

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant

Unto Him shall the
gathering of the
people be.

God Is
Love

YE SHINE AS
LIGHTS IN
THE WORLD.

JESUS
SAVES

The night cometh,
when no man
can work.

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82nd Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

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TO KNOW AND DO GOD'S WILL

By Sis. Angela Gellenbeck

As each new year begins, I've made it a practice to ask the Lord to inspire a Scripture to my mind as a special beginning to the year. Surely, as He knows what the year may hold, He will give a word that will be especially relevant to my needs.

This year the Lord has impressed the prayer of the apostle Paul upon my mind as recorded in Colossians 1:9-10. "...We...do not cease to pray for you,...that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God." I've learned to take the prayers of men of God in Scripture as the very mind and heart of God, being inspired to the prophets and apostles by the Holy Spirit. This is God's desire for me that I might be filled with the knowledge of His

will—to know and to do the will of God. How simple and basic, yet how little we understand! How may I know the will of God? First, there are some things I need to recognize about myself:

1. My thoughts and ways are not God's thoughts and ways. (Isaiah 55:8.)
2. It is not in man (in me) to direct his (my) steps. The way that I should go is not naturally mapped out within me. (Jeremiah 10:23.)
3. There will even be ways that seem right to me, but they lead to death! (Proverbs 14:12.)
4. Every one of my ways is clean in my own eyes. (Proverbs 16:2.)
5. Every one of us has turned to his own way and God calls it having "gone astray." (Isaiah 53:6.)
7. I need to ask God to search and try my ways and see if there are any wicked ways in me. (Psalm 139:23-24.)

Following my natural inclinations in worship to God, my relationships with others or the morals and standards of my life will just bring me into religious deception, relationships gone wrong and morals and standards that are far from true holiness. The Bible has a name for this kind of living. I Peter 4:2 calls it living "in the flesh to the lusts of men." Romans 8 calls it being "after the flesh" and "carnally minded." I John 2:15-16 calls it simply "the world." Indeed, the whole world has gone astray into fleshly living. James 4:4 lets us know that the world is "enmity with God," and that is because the carnal mind is not subject unto the law, or will, of God "neither indeed can be!" (Romans 8:7.) So

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we can rightly define the world as “people living to their own selfish desires.” You could go to the Arctic Circle and live in an igloo and still be tempted to be worldly because you would still have your flesh to contend with. The love of the Father is not in people who live to their own selfish desires. They are drunk on the wine of selfish living. But we are not to be “drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the spirit.” (Ephesians 5:18.) We are not to be “unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.” (Verse 17.)

So how am I to understand the will of God? In Romans 12, speaking to brethren, those who desire to please God, Paul gives us a point-by-point formula for knowing God’s will.

First, we are to present our “bodies, a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God.” (Verse 1.)

Secondly, we are not to be “conformed to this world.” As previously noted, the world is defined as “people living to their own selfish desires.” So we are to refuse our own carnal thinking and reasoning and judgment, even in spiritual matters, and realize that we need to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. We need a new mind! What kind of mind? The mind that Christ had.

What kind of mind did Jesus have? “I come to do thy will, O God.” (Hebrews 10:9.) “Nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done.” (Luke 22:42.) What was the will of God that He had come to do? “The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10.) “The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28.) We need to also be about the Father’s business, or will, as Jesus was. His will is that no one “should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (II Peter 3:9.)

This is the vast difference between our wills and God’s perfect will; we would serve ourselves. God’s will would have us putting the salvation of others before our own desires. In every circumstance, in every trial, in the daily choices we make, doing God’s will means looking to be, do and say whatever would work to the salvation of those around us. No more selfish living—we live with compassion. Jesus saw the world as lost sheep. When you are of the world or worldly mind set, you don’t see this way. This explains the phrase, “in, but not of, the world.”

This makes one thing definitely clear—satan tries to get the Church to conform to this world, in the guise of “saving” or “reaching more people.” What a lie! The two minds are not compatible. Don’t buy into this deception. You must be separate from the world, “unspotted,” in order to save it. You can be gentle. The true servants of Christ are. You can be free from criticism, harshness and sectarianism and you don’t have to conform to this world.

The way to this new mind is through the infilling of the Holy Spirit. We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, which is done by the Holy Ghost. (Titus 3:5.) It is done as our outward man perishes and it is done “day by day.” (II Corinthians 4:16.) The Lord made our bodies in such a way as to illustrate what He does in us spiritually. The circulatory and lymph system constantly nourishes, cleanses and refreshes the body as it flows through it. The body cannot live without this moment-by-moment renewing. Jesus compared the Holy Spirit to “living water” which pours from within you. (John 7:37-38.) As He streams through us, He constantly rids us of wastes, dead matter, the old life, the old responses, the old thoughts, the human ways. He gives us His faith, His life, His love and even His mind. The important question is: have you been filled, empowered, renewed, sealed and flooded with the Holy Spirit since you became a believer?

As the Holy Spirit renews our minds, we begin to prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. We will find that, although His will was not what we had naturally chosen, it is so good, so right for us. Even suffering and pain will be for our good. Our relationships will be good. Goodness will come from our hearts and lives as a fruit of His Spirit. We will benefit and profit everyone we meet. God’s will lived out in our lives will also bring about a satisfaction to that deep inner hunger every human has for the approval of God. We will live in a sacred, humble sense—knowing it is only through Christ that we are accepted of Him. We will live in the light of His countenance. How satisfying, rich and full our lives will be! And living thus, where God’s will is good to us and we are acceptable to God, we will find that perfect life here on earth. We will fulfil God’s command, “Be ye perfect.” (Matthew 5:48.) We will be complete in Him. (Colossians 2:10.)

In dealing with me about these things, God revealed that as godly parents we are to train our children from birth to know and do God's will. We train our children in the way they should go (Proverbs 6:22) and in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4.) We do not leave a child to his own way. We use the rod of correction and reproofs of wisdom. A child left to his own way will not accidentally go God's way! For instance, God's sacred plan for the human body is to cover our nakedness. Many people rely on a child's "natural" modesty

to kick in when it is needed. But a child must be trained to cover his or her body. A girl will know very little about keeping herself modest if she has no training. You can see this about us everywhere.

The ultimate yielding to God's will, as in Jesus' example, leads to the crucifixion and death of our personal will. But what gain! In losing our selfish way, we will save ourselves and others from eternal loss. This truly is that good and acceptable and perfect way to live: To know and do the will of God.

Consecration

Taken from June 1940 Faith and Victory.

One of the principal things that leads to success of the Christian life lies embedded in this one word—consecration. To be consecrated means more than just saying that we are. Jesus left us an example while praying in the garden of Gethsemane. He saw the suffering and agony of the crucifixion and, although He knew that for this cause He was born to shed His blood for the sins of the world, He prayed: "If it be possible, let this cup pass from me." It was alright to pray this way for no doubt God would have answered this prayer if there had been no other way to reconcile the people to Himself. However I am glad He did not stop praying then but finished with these words: "Nevertheless, not my will, but Thine be done." He was resigned to His Father's will. That is a perfect pattern of consecration.

How often we pray for something and think that the Lord surely ought to give it to us even in the way we ask Him. Perhaps He is not ready to give it to us yet because He sees our hearts and knows that we have not reached the place where we can say, "Not my will, but Thine be done." Before we can pray through to definite victory, this must be the supreme desire and purpose of our prayer. We must be willing to let the Lord answer in His own way, whether it be according to our desire or otherwise.

We sing a song which expresses this thought so well:

"You have longed for sweet peace,
And for faith to increase,
And have earnestly, fervently prayed;
But you cannot have rest,
Or be perfectly blest
Until all on the altar is laid."

James 4:3 says that ye ask and receive not because ye ask amiss that ye may consume it upon your lusts. And yet the prayer is closed with these words: "In Jesus' name we ask it." How can it be for Jesus' sake when it is something that would not even glorify Him? We are told that whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, do ALL to the glory of God. Merely saying words and being entirely consecrated to God are two different things. How many times people pray, "Lord, have Your own way," and then in their daily lives go about to have their own selfish ways. How can the Lord have His way if we will not let Him? Jesus gave this stern rebuke to this kind of followers: "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

Young people, in choosing your vocation in life, give this subject of consecration more than just a passing thought. Give it serious consideration. So many are confronted with the fact that their desired field of activity is crowded to overflowing with applicants and enough work to employ them all can scarcely be found. But how different is this field of service for the Master where only consecrated workers can be used! "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few." The work is great, but not enough can be found with a vision that sees beyond these temporal things which decay and pass away to grasp those that forever endure. "For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

And again, "He that winneth souls is wise." If we would be wise in our choices of life, let us choose a life of consecration and service for God which cannot be equaled. —Willie C. Murphey

FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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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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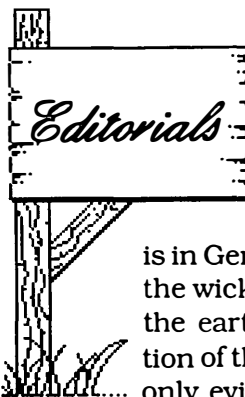
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The Lord is greatly concerned about the condition of a man's heart and there are a great number of scriptures that deal with this important issue. The first mention of the word *Heart* is in Genesis 6:5. "And God saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually." This sad observation was made shortly before God destroyed the world by water, saving only Noah and his family. The Lord recognizes that the treasure of a man's heart is what motivates his actions. In Matthew 12:35 it says, "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things." The scripture also says, "...and they were judged every man according to their works." Revelation 20:13.

When we understand that our actions are going to be judged by the almighty God and we realize that those actions are prompted and influenced by the condition of the heart, it should cause us to also be concerned and possibly alarmed about the type of "treasure" that is allowed to accumulate in the storehouse of our heart. Wisdom gives us this good counsel in Proverbs 4:23, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life." In reality what we allow into our heart will ultimately become a matter of life or death for our eternal soul.

Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." God saw the sinful condition of man's heart and in His love He gave His only begotten Son to come into this world and suffer a painful death to atone for the sins of man. He has revealed to us through His Word the plan of salvation which can create in us a heart that is heavenly pure. Ezekiel caught a glimpse of this glorious change that God would make in man when he wrote, "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh." Ezekiel 36:26. Zechariah foresaw the wonderful cleansing power of salvation when he wrote, "In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness." Zechariah 13:1. We are living in

the day that Zechariah foresaw and the invitation to have this work of regeneration accomplished in our heart is freely given to "whosoever will." It will require a great effort on the part of each individual to press their way into this wonderful fountain because satan is trying to keep every soul away from it. But by God's help you too can experience this soul-satisfying transformation of your heart.

The work of God that is wrought in the heart of man gives him great reason to rejoice. The load of condemnation that weighed so heavily on a person is suddenly lifted leaving them light and free. The heart is made pure by the blood of the Lamb of God and the sins that have been committed are forgiven by God and will be remembered no more.

When this transformation occurs in our heart it is the beginning of a new life in Christ. The old sinful man is not to be the one to inhabit this new creation of God, therefore the ways of sin must be forsaken and turned away from and we are entrusted with the responsibility to guard the door of our heart. Jesus instructed His disciples to "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matthew 26:41. Peter demonstrated the weakness of the flesh when the hour of temptation came to him and he denied the Lord after making the bold declaration recorded in Matthew 26:35. "Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples." Yet before the light of another morning Peter had denied the Lord three times. Our personal resolve is not sufficient in itself to keep the purity of the new heart that God creates within us. Our will must be coupled with the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit.

"That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise." Ephesians 1:12-13. After the Lord has forgiven a person's sins, and then they fully consecrate their body and soul to do the will of God, the precious Holy Spirit will come into their heart and give them the overcoming power to live a holy life.

The one that is saved and sanctified must still do all within their power to guard their sacrifice and keep their heart pure. The mind is

the doorway to the heart and it becomes the battleground of many serious conflicts with the enemy of our soul. Through the power of God one must "gird up the loins" of their mind. If a person allows their mind to feed on the evil things of this world, the heart is going to be corrupted. Those things that are in a person's heart are going to come out in their words or actions and they will not be able to stand faultless before the judgment seat of God. Romans 1:21 speaks of those who "...became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."

We are cautioned in Hebrews 12:5 to not allow bitterness to take root and cause us to be defiled. "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled." When one is hurt or injured by someone else, the conditions of the mind become very favorable for bitterness to begin growing. If bitterness is allowed to grow it will eventually manifest itself in a very ugly way and it can affect many people, especially those of their own household. A child of God should learn to quickly bring their hurts and injuries to the Savior in prayer and not allow their mind to dwell on them for extended periods of time.

It is not sin for a temptation to be presented to our mind. Even Jesus was tempted. But like Jesus we must be strong and resist the temptation. We also can use the Word of God against the enemy. Find a Scripture or promise of God and stand on it. James 4:8 says to "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you...." Sometimes a good song can dispel the clouds of discouragement. If no other song comes to your mind, the song *Count Your Many Blessings* may be a good one to start with. Offering praise and thanksgiving to God is a powerful tool in battling the enemy.

When the battle is raging, many times our mind becomes focused on ourselves. A good way to defeat the enemy is to change our focal point. Instead of concentrating on our battle, begin helping someone else in their need. It is amazing at how well this approach works.

We are instructed in Philippians 4:8 to think on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtue and praise. If our mind and heart are filled with these things, we will have victory and experience growth in our Christian experience and there will be much good fruit come from our life.

May each soul be encouraged to take inventory of their heart and honestly open themselves to the Lord and say with the psalmist "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24.

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The Lord has enabled us to print two more books, *A True Story In Allegory* by Lottie Jarvis and *How We Got Our Bible* by E. E. Byrum. The first is a short 30-page allegory that was first published about 1920. It contains characters by the names of Mr. Hypocrisy, Miss Vanity, Mr. Worldly-wise, Mrs. Apostasy, Mr. Policy, Mr. Sincerity, Bro. Circumspect and many others including Father Discernment. May the Lord give understanding to each one who reads this book and help them to recognize the tools satan uses to cause movements of people who were once on fire for God to fall away from the close experience they once possessed and slide into the dark abyss of worldliness. It is our prayer that God would rescue souls that have been thus deluded and help them to throw off their rags of self-righteousness and forsake their worldliness and join the blood-washed throng who are still dwelling in purity and holiness at the top of Mount Zion, The Church of God. This book, in heavy paper cover, sells for only \$1.00. Standard shipping charges apply to mailed copies. By the way, in God's true Church, the Sword of the Spirit is not a disguised club with the words "Unity and Submission" written on its handle.

The second book, *How We Got Our Bible*, tells of E. E. Byrum's personal examination of some of the earliest manuscripts that were used to give us our Bible. Of particular interest was the inclusion of Mark 16:9-20. This passage was left out of one manuscript examined at the Vatican library in Rome. However blank space was left in the manuscript where it should have appeared. In many other manuscripts that he examined it appeared in total including the Codex Ephraemi, Codex Alexandrinus, Codex Harleianus and Codex Burneium to name a few. This book also includes a chapter entitled *The Bridge of Time From The Apostles to A.D. 400* and gives information about the early church writers. Included in this book is also a translation of an old Latin manuscript kept in the Vatican Library at Rome, which is a report of

Pontius Pilate to Tiberius Caesar, giving a report of the arrest, trial and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. This book was originally published September 11, 1905. This reprint edition containing 46 pages is bound in heavy paper cover and is available for \$1.50 plus standard shipping charges.

Bound Yearbooks of the *Faith and Victory* issued in 2004 and bound volumes of the *Beautiful Way* Junior papers issued in 2004 are now available for \$5.00 each plus \$1.40 shipping for mailed copies. There is a limited amount of these Yearbooks available. If you would like one, please let us know.

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While the month of February is upon us and many are kept inside by the cold weather, it would be a good time to write your testimony of God's merciful dealings in your life. Your real life experiences and testimonies add much to the value of this publication. May the Lord inspire your heart to offer your sacrifice of praise to His worthy name and for the encouragement of His people.

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



KS—Dear Willie: Please pray for me as I fell on the ice and I have two fractures in my leg and it is hard to get around. —Sis. Dorothy Huston

LA—Please remember me in prayer; I am having trouble with nerves. —Sis. Velma Mancil

WV—Dear friends: November and December sure were nice months but winter has finally arrived here. When I was younger, winter didn't bother me as much. I haven't been well this fall and winter. Bro. Toney Samons has been calling to see about me. I want to thank you all for the love and help you have given me in these years. Love and prayers, —Sis. Melba Powell

OH—Bro. Larry Abbott is suffering with a physical affliction and is in need of prayer.

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

SPECIAL NOTICES

BUILDING CONTRACTORS NEEDED

The congregation in Alcoa, TN desires to begin the remodeling of our sanctuary. We are searching for building contractors for plumbing, electrical and drywall that are licensed for the State of TN who would be willing to donate their labor toward this project. A quick response to this need would be greatly appreciated. For further information, contact Sis. Mary McDonald at (865) 977-6997 or Bro. & Sis. Dwight Porter at (865) 984-2348. —Sis. Patricia McDonald

Let Us Pray

The soaring warplanes in the sky
 Can never reach God's throne on high,
 Nor can they turn, with all their force
 One star from its appointed course.

But swifter than an eagle's flight,
 Prayer wings its way to heaven's height
 And moves God's arm to undertake
 Deliverance for His people's sake;

And prayer has still a greater power;
 It calms the soul in terror's hour;
 It gives sweet comfort, and a joy
 Earth cannot give, nor war destroy.

Since prayer is God's most gracious plan
 Whereby He links Himself to man,
 Should not His children oftener say
 To one another "Let us pray."

MEETING DATES

Bakersfield, CA (Revival)—Feb. 16-20
General Ministers' Meeting
(Guthrie, OK)—March 3-5
Miami, FL (Spring Meeting)— March 20-27
Oklahoma State (Guthrie, OK)—May 27-June 5
National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 15-24

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

MIAMI, FL, SPRING MEETING

The saints in Miami, FL are looking to the Lord for another outpouring of His blessings on the meeting to be held March 20-27. Services will be nightly at 7:30 p.m. On both Sundays there will be two services.

The chapel is located at 235 N.W. 47th St., Miami, FL. For further information contact Bro. Charles Clay at (305) 235-4271.



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

CA—Dear Bro. Willie: I have enjoyed reading the *Faith and Victory* paper so much this past week. How I would love to have been there for the Assembly Meeting, especially the last Sunday night. I'm sure there was a lot of shouting and praising the Lord going on.

The Lord just blesses me daily. The cold winter weather makes me have a lot more hurts and pains but the Lord is so good to bless and take care of me.

I pray daily for the saints all over the world and for all of the Lord's work.

—Sis. Hazel Savage

OK—Dear Bro. and Sis. Murphey: Greetings in the majestic name of Jesus. The One who is our hope, both in this world and in the world to come.

"For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee." Psalm 84:11-12. "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre." Psalm 45:6. The Lord is blessing us with His loving care. We are encouraged to trust Him and leave all in His hands. Your brother in Christ, —T. V. McMillian

KS—Dear Bro. Willie and saints: I praise God for a continued desire to serve God and be His child. We don't know what the year 2005 holds but we know who holds the future. I am very much encouraged and determined to keep pressing the battle on. May God bless each one. Love, —Sis. Shirley Knight

OK—Dear Bro. Willie: I want to thank all of the saints for their prayers, phone calls, visits and cards during my illness in December. I had a hard fall on Monday, November 29th. I worked all week after the fall and on Friday I was having some discomfort but went on to work. By evening it had worsened and on Saturday morning, December 4th, I was in severe pain in my back. Sis. Anna Jantz suggested three options for me and I knew that going into the nursing home was the best for all. On Sunday I was still in severe pain. I was taken by ambulance to the hospital to have x-rays done so the nursing home workers would know how to care for me. Sis. Anna knew I wanted to trust the Lord and she supported me in doing this. The doctor wanted to admit me and do surgery after the x-rays were read. I told her I wanted to go home. I knew her findings showed it could be fatal. She asked me if I knew what she said. I told her yes and I wanted to go home. I thank the Lord for the miracle He did for me in my body. I spent about a month in the Golden Rule Home. The workers were great. They would tell me they were praying for me. Some of the business people I deal with in my work sent word that they were praying and some came to visit me.

I haven't gained all my strength back but I have gone back to work. I'm thankful to be up and about. God is great and I want to continue to serve Him.

—Sis. Jean Flynn

From Honduras...

February 2, 2005—Dear saints: We send greetings of love to all of you in the precious name of Jesus. We're glad to report victory through His name. The Lord's blessings have been manifold toward us during the past year of 2004. We are so very thankful for His allowing us to have a little part in His great plan of salvation and in His efforts to rescue others from the downward path of sin.

Many thanks to all of you who have been a support to the work of the Lord in Honduras. Your continual prayers and contributions are very much appreciated. May the Lord bless you. The work in Honduras is progressing well, with the Lord's help. We continue to endeavor to carry on in the Christian school in Politilly Bight. We began the school year in February of 2004, with approximately 48 students. The majority of these students were re-enrolling from the previous year. Our school staff this year consisted of: Bro. Doug and Sis. Lenita Wall, Sis. Bonnie Riley, Sis. Neysa Fuller, Sis. Lizeth Belcares (a native saint), Sis. Lucy Hamilton and Sis. Cordy Connor (both natives who previously attended the school), and myself. Their hard work and commitment were a real blessing. The parents of the students are still encouraged in the school and the children are yet showing a lot of love and enthusiasm toward it. Our hope is in God, that He will bless and give full fruition. The past year we were able to witness some of the students give their heart to the Lord and saw others draw a little closer to Him.

Just recently I read a book about the life of George Mueller. He was a man of faith who seemed to love God. He felt that the Lord dealt with him to reach out to the orphaned children. Through the Lord's help he was able to be a blessing to hundreds of children during his lifetime, not only by supplying their temporal needs but also by leading them to the Lord. This book was a real inspiration because I believe that the Lord is still concerned about us taking a real interest in the children. I'm aware that there are those who cannot see the value of a Christian school or that the Lord would choose to reach out to souls in this way. I believe that if we are prayerful and careful to set godly examples before the children this avenue can be very effective. I am very encouraged about the opportunity that we have in Honduras to minister to the children and it is my prayer that many others would lift up their eyes and look on this field! Please pray the Lord of the harvest

that He would send forth more laborers into His harvest.

We have an open door in the public schools here also, which we have begun to step into through a pilot school program. By taking the ACE program into the public schools we are able to teach English speaking children reading and writing skills with a hope of also being able to touch their lives spiritually. During the past year we worked with approximately 50 students in a public school. The school was located in the community of Oak Ridge, on the island of Roatan. We desire to expand this project but do not have the necessary resources and staff at this time.

Lord willing, we are looking forward to another blessed school year to begin in February of 2005. Please keep us in your prayers that the Lord will enable us to meet the challenges as they arise and that His name will be glorified. Pray also for the unsaved that God will awaken their souls and quicken them unto life everlasting. Christian love and prayers,

—Sis. Judy Trepagnier

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From India...

January 27, 2005—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to all of you dear ones again in the precious name of Jesus. Thank you for your letter dated January 14th. May God bless each dear one who prays for and supports our work here.

Our 40th General Convention ended with many blessings and victories. The attendance was good and the messages were very challenging and brought good results and responses. The baptismal service and ordinance service were very blessed services for the edification of the church.

Our convention at Kothamangalam was also a very blessed meeting. Please continue to remember our needs in your prayers. Our prayers are for you every day.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

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From the Philippines...

February 2, 2005—Dear Bro. Willie: Greetings of love, peace and joy to all the saints around the world! Thank you for the continued love and support. I received the *Faith and Victory* paper last Wednesday, January 26th and my heart was greatly touched when I read the letters of Bro. Hyrum Ray and Bro. Dale Doolittle. Their great faith and the love they have in God is very encouraging to us readers and saints. I just can not hold my tears. I will be sixty (60) years old in April and I pray that I will have a

great faith and love for God as I grow old too. I want to serve my Lord until the end. Having loving and caring children of God around us is really a wonderful blessing from the Lord.

Bro. Willie, I hope and pray that you, as well as the workers who are dedicating their lives for the Lord's work at the Print Shop are all doing fine. We are praying for you.

The Muntinlupa Church of God is looking for a place of worship where we could move in the shortest amount of time. We have a problem concerning the rent on the worship house that we are renting. The landlady added 1,000 Pesos to our rent. This January 15th we paid 5,000 Pesos and starting on February 15th we will have to pay 6,000 Pesos. Because of this increase we decided to move out if the Lord will help us find a better place of worship. Please pray for us about this matter. We will talk to the landlady before February 15th. We trust the Lord will guide us and be with us as we reach a final agreement.

We miss you dear saints. We love you with the love of the Lord. Please say hello to Bro. Michael Smith for us. We are praying for him. God bless you all. —Sis. Nellie T. Tibayan

Some of the gospel workers are shown in this photo with the vehicle that was purchased by the saints for the work in Nigeria. Bro. Igbaniho is the third person from the left wearing glasses.

From Nigeria...

January 3, 2005—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey: Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus Christ, the holy Child of God who brought glad tidings of great joy to mankind. What a joy to receive Jesus into one's life and to personally know the relevance of His humble birth. Thanks to our Heavenly Father for performing His mercy and kindness to us, including my unworthy self.

I am glad to report that our national camp meeting planned to be held in Kwale from December 15-19, 2004 took place and ended with victory to the glory of God. The plans of the adversary against us did not become apparent until we arrived at the campground. Besides some difficulties, a number of us including myself, became ill. But the Lord maintained His control of the situation and allowed the flow of His word to enrich souls. His offer of healing also came to us. I was very affected with the loss of most of the strength I had but was raised before our departure from the campground. Praise the Lord! The work was crowned with the baptism of 12 converted souls and that has been our added joy.



With the funds made available to us through the initiative of our dear Bro Michael Smith, we have been able to purchase a nice used motor vehicle for the use of the church in Nigeria. It made its first trip to Kwale with materials, equipment and some young brethren from Port Harcourt to make final preparation for the camp meeting. There was joy everywhere around the surrounding villages where they had gone to give notice for the camp meeting. The vehicle indeed is a great asset to the church and we hope to use it to take the gospel nearer to people. Bro. Michael Smith and all those who had a hand in this worthy project may not be able to know how grateful we are to them. But God knows, Who alone will reward all adequately. Please put us in your prayers that God will use us and the vehicle profitably.

Thanks for your continual support. Thanks to God for the success of the German trip as reported in the December *Faith and Victory*. Put us too in your plans for such visits.

I am sending pictures of the vehicle to you through postal mail. May the Lord bless you in your labor for souls.

Yours in His love,

—Bro. F. Naths-Igbanibo



Patricia L. Cain, daughter of Clifford and Dorothy Wilson, was born on February 11, 1948 in Albany, Oregon and went to her heavenly home on January 18, 2005.

In 1968 Patsy was introduced to Bob Cain in the home of her brother, Ed Wilson, and on July 28 of that year they were united in marriage at the Church of God chapel in Guthrie, OK by Bro. Charles Smith. While still a young mother she was born into God's church and in March of 1979, at a revival meeting in Oklahoma City, she received the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

She is survived by her husband, Bob, of 36 years and their two children, Amy and her husband Brian Hightower and her beloved granddaughter Kayla Hightower, of Guthrie, OK and by Jeffrey Cain and his wife, Cristi, of Oklahoma City, OK. She is also survived by her brothers; Ed Wilson and his wife, Roberta, of Neosho, MO and Dennis Wilson and his wife, Vicki, of Yukon, OK and two sisters; Peg and her husband, Glenn Webb, of Nowata, OK and Candace Wilson of Seaside, OR. Also left behind to mourn her passing are all her students who attended the Crutchcho Christian Academy in Oklahoma City and the Path of Life School in Guthrie where she taught for many years and by all who were touched by her spirit of love and giving. Her life was a testimony of devotion and service to the Lord.

Memorial services were officiated by Sis. Maxine Bushee, Bro. Carl Shaffer and Bro. Charles Chandler. Interment was at Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie, OK.

The Rose Beyond The Wall

Near a shady wall a rose once grew,
Budded and blossomed in God's free light
Watered and fed by morning dew,
Shedding its sweetness day and night.

As it grew and blossomed fair and tall,
Slowly rising to loftier height,
It came to a crevice in the wall
Thru which there shown a beam of light.

Onward it crept with added strength
With never a thought of fear or pride;
It followed the light the crevice's length,
And unfolded itself on the other side.

The light, the dew, the broadening view
Were found the same as they were before;
And lost itself in the beauties new,
Breathing its fragrance more and more.

Shall claim of death cause us to grieve,
And make our courage faint and fall?
Nay! Let us faith and hope receive—
The rose still grows beyond the wall.

Scattering fragrance far and wide,
Just as she did in days of yore,
Just as she did on the other side,
Just as she will for evermore.

WAITING ON THE LORD

Taken from *Heart Talks* by C. W. Naylor.

Some people are always in a hurry about things. If they want to do something or to have something, they cannot wait, they must do it or have it at once. When they are compelled to wait the time seems very long and their impatience grows with every delay. They cannot quietly and patiently wait for anything.

Such persons bring this same characteristic into their spiritual lives. When they pray they want an immediate answer—they want God to hurry up. If the answer is delayed, they get all worked up about it. Sometimes they murmur against the Lord and feel very bad like spoiled children. Sometimes they pray a few times for what they desire and if the answer does not come they conclude that God does not mean to answer them, so they give up seeking for it and sometimes question God's faithfulness. If they see something that needs doing or something that is not going to please them it must be remedied immediately; if it is not, they are much displeased. They cannot wait for a propitious time or till things have worked out so that they can be properly handled. Their motto seems to be, "Do it now." That is all very well for some things but quite frequently it is necessary to patiently wait on the Lord and upon others. We cannot hurry the Lord; all time is His. He works according to His own purposes and will, according to His own wisdom and plans. We cannot choose for Him; we must be willing for Him to choose for us. It must be His to say both as to "when" and "how." Ours is to wait and trust, His to choose and do.

Many years ago I read a story. Later, when I was lying on my bed of affliction and praying earnestly for God to restore my health He brought to my mind this story and applied its lesson to my soul. It was such a help to me that I will give it to you also. I had been much troubled because I was not healed. I would pray very earnestly with a longing that seemed to draw out all my soul. Others would pray also but there was no answer from God. Disappointment and discouragement seemed to shut me in with walls of darkness. A feeling of helplessness and almost of utter hopelessness came over me. I was in this condition when God brought to my memory this long forgotten story and applied it to my heart with a peculiar emphasis that made it a direct message from Him to my soul.

This is the story: The king of a certain country was growing old and he had no son to succeed him. He announced to his people that he would choose an heir to the throne from among the young men of the country by a competitive test which would give all an equal chance. On the day appointed a great number of young men presented themselves. A certain test was made and some failed while others passed. Then other tests came and each time some were rejected till at last only three were left.

They were put through test after test but all seemed equally able to meet them, so the king announced through his heralds that on the next day the matter would be decided by a foot race. The course was marked off, the judges were at their places and all was ready. Just at this time a man came up to each of the contestants and said secretly to him, "The king is taking special note of you. Do not run when the signal is given until the king gives you a special signal." The three took their places, eager for the race. The signal was given. One bounded forward quickly, then hesitated and stopped; then another sprang forward after him, upon which the first started forward again and they ran for the goal with all speed. The third stood looking anxiously at the king and at the two runners, murmuring to himself, "I can make it yet, I can make it yet." The king gazed at the runners and gave no heed to the one still standing. The waiting man thought himself forgotten and soon realized that it would be impossible for him to win the race. He felt that all was lost for him.

The two runners ran on at top speed, reaching the goal together. They were brought back and all three stood before the king. To the first he said, "Were you not told not to run until I gave you the signal? Why then did you run?"

"I forgot," said the man.

Of the second he asked the same question. His reply was, "I thought it would be but a moment till you would give the signal and seeing the other running I ran also."

To the third he said, "And why did not you run?"

"Because you did not give me the signal, sir," he answered.

"My son," said the king, "I knew that you could run but I did not know that you could wait."

So the young man found that the test was not a test of doing but of waiting. And thus the Lord said to me that day, "I knew that you could run; I knew that you would work with all your strength, but can you wait on Me?" These words have been repeated over and over in my heart during the long years. It was a hard lesson to learn and many times I have grown weary; many times I have longed for the end of the waiting, but that lesson has helped me to bear and to wait and to be patient in the waiting. Sometimes it has seemed that the answer would never come. Sometimes it has seemed that the Lord had forgotten. Many times I have had to say to my heart, "Be patient and wait." This is the hardest lesson that many of us ever have to learn but learn it we must if God's will and His plan are to be fulfilled in our lives.

There are some things for which we do not need to wait but for which we need to press our petitions with earnestness and diligence and with an outreaching grasp of faith for a "now" answer—for example, the supplying of a soul-need such as forgiveness or sanctification, or physical or other help where the need is urgent. Sometimes people think that it is not the Lord's time to save or sanctify them or to give them something else that is needed at once, when the trouble is they do not get in earnest enough or do not exercise faith as they might. God's time for necessary things and especially for salvation work is *now*, and if we do not receive when we seek, we may look for the fault in ourselves or in our manner of seeking. Waiting on the Lord is not needful in this class of things and it will only hinder receiving. There are, however, many other things for which we may not know God's time and in the case of which growing impatient and trying to force matters will grieve God and hinder us. Unfulfilled desire patiently and submissively met is often a powerful factor in character-building.

Have you prayed for things, yearned for them, reached out after them, and yet your prayer is not yet answered? Have you been tempted to believe that it was of no use to seek for them? If you are not seeking selfishly, or if God has not denied you, do not lose faith. God has said, "Ask, and ye shall receive;" and again He says, "They shall not be ashamed that wait for me." (Isaiah 49:23.) God is faithful; He knows what is best. As a loving Father He watches over you. His ear is open to your cry. We are told to "rest in the Lord, and wait patiently

for him." Do not grow impatient, do not become wrought up, but while you must wait on the Lord, rest in Him. Jeremiah tells us how to wait for God to deliver—"It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord." (Lamentations 3:26.) Think of that expression, "hope and quietly wait." Do not these words mean confidence and soul-rest? Do they not mean assurance and trust? They do not mean, however, that we should be careless. They imply activity of faith and desire but they shut out fear and unbelief. The Psalmist says, "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart." (Psalm 27:14.) Keep up your courage while you wait, do not grow despondent. Be strong in faith; God will not fail.

Again, we are exhorted to "wait on the Lord, and keep his way." (Psalm 37:34.) If wrongs are not righted, if persecutions continue, if, like Paul, we have a "thorn in the flesh" and our desires are not granted, let us do what this text tells us—let us "keep his way." Let us serve the Lord just as truly as though conditions were ideal and all our desires satisfied. Let us show our fidelity to God by being true whether circumstances are favorable or unfavorable. God promised Abraham the land of Canaan but he went up and down in it for many years as a stranger. His posterity went into Egypt and there, under the lash of the taskmaster they waited, waited, waited. Did not they have God's promise? Had He not said that that goodly land should be theirs? Why did He wait so long? Was this the way that He fulfilled His promise? Had He forgotten them? Did their cries to Him fall on deaf ears? Their waiting was not easy. It was long and oh, how wearisome! Why did God wait so long, was there any adequate reason? Yes, when God waits there is always a good reason for the waiting. His acts are not arbitrary; He does not act according to caprice; He acts wisely and when it is best. He tells us why He delayed in this case; it was because the sins of the Canaanites had not yet come to the full. When they reached that point the Lord fulfilled His promise and led the children of Israel out of their bondage into that goodly land.

Have you learned this lesson of waiting upon the Lord? Can you commit your ways to Him and feel that if desire is still unsatisfied, if obstacles are not yet removed, if trials yet bear upon you, the Father-love is not growing cold, nor His hearing dull, nor has He forgotten? In

the proper time and way the answer will be sure and because of the delay the answer will be fuller and will enrich you more than if it had come when first you asked. Wait patiently on the Lord, trust also in Him, be not weary in well-

doing, and out of your waiting will come strength, and out of your sorrow will come rejoicing, and out of the bitterness will come sweetness, and at the end of the way you will find a crown and life everlasting.



THE HOLINESS OF THE CHURCH

Taken from *The Christian Church: Its Rise and Progress* by H. M. Riggle.

This is the one all-important and absolutely essential attribute of the divine church. Before God put forth the first creative act in the formation of this world, He determined that its inhabitants should be holy. "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." Ephesians 1:4. For this reason He created man in His own image—in His own moral likeness. And this image of God in which man was created and to which he is restored by the all-transforming and sanctifying grace of God is "righteousness and true holiness." (Ephesians 4:24.) "After God" must mean after the original pattern in which man was created—after the moral likeness of His own Maker, which is defined as "righteousness and true holiness." Colossians 3: 9-10, leaves us no shadow of a doubt that this original God-likeness, from which we have the word "godliness," is restored to the soul of man here in this life: "Seeing that ye have put off the old man [evil nature] with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is *renewed* in knowledge *after the image of him that created him*." Here we see that salvation in the second Adam brings back the holy image of God that man lost by sin in the first Adam.

This moral perfection in man is essential to the very object of his being. "And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy." Leviticus 19: 1-2. "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:15-16. Can any thoughtful mind read these words without receiving the impression that God created man to enjoy the blessing of fellowship and companionship with Him? to enjoy the society of God and to be a "worker together with Him" in carrying forward His beneficent plans? The imperative command is, "Be ye holy," and the

one great and all-sufficient reason for the injunction is, "Because I the Lord your God am holy." The import of the reason is this Man was created to walk with God. God being holy, man also must be holy; otherwise there can be no affinity between God and man, no adaptation to each other's society. Therefore when our first parents by sin lost their holiness of heart, the image of God, they were spoiled for His heavenly society. They dreaded His approach and hid with fear and trembling when they heard His voice. They having now become unholy, His holiness drove them out from His presence. And let it here be considered that as heaven is filled with the holiness and presence of God, it is the utmost folly and delusion to cherish a hope of entering into its ineffable glory unless one is made perfect and spotless in holiness before God. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord," but "blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

For this great object was the church established here on earth. She is the mountain of God's own holiness and her plane of moral perfection is the plane of heaven. She is all one "family in heaven and earth," so that all who are in fellowship with her are in fellowship with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ (1 John 1:3) and are consequently fitted for the enjoyment of all the holy society of heaven. The church of the living God is paradise restored on earth, a "new creation." No person can enter it except through salvation from all sin, and no person can remain in the church after he ceases to be holy any more than Adam and Eve could remain in Eden after they had become corrupted by sin. As their own sin made the presence of God unendurable and necessarily drove them out, so "every branch in Christ that bringeth not forth good fruit, the Father taketh away." There are, then, no unholy branches in the Christ-vine. "For if the first-fruit [Christ] be holy....so are the branches." Romans 11:16.

Persons belonging to the different religious organizations that men have founded, it is said, *ought* to be holy, but all the members of God's church *are* holy. When members of a modern sect are judged unworthy of membership it is in the power of its rulers, by some course prescribed in their discipline, to expel such, but when men become unfit to dwell in the body of Christ they thereby forfeit their membership, and, so to speak, expel themselves. God's church is self-adjusting. "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not." "He that committeth sin is of the devil." 1 John 3: 6, 8. By the act of sinning he transfers himself from the family of God to the family of satan. "As the root is holy, so are also the branches." Therefore the unholy are not branches at all.

The chief end of man's existence is to worship the Lord. But how must a holy God be worshipped? Answer: "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." Psalm 29:2. "O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; fear before him, all the earth." Psalm 96:9. The same in substance is required by the Savior in the absolute demand, "God is a Spirit, and they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth." Since God's church is on the plane of spiritual worship to God, it is holy in His sight.

The church is also seen to be holy unto God because He walks in the midst of her. "Where two or three meet in my name, there am I in the midst of them." "And I will manifest myself unto you as I do not unto the world." These and similar statements show a social communion between God and His people in the new Jerusalem, which is the church of the first-born, and holiness is just as essential now to the enjoyment of the society of God as it was when its loss drove Adam and Eve from His presence.

But still more strikingly does the holiness of God's church on earth appear when we consider it as the actual dwelling-place of God. "In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit." "As God hath said, I will dwell in them and walk in them." Can any person conceive of God dwelling in any other than a holy temple? Nay, "the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." 1 Corinthians 3:17. Neither can a few unholy ones pass under cover of the general holiness of others. Had there been a thousand holy men in Eden, they would have intensified rather than decreased the fire of

God's holy presence and would have made the place all the more unendurable to the sinner. So no hypocrite can smuggle himself into the awful temple of God's presence. To the unholy "God is a consuming fire." "Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous." Psalm 1:5. There never was nor ever can be a sinner or unholy person in the church, which is the body of Christ. Such characters may and do assemble with the church and may seek to pass for members of the body, and where the church is deficient in discerning, such may actually pass undetected, but they are not in the church.

The foregoing is apparent when we consider what constitutes membership in any society. First, the conditions and process of becoming a member must be met, and, secondly, the name must be entered on the roll of membership. Therefore the class-book of any sect decides who are and who are not its members. No matter how much a man may affirm his membership,

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"Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, we are CHANGED . . ." II Cor. 3:18

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if his name is not recorded in the class-book his claim is false; and no difference how vile a character may be, if his name stands on the book, he is a member even though the society be ashamed to confess the fact. Now it is by these same two tests that we define membership in God's church. First, all must enter through Christ, the only door, and by the process of salvation (John 10:9; Ephesians 2:8); for there is no other possible admittance. Second, he must have his name in the Lamb's book of life; for there is no other enrollment of the names of all the household of God. Thus no one can enter except by obtaining salvation, and all that are thus born of God do not commit sin but are "holy brethren," and, furthermore, no sinner or hypocrite has deceived God and got his name written down in heaven, and whosoever commits sin and does not continue to overcome, that man's name is blotted out of the book of life. "And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book"

(Exodus 32:33), but "he that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life." Revelation 3:5. There are, then, no sinners' names continued on the book of God's church, nor names of any who have been overcome by the devil or any evil agent. There is not an unholy member in the church of God. She is a "spiritual house, an holy priesthood," "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people" (1 Peter 2:5, 9.) Yea, saith her Lord, "Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee." Song of Solomon 4:7.

GROWING

Unto him that hath, Thou givest
Ever "more abundantly."
Lord, I live because Thou livest,
Therefore give more life to me;
Therefore speed me in the race;
Therefore let me grow in grace

Deepen all Thy work, O Master,
Strengthen every downward root,
Only do Thou ripen faster,
More and more, Thy pleasant fruit.
Purge me, prune me, self abase,
Only let me grow in grace.

Jesus, grace for grace outpouring,
Show me ever greater things;
Raise me higher, sunward soaring,
Mounting as on eagle-wings.
By the brightness of Thy face,
Jesus, let me grow in grace.

Let me grow by sun and shower,
Every moment water me.
Make me really hour by hour
More and more conformed to Thee,
That Thy loving eye may trace,
Day by day my growth in grace.

Let me then be always growing,
Never, never standing still.
Listening, learning, better knowing
Thee and Thy most blessed will.
Till I reach Thy holy place,
Daily let me grow in grace.

—Frances Ridley Havergal

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