

FAITH AND VICTORY

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DEAD TO SIN, ALIVE TO GOD

By Bro. Brandon Martens

“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:11. Two parts/points stand out in this verse. Being dead to sin and being alive to God. They are not necessarily one and the same. Remember the story of the man who was likened unto a house that was swept and garnished (decorated) in which no one lived (Matthew 12:43-45 and Luke 11:24-26). When the unclean spirit that had left it came back again he noticed that it was vacant. Then he went and got a bunch of his buddies to come live in it again. The last state of this man was worse than the first. Therefore it is not enough just to have our house cleaned. We need someone to inhabit it. Dead to sin, but alive to God.

First comes death. There is a reason for this. “For he that is dead is freed from sin.” Romans

6:7. “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” Romans 5:12. “For the wages of sin is death;...” Romans 6:23. In the first verse the word *dead* is a combination of two Greek words which together mean to die off. *Death* in the other two verses comes from a single Greek word meaning death. If I want to escape *death*, the punishment that sin carries with it, if I want to be from it “freed,” then I must be willing to *die off*. So what is it to which I must be willing to die? “And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.” Galatians 5:24. Why? Because it is the flesh that leads you into sin. (See James 1:13-16.) The last verse of that reading states, “Do not err, my beloved brethren.” If we allow ourselves to give into what our flesh wants, in terms of the lusts of the flesh, then there awaits nothing but this ominous *death* that sin brings. That is because the flesh will lead us right back into sin every time. That is the only thing it knows. Paul confirms this in Romans 7:14-24. The last verse of that reading states, “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” The answer,— “I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord....” Romans 7:25.

There is deliverance. No, I do NOT have to continue on in sin, in my helpless estate. There is deliverance. Christ is more than able. There is but one thing that stands in the way of His deliverance in our lives. “...So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the

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flesh the law of sin." Romans 7:25. We must die to the desires of our flesh. They are utterly corrupt. "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." Romans 8:8. This is not a literal death of the body, this is a dying to the pull the flesh has upon us. A turning away from the path it tries so strongly to pull us down. If we want to walk with Jesus, we will have to die in this manner to the flesh. But this is just the first part.

"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves...alive unto God..." Romans 6:11. God's children are not just to be impassionate corpses walking around until the day we leave this earth. We are to be ALIVE. Jesus said "...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10. Not just have it, but have it "more abundantly." The word translated here as *more abundantly* means superabundant, superior and excessive, among other things. The message here is that Jesus did not just come to provide an example of dying to the flesh, but He also demonstrated that we are to be alive and brought that life to us. "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of His resurrection.*" Romans 6:5. This is why it says,

"...but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." He is our pathway into this life. Jesus said, "...If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." John 14:23 The God of heaven and earth, the Almighty Creator of this universe and His Son Jesus Christ, by whom He made the heavens and the earth, have agreed to come and make Their abode with me. That means They are planning to take up residence, to live within me, to bring me into a place where I am alive to God.

"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,...That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." Ephesian 3:14-19. There is so much to discover. Our God is immeasurable. His goodness is without end, His power is without limits and He will extend both to each soul that will diligently seek and obey Him. God bless His saints.



The Things That Keep You Humble

By Sis. Cheryl Smith

Did you ever wonder about your lot in life? Did you ever question the things that come your way even though you feel you are doing your best to serve the Lord? I have been studying on Matthew 5:3, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." To be poor in spirit is to be broken in spirit, to be contrite, to be humble. The word contrite means repentant or sorrowful. Proverbs 16:19 sums it up very well. It says, "Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud." Isaiah 57:15 portrays the lofty and exalted position of God, our heavenly Father, then goes on to say that He dwells with him that is of a contrite and humble spirit. Imagine having the Almighty God dwell with you! As song number 200 in the *Evening Light Songs* book says in verse four, "Oh, what grace and

high promotion, That in Jesus I should be, Raised from sin to royal honor, Even reigning, Lord, with Thee." Isaiah 57:15 then goes on to give the reason God dwells with those of a contrite and humble spirit "...to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

What a beautiful way to live life day by day—having the very God of heaven continually revive one's spirit and heart! What a precious place, hidden from the proud of heart! How does one attain such benefits? How do we reach this place? This blessed estate is opened with only one key...the key of humility. Matthew 5:3 says the kingdom of heaven belongs to those who are poor in spirit. Those who have learned the secrets of humility are the ones who reign in this life in the kingdom of God. How does one become humble? Do you know there are people, things and circumstances placed in the life of

every child of God whose sole purpose is to make and keep us humble? Think about it. Consider your present lot, the people who are a part of your life, the things that try you the most, the circumstances that are so hard to figure out and understand. Are these not the very people, things and circumstances that drive you to your knees time after time? Do they not make you contrite of heart (contrite means "repentant or sorrowful")? Oh how often we "snap" under pressure then have to apologize and bow before God! All of these are working together to keep us humble, to keep us contrite before Him, to make us poor in spirit.

We say we want to be more like Christ. Jesus Christ was the epitome of humility. He gave of Himself to the point of exhaustion just so others could be fed, healed, taught and ultimately saved. He was walked upon; His own will was broken. He was ridiculed, His own rights were continually trampled and cast off as non-existent. The very One who should have received the greatest respect, reverence and prestige was brutally tortured and crucified. His life was full of humiliation. His humility drove Him to a

place of prayer alone with His Father very often. The people, things and circumstances that are a part of our lives are placed there by divine appointment.

God has a master plan for each of us and He not only wants us to make heaven, He wants to dwell and sweetly commune with us every step of the way. He divinely appoints the people, things and circumstances that will make us humble, that will keep us poor in spirit, that will drive us to Him for relief.

Oh the treasures that can be found in being humble and taking the low road! God dwells there! II Timothy 2:12 says, "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him:..." If we are carrying afflictions for which we have long sought relief and healing, if we are being oppressed by those around us, if we are in financial distress—whatever the case may be—let us remember this: these are the things that drive us to our knees, these are the people who, though they oppress us, ultimately draw us close to God. These are the circumstances that make us fervently pray. This is how we reach this place of "reigning in this life." These are the things that keep us humble. —Sis. Cheryl Smith



The Value In Children

By Sis. Linda Clevenger

There are many times that I look at my children with such pity. How sweet and innocent they are. They only know what I teach them. My life is their example and what I am, they see and will grow up to be. They need me and the teaching that I will give them.

Do we know how valuable our children are? In some countries children are sold, but that is not the kind of value we are talking about. We have the act of abortion that we hear about so often, where millions of babies die every year. There is a procedure called partial birth abortion where a baby is big enough to be partly born and then they terminate its life. They take the little, lifeless body they hold and discard it. Think of when you have held a sweet little baby in your arms. They are so tender and helpless. They need someone to love them and care for them. How sad that so many in our society do not value human life.

"For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb." Psalm

139:13. The word covered, in this context, means to weave. As thread is interlaced to form cloth, so God has put His touch on human life. God, the Creator of all, has personally woven the little child in its mother's womb. God has His hand in the life of a child from the very beginning. He plans just what He wants it to look like and even gives it personality. Our children are so valuable. They are the very handiwork of God.

God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply. In Psalm 128 it says a man that feared the Lord would be blessed with lots of children. God put a great value on having children. It's a blessing that brings joy to life.

"Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:13-14. A reference to this scripture says that the disciples

(Continued on page 13.)

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

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from sin 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.

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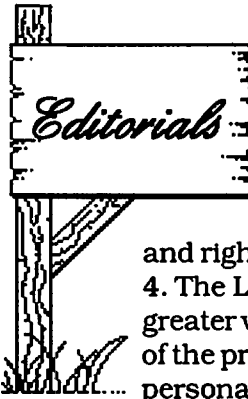
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"Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he." Deuteronomy 32:3-4. The Lord is inspiring us to have a greater vision of His greatness. Many of the problems of our world and our personal lives would be solved if we saw more clearly the personage of God. The enemy of our souls is doing what he can to hide God from people. While it seems he is being very effective at hiding God from the masses, if one has the desire for God, His wonderful works are easy to be seen and their spiritual understanding can be enlightened.

A number of years ago we had the opportunity to visit the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. One of the mountains that we saw has crevasses in the rocks near the top which form a cross. It is named Mountain of the Holy Cross. From one of the locations where you could clearly view this beautiful creation of God there was a stone inscribed with this verse from Psalm 104:24, "O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches." While it is very satisfying to visit the mountains and see the greatness of God's handiwork one does not have to travel that far. By simply walking outside His handiwork is visible. His work can be seen in the valley, the forest, the prairie, the swamp, the desert and the night sky. They can be seen with a microscope or a telescope and as well with the unaided eye.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. *There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.*" Psalm 19:1-3. Are we hearing His speech and understanding the knowledge that He would impart to us? If we are, it will change our whole life. The knowledge is not just about nature and the wildlife. The real message is that He loves you so much and He made all of these wonderful things for you to enjoy in a pure, holy way. However, He wants your vision to perceive more than His creation; He wants you to see the Creator.

Seeing God in nature is just the beginning of what He would like for us to understand about

Him. The greatness of His works is also seen in His dealings with the hearts and lives of men. The Word of God is filled with examples of His righteous dealings. Time and time again God has wrought miracles in answer to the faith of those who trusted in Him and sought Him for their needs. The history pages of the Scripture give very detailed accounts of His mighty deeds. He has brought about for His people deliverance from bondage, deliverance from prison and deliverance from sin. He has supplied water in the desert and food in the wilderness. He has healed the diseases of His people and afflicted their enemies. The story of God's goodness and greatness is beautifully woven into the sacred pages.

In Romans 15:4 it says, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." The record of God's dealings with mankind have been carefully preserved through the intervening years for the specific purpose of bringing us the message of the gospel and informing future generations about His love. God wants to reveal His transforming power and greatness to you personally and give you hope.

God is still working in marvelous ways with His people. He established the Church of God on the day of Pentecost, which is a divine organization that exists to this day. It contains the members of His body who have left the sinful pleasures of the world behind and have been born into the kingdom of righteousness by the merits of the blood of the Lamb. Jesus Christ is the head of the Church and the door of the Church. Man does not put you in the Church and man does not put you out. Salvation makes you a member and sin puts you out. The people of God are enjoying the blessing of the Holy Spirit which is obtained by consecrating their all to the service of God and being sanctified wholly. The Holy Spirit is given full liberty to work through its blood washed members. The Church of God is not a building built by man but is the saved people who meet together to worship God in holiness and truth. God meets with them and many wonderful blessings have been received by being in His midst. This city of God is Mount Zion. And she is located at the top of the mountain, beautiful for situation. "Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.

Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. God is known in her palaces for a refuge." Psalm 48:1-3.

No building or organization of man, no matter how hard man may try, can duplicate the true Church of God. Its beauty is not in conforming to a written or unwritten creed of man but by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit that takes place in the heart of the true believer. It is the greatness of God that is manifested in the hearts and lives of His people, the saints of the living God.

To be a part of this blood-washed band of pilgrims is more precious than any earthly possession. It is the richest treasure and the brightest hope that mortal man can possess. It is Jesus Christ living in your heart causing you to reign over the powers of sin and darkness and causing you to radiate His glory to the world around you. May every saint of God be encouraged as they consider the greatness of their heavenly Father and may every soul be motivated to press their way into His kingdom. It is worth every sacrifice!

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God has been blessing the efforts to publish the message of the gospel here at the Lord's Print Shop. The first quarter *Beautiful Way* papers were mailed on December 15th and the *Bible Lessons* were mailed on December 16th. The titles of the lessons include: *The Entrance of Sin Into the World; Sin Crouching At the Door; Sin Without the Law: Introduction of Faith; Sin and Wickedness of Man Before the Law; The Purpose of the Law Given by Moses; The Woeful Plight of Sin; Prophecies of Victory Over Sin; Jesus Born Under the Law to Redeem Us; The Gospel Preached to the Poor; The Gospel; A Message of Hope; The Amazing Grace of Christ Jesus; Spiritual Life in Christ; Jesus Christ is Risen from the Dead.*

A copy of the first quarter *Bible Lessons* is available for \$1.50 plus standard shipping charges or a one year subscription is offered for \$5.00. If you would like one please let us know.

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It was with a degree of sadness that with the publication of the *Bible Lessons* we used almost all of the surplus paper that we had previously obtained in Idaho. There is only enough remaining to print a small book. Our purchase and use of that paper saved us several thousand dollars

for which we are grateful to the Lord. Upon checking with our normal supplier to obtain more paper we found that the price was going to be approximately \$500 more per skid. We thank the Lord that through the efforts of Bro. Earl Benson a connection was established to obtain some paper for approximately the price our original supplier had been selling it to us. We have contracted for approximately \$3500 of paper to begin publications this New Year. You will notice that this issue of the *Faith and Victory* is being printed on an acid free paper that is slightly more cream color. It has a smooth finish and is more opaque than what we had been using.

The Lord blessed the services of the Oklahoma State Assembly meeting by sending forth many encouraging and soul-searching messages. The songs of Zion were sung with heartfelt enthusiasm and the presence of the Lord was very near warming the hearts of His people with thanksgiving and praise. The spirit of conviction was greatly felt in the services but there was only a moderate amount of altar work until the final service of the meeting.

On the last Sunday evening of the meeting, January 2nd, there was planned to be a baptismal service following the evening service. There were two who planned to follow the Lord in baptism that evening. But the Lord had other plans. The service started as usual by congregational singing and then the Lord inspired different ones to testify. After several testified, prayer requests were taken and the saints went to prayer. After prayer the young people had a special song, *Just One More Soul*, and the Spirit of the Lord began dealing with the hearts of the unsaved. The young people began singing invitational songs joined by the congregation and the conviction of the Holy Spirit was very heavy and many made their way to an altar of prayer and found the sweet peace of God that comes with salvation.

It was a special evening to remember. There was much rejoicing among the saints and there were many happy faces that arose from an altar of prayer with the burden of sin lifted from their countenance. The participants at the baptismal service that followed was increased to 14 souls. Bro. John Clements said, "It isn't very often that we see so many smiling faces when the services last until midnight."

Following the service Bro. Tim Huskey invited everyone over to his home and the singing and rejoicing continued until about 2 a.m. when we had prayer and retired to our homes thankful for the grace of God. May God bless each one who has started for heaven and may they continue to follow the Lord all the way.

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



CA—Please keep me in your prayers. I'm not feeling well.

—Sis. Helen Carson

WV—Please pray for us. I have some problems with my leg. God has shown us His love and mercy.

—Bro. & Sis. William Hypes

CA—Bro. Willie: I desire prayer that God would enlarge in my heart every day. I also have a personal and business request. Please continue to pray for all of us here in Fresno. Remember our need for a pastor.

—Sis. Dorothy Gray

LA—Dear Bro. Murphey: The Lord has been so good to me in so many ways. My desire is to live to please Him. I'm still suffering in my body ever since I had the shingles. I get some relief but I'm looking to the Lord for complete help. Remember me in your prayers. The song comes to my mind, "What A Wonderful Savior Is He."

Yours in Christ, —Sis. Marie Mitchell

WV—Please remember my family in your prayers. My oldest son has been going through some illness from a rupture in his side. He has to rest and can't go to work.

—Sis. Melba Powell

PA—I have a prayer request for a man that has cancer. He said he has five tumors in his abdomen. I guess they are all cancerous. He can't sleep very well at night.

—Bro. Parker Slifer

CA—My sister, Joyce Cardoza, needs prayer. She's having a difficult time with her nerves. Also remember my family in prayer.

—Sis. Doris Pihaylic

MN—Please pray for Bro. Lee Hilton. His back is fractured in four places and he is having a lot of pain in his hip. He is completely trusting the Lord for healing. He also needs prayer for cataracts. He is totally blind and needs the Lord's help. The Lord has given him several healing touches and his faith is in Him.

OK—Sis. Patsy Cain is in much need of prayer for a healing touch from the Lord. She is suffering from congestive heart failure.

OK—Remember Bro. Michael Smith in prayer. He is suffering with an affliction resulting from a back injury.

Standing Prayer Requests

Carlos Arriago
 Sis. Mamie Butcher
 Sis. Helen Carson
 Sis. Waneta Creel
 Sis. Charlotte Dilliner
 Sis. Elaine Dunn
 Sis. Evelyn Fredrickson
 Bro. Troy Gentry
 Bro. Jeff Gutwein
 Bro. Robert Hetland
 Bro. Lee Hilton
 Bro. Doyle LaCroix
 The Lounds Sisters
 Sis. Ruth McMakin
 Sis. Marie Mitchell
 Sis. Melba Powell
 Sis. Anna Severs
 Sis. Catherine Shaffer
 The Mitch Taylor family

Let Us Pray

*The day was long, the burden I had borne
 Seemed heavier than I could longer bear
 And then it lifted—But I did not know
 Someone had knelt in prayer.*

*Had taken me to God that very hour,
 And asked the easing of the load, and He
 In infinite compassion had stooped down
 And taken it from me.*

*We cannot tell how often, as we pray
 For some bewildered one, hurt and distressed;
 The answer comes—but many times those hearts
 Find sudden peace and rest.*

*Someone had prayed and Faith, a reaching hand,
 Took hold of God, and brought Him down that day;
 So many, many hearts have need of prayer—
 O, let us pray.* —Grace Noll Crowell

MEETING DATES

Bakersfield, CA (Revival)—Feb. 16-20

General Ministers' Meeting

(Guthrie, OK)—March 3-5

Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—May 27-June 5

MEETING NOTICES

BAKERSFIELD, CA, REVIVAL

The date for our revival is fast approaching. Lord willing, we, the Church of God here in Bakersfield CA, are praying, planning and preparing for our annual revival. The dates are Wednesday, February 16, 2005 through Sunday, February 20. On Wednesday through Saturday there will be two services daily; 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. Sunday services will be as usual: Sunday school, worship service and an afternoon service which will end our revival. Pray with us that the saints will be revived, edified and encouraged to grow stronger in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Pray that sinners will be convinced of the need for a Savior, become willing to repent and to accept God's grace allowing Christ to change their way of living. The new church address is 100 Oswell St., phone: (661) 324-4945. For further information contact Bro. Hayward Cox, our pastor. Phone: (661) 836-3877.

GENERAL MINISTERS' MEETING

A general ministers' meeting of the Church of God has been planned for March, 2005 in Guthrie, OK. The purpose of the meeting is for prayer, teaching and edification of the ministers and their spouses.

The dates of the meeting will be March 3-5, 2005. These dates are a Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

On Thursday, March 3rd, the day will begin at 9:00 a.m. The last session will be ending around noon on Saturday, March 5th.

Bro. Keith Fuller has expressed a burden to coordinate and assist in the flow of the meeting. If you have questions, or if you have a burden for a topic for discussion during the ministers' meeting please contact Bro. Keith Fuller, 244 Storer Ave., Akron, OH 44302. Phone (330) 864-1128.

It is certainly hoped all ministers and their spouses will plan to attend this meeting. Accommodations will be provided at the Guthrie

chapel and in the homes of some of the saints here in Guthrie.

So that we may plan the menus and secure accommodations, please let us know if you plan to attend. Also, please let us know if you will be making your own accommodations.

Expenses for the meeting will be met on a freewill basis. Sis. Brenda Wilkins, the Oklahoma State Treasurer, has agreed to help with securing accommodations for those in attendance. *Please let her know at your earliest convenience if you plan on attending.*

Offerings for the meeting may be sent to Sis. Brenda Wilkins, 1023 E. Prairie Grove, Guthrie, OK 73044. Phone (405) 282-0566.

—Bro. Stanley Dickson



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

OK—Dear ones: I am happy in Jesus and much encouraged to press on. Our Jesus is so good. I'm so thankful that He knows all things and that He knows the way I take. Pray for me.

With God's dear love,

—Sis. Gertrude Haven

OK—The dear Lord has been very good to me and those that we hold dear to our hearts. We can only humble ourselves and praise the great God of heaven for all His goodness.

—Sis. LaVerna Probst

OK—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus, the One that gave us the greatest gift that could be given, salvation and eternal life. When we receive Jesus in our heart we have the best here in this world and have the blessed hope of eternal life with Him for a glorified state in that blessed world to come. We can reign with Him here and over there too.

Your brother in Christ, —T.V. McMillian

OK—Dear friends and saints: I want to share a testimony with you. I was saved in a little cottage meeting about 65 years ago. I have had my share of ups and downs, but praise God

I am on top. I have had many trials with my patience. Many times I have had to go back and humble myself before others and ask forgiveness but I like to maintain that sweet spirit. Just to be enfolded in His arms is the sweetest thing and it is so good to hear His voice say "my child."

I grew up during the Great Depression and was very dependent on the Lord to provide for me. Bro. Ulysses Phillips used to say "man is the most dependent creature on earth. You carry him in your arms for a year before he can walk while a day old calf can run like a horse." I have had some afflictions; I broke my shoulder which has been very painful but I have always found help. I was having a hard time finding the care I needed and my son, John, has taken me in. They hire an older lady eight to ten hours a day to come in as my caregiver. It is a very nice place and the food is home style. When the weather is pretty I can go out to the lake and fish from the shore. We have fish in the freezer now to eat. We are admonished not to neglect the assembling of ourselves together and the Lord has provided a way for me to get to service at the chapel as often as I am physically able. A dear brother is responsible for that. John 21:18 says, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not."

The Lord does have a people here that are faithful to respond to the needs of others and working together we can touch God's throne. He supplies my every need. "The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate." Psalm 34:22.

Even though I am very feeble I feel Him close to me and as I look out the window and see the ground white with snow my heart leaps for joy. The song says He will make me "whiter than the snow." The geese are enjoying it but I say it will be even brighter farther on. Farther on we will know more about it. Jesus loves His little children; we are weak but He is strong.

I can sit here in my room and watch the ducks on the pond. They have to hustle to get food. Jesus said God sees the sparrows and not one of them are forgotten. I know He will take care of me.

I can't help but praise Him for such a nice place to stay. They certainly do their part. I love

my boy and pray much for him. He is careful to see that my needs are met. I have a nice, warm room. My other son, Jesse, also lives nearby and they all come to see me. I thank the Lord for providing for me. I am rejoicing in the Lord. Oh for grace to praise Him more. If one could only taste and see the Lord is good.

I recently had a virus. It made me very sick and weak. But, thank the dear Lord, I feel fine this morning. Why would anyone be without Him? I want to be the clay in His hand. God is leading His dear children along and there is no want to them that fear Him. God deserves all of our honor! We do love God's people and intend to be one of them. —Bro. Hyrum Ray



OK—Dear saints: It's been awhile since I've sent my testimony to the paper and since then time has made many changes. Looking back I can see God's hand working. I was telling someone a few days ago that it seems that I've been trying to die for the last five years but God has seen fit to raise me up each time. Sometime back this was weighing heavy on my mind and I was thinking how things would go with Dora after I was gone. One day I decided to make sure that she understood how to handle the little business matters so I went over the finances, which didn't take very long, and the expenses and bills and so forth, which took a little longer. But still, even at that, I was rather anxious about it all.

Dora was so afflicted with arthritis, suffering very much. Her joints had become very stiff; she could only sleep in a recliner and it bothered her very much that her memory seemed to be slipping badly. Both of us got to the point that we just couldn't walk and we had a real problem loading our wheelchairs when we went anywhere. But now, as I look back, I can see how God was looking on and making arrangements for us ahead of time. Many times our timing isn't the same as God's. Sometimes we feel that God is slow and that He should hurry up and work things out but we've found that God's timing is always perfect and He does it right.

About a year ago the Lord worked it out that I found a van that had a loading ramp in the side door so I could load my wheelchair and could ride it up to the steering wheel and drive. Of course if some of you saw how I did it you might decide to drive behind me rather than ahead but it does work real well. Also Dora was able to

travel some. We enjoyed going to the Pacoima camp meeting each year but this year Dora insisted that we go and let her stay home. I didn't want to leave her alone so made arrangements for some children and grandchildren to stay with her at night. One day she went to get the mail and on returning she had to stand up to open the front door and somehow in sitting down she flipped off the buggy seat and fell and broke her hip. She could have lain there for quite awhile but the Lord worked it out that Bro. Delmar Wilkins and one of his workers came by in just a few minutes and helped her up and into the house.

She suffered much pain for the next few days but the Lord was always on the scene to comfort and relieve her. She had such a good attitude through it all. We could just see the Lord ripening her up for heaven. The last day she seemed to know that the end was near so she called for all the children and grandchildren. The Lord cleared her mind and she was able to encourage all of them to meet her in heaven. It wasn't very long until she went into a coma. We watched as every breath seemed to get shallower and shallower. It was so precious. I really expected to hear a flutter of angel wings as they came and got her.

It's just amazing to see God's hand in all of these events. Saints, you must all stay true. It will be our turn one of these days and it may not be long. Don't let anything get between the Lord and us. I was troubled about me leaving her here by herself but the Lord had that all taken care of. I haven't yet figured out how to make the kitchen smell as good at meal time as she did and when she was around it seemed like the house automatically stayed clean but now I find that when I drop something on the floor it just stays there until I pick it up. I'm learning how to cope with the lonely times and the dear saints have been so kind with phone calls, visits and letters. God bless you all.

—Bro. Dale Doolittle



From India...

December 28, 2004—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey and dear saints abroad: Happy New Year greetings to the dear saints all over the nation in the precious name of Jesus. Thank you for your letter dated December 10. You might have heard of the catastrophe that happened in South India two days ago. The sea

swallowed the life and property of thousands of people. Scientists call this phenomenon a "Tsunami." Government started relief activities and a relief fund has been opened. We have to contribute to this fund.

Our 40th General Convention starts on January 12th and lasts for five days which is also very expensive. Please pray for our different kinds of needs. Our prayers are for the ministry everywhere. Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

MISSION REPORTS

2004 AFRICA MISSION UPDATE

Greetings to all the saints at home and abroad. I am thankful for the blessings of God this year on the gospel work in Africa. We thank each one that has carried a burden for the various gospel efforts. Your prayers and financial support have been a great blessing to the recipients in Africa. Souls have been saved from the curse of sin, cold children have been warmed and the Kingdom has been furthered.

I had purchased a ticket to fly to Ghana in November but, due to an injury, I was unable to make the planned trip. I have been hindered from traveling and working for a number of months but I am still encouraged and am continuing to look to the Lord for a complete healing. The Lord answered prayer and Northwest/KLM refunded 100% of my ticket. We give God all praise. What a blessing we have as children of God to know that we are in the Lord's hands and that He is in control of all things that touch our lives.

I will here give a brief account of some of the highlights of this last year concerning the gospel work in Africa.

Malawi/Mozambique

Last year we established a "blanket fund" in order to buy blankets for orphans and impoverished children in Malawi and Mozambique. Since this fund was established many children have received blankets and now have something to help protect them from the cold in wintertime. Bibles are being purchased and placed in the hands of souls hungry for the Word of God. Two young men from the village, one of whom translates for me when I am there, have finished another year of education due to the support of the saints.

Many congregations have been established in both Malawi and Mozambique. Here is a quote from a letter I received from Bro. Failos in

Malawi (edited slightly for clarity): "Most of the congregations come from Roman Catholicism. So according to our rules and teaching of baptism as you know, Roman Catholics do not baptize with water—see Hebrews 6 verse 2. The second reason is that your first teaching with the late Bro. Bob people understand very well. This is why many congregations join us. The second witness is that last year you traveled to Mozambique and you teach different congregations. After we left there we opened three new congregations, which means your teaching is very profitable because people did not know what the Word of God was telling us. That is why we have different congregations. Most of them come to us to get the understanding of the Word.... What you can know is that if God wants something to happen, no man can control that. It is the will of God to spread Christianity."

What a blessing to know that people are still being drawn to Christ and holiness by the power of the Word of God. There have been various meetings held in villages throughout Malawi and Mozambique this year.

Quoting from another letter from Bro. Failos: "Here in Malawi all the saints send greetings to you and all the saints there...."

Ghana

The saints in Ghana are encouraged and continuing to press the battle on. There are three primary ministers that we are supporting monthly to enable them to spread the gospel. Bro. Maxwell, in Akumadan, is continuing to pastor the flock there. A new congregation has been established this year in the village of Nkenleasu. Bro. Atobrah is laboring there while Bro. Badu is continuing to labor with a congregation in the village of Tanoso. These young brothers have a burden to spread the gospel throughout Ghana as they have means and opportunity. Here is a quote from one of their letters concerning their burden: "I am praying for the Lord to help the watering (of the congregations) because my vision is to plant the Church of God throughout the country."

The congregation in Akumadan has undertaken a big venture in the last couple of months in starting a school. At present they have 63 young children enrolled. They have had a burden to have a school for many years and have just recently stepped out with faith and little else to begin this project. They are in need of a sundry of school supplies and books. They are

interested in bettering the education of their children as well as taking this as an opportunity to more adequately teach their children about the Lord.

Nigeria

The month of December has concluded two national camp meetings in Nigeria. As yet we have no report but are trusting that God blessed richly in these meetings. There are brethren in Nigeria, in whom we have confidence, that have a strong grasp of the Word of God. There have been splinters and divisions among "Church of God" groups the world over and Nigeria is no different. Some of the brethren have a burden to reach out and see if there is a place for reuniting without compromising Spirit and Truth. Please pray that God would lead and direct in a very plain and clear path.

After much time and prayers I am thankful to report that we were finally able to send enough funds over to Nigeria to purchase a vehicle for the gospel work. This has been a long-time need and we praise God for providing for this worthwhile cause this year. The brethren safely received \$9000 and an 18-seater Japanese made Urvan Nissan bus was purchased. They plan to equip it with a public address system to use in evangelistic work. I have entrusted the vehicle to Bro. F. Nath-Igbanibo's oversight. May God bless each one who contributed to this needful effort.

We need not look very far to be reminded of the extensiveness of the work of God. The fields are white and ready to harvest but the laborers are few. The needs are great but God is greater still. May the Lord help us, as some of His people, to be faithful to fulfill the great commission at home and in foreign lands. May we do all within our power and ability to help spread the gospel of salvation to a lost world.

I have been working on a website that contains facts, mission history and photo galleries depicting the culture, scenery and gospel work from various African countries. I hope to have this site accessible to the public within a couple of months. Please continue to remember the gospel efforts in Africa. We have brothers and sisters in this foreign land that are worthy of our prayer and support

In the Lord,

—Bro. Michael Smith

Note: Tax-deductible, financial contributions for the gospel efforts in Africa can be sent to LARTFO, 7298 Park Terrace Dr. N.E.; Keizer, OR 97303.



Bessie Neomi Beisly of Nowata, OK passed away December 19, 2004, at the age of 93 years, 2 months and 21 days.

She was born in Nowata, OK, September 28, 1911 to Lewis and Mary (Brannan) Fry.

She lived in the Nowata area and attended High Prairie School. She was united in marriage to Rufus W. Beisly September 28, 1940 in Sand Springs, OK. They later moved to Portland, OR where she worked as a welder on ships during W. W. II. In 1945 they moved back to Craig County, OK, and later made their home on a farm west of Welch, OK.

Sis. Beisly was a good wife and mother. Sometime soon after 1945 she professed to being saved and sanctified as a second definite work of grace wrought in the heart by the Holy Ghost. She cooked for the Monark Springs camp meeting for a number of years and was a faithful worker in the Church of God before she suffered a stroke.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lewis and Mary Fry; her husband, Rufus Beisly; a son, Dennis; five brothers, Lester, Joe, Clarence, Everett and Gene Fry; four sisters, Elsie Haines, Alta Boyles, Hazel Hathcoat and Maxine Sutherlin.

The couple who cared for her, Sharon and Tom Housh, several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends survive her.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, December 21, 2004 in the Benjamin Funeral Chapel in Nowata. Internment was in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

Scriptures used for the service were St. John 4:21-24, St. John 5:24-20 and I Corinthians 15:16-26.

Here I would like to compare Sister Beisly's home going to a ship sailing on the ocean of life.

Let us pretend we are standing at the seashore. We see the ship spread her sails to the morning breeze and start across the blue ocean. She is an object of strength and beauty. We watch as she becomes only a speck of white where the sea and sky meet, each other. Then someone says: "She's gone!"

Gone where? Just gone from our view; that is all. Her diminished size is not her and as someone says; "She's gone," there are other eyes watching her coming and other voices from eternity shouting, "Here she comes!"

She has taken her bright candle and gone into another room which we cannot see but anyone can tell where she has been by the little light she left behind.

Memorial services were officiated by Bro. V. E. Koch.

— — — — —

Bertha LaVeau, 92, of Shell Lake WI, died Thursday, October 21, 2004 at Terrace View Living Center in Shell Lake. She was born in Wisconsin April 21, 1912 to Will and Gertie (Sinclair) Coleman, growing up in a family of 13 brothers and sisters. Memorial services were held Monday, October 25th in Shell Lake, WI, with burial beside her husband in the Sarona Wisconsin cemetery.

Bertha was born into the Church of God by virtue of the new birth as a teenager. She repented of her sins and accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Master of her life, loving the truth from her youth. She was consistent in her commitment to her Lord throughout life and was highly respected and loved by those who were privileged to know her.

Bertha married John LaVeau in Rice Lake on September 25, 1935. Three sons Donald, Gary and Duane were born to this union and Bertha was a faithful wife and mother who loved her family. She became a surrogate mother to several children who stayed in their home and often reminded me, after my mother's death, that I was one of her other sons.

In 1990, Bertha's husband Johnnie and her son Donald preceded her in death. A sister, Vera Toth, of Cameron, WI; two sons, Gary and Duane, 16 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren remain at her passing.

Bertha's mother-in-law, Sis Ella (Marberger) LaVeau, was an early pioneer worker in the Church of God serving as a spiritual leader at Rice Lake, WI. Bertha's mother in-law along with the John and Charles Shrock families,

were a few of the pioneer saints that helped establish the reformation truths in Wisconsin in the late 1800's and early 1900's. They were still members of the congregation at the time Bro Herbert Probst assumed pastoral leadership in the late 1940's.

Recently in reading a bound annual copy of the 1899 Gospel Trumpet, the Rice Lake congregation was referenced, and some of these very saints had authored articles in those issues.

As a young pastor's son, it fell my lot to mow yards, weed gardens, or carry coal for some of these older saints, and often when I arrived to knock on the door to get a key to the tool shed I would have to wait until I heard them finish prayer. I often heard them pleading with God for the Church of God, asking God's blessing on Bro. Probst and family, and over fifty-five years later those prayers still leave a lasting imprint on my mind and life!

Although it was a privilege and blessing to have personally known these early saints, I am reminded that to have known them means little unless we seek diligently after Truth and learn to walk humbly and prayerfully with God as they did.

Johnnie and Bertha LaVeau, along with other members of the LaVeau family, attended the Rice Lake congregation and became close friends of the Probst family during this time. Sis. Bertha loved the Church of God, dedicating her time and talent to the cause of truth. She willingly served the Lord as opportunity was presented and loved to attend services and share her faith and love for the Lord.

Bertha especially loved doctrinal truths of the Church of God and once remarked that if she had been called to preach she would have been a doctrinal preacher. At about 40 years of age Bertha was diagnosed with cancer and given little hope of life without major medical intervention and surgery. She chose instead to obey the Scripture and call for the elders of the church. After being anointed with oil, she was permanently healed in less than two weeks in answer to the prayer of faith! Outside of injuries sustained in a serious automobile accident several years ago, Bertha enjoyed good health until her death at age 92. When the choice was hers, she always chose to trust God as her Healer.

When Bro. Herbert Probst recognized the apostasy and worldly compromise that was

captivating the general movement known as the First Church of God, he chose to resign the pastorate and search for the old paths wherein is the good way. Johnnie and Bertha LaVeau, along with others in the congregation, who shared a mutual desire to return to the standards of godliness and holiness, willingly took their stand alongside Bro. Probst. In the early 50's, some of the LaVeau family assisted and accompanied the Probst family on their first visit to Monark Springs.

In later years, Johnnie and Bertha LaVeau made a trip with Bro. Herbert and Sis. Eva Probst to California, attending meetings in Pacoima and Pomona, and visiting Johnnie's brother who had moved to California from Wisconsin.

In April 1968, Bro. Willie C. Murphey and daughter Kathleen traveled to Wisconsin to be with Bro. and Sis. Dietrich and the congregation over Easter. The LaVeau's were among the number in attendance and the April 19, 1968 issue of the *Mission Trail* publication has a picture of Sis. Bertha LaVeau and family along with others from the area.

Sis. Bertha always had a testimony of victory and joy in the Lord, remarking often that she was just waiting for the Lord to take her home. Last year, during the Thanksgiving holidays, I made a trip to visit and encourage her and Bertha was very alert as she enjoyed the scriptures we shared and loved visiting on spiritual matters. She sang with us her favorite hymns from the *Evening Light Songs* hymnal. Her last comment before we left was that she was just waiting for the Lord to take her home and couldn't understand why He had not already done so.

When the family called to let us know that it didn't look like she would make it to Thanksgiving for our next visit, they mentioned that she had requested the song "When We Get Home" be sung at her memorial service. She always enjoyed singing the songs of Zion and somehow it seemed she joined the grandchildren and family as they and the congregation sang her favorite songs in her memory. The songs she loved spoke of victory and anticipation of the life beyond the grave and the family and friends are comforted knowing that she now helps "make those heavenly arches ring with songs of Home Sweet Home" as she joins the saints in heaven, singing one celestial song.

The congregation was reminded of times past when the only deterrent to God's judgment

and extension of mercy was the presence of a few godly people. The memorial service presented a challenge to the younger generation to fill the gap left by the departure of godly men and women from the earth.

Though Sis. Bertha will be missed by family and friends who enjoyed her in this life, our loss is her gain and the angels and heavenly hosts rejoice at her coming.

She fought a good fight, she finished her course, she kept the faith, and now has gone to receive the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, has prepared for those who love His appearing. (II Tim 4:7-8.)

—Bro. Kenneth Probst

The Value In Children

(Continued from Page 3.)

probably rebuked the parents thinking that children are too young to receive any good. The putting on of hands was a custom done to consecrate their children to God and the child would be considered the sacred property of God. But Jesus was saying that a great part of God's kingdom is made up of children. Let them come to Me. God put so much value on children that He said, "...Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." The qualities of a child are so great that the Lord made them an example to us. Jesus was the Hope for mankind and He came as a little baby. He was sent to grow and lead men to salvation but first He had to go through the stages of childhood which also shows how important they are. We all must go through those stages of childhood or we can never become adults.

There are different accounts in the Bible where God called people from birth and had a plan for their life. God has a great consideration for each little life He creates. He knows the potential it can have. Think of all the children that are placed for adoption because their parents don't want them. They have no one to make them a home. No father or mother to teach them of the things that bring true peace and happiness. They will grow up in society with whatever upbringing they had. They will shape the future of our world by what they know. We have a responsibility to all children to be the example God would have us to be. We can show them the Lord through love. Do you realize that my children are watching you and your children are watching me? We can't be slack; their souls are at stake.

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6. Someday our children will be making their own decisions and they will never forget what they are taught. At birth the carnal nature in a child begins to manifest itself and if it is not corrected it will become worse. People do not naturally grow up to do right. They will always lean to the flesh. That is why we must train up the child in the way he should go. Love, respect and obedience are the foundation of training. You can never have a tender heart of compassion unless you learn of love. You can never be considerate of others or yourself unless you are taught respect. And you can never have a relationship with God unless you are willing to obey.

We have a great responsibility to teach our children and make the world a better place. Our children will grow up to affect hundreds of people and we can teach them to be real men and women of God. It takes diligence, dedication, sacrifice and the ability to see the bigger picture to give them the proper training. But if we don't teach our children right we are cheating them of the best life they can have and we will be a hindrance to their relationship with God.

I heard a fictional story about a boy who wished he could do whatever he wanted to. So his parents granted his wish. His parents said they were not going to tell him what to do anymore, that rules and authority were the only thing to limit his ability to be creative and find himself. They thought that the consequences of his actions would teach him. So the first night the boy stayed up late playing video games and eating candy bars which made him sick and tired the next morning. He went to school so tired that he fell asleep in school and was awakened

by the teacher. His approach to the teacher got him sent to the principle's office where he also was rude and disrespectful. In the meantime his parents thought he was learning. After that he went to a store with a friend where he stole something and was chased out by the manager being called a hoodlum. His friend told him he didn't want that reputation and that they wouldn't be friends anymore. Then he stole his mother's car and was involved in a car accident. When he woke up in the hospital paralyzed he overheard his parents talking about the other people he had hit. It was his friend which died and his friend's mother was in critical condition. He looked at his parents so upset and said, “Why did you let me go? Why did you let me do all that?” They replied, “We love you son; we gave you everything that you wanted.” He said, “This is love? This is loving me?” The now helpless, paralyzed boy had been cheated by his parents. He had to pay an awful price because his parents didn't take responsibility.

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:1-4. In this scripture God gives us instruction about how a child and parent relationship should work. He gives the child instructions and the parents instructions. May the Lord help us to follow the instructions that He has given us so we can give our children the best opportunity in life and show them what true love really is. Every time I become slack the Lord reminds me of this thought. Please pray for me that I will be the mother that I ought to be.



PENNY BLESSINGS

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

In the busy rush of life do we sometimes forget that the Lord loves us? That He is caring for us? That we should thank Him?

Every day of mine has a long list of things to do, so before I arise from the bed I look to the Lord for a song and word of encouragement. This gives me spiritual strength through that day. One early morning the Lord gave me the song, “Count Your Many Blessings See What

God Has Done.”

Before the rest of the family was awake I was in the laundry room putting jeans in the dryer from the washer, singing my daily song, when I found two quarters and a penny in the bottom of the washer. The household rule is any change found in the washer is mine (sometimes I give back bills) so I slipped the fifty-one cents into my wallet. *Count your many blessings...*

That day I went to care for an elderly lady who has physical problems. I drove her to the eye doctor's office for a checkup. I brought the car to the door of the office, helped her out of the car and into the building, then as I went back to the car I saw a penny lying on the pavement. I stooped to pick up the penny and tucked it into my pocket. ...see what God has done...

After the doctor's appointment my friend wanted to go to Charcoal Johnny's for a hamburger. While we were there I found another penny lying on the ground so I put it into my pocket. ...Count your many blessings....

I took my friend to her house and finished what I needed to do for her. She paid me for that day of work and said, "Goodbye until Friday." On the way home I stopped by the grocery store to buy some hamburger meat that was on sale for ninety-nine cents a pound.

When I got to the meat counter I saw a man pick up the last package of meat on sale. He looked at it then put it back down and looked at other meat. I went ahead and picked up that package of meat.

"I was looking at that meat," he said to me. "I have six children and that sure would feed them fine."

"Oh, you can have it," I replied as I took it from my cart. Right then a man from the meat department walked by, so I asked him, "Do you have any more packages of hamburger for ninety-nine cents a pound?"

"I'll go get some more," said the man. ...name them one by one...

While waiting for him I told the father of six about some pork chops on sale for a dollar twenty-seven a pound. He took a package and then I took the last one.

With the meat and a few more items in my cart I went to the express lane to check out. The clerk totaled up my bill and I began to count out the money to her. I gave her the bills, then counted the coins. I was lacking two cents having enough. Suddenly I remembered the two pennies I had picked up! I reached into my pocket, and finished paying for my groceries.

As I left the store I heard my daily song ringing in my heart and I actually laughed out loud. In the rush of the day the Lord had showed His love to me through little blessings. If I had not taken time to see them and count them, I would have missed His message.


Count your many blessings see what God has done....

QUESTIONS

- If Christ should come, would all be well?
 Am I ready now to say farewell?
 What's the response from within my heart,
 If life should cease and all grow dark?
- If Christ should come, would He welcome be?
 Is my poor soul from sin set free?
 Would I on wings of love arise
 To meet His smiles beyond the skies?
- If Christ should come while yet 'tis day,
 Would I be ready, or want delay?
 Have I been what I ought to be,
 To Him who shed His blood for me?
- If Christ should come for me, tonight,
 Could I appear in spotless white?
 Do I within my heart install
 The loving Christ, as all in all?

—J. A. E.

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 we are CHANGED" II Cor. 3:18*

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THESE THINGS SHALL PASS

I drink the sunshine of the fragrant morning,
And greet my wife with loving, tender smile;
I welcome all the seasons' glad adorning:
These things shall pass, yet knowing all the while.

Life's cup I drink, o'ercome with glad emotion;
Its joys I hold as blessings from the Lord:
But still in higher thought is my devotion
To that which earthly gems cannot afford.

I cherish so the little child of sweetness
Whose life now blossoms 'neath my watchful care,
And feel his presence give a blest completeness
Unto the joy and happiness we share.

These treasures shine 'mid other blessings reckoned
God adds because of yore I sought His face,
But yet to higher wealth my soul is beckoned;
Above this fleeting earth a path I trace.

There shines before my Grace-enlightened vision
A treasure prize of everlasting worth:
'Tis promised to be mine if pure decision
For Christ will mark my sojourn here on earth.

Thus will I murmur not when fades life's treasures,
As one by one their candles are blown out,
Rejoicing that for me are endless pleasures
With all His goodness compassing about.

Beyond this body's appetites and passions
There flows a wholesome current of desire,
A yearning, longing for much higher fashions
Than what the fleeting things of earth inspire.

These things shall pass and on that golden Morning,
We'll see the King in all His beauty fair,
Arrayed in all our risen Christ's adorning
Forever with His saints His glory share.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

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When the cares and responsibilities of life are great and trials and tribulations on every hand, then is when the Christian feels the need of relying upon God. It is then the weak can say I am strong because self efforts fail and help and strength cometh only from the Lord. Those who launch out upon His promises at such times receive an increase of faith and sufficient grace in every time of need. —E. E. Byrum

Getting Out of Self

Some speak of the "death of self." This is incorrect. To put self to death is to cease to exist. What is needed is that we get out of self and let Christ control it. There is a self-love and a self-development that is holy and there is a self-love and a self-improvement that is sinful. We are to love and improve self for Christ's sake and never for self's sake. We are not to destroy our wills, nor make machines of them, but yield them to Christ and actively will what He wills. But self is very subtle. It needs close watching. Selfishness may get into your generosity and you get to giving to gratify your own feelings instead of benefiting the object of your charity. It may mean more sometimes to get out of self and refuse to give than it does to give. To give because the company we are in are giving may have much selfishness behind it. To glorify God should be the full and only motive in our heart.

—Bro. C. E. Orr

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