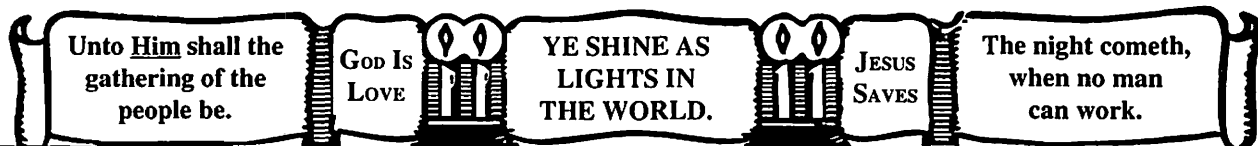


# FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

## Church of God Servant



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### ENTERING INTO GOD'S REST

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

"Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it." Hebrews 4:1. There is a rest, a ceasing from work, that our Heavenly Father desires every soul to enter into. In the Old Testament we have some types and shadows of this blessed holy rest portrayed that the writer here in Hebrews makes mention of. In chapter 3, verse 6, he brings out about Christ "as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." With this thought of holding fast our confidence and hope, he quotes from Psalm 95:7-11 as the voice of the Holy Spirit admonishing us to not harden our hearts as was previously done by the children of Israel. This was the time when they hardened their hearts and refused to go forward to take possession of the land of their rest, the promised inheritance of the land of Canaan.

(Numbers 13-14.) God had instructed them to send twelve spies over into the Canaan land to report on things there. Two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, brought back a good report and encouraged the people to go forward to take the land. But the other ten spies brought back an evil report of utter impossibility to which the people gave their support. For forty years these people had seen God's wonderful works, and this expression of their hardened and unbelieving hearts crossed the boundary of God's wrath. So God swore in His wrath that they would not enter into His rest, which was to be theirs in their possession of the Canaan land.

We see that this Canaan land rest is connected up with the Seventh Day Sabbath rest, instituted at the dawn of Creation by God and first given to the children of Israel when the Lord sent them "bread from heaven" (Exodus 16:23-30.) and also brought in with the Ten Commandments given on Mt. Sinai. The writer goes on in Heb. 4, after exhorting us to fear lest we come short of His rest, and says, "For unto us was the gospel preached as well as unto them, but the word preached, did not profit them: not being mixed with faith in them that heard it." This was the "gospel" to Israel, that God was giving them the Canaan land for their possession. It would be theirs by their faith and obedience to go forward and take possession of it. Here is where they fell short and provoked God to anger. They refused to believe Moses and the two faithful spies, Joshua and Caleb, and rose up against them.

Note verse 3: "For we which have believed do enter into rest..." This is referring to us in the

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New Testament ministrations of grace. Through our faith and obedience to Christ we enter into rest, a spiritual Sabbath rest of ceasing from our own works. Then he brings in the Sabbath Day rest: "As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest." Here he unites these two rests (the Sabbath day rest and the Canaan rest) as types of the spiritual rest in Christ. Those back there could not enter in because of unbelief, so He marks out again a certain day, speaking to us through David, "To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts." Then he said, "For if Jesus (this is referring to Joshua) had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day." So he concludes: "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God." Verse 10 states: "For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his." Then he solemnly exhorts us: "Let us labour (strive and seek earnestly) therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."

What is the message here? God is yet offering to us an entrance into His rest. This is a spiritual rest, a rest of the soul, a ceasing from works of self and the flesh, while partaking of the joy of the Holy Spirit's guidance and inspiring strength. It is the New Testament Sabbath of which the Canaan rest and the Seventh Day Rest are both types. Paul said in Colossians 2:16,17: "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body (fulfillment) is of Christ." Jesus said in Matthew 11:28, 29: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Bro. D. S. Warner expressed it in the song: "If thou wilt know the fountain deep of sweet unbroken rest: the rest of faith thy soul shall keep. He that believes is ever blest." It is a spiritual Sabbath rest that we call a delight, as Isaiah 58:13 says, to "honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:" It means a lot to deny self, give up our ways, consecrate to all the will of God, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and enter into this spiritual Canaan rest. This is

entire sanctification, the Holy Spirit filled life. It is not our own striving, pushing and shoving, but a ceasing from self and its vanity and following the example of the Lord Jesus in His meek and lowly way. It is believing God and taking Him at His word in a positive and determined way. Oh, the rest that fills our souls when we walk by faith and not by sight!

Unbelief, doubts and fears will rob you of your soul rest. We must exercise ourselves to trust in God for all things. Hurt feelings must be subdued and not allowed any rule in our actions and ways. We must forgive injuries and wrongs inflicted by others. No retaliation or defense of self must be allowed, and no striving to prove one's point. It will eliminate talkativeness, and a critical and fault-finding attitude. We can rest from worry and hurry. Think how these two elements destroy the rest of the soul! As it has been said, "When you are worrying you are not trusting, and when you are trusting you are not worrying." Watch out for that hurry, scurry frame of mind. Learn to wait on God. Psalm 37:7 says, "Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him:..." Verse 8 says, "Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil." Watch out for the overburdening cares of life. Jesus said in Luke 21:34, "Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting (overeating), and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." Let not tomorrow's cares bother you. Jesus said, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow:...5555" Matthew 6:34. Learn to commit things to God. Do not be under a strain about people. Live above the din of earthly strife. Do not be overly anxious about anything. Do not get too sensitive about your service to God, but pray earnestly and let God work in you. It is not your work, but it is His. Waste no time assuming to be a judge of people. Leave that to God. Do not get involved in other people's conflicts, nor be bothered about what they think. Watch out for financial pressures and worries. This world is full of them. Do not fall into the snare of being overly careful about your personal appearance and attraction. Be modest and plain, and let your beauty be that of Christ shining through you. Watch out for self-criticism and depression. Learn to trust God's love and care for you. Learn to be content with such things as you have, and stay out of debt. There are many hindrances that can and will keep us from entering into the Lord's rest. Let us be diligent and prayerful to overcome them that we may not come short of it.

# TRY THE SPIRITS OF YOUR THOUGHTS

Message delivered by Sis. Sheri Rich at the Tulsa, OK Camp Meeting, June 18, 2006.

Transcribed by Sis. Patricia Rhoads, condensed and edited for print by W.E.M.

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." I John 4:1-4.

We want to talk to you about the Holy Spirit and evil spirits. We live in a world where there are two kingdoms at war: the good kingdom against the evil kingdom and we're the pawns in the middle that both sides are fighting for. Most of the warfare that they engage in takes place in our minds. The Lord is faithful and He speaks to us through our minds and tries to reason with us of what it means to be lost and of our sinful life.

We need a Savior and He visits us from early childhood. Do you remember in early childhood about those voices in your mind? I have memories of my early childhood, those voices that would tell me to do something right: "Don't steal that cookie." And the voice that says, "Go on and take it; nobody's looking." The two voices. We have become accustomed to hearing those two voices throughout our lives. When we were in sin, and we were living for the enemy, he was our father. He taught us many things. Now, one of the things that he was very good at teaching us was to hear his voice, to hear him when he spoke. In many people, even now, and even though they are saved and sanctified, still hear that voice and they think it's their own voice. There are a lot of thoughts that enter our mind that we actually think are our own, but most of them are not. Most of them are motivated from one kingdom or the other.

We are used to hearing this warfare in our mind all the time. We're so used to it that it surprises us sometimes through the day, when our mind is thinking on different things, that all of a sudden some evil, horrible thought penetrates our mind. And we immediately become alarmed, and we say, "Oh Lord, rebuke the devil!" Do you know how long the devil had been

talking to you before you got there? See, the enemy will talk to you about everyday things; he'll talk to you about the weather. He'll talk to you about the neighbors next door. Have you ever noticed the progression of how your mind works, and what happens, and how you'll have the most innocent thought that comes to mind, it seems, and then it jumps to here, and then it jumps there, and pretty soon it's on the negative. And you pull your mind in, and you say, "Oh, Lord, how did that happen? Rebuke the devil!" Well, in order to rebuke the devil you're going to have to recognize his voice.

Many of us don't recognize his voice, until it has become so loud, and so ugly, then all of a sudden we recognize it. But we need to recognize it everyday. It says, "Try the spirits and see if they are of God." What do we try them with? We try them with the Word of God, and the very character and spirit of God. Anything that discourages, casts down, makes you feel bad is not the spirit of God. You get up in the morning and say, "I just don't feel good today. I'm not very happy today. I'm in a bad mood." You wonder where it came from.

Early in my experience I would get up sometimes with those same thoughts and I would think, "Lord, what is wrong with me today?" Finally one day, the Lord revealed what was wrong. I had been having nightmares and I didn't remember them. But this one day, He let me remember what I had been dreaming and they were horrible nightmares. I got up under the influence of those spirits. They were trying to trouble my mind in my sleep. So then I knew that whenever I would get up in the morning, and I was kind of depressed or moody, the Lord taught me to take it to Him quickly, get out from underneath what those spirits were trying to do to me. They are after us all the time, in our sleep, when we're awake, constantly talking, chattering in our minds. And they don't always talk about evil things. We get used to hearing their chatter, and all the things they have to say.

Luke 22:31-32: "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to *have* you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."

**(Continued on page 11.)**

## FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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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.

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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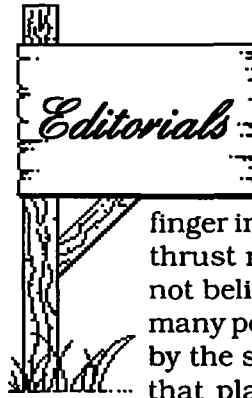
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"The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe." John 20:25. There are many people today who are troubled by the same doubts and misgivings that plagued the mind of Thomas.

Thomas had been with Jesus and had heard Him teach the multitudes, heal the sick and open the eyes of the blind. But he had also seen the Roman soldiers crucify Him, saw Him expire on the cross and then placed into the tomb. How could the report of the disciples therefore be true? A resurrection from the dead was totally contrary to his experience and understanding of nature. Perhaps he had seen Lazarus brought back to life but this seemed different, so final that his faith could not grasp it.

There may be some reading this article who have gone through, or are going through hard things in their lives that has rendered them nearly faithless. It may be that the pain of those events has been so severe that your feelings have nearly become numb and it seems that God is so far away. The future may look dark and dismal with no hope for improvement and you hardly know where to turn for help. The disciples no doubt also felt the same way after Jesus was taken from them and crucified. All of their hopes for the future seemed to be dashed into oblivion by the death of their Master. They had left their homes and their occupations to follow Him and now it seemed that everything was lost. But, no, all was not lost. The witness that the Master gave Thomas was as much for you and I today as it was for him. When Jesus appeared in the midst and said "peace be unto you," He then addressed the unbelief that was troubling the mind of Thomas. "Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." John 20:27-29.

The Lord sees the struggles people have in overcoming the doubts that satan has inflicted

upon their minds and we should be thankful that these passages of Scripture were recorded for our benefit. Truly the Lord wants us to believe in Him and there is also hope for us if we will only look to Him in our need. If we expect to please Him, then we must believe in the resurrection of Jesus along with the other promises and instructions that God has given us. Our hope must be centered on Him. Turn loose of the earthly based, preconceived ideas that we are holding to and let our faith soar in His promises and in His love and plan for our lives. If the Lord has allowed us to suffer, it is for our good, not our hurt. Notice these verses in Deuteronomy 6:23-24. "And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he swore unto our fathers. And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day."

Life and joy is the reward for believing in God and doing His will. The transition we go through between the time we are "brought out" and the time He "brings us in" may stretch and try our faith to the limit, but if we will hold on to the Lord, He will bring us into the land which He swore unto our fathers. By actively believing the promises of God, our faith will be demonstrated to all who behold our life and they too will see that God's goodness and mercy endureth forever.

The twentieth chapter of John finishes with these two verses, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." John 20:30-31. Even though two thousand years have come and gone we can be assured that the events recorded in the gospels are true. The apostle Paul fathomed the firmness of Gods promises when he said, "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us." II Corinthians 1:20.

May each heart be filled with courage to hold fast to the promises of our faithful God. It will only be a short time until our sojourn here will be completed and more than anything else in life, we want to hear Him say, "Well done." That means each day we must press against the forces of evil and continue doing that which is

right. We will find that God's grace is sufficient and that His hand is leading us through the darkest trials.

The words of the song, "The Virtue of Faith," are so encouraging when one is going through a difficult place in life. The last verse says:

The waves around may fiercely roll,  
They can not harm my trusting soul;  
Regarding not what I may see,  
My faith, O Lord, ascends to Thee.  
The darkest night and brazen sky  
Are pierced by Faith's unfailing eye;  
My cry shall be till time shall cease,  
"O blessed Lord, My faith increase."

As we come to the close of another year our heart swells with gratitude for the manifold blessings of God. Truly He has been faithful to us and has helped us through many difficult situations and has supplied our needs both spiritually and physically. God has used many of you as an instrument in His hand to help us meet the heavy financial needs of this work and to you may I say, "Thank you." May God abundantly reward your sacrifice and bless you for sharing our burden for precious souls.

We are thankful for the books, tracts and publications that have been printed and sent out this year and we are excited about the capabilities that are beginning to take shape for the future. Our hardback binding equipment is getting closer to being able to operate. The progress on these machines has been slower than we anticipated but we are glad for each step that has been completed. We are still working on our casemaker and look forward to the day it will come into operation. I know many are waiting on our *Evening Light Songs* hymnal and we appreciate the patience you have shown. We are working hard to bring everything together so that your patience will be rewarded with the book of songs we all love so dearly. Please bear with us a little longer as we bring that project to completion.

My mother, Frances Murphey, had been living in her home at 414 N. 13<sup>th</sup> street for many years. In the late afternoon on Friday, November 10, we went to her home and found her lying on the front porch where she had fallen and was unable to get up. She had a moderate amount of pain in the area of her tailbone and had a large knot on her head where she struck the metal pipe used to support the porch. This was at least

the second time she had fallen that week and we were thankful to the Lord for sparing her from any broken bones or other severe injuries. While it was not her choosing, we felt that it was not wisdom to leave her at home alone and we brought her to stay with us at the Print Shop. On November 23 my daughter moved into a smaller room so my mother could have the room she had been staying in. We have also begun to remodel a storage area to make two more rooms. My daughter plans to occupy that area once they are completed.

My mother seems to be adjusting well to her new surroundings and we are happy that she is here where we can more conveniently attend to her needs.

May the joy of our Savior's birth bring gladness to the heart of each one.

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



MO—I have some prayer requests I would like remembered when you think of me.

Christian love, —Sis. Nelva Stanley

OK—Remember my son's need—what is impossible with man is possible with God—He needs a restoration with his family and also future needs such as being free from debt. How grateful I am for the gift of God, Jesus Christ, who is able to do exceeding above and beyond all we ask or think. My trust is in Him.

With Christian love, —Sis. Leoma Duvall

OK—Faith Publishing House: Special greetings to the print shop and all the Saints. I do thank God for answering my prayer for my walking. I am truly satisfied with my Lord. I appreciate the helpers I have had in the nursing home in Okemah. Tell all the Saints everywhere you go that God answered my prayers.

I am yours as ever. Christian love,

—Sis. Mary O. Jones

Germany—Bro. Alen Laukert returned home to Germany from a recent missionary trip to Ghana and since his return has become seriously ill. He is physically in a very weakened condition with a high fever. Pray that God would visit him with a healing touch and that He would also bless his wife, Sis. Elina, and the family as they care for him.

KY—I have some physical needs that I desire prayer for. Also my son-in-law, Doug, needs a job. Please remember him. —Sis. Kay Griffett

LA—Dear Ones: I am thanking and praising the Lord for His care for me. He has blessed me so much. What a privilege to trust in Jesus. I appreciate you putting my name on the prayer list. Please keep it there as I have need of more healing and grace, as God wills.

Yours in Christ, —Sis. Dorall Forbes

AL—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: I have been carrying this poem in my Bible for a long time. Sis Emma Dilly had submitted it to the *Faith and Victory*.

It has been on my mind and I would like to have it printed again in her memory. She carried a real burden for the ones who are lost.

Thank you and may God bless you,

—Sis. Juanita Montgomery

### 'T WAS A SHEEP, NOT A LAMB

'Twas a sheep, not a lamb that strayed away  
In the parable Jesus told,  
A grown up sheep that had gone astray  
From the ninety and nine in the field.

Out in the meadows, out in the cold  
'Twas a sheep the good Shepherd sought;  
Back to the flock and into the fold.  
'Twas a sheep the good Shepherd brought.

Why, for the sheep, should we earnestly long  
And so earnestly hope and pray?  
Because there is danger, if they go wrong,  
They will lead the young lambs astray.

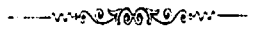
For the lambs follow the sheep, you know,  
Where ever the sheep may stray;  
If the sheep go wrong, it will not be long  
'Til the lambs are as wrong as they.

So, with the sheep, we earnestly plead  
For the sake of the lambs today,  
If the lambs are lost, what a terrible cost  
Some sheep may have to pay.

—Minnie Lee Bovender

## Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Carlos Arriaga  
 Sis. Dorothy Burditt  
 Sis. Mamie Butcher  
 Sis. Gladys Cashio  
 Sis. Helen Carson  
 Sis. Waneta Creel  
 Sis. Dorall Forbes  
 Sis. Evelyn Fredrickson  
 Bro. Troy Gentry  
 Sis. Juliette Lounds  
 Sis. Melba Powell  
 Sis. Anna Severs  
 Sis. Cheryl Smith  
 Bro. Michael Smith  
 The Mitch Taylor family



## Peace On Earth!

*My Savior left His home on high  
 To live here on the earth;  
 And through His suffering and death,  
 He gave me a birth.  
 His love has filled my heart with song  
 'Til all my world is bright;  
 My heart I lift to God in song  
 Both morning, noon, and night.*

*I give the praise to God alone  
 For His redeeming grace,  
 My heart with rapture sings and sings  
 Because I see His face.  
 It fills my soul with Triumph,  
 The whole world seems a thrill,  
 For angels brought the tidings,  
 "Peace on earth, to men good will."*

*I sing when rain is falling,  
 For it gives us golden grain;  
 I sing when the sun is shining  
 Over mountain, field and plain;  
 I sing when the moon is beaming,  
 Yes, for joy of heart I sing;  
 I sing when my heart is dreaming  
 Of my Lord, my Priest, my King.*

*—I. Edith Kriebel*

## MEETING DATES

**California State (Pacoima)**—December 22-31  
**Oklahoma State (Guthrie)**—December 22-31



## MEETING NOTICES

### CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting will be held this year from December 22, 2006 to December 31, 2006 at the campgrounds located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA 91331. The first service will begin 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 22nd, with three services daily thereafter. For more information, please contact either the Sunset Guest Home at (818) 899-2022, Bro. Paul Phillips at (661) 251-6956, or Bro. Herbert Clay at (818) 897-1396.



### OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held at Guthrie, OK, from December 22 to December 31. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U.S. The first service will be held Friday evening, December 22, at 7:30 p.m. Daily worship services throughout the remainder of the meeting will start at 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. There will also be morning prayer services and youth services, the time of which will be announced at the meeting.

The campgrounds are located east off of Sooner Road on Lake View Road, which is a little over four-tenths of a mile south of the intersection of South Division and Sooner Road. All who come will be cared for. The expenses of the meeting will be met by freewill offerings.

We especially urge the saints in Oklahoma and the surrounding states to attend this meeting. Come praying with a burden for the unsaved and for all those who need help in soul and body. Please send all contributions for the coming State Assembly Meeting directly to the State Treasurer, Sister Brenda Wilkins, 1023 E. Prairie Grove Rd., Guthrie, OK 73044.

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



"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." Colossians 3:15.



## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I have just recently been thinking and meditating upon the thought of what a wonderful, mighty and loving Savior we have. I woke up one morning and this verse of song came to my mind. "For me the blessed Savior came. His great salvation to proclaim; O glory to His precious name! It satisfies my soul." I rejoiced much in the words "for me." We were poor and undone and He came to set us free from our sins and bring us back into fellowship with Him and give us a hope of Heaven and hope to enjoy eternal life with Him.

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." II Corinthians 8:9. Thank the Lord for His great condescension and for His great love wherewith He loved us.

Your brother in Christ, —T. V. McMillian  
— — — — —

MO—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings of love this beautiful fall day.

The psalmist said, "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer." Psalms 19:14. "My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever." Psalms 145:21. God is worthy of all praise because of who He is, what He has done and what He will do. His goodness extends through all time and eternity. It seems the Psalms present personal responses to God as they reflect on the purpose for His people. May we keep a keen desire to see His purpose fulfilled and His name extolled in our generation. Some of the Psalms survey the Word of God and the character or quality of God, especially during difficult times. This kindles the kind of faith that produces confidence in His power in spite of circumstances. All of our circumstances vary, but this source is available to all of us now, the same as for the ones in the past and will be there for us in the future—unfailing, unchangeable is our God.

The songwriter expressed it this way,

*There's a place where I go to be alone with Jesus,  
When my burdens, they seem so heavy to bear,  
There's One strength I find through my trials,  
And oh, what victory in time of despair.*

*My cup runneth over, My strength is renewed,  
Though it may seem total darkness for me,  
Thy rod and Thy staff bring me comfort,  
At the end there is victory for me.*

*Surely goodness and mercy is mine.  
With Him, on His Word I firmly now stand,  
Though I walk through a valley with a heavy burden,  
I can feel the touch of His hand,  
Yes, I can feel the touch of His hand.*

Let us pray for each other, I don't want to fail God. When I leave this world, I want to leave a winner.  
—Sis. Leta Inman  
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KS—Dear Bro. Willie: I am pressing on the upward way and encouraged to make it all the way home. May God continue to bless the publishing work.  
—Sis. Shirley Knight  
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SC—Dear Bro. Willie: I have been feeling some better, and I praise God so much for that. Last month, I had some severe health battles—the devil really fought me hard. The Lord showed me that I had consecrated to live for Him all the days of my life, but that I had never consecrated to die. I had never had such a revelation in my life. I really did some earnest praying and soul-searching, and I told the Lord that I would not say it until I meant it. I finally wrestled with God in prayer, and came to the place where I could consecrate to die, if that was His will for me.

One night, I became so bad off physically that I really thought I was going to go on...my pain became so unbearable. The devil kept telling me lies...he would say, "You are going to die at 9:03." I came right back at him and said, "Well, then I will die at 9:03." I felt clear in my soul, and I just resigned to God's will. When I didn't die at 9:03, he came back and said, "You will die at 9:23." On and on it went. Kevin was sitting in the recliner chair across from the couch where I was, and he was reading to Zachary. They didn't even know the severe mental anguish I was experiencing. I just came right back at satan, and let him know that he would not buffet me with fear. If God wanted to



take me, then I was ready, and I was willing to go. Kevin was quite concerned, and even though he has trusted in Divine Healing since he got sanctified three years ago, he became alarmed and asked me what I wanted to do. In other words, he gave me the option that he would take me to the ER if I wanted to go. I said, "There is no option. There is no choice in what I am going to do." God gave me the grace to stand the suffering.

There were several things going on at once, physically, and it seemed like one part would subside, then another would hit so hard I could hardly bear it. God began to open up many things to my mind—one was the fact that there is a difference in "prayer" and "the prayer of faith." One night, I was praying real hard, and oh, I was feeling so bad. It was beginning to get to my nerves, and all of a sudden, the Lord said to me, "Child, the prayer of faith has been prayed for you." Just like that. I began to claim that and stand on it, and in fact, I am still standing on it. I am not completely well—some days are much worse than others, but I am clinging to the fact, that since God revealed that to me that night in prayer, I have improved, praise His dear name! I have gotten better—even though I am still in the battle and having problems. I believe He is going to heal me. PLEASE do keep praying for me. I so appreciate being on the standing prayer request, and I am looking forward to the day when I can claim complete victory and healing and my name can be removed due to God doing a miracle on my body. I am earnestly contending for the faith. I am under some severe pressure and burdens, and my heart is in the work of the Lord. Also, my dear husband, Kevin, needs prayer. He is having some health problems that concern both of us. God is able, we truly believe that. I think often of the Scripture that talks about the trying of our faith being much more precious than of gold that perisheth. Oh, the cry of my inmost soul is "Lord, help me to be faithful in all things."

Sometimes, you can feel like you are in a glass pressure cooker—like you are under extreme pressure, and like the whole world is able to see the pressure and that they are watching you to see if you will stand the heat or if you will blow up. That sounds like an odd way of explaining it, but that is how you can feel sometimes. We are endeavoring to keep the truth here in Holly Hill. There are many needs and our hearts are burdened for the work here. Please do remember us in prayer.

In Christ,

—Sis. Cheryl Smith

KS—Dear Ones: It's been a little over a year (May 7, 2005) since I first had my heart trouble and I just wanted to give you an update. The Lord is healing and strengthening my heart! I've also had some severe nerve trouble, but the good Lord is healing that too. The Lord has given me several promises that I have taken as mine! And they are holding me up and bringing me out! I am so glad that I don't know my future, but I know the One Who does! Isn't that a comfort?

We thank everyone of you for every time you carried us to the throne in prayer! Just knowing you were praying was such a comfort. I have said many times that without those prayers I would never have made it, thank you! For every card, letter, email, phone call, food and flowers. Again, we humbly say, thank you! For the first six weeks, there was not a day went by that I did not get a card, and many times there were more than just one, or flowers. I felt it was such a sweet way the Lord showed His love to me, as those days were so very trying. When the cards started slowing down, I started slowly improving, isn't the Lord so sweet!

I would like to share a story I had heard during this time that truly touched me and helped me put things a little more in perspective.

There was a 19th century Grandpa who was invited by his daughter to have "tea" with his granddaughter. As all grandpas would be, he was thrilled to accept the honor. During their "tea" time, the little granddaughter got a tad bit noisy and her mother placed her in the corner so she could learn to be quiet. Just like any grandpa, Grandpa left the "tea" party with a heavy heart! Now I didn't tell you, but Grandpa was an artist. The next morning, Grandpa made the trip back to his daughter's home, this time with all his paints and brushes in hand. He went into the "tea" room and began painting beautiful murals on all the walls. When his daughter asked what was the reason for that, he replied, "If she must stand in the corner, she must have something beautiful to look at."

Do you see the picture of the little girl? Wiggly, chatterbox—not really being the "lady" that mother intended. Well, I too have been as that little granddaughter! A tad bit noisy, maybe somewhat self-sufficient, overbearing, loud, and yes, I was placed in a corner! All my hopes looked vanquished. All my dreams and desires, gone. I was in a corner with no where to turn!

Ah, but there's my walls! The Lord helped me to get quiet and start looking at the paintings—this is where you come into the picture.

My walls have been covered with faces of every person that sent a card, email, or called—I needed that steady source of encouragement! The murals have those many sweet people that kept us supplied with the many good meals. Then there are all the beautiful flowers from all the beautiful people. The faces of the dear ones that gave us money, they're on my walls. But to me the most beautiful part on my walls were all of your prayers! Maybe I've been in a corner, but

you were there with me! How I thank you for taking time out of your day to pray for and think of me! God has used you to bless me. THANK YOU so much!!!

I realize I'm not the only one to go through this, every one has their "time" it seems. This has been one of my "times" and all of our praise goes to the good Lord for being faithful to us yet again!

When you think of us, please continue to hold us up in prayer for complete healing. Again, we say thanks for all your love shown to us.

Much love, —Bro. Orin and Sis. Retha Cole



## **“Do All to the Glory of God” What About Christmas?**

**By Sis. Charlotte Huskey**

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” I Corinthians 10:31.

December is the happiest time of the year for most children in the West. It seems the air is charged with a magical enchantment. Cool weather clears the atmosphere and even the stars sparkle brighter. Strings of beautiful lights glow in the lowliest hamlet. Red bells sway against evergreen and glittering garlands brightening city streets. Christmas music sounds from every corner. Stores display a vast array of attractive toys that set children dreaming.

But it can be a very stressful month for Christians who are trying to “do ALL to the glory of God.” The world’s advice is “Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly” and have a very Merry Xmas, forgetting Christ or the consequences of celebrating. The Christian community demands we defend our rights and hold up Christmas as the birth of our Savior. Others say, “It is a Pagan Holiday and should not be celebrated in any form.” At home the children beg for gifts we can’t afford. Teenagers want gifts and social activities that sap our wallets and our spirits. Some spouses succumb to massive expectations and utilize credit cards. While one parent is seeking God to know His will the spouse is racking up credit card bills. How stressful!

We should ask God, “How much can we spend and still have Your approval?” or “What kind of gifts will bring you glory?” God gave His only Son for sinners. Jesus left the splendor of

Heaven and offered up His life so men may be saved. Yet, millions of people don’t have His Word to read. How can we happily spend our money for unneeded gifts when with a little effort we could help supply Bibles? We must find the line that separates getting too involved in Christmas, thereby reinforcing children’s natural selfishness and love for the world; or being uninvolved to the point of causing resentment in our children. This answer may be different for every family. Where can these answers be found? “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” James 1:5.

Resentment is more often caused by parental hypocrisy than by strict standards. Whatever parents are passionate about their children will believe to be important. Your children must see that what motivates your Christmas decisions is a passionate desire to please God. I was totally convinced that was my parent’s motivation.

Other answers to seek for are, how much Christmas celebrations should my family partake of? The song “Santa Claus is Coming to Town” ascribes powers of a deity to Santa.

He’s making a list checking it twice  
Gonna find out who’s naughty or nice...  
He sees you when you are sleeping  
He knows when you’re awake  
He knows when you’ve been bad or good  
So be good, for goodness sake!

Santa is described as omniscient, (all-knowing) omnipotent (all-powerful) and omnipresent (he can be everywhere at the same time delivering gifts). What about a Christmas tree? Read Jeremiah 10:2-5.

Even those who have escaped the Pagan customs can get so caught up in legitimate Christmas traditions such as gift giving, buying, cooking, decorating, etc. until it takes us away from our intimacy with God. When we do find a little time to read the Word or pray, our spirit does not connect with God's spirit. And our family gatherings are not blessed of God nor relaxed, because we are up tight about unrealistic expectations, or worn out from over work, or burdened down with bills to pay. But "...brethren, ye have been called unto liberty;..." "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Galatians 5:13, 1.

Some Christians who have a great desire that Christ be kept before the public sometimes use Christmas as an opportunity to exalt Him in the world. That is how the slogan, "Put Christ Back into Christmas" was started. It is satan's plan to remove Christ from every heart. In his struggle to do so he works to remove every symbol of Christianity from public view. Celebrating Jesus' birth whether it is in December, June or any other month could hinder satan's plan and it helps to keep Christ before the public. It is profitable to exalt Christ before the world at any time and all the time. "Even as I please all *men* in all *things*, not seeking mine own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved." I Corinthians 10:33.

Christmas is also an opportunity for Christians to visit and testify to relatives they seldom see. It is valuable to sing carols and share some of God's Word with unsaved loved ones. The message in the carols exalts the holy attributes of God, Christ and the Holy Spirit. So if you feel that your family is blessed by celebrating Christmas, you are free to do so, only watch your attitude toward your brother who feels strongly that Christmas is Pagan and does not allow his family to celebrate. And the brother who does not celebrate must watch his attitude also so that brotherly love can still flow. "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." Romans 14:7. Romans 14:5-6 reads: "One man esteemeth one day above another: another

esteemeth every day *alike*. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it..." This was spoken in regard to the feast days under the law, but I believe it is appropriate here.

It is very easy to get caught up in the Christmas spirit but Jesus tells us, "Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." I John 2:15-16. Christmas appeals to the lust of the flesh and the eyes. The pride of life tempts many Christians to buy and celebrate in ways that their own conscience condemns. If we mind the checks of the Holy Spirit we can avoid grieving God's Spirit. We must love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength " ...do all to the glory of God" and our spirits will be blessed as we exalt our Savior.



## Try the Spirits of Your Thoughts

(Continued from Page 3.)

Now, how was he going to sift him as wheat? He was going to use his mind. The enemy doesn't come up and stand before us, expose himself and show who he is, and then try to get us to go that way. He attacks our mind. So, when they led the Lord off and Peter realized that Jesus was taken, what began to happen in his mind? He's standing there all alone warming his hands by the fire, and the other disciples have fled. Then that voice starts speaking, "You know, you're here all by yourself. You'd better go where the others have gone. They're going to figure out who you are." They'll say, "Aren't you one of them?" You say, "Oh, no! no!" "Yeah, that's right, you're not one of them." And the enemy just led him on and talked to him and caused him to get so afraid. Satan painted Peter a dire picture of what was about to take place and he completely forgot about what Jesus had told him.

Isn't this about the way we are? The Lord starts taking you through a trial, and He begins to minister to you and talk to you. He tells you things and you're so thankful to have them, but then maybe the trial lasts longer than you

thought. Then those other voices begin to come into your mind, doubting, wondering when and how; it's not going to be how you thought and on and on. Those voices keep moving in your head and all the while its purpose is to make you forget what God told you. The enemy is very good at getting us to forget what God has told us.

Have you ever been in the middle of a battle fighting the enemy, and you wanted a scripture, and the scripture will not come to your mind? The enemy is doing his best to block your mind in every way. Voices, they say that people who hear voices are crazy, but do you know that if all of us confessed to some of the things that we've heard voices tell us they would think that we are all crazy. You hear of some tragedy that's happened, and the mother says, "God told me to do it." That voice in her head that she had listened to for so many years, didn't put any stock to it, didn't get any help for it, and just listened and obeyed, and did certain things, went certain ways, and had no fight against it. Eventually she ends up doing horrible things to her own children, and then blames it on God, because it was a voice.

Those are just the ones that have openly said they heard voices, but what about all the other horrible tragedies that happen in the world? Mass murderers, they don't openly tell what the voices in their head say, but those voices are there. They talk to them every day and they wear them down. They take things from their childhood, hurts and disappointments, and maybe parents who weren't good to them and children at school making fun of them and they build it in their mind. They say, "Poor you. You were so mistreated." If you go through this life hearing this voice then it becomes your friend because he says all the things that you think *you* believe. But really, satan is telling you what to believe and you come to believe it. They say, "They treated you bad" and pretty soon you believe, "They really treated me bad." You believe it and when you find out what some of those people say they were treated so badly about, it was hardly anything compared to what other people have gone through. But it was so built up in the mind by the voices.

*If you go through this life hearing this voice then it becomes your friend because he says all the things that you think you believe. But really, satan is telling you what to believe and you come to believe it.*

Now, the Lord's voice is always there trying to counteract the enemy of our souls. He is always trying to lead people right. When they hear the enemy's voice that says, "Do this, do that." The Lord's voice is not very far behind, saying, "Don't do this. You shouldn't do that. It's going to bring you trouble and heartache." God likes to give His people warnings. He likes to help them understand that they are about to transgress, they are about to go into an area that may be real hard for them to recover from. He warns them, "Don't go there, because you do not know how hard it's going to be to come back out of there." Then we have the saints' children that have sat underneath the teaching of the Word all their lives. They have sat and have heard the two voices in service—the enemy trying to draw them to the world and the Lord trying to draw them to the altar. Many have kicked against the Lord's dealings and have

gone out into sin. They usually have a belief in Heaven, they have a belief in hell. The enemy talks to them

saying, "You've got time, it doesn't have to be now. You can go on and do this first."

People in sin do a lot by feelings. As saints, we are supposed to go by faith, not by feelings. I can feel bad and still do right. We can do what we're suppose to do at all times, no matter the circumstances, because God is there to help us. We can't do it on our own strength, but by God's strength we are able to do it. So, what are we going to do with these voices in our head? Do you remember in the scriptures when Peter disassembled himself? The Jews came, and he disassembled so far he took one of the other brothers with him. They wouldn't eat with the Gentiles, and there was all this commotion. Paul stepped in and took care of it. But what happened to him? Peter was still worrying about what people thought. Back there at that fire, when the Lord was being taken, Peter was worried about what people were thinking and here he is down the road, away from them, but he is still worried. He worried about what the Jewish leaders were going to think. "I don't want to be thought bad of. You're going to lose your reputation. They used to think you were pretty good, but they don't think it now." Here we have another case where things need to be set right.

But thank God, there was somebody there who saw it, recognized it, and put it right. Do you know that is what preaching the Word of God is? It's God recognizing a problem, seeing how the enemy is talking to the people, seeing how he's covering, and what he's saying, and all the voices that are being heard. Then He sends a message, trying to correct what the enemy's been saying. That is what preaching the Word is all about. The foolishness of preaching—it is to expose the enemy, his workings, and to bring forth what God has to say in a voice that you can hear and recognize is coming from God.

Sometimes in our minds we get the voices mixed up. Sometimes we can be in sickness, we can feel that the Lord is telling us He wants to heal us. Then there's the other voice that says, "Well, He wants you to be in this for a long time." Then you say, "I wonder if the Lord really wants to heal me." The voice then says, "Well, Sis. So-n-so thought she was going to be healed, then she came to the realization that God just wanted her to suffer. That's probably what's going to happen to you." Now, what are you going to do with all those voices? You've got to be able to understand and discern the difference between the enemy's voice and the Lord's voice. Anything that lifts up, encourages, brings peace or inspires your faith is God's voice. The other voice, the devil, loves to tell you the truth about some things, but when God speaks it will inspire you to do something about it. The voice of the devil crushes you down to where you don't do anything about it.

In your own life you can have a weakness, a fault, and you may be concerned about it and the Lord will tell you about it. He will tell you where it came from, how it got there and expose it. His voice inspires you to do something about it, to get down and pray, and ask the Lord to help you. The other voice may tell you the exact information, but he says it in a crushing, debilitating way, to where you feel like you're just crushed down, where you would think, "I'll never get out of this. I've prayed for this so many times." Do you think the Lord would tell you that? If you were coming to Him and praying about something you have prayed about before, do you think He would say, "Oh, you've prayed about this before." Now, as parents, we can do that. Our children could come to us and say, "Mommy, can I have—" "You've already asked me that." And we can just dismiss them. But

God doesn't do that to us. So, when we come to Him, He won't say, "Oh, you've come to me with that before. You didn't get any help then. How do you expect to get any help now?" The Lord doesn't say these things. You have to discern the voices. Sometimes it isn't the easiest thing to do, because we may be going through something hard, going through some tragedy in the family, through some illness or something. But we have to be able to understand and hear God's voice.

How are we going to be able to understand the voice of God? We are going to try the spirit of it. How does it make you feel? Do you feel crushed down? Do you feel like, "I'm not going to get up, it's not going to happen, I'm not going to get out of here." Or, is it something that lifts you up, and pulls you upward towards God? You try the spirits. You use the Word of God to try the spirits. When they say, "Oh, you're going to die with this." Then the Scriptures come to you, "Is any sick among you..." then you call for the elders, then they can come, and anoint you, pray for you. See, the enemy wants to keep you from being anointed. He says, "You have already been anointed for this. Are you just going to keep coming back?" If I have to, yes. If that's what I have to do to get the victory, I'll get it, because I can't afford to miss what God has prepared for me. Wouldn't it be the most horrible thing to spend most of your life living in a place of self-denial, denying yourself, the world, and all these things, and trying to get all that God has for you, and then at the end, lose it because I didn't want to go to the altar to get anymore help.

Most people, on their deathbeds, are finding things. Those things were there before they got sick, but they just didn't see them. They didn't take them seriously or they had listened to the voices and just set it aside. But on their deathbed, they'll say, "Now, I'm ready to do business with God." Isn't that a sad thing to wait until then? What if you don't have a deathbed experience? What if you're suddenly hurled out into eternity? At that point, what's going to be your end?

Do you remember the disciples in the ship? The Lord was asleep and they were toiling and doing everything that they could do. The wind was tossing them and they thought that they were going to die. They asked, "Don't you care that we perish?" Now, how long had those voices

been talking to them? They had been walking with the Savior all this time. They had been seeing Him heal, they had listened to His instructions, He talked about the great place that was prepared for them. "Look at Him over there, asleep. We're toiling, but He's asleep. He's the Son of God. We're the ones who have got to worry about Him." Self-pity—"Don't You care?" And that is how some of us can get. We go through hard trials, and nobody at church says anything to us to encourage us. They know you're sick, the phone doesn't ring. That voice—"They don't care about you." They may be fasting and praying for you. Or, they may not know that anything is happening to you. That happens a lot. Those voices convince us that people have intentionally done us some kind

*It doesn't matter to the enemy which side he's on as long as the enemy is bothering you and stealing from you.*

of wrong. Those voices! If it makes you have a problem with one of the saints, it's the wrong voice because the Lord will always patch it up between you and somebody else. He will always tell you things like, "They didn't mean it like that, Don't get offended. And even if they did mean it like that, it's none of your business. Follow me." Sometimes people get very confused because of the voices. They can't decide if they want people in their business—if they want them to pray for them, or if they do not. Then they are offended when somebody else tells them about it. It's because of the two voices. The Lord is not a secretive God. He is open, and He teaches us to be open. It says, "Confess your faults one to another that you may be healed."

I have heard about a confession, where somebody got up and confessed their fault, and asked for prayer. Then another confessed and the whole service was taken over with one after another, confessing their faults before the saints. What voice was speaking? "Oh, you have this problem. You must confess it. Get some help for it, so you can be healed." The other voice is saying, "You don't have to confess that. You don't want people to look down on you. They will not have confidence in you anymore." Then the devil will change tactics on you. He'll say, "Well, if you don't confess it, they won't have any confidence in you." It doesn't matter to the enemy which side he's on as long as the enemy is bothering you and stealing from you. The enemy will tell you, "God heals. What's wrong with you?" He'll tell you the truth. God does

heal. If he can just win, if he can discourage you, cast you down. But you are going to have to try the spirits, try those voices.

Some thoughts don't seem like they come from the enemy. He has made himself your friend. He has been to you a comforter when you were wrong. When you needed to humble yourself, he has been there to comfort you, told you that you were right. "You don't owe them an apology. They owe you one." I remember when I was saved and my husband at the time was not. The Lord was working on me. My husband would say things to me: "You're this, this, and this." That would just tear me up. I knew I wasn't all of those things. So, I would go to the Lord in prayer, and I would say, "Lord, You know I'm not guilty of all of that." And He

would say, "Yes, but you are guilty of the one thing." When I asked God to forgive me He said, "Now, go ask your husband to forgive you." I decided that I would ask him to forgive me of that one thing. The Lord said, "No. You just ask him to forgive you." The other voice said, "If you do that, he'll think you are asking forgiveness for all of those things, and you're not wrong in all of them." The Lord said, "Yes, he will think you are asking forgiveness for all those things. What business is that of yours?" We worry too much about God's business. We worry about protecting ourselves and about protecting our reputation. We don't want to be blamed for something we are not guilty of. We are going to be blamed sometimes, it's just the way life is. But, justice balances out.

Psychiatrists make money off the voices in people's heads. That's their whole business—of voices of the enemy, and of God, because God is there too. He is always trying to counteract the enemy. When you are in sin, you learn to listen to the wrong voice more. That wrong voice became more pronounced than the voice of God. When you get saved, the Lord starts equalizing that out. After you have been saved for a while you will hear His voice more than you hear the enemy's. You have to learn how to do that. That is not something that comes right away. How do you think people lose out so quickly? They are saved for a few months, and all of a sudden they have given up. What happened? Those voices have been talking to them. "You are going to

have to give up this or that. Here you are, sitting at home alone, and your friends are at the mall. They didn't even invite you to go." You can let the enemy steal things that are valuable and good because of the voices you are listening to. It's a learning process, of how to rebuke the devil, and how to make him flee from you. We don't know how to do that. The Lord has to teach us. But first, He has to tell and expose which voice it is.

They say that idle hands are the devil's workshop. Well, an idle mind is the devil's playground. He will play in your mind and cause you to almost lose your mind. It gives the enemy great joy to confound and confuse people. You find people down in the slums and the back alleys, walking around, talking to themselves. They are talking to the voices in their heads. They are so far gone, can God get them out? God can do anything, but there are some places that people can't get out of. They've yielded themselves so far, they don't have a right mind to be able to come back.

Philippians 4:8-9, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."

We have to learn how to engage our minds in useful things. The enemy has spent our whole life trying to get us to let go of our minds: "Don't think about anything, don't let anything bother you, just let your mind go, just be free in your mind. Just let your thoughts ramble, just let them go where they will." The Scriptures say the Lord will teach you what to say; in the hour that you need it He will give it to you. Do you know how many hours we spend thinking about what I'm going to say, or what I should have said. We have conversations with different ones, and many, many times we spend so much time thinking about what I'm going to talk to them about and how we're going to say it. When the opportunity comes, what happens? You forget half of whatever you thought. Then the voice will say, "Oh, you did it wrong. You should have said it this way."

Why do we spend so much time thinking about what we're going to say? Because we want to be right, we want to prove that we're right, and we want the other person to know that we're right, and we want them to be chastised by the

time that we're done speaking to them. But God says that when you're pulled up before the magistrates and the kings, princes, who have the power to kill you, don't worry about what you are going to say.

"Whatsoever things are true." We spend a lot of time listening to untruth. The devil lies every single day. He was a liar from the beginning, and he is the father of lies. So if he is going to speak to you at all today, he's going to lie. The devil speaks to you everyday. Do you recognize when he is talking to you? Why do you think he can do that? It's because you have already engaged him in conversation, and it gives him permission to then flash something horrible into your mind. You never would have gone there on your own.

"Whatsoever things are honest." Have you ever had the devil talk to you about something dishonest? When at the store, you are given more change back than you're supposed to have, the voice will say that it's a little thing, it's not important. Don't worry about it. Is that reasonable? Is that what the Lord will say? Who

## Bible Lessons



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

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