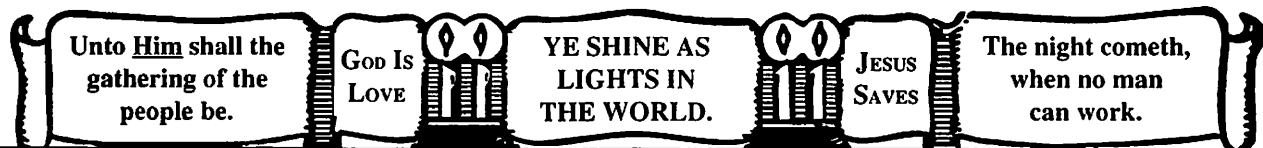


# FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

## Church of God Servant



Volume 83, No. 1      83rd Year      Guthrie, Oklahoma      \$5.00 Per Year      March, 2005

## Are You Feeling Boxed In?

By Sis. Vonda Cole

Are you feeling boxed in by circumstances or situations that you find yourself in? Does it seem that there is no way out? Does it appear that the devil has his sights set on your soul and that there is no letting up? Can you see no light at the end of the tunnel?

Let's look at our greatest example—Jesus, and see how He handled it. As Jesus approached death on the cross, He cried, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Because of the sins He was bearing for you and for me He felt that God had forsaken Him. A child of God will never have to experience the depths of rejection that our Savior felt because we always have Jesus standing at the right arm of God, interceding for us. Jesus realized if He was to stay in the will of His Father He would have to take the path of the cross. So what did He do? He got

alone and prayed. He prayed until he could humble Himself under the mighty hand of God (I Peter 5:6) and say not My will but Thine be done (Matt. 26:39). He prayed until He touched God's throne and had grace to face the complete dejection He felt as he hung on the cross.

After the cross, His body was placed in the grave. Sometimes it is our figurative grave that overwhelms us. We think, "Was it not enough to submit to the situation? Do I really have to LIVE in this boxed in feeling? Do I not only have to die to this situation in life, but does any hope of improvement have to be buried also?" Sometimes the situations in life seem to overwhelm us and cause us to feel boxed in with no outlet, whether it is an affliction of the body, a financial woe or a relationship problem on the job, in the home or in the congregation. The devil will try to get our fleshly eyes to view the situation as hopeless and ignore what our spiritual eyes show us.

Christ faced both and was victorious. (Matthew 27:62-66.) The passage tells us Christ was dead and in the grave, but even that was not enough for Christ's adversaries. They wanted to make certain that a watch was put on the grave and that it was sealed and sure. The adversaries were even given the go-ahead by Pilate, but praise be to God, no power of satan can box in the power of God. We may feel that a particular situation has gone so far that it is comparable to being dead to any change and it is buried in a grave or sealed up in a prison for life with a

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sentry watching to make certain there is no hope of freedom. Our fleshly eyes may see a situation as hopeless. But thanks be to God the same power that brought Christ forth from a sealed tomb is there for us. We have access to that power by touching the throne of God through prayer for the needs in our life. Nothing is too hard for God. Think of all the instances in Bible

times when God did the extraordinary. Next, think of all the reports that you have heard and read about in the Evening Light times and in your ancestors' times. Now, consider all the "Ebenezer Stones" you have in your life. Now you know that nothing is too hard for God—even this current situation! Praise God! Glory and honor be to His name forever and forever!



## GO FORWARD

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

Some time back I was on my way to visit Bro. Paul Eck, one of the brothers in our congregation. Bro. Paul's wife, Sis. Christine Eck, passed away going on three years ago, and he lives alone in the house they had lived in for many years. As I drove along I was thinking about them and what it would be like if Sis. Christine could come back to be with Bro. Paul again as in times past. As I thought about this, the sweet Holy Spirit spoke to my heart and said, "She is not coming back but going forward." I understood right away what this meant. Sis. Christine is going forward, looking for a better day, a better resurrection, and we must all be looking forward to that great and wonderful day of the Lord's glorious appearing and the change from this mortal to immortality. Oh, how my soul was blessed as I meditated on these things! And as in other blessed times when the Holy Spirit has spoken to my soul, several scriptures came forcibly to my mind, illuminating my inner man with a brand new concept of the blessedness of our most holy faith and the hope that Christ has given to us.

I thought about the time when Israel had left Egypt and was being led by the hand of God on their journey to the Canaan land. In Exodus 14 we read about their coming to the Red Sea and how Pharaoh and his host was after them. The people were sore afraid, but the LORD said unto Moses in verse 15, "...Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward." The people had murmured about their peril, saying it would have been better to have stayed in Egypt than to come out here and perish in the wilderness. But the LORD commands them to go forward. Moses had problems with the people in keeping them going forward. Any kind of adversity or obstacle caused them to falter. They even wanted to

thrust Moses away and, as Acts 7:39 says, "...in their hearts turned back again into Egypt." This grieved God greatly and at times He was going to destroy them had not Moses interceded for mercy for them.

Today we are pressing forward on a journey from this life to yonder world to come. Paul said in Philippians 1:21, "To me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." He was pressing on, looking forward to that which was to come. When he was on his way to Jerusalem, forewarned by the Holy Spirit that bonds and afflictions were ahead, he steadfastly declared, "None of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." Acts 20:24. Paul further testified in Philippians 3:7-14 of what he was pressing forward for. He had counted all things but loss that he may win (gain or possess) Christ, be found in Him with His righteousness, to know Him, the power of His resurrection, the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death, that he might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. He says further, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect but I follow after, if that I may apprehend (lay hold of) that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Then he added in verse 15, "Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded:..."

There is no going back at any stage of the game. It is full speed ahead all the way. He said in Hebrews 12:1-2 that in the face of "so great a

cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was **set before Him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Jesus had a work that He was pressing to accomplish, a goal He was seeking to attain to. He did not shrink from the sufferings that He knew He had to go through. He was looking beyond the cross to the glory that He was to enter into.

Paul said to the Philippian brethren that he was "confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform (finish) it until the day of Christ." Philippians 1:6. Song of Solomon 6:10 says, "Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?" Hosea 6:3 says, "Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth." Psalm 110:3 declares that "Thy people shall be willing (freewill offerings) in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning; thou hast the dew of thy youth." Psalm 19:5 describes the sun "as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race." These scriptures picture the sunrise of a new morning that we all look forward to with anticipation. In Psalm 130:6 the writer says, "My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning." We are travelling through this world toward the sunrise of a new day, an eternal day, toward the resurrection and the change from these corruptible temples of clay to bodies fashioned like unto Christ's glorious body. (Philippians 3:20-21.)

I Timothy 6:11-12 says, "Thou, O man of God, flee these things (the love of money and earthly wealth); and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life." In verses 17 to 19 Paul charges us to not trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy, to do good and be rich in good works, laying up in store for ourselves a good foundation for the future, that we may lay hold on eternal life. Hebrews 13:13-14 says, "Let us go forth therefore unto him (Christ) without the camp, bearing his reproach.

For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come." II Peter 1:5-7 speaks to us who have obtained this precious faith, "giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity." And verse 11 says, "For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

Then let us view Paul's words as he was nearing the end of his life's pilgrimage in II Timothy 4:6-8, "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course. I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." Oh, what a blessed hope we have in our Saviour! We have something that we are ardently looking forward to! There is nothing to go back to, or nothing for any of the departed saints to come back to in this world. We are going forward and some day we will reach that goal of life immortal.

## Ascension Song

*"...He ascended up on high...." Ephesians 4:8.*

*Golden harps are sounding, angel voices ring,  
Pearly gates are opened—opened for the King;  
Christ, the King of Glory, Jesus, King of Love,  
Is gone up in triumph to His throne above.  
All His work is ended, joyfully we sing,  
Jesus hath ascended! Glory to our King!*

*He who came to save us, He who bled and died,  
Now is crowned with glory at His Father's side.  
Never more to suffer, never more to die:  
Jesus, King of Glory, is gone up on High.  
All His work is ended, joyfully we sing,  
Jesus hath ascended! Glory to our King!*

*Praying for His children in that blessed place,  
Calling them to glory, sending them His grace;  
His bright home preparing, faithful ones, for you;  
Jesus ever liveth, ever loveth too.  
All His work is ended, joyfully we sing,  
Jesus hath ascended! Glory to our King!*

*—Frances Ridley Havergal*

# FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend camp meetings), by Willie Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044 (USPS184-660).

**(Periodical postage paid at Guthrie, OK)**

Notice to subscribers: When you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your zip code number. The post office now charges 60¢ to notify us of each change of address.

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

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## SUBSCRIPTION RATES



Single copy, one year ..... \$5.00  
Package of 5 papers to one address, one year ..... \$20.00  
Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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

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

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

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

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The Faith and Victory (USPS184-660) is published monthly, except August, for \$5.00 per year by:

### FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

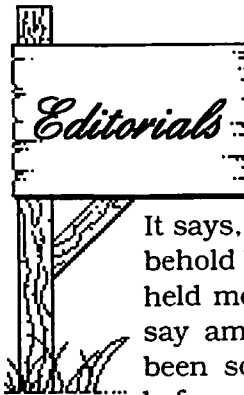
P. O. Box 518, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044  
Office phone numbers: 405-282-1479, 800-767-1479;  
fax number: 405-282-6318.

Internet address: <http://www.faithpublishing.com>

**(Periodical postage paid at Guthrie, OK.)**

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Postmaster: Send address changes to: Faith and Victory, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, OK 73044.



There is a phrase in the second verse of the song entitled *Bright Anticipation* that causes a great feeling of thanksgiving to well up in the depths of my heart.

It says, "When I look o'er the past I behold how His wide arms of mercy held me." Certainly all of us could say amen to that verse. God has been so good to us. He loved us before we loved Him. Even when we

were in sin, He cared for us and made a way for us to be forgiven. He has protected us from many dangers that could have easily destroyed our earthly lives. He has dealt with us so gently and mercifully. The Lord has been so long-suffering and patient with us, and His love has won our heart from the hand of the enemy who desires to destroy us forever. All of our praise truly belongs to Him.

Romans 15:5 says, "Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be like-minded one toward another according to Christ Jesus." Those who have a knowledge of the nature of God know how patient He is and we should be encouraged to also have this godly virtue of patience. If we intend to be successful in our Christian experience, we are going to be required to have a measure of this grace. The verse before this says, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." We can see that patience is a very important component of our hope.

Let us notice an example of a man who did not have enough patience and the serious mistake that he made as a result. In Genesis 25:29-34 we are given the story of the twin brothers Jacob and Esau. Esau was a cunning hunter, but one day he came in from the field after he met with a minor failure and was hungry. His brother, Jacob, had boiled a pot of soup and Esau wanted some of it. Jacob made a deal with Esau to give him the pottage in exchange for the birthright. Esau, in this time of hunger and impatience to have what he wanted, made the exchange and gave the birthright to Jacob. Even though Esau later regretted this foolish trade he could not recall the action that was made in his impatience.

Jesus gave us an example of another man who did not have patience. In Matthew 18:23-35 He told His disciples about the king who had a servant that owed him ten thousand talents. When the servant was asked to pay his debt it says, "The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all." The king had mercy on him and forgave him the debt. How elated this servant must have been to have been forgiven such a huge debt. Sadly this is not the end of the story—he did not live happily ever after. The story continues "But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow-servants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took *him* by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. And his fellow-servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt." Surely when the words, his own words, were spoken—"Have patience and I will pay thee all"—this man's conscience should have caused him to realize that he was about to do something wicked. But no, this man did not have patience and he was hardhearted, unforgiving and unwise, which probably could account for why he had squandered so much of the king's money in the first place. This wicked man was called back into judgment before the king for being unforgiving and the king delivered him to his tormentors until he should pay all that was due him. This parable illustrates the contrast between one having patience, mercy and forgiveness with one lacking these virtues. These three attributes are generally coupled to one another. The first three are manifestations of a tender heart and their absence will be observed in those who have a hard heart. Many times when you find one of these you will also find the other two very close by.

If the truth were known we would likely be shocked by the amount of heartache, suffering and regret that has come to mankind because of impatience. Many rash decisions have been made in a time of anger that if patience could have been allowed to have her perfect work it would have resulted in a much happier, more profitable solution to a problem. Many business deals have been made in a hurry because someone "couldn't wait" and their mistake cost them dearly, possibly thousands of dollars more.

Marriages have been hastily entered into without the individuals seeking the will of the Lord that have caused a lifetime of misery and sorrow. Many inventions that could have greatly benefited man have been lost because in their impatience they threw up their hands and quit too soon. And many souls are lost in eternity today because they likewise gave up too soon.

There is a story of a man named Mr. Darby whose uncle went to Colorado during the days of the Gold Rush in search of the highly prized metal. He staked a claim and went to work to find the treasure that captivated his mind. After weeks of diligent labor he discovered a vein of the shining ore. His discovery was of a magnitude that it required a major investment to purchase machinery to work the claim and bring the ore to the surface. Carefully he covered the discovery and returned to his hometown in Williamsburg, Maryland and told his relatives and a few neighbors of the find. They pooled their resources and purchased the needed machinery and had it shipped to the location of the claim. The uncle and Mr. Darby went back to work the mine. The first car of ore was brought to the surface and shipped to a smelter. The results indicated one of the richest mines in Colorado had been located. A few more shipments would clear the debts and bring them huge profits. With high hopes they proceeded with their work but something serious happened. The vein of gold ore disappeared! They continued drilling but could not relocate the vein. It had vanished so suddenly. In their desperation they sold the machinery to a man for salvage value and went home. The man who purchased the equipment called in a mining engineer to look at the mine and analyze the claim. The engineer informed him that the project had failed because the previous owners were not familiar with the fault lines. He calculated that the vein continued three feet from where the Darbys had stopped drilling. His calculations were accurate. The new owner took millions of dollars in ore from the mine. The Darbys had given up too soon and had failed to seek expert counsel before admitting failure. Had they continued a little longer, they could have been the ones to reap the huge profits from the mine.

Psalm 27:14 gives us this good counsel, "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the

LORD." If we will wait on the Lord, He will cause everything to work together for our good just as His Word promises. But if we become impatient, we will lose the blessing He intends for us and potentially even our souls.

James 5:7 says, "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." All farmers and gardeners know that they cannot harvest their crop the same day they plant the seed. Time must be given to allow the seed to germinate and bring forth a crop. In the case of fruit and nut trees it may be many years before they mature and begin yielding a return on their investment and labor. We are instructed to also be patient. When we deal with souls, we should sow many seeds of love and kindness and then give the seeds time to take effect and produce the desired change. Do not become discouraged and disheartened because the desired result is not immediately observed.

Continuing in this same chapter of James verses 10-11 it says, "Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." The eleventh chapter of Hebrews gives us a listing of the heroes of faith who endured tremendous persecution and tribulation in their life of dedication to God. Their patience is a shining example for us today and should motivate us to endure our light afflictions without murmuring and complaining. The first definition of the word "Patient" in my dictionary says: bearing pain or trials without complaint. How different that is from the people in the world around us. People really notice the difference also. Caregivers in nursing homes can certainly see the difference. It can spoil a ride when you are traveling and have to listen to an impatient driver, and I wouldn't hazard a guess at the number of auto accidents that are caused by them. Complaints abound with people in all areas of their life and the Lord is not pleased nor glorified by their impatient behavior. The Lord understands the cry of His children when they are hurt and in

pain and encourages them to bring their needs to Him in prayer, but one should not attempt to retaliate and become embittered because of these adversities. Humbly submitting to the will of the Father and seeking Him for grace to endure hardness as a good soldier of the cross is the proper approach that will cause this virtue to abound and will bring the blessing of the Lord on our life.

The Word tells us that God will not forget our work and labor of love and He encourages us in Hebrews 6:12 "That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." Verse 15 speaks about the faith and patience of Abraham in this way, "And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise." If we will have faith in God and patiently endure, we will also obtain the promise and eternal reward that God has for us.

Romans 5:3-5 says, "...But we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." These verses show us that it is necessary for us to have tribulation so we can develop patience and mature in the Christian life. If we can fully comprehend the result of this progression it gives us a different perspective of tribulation. We come to recognize that it is something that can bring glory in our life and to the cause of God. It is a fact that all people have tribulation, but we also know that not all people develop patience from those tribulations and many will not endure them in a way that will bring forth righteous fruit in their lives. Tribulations, endured with patience, will cause the dross to be burned from our lives and it will help us to have our values arranged in the proper order. It causes us to identify our weaknesses and helps us to understand our dependance on the strength and mercy of God. They will cause us to be where God wants us to be and will keep us humble and help us keep in close communion with Him. The natural man wants to run from and escape tribulation, but when one realizes that God is in control and will not allow more to touch the lives of His children than we can bear and that they are permitted for our good, we can submit to His perfect will and precious fruit will result.

When we contrast the impatience of Esau with the patience of Job, we are able to see what

a difference this godly virtue makes in a person's life. Esau met with minor failure and lost his birthright and was filled with anger and bitterness at his brother. Job, on the other hand, met with major failure—business and financial, lost his family and even his health, yet he continued to trust in God and would not listen to the voice of the enemy who spoke through his wife tempting him to curse God and die. By holding on to his faith in God, he was brought through these great adversities and was blessed with twice as much as he had before.

When I was a teenager my father had me read the story in *Pilgrim's Progress* of Patience and Passion which is included on the last page of this issue. These two children were very different—Passion was greatly discontent but Patience was very quiet. John Bunyan artfully points out that Patience is willing to wait for the best things and that he will have the glory of his when the other has nothing but rags and that the glory of the next world will never wear out but these are suddenly gone.

May the Lord help us to better perceive the need we have of patience and help us to incorporate this attitude of heart into our life. This virtue does not come naturally because it is contrary to the nature of our flesh. It must be willingly learned through hard trials, adversity and self-denial. By adding this attribute of Divine love as identified in the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of I Corinthians, it will help us to keep on course through many tempestuous storms of life. It will cause us to bear much righteous fruit that will be a wonderful blessing to our fellowman and through the grace and mercy of God it will enable us to finish our earthly race with glorious victory in the Lord.

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We are thankful to the Lord for the progress that has been made on the hardback bindery equipment that is being prepared for operation here at the Lord's Print Shop. We have been working on a machine that takes the trimmed and rounded book block and applies a coating of adhesive to the back of the book. It then meters and trims a strip of fabric reinforcing mesh and places it on the spine of the book block. The gripper chain continues to carry the book to the next station that applies a second coating of adhesive to the spine and then meters, trims and applies a strip of heavy craft paper and fabric headbands at the top and bottom of

the book block. The book then passes a roller that firmly seats the back linings into the adhesives on the book's spine. This machine has now been outfitted with the two drive motors, heating elements in the glue pots and five solenoids that operate and trigger the various operations of the machine. Digital temperature controllers have been purchased for the two glue pots but have not been installed yet.

There were two air-filled rubber tires that applied the adhesives to the spine of the books that were deteriorated and needed to be replaced but a source for them was unable to be located. The Lord blessed us to be able to design and build molds for the tires and one has been successfully poured with a urethane RTV liquid rubber product. We originally purchased a small quantity of the urethane to test the feasibility of the process and we rejoice that it turned out to meet our expectations and appears to be as good or better than the original part. Consequently we have ordered more of the liquid urethane to pour more of the rubber tires.

The mounting plates and connecting linkages for the solenoids had been removed and they now have been redesigned, built and installed on the machine. At this time the machine needs all of the wiring from the electrical parts and microswitches brought together to put it into operating condition. This has been a major project and we are thankful that it is coming together so nicely.

After the completion of this machine it will leave one more, called a book spine nipper, yet needing to be purchased at a cost of about \$4,000- 5,000 more or less depending on what the Lord will help us locate and the procurement of the needed parts and assembly of the Kolbus casemaker which we already have. The casemaker is missing parts that could cost \$4,000-\$5,000 or more also, depending on what we can make or what we have to purchase new. New parts are still available for this German made machine but they are expensive. We are looking forward to the day that the Lord allows these mechanical parts, held together with nuts and bolts, to come alive mechanically and begin to produce the books that we believe will be a blessing to the body of Christ. Great joy fills our heart to see each machine that is already in operating condition begin to move and perform its designated function. It has been a major undertaking for us and there have been many

perplexing challenges along the way but we are encouraged that the Lord is going to bring it to pass. We are doing the best we can with what the Lord has entrusted us with and by His help and grace we want to faithfully do His will.

We appreciate the trust the saints have shown by helping us with this project. There have been many that have given freely to bring us where we are now and we trust the Lord will reward you in a wonderful way for what you have done. We believe the Lord is going to continue to supply the remaining needs of this bindery equipment as well as the needs for the general operation of this publishing work.

This issue marks the beginning of the 83<sup>rd</sup> year that the *Faith and Victory* paper has been published. My grandfather, Fred Puritt, published the first issue in March 1923. His desire was to publish the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ in a pure, holy manner and that continues to be my desire for this publishing work. I believe the Lord has been glorified and the saints of the Church of God have been edified by the many sacrifices that have been made through the years to keep this work going forward and it is our prayer that it will continue to be a clean vessel used by the hand of the Lord until He returns for His faithful children. By holding fast to the truth of the Scriptures this publication has been a beacon of light in a dark world. As the world continues to darken the beams of truth will become more visible and those with honest hearts will be drawn closer together in the bond of holiness. As God's people become willing to do more, the beams will become brighter. Pray with us that the enemy of souls will be defeated, that the accuser of the brethren will be cast down, that the lies and distortions of satan will be exposed, that the misunderstandings will be clarified by the light of Truth and the true people of God will be unified by the Holy Spirit into a powerful force against evil. Not only do I believe it is possible, but I believe it is the will of God that His body of saints be victorious and triumph over evil every day. If His people will stir themselves, much more can be done. Give your loaves and fishes to the Lord in full consecration and you will be surprised what the Master will do with them and you will also enjoy the blessings that inevitably result.

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



CA—I have shingles; how painful it is. I'm thankful to the Lord for not letting it be something worse. It's wonderful that we can call on the saints for prayer. Please continue to remember me in prayer as it is still very painful to move around.

Also remember my cousin, Beverly Cardoza, in prayer. Only one third of her heart is working and she has not been doing well.

—Sis. Doris Pihaylic

SC—Pray for Thelma Minton. She is the sister of two ladies in our congregation. She suffered a heart attack and was told that she had one artery that was completely blocked and another that is 60% blocked. Her sister, Mazie, called for prayer, and I assured her I would pass along the prayer request. —Sis. Cheryl Smith

Philippines—Remember Bro. Santiago Ubaldo's family in prayer. They recently lost their 11 year-old daughter due to a serious contagious, viral outbreak that is occurring in the Philippines. Also pray that God will keep the other saints in that area from coming down with it.

## 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. Marie Mitchell  
Sis. Melba Powell  
Sis. Anna Severs  
Sis. Catherine Shaffer  
The Mitch Taylor family



**MEETING DATES**

- Shawnee, OK (Revival)**—March 6-13
- Miami, FL (Spring Meeting)**—March 20-27
- Enterprise, AL (Spring Singing)**—April 2
- Boley, OK (Spring Meeting)**—April 15-17
- Wichita, KS (Spring Meeting)**—April 24-May 1
- Oklahoma State (Guthrie, OK)**—May 27-June 5
- Holly Hill, SC**—May 29-June 5
- Green Bank, WV**—June 10-16
- Okmulgee, OK (Sisters' Retreat)**—June 24-25
- General Southern (Loranger, LA)**—June 26-July 3
- National (Mouark Springs, MO)**—July 15-24

**MEETING NOTICES**

**SHAWNEE, OK, SPRING REVIVAL**

The Shawnee, OK congregation is planning, Lord willing, a revival meeting beginning Sunday morning, March 6th, 2005 through Sunday night, March 13th, 2005. Sunday services will be Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. with worship services at 10:45 a.m. Evening services will be at 7:00 p.m. nightly. On the last Sunday, March 13th, lunch will be served after the morning services. Bro. Marty Clevenger has expressed a burden and will be the evangelist. We want to extend a cordial invitation to all and solicit your prayers that the Lord will bless this meeting and any outreach efforts made. The chapel is located at 1415 South Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK. For further information call the pastor, Bro. Carl Shaffer 405-279-3939. The chapel phone is 405-273-2170.

**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. 47<sup>th</sup> St., Miami, FL. For further information contact Bro. Charles Clay at (305) 235-4271.

**ENTERPRISE, AL, SPRING SINGING**

The Church of God congregation at the Enterprise Community near Warrior, AL is planning a singing April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel. Activities and a couple of sessions will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning at the park in Hanceville, which is the same place as last year. On the following day, April 3, there

will be dinner on the grounds with services at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. The chapel is located approximately two miles west of Interstate 65 at exit number 289. For more information please contact Bro. Roy Herron at (205) 647-7869 or Bro. Marshall Whitson at (205) 647-6325.

**BOLEY, OK, SPRING MEETING**

The Boley, OK Church of God Spring Meeting will be held April 15-17, 2005. Lord willing, the services will be Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday services at 11:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday school will be at 9:45 a.m. with worship services at 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. (no Sunday night services.) We appreciate all the ministers' and saints' support and prayers for our meeting. The Boley Church of God is located on Oak Street just north of Boley High School.

—Submitted by Sis. Savannah King (918) 667-3654 or (918) 667-3392. Sis. Anna Mae Thompson, pastor.

**WICHITA, KS, SPRING MEETING AND OPEN HOUSE**

April 24 through May 1, 2005 has been set for the Wichita Spring Meeting. This will be our first revival in the new chapel and we want to invite all who would like to see the new facility to join us on Sunday, April 24, for our open house and dedication service. The special service will be held starting at 11:00 a.m. Dinner will be served after the service and tours of the building will be given. All who can are invited to please come and be with us.

Monday through Saturday we will have morning services at 11:00 a.m. and evening services at 7:30 p.m. Please pray that the Lord will bless in every phase of the meeting. There are some souls in serious need of salvation and some in need of sanctification. We have a number of sick and infirm who need to be healed. We desire the power of God to come down and overshadow us.

If you need further information you may contact Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at (316) 778-1848 or Bro. Theodore McCray (316) 682-3152. The church phone is (316) 267-9582. The new chapel is located at 2509 North Grove. Directions for arriving from the south: Exit I-35 turnpike at first Wichita exit #42, I-135, continue north on I-135 to the 13<sup>th</sup> Street exit. Turn

right (east) on 13<sup>th</sup> Street and go to Grove Street. Turn left (north) on Grove and go past 24<sup>th</sup> Street. The chapel is the second building on the left at 2509 North Grove.

### OKMULGEE, OK, SISTERS' RETREAT

The dates for the Sisters' Retreat are set for June 24-25, Friday and Saturday, at Okmulgee, OK.

For further information please contact Sis. Mary McDonald at (865) 977-6997 or Sis. Carrie Porter at (865) 982-2348. More information will be forthcoming.



## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

MI—Dear Bro. Willie: I send greetings in Jesus' name. I enjoy the paper and its good articles. May the Lord bless that the truth would continue to be put forth by the *Faith and Victory* paper. In these perilous times of much trouble we need to stay hid away in Christ Jesus at all times. Your brother in Christ,

—Milford E. Parsons

AR—Greetings in Jesus' name: I trust that all are encouraged at the shop at this time and are holding fast to the Word of God and all truth. It seems that there is a lack of trust in the Word and God's promises out in the world, more so now than in times past.

Be sure that the Lord's way is held up in our lives and perhaps someone might be helped by our faith. Amen! With love to all,

—Bro. Roy and Sis. Virginia Harmon

KS—Dear Willie Murphey: A few weeks ago there was a severe ice storm in our area. Almost everyone's electricity was out and only a few homes had heat. The Lord was so good to us. My neighbor took me in and they were so kind. They had no electricity but they had a wood stove they used for heat and they had oil and oil burning lamps. When I was able to return home after those five nights there was not a water line broken. How very thankful I was! Christian love,

—Sis. Naomi Hiebert

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: I am very much encouraged. I am still trusting in the Lord for everything and have it all in the hands of God. The Lord said in the Bible in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;..." I am going through the shadow of death. I am looking to see our home in heaven. I am not afraid. My God will help me get to that place we call heaven. I am your sister in Christ,

—Mary O. Jones

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greeting of Christian love. I hope all is going well with you and all of the ones at the Print Shop. We do appreciate all that the dear Lord is accomplishing through the printed page. As we are faithful to do our little part, God is faithful to do His. Paul said, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase." It is wonderful to be laborers together with God. Paul said in one place "...for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." I Timothy 4:16. It is encouraging to know that the dear Lord is calling more young men and women into the ministry. Each one has their place, whether it be a ministry of singing, preaching, giving or whatever it may be. It means a lot just to be a vessel for the Lord and to be faithful. Paul said, "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry." I Timothy 1:12.

"Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power; Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ." Ephesians 3:7-8. Paul said, "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all." I Timothy 4:15. Bro. O. B. Wilson Sr. used to say the call to the ministry of the gospel is a greater call than the president of the United States, because the President is ministering in temporal things but the gospel preacher is ministering in eternal things—things that have to do with the souls of men. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." I Peter 1:23-25.

Your brother in Christ, —T. V. McMillian

MO—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Luke 10:17-20 has challenged and encouraged me lately. "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." What a promise for the first month of a new year. "Behold, I give unto you power..." Power to conquer my own individual battles. Power to pray down victory for the church and other needs. That promise gives us courage and faith for tomorrow because He has already said that "Nothing shall by any means hurt you." Jesus told His disciples, then and today, to rejoice in our salvation, not because the devils are subject to you. The Lord brought to my mind a story the children had on tape.

A king heard about an extremely wise man in his country and set out to find him. He disguised himself as a pauper and at last found a very poor but very wise man living in the mountains. Shortly thereafter the king made this man like a governor over his kingdom and this poor, humble shepherd was promoted to great authority. Everything went well for a time and then rumors got back to the king that the governor kept a trunk with him at all times that was double locked and nobody knew what was in it. Some of the constituents were spreading rumors that he was stealing money from the king. So the king looked him up once again and demanded that the trunk be unlocked and the contents revealed. When the trunk was opened the shepherd-turned-wise-man took out his shepherd's staff and his lambskin that he wore for warmth out on the mountainside. His purpose for keeping these two inexpensive items with him at all times? To remind him of his humble beginning so he would never get proud and lifted up above the people he was to judge.

To me, this is what Jesus is telling us to do; realize that the Lord has all power in heaven and earth and that He is giving the power to you. But never, Never, NEVER forget that you were "once lost and undone without God or His Son, 'til He reached down His hand for you." That knowledge will make us more compassionate with our brothers and sisters instead of lording over

them. What wisdom our Savior has. May we each one grasp the power that God has available for us and use it against the devil in 2005. —Sis. Anita Adams

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**From India...**

February 24, 2005—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to all you dear ones again in the precious name of Jesus. Thank you for your letter dated February 8 and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude. May God bless the hands of each donor who supports and prays for our ministry in India.

By faith we have started to build the prayer hall at Vadasserikara which is one of our new stations in the hill area. The foundation work is going on now. The poor people there walk miles to get drinking water. Please pray and support the building of this prayer hall.

Very recently we started our work at another new place, by name OYOOR. Please pray for this field also. May God bless the ministry of God in every nation. —Bro. John Varghese

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**From the Philippines...**

February 22, 2005—Dear Bro Willie and family: Greetings to you this New Year of our Lord, 2005. We have much to thank the Lord for, how He helped us through the past year. Our faith and trust is in Him as we face this New Year. We pray that you and your family are doing well in body and soul and it is the same with us. Praise God!

After eight precious souls were baptized at San Quintin, Pangasinan, twenty-four more souls have also accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. We had their baptismal service at the campground in Lomboy Bukid on January 23rd. There were two precious souls saved in Natividad, Nueva Ecija where there is a new opening that God has lead us, by the Holy Spirit, to evangelize after San Quintin. And this coming Monday these two precious souls are ready to be baptized. We felt the good hand of God helping us!

I apologize, my dear brother, that I was not able to write you sooner. I was slow in sending a letter to you because I have been away in the evangelistic work. Another reason is because there has been an unexpected disease that came to the daughter of pastor Santiago Ubaldo. This disease caused the quick death of his daughter, Bugshot. If you are familiar with SARS, another virus with the same effect we call

MENONGGOC OCSIMIA hit this 11 year-old girl. She was the happy, active, lovely daughter of Bro. Ubaldo. We remember her special singing in the church services together with her family. She was a very lively, young child and enjoyed participating in church services and activities. She was always near her mother's side. One painful circumstance is that the doctors declared her cause of death without exact confirmation. All of the officials were greatly alarmed. The police and doctors went to their house and said that they must bury her body at once before the virus could spread. So at 6 p.m. we were required to take her to the cemetery but the Barangay official would not accept the body for burial in their community cemetery. All of the people in that place were afraid. They were putting on gas masks or holding handkerchiefs to their noses and they did not want to touch the casket to put it in the funeral car. So Bro. Mike, Bro. Santiago, his son, Bro. Daniel (his name is the same as mine—he is a young pastor that I trained in Natividad) and myself handled the casket. Then we took it to the town proper of Llanera to bury the body. We were accompanied with an escort of government officials. We reached there at 11:00 p.m. Then we were told that we possibly also were contaminated and had to be observed for two weeks before we were free to deal with other people. Three days after the burial I became very sick and was running a high fever. I thought I was contaminated with the virus. My family was alarmed but God helped me and saved me. Now I am okay. One reason I didn't write sooner is because the virus can be carried by the paper and ink that I would use. But God helped us to survive. Please pray for the Ubaldo family and for all of us here.

We pray the Lord will keep us in His love and care. He has been so good to us and we cannot praise the Lord enough for the health He gives us and for His protection and answers to prayers.

Yours in Him, —Bro. Daniel Vedania



**www.africamission.com**

The above website is now operational. The site details the history of the Church of God missionary efforts in Africa. There are various photo galleries that depict different aspects of the gospel work, culture and scenery of given African countries.

—Bro. Michael Smith



**Sis. Gladys Elnora Smoot** left this world to be with her Lord on January 14, 2005. She was born June 15, 1918, in Louin, MS. At the time of her passing, she was a resident of Manor Care of Midwest City, OK. Sis. Smoot was a faithful saint of God and attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Church of God, Oklahoma City, where she will be greatly missed. Her husband, Bro. Archie A. Smoot, preceded her in death.

She is survived by three sons, Larry Smoot and wife Gloria of Choctaw, OK, Gary Smoot and wife Susan of Oklahoma City and Raymond Smoot and wife Lorraine of Midwest City, OK; 7 grandchildren: Tiffiny Patterson, Lisa Davis, Todd Smoot, Tina Dewey, Kelly Smoot, Kerry Smoot and Ryan Smoot; 7 great-grandchildren: Kyle Hollinsworth, Hannah Smoot, Lydia, Emily, Katie and Spencer Davis and Anna Dewey; one sister, Catherine Shaffer of Shawnee, OK, numerous nieces and nephews, and a host of other friends, family and saints who loved her dearly.

Funeral services were held at the Bill Eisenhower Northeast Chapel on Monday, January 17, 2005, with interment at Arlington Memorial Gardens. The service was conducted by Sis. Maxine Busbee and Sis. Vicki Wilson.



**Bro. Joe Earl Sorrell** was born March 9, 1938 to Earl and Leta Sorrell of Randolph County, AR, the third of four children. He died December 16, 2004. He was raised in Myrtle, MO, where he spent the first 18 years of his life. Joe married Aquilla Mae Miller from Kennett, MO on August 1, 1957. They had three children, Janet Earline, Barry Mac and Sandra Jeanine.

He worked as a machinist for 15 years in addition to running his own farm. He greatly enjoyed farming as well as hunting deer and elk. Bro. Joe moved from West Plains, MO to Oklahoma City.

Bro. Joe is survived by his wife, Sis. Aquilla Sorrell, children Janet (Bobby) Forbes of Amite, LA, Barry (Lisa) Sorrell of West Plains, MO and Sandra (Dennis) Sorrell of Salem, AR; grandchildren: Alan Forbes, Stephen Forbes, Cherie Forbes, Anthony Sorrell, Jason Sorrell, Rhonda Sorrell and Shonda Sorrell; siblings: Sherman H. Sorrell and Leta Coquette Butler and many nieces and nephews.

His parents and his older brother Edward Lee Sorrell preceded him in death.

Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, December 18 in the Smith & Turner Chapel with burial following in the Summit View Cemetery in Guthrie, OK.

**Bro. Woodrow Warren** was born January 4, 1919, the fourth child of nine, to Lucas and Mellie (Jefferies) Warren of Mounds, OK. Both parents have preceded him in death, along with three brothers and two sisters. Woodrow crossed over into eternal life on Monday, February 14, 2005.

Woodrow married Postena Blanche Galloway in 1939 and relocated from Mounds to Beggs, OK where they purchased a home on forty acres. To this loving union of twenty-two years, thirteen children were born; whereby, three have preceded him in death; Thermapple, William and Woodrow Jr. Postena preceded him in death on February 25, 1961. In 1962, Woodrow married Laura Alexander and they relocated to Okmulgee, OK in 1963. She preceded him in death on August of 1982.

In 1958, Woodrow started pastoring the Church of God Evening Light saints congregation in Okmulgee, OK. A few years later, he also accepted the responsibility of pastoring the Church of God Evening Light saints congregation in Hoffman, OK.

As a faithful servant of God, Woodrow founded and helped to establish several churches within the Reformation, whereby the last church was established in Tennessee. He was frequently called to minister the Word of God during revivals, baptismals, funerals, weddings and anniversaries in the following states on a regular basis: Alabama, California, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon and Tennessee.

As a community leader, Woodrow also helped to establish the "meals on wheels" program in

Okmulgee County, as well as the Okmulgee School for the mentally and physically challenged.

Moreover, Woodrow will be fondly remembered throughout the communities of Boley, Hoffman, Oklahoma City, Okmulgee and Tulsa, for his dedicated service to the children by providing daily transportation to attend Vacation Bible School. As the children eagerly waited to be picked up, no matter how full the "little red bus" became, Woodrow, with a big smile, would stop and say, "There's always room for one more!" "Everybody come back tomorrow and bring somebody else with ya."

By serving the community in this capacity, numerous children were exposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and many were saved.

During his final hours, Woodrow continued to express love by urging all "to get your house in order and come go with me."

Woodrow leaves to continue his legacy ten children: Frances M. Busby (Ralph) of Okmulgee, OK; Lucas M. (JoAnn) of Oklahoma City, OK; Ruth E. Garcia (Drake) of Oklahoma City, OK; Marjorie A. Thompson (Gerard) of Oklahoma City, OK; Joseph R. of San Diego, CA; Dr. Robert L. (Sherry) of Jones, OK; James W. of Ontario, CA; Charlotte A. Warren of Oklahoma City, OK; Mary L. Warren of Ponca City, OK; and Bruce E. of Tulsa, OK; thirty-five grandchildren, thirty-seven great-grandchildren; three sisters: Ora Lee Johnson of Preston, OK; Anna Mae Simmons (Charles) and Etta Lou Evans all of Columbus, OH; and a sister-in-law, Gustava Anderson of Hoffman, OK. Woodrow also leaves to cherish his memory, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, as well as his church families that he pastored for forty-seven years, located in Okmulgee and Hoffman, OK.

## He Will Help

By Bro. Tom Stoliker

Our God is here, to help us through,  
 When others left behind are few,  
 He knows our every heart-felt need  
 Through this life He helps to lead,  
 He'll take our hand to comfort bring,  
 He'll teach us how again to sing,  
 It may take time, but strength He'll give.  
 Once again, He'll teach to live  
 He'll make us feel His presence new,  
 He does not lie, His words are true,  
 He stays with us, through all the things,  
 And so to us, His love He brings.

# The Rod of God

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

“And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee. And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand.” Exodus 4:1-4.

This was the beginning of signs to Moses that the Lord was with him when he was commissioned to stand before Pharaoh and ask for the Israelites to leave. After two more signs proving divine guidance, the Lord said to Moses: “And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.”

The rod of Moses was an ordinary shepherd’s stick made of hard wood, oiled, smooth with wear and seasoned by the sun. However, when touched by the hand of God, it became symbolic of miracles.

When Moses and Aaron stood before Pharaoh, Aaron threw down the rod and it became a serpent that swallowed up the magicians’ serpents. By the command of God, Moses stretched his rod over the Nile River and it turned to blood. Frogs multiplied and infested the land because Moses put his rod over the waters of Egypt. Later, he smote the dust of the land and lice covered all the Egyptians and their animals. Pointing his rod toward heaven, hail came. Later, the stretched out rod brought devouring locusts. Yet another time Moses used the rod to bring darkness over the land of Egypt. (Exodus 7:10-13; 8:6; 8:16; 9:23; 10:13.)

The magicians told Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.”

Indeed, God was demanding deliverance for his people who were in bondage to a cruel taskmaster. The Lord had ordained the rod to bring judgment upon wicked Pharaoh and to help those crying out to Him. Pharaoh was living lavish and haughty in spirit until God was finished with him. The Egyptians under his dominion suffered the same consequences because of their ruler’s decisions and because of their own. Only those who put blood on their doorpost, fulfilled the requirements for the Pass-

over and moved out when the command was given were delivered from bondage. So the rod helped deliver those who respected it but it condemned those who resisted it.

After the mixed multitude of over six hundred thousand people entered the wilderness, the rod was needed to comfort them and to provide a way of survival for them. When they came upon the wide Red Sea and Pharaoh’s army was pursuing them, Moses stretched his rod across the sea and it parted to let his people cross safely on dry land. The waters returned upon Pharaoh’s men and they were destroyed. After a few days in the wilderness, the people cried out for water. Obeying God, Moses took his rod and struck a rock which brought forth clear water for all to drink. (Exodus 14:16; 17:6.)

During the battle with Amalek, Moses held the rod of God over the battlefield valley where the young man, Joshua, led the Israelites in the fight. As long as Moses held the rod straight over the valley, the Israelites prevailed or were winning. Whenever his hand drooped and the rod lowered, the enemy gained an advantage. Aaron and his son, Hur, helped hold Moses’ hand which held the rod straight over the valley. “And his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.” (Exodus 17:8-16.) Held high and straight, the rod symbolized victory and conquering power.

After the Lord’s tabernacle had been built in the wilderness, the twelve tribes began to bicker over which tribe would care for the Lord’s house. The Lord told Moses to take one rod from each tribe and write the name of one prince from each tribe on a rod. Aaron’s name was written on the rod for the tribe of Levi. These twelve rods were laid before the Lord in the tabernacle of witness. “And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms and yielded almonds. And Moses brought out all the rods from before the Lord unto all the children of Israel; and they looked, and took every man his rod.” (Numbers 17.) This rod was kept perpetually in the ark of the covenant to remind them that God judges and rules over his people.

The Lord our God spoke in the days of Moses. He commanded and expected respect.

The rod represented a visual connection with God, and it was prophesied that "The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion..." Psalm 110:2.

Isaiah 11:1-4 tells about the Rod of God eloquently. "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked."

Who is this Rod out of the stem of Jesse? Our King and Saviour, Jesus Christ! He who came to bring deliverance from sin. His spirit of wisdom and understanding is from His Father which He testified Himself. God the Father spoke from heaven and declared it so. Some thought it had thundered, but Jesus said, "...This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes. Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:30-32. When the Rod of God was lifted up on the cross, judgment was cast on those who rejected Christ, but for the believing slaves of sin, deliverance was instituted that day.

The Words of Jesus Christ are powerful. The Rod of His mouth, the Truth, helps those who respect and obey them, or it condemns those who reject and disobey them. Moses spoke to a self-righteous Pharaoh, and in like manner Jesus told the fault-finding Pharisees, "...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free....If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:31-36. Freedom comes through the Rod of Truth. Jesus Christ and His Words of Truth (Doctrine) are one, the same, synonymous. (John 1:1-14)


Whenever the Words of Jesus are held high in esteem and obeyed, the enemy or devil is conquered, as it was when Moses held the rod over the battlefield. If the rod droops or falls, the enemy gains advantage. What are the (words,

teaching, doctrine) of Jesus Christ?

The Sermon on the Mount resounds with a high standard of spiritual truth that defeats the enemy. (Matthew 5-7.) Living according to these words of Jesus, the devil will be conquered and victories will be gained. All the parables and instructions from the lips of Jesus are to be respected and obeyed. We cannot win spiritual battles in our human strength, but when the Rod struck the Rock, the refreshing of the Holy Spirit began to flow for believers who trust in Him. The Holy Spirit guides, teaches, reproves, and comforts. (John 14:26-27.)

Today Jesus Christ—the ordinary shepherd's rod, made of hard wood, oiled, smooth with wear and seasoned by the sun—is still blooming and producing almonds like Aaron's rod, for He is our great high priest who is touched by our infirmities. (Hebrews 4:15-16.) Spiritual miracles happen when this Rod is lifted up against the enemy of our souls. Be assured that we are not alone in the battle but His Rod and His staff they comfort us.

## Bible Lessons



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

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# Patience And Passion

Taken from *Pilgrim's Progress*.

I saw moreover in my dream, that the Interpreter took him by the hand, and had him into a little room, where sat two little children, each one in his chair. The name of the eldest was Passion, and the name of the other Patience. Passion seemed to be much discontent, but Patience was very quiet. Then Christian asked, "What is the reason of the discontent of Passion?" The Interpreter answered, "The governor of them would have him stay for his best things till the beginning of the next year, but he will have all now; but Patience is willing to wait."

Then I saw that one came to Passion, and brought him a bag of treasure, and poured it down at his feet: the which he took up, and rejoiced therein, and withal laughed Patience to scorn. But I beheld but awhile, and he had lavished all away, and had nothing left him but rags.

*Chr.* Then said Christian to the Interpreter, Expound this matter more fully to me.

*Inter.* So he said, These two lads are figures; Passion of the men of this world, and Patience of the men of that which is to come; for, as here thou seest, passion will have all now, this year, that is to say, in this world; so are the men of this world: They must have all their good things now; they cannot stay till the next year, that is, until the next world, for their portion of good. That proverb, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," is of more authority with them than are all the divine testimonies of the good of the world to come. But as thou sawest that he had quickly lavished all away, and had presently left him nothing but rags, so will it be with all such men at the end of this world.

*Chr.* Then said Christian, "Now I see that Patience has the best wisdom, and that upon many accounts. 1. Because he stays for the best things. 2. And also because he will have the glory of his, when the other has nothing but rags."

*Inter.* Nay, you may add another, to wit, the glory of the next world will never wear out, but these are suddenly gone. Therefore Passion had not so much reason to laugh at Patience because he had his good things first, as Patience will have to laugh at Passion because he had his best things last; for first must give place to last, because last must have his time to come, but last gives place to nothing, for there is not another to succeed. He, therefore, that hath his portion first, must needs have a time to spend it, but he that hath his portion last, must have it lastingly, therefore it is said of Dives, "In thy lifetime thou receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented." (Luke 16:25.)

*Chr.* Then I perceive it is not best to covet things that are now, but to wait for things to come.

*Inter.* You say truth: For the things that are seen are temporal, but the things that are not seen are eternal (II Corinthians 4: 18.) But though this be so, yet since things present and our fleshly appetite are such near neighbors one to another; and again, because things to come and carnal sense are such strangers one to another; therefore it is, that the first of these so suddenly fall into amity, and that distance is so continued between the second.

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