

FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



Volume 85, No. 10 85th Year Guthrie, Oklahoma \$5.00 Per Year Jan., 2008

HOW CAN WE KNOW THE TRUTH?

By Bro. Harlan Sorrell

We are living in a world of lies and deception. The prince of this world, the devil, is the father of lies. Jesus spoke these words concerning him in John 8:44: "...He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." Jeremiah 17:9-10 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."

The human heart was not originally created deceitful and wicked, but satan so succeeded in marring God's creation through Adam's fall that this has become man's natural state without divine intervention. Thus, all who are born into this world have to overcome two things in order to arrive at the truth—a lying devil and a deceit-

ful heart. God's great desire for man is that truth might dwell in his "inward parts." (Psalm 51:6.)

Jesus was born into this world with a perfectly pure heart and with the purpose to overthrow the father of lies. Jesus met this arch-deceiver on his own territory in head-on conflict, assaulting his kingdom of lies with the truth. Jesus came to bear witness to the truth. (John 18:37.) He announced that the words He spoke were His Father's words (John 14:24) and that those words are truth. (John 17:17.) He said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32.

As long as Jesus was in this world He bore personal witness to the truth. But when the time came for Him to leave, He promised to send another personal witness to the truth, Whom He called the "Comforter," or "Spirit of truth." This One, He said, would abide with us forever (John 14:16), would reprove (convict, convince) the world of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:8) and guide us into all truth. (John 16:13.)

There are those who seem to feel that, because of man's inherently fallen condition, it is not presently possible for anyone to be totally free from error and fully established in truth. 1 Corinthians 13:12, "For now we see through a glass, darkly..." is often quoted as an excuse for dimness of spiritual vision and understanding. But what about II Corinthians 3:18? "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the

Contents

How Can We Know the Truth?	1
Editorials	4
Prayer Requests	6
Meeting Reports and Notices	7
Letters from the Readers	7
How Can We Know the Truth? (Cont.)	8
Obituaries	9
The Family Structure	10

Lord." Paul speaks here of an experience presently attainable to all of us, whereby we may behold as in a glass (not darkly, but brilliantly) the glory of the Lord with an open (or unveiled) face and thus be changed into the same image by His Spirit. Proverbs 4:18 says, "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

James 1:16-17 says, "Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." God, the Father of lights, has sent two especially good and perfect gifts down from above to illuminate our darkness and save us from error. They are (1) the Word of truth and (2) the Spirit of truth (the interpreter of the Word.) Having received these two gifts it is not needful that any man err.

In the June 1, 1885 issue of the Gospel Trumpet, Bro. D. S. Warner wrote the following words: "When a weak convert of two years old, after rambling through a wilderness maze of human creeds, to find out what church I ought to join, and was more unsettled than before I read any, I threw myself at the feet of Jesus, and asked His leading through the Spirit. My soul was in an agony of intense earnestness. I kept up this pursuit until the refreshings of the Holy Spirit came upon me, shedding much light on my mind. One thing was settled by the voice of the Lord, that was, God willed me to ignore all human sects and creeds and commit myself to the whole Word of God, rejecting all it does not teach. But ten years later, after becoming wholly sanctified and receiving the personal Comforter, I soon found that I had not been able to decide in many things what the will of the Lord was, until this glorious illumination. Then I laid all my previous views down at the feet of Christ, just as if they were all wrong. Then putting myself under the direct teaching of the Comforter, He has led my soul forward in the steps of the truth with absolute and eternal certainty....Doubtless, much truth lays beyond our present knowledge, but what we know by the revelation of the Spirit, we do not think, but know indeed."

Without the guidance, inspiration and illumination of the Spirit of God, we are ALL sure to misunderstand or misinterpret the truth at some point or another. The depths of God's written Word cannot be understood by the

natural man or comprehended by the carnal mind. (See I Corinthians 2:9-16, Romans 8:5-8.) Since "...no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation,..." but "...holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost," II Peter 1:20-21, it is imperative that our hearts and minds be moved by the inspiration of the same Holy Ghost Who spoke through the holy men of old, that we may properly understand the message He intended to convey in the Scriptures. Only "...in thy light shall we see light" in proper perspective. Psalm 36:9.

God has made just enough of His Word comprehensible to us in our natural state to enable us to find the way of deliverance from our carnal mind and to receive "the mind of Christ;" to get us out of the flesh and into the Spirit. It is only in this state that we are ready to begin learning and exploring "...the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints." Colossians 1:26.

Nothing except the "unction" that comes from the Holy One (I John 2:20-27) can teach us all things and help us to correctly interpret and "rightly divide the Word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15.) "...For the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." I Corinthians 2:10. Without the unction, or anointing that comes from the Spirit of truth, all men will certainly miss the mark. On the other hand, it is not possible to err by the leadings of the Spirit of God. "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Romans 8:14. Every time the sons (or children) of God err, it is because they have gotten out of step with their Guide, the divine Spirit—the One Who bore witness to their adoption (Romans 8:15), and regenerated and spoke peace to their souls. (Titus 3:5.) We always err when we trust in our own understanding and follow our own minds or the influence of some other spirit beside the Holy Spirit upon our minds. We are instructed to trust in the Lord with all our hearts and to lean not to our own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5.) How can we who "know not what we should pray for as we ought" arrive at a proper understanding of God's truth and will for our lives unless "the Spirit helpeth our infirmities?" Therefore God, in His great mercy, has sent His Spirit to make "intercession" for us (Romans 8:26-27) and to personally reveal His Son to us, Who is "...the way, the truth and the life..." John 14:6.

It is the Spirit of truth Who quickens the Word of truth, making it alive in our inner man, and more than just a dead letter. The Holy Spirit is the One Who administers all the blessings Christ purchased for us at Calvary. The Holy Spirit is the Administrator of all things pertaining to salvation, the New Testament and the New Testament Church. He is our Teacher, our Guide and our Director. All who "live in the Spirit, walk in the Spirit," and are "led by the Spirit" will go right and be right, because God's Spirit is right. He can't err. He KNOWS the will of God. He KNOWS the truth. If we would know the truth, then we must have our hearts tuned to the Spirit. It is the Spirit Who writes God's law of truth on our inward parts. (see Jeremiah 31:33, Ezekiel 36:27, II Corinthians 3:3.)

Even with all the advanced education available to us, we humans, in our natural state, cannot comprehend many important aspects of divine truth. We cannot discern, in many instances, the true meaning of the Scriptures. Why? Because the Word was given by the inspiration of the Spirit, and "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." I Corinthians 2:14. I heard a man say one time that his IQ was of the top two percent of the nation, therefore if anybody could rightly understand the Bible, he could. But it is just such persons as he who miss the mark! Obadiah 3 says, "The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee...." There is no greater deterrent to arriving at knowledge of the truth than "pride" in the heart. "If any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know." I Corinthians 8:2. Pride is an inherent part of man's carnal nature. It is natural for all men to think they know and are capable of discerning truth from error. It takes the refining fire of the Holy Spirit to melt and consume this spirit of pride in man's heart—to reduce our estimation of who we are and what we know to nothing and exalt the knowledge of God and who He is to everything. This is why it is vitally important that all Christians be emptied of self, and filled with the Spirit. One writer says, "Do we enjoy His fullness? Are we filled with the Spirit? Or is He quenched, grieved, resisted, crowded into a corner by carnal purposes, passions and pleasures? The full measure of the Spirit comes in when self goes out. Self must

die, and then God the Spirit will fill us." How true! It is only then that He can lead us into all truth. "When He, the Spirit of truth, is come (having been given full control of your body, soul and mind, by your complete consecration), He will guide you into all truth." (John 16:13.) "The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way." Psalm 25:9. The secret of understanding truth is found in being filled with the Spirit of truth. Thereby we assimilate the meekness of Christ as well as all the other attributes of the divine nature. (Consider Acts 1:8 and II Peter 1:3-4; also Philippians 2:5-8.) It is neither safe to lean on our own understanding of truth nor yet that of others. But by the illuminating presence of the Holy Spirit, Who wills to indwell us in His fullness, we can all receive personal revelation of truth from God's perspective. The Spirit leads all men into the same truth.

The reason many are "ever learning, but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth," is because they do not possess the spiritual illumination that comes from being "filled with all the fullness of God." They are neither filled with the Spirit nor walking in the Spirit, but are still "carnal, and walking as men." (I Corinthians 3:1-4.) They are still filled with much of themselves. Through the sanctifying and all-pervading presence of the Holy Spirit, Who comes to possess us in His fullness when we "...present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God....," we can become intimately acquainted with the Author of truth, lose our biased opinions of truth and be led into all truth. It is then that we become "transformed by the renewing of our mind, that we may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:2.) We then take on the "mind of Christ" and begin to comprehend "...the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge...." (Ephesians 3:18-19.) "...And it is the Spirit that beareth witness (to this revelation of fullness), because the Spirit is truth." I John 5:6. Becoming wholly sanctified, as Bro. D. S. Warner terms it, means giving the Holy Spirit complete control of one's whole being. It means being wholly consecrated to God in every respect, with every aspect of our lives subjected to the personal counsel, direction, and leadership of the Holy Spirit. It is then that

(Continued on page 8.)

FAITH AND VICTORY 12 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.

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.

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

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.

The *Faith and Victory* is published monthly, except August, for \$5.00 per year by:

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

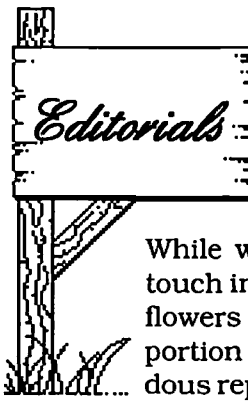
P. O. Box 518, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044

Office phone numbers: 405-282-1479, 800-767-1479;

fax number: 405-282-6318.

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

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



"Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." Psalm 119:18. There are many lovely sights awaiting those who make this Psalm their prayer.

While we can witness His delicate touch in the delightful beauty of the flowers and we can feel a minute portion of His power in the tremendous report of a lightning bolt, yet it is beyond words to describe the glory of our Creator. We marvel at the awesome works of our God. The more we see of His handiwork, the more our heart is drawn to Him in love and admiration.

The Queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon and she wanted to see for herself if what she had heard was true. This desire became so intense that one day she realized she must make a trip to visit this king who had been blessed by God to possess great wisdom. There were some hard questions she wanted to ask him. When she arrived in Jerusalem she was delighted with an opportunity to communicate with Solomon the deep things she held in her heart. In I Kings 10:3, it says, "And Solomon told her all her questions: there was not *any* thing hid from the king, which he told her not."

This Queen of the South was amazed by the things she saw—the wisdom of Solomon, the house he built and the order of his household were beyond her expectation. She said, "...It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard." I Kings 10:6-7.

The earthly parallel of Solomon's glory is only a portion of the majestic glory possessed by God. Jesus said, "Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." Luke 12:27. Our heavenly Father expresses His artistic beauty all around us. How do you describe a sunset to one who cannot see? Or the vista provided from the rim of the Grand Canyon? Words fail to communicate those scenes; they must be experienced.

When we see God's creation we are also impressed with His order. The stellar bodies of

the universe move in relation to one another with precision. The laws of physics that govern the order of our earthly habitation were spoken into existence by His decree. The repetitive cycles of nature continue because of His attention to order. God viewed His creation and said, "It was good."

The psalmist desired the Lord to open his eyes to the beauty, wisdom and holiness of God's law. When God opens our eyes, a transformation takes place in our very nature. The sin-darkened chambers of our heart are flooded with brilliant sunlight revealing the sinfulness of the evil that has shrouded our life. When that evil has been cleared out and put away from us, then our thinking can be clear. True direction will be established for our life and we will understand right from wrong—God's order will prevail.

Nebuchadnezzar was established as king of Babylon, and through the success God granted his kingdom, he became elevated in his estimation of himself. God warned him in a dream that his kingdom would be taken from him for a season, and Daniel, who interpreted the dream for the king, told him, "Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by showing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity." Daniel 4:27. If the king had taken advantage of this warning and begun to search out and obey the law of God he would have saved himself much grief. As the events unfolded in his life, Nebuchadnezzar lost his sanity and was driven into the forest to dwell as a beast for seven years. After this period of time his eyes were opened. His understanding returned and he saw the laws of God from a new, enlightened perspective.

Notice the words of his personal testimony, "And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing; and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and *among* the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? At the same time my reason

returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me." Daniel 4:34-36.

When God shows us the wondrous things of His law, we will praise and honor Him as the King of kings and Lord of lords. We will know that His law is right and we will see the righteous justice of His plan for us. As we obey and incorporate God's laws into our life, then we will be able to say with Nebuchadnezzar, "my reason returned unto me...and excellent majesty was added unto me." James 1:25 says, "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." The blessing that anoints the doer of God's perfect law is no less than a portion of the "excellent majesty" of God Himself dwelling with that individual.

Psalm 34:8 gives us this beautiful invitation, "O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man *that* trusteth in him." Everything about God is right. Any perception that is otherwise has come from the evil one who tries to paint God in a bad light and is not based in truth. Resist the devil and let your soul drink deeply from the fountain of life. As Psalm 36:9 tells us, "For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light." True peace for the soul is experienced by partaking from this heavenly fountain.

Psalm 96:6 enlightens us with this lovely picture of His glory, "Honour and majesty *are* before him: strength and beauty *are* in his sanctuary." The grandeur of this serene setting can be duplicated in our heart as we yield ourselves to do His holy will. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" I Corinthians 3:16. When the Holy Spirit abides in our heart it causes us to cease from our own works and to be active in His service. We become His sanctuary that is blessed with His "strength and beauty". The prophesy of Jeremiah 31:33 is fulfilled, "But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people."

We are excited about what the Lord has helped us to accomplish in the recent days. For some time we have desired to have the capability of printing a limited number of color covers for our books. We have felt that color covers would improve their likelihood of being purchased and read.

Some time ago we purchased an imagesetter which would output the color separation negatives needed to make plates for our press. The Lord graciously enabled us to purchase a Hamada two-color press last summer. However, for some time we were lacking a RIP, a special image processor which couples the computer to the imagesetter. We were thankful when the Lord allowed us to find one, and after some repairs to it we were able to bring it into operation. With the imagesetter operating we were able to generate color separation negatives for the children's edition of *Touching Incidents*. Armed with plates from these negatives we attempted to print them on the Hamada, two-color press. However, our first attempt was not successful. The register between the two cylinders could not be maintained and the press had problems feeding the paper. While the results were disheartening we were not ready to give up. We burned the plates again and put them on our single color, 1850, Multilith. After running all four colors through this press, each color a separate run, we felt we achieved a measure of success. While the register was not perfect, we felt that for our first project it was acceptable, and the covers were bound on the books.

Since the first run on the Hamada press, we have worked on it and discovered a part that was broken. The part was welded and the surface was ground down to work again. We also changed the sheet pick-up feet on the press for a replacement conversion offered by another company. This new installation has been made and I believe the press will perform better on our next attempt.

We believe the problems we have encountered in this project are only stepping-stones to a brighter future. We look forward, by the help of the Lord, to step into the good things He has in store for us.

The *Faith and Victory* papers for 2007 have been compiled into an annual yearbook and they are now available through this office. The 2007, Junior, *Beautiful Way* papers have like-

wise been compiled into a yearbook. Either of these annuals may be obtained for \$5.00 each. Normal shipping charges will apply. If you would like one, give us a call or email and we will be glad to send it.

As was previously noted, the children's edition of *Touching Incidents and Remarkable Answers to Prayer* by S. B. Shaw is now available. This 135-page book, bound in a heavy paper cover, is currently priced at \$3.00 each. Sis. Patrice Doolittle has graciously provided the color artwork for this cover.

—Bro. Willie E. Murphey
wemurphey@yahoo.com
1-800-767-1479



IL—Thanks for praying for me. I am still looking to the Lord for my healing.

—Sis. Norma Tiller

IL—Please remember me in prayer.

—Sis. Elsie M. Offerman

SC—Bro. Murphey, I am in much need of prayer. I am suffering with my hands and arms. My right arm and hand is better and I can use them some, but my left hand and arm is causing much pain. The pain is so excruciating it is stressing me out. My mind is becoming confused. Please pray for some relief. Only the Lord knows how much more I can bear. Pray for me that I'll stay in God's will. Also remember all of us here at Holly Hill.

Your sister in Christ, —Jurene McElhaney

LA—I've been sick for a long time. I wish you would pray for me. —Sis. Vera Jones

"Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him; I will set him on high, because he hath known my name." Psalm 91:14.

Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Carlos Arriaga
 Sis. Mamie Butcher
 Sis. Gladys Cashio
 Sis. Helen Carson
 Sis. Waneta Creel
 Sis. Patsy Doolittle
 Sis. Dorall Forbes
 Bro. Troy Gentry
 Bro. Lee Hilton
 Sis. Leta Inman
 Bro. Mark and Sis. Darlene Knight
 Sis. Juliette Lounds
 Sis. Tenaye Moaning
 Sis. Melba Powell
 Bro. Jerry Quave
 Sis. Olene Rector
 Sis. Cheryl Smith
 Bro. Michael Smith
 Bro. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor
 The Mitch Taylor family
 Sis. Norma Tiller
 Sis. Anneta Williamson
 Sis. Lula Williamson

I Met The Master Face to Face

*I had walked life's way with an easy tread,
 Had followed where comforts and pleasures led,
 Until, one day, in a quiet place
 I met the Master face to face.*

*With station, rank and wealth for my goal,
 Much thought for my body, but none for my soul,
 I had entered to win in life's mad race,
 When I met the Master, face to face.*

*I met Him, knew Him, and blushed to see
 That His eyes full of sorrow were fixed on me.
 And I faltered and fell at His feet that day,
 While my castles melted and vanished away.*

*I had built my castles and reared them high
 Till their towers had pierced the blue of the sky.
 I had sworn to rule with an iron mace
 When I met the Master face to face.*

*Melted, vanished, and in their place,
 Naught else did I see but my Master's face,
 And I cried aloud, "Oh, make me meet
 To follow the steps of Thy wounded feet!"*

*My thought is now, for the souls of men,
 I have lost my life to find it again,
 E'er since one day, in a quiet place
 I met the Master face to face.*

—Selected

MEETING DATES

Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—May 23-June 1

General Southern (Loranger, LA)—

June 29-July 6

National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 18-27



LETTERS
 FROM
 OUR
 READERS

OK—Dear Bro. Willie & Sis. Neta: Greetings of Christian love. I have been inspired and encouraged with the thought of how God chooses to work with mankind to accomplish His work. He chose Moses who was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was mighty in words and in deeds. Acts 7:22. But before he could be qualified to lead God's people out of Egypt, he must spend forty years in the back-side of the desert keeping his father-in-law's sheep. (Exodus 3:1.)

"(Now the man Moses *was* very meek, above all the men which *were* upon the face of the earth.)" Numbers 12:3. Moses had reason to use this meekness many times, and it was said that Moses was faithful in all his house as a servant. (Hebrews 3:5.)

Paul was a learned man and, at the feet of Gamaliel, was taught after the perfect manner of the law. But before he could be used of God he must bow at the feet of Jesus and ask, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

It is when we feel little in our own self that God can show Himself strong. Peter and John were counted ignorant and unlearned, but rulers marveled and took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus.

Our relationship with Jesus is what counts. Paul said, "For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles." If we are willing to just be an empty vessel that He can use to His glory, that is what is important.

"Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I

am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these *things* I delight, saith the LORD." Jeremiah 9:23-24.

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

SC—Dear Saints: I wanted to write and testify about my dogs. The Lord saved them from a terrible thing. They got out the gate and were gone for several hours. We went to look for them in our car. God led my Mommy to go to Gallery Lane, and she saw a boy hunting. She asked him if he had seen our dogs, and he said, "No, but I'll let you know if I see them." We really prayed that the Lord would let us find them. I prayed until I had no more speech to talk, and I had to just give it to the Lord. I said, "Mommy, I'll just have to go through this." When we returned to our house from looking for them, the boy was in our driveway with our two dogs. Thank the Lord!

—Zachary Smith, six years of age
— — — — —

From Ghana...

December 4, 2008—Dear Saints, I want to tell how the Lord helped me with a situation that happened some days ago. I thank Him and want to honor Him for His goodness.

One morning I was not feeling well, but I still drove to Nkinkaso to help the brethren with their work. The roads here are rough and the travel greatly jarred by body. On my return trip I was still feeling bad, and as I was walking from the main road to the house where we were staying, I began to feel worse. I thought, "I don't know how I will reach home." A bad headache accompanied the sick feeling I had. I don't remember reaching home but somehow I did and went right to bed. My wife said my face was very white when she saw me. After resting a little, I wanted to brush my teeth and was unable to do it alone.

Now I could sympathize with our daughter, Rahel, who has been sick for five days. She has been unable to be up and is only able to eat a little bit of cake and drink some water. I also could sympathize with Bro. Emmanuel Atobra, who is sick also. After feeling ill for awhile, I began to have negative thoughts. My wife said the sickness was starting out like my last illness with malaria. While these thoughts were pressing in on me, I began to think about a song and Bible verse which says, "Silver and gold I don't have, but what I have that I give you—in the

name of Jesus Christ stand up and walk." It is a song referring to the crippled man who was sitting before the temple doors and asking for alms from Peter and John. (Acts 3:1-8.) I took this scripture for my own and in faith stood up. My bad feelings went away. I praise the Lord for this touch.

We then went to visit Bro. Emmanuel Atobra and encouraged him. From this time I was feeling almost completely well. Praise the Lord! Today our Rahel is also feeling much stronger. My wife says she is eating many cakes and one banana. So we praise the Lord for touching her too.

The brethren at Asankare, where we have held open-air meetings, have started a congregation. The beginning is hard for them so they have asked for help for a place to worship and for benches and other things.

The ministers at Akumadan (Bro. Emmanuel Atobra, Bro. Emmanuel Boeteng and Bro. James Badu) have tomato farms, but they cannot find buyers for their crop. They have invested their money and now the tomatoes are beginning to spoil and they are losing so much.

Your brother in Christ —Alen Laukert
(At press time Sis. Elina Laukert is ill with malaria. They attempted to return to their home in Germany, but the pilot of the airline was unwilling to allow her to travel in her weakened condition. She has been hospitalized and the German embassy has helped the other family members to obtain lodging. Tests on the children have also been positive for malaria, even though at this time they are not so sick. Remember them in prayer that God will give Sis. Elina a healing touch, keep Bro. Alen and the children from becoming worse and enable them to return safely home. —W. E. M.)



How Can We Know the Truth?

(Continued from page 3.)

the refining fire of the eternal Spirit consumes the dross of our carnal nature and we begin to grow and abound in the knowledge and revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As one old song says, "Let me lose myself and find it, Lord, in thee." "...Our God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:29. "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all," and "if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

I John 1:5, 7. Jesus said, "...He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life," and "...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." We can never be too dead to self and filled with too much of God. This is the abundant life! It is found in the fullness of Christ, who "is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (I Corinthians 1:30.) "by the Spirit" (I Corinthians 6:11, II Corinthians 3:18.) "God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." II Thessalonians 2:13-14. Thus man is restored to the image of God, being sanctified by the Spirit and by the truth. (John 17:17.) This is the only way we can know the truth. Amen.



Eddie Robert Johnson, the youngest son of Israel and Beatrice Johnson, a father, a grandfather, a brother, an uncle, a cousin, and a man of God was born on January 10, 1936 in Creek County, OK and died in Bakersfield, CA on September 8, 2007.

In the late thirties and early forties, his family moved to Bakersfield, CA. He attended the local elementary schools, and continued his education at Kern County Union High School (renamed Bakersfield High School), graduating in 1955. After graduation, he started working with his uncle, Ulysses Norling, hauling hay. Dreaming of a better way of life, he continued his education at Bakersfield College. During this time he met the "Girl of his dreams," Clarisse Bowers. Later, he married Clarisse. To

this union five children were born. He had an extraordinary love for his family, especially his wife. She was his pride and joy. It was his mission to make sure Clarisse was being nurtured, taken care of and loved. He also had a special love and concern for his children, grandchildren, and extended family.

As a young man, Eddie accepted the Lord and became a member of the Bakersfield Church of God under the leadership of his uncle, the late Bro. Isaac C. Chandler. He worked with Bro. Chandler in his ministry. After marriage, Eddie became serious about his relationship with God. He rededicated his life to Christ and began serving in multiple capacities: such as a minister, as treasurer of the Maintenance Fund, a Sunday School teacher, and a member of the Board of Trustees. He always enjoyed being involved with the young people, often encouraging and giving them words of advice. He equally enjoyed being in the company of the older saints, seeking out their tried and proven wisdom. This faithful man of God was always willing and eager to serve at any given time. As a minister, Bro. Johnson worked with the late Bro. Robert May in the leadership of the Bakersfield Congregation of the Church of God, Evening Lights Saints. After the death of Bro. Mays, Bro. Johnson continued to lead the Saints in Bakersfield, where he was a steadfast child of God. Bro. Johnson was ordained as an Elder in the Bakersfield congregation of the Church of God, Evening Light Saints, after his long and dedicated service in the ministry. It was evident to many that the Lord had endowed him with the gift of healing. Bro. Johnson faithfully ministered to the Saints in Los Angeles, CA every month.

Bro. Eddie Robert Johnson will be greatly missed by his family, his church, his neighbors, his friends and his community.

His parents, Israel and Beatrice Johnson, and only brother, Ederson Johnson, preceded him in death. Bro. Eddie leaves to cherish precious memories, his loving and devoted wife, Clarisse Johnson, three daughters, Rofreca Carter, Denise Johnson and Makeba Johnson of Bakersfield, CA; two sons, Stephon Johnson and daughter-in-law, Katherine Johnson, of Inglewood, CA, and Kevin Johnson of Bakersfield, CA; sixteen grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, and many other relatives, saints and friends.

The Family Structure

By **Sis. Charlotte Huskey**

“...Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him...For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.” Genesis 18:18-19.

The family structure is very important because it must be strong, generation after generation. Each generation of life is a cycle of dependence on other members of the family. If the structure is faulty the cycle can break. A broken cycle inflicts pain of different degrees on members of the family. We have all seen the evidence of this in abused or neglected children, rebellious teens, deserted spouses and neglect of the aged. People of every age and social and economic levels are effected by emotional problems caused by a break in the family structure.

The family cycle begins with a baby that is totally dependent on adults. Those first five or six years are the formative years when the behavior patterns and moral conscience of the child are developing. What happens to the child in these years has a lifelong effect. This is the parents' most opportune time for training that will produce good results in later years. (Training is educating in behavior patterns through the use of negative and positive stimuli.)

As a child moves into middle school age, parents become teachers and coaches for their children. They show the children how to study, how to work, how to make goals for themselves, how to bring their bodies and emotions into control so they can be successful—just as a sport coach coaches his students to achieve a goal. In the later high school and college years, parents continue coaching and also become counselors in whom God has invested both wisdom and authority. If the parent-child relationship is a good one, this will be a precious time for both child and parent.

Then comes the child's adult years, when the parent and child are friends. This is the longest period of time and is when the parents reap the rewards of their parenting years. Later, when the parent becomes aged, the roles switch. Adult children become the adviser and author-

ity over the parent. That completes the beautiful cycle that God ordained for families.

When your children are old enough to choose their friends, will you have given them reason to choose you? Have you proved that you are trustworthy by being truthful to them? Or in their forming years did you tell them little white lies to get them to do what you wanted them to do? Have you often weakened in confrontations when you should have calmly stood for truth? Have you respected them as a valuable person and kept a good relationship? Do your teenagers consider you to be a part of their desirable relationships? If they do, it is because your family has learned to depend on each other. Your family structure is probably interdependent. It is God's desire that families be interdependent, just as His church is interdependent—many members but all one body. (I Corinthians 12:12-27.)

The two predominant structures for families are independent and interdependent. To illustrate the interdependent family, imagine a family standing in a circle holding hands and facing each other. They are connected through touch and can easily communicate, as each one can see the other. The members of an interdependent family find social, emotional and spiritual fulfillment together. The interdependent family is likely to stay in close contact after the children are adults and have families of their own.

The family with an independent structure is likely to fall apart when the children are old enough to choose their friends. To illustrate an independent family structure, imagine a group of people standing in a circle with their backs to each other and not holding hands. Communication is difficult without either hand or eye contact. Each one in this group is looking outward to his own selfish interests. The members of this family think and do for themselves without much consideration of other family members. They do not love their neighbor (those closest to them) as Jesus commanded in Matthew 22:39. Their social and emotional needs are met outside the family. A family with an independent structure often becomes dysfunctional. Divorce, child abuse, child neglect, drug or alcohol abuse and sorrows of all sorts are the

results. Some families fall into such depraved conditions as is described in Joel 3:3. "They...have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink."

Other independently structured families become fragmented but are still able to serve as decent citizens. However, their hearts are void of the rich blessings that God intended for a family. Many times these persons suffer depression, loneliness and other emotional disorders, which often leads to the need for professional psychotherapy.

It isn't hard to identify an independent teen that is finding his social and emotional satisfaction outside the family. They will conform to the group to gain approval for their hairstyle, clothes, music and speech. They have become a part of another family—their peers. They have found a relationship that was not find in their own family because the members of the family were working independently. However, that teen will never find spiritual satisfaction until they come again under parental authority.

Is there hope for a family who is becoming fragmented to regain a healthy relationship with their children? In Joel 2:12-13, there is a promise for those who have disobeyed God. It says, "...Turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping,...for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness..." In verses 25-26 it says, "And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm,...and my people shall never be ashamed." Zechariah 1:3 also gives a promise. He says, "...Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts."

Parents who are willing to admit they have made mistakes have already taken a big step toward a better family. Repent and ask Christ to help you to know how to train yourself and your children to depend on each other. Then gather your family and explain the mistakes you have made in the past and ask their forgiveness. Be careful not to focus on your children's mistakes. Remember, you are rebuilding relationships. You must take the blame for the state your family is in. If you have been lax on obedience, explain what God's Word says; if it is respect, explain that. Then explain the course of action that you believe God wants you to take. Kindly

answer any questions they may have, and pray together as a family.

To be successful in reconstructing a family, you must be determined; for an interdependent family structure is very opposite of the way the world believes a family should be. It is also contrary to human nature. Every person is born with a desire to be independent. (Eve was acting independently of Adam when she ate of the forbidden fruit.) Every child needs the consistent supervision of a mother in order to become skilled in living interdependently with other members of a family. You may have to make some difficult changes such as, the mother quitting her job. You'll need to put family above advancement in business.

"The aged women...teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works:

FAITH AND **Order Blank** VICTORY

\$5.00 PER YEAR (11 Issues)

Mail this form to start or renew your own subscription — give a friend a gift — or do both! It only takes a minute.

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Start or renew my Faith and Victory subscription.

Send a 1-year gift subscription to the person named below:

Gift to _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail Order Blank and remittance to:

Faith Publishing House

P. O. Box 518

Guthrie, OK 73044

1/08

FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY

FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY

FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY FAITH AND VICTORY

in doctrine *showing* uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned...." Titus 2:3-8.

Older children will watch to see if the attitude and the relationship between their parents has changed. They will want to see humility, genuine love, repentant attitudes and that they are striving to do better. Teenagers can sense hypocrisy in parents and usually do not want to identify with a hypocrite; however, they will often forgive and try to conform if the parents are sincere. Make good the chance you have to restore your family, for you may not get another. If we, as parents, will seek God to give us a heart that will fear Him and give us courage to obey all His commandments, it will always make a difference in our families. We can then have faith that God will bless our children and it will be well with them. (Deuteronomy 5:29.)

Thank God we can have the blessing of God upon our descendants as Abraham did, for we are children of Abraham and heirs of the kingdom. Galatians 3:7, "Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham,"

I Am The Child

I am the child.
All the world waits for my coming.
And the earth watches with interest
To see what I shall become.
Civilization hangs in the balance,
For what I am
The world of tomorrow will be.

I am the child.
I have come into your world,
About which I knew nothing.
Why I come—I know not.
How I came—I know not.
I am curious; I am interested.

I am the child.
You hold in your hand my destiny.
You determine, largely,
Whether I shall succeed or fail.
Give me, I pray you, those things
That make for happiness.
Train me, I beg you, that I may be
A blessing to the world.

—Selected

Faith Publishing House
P.O. Box 518
Guthrie, OK 73044