

FAITH AND VICTORY

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DIVINE HEALING

By Sis. Marsha Corteway

Divine: Given or inspired by God, holy, sacred. Supremely great, good, etc.

Intervention: The act of intervening, any interference in the affairs of others.

Healing: To make sound, well or healthy again, restore to health. To cure or get rid of a disease, to free from grief, troubles. Be cured.

Healing of our soul and body is a very great need of a mortal person. Healing of the soul is the first and greatest need, then we need healing of the body. God, our great God, looks down upon the shed blood of his Son and sends our healing as Isaiah 53:5 declares, "But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Also see Mathew 8:16-17, "When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with *his* word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was

spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare *our* sicknesses."

Jesus shed His blood for our healing of soul and body. We are delivered completely from our sins and can live free from sin in this life, and then go on to a second work of grace and be cleansed by the Holy Spirit. Romans 12:1 says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which* is your reasonable service." Notice Hebrews 10:10, 19, "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*." "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus." When we are saved from all our sins and are reigning over sin and have the experience of dwelling in the holy place, only then can we enter the holiest. Now, we praise God for giving all these wonderful blessings to us, and allowing us to be partakers of His Holiness. By these scriptures we see plainly that God wants our bodies given to Him. As we are very careful to keep ourselves free from sin and the world, we are also to be careful how we use our bodies in lawful things pertaining to fleshly desires. One of these is the daily intake of food to sustain and nourish the body. It is great wisdom to consider what we are taking into our bodies, and whether it is promoting our health, or destroying our bodies, for whom Christ died. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which* is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a

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price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." I Corinthians 6:19-20. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." I Corinthians 10:31.

God has given us everything we need in this life, yet we have the power to make good or bad choices. As Christians we know and understand more clearly how God would have us to walk and partake of fleshly desires that are lawful, but some things may not be expedient for our spiritual welfare or our health. A great privilege is given us to ask God to come and heal us when we are sick or in great need. Would it not be wisdom to try our best to obey God's Word and take care of our health as much as possible. Then with confidence we can go to our Creator and ask our petition in faith and believe that we will receive. We glorify God and praise Him for all His provisions He has so wondrously bestowed upon us. What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear. What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer. Mortal man can do a few things, yet nothing as great as Divine healing. "And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city. And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and **Jesus seeing their faith** said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For **whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?** But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house." Matthew 9:1-6. This passage goes on to say in the seventh verse, "And he arose, and

departed to his house." You will notice at the beginning of these verses, that Christ had entered into a ship, and came unto His own city. Christ will only come to those who truly want His presence, and desire and covet His way, His truth and His life. John 14: 6. He is never going to force someone to love and serve Him or trust Him for the healing of their body, although according to God's Word, this is His will. We are to make our own choices in life, whether to *serve* Him and whether to obey His wise instruction for the betterment of our life here and our life in the hereafter. Much of our life is by faith, yet when we actually feel healing go through our mortal bodies and see the results, this Divine favor from God brings such thankfulness and closeness and awe of Him. It is truly a benefit for our Christian faith and walk with God. This direct physical healing from God is such a sight of faith that we can never be the same, in that we never can doubt the power and manifestation of Divine healing.

The poet penned these inspiring words in the song *The Virtue of Faith*. "Regarding not what I may see, my faith, O Lord, ascends to Thee."

Romans 1:17. "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from **faith to faith**: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." We should share our experiences of salvation, and Divine healing with one another. As we do so, our faith is increased and faith in God is also built in the hearts of others.

"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." James 5:14-15. This blessed promise is given to those who will exercise faith in God.



An Issue of Blood

By Sis. Marilyn Eck

*"Oh, yes, Oh, yes, I'm a child of the King;
His royal blood now flows in my veins.*

*And I, though unworthy and poor, now can sing,
Praise God, praise God, I'm a child of the King."*

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ..." Romans 8:16-17

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood..."
Leviticus 17:11

We had an experience here on the farm several years ago that impressed on me the fact that life is in the blood. I would like for us to think about our spiritual blood, that which provides the fortitude for us to go forward victoriously.

Naturally speaking, when a person's blood is in proper condition there is strong physical stamina and the individual is able to endure the rigors of life. When an anemic condition exists the red corpuscle and hemoglobin counts are too low to allow the carriage of oxygen from the lungs to the tissue, and the body cannot function at the capacity that is needed for everyday responsibilities. When the rigors of life present themselves, the energy and strength to face them is nonexistent. A good, balanced diet can oftentimes be helpful in improving the condition. Spiritually, the condition of "our blood" is greatly affected by what we take into our minds and give room to in meditation. If there is a wound, an act, an attitude, etc. that we are nursing, there is a leak and an issue of blood on a continuing basis. The integrity of our spiritual health is dangerously compromised if we have a place from which our "life blood" is ebbing.

In Luke 8:43-46 we have the account of the woman who had an issue of blood for twelve years and had spent all her living on physicians who had been unable to heal the condition. Since I am not well acquainted with the ways of the medical world I must speak from the context of this passage. These physicians utilized various methods to produce the desired healing, when one method did not work then another was employed. After extended, expensive treatment, this woman still was not healed—until she came to Jesus. Medication may be administered in a controlled amount to try to counteract the condition that exists. Today we understand that in some instances, if the therapeutic regimen is not followed as prescribed, physical integrity may be compromised in that the bacteria can become resistant to the antibiotic and be much harder to control.

In Luke 8:46 we read Jesus' words. "...Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive virtue is gone out of me." Part of the definition of *virtue* is general moral excellence; right action and thinking; integrity; right-mindedness. If we touch Jesus in the right spirit, with the proper attitude, we are going to receive virtue (integrity, right-mindedness)—all of the above definition. We must *have a desire* to have the ebbing of our spiritual life stanch and put forth the effort to touch Him. When His virtue flows to us our spiritual health is restored.

The places from which the life-giving blood is issuing, be it an artery or a capillary, large or small, need to be given determined attention in our lives. To have the issue of blood stopped there must be a solid contact with Jesus. There is just one way to touch Him and that is to conform to the design of the "Master Receptacle." I think of the polarized receptacles we have nowadays. There is only one way to fit the plug into the slots; it just will not fit any other way. If a person wants the benefit of the power from the electrical current, then they must plug in correctly. It is just that very same way with Jesus and His virtue—His integrity, His morality, His right action and thinking. If we will plug in correctly, the spiritual issue of blood will be stopped.

This dear woman had put forth a lot of effort to find healing, but she had looked in the wrong place. Jesus held the answer to her infirmity. To remedy a spiritual problem we tend to try the quick-fix approach. We feel a sting of realization that we are experiencing a weakening of our spiritual fortitude—spiritual anemia. A trip to the altar, the shedding of a few tears and we feel better for awhile, but then we get careless about the "treatment" ordered by the Great Physician Who knows exactly what prescription we need to make our blood healthy, which will in turn, give us spiritual vivacity. The enemy of our souls has been given an avenue by which he causes the bacteria to mutate, making it more difficult to overcome the next time. Because we don't want to commit to follow through with the "regimen" needed to build up our spiritual integrity now, a more rigid discipline will be necessary in the future and for a longer period of time. When this condition exists, we have the infirmity of an issue of blood—spiritual life is ebbing away.

There are physicians who treat other kinds of infirmities. There are podiatrists who specialize in foot problems, and chiropractors who adjust alignment and placement of the bones in the body. Doctors of nutrition are available to give proper in-depth dietary information. In the *spiritual application*, if the pathway we are to follow seems "difficult," if our "feet are hurting," if we have a skeletal misalignment and we cannot stand up straight, hindering our progress, and we seek advice from someone

(Continued on page 6.)

FAITH AND VICTORY 12 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from sin and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way as the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Ex. 25:2; I Chron. 29:9; II Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Freewill offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House. All donations are tax deductible.

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It is the season of the year when the snow begins to melt and the warmth of the sun drives away the chill of winter. A delightful time when the magic of God's creation comes forth with new life—trees and shrubs send forth their flowers and leaves. The goodness of God is clearly evident in the beauty of life that surrounds us. In the natural order of the seasons it is now time to plant a wide variety of seeds, for the warm days of spring and summer are ahead of us. These warm days provide suitable conditions for seeds to germinate and for plants to grow and produce fruit for the gardener. However, unless the seed is planted, one cannot expect to enjoy the fruitful reward that blesses the table of the gardener.

I am sure all of us understand the natural law of sowing and reaping, yet we often need to be reminded of its importance in our own lives. It is easy to forget that we will one day reap what we are sowing today, whether it be good or evil. Therefore let our deeds today be those that are born of kindness and our words seasoned with grace, for tomorrow they will return to us more abundantly.

"The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness *shall be* a sure reward. As righteousness *tendeth* to life: so he that pursueth evil *pursueth it* to his own death." Proverbs 11:18-19. God has instilled in mankind a love for life and these verses give a promise of life to those who sow righteousness. This chapter in Proverbs gives some good advice to those who desire to reap a blessing from God. The first verse speaks of a "just weight." God is pleased when we are fair in our business dealings and His blessing can determine whether we succeed or fail in business.

The second verse says, "...but with the lowly is wisdom." A lowly person is teachable and this allows the spirit of the Lord to instruct them. As that instruction is received and acted upon then true wisdom begins to dwell in their heart. Those who are proud will not submit to the instruction that comes from the still small voice of the Lord. They may make loud boastings of their wisdom, but it is not the wisdom that comes from above that is directing their feet.

The third verse says, "The integrity of the upright shall guide them:..." When one is careful to live in a way that is above reproach they will be shown the right path when their way becomes unclear. There are times when it may be hard to discern right and wrong, but those who are pure in heart will be blessed with an understanding of the right course. For their heart is tuned to hear and obey the voice of the Lord, and that voice will be a beacon in the night.

The fourth verse contrasts the fallibility of riches with the superior blessing of righteousness. It says, "Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death." When we understand the true value of righteousness it should not be hard to know where to set the focus of our heart, for we want the blessing of life that is promised in these verses. Therefore today we want to sow seeds that will bless us tomorrow—we want the "sure reward" to be waiting for us when it comes time to reap the deeds done in this body.

All of us have been influenced by those who have taken the time and put forth the effort to instruct us in the ways of righteousness, and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their concern for our soul. It may have been a combined effort from a number of people, perhaps our parents, Sunday School teacher, pastor, neighbor or some other special person. Through some manner, the seed of the Gospel has been planted in our hearts, and those who have allowed it to germinate and grow are truly grateful for the life changing influence it has produced in their hearts. If it had not been for that precious seed, we would perish along with Sodom and Gomorrah. (Romans 9:29.) But God has been merciful to us and reserved faithful men and women through the passing ages of time who have carried the truth of God's Word to our generation. It is now our responsibility to also be faithful to others of our time by sowing the seeds of the Gospel.

Those who have been redeemed hold in their hearts the keys to life. We have been blessed to know the value of righteousness and have experienced the joy of having our sins forgiven by the sacrificial offering of Jesus, God's only begotten Son. We know the true meaning of love, for that love has touched our heart and changed our life. Let us share these precious truths of salvation

with others. They need Him too. The Gospel seed may find lodging in a hungry heart and begin to grow and we will be thrilled when we see the result of our efforts toward our fellow man blossom into eternal life.

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



THE MEMORIES OF THE JUST

Proverbs 10:7

Deep within my ransomed spirit
Hangs a gallery of art:
Forms and faces of great merit,
Valued treasure of my heart.

These are mem'ries shining ever
Of the saints and breth'ren gone,
That the hand of death did sever
From the stage of life upon.

Yes, departed from my presence,
Never more this earth to tread;
Ling'ring yet in mem'ry's essence
Are the blest immortal dead.

How I love to ponder o'er them,
Call their holy lives to mind;
Of their days in thought I store them:
Cherished gems of human kind!

From this mortal life departed,
Gone from sorrow, pain, and care
Endless peace and rest have started,
No more earthly griefs to bear.

But, in mem'ry fond returning,
Oft their faces I recall:
Their endearment ever burning,
On my heart their echoes fall!

And sometimes in dreams appearing
In my slumber through the night,
Gently speaking, smiling, cheering,
For my soul a guiding light.

Yes, they're gone, but yet they're with me
Bound with endless glowing love,
Ever pointing in their pity
To that blessed home above.

And some blessed day I'll meet them
On that brighter fairer shore:
With great rapture I shall greet them,
Hear their voices speak once more!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

An Issue of Blood

(Continued from page 3.)

other than the Perfect Physician, we are allowing that precious blood of spiritual life to ebb away. Still referring to the spiritual, what kind of diet are we following? We are what we eat! Are we ingesting that which will result in only pink blood instead of red blood ?

Is the spiritual life ebbing away? Why not take the time for an intimate visit with the Healer of broken hearts, the Healer of wounded spirits and the One Who can and will help us change the direction of our affection?

May the Lord help each of us that our spiritual vitality may return. —Sis. Marilyn Eck



CA—Please remember my friends, Mike and Ellen, they have some physical needs. Also pray that the Lord would open up some employment opportunities for my wife and I.

—Bro. Don Viser

MO—Do pray for me, and for some of my children who are in much need of physical and spiritual help. Christian love,

—Sis Nelva Stanley

SC—I am requesting earnest prayer on behalf of my son, Eric concerning custody rights of his little girl, Erin. We are to go back to court on April 29th, and we desire prayer that God will intervene and show mercy concerning this. We know God is above all power and principality, and He can move on the heart of the judge to show leniency and favor towards Eric in this situation. Please pray for us that God will work this out. We truly appreciate your prayers.

In Christ, —Sis. Beverly Pratt

OK—Remember Bro. Rodney Sorrell in prayer. He has a serious affliction that sometimes causes him severe discomfort and makes it difficult to rest.

Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Carlos Arriaga
 Sis. Gladys Cashio
 Sis. Helen Carson
 Sis. Genevive Carver
 Sis. Elizabeth Corteway
 Sis. Waneta Creel
 Sis. Patsy Doolittle
 Sis. Dorall Forbes
 Bro. Troy Gentry
 Bro. Lee Hilton
 Jaden Howard
 Sis. Karoline Kessler
 Bro. Mark and Sis. Darlene Knight
 Sis. Elsie M. Offerman
 Sis. Melba Powell
 Sis. Marilyn Rendall
 Bro. Vernon Robinson
 Sis. Ruth Shehee
 Sis. Cheryl Smith
 Bro. Michael Smith
 Bro. Rodney Sorrell
 Bro. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor
 Sis. Imogene Taylor
 The Mitch Taylor family
 Sis. Norma Tiller
 Bro. Delmar Wilkins
 Sis. Annetta Williamson

On Our Way to Glory

We are on our way to glory,
 Singing victory as we go,
 For the blood of our Redeemer
 Makes us whiter than the snow.

Oh the light of Heaven is shining,
 Since we walk the narrow way,
 And obey the Word of Jesus
 Where He says to watch and pray.

Yes we've reached the land of promise,
 Where the milk and honey flow,
 Where there is no fruit of Egypt,
 But the fruits of Canaan grow.

Oh our hope is all in Jesus,
 And we trust in Him alone,
 Since He sits within our bosom,
 As a king upon is throne.

—E. Whitmore

MEETING DATES

Oklahoma City (Revival)—April 1-5
Miami, FL (Camp Meeting)—April 5-12
Wichita, KS (Spring Meeting)—April 19-26
Alabama (Spring Singing)—April 25
Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—May 22-31
Vanceburg, KY (Spring Meeting)—May 22-24
Holly Hill, SC (Camp Meeting)—May 31-June 7
Green Bank, WV (Camp Meeting)—June 12-18
Fresno, CA (Camp Meeting)—June 28-July 5
General Southern (Loranger, LA)—
 June 28-July 5
National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 17-26

MEETING NOTICES

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK, REVIVAL

The 23rd Street Church of God congregation in Oklahoma City wants to announce our revival meeting for April 1-5. The Lord has heard our prayers and given a burden for the meeting to Bro. Michael Smith. The congregation extends an invitation for all to come and enjoy the blessings of the Lord with us. Services will be 7:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. There will be morning and afternoon services on Sunday with dinner served. The afternoon service will start about 2:00 p.m. (There will be no night service.) The chapel is located at 5900 N.E. 23rd St., Oklahoma City, OK. Contact persons are: Bro. Loren Busbee, (405) 478-3860 or Bro. Galen Kelly, (405) 424-8400.

WICHITA, KS, SPRING MEETING

Lord willing, Wichita plans to have its Spring Meeting April 19-26. There will be three services on Sundays, and two services Monday—Saturday at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. We ask interest in the prayers of the Saints that the Lord will lead in everything and that souls will truly be helped and blessed. Come and help in the battle if you can.

The chapel is located at 2509 N. Grove, Wichita, KS. For further information or directions you may contact Bro. Emanuel Gracey at (316) 461-1267 or Bro. Theodore McCray at (316) 641-4170.

MIAMI, FL, CAMP MEETING

The Saints in Miami, FL will be having a camp meeting beginning April 5 and continuing

through April 12. Services will be nightly at 7:30 with two services on Sunday. The schedule of day services will be announced at the meeting. All are welcome.

For more information call Bro. Charles Clay at (305) 257-9929, Cell (305) 804-8504 or Bro. Ken Baxter at (786) 554-8833. The chapel is located at 235 NW 47th St, Miami, FL.

ALABAMA SPRING SINGING, NEAR WARRIOR

The Church of God congregation near Warrior, AL is planning a singing April 25, at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel. Activities will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning at Dodge City Community Building, about one half mile west of Interstate 65, from exit #299. Dodge City is near Cullman.—Please take note, this is a different location than we usually have for the activities on Saturday morning and afternoon.

On the following day, April 26 there will be dinner on the chapel grounds with services at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

The chapel is located approximately two miles west of Interstate 65 at exit #289 on Acton Bend Circle. For further information you may contact Bro. Roy Herron at (205) 647-7869 or Bro. Marshall Whitson at (205) 647-6325.

OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING

The annual Oklahoma State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held May 22-31, at the campground in Guthrie, OK. The first service will be on Friday evening May 22 at 7:30, with three services daily thereafter.

An invitation to attend is extended to everyone. Your presence and your prayers will be appreciated. Three meals per day will be provided and every effort will be made to provide lodging for those who come from out of town or country.

We have a ladies dormitory and sleeping accommodations are also available in the Sunday school rooms. The Lord has provided us with a separate family unit with twelve private motel style rooms. To the extent possible, these rooms will be reserved for families. Please let us know ASAP if you desire one of the family units and the number of nights you plan to stay. We also request you bring the necessary linens and bath items.

At the present time we do not have camping facilities, but if you would like to bring your RV there are three RV parks within four miles of the church grounds. Call the persons below for telephone numbers of the RV parks.

Expenses for the meeting will be met by freewill offering. If you would like to make a contribution, you may do so by sending it directly to the state treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, 807 W. Lake Rd., Guthrie, OK 73044.

For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Stanley Dickson, at (405) 260-8822.

VANCEBURG, KY, SPRING MEETING

Lord willing, the Vanceburg, KY congregation will be holding a spring meeting beginning on Friday morning, May 22 and ending on Sunday morning, May 24. Morning services will be at 10:00 and evening services will be at 7:00 on Friday and Saturday. The meeting will be ending after the Sunday morning service that will begin at 11:00. We are depending on the Lord to send the ministers of His choosing for these services. The meeting will be conducted on a freewill offering. The meeting will be held at the Ruggles Campground in Tollesboro, KY as in previous years. Accommodations will be at the campground. There are RV hook-ups provided on a first come first serve basis. There are also hotels 20 to 30 minutes away in Maysville, KY for those interested. For more information please contact Bro. Dallas Cooper at 606-796-3645 or cell phone 606-202-1366.

HOLLY HILL, SC, CAMP MEETING

We would like to extend a warm and cordial welcome to come to our Holly Hill, SC Camp Meeting 2009. Lord willing, the meeting will begin on Sunday morning, May 31 and go through Sunday morning, June 7. There will be three services daily, including an early morning prayer meeting, an afternoon service, and an evening service. If you would like to come and need accommodations, please call Sis. Beverly Pratt at 803-496-3057 or Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Smith at 803-492-7975, so we can make arrangements for you. ALL are welcome! Come if you can, and if it isn't possible for you to be here, please pray that the Holy Spirit will have complete control in every service of this meeting. In the love of Jesus,

—The Holly Hill, SC Congregation



**LETTERS
FROM
OUR
READERS**

PA—Dear Bro. Murphey: We pray for you and trust all is well. The Lord sure is being good to us. He is faithfully sustaining us in His love and allowing His light of truth to shine brighter to our souls. With each added ray of truth we rejoice more and more. The light of true love, liberty, honesty, faith, humility and spirit is found only in the true Church of God. Praise God for deliverance!

Yours in Christ, —Bro. Jeff Wallech

KS—I am much encouraged and determined to be faithful to God. He is so good and has blessed me for many years. I truly enjoy serving Him and having Him to look to and lean on. Without Him life would truly be dreary. I don't understand how so many people are content to trust in themselves and luck. May all the saved just dig deeper and get closer and be real lights and examples to the world.

—Sis. Shirley Knight

OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greeting in the precious name of Jesus. I have just recently been thinking and meditating on the scripture found in St John 14:6. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." I have surely been blessed greatly by it. Especially with the thought, "I am" in so many places. Jesus was the term "I am." I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life, I am the good shepherd, I am the door, I am the bread of life, I am God and change not. "I am" means present existence. "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore,..." Revelation 1:18. Your brother in Christ,

—T. V. McMillian

LA—Good morning, Willie and Neta: I trust this finds you and yours well and encouraged in the Lord. I think of you frequently and breathe your names in prayer.

Here's something I wrote several years ago and ran across it this morning....I thought

perhaps it may be useful to you.

A verse of song, "In my hand no price I bring...", the advice of a friend, "Just fall on the Lord," combined with Isaiah 40:11-31 and 45 to produce the following:

Thus Saith the Lord

I am the Lord and beside me there is none else. Some people create their own gods, but will you liken me to the strength of the heathen? I am the One Who created the earth; I sit on the circle of it. I feed the wild beasts and clothe the lilies of the field. I pay attention when a sparrow falls to the ground. I create the light and the darkness.

I rule in the affairs of men. I use their evil to bring about my purposes. All power and strength of nations, governments and individuals are nothing compared to me—I am God. All things are judged by my standards: I hold the weights of equality in my bag. I want you to **know** that I am the Lord. There is no God else beside me—a just God and a Savior; **There is none else beside me!**

Look unto me, I will save you, provide for you and fight for you. I have called you by your name...a name I have given you. I have surnamed you. As a father surnames his child, so have I done for you. I know you; you are mine. I am your God.

You who are weary and have gone as far as you can, look unto me. I am never weary; I am the everlasting God. I am willing to share my strength with you, for you see, without me, you can't do anything. Your existence is like the grass that flourishes for awhile then is scorched by the sun's heat. But if you'll just wait for me (I'm curious, how long will you wait? How much do you want me and my gifts?) I will come to you and will not tarry. I'll renew your strength and change times and seasons for you. I'll do for you what you deem the impossible. I have opened streams of water in the desert and brought water out of solid rock. Behold there is nothing too hard for me. I AM THE LORD.

Fall on me; underneath are my everlasting arms.
—Sis. Cynthia Meek

The Leper's Request

The story is told of a man who, when traveling upon horseback to a distant place, was compelled, by way of route, to pass a colony of lepers. When they saw him coming, they raised

their hands, as law advised, and cried, "Unclean! Unclean!" The traveler halted, and inquired how they were, and if they had enough to eat. One of the unfortunates asked for bread. The traveler stated that he had only enough for his journey. The leper said he had not tasted bread for many days. So the traveler gave him all he had. The leper asked for water; but the traveler said, he had not drunk since morning, and beside he had only enough for his journey. The leper said he had not tasted water for days. Touched by privations of such a serious character, the traveler gave him the last cup of water in his canteen. At that moment there appeared another person, with a smiling face....The stranger was the world's best friend, Jesus Christ.

The Master said:

"Not what we keep, but what we share;
The gift without the giver is bare.
He who gives alms to the poor feeds three,
Himself, his hungry neighbor, and ME."

The doctrine of the great Fatherhood of God, is an empty philosophy unless it comprehends the Brotherhood of Man. He who knows his Lord's will and does it not, shall be beaten with many stripes. Responsibilities neglected will lead to shame and everlasting contempt.

Taken from *Problems of Eternal Moment*.

—J Grant Anderson

Thy Neighbor

Who is the neighbor? He whom thou
Hast power to aid or bless;
Whose aching heart or burning brow
Thy soothing hand may press.

Thy neighbor? 'Tis the fainting poor
Whose eye with want is dim;
Oh, enter thou his humble door
With aid and peace for him.

Thy neighbor? He who drinks the cup
When sorrow drowns the brim;
With words of high sustaining hope
Go thou and comfort him.

Thy neighbor? 'Tis the weary slave,
Fettered in mind and limb;
He hath no hope this side the grave;
Go thou and ransom him.

Thy neighbor? Pass no mourner by;
Perhaps thou canst redeem
A breaking heart from misery;
Go share thy lot with him.

—Selected

Sin No More

By Bro. Robert C. Gruner

In a world where sin is all around us, it is good to know the Bible is very clear about what to do with sin. Let us explore what the Bible has to say about sinning no more.

1. Jesus tells us what to do about it. To men he says: "Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee." John 5:14.

To women He says: "...Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more." John 8:11.

2. God calls us out of sin.

"For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness." I Thessalonians 4:7.

"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." I Peter 1:15-16.

3. God is fair to everyone about not sinning.

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:11-14.

You see, by appearing to all men, by one's conscience and through His Word, all have no excuses about what to do with sin.

4. We have to do something about sin.

"And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Ephesians 4:24.

"And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:" Colossians 3:10.

"Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Corinthians 5:17.

We put sin off and put on the new man which God will create in us.

5. What to do with sin was foretold in the Old Testament.

"...make an end of sins...." Daniel 9:24. "...for he shall bear their iniquities....and he bare the sin of many...." Isaiah 53:11-12. "...I will raise

unto David a righteous Branch,... he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." Jeremiah 23:5-6. "...the opening of the prison to *them that are bound.*" Isaiah 61:1. "For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope *did*; by the which we draw nigh unto God." Hebrews 7:19.

6. What to do with sin was fulfilled in Christ "...for he shall save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21.

"...we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness..." Luke 1:74-75.

"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." Acts 13:38-39.

"To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." Acts 26:18.

"For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." Hebrews 9:26.

We can be so thankful that Jesus came and fulfilled His part for our salvation, thus leaving "to sin no more" up to each one of us.

7. What the Bible says to people that say you cannot help but sin.

"Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:" Galatians 1:4.

"I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." John 17:14-16.

"We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. *And* we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness." I John 5:18-19.

"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 4:4.

"He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." I John 2:6.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20.

C.W.Naylor wrote that the testimony of those who say that they are Christians but that they sin more or less everyday, implies one of two things: either that they are willingly and wilfully disobedient and could obey if they would but do not do so from choice, OR that God demands of them what they are unable to do even with the grace that He gives.

8. What is promised in the Bible to do about sin.

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." II Corinthians 7:1.

"And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." I John 3:3.

"Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began," Romans 16:25.

"...your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless..." I Thessalonians 5:23.

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy," Jude 1:24.

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." I Corinthians 10:13.

"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:" II Peter 2:9.

"The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." Psalms 34:7.

"For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." Psalms 91:11.

Looking into what the Bible says about sinning, one can now be thankful that God has made a way out of the way of sin. In Colossians 1:28 it says "Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:" This is why the Bible is preached and should be preached. "...Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word; That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Ephesians 5:25-27.

"Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame." I Corinthians 15:34.

With all scriptures now presented, a person can awake and sin no more, thus avoiding shame that comes from not knowing God.

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:" Acts 17:30.

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Jesus Is Calling For You

To the man or woman who is still slaving in Egypt—those who are bound in the chains of sinful habits—day after day, year after year, you serve your master: sin. He has bruised your family, your health and your soul. He leads you on with one lie after another. Like a wave your hope rises with expectation of fulfillment and happiness, only to crash again on the rocks of hard, cold reality. You ponder at times that life was meant for something better, deeper and more meaningful, yet you haven't found it; it vanishes as a dream in the night. You have tried one pleasure after another and after the momentary thrill is gone you are lonelier and emptier than before.

The optimism of youth slowly dims as you have tried one thing after another to be free, yet no rest, no satisfaction. Perhaps you have tried so hard to be good, to do what was right, yet there is an inward evil power that still controls, that still brings you back to your captivity, and you find yourself back in your old dungeon of despair. You try to appear outwardly that life is

okay, that you are fine and everything is in control. But if people only knew the wretchedness, emptiness and loneliness of the real story, the behind-the-scenes story. Suicide, that dreaded word—Never!—but its alluring temptation to freedom has once, twice beckoned at your door.

You once intimately knew a lad/girl of youthful innocence and purity. But you lost touch and the memory has been nearly forgotten. You would roll back time and do it all over if you could, the hurt and pain you have caused to others and yourself, but you can't, and the clock continues. Eternity draws nigh.

You that labor under the guilt and consequences of your own sin—can you admit to yourself that you are lost? That you really don't know where you are at in life and you really don't know the way?

Hear the Gospel message, my friend. Hear it in your heart!

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

—Bro. Bob Wilson

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