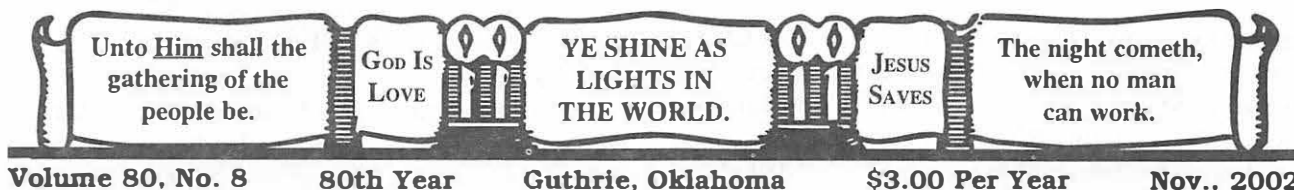


FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



Jesus Is The Same

Come Unto Me

By Bro. Ivan Eck

Oh, how sweet the glorious message,
Simple faith may claim;
Yesterday, today, forever,
Jesus is the same.
Still He loves to save the sinful,
Heal the sick and lame,
Cheer the mourner, still the tempest,
Glory to His name!

Sweet, melodious memories float up to me from the hallways of my mind. In my youth I learned a song that had some words that went like this, "I am so glad that the Savior hath said, 'Come unto me, come unto me,' when He bestowed on each little one's head, blessings so rich and free."

Oft on earth He healed the sufferer,
By His mighty hand;
Still our sicknesses and sorrows,
Go at His command:
He who gave His healing virtue
To a woman's touch,
To the faith that claims His fulness,
Still will do as much.

These words were inspired by the scriptural record of the life of Jesus. I would like to examine the text of scripture from which this portion of song came. Beginning at the 28th verse of the 11th chapter of Matthew, Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

—Selected

Of all the sweet words that Jesus has spoken, these few words seem to be some of the sweetest. Within these words, we find a wealth of hope that speaks peace to our troubled sea of life. These words send forth a cool, refreshing rain to the dry, parched soul that is wasted in the desert of sin. We find that Jesus invites all to come to Him. He excludes none. His love and mercy was extended to the thief on the cross, even the traitor Judas (until he, by his own hand placed himself outside of Christ's mercy by taking his own life).

Christ's mercy was poured out on the devil-possessed legion, the extorting Zacchaeus, the denying Peter, the doubting Thomas, the blind Bartimaeus, the adulterous woman, the lame,

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the blind and the captive. That fountain, opened on Calvary, still flows for the cleansing and refreshing of weary souls today. Oh, dear soul, hear the good news! The mercy of His words extend across the centuries of time to embrace each person that would, out of the hunger of their soul, claim through faith, the promise of God's rest.

Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." I believe that Christ was inviting the children to "come unto me" but we also should be childlike in understanding our need of Him. When within our Christian walk we find formidable foes that would drive us from the restful peace of a Canaan-land experience, we again hear the refreshing, life-giving words of Jesus saying, "Come unto me."

The word "come" enjoins action on our part. Peter said that God has provided for us "all things that pertain unto life and godliness." It is true that all this wealth has surely been laid up in store for us. Yet, if we fail to come with desire to the One who is harboring so much provision for our needs, we will fail to obtain the free blessing. The words of a song gently invites us to "come," saying "Oh what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer."

Many times there are reasons or excuses for us not coming to the Lord in times of need. Some of these will appear to be quite valid. Adam and Eve's need was great, yet they wanted to hide instead of face God because they had guilt. Today we need not let guilt keep us from God. God has provided a sacrificial lamb, Jesus Christ the Righteous, who stands ready to take away the sins of the world. There may be souls reading this article right now, who being lost in sin, feel a deep, empty, hungry, void within and long to be free. To you, Jesus says, "Come unto me, and I will give you rest." If you feel your need, please bow on your knees right now, and in Godly sorrow and repentance ask God to forgive you. The Bible says that He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins. Dear soul, if you come to God in true repentance, your sins will be forgiven and you will be a new creature in Christ Jesus. Oh, praise His name!

There was a woman that for twelve years had an issue of blood. Much effort and resources had been expended on finding a cure at the hands of the physicians. The result was that she suffered many things and had spent all that she

had with no cure. Then she heard of Jesus and went to see Him. The crowd was thick. People pressed Him hard. To see Jesus seemed like a daunting task to one weakened and stooped by such an affliction as hers, but her soul had heard hope in His words. The message of "come unto me" had reached her heart, and she would not be easily denied. In my mind I see her, at a near hopeless moment, in a desperate effort to gain her blessing, pushing aside all obstacles and with singleness of heart stretching out to touch Jesus.

At the moment she touched Jesus, virtue from heaven flowed into her body, making her every whit whole. Oh, precious soul, please hear these words of hope, "come unto me." If you will be willing to push aside all excuses, all your human reasoning, all the press of your busy life, and take time to come to Jesus, reaching out by faith to touch Him, you too will gain the promise of His rest.

The Pharisees came to Jesus, but they did not recognize their need. They came not to receive but to contend. They had a false sense of security, believing that they were "Abraham's seed." But oh, how rich they felt when they looked at their lineage and what seemed to them to be their birthright. Why, they had need of nothing. Oh, how wrong they were. Jesus said in the book of Revelation, "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye-salve, that thou mayest see." Jesus also said "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness." When we feel no need, either because of pedigree or a knowledge that "hitherto hath the Lord helped us," we may have begun to rest on the victories of our past and not on the fact that our help comes from the Lord. How needy the soul is that rests in this misconception. If any of us should stand in this frame of mind, let us repent and recognize our need. Let us hunger for more of His righteousness and less of the world. Let us long for the touch of His hand on our soul, a touch that will bring forth a lasting fountain of joy deep within the heart. When we actually come to and are owned by Christ, "then are ye Abraham's seed."

When Jesus said, "come unto me" He meant exactly what He said. He knew that there was salvation by no other name but Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." If we struggle along in our own strength, attempting to attain holiness, we will become discouraged and fail. But if we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, and coming to Christ, allow Him to work in and through us, then a deep satisfaction will envelop our soul with the knowledge of a holy walk before God.

The devil is busy trying to sell us something short of Christ. In our times of need he would have us come to our "inner strength" or to a doctrine or teaching of man. But, these are not worthy of our trust and will fail us in times of trouble. Christ says "come unto me" and the inner man will be born again unto a life of holiness in Christ. We can come to Him with all our needs, whether they be mental, spiritual or physical.

Dear laboring soul, let me recommend to you **Christ.**

Do you have needs of the mind? Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Is your soul in need of salvation? Christ has forgiveness for your sins.

Are you having difficulty in your spiritual walk? God "giveth more grace" and has provided "all things that pertain unto life and godliness."

Do you have a physical need? God invites us to come to Him in prayer and "the prayer of faith will save the sick and the Lord will raise him up."

Oh, weary soul, will you now look with me toward Calvary and see Christ, with His arms spread out to us in love.

Now, don't you hear His sweet voice gently calling "Come unto Me?"



A BANNER OF LOVE

By Bro. Michael Clyburn

"...And his banner over me was love." Song of Sol. 2:4

A banner is a flag that is used as a symbol or emblem of something or someone. Christ's love is the banner that covers His people—His church.

Christ clothed us with love when He went to the cross and died for our sins (John 15:13.) He then took away our filthy sin-filled garments, (Rev. 7:14) and gave to us garments of salvation and righteousness. (Isa. 61:10.)

What is our garment of salvation according to the Bible? Romans 13:14 says, "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lust thereof."

When one receives salvation, they are washed from their sins by the blood of Christ. (Rev. 1:5.) Then we put on the garment of Christ, which is our righteousness. (II Cor. 5:21, Phil. 3:9.) This is also symbolized in Rev. 19:8, when speaking of the bride of Christ; the church, "And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints." Also, the same is symbolized in Rev. 12:1 concerning the church, "...A woman clothed with the sun...." The Bible

teaches that Christ is the light of the world (John 8:12) and the Sun of righteousness. (Mal. 4:2.) Therefore, the church itself is clothed with Christ.

But what does it mean to be clothed upon with Christ, our Majesty? The Bible tells us in numerous places the meaning of "putting on the Lord," but we will only discuss a few. To put on Christ is to do as He did and to walk as He walked in the world. For the Lord Himself says in Luke 6:40, "The disciple is not above his master; but every one that is perfect shall be as his master." Therefore, to be as Christ is, is not an impossible task to obtain in this lifetime according to the Bible.

The Bible says when we put on Christ we are to make no provisions for the flesh. (Rom. 13:14.) We are to follow in His steps and do no sin; neither let there be guile in our mouths. We should not revile or threaten. (I Pet. 2:21-23.) We should be pure, as he is pure. (I John 3:3.) We should also walk as he walked. (I John 2:6.)

(Continued Page 16)

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16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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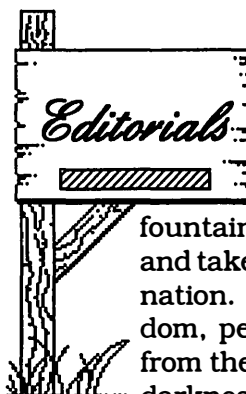
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Our heart is filled with thanksgiving to God for His many blessings to us. When we found Jesus Christ, we found a rich treasure, the source of life, a fountain that washes away our sins and takes away our guilt and condemnation. We found the Giver of freedom, peace and joy. We found relief from the binding, enslaving powers of darkness. Jesus is a friend that loves us and will not forsake us even in the midst of difficult and trying times. God has designed a wonderful plan for our salvation that gives us great hope and comfort.

When we reflect on our life we can see how the Lord has led us. Many times He has directed us around pitfalls and dangerous snares of the enemy and we are very grateful. There have been times that He led us through tribulations and made a way where there did not appear to be the slightest possibility of escape, but He made one and we were amazed.

I can remember times when travelling west toward the Rocky Mountains that they appeared as a giant wall looming before us. From a distance it looked as if the road could not possibly traverse such a great obstruction. But as you follow the road, around the curves and up the hills, sometimes slowly and up steep grades, you eventually reach the pass. Many times close to the pass there are places to pull off the road and park your vehicle so you can get out and enjoy a breathtaking view of the beautiful countryside laying far below you. Yes, you realize, there was a way through, but someone had to lay out that roadway. Survey crews spent many days plotting out the course for the road to follow. Much time, effort and expense went into locating and building the roadbed through the rough terrain. But it was done for the benefit of those who would be travelling that way.

Likewise our Savior knew there were many souls passing through this treacherous world. He knew there needed to be a way to safely reach heaven. Jesus came to this world and at the cost of suffering great pain and agony, even giving His life, made the way that reaches from earth to eternal glory. Now we have the benefit of His Spirit and the Scriptures to accompany us on this journey, and we can go forth rejoicing in the knowledge that our names are in the Lamb's book of life. We can be assured of a safe passage

if we stay on the course that He charted out for us to follow.

— — — — —

I am encouraged that there is a stirring among God's people. There seems to be a renewed interest in taking the Gospel to those around us, seeking and ministering to the lost. I believe that in the difficult times our country is facing, the window of opportunity is opening for the Gospel to be spread more effectively and people's hearts are more receptive. As the earthly riches fade away, people are going to have a greater longing for something genuine. That is when the eternal truths of God's Word shine brightly.

We have been blessed with a rich heritage of truth. Now we need greater wisdom to know how to get it into the hands of those who are hungry for it. Tracts are a great tool for doing just that. Many times our contact with people is very brief. If a tract is a part of that contact, it can go with them and continue to bear the candle of truth. Pray about how the Lord could use you to be more effective in distributing the truth. Think about how excited you would be if you got a fish on your gospel line. It can happen.

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Here at the Lord's Print Shop, our presses have been running to bring our stock of tracts back up. Below is a listing of some of the tracts that are now back in stock:

A Letter to Mothers and Daughters
A Thrilling Story From Alaska
A Truthful Story
Am I Really Saved?
Are You Born Again?
Bible Proofs of a Second Cleansing
Casino Gambling
Christmas Gift in Prison
Christmas in Tin Can Valley
Cripple Tom
Dan's Vision of Hell
Did God Fail?
Enoch Walked With God
Genuine Salvation
Giving and Receiving
God Will Take Care of You
Goodnight or Goodbye, Which?
Have You Found The True Church?
He Didn't Have to Sin
Holiness or Hell
Hard Questions for Seventh Dayists
If I Die and Go to Hell, Who Cares?

I'm Glad I Settled It Last Night
Insure Your Life
Jesus' Coming
Keep Out of Hell
Last Call, America!
Mabel Ashton's Dream
Millennial Reign?
Mixed Marriages
Nine Reasons for Total Abstinence
Procrastination
Salvation, What Does It Mean?
Seven Men Went Singing Into Heaven
Shall Never Perish-IF
Sin You Must, Sin You Can't Help It
Sliding Into Hell
Snakes In An Atheist's Grave
Television on Trial
The Bible
The Cobbler and His Guest
The Devil Turned Loose
The Devil's Best Tool
The Greatest Event That Will Ever Take Place
The Holy Ghost His Own Witness In A Soul
The Incomparable Christ!
The Lord Seeth Not as Man Seeth
The Midnight Cry
The Need of Cleansing
The New Life
The Two Ways
The Way Out
Vision of A Lost Soul
Why All the Trouble These Days?
Yield Not to Discouragement
Your Heart

— — — — —

Don't forget to send in inspiring articles and testimonies for the paper. They are important. It could be the means of reaching someone with a similar need. The enemy would like to make us believe that our trials are peculiar and that nobody else is battling the type of difficulty that we are, but that just isn't true. Many people are facing the same enemy, using identical tactics. So when you get the victory, give God the glory and share it with His people.

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If you get a notice that your *Faith and Victory* subscription is expiring, please return your renewal promptly so you won't miss an issue. Also, consider sending in gift subscriptions for your loved ones and neighbors. For only \$3.00 per year for 11 issues the paper could be a great blessing to them also.

—Bro. Willie E. Murphey
wemurphey@yahoo.com



KY—At press time we received word that Sis. Mary Hughes has passed away. We pray that God will comfort her husband and family.

LA—I thank the Lord for the way He has helped me, but I am still in the battle and need prayer. I am holding on until complete victory comes. —Sis. Velma Mancil

LA—Keep me in your prayers as I have to go one day at a time. —Sis. Gladys Cashio

MO—I have some prayer requests I would like remembered. —Sis. Nelva Stanley

AL—Pray for our children's Bible Club on Saturdays. —Sis. Bonnie Riley

WV—Thank so much for remembering me all these years. —Sis. Melba Powell

There have been several that have written letters requesting prayer for their families and their unsaved loved ones.



Standing Prayer Requests

Sis. Ruby Bell
 Sis. Lydia Bennett
 Sis. Alscene Breckenridge
 Sis. Nellie Brown
 Bro. Jon Busbee
 Sis. Mamie Butcher
 Bro. Nathan Carver
 Sis. Estelene Cramer
 Sis. Waneta Creel
 Bro. Hubert Corteway
 Sis. Frances Deforth
 Bro. Dale Doolittle
 Sis. Elaine Dunn
 Sis. Eleanor Fingerle
 Sis. Pearlene Gerald
 Sis. Esther Gordon
 Bro. Huey Gordon, Jr.
 Bro. Lee Hilton
 Bro. Shawn Howard
 Sis. Daisy Johnson
 Sis. Janice Johnston

Sis. Earnestine Jordan
 The Lounds sisters
 Sis. Mattie McIntyre
 Sis. Bertha Miles
 Bro. Allan Miller
 Sis. Virginia Myers
 Sis. Dollie O'Neill
 Bro. O. C. Porter
 Sis. Melba Powell
 Sis. Myrtle Savoie
 Bro. M. Agenemoh Sidi
 Sis. Kay Stover
 The Mitch Taylor family
 Sis. Anna Mae Thompson
 Bro. Preston Vulgamore
 Bro. Curtis Williams, Sr.
 Sis. Lula Williamson
 Sis. Esther Wilson



MEETING DATES

Sapulpa, OK (Fall Revival)—Nov. 6-10

Loranger, LA

(Assembly Meeting)—Nov. 27-Dec. 1

Miami, FL (Revival)—Dec. 4-8

Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—Dec. 20-29



MEETING REPORTS AND SPECIAL NOTICES

WICHITA, KS, FALL MEETING REPORT

Praise the Lord for a very good and successful meeting. Bro. Stanley Dickson preached a message on revival and said it means awakening. So we feel that the saints attending the meeting were awakened to their place and duties as saints of the Most High God. The messages were powerful, inspiring, stirring and well received. Many sought the Lord at the altar for spiritual needs and closer walks with the Lord, which shows we were definitely awakened. Ten different ministers were sent by God to minister to us at different times during the meeting.

The Lord blessed in marvelous ways and truly the saints were blessed. God is so good and so faithful and as one of the special songs that we heard says: "He is more than wonderful and more than amazing." Praise God.

—Shirley Knight



PAMPA, TEXAS TENT MEETING REPORT

Our loving and merciful God was so very faithful to meet with us in every one of our

services. The song on page 56 in the *Evening Light* songbook was sung quite frequently. His faithfulness was felt in our hearts. We truly appreciate the burden of the ministers and their families. We're thankful for everyone who attended. Sis. Mary Lawson was here in every service and her powerful support with prayer was so deeply appreciated. God was faithful in anointing the messages, songs and prayers.

The messages gave us encouragement, hope and inspiration, while the prayers renewed our strength and courage in fighting life's many battles. The songs so sweetly cheered our hearts and there was at least one special song in each service.

Oh, who could ask for more? God is so good to us!

May there be many more tent services given here and everywhere that the Lord permits, until He comes! Lovingly in Christ,

—Sis. Jan Wood

Durham, NC Building Project Update

We want to express our appreciation and gratitude for how God is blessing the building project. We want to thank every one that has supported us in this great work. The Lord has blessed us to complete the digging of the basement, the pouring of the footing and at the present time we are coming up with the walls. Praise His holy name.

If you feel a burden to help with this building project, or would like further information, please contact Bro. Jerry Lennon at (919) 544-2203, the church phone number is (919) 471-1613 or direct all correspondence to: Church of God Building Project, 6219 Kelvin Dr., Durham NC 27713.

MEETING NOTICES

SAPULPA FALL REVIVAL NOTICE

Bro. James and Sis. Tricia Bell extend a warm welcome to everyone for the fall revival of the Church of God in Sapulpa, Wednesday through Sunday, Nov. 6-10. Services will be conducted nightly at 7:00p.m.

On Saturday, beginning at 1:00p.m., we will have special day services, as the Lord leads, focusing on young people's missionary endeavors at home and abroad, studies on God's purpose and overcoming fear in living for God.

We plan to have a cookout at 5 p.m. before the 7 p.m. evening service.

Sunday services will begin at 10:45 a.m. and 2 p.m. with lunch between the services. Sunday evening will be devoted to inspirational testimonies, special singing, exhortations and fellowship as the Lord leads.

Your earnest prayers are desired for this spiritual endeavor. For further information call Bro. James Bell at (918) 247-4579.

LORANGER, LA. ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Loranger, LA Assembly Meeting is scheduled to begin Wednesday night, November 27, 2002, at 7:30 p.m. Services will be 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. daily through Sunday, December 1, 2002. Please pray with us for God's blessings, and better yet, come share with us.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Please bring sheets and linens if possible. Power and water hook-ups 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 ten miles east of the Tickfaw exit (take Hwy. 442 east which runs into Hwy. 40.)

For more information, contact Bro. Nelson Doolittle, 51367 Narretto Road, Loranger, LA. 70446. Phone (985) 878-6111. The chapel phone is (985) 878-2788.

MIAMI, FL, REVIVAL

Lord willing, Bro. Ed Wilson will hold a revival meeting in Miami, FL, on Dec. 4-8, 2002. Services will be conducted nightly at 7:30 p.m. The chapel is located at 234 NW 47th St., Miami, FL. All are invited to attend. For additional information you may contact Bro. Robert McIntyre at (305) 233-2166 or Bro. Charles Clay at (305) 235-4271. The chapel phone number is (305) 758-0160.

*Give thanks unto the Lord,
call upon his name, make known
his deeds among the people.*

I Chron. 16:8.



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

CA—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings in Jesus' dear name, who paid the price that I might live. I thank God, whose wisdom is beyond finding out, for putting me in a position of desperation with no way to turn. In my desperation I turned to God and found Jesus. Prior to this I could not handle my situation, but after Jesus entered my life I was able to handle things. I didn't do a good job, but I stayed with it. There was a great temptation to quit, but I remained faithful. I can look at my life and see certain major events that took place to bring me to that place where only God could help me.

I am ever thankful and determined to live for Him who yoked up with me to carry my burden. Glory to His name.

May God bless and prosper you, and all that assists you, in your labor of love.

Christian love to all. Your brother,

—Bob Mickelson

OK—The other night I was sitting on the side of my bed with both feet on the floor and braced with both hands on the bed. I was so sore from coughing that when I would move about it was with much pain. I wanted to lie down, but when I would lift my feet and start to go back on the bed, I would feel as if I was going out.

Since I had a stroke some time ago I have not asked the Lord to heal me, but to please take me home. I thought, "Would I want to come back for just one minute?"

I did some deep soul searching. The devil is always ready to accuse and torment, but everything he would bring up was already under the blood. I have thought a lot about the scripture mentioning "secret faults." (Psa. 19:12.) I had a chance to run that through my mind. Needless to say, I found a lot of things I wish had been different.

I had about two hours there, rather than just one minute. I did a lot of repenting and the Lord blessed me. I found things in my life or my heart I didn't remember ever acknowledging even to myself. Finally I was able to lie down. It was hard to get comfortable, and had anyone

been in the room they could have heard me breathing, but I went to sleep and slept about 2 or 3 hours.

The Lord tells me: "Your redemption draweth nigh."
—Bro. Hyrum Ray

LA—Dear Bro. Murphey and Sis. Neta: Psalms 57:1 mentions making the shadow of God's wings our refuge and the 91st Psalm, 4th versesays, "Heshall cover thee with his feathers and under his wings shalt thou trust."

I especially find that 91st Psalm dear to me, but I'm made so aware of the first verse, "He shall cover thee with his feathers and under his wings shalt thou trust." And so I know I must be very careful to be finding out more and more about that secret place of the Most High. I am truly trying to do that. For I know the enemy, the devil, is real and does try to "sift us" as he did with Peter when he was so sure of his devotion to Jesus. I realize the devil is especially trying to get to all who are trying hard to follow in the path God wants us to go.

Often we have a choice to make and often it takes a great deal of strength from on high to follow through and tell the wicked one to get behind us, so we can go on, not laden down with worries and cares.

God bless all of you and pray for me.

—Sis. Gertrude F. Pickett

OK—Dear Bro. Willie: Thank you for all your hard work at the Print Shop. I look forward to the *Faith And Victory* every month and read it a lot. I am especially encouraged by the tracts. Sis. Maxine Busbee gave me a bunch of them and they are very encouraging. I know the work that you and your staff do there is important to the Lord. When I read the newsletter or a tract, it inspires my heart to want to live for the Lord. So I know that you are getting the Word out and it is helping others too. May God bless you all.

Your Brother,

—Larry Goltry

OK—We appreciated the revival that the Lord recently gave us. The Lord used Bro. Marty Clevenger to bring us five good messages. We were all challenged to a closer walk with God. We believe there was everlasting good accomplished from them. The Bible says, "His word will not return unto Him void."

Bro. Michael Smith followed up the next Sunday with two more good messages. So the Lord blessed us with His Word. We want to profit by all that we heard.
—Bro. T. V. McMillian



From Honduras...

Sept. 12, 2002—Dear Saints: Greetings of love in the name of Jesus. Trust you are well and encouraged to press on.

We are thankful to the Lord for all His blessings to us and for giving us a safe trip back home. We are certainly thankful for having been able to be in the Monark Springs meeting. The Word of God and the fellowship and love of the saints were a real encouragement to us.

We want to say "THANK YOU" from the bottom of our hearts for your gift of love toward the work in Honduras. The continual support of the saints has been a real blessing and an

encouragement to press on. May the Lord bless and reward you for your liberality.

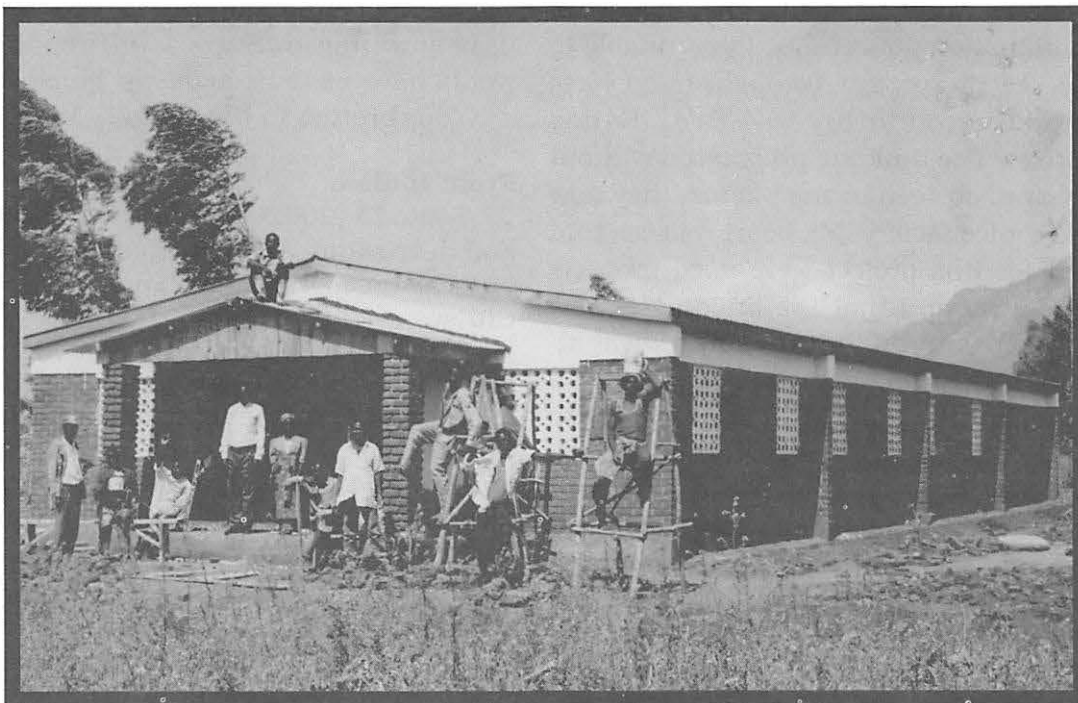
Upon our return home we learned that a few more of the young people and children, for whom we had been carrying a burden, have given their hearts to the Lord. Thank the Lord! Please continue to pray for them that the Lord will continue to touch their hearts and keep them tender toward Him.

Since school reopened, the Lord has been our help from day to day. Bro. Tony Hamilton, a young minister here, Sis. Reynita Hamilton, a cousin of his who is saved, and myself have been doing our best to carry on, with the Lord's help. Our school year ends in the middle of November, and we are looking forward to having the Fullers here between now and then to be with us, Lord willing.

Please continue to pray that the Lord of the harvest would send forth more laborers into His harvest. Also continue to pray for this community of Politilly Bight in which we live, that the Lord will be able to deliver souls from the bondage of man rule. Pray for us that we'll be faithful and that we'll keep our eyes on Him.

Christian Love, —Sis. Judy Trepagnier

MALAWI BUILDING REPORT



The newly constructed brick chapel in Msikita, Malawi.
Bro. Failos Namaozongo stands on the front porch with his wife.



Bro. Failos Namaozongo with his wife in the interior of the newly constructed chapel in Msikita, Malawi.

Malawi Report...

I am thankful to report that God has blessed in a very special way concerning the building project in Msikita Village in Malawi. I traveled to Malawi last March and set about ordering supplies and contracting a builder to build a much-needed chapel in the village for the purpose of weekly and national meetings. I was unable to stay and see the project through, but I have been updated monthly by Bro. Failos Namaozongo. The building progressed without difficulty and, as seen in the photos, they now have a very nice facility. My heart rejoices that the funds for this project were used properly and judiciously and that the building is now complete. Let us pray that the chapel will always be used in the furtherance of the kingdom of God and that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead and direct the saints in Malawi.

On behalf of the saints in Malawi and myself, I want to thank each one who contributed to this worthwhile effort. In the beginning, there was a large deficit for this project, but the need has been met. May God bless each of you that sacrificed to see this project completed. We give all glory to God.

I also received word this month of some spiritual difficulties in Ghana. Please pray that

God would grant wisdom and guidance in knowing how to best work with some of these present problems. The enemy is working hard but God is bigger than any obstacle that the enemy presents. As we each one enter into a real burden of prayer for the work of the Lord, God will move in miraculous ways. May each one of us be encouraged and press on to be all that God would have us to be in Jesus' name.

Your brother in the Lord, —Michael Smith

From India...

Sept. 13, 2002—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to you dear ones again in the marvelous name of Jesus Christ....

We had youth camp meetings in two places last month, one at Chalakudy in the north and another at Thrikkammamemgal in the south. Both were very good for the spiritual growth of our young people. The main theme in both meetings was "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Phil. 2:5.

The whole world is in the midst of the threats of terrorists. Christian life is not a bridge over troubled waters, but is a path or way through troubled waters. We need your continuous prayers and support.

With love and prayers. Yours in Him,

—John Varghese



Barbara Wright Hughes

July 08, 1937 - September 25, 2002

Barbara's journey began on July 08, 1937. In Boley, Oklahoma, a beautiful baby girl was the first-born of Ferry N. and Theresa M. Wright.

Barbara began her early education in Tulsa, Oklahoma, attending elementary, junior high and graduating with the class of 1955 from Booker T. Washington High School. She attended Drake University in Des Moines, IA and she also attended Langston University, at Langston, OK. Barbara attended the Church of God where she received her religious beliefs. She worked as an elementary teacher in Philadelphia, PA and a social worker in Tulsa, OK.

Barbara was married to Edward J. Hughes in 1986. She was a loving wife. She made sure her love was available for her family and friends, even when she was no longer able.

God called Barbara home to rest on September 25th, 2002. She was preceded in death by her father and two brothers.

Barbara W Hughes leaves to cherish her memory: her husband, Edward J. Hughes; her son, Sean J. Hughes III; four daughters, Bernadette Muhummad, An-Gia R. Morton, Brenda D. Bryant and Stormy Hughes; her mother, Theresa Wright-Gaines and three sisters, Jacque West, Frances Andrews, and Oleta Whibbey; seven grandchildren, Sean, Perry, Keilan, Esau, Teriza, Marrisha and Jarell, along with a host of precious nieces and nephews, and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were officiated by Bro. Charles Lowe on October 3, 2002, at the Church of God chapel, Tulsa, OK.

Max Forbes Williamson was born to Francis Marion and Sarah Louella Jolly Williamson on February 10, 1909 in Hammond, Louisiana. He departed this life after a long illness on October 4, 2002 at his home in Baton Rouge, LA at the age of 93.

Max joined the United States Marine Corp in November of 1926 at the age of 17 years. Following his basic training he was stationed in Nicaragua for 24 months. While stationed there he learned the Morse code and became a radio operator. He left the Marines in 1930, in the midst of the depression. For approximately three years Max tried to get work, but it seemed impossible.

In 1933 he re-enlisted in the Marines for one year and four months, the last four months of which he was in the hospital. He received a disability discharge in 1935.

There was an opening for a job at the U.S. Post Office in Hammond, LA. Max applied for the job and was hired. He started working there on January 1, 1936. He walked an eight mile route twice a day for twelve years. He then transferred inside and was a mail clerk until his retirement in 1962.

Max and Lula were married on July 4, 1936 in Hammond, LA. They lived the first month in the home with his mother and sister. After this they moved into their own home at 203 White Street, where they lived for the next forty years. In 1976 they moved to Baton Rouge, where they have resided since.

Max gave his heart to the Lord at the summer camp meeting in Hammond, LA in 1940. He became involved in the church work by helping Sis. Katherine Key in her ministry. Approximately five years later he started his ministry. He filled appointments in small outlying communities for several years, finally taking a fulltime pastorate in Hammond, where he served for many years.

In his latter years as pastor in Hammond, he began working with the congregation in Baton Rouge. He eventually left his pastorate in Hammond to devote all of his time to the Baton Rouge congregation.

He leaves to mourn his passing, his wife Lula, five daughters and their spouses: Nell and James Davis, Sarah and Carroll Short, Maxine and Harvey Pruitt, Judith and James Crouse, Geraldine and Robert Dean; two sons and their spouses: John and Alice Williamson, Dennis and Barbara Williamson; seventeen grandchil-

dren: Max Davis, Desiree Davis Chamberlain, Thomas Short, Dana Short McMillan, Mark Short, Eileen Pruitt Dixon, Tracy Pruitt, John Scott Williamson, Nadine Williamson Black, Susan Williamson Doolittle, Michael Williamson, Cynthia Crouse LaRue, Janet Crouse, Rhonda Dean Welsh, Robert Dean, II, Jennifer Williamson Murphy, Darrel Williamson; twenty-three great-grandchildren and one great-great granddaughter.

He was preceded in death by his father, mother, one son, David Harry, and brothers and sisters: Oscar, Leila, Bertha, Grover, Elma, Queenie, Fred, Austin, Barney, Ethel, Viva, Earl and three infants.

Funeral services were held October 7, 2002. The officiating ministers were Bro. Stanley Dickson, Bro. Michael Williamson and Bro. Melvin Doolittle. Burial was at Oak Grove Cemetery near Loranger, LA.



(Continued from last month.)

THE STEPS OF THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

Before we take up step five in Abraham's experience of faith and trusting in God, let us survey briefly the steps we have thus far covered. We must bear in mind that each one of these steps were vital experiences in this man's life and are experiences that are vital for us to experience, too.

The first step was Abraham's move to obey God's call to leave all to follow Him. Step 2 was taking the humble position to allow Lot to have the first choice of the land. The third step was his decision to refuse the goods and wealth offered to him by the King of Sodom as a reward for Abraham's rescue of the people. And then, step 4 was his response to God's promise communicated to him concerning his seed to be as the stars of heaven. Now Abraham had successfully taken and mastered each of these four steps. Note that the first and fourth had been in response to God's personal dealings. The second and third were formulated and taken in specific situations of trial and the call for personal sacrifice. God did not tell Abraham to let Lot have the best of the land. Nor does it say that God forbade him to accept from the King of Sodom the goods. It was Abraham's strong conviction, and personal decision made with consideration in mind on the behalf of the most high God whom he called the possessor of heaven and earth. There are times in the onward progression of our faith experience when we will have to assume the same decisive attitude to refuse the temptation of selfish gratification.

THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM, STEP FIVE

Step No. Five was another experience of God's personal communion and revelation. "And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed

after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations. This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you." Genesis 17:1-11.

God made known His covenant with Abram. A covenant is an agreement between two or more parties. It is a binding contract, promising benefits to be mutually enjoyed. God promised to Abram that he would be a father of many nations and changed his name to Abraham, which means "father of a great multitude." He said it was to be an everlasting covenant, and it

is revealed in the New Testament to be fulfilled in the salvation to all men in Christ, who was the real seed of Abraham.

God made this covenant with Abraham and gave His faithful servant something to do as a token or sign of this covenant. This circumcision was really designed to be an indication of heart purity and righteousness. The operation itself of cutting the flesh was not the purity and righteousness, but it was rather a sign of the real experience of the heart. We find in Deuteronomy 10:16 Moses admonishing the people of Israel: "Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked." Paul said in Romans 2:28-29, "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God." And again in Romans 4:11 he said, "And he (Abraham) received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also."

Paul spoke to the Colossian brethren that they were "circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ." Colossians 2:11. The circumcision that was given to Abraham as a token or sign of God's covenant with him was a type or sign of the spiritual circumcision that every soul who would be saved in Christ must partake of. It is the cutting off of the self life of the flesh. Here is where we who would be children of Abraham must walk in this step of the faith of Abraham. Through the consecration of our all to God and the living sacrifice we must present of our mortal bodies to God we enter into this covenant along with Abraham, and we receive by faith the infilling of the Holy Spirit who will enable us to live the holy and righteous life God is calling us all to.

This is step number five in the faith of Abraham. By Abraham submitting to be circumcised he confessed his faith and acceptance of God's promise and everlasting covenant between Him and Abraham's seed. We must also walk in this step and receive the spiritual circumcision of the heart, cutting away and cleansing ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and

spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (II Corinthians 7:1.) In the covenant with Abraham the uncircumcised was cut off from his people and had broken God's covenant. (Genesis 17:14.) And so it is with us today. Anyone who refuses to consecrate to be sanctified and filled with the Holy Spirit will be cut off and have no part of Christ's covenant.

THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM, STEP SIX

The sixth step of the faith of our father Abraham was a very painful one. We will have to go back a ways to get the setting of events that finally led up to this step.

In Genesis 16 we find the account of Hagar, Sarah's handmaid, and the son she bore to Abraham. It was at a point where Sarah's faith was falling short of taking in the promises of God concerning Abraham's seed. At least she was doubting greatly if *SHE* would be the mother of this seed. She considered herself barren and incapable of mothering a son for Abraham. It was then that she had an idea. She suggested to Abraham that Hagar, her handmaid, be given to Abraham to be his wife and that the promised seed would come through her.

"And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai." (Genesis 16:2.) But there were repercussions and unpleasant things that resulted from such a move. When Hagar became with child by Abram, it caused Sarai to be despised in her eyes. Sarai took it up with Abram and he gave her liberty to deal with Hagar as she pleased. When Sarai undertook to bring Hagar under control, Hagar took off and fled from her face. But the angel of the Lord apprehended Hagar and counseled her to go back and submit herself to Sarai, and that she would bear a son, and she was to call him Ishmael. Abraham was 86 years old when his son Ishmael was born.

The years went by. And God dealt with Sarah and made her know that she was to be the mother of the promised seed. At first Sarah laughed at the idea, but we find it written in Hebrews 11:11, "Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised." And so in Genesis 21 we find it recorded that Sarah bore Abraham a son, and they called him Isaac. "And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned. And Sarah saw the son

of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking. Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac. And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son. And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called. And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he is thy seed. And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba." Genesis 21:8-14.

God miraculously spared Hagar and Ishmael from perishing in the wilderness by opening to her vision a well of water. God blessed them and Ishmael grew to manhood. Now it was no doubt very hard for Abraham to send Hagar and Ishmael away. But, as at other times before, he obeyed the voice of the Lord. Casting out the son of the bondwoman was the sixth step of Abraham's faith. God directed him to do so, and he obeyed.

This casting out the bondwoman was a type of us today casting out the old law system and its counterparts and embracing Christ and the Spirit of the Lord in the New Testament plan of salvation. It also typifies the rejection

"In Christ we are children, not of the bondwoman, but of the free."

of the world and the way of the flesh. This must be done if we are to successfully follow God in the way of the Spirit. The apostle Paul brings this out very clearly in Galatians 4:21-31. There the apostle Paul draws a comparison of the two sons of Abraham with the two covenants and the two Jerusalems. On the one hand we have the bondwoman and her son on the same level with the old law system of Mount Sinai and the present day literal Jerusalem. On the other hand we have the freewoman (Sarah) on the same level with the new covenant of grace in Christ Jesus and the Jerusalem which is above as being free, the mother of us who are saved in Christ. In Christ we are children, not of the bondwoman, but of the free. The old law system

is no longer in effect, although we are able to live up to the law through Christ. The holy city of God that He respects and honors is no longer literal Jerusalem in the land of Palestine. The true Jerusalem is the new Jerusalem that John saw coming down from God out of heaven in Revelation 21. This is the Church of God, the Bride of the Lamb, Christ.

So we have step number six of the faith of Abraham as the casting out of the bondwoman and her son. This is a step we must take today if we are to be the children of Abraham. We must be delivered from a law spirit and the influences of the flesh and the carnal things of literal Israel and old Jerusalem. We must embrace the experience of being saved and sanctified and being led by the Spirit of God. We must crucify the flesh with the affections and lusts and live and walk in the Spirit and its fruits of "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance, against such there is no law". (Galatians 5:22-23.)

THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM, STEP SEVEN

"And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering

upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

"And Abraham

rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

"And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said,

Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

"And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife

to slay his son.. And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and

said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

"And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice." Genesis 22:1-13, 15-18.

Here we have the beautiful and yet sobering scene of the final step in the faith of Abraham. We present it as it appears in the scripture. Through the years the Holy Spirit has impressed this upon my heart over and over until it seems so vivid and real almost as if I was actually present to witness it with my own eyes. The Jewish historian, Josephus, also has a vivid description of this scene. He states that Isaac was at the time of this event twenty-five years of age. Words fail to express the depth of this blessed step that our father Abraham took in obedience to the command of his God. May the Holy Spirit reveal it to our hearts. This was the final step, the perfecting and sealing step of

the faith of Abraham. This was the ultimate proof, the proof that God desired of Abraham's obedience and faithfulness to the LORD GOD. Much could be said about it, but we will leave it to the reader to ponder and pray over this, and give the Holy Spirit room to make it real to your heart.

We would like to also include what the writer in Hebrews 11:17-20 says about it. "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac;

and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it

"God is going to test our profession of faith, and sometimes it will be severely and to the utmost."

was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure." We also want to include what James 2:21-23 says about it. "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness; and he was called the Friend of God."

It means so much for us to follow in the steps of the faith of Abraham. Especially we are thinking of what it means for us to be obedient to God as Abraham was when he obeyed the LORD and offered his son Isaac upon the altar of sacrifice. We cannot serve God acceptably without sacrifice. God is going to test our profession of faith, and sometimes it will be severely and to the utmost. It is more than talk. It is obedience to the LORD in every thing. He will call for the dearest thing you have. You and I will be tested to see if we really love the LORD more than anything else. It is not hard to sacrifice something we do not like. God will call for sacrifice of our dearest and most cherished. Jesus said, "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:26. We must live close to God and be very diligent to keep all things committed and submitted to Him. It means so much to really walk in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham. Let us take heed, diligent heed, to it all.

BANNER OF LOVE

(Continued from Page 3)

We should do righteousness as he did righteousness, (1 John 3:7) and any other virtue Christ possessed and still possesses. We also should strive with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength to obtain these virtues for our own spiritual growth.

The scripture says in Psalm 60:4, "Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth." Our banners are the pure, clean, white garments, given to us by our Lord to be displayed to all mankind showing that we know the truth and are walking in the truth.

Let us as Christians keep our garments clean (Rev. 3:4) and unspotted by the flesh, (Jude 23) that the world may behold Christ in the banner we wear and lift it up on high for all to see and thereby find their way to the Lord.



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FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY

Fanaticism and Compromise

"If there ever was a need, there is a need for balance among the people of God."

Sometimes good people panic when they see some kind of a compromise coming in and they take to a fanatic position to fight it. And there are times when there are those who can see very clearly that extreme fanaticism has gained an inroad. The result sometimes is compromise, trying to counteract it. But God wants you and me to remember this one thing: "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." Psa. 127:1. Keep this in mind, except the Lord protects His church all our efforts will be of none avail. Let us not resort to one extreme to counteract another extreme. Let's take our stand on the clear Word of God and stand together as the people of God, and God will bless us.

Fanaticism and compromise, as I understand, are the same spirit working together. The devil sometimes comes up using fanaticism first under the cloak that you need to be as strict as you can. "Oh, God wants me to be strict." And finally, when God gets your eyes open that you are being pulled into something He doesn't require and then you try to balance up, you say, "Well, I can do most anything I want because it's the freedom of the spirit." Compromise, then.

That which the Bible does not say or plainly imply, you have no authority to impose on anybody. But the Holy Ghost has the right to lead you to do things, because the Holy Ghost knows you. The Lord will lead you for your own protection. But when the devil sees that you recognize that you're a little strenuous and you try to take an even, balanced position, he then wants you to turn everything loose and get so liberal that you think God is merciful enough to kind of let you off in doing anything. When the devil doesn't overthrow us with fanaticism, he downs us with compromise.

It pays you and me to let the Word of God be our guide." —Bro. Isaac Chandler

This is excerpted from two messages Brother Chandler preached years ago. I don't have the dates. —Cliff Smith