing House, (405) 282-1479, a recording will answer your call, giving you the option of placing an order by pressing 0 on your touch tone phone, or the option of dialing the extension number of the person with whom you wish to speak. If you don't know the extension number

of the person you are calling, press the number 9. This will provide you with a directory of extension numbers.

The extension number for my office is 101, which you can enter as soon as the initial recording answers your call. **If you simply hold the line through the answering message, someone will personally answer your call.**

Wall calendars for the year 2000 should be in stock and ready for sale by the time this December *Faith and Victory* reaches you. The calendars make nice Christmas gifts, and each features a colorful nature scene with a Bible verse for each month. They measure 7 1/4" X 13 1/2" and are available for \$3.00 each, which includes postage and handling.

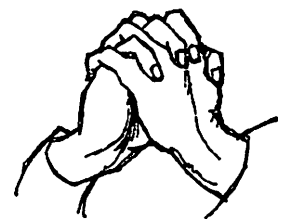
Bound volumes of the 11 issues of the *Faith and Victory* paper for the year of 1999 will soon be in stock. The price is \$5.00 per book, which includes postage and handling.

Also for sale are the 1999 *Beautiful Way* yearbooks for Juniors (52 papers for the year) at \$5.00 each, which includes postage and handling. The limited supply of these books will be sold on a first-come basis.

Income tax time is right around the corner. If you have contributed to this work during 1999 and need a receipt for the purpose of deductions, feel free to let us know.

We wish each of you a very blessed Christmas and holiday season. Love in Christ,
—Bro. Wayne Murphey

PRAYER REQUESTS



OK—"Please pray for my daughter."
—Name Withheld

LA—"Please remember me in prayer."
—Sis. Velma Mancil

OH—"Pray for me, all of my children and grandchildren."
—Bro. Charles Shepard

CA—"I am requesting urgent prayer for my son, Mike, because of a recent illness. I would also like to request urgent prayer about other matters."
—Sis. Doris Pihaylic

FL—"We work with two ladies (who happen to be sisters), Rae Ann Carlucci and Gale Fuller. Their father, Robert Pollard, is in the Intensive Care Unit at Halifax Hospital in Daytona Beach. He was riding a motorcycle and was hit by an automobile and sustained serious injuries. He was pronounced dead at the scene, but was revived by a cardiologist who happened to be following him when the accident occurred. He is 50 years old and has been in a coma for several days. The family is very close and are really taking this hard. Please earnestly pray for this family and for God to show mercy to this man and spare his life. May God bless each of you who take this burden to heart.

—Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Smith

NC—Sis. Elaine Dunn has been experiencing severe pain. Also, Rosetta, a member of the North Wilkesboro congregation, is having problems with a pregnancy.

OK—Larry Eck wants to thank the saints for their prayers during his recent illness, and asks that each one continue to pray for him.

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Standing Prayer Requests

Sis. Lydia Bennett
 Sis. Alscene Breckenridge
 Bro. Jon Busbee
 Sis. Mamie Butcher
 Bro. Nathan Carver
 Bro. Daniel Davis, Jr.
 Bro. Dale Doolittle
 Sis. Elaine Dunn
 Sis. Olive Getterson
 Sis. Pauline Hall
 Bro. Ben Harrison
 Sis. Janice Johnston
 Bro. Louis Kimble
 Sis. Helen Lambright
 Sis. Betty Lassché
 The Lounds sisters
 Sis. Mattie McIntyre
 Sis. Bertha Miles
 Sis. Virginia Myers
 Sis. Dollie O'Neal
 Bro. O. C. Porter
 Sis. Rose Samons
 Sis. Myrtle Savoie
 Sis. Kay Stover
 Sis. Marie Weatherford
 Bro. Curtis Williams, Sr.
 Bro. Max Williamson
 Sis. Esther Wilson

Meeting Reports and Notices

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 93rd annual Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held at Guthrie, OK, from December 24, 1999, through January 2, 2000. 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 24, 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 time of which will be announced at the meeting.

The campgrounds are located east off of Sooner Road on Lakeview 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 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.

To obtain further information about the meeting, please contact the pastor, Bro. Stanley Dickson (405) 260-8822.

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CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The annual CA State Assembly Meeting at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA, will convene, Lord willing, Friday night, December 24 at 7:30 p.m. There will be three worship services daily, 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., commencing Saturday, December 25 and continuing through January 2, 2000.

The Lord abundantly blessed the 50th annual camp meeting last August. We expect another profitable meeting through your prayers and the support of all who can possibly attend.

For information or assistance, call Bro. Herbert Clay, (818) 897-1396, or the Sunset Guest Home, (818) 899-2022.

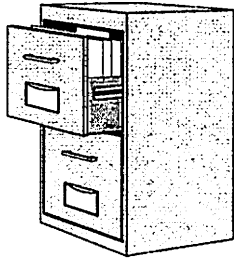


**CHRISTMAS
TAPE
AVAILABLE**



Bro. Harlan Sorrell has recently recorded a cassette tape of many traditional Christmas hymns entitled *Joy to the World*. The price of the tape is \$3.00 each, which includes postage and handling. Send your orders to: Rt. 1, Box 118A, Myrtle, MO 65778.

*From
Our
Letter
Files*



KY—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings in the name of the Lord.

We here in the Garrison, KY Church of God are prospering spiritually, thank the Lord. God is blessing us and adding to His Church. He has taken two from us to be with Him, but has added six to take their place, and more are under conviction. Please help us pray that they will surrender and come to Him.

Dear Sis. Nancy Woodruff had a peaceful passing. She had sweet victory all the way to the end. She truly was a good example for all of us and never complained but always had a smile.

I asked her a few hours before she left us if she had resigned to the will of the Lord. She could barely whisper, but I could hear her say, "Yes." One of her sisters was singing "I'll Fly Away," when she passed. That was one of her favorite songs.

Dear ones, she fought a good fight, kept the faith and won the battle. We have ours to fight yet, so let us be faithful to the end. Matt. 24:13 says, "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." James 5:10-11, "Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold we count them happy which endure." Amen. Let us endure.

We appreciate and thank all of the dear saints for praying for us here during Sis. Nancy's sickness and death.

I also want to thank all of the dear ones who sent for my testimony tape on how God healed me. I also wish to thank them for the donations they sent for our building fund. We have a long way to go on it yet. The owner of the building lot we had in mind told us it wasn't for sale. All the other lots he had weren't suitable as they were too far off the highway. We have another lot which we can get, but it costs more. It already has water and a septic tank on it.

Please continue to help us pray that God will supply our needs. May God bless all of you dear ones.

Yours in His service, —Sis. Mary Hughes

OH—Dear Bro. Murphey: Thank you so much for taking time from your busy schedule to write me such an encouraging letter.

I am very thankful to have Jesus for my best Friend and my dear Savior. I am also glad He is touched with the feelings of our infirmities. As King of kings and Lord of lords, He knows all about how to help and bless us. I am thankful He is patient and long-suffering with us and our loved ones.

Please continue to pray for me and all of my loved ones, especially those who are not yet saved.

My greatest desire is to please God and have His approval upon me and for souls to be born into the Kingdom of God.

I need a lot of grace, wisdom and understanding of God's Word. I ask the dear Lord to help me be a doer of His Word and not a hearer only.

Thank you again for your prayers and for writing to me....

With much love, —Sis. Janice Shaw

MI—Dear Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary: I haven't been feeling well since I had a bad fall on my porch on September 17. I don't know how it happened, but it shook my whole body. It hurt my chest and my bones are so sore that I have to be careful when I bend over. I am trusting in my dear, sweet Jesus. I can't do things like I used to, but I enjoy reading God's promises in the Holy Bible.

I pray for all of you and the list of prayer requests in the *Faith and Victory* paper. It is such a wonderful paper to read. Praise God!

I thank all who pray for my soul and body. I need to be healed and other saints need healing also.

Thank you for your letters and prayers. I love you all.

Love and prayers, —Sis. Olive Getterson
— — — — —

FL—Bro. Wayne Murphey: I was so glad when I received the letter from you. It lifted me up.

I love the Church of God and I am here to stay. I cannot forget when a voice spoke to me in my teens and said, "You teach like I teach and let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Please pray for me. I have a roaring in my right ear which bothers my hearing as well as my ability to think.... —Sis. Kathleen Williams
— — — — —

LA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Thank you for printing some of Bro. C. E. Orr's writings in the *Faith and Victory* paper. When I was young, he pastored our church in Hammond, LA. He and Sis. Sadie Orr published a wonderful little paper, *The Path of Life*. A happy memory I have is of helping them prepare these papers for mailing. I have sometimes wondered what God looks like, and the picture I imagine is like Bro. Orr. There was a holy aura surrounding him.

May God bless you all. —Sis. Audrey Carver
— — — — —

LA—Dear Ones at the Print Shop: I would like to get two years of the *Faith and Victory*.

I have been in a lot of pain. I was down with my back and then my leg. I also hurt my ribs and four weeks ago hurt my left arm and shoulder. The whole church at Oak Grove prayed for me and the Lord has done much for me. I thank everyone for their prayers and all who visited me.

Please pray for my unsaved children and grandchildren.

With Christian love, —Sis. Mae Averett
— — — — —

KY—Dear Saints: I hope all of you are well. I have been praying for you.

I would like to praise God with my whole heart for being so merciful to me. I feel unworthy. The only way I feel I can show the Lord how much I appreciate all He has done is to live for Him, praise Him, and be obedient to His Word.

God has been so good to my husband and me. We moved from Lorain, Ohio to Kentucky and He helped us have a safe and smooth move. The Lord also helped us find a two-bedroom house to rent.

Continue to remember our unsaved loved ones in prayer. They really don't know what they are missing when they turn God out of their lives.

Also continue to remember my husband and me in prayer. I praise my Lord for having a saved and sanctified companion. It is truly a blessing.

With Christian love, —Sis. Sarah Howard
— — — — —

OK—Dear Bro. Wayne and saints of God: Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. He and His service gets sweeter and more glorious. I love Him for who He is and for what He has done. I wish to tell how He spared our lives this past summer.

In August, on the way from Tulsa, OK, to the Ensenada, Mexico, campmeeting, we had a bad accident in Needles, CA. The driver lost control of the van and it hit soft sand on the shoulder, spun and flipped, smashing the top and throwing my daughter out of the side window. Many of our belongings were scattered in the sand also. The driver was unhurt, praise God! The sister sitting in the passenger seat was thrown half-way out the passenger window, smashing her chest and back between the crushed window. My daughter, Nellie, was cut severely by broken glass. I sustained only minor injuries and my two grandchildren almost none. Miraculously, there were no broken bones.

The van was a total loss. God was so merciful to spare our lives. Surely His angels were encamped about us. The insurance paid off the van and with the remainder, the Lord provided for another van to be used in His service. I do praise Him for all His untold blessings and benefits.

Above these blessings, I praise God for who He is. As Paul states in Philippians 3, if I may but win Christ and be found in His righteousness, be made conformable to His death, be in fellowship with His sufferings, and attain to His resurrection, I shall have gained that for which God has called me.

So I will keep pressing toward the mark of God's highest calling: to be one with Christ Jesus, our only hope of glory. (Col. 1:27)

We have been traveling to various places as the Lord leads in His service, and Lord willing, will go to the Los Angeles, CA tent meeting.

Please pray for me, my children, and my husband whom God has saved.

We appreciate the literature and tracts. May

God bless the efforts of the gospel publishing work.

Love to all the saints. Yours in Him,
—Sis. Bonnie L. Riley
— — — — —

OR—Greetings in Jesus' name: I just wanted to thank the Lord for all His many blessings! I have had joint problems since June and the Lord has come to my rescue when I called for prayer. It was like relief the very next day, and in my book only God can answer that quickly So I am eternally thankful for His loving kindness and mercy.

The Lord has been faithful to us again in giving us another good meeting. We have been challenged by His word and desire that it will not be rocky ground that it falls on, only to be choked out by the cares of this world....

I trust the Lord is blessing you and yours.
Love in Him, —Geraldine Linch
■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■



From the Philippines...

October 25, 1999—Dear Bro. and Sis. Murphey: Warm greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus. May you always be filled with power from heaven as you continue to lift up the banner of truth for the salvation of precious souls.

I have started a new station of the gospel work in the town of Guimba. Guimba is a town located near the boundary of Nueva Ecija and Tralac. It is a big town surrounded with many smaller towns. I rented a room to stay so that I can give my full time in working there. There is a little space on the ground floor where we can temporarily meet for worship. It is hard to live alone, but I must do this to establish stations of worship in different places. At present, I am the only one who can do a pioneer work because the other pastors cannot leave their families nor bring their families with them without support. What I am doing is to train qualified resident

leaders in every congregation such as elders, deacons, teachers and helpers. I cannot support a full-time pastor and this way is more scriptural. The rental is very expensive but I trust the loving heavenly Father will provide the need. I conducted two weeks of evangelistic campaigns in Guimba and the response was very encouraging. They said it is new to their ears, but it is interesting to know that the Church of God is the true Church recorded in the New Testament. Many were so happy that for the first time they could read the Word of God and hear about true salvation from sin. I asked my daughter, Sis. Ruth, to take care of the work in San Jose and the surrounding places, and she said she is very willing to do her best. They are preparing for the fellowship meeting to be held November 1-2....

Again we say thank you for your loving care, concern and support for the gospel work in the Philippines.

Your brother in Christ,
—Matias S. Tangunan and family
— — — — —

From India...

October 5, 1999—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: We send you Christian greetings with grateful hearts. We are very thankful to you for your special love and concern extended to us.

We are very sorry to say that our dear Bro. Mathunni was relieved by God from his labours and given eternal rest. It is actually a great loss to the work in India. But we believe that the Lord will help us in the much greater responsibility that has fallen upon us. By the special help and leadings of the Holy Spirit and the earnest prayers of the saints, we will endeavor to continue to proclaim the great truths of the Bible.

May the Lord bless each of you in your labors for Him.

Yours faithfully, —Bro. C. C. Hemu
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From Mexico...

Dear Bro. Wayne and Print Shop workers: Many brotherly greetings of love in the Lord Jesus Christ!

We returned from a conference in Culiacan a few days ago. Bro. Adelfo and his church there hosted a four-day meeting. We traveled down there with a full van, including our family, Bro. James and Sis. Charlotte Huskey, her sister, Roberta Gaines (who flew in from MO), Bro. Mayareno's daughter, Yadi, Bros. Marco and

Saul, Brother Mayareno's parents, and Sis. Lupe. We stopped at Caborca on the way to pick up Sis. Carolina, Mayareno's sister, and her son. So we were stuffed, to say the least! We had a good two-day trip, but when we approached Culiacan, the transmission gave out! We were close enough to get the van towed in and Bro. Adelfo came to get us.

We stayed at Bro. Adelfo's house during the conference. He and his family were the most hospitable and gracious people you would ever want to meet. They put us up and fed us and we lacked for nothing. He slept on a concrete floor with only a thin blanket under him. We were scattered out all over his house. We ate hearty meals and enjoyed fellowship together.

The conference was a great success. Bro. Bob Huskey and his family came down, so there were a number of ministers present: Bros. James, Bob, Adelfo, Samuel (Adelfo's son), Ariel (Adelfo's son-in-law), and myself. There was much altar work. Many came for salvation and deliverance from spirits. Praise the Lord! One woman testified to how the Lord healed her leg. There was a baptism at the end and about six went into the waters to confess their faith. What a glorious time it was. The Lord truly blessed.

As far as the return is concerned, we had further troubles. After repair, the original transmission completely quit. We went and purchased one from a salvage yard, which lasted a day or so. The third one was successful, and we made it home with no further mechanical difficulties. We were tired, however, since we drove straight through in order to get back in time for Sis. Roberta's return flight. We did make it, thanks to the Lord.

Now that we have returned, we on the missionary team have a renewed vision for our training. Another young brother, Alberto (Berto) is here, and I think he'll join us in some of the training. He is living in a trailer next door to Bro. James and Sis. Charlotte. He is working with Bro. Tim in his auto body shop. So pray for us that the Lord will continue to bless. There are battles, to be sure, some serious, but in Jesus' name we have the victory. It's wonderful to be on the winning side. All praises to our God!

We are all well here. We appreciate the support and prayers of all God's saints. We know that as we walk with Him and obey His word, we will lack nothing. We want to get closer to Him so we can discern His will in all things.

Please greet all the saints for us. Lord willing

we plan to be in Guthrie for the Assembly meeting, so we hope to see you there.

—Bro. Joe and Sis. Judy Fine

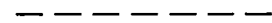


Nancy Nadine Woodruff, 33, of Vanceburg, KY, died Saturday, October 9, 1999, at home.

She was born December 4, 1965, in Port Clinton, OH, a daughter of Paul Cooper of Vanceburg and the late Lillian Eileen Johnson Cooper. She was a homemaker, an employee of U. S. Shoe of Vanceburg and a member of the Church of God of Garrison, KY.

Survivors also include her husband, Mark Woodruff; two daughters, Misty Woodruff and Miranda Woodruff, both at home; one son, Shawn Woodruff, at home; 10 brothers, Keith Cooper of Manchester, KY, Wayne Harold Cooper of Tollesboro, KY, and Dallas Cooper, Jerry Cooper, Dennis Cooper, Wendell Cooper, David Cooper, George Cooper, Randy Cooper and Mark Cooper all of Vanceburg; three sisters, Judy Holt of Lucasville, OH, Jane Brown and Bonnie Flinders, both of Vanceburg.

Funeral services were held at the Gaydos Funeral Home in Vanceburg, with Bro. Larry Abbott and Sis. Mary Hughes officiating. Interment was in the Lewis County Memory Gardens.



Isaac H. Martens was born November 25, 1914, at Fairview, OK, the oldest of ten children born to Henry I. and Elizabeth (Penner) Martens.

On August 9, 1936, Isaac was united in marriage with Lavina E. Wahl at Lahoma, OK. To this union five children were born, Clarence, Edgar, Karyn, Everett and Wanda.

Isaac and Lavina started their married life farming in Parsons, KS. They farmed in various

places in Kansas before settling on a farm south of Anthony, KS, in 1945. Isaac custom combined from Texas to North Dakota and sprigged grass in south central Kansas. He also enjoyed gardening and sharing its bounty with the Anthony community.

On Sunday, November 7, 1999, Isaac passed away at Kingman, KS.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Lavina, on September 5, 1999, and four siblings.

Isaac will be greatly missed by his three sons, Clarence and his wife, Ilse, of Anthony,

Edgar and his wife, Gloria, of Shreveport, LA and Everett and his wife, Mary, of Hutchinson, KS; two daughters, Karyn Woodward, of Wichita, KS, and Wanda Martens, of Mound, MN; three brothers, Dan, of Enid, OK, Jake, of Norwalk, CA, and Henry of Wichita, KS; two sisters, Henrietta Calvert of Tyler, TX, and Josephine Thiessen of Fresno, CA; 13 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, other relatives and many friends.

Isaac was laid to rest in the Forest Park Cemetery, Anthony, KS. Bro. Wayne Murphey officiated.



The Scriptural Meaning of Prophets and Prophecy and Can Women Share In This Gift?

By Bro. Harlan Sorrell
(Continued from last month.)



Having now a clear definition of a true “prophet” and an insight into what it means to “prophecy” in the scriptural sense of the term, let us now approach the question, “Can women share in this gift?” Prophecy is definitely one of the gifts of the Spirit (see I Corinthians 12:10). Let me say from the very outset that there is not the slightest indication in all the New Testament that the woman is in any way barred or prohibited from receiving and exercising any spiritual gift, including prophecy. On the other hand, the plain testimony of the Scriptures is very much to the contrary. Let us examine them.

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” I Corinthians 12:13.

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:27-28.

“But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my spirit; and they shall prophesy.” Acts 2:16-18.

“And we entered into the house of Philip the

evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.” Acts 21:8-9.

“Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head (Christ). But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head (her husband): for that is even all one as if she were shaven....If a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him...If a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.” I Corinthians 11:4-5, 14-15.

From these scriptures we can safely conclude, beyond all doubt, that women prophesied in the primitive Christian church and were not barred nor excluded from exercising that spiritual gift. Neither do we have any scriptural authority to suppose, as some do, that this gift was limited merely to a predicting of future events, for as we have already seen from Smith’s Bible Dictionary, that definition of prophecy was “post-classical.” Prophecy in its original and larger sense involved being a “spokesperson” for God, which included preaching and expounding the Scriptures by the supernatural illumination of the Holy Spirit.

In Revelation 2:20, the church of Thyatira was reprimanded for allowing a woman called Jezebel, who called herself a “prophetess” to teach and to seduce the servants of God. The problem here was not

with a prophetess teaching in the congregation, but rather in the fact that she was a false prophetess. She was not teaching, expounding, or interpreting the Word of God by divine illumination of the Holy Spirit but by some other spirit, thus she was causing some of God's servants to err.

It should be observed that the prophets and prophetesses of the primitive Christian church were not overlords of the congregations, but rather humble servants and ministers of God. (See Mark 10:42-45.) They were divinely-inspired preachers who ministered and served in the capacity of the Word, feeding God's flock with heavenly soul-food. By the special endowment of the gift of prophecy they bubbled forth like a fountain, through the Holy Spirit, words of exhortation, edification and comfort which strengthened and established the churches in the faith of the gospel and convicted sinners of their need of God. Being divinely illuminated, they preached, expounded and interpreted the Word of God in truth. They served the Christian community with a well-balanced, healthy spiritual diet. Their doctrine exalted Christ as the head of the Church and lifted not one member of His body up above another. There were no overlords, but the leaders and overseers were servants who led by example (see I Peter 5:2-3.) A woman named Phebe was a servant of the church at Cenchrea. (Romans 16:1.) Whether she was a prophetess or just merely a deaconess, she nevertheless ministered in that congregation.

Perhaps part of the reason for the unfavorable sentiment which many hold today regarding the concept of women preachers can be blamed on the apostasy which came in later years among those professing Christianity. When Christ set up His church He created a beautiful and heavenly institution on earth. Being the product of divine intelligence, it was operated by a flawless system. It was the expertise of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit working jointly in the interest of restoring to fallen humanity what was lost in Eden. It was the kingdom of heaven restored to earth through the dispensation of the Holy Spirit. There was nothing in the creation of the Church except the element of divine and heavenly things administered to mankind through the Holy Spirit. As long as man allowed the dispensation (that is, the administrative system and management) of the Holy Spirit to have free course, the kingdom of heaven (the Church of God) flourished in the earth. But

as with all other beautiful things that God had created, when man put his hand on it, the beauty of the divine handiwork was marred. This was what happened in the great apostasy which ultimately produced the system of Popery and Roman Catholicism. The human element moved in and usurped the authority of the divine. The original simplicity of the gospel and divine, Holy Spirit leadership was lost, thus the functioning of true spiritual gifts was replaced by a system of religious formality—a system governed, managed and regulated by human intelligence. It was a system of mere human administration, a system of man-rule, instead of the administration of the Holy Spirit. A hierarchy was formed. No longer were preachers just humble servants of the churches ministering the Word under divine direction, but they became powerful lords over God's heritage, demanding subjection to themselves. Because of this many people, no doubt, have come to think of preachers as religious dictators. Such a position is unbecoming to even a man, and would be most certainly for a woman!

But in the true New Testament Church which Christ recognizes, establishes and operates by His Holy Spirit, no prophet (or preacher) either male or female, usurps this kind of authority. Their only authority lies within the bounds of their spiritual gift, and that authority carries the weight of the divine. It is not human. The Holy Spirit Himself authorizes and backs the prophesying of the Word through the true, humble servants and handmaidens of the Lord. And the messages He proclaims through sanctified vessels, whether they be male or female, are accompanied by divine life and soul-transforming power for all who will believe and receive. All authority in the true New Testament Church of God lies in the Holy Spirit's doings. It is in the realm of the divine, never the human. All functionings of the divine church are from the realm of the Spirit, and it operates only by the Spirit. This is the one great important feature that characterizes the true Church of God and distinguishes it from all the institutions and organizations of men. It operates from the divine realm rather than the human, by Holy Spirit rule instead of man-rule. It is heaven's kingdom and administration on earth. The part that humanity plays in the operation of the divine Church is mere instrumentality of earthen vessels yielded to the Spirit's control. That which is uncontrolled by the Spirit is outside the operation of the divine Church.

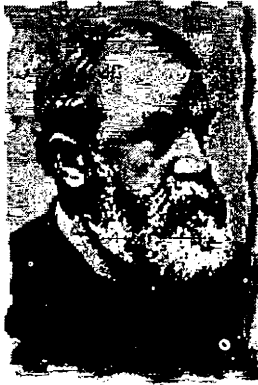
(To be continued next month.)

"It should be observed that the prophets and prophetesses of the primitive Christian church were not overlords of the congregations, but rather humble servants and ministers of God."

Questions & Answers of D. L. Moody

Q. "How can we make our prayer meetings more interesting?"

A. "Well, be more interesting yourself; that is one way. I have seen many meetings just murdered, the life taken out of them, by the leader. There is a way of going into a meeting by which you may do this. Go in with your coat buttoned up, looking at no one; do not use your natural voice, and be as stiff as you can. Begin by saying you have nothing to say, and then talk for half an hour. If the meeting isn't dead then, I am a false prophet. Then get up and scold the people for not taking part after you have thrown the meeting open. For my own part, I don't know why we should go into church in that cold, formal way. When we go to church, why not take a man by the hand, throw off the stiffness, and make everybody feel at home?"



people to think I am talking with them, and not preaching, it is so much easier to hold their attention. The other night I was walking home in the dark, and two people right behind me were talking about the meeting. One of them said, 'Did Moody preach tonight?' The other said, 'No he didn't preach, he only talked.'

"Did you ever hear him before?"

"Yes."

"How do you like him?"

"Well, we daunt' like him. He never has the church service, and he doesn't have on any robes; and then his preaching—why, he doesn't preach at all, he just talks.' I thought that was quite a compliment. I am glad if I can make people think I am talking with them. I think sometimes we almost preach the people to death—it is preach, preach, preach. If you can get the idea out of their minds that you are going to preach, and just let them think that you are going to talk, you are more likely to reach them.

"Another thing; be yourself. I detest the kind of people that take a religious tone when they begin to talk to you on the subject of religion, and have a peculiar whine that makes you think of cant. Be natural. Talk on this subject as you would on any other."

Q. "How long should a sermon be?"

A. "It is very much better to get a reputation for being brief than to have people say that you preach long sermons. Say what you have got to say in just as few words as you can. Then stop when you get through. Some men go on and feel around for a good stopping place. I'd rather stop abruptly than do that. Don't waste any time. Remember, we are living in an intense age. Men think quicker than they used to.

Q. "Would you advise a young man to go into the ministry?"

A. "Never. If God calls a man, all right; but I have seen too many man-made ministers. If a man is called by God, he will succeed; but if he is sent by man, he will fail. I should advise every man to engage in Christian work, but not to give up all other occupations and live by the pulpit. All are called to be disciples and witnesses, but there needs to be a special call to be an apostle."

Q. "How can a man who wants to preach overcome nervousness?"

A. "That is a practical question, my friend. Do you remember the first time you got up to preach, and how your knees went thump, thump? I'll tell you what to do. Get so full of your subject, and you are all right. This opens the question of preaching. Let me say right here that I like to say 'to speak' better than 'to preach,' because if I can only get

The time was when if a man wanted to do a little business in Boston, he would write half a dozen sheets and send them by mail. Now he puts it all in a telegram of ten words. What we want in our preaching is to condense. Get a reputation for being short, and people will want to hear you."

Q. "What should be done after the attention is gained?"

A. "Aim at the heart. Just keep thundering away at the man's heart and you will get it, and if you get his heart, you will get his head and his feet and everything—you get the whole man. The story of the Prodigal Son will melt any man's heart. So will the story of the Good Samaritan. Or take any of the miracles of healing—how Christ saw a man blind or paralyzed and came to him and had compassion on him. Just open the heart of Christ to the people and draw the multitude around Him. If you want to get ahold of an audience, aim at the heart; and there is nothing that will warm up the heart like the Gospel of Jesus Christ."



Attention!

You Have an Audience!

By Bro. Galen Kelley

I was seeking a blessing from the Lord recently and while in meditation and prayer the Lord's reply was "You have an audience." That was a real special day for me to know the Lord of the universe and my Savior, had given me a special summons to have His time and attention. As I thought of this privilege, I tried to grasp what our Jesus went through that we might have an audience.

It was in the master plan from the very beginning! Think of Christ, the Creator Himself, giving up the glory and protection of heaven to make Himself vulnerable to sin—to be tempted, rejected and ultimately killed. It was more than a fleeting thought that paid the price for our redemption. I am sure Christ felt a sense of responsibility for His creation. So He came to captivate what had us captured. He paid the debt in full with His own pure blood. The Lord's anointed did this to win peace to obtain a reconciliation between God the Father and us. What a mediator! He gave His best for each of us. He bought us off. He purchased us

with His own blood. The price for our reconciliation is all in the past. Peace has been obtained. Pardon has been freely granted.

The door to the Father's house has swung wide open. You have an audience. The acceptance of this great plan is up to you. Whatever your problem, whatever your hang-up, whatever kind of besetting sin, God wants to hear from you. He is standing by with love and forgiveness, waiting to hear your heart talk.

Not only can we tell Him about our problems, this great opening of heaven's door lets us send many thoughts, utterances and much thanksgiving to the throne. That one day was a special day for me when the Lord said, "You have an audience," but this offer is for every day, anytime, for everyone. Enjoy what God has accomplished for you!



My Testimony

By Bro. Edward V. Davenport

I was nineteen years of age, away from home, working on a new job and enjoying the freedom of doing what I wanted without being continually reminded by my mother about the wages of a sinful life.

Although I was away from home, my mother still prayed for me. Thank the Lord for praying mothers! I had not been working very long before an accident occurred. I was injured and had to go home.

After recovering, my mother asked me to attend a midday cottage prayer meeting in the home of her minister and his wife.

One particular day, after the meeting had been dismissed, several were standing around visiting. I was so overwhelmed with a heavy burden of guilt I could go no farther. I found a chair, got on my knees and began to ask for mercy. Others gladly gathered around me, adding their prayers to mine. The Lord forgave my sins and removed the burden. I promised God that I would serve Him the rest of my life. What rejoicing! I had been carrying that heavy burden of guilt for two weeks. That conviction was the Holy Spirit speaking and seeking to draw me unto God.

Never disregard the Holy Spirit or ask it to go away as some have done, to their own destruction, but rather yield to it. You will never regret your choice.

I became a new creature. The old sinful

things I used to do I didn't do anymore, neither did I frequent the old sinful places. God took the desire out of my heart.

II Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Though the devil is always around to tempt or discourage, we can, by God's power, overcome him. Satan tried to hinder me from getting saved by asking, "What are your friends going to think of you?" Well, he lost that time. We were new to the area and I had not made friends with anyone there. The devil is always a liar.

For my new faith the Lord gave me a scripture in Mark 8:38. "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Lord will give us boldness to serve Him. I am now in my golden years and have been endeavoring to keep the promise I made at the age of nineteen. It has guided me around many pitfalls.

I want to encourage you to, "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;..." Ecclesiastes 12:1.

The Right Decision

Unto a youth the gospel came,
exhorting him in Jesus' name
to turn from sin, embrace the truth,
and serve the Lord in days of youth.

The youth replied, "I know that's right,
so I will seek the Lord tonight.
All sinful pleasures I'll forsake,
and serve the Lord for Jesus' sake."

I'll not delay another day;
this very night I'll kneel and pray,
"O Lord, do hear my earnest plea;
forgive my sins and set me free."

And from the altar he did rise;
the light of God shone in his eyes.
His name was now enrolled in heaven
for God had all his sins forgiven.

From youth to middle age he went,
on God relying for his strength
to face life's battles day or night,
and be a victor in the fight.

God did not fail, but in each test
with grace supplied, he did his best.
With friends or family, peers or foe,
he never let his Saviour go.

From middle age to old he lived,
a life of service he did give;
benevolence unto mankind
enriched with love by God divine.

And when his life on earth was done,
a crown of life by him was won.
Methinks he heard the Saviour say
"Welcome Home"—"Eternal Day."

—Revised by O. Davenport



False Security

By Sis. Anita Adams

(Reprinted from Dec., 1990, *Faith and Victory*.)

Have you ever seen a child who had to carry a blanket around? Trenton, our young son, has thoroughly enjoyed the closeness of being rocked to sleep, but I can tell he is turning to other things for a sense of security; a pillow or blanket, a bottle or stuffed animal. How useless these would be in the face of real danger. The stuffed animal can't carry him to safety should the house catch on fire. The bottle can't continue to give him nourishment once it is empty. And we as people, even saints, can wrap ourselves in a false security instead of being held in the arms of God.

We can decide we're doing so much for the Lord. We visit the sick; support the ministry; teach a Sunday School class, etc. What was it the Pharisee prayed? "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers. I fast twice a week. I give tithes of all I possess." (Luke 18:11-12.) The religious world will tell you, "You're a fine Christian. Why, you don't drink alcohol or smoke. You are faithful to your spouse. You are a good moral person." But, if you do not keep your life totally in the hands of God, all you have is a security blanket of self-righteousness. The Bible tells us our self-righteousness is as filthy rags. The Pharisee covered himself with his goodness, but the Publican faced himself, threw down the security blanket of self-righteousness and said, "Lord, be merciful to me a sinner." The Lord's arms went around that man and he went home justified.

The Devil wants us to get secure in the fact that we look like Christians, or that we testify and rejoice in church services. While the Bible gives us guidelines for our outward appearance and our conduct in services, He never wants that to become our salvation. We can hug the security pillow of outward show to heart and fail to dig out the attitudes and dispositions that cast a shadow over our

life for God. Jesus said, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done and not to leave the other undone." Matthew 23:23.

There was a man who came into my mother's store who was quite a religious man. He felt he could prove he was living close to the Lord because God had answered his prayer for a Mercedes. The Devil just loves to get us secure in our temporal life and make us feel a false security in our souls by causing us to think that God wouldn't be blessing us if we weren't saved. How sad! Jesus, many times, warned people about the deceitfulness of riches.

What is true security? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. That is the only thing that will stand the judgment shock. The blanket of self-righteousness, pillow of outward show, and the bottle of temporal riches will ease our conscience and rock us to sleep. The only true security is to be hidden under His wings, guided by His eye and safe in the arms of a dear Saviour.

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**Excerpts Taken From
Dec., 1949 Faith and Victory**

"The old year of 1949 is drawing to a close. Christmastime is at hand again. Some writers tell us that Christmas is a word or practice brought over from heathenism and that the 25th of December was not the day that Christ was born. Let that be as it may, the true Christian is not conformed to the world, and should not conform to the heathen customs of revelry, debauchery and abomination in honoring the supposed day of Christ's birth. To honor and remember the birth of our Savior is not out of place, for the example was set by the angels of heaven who announced to the shepherds in the fields of Judea on that memorable morning that the glorious, heavenly, begotten Son of God had been born of the virgin Mary.

"We have an example in the Bible of the Jews sending gifts to one another once every year in honor of God's deliverance from the cruel hand of Haman. Read it in the 9th chapter of the book of Esther. If they would honor their literal deliverance in that way, we certainly should honor Christ, the great deliverer of our souls, and that in spirit and in truth, with gifts to the poor and portions to one another as the Spirit prompts, hoping for nothing in return.

"I do not believe that we should, as saints of God, quench the Spirit of giving at any time whether it be on the supposed birthday of Christ or any other day."

—Bro. Fred Pruitt