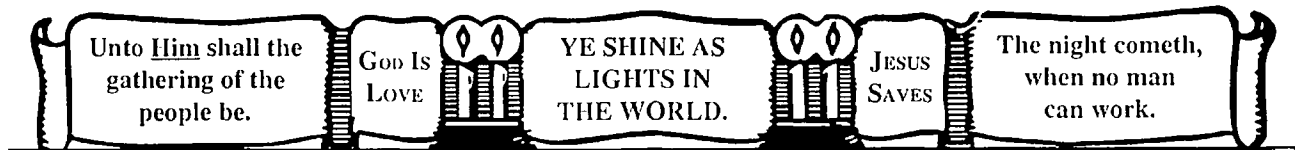


FAITH AND VICTORY

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The Gift

By Sis. Marilyn Cole

Long years ago on the Judean plains in an humble stable a tiny boy-child was born. Wrapped within that wee babe lay hidden the gift for which all peoples of the world had yearned, for which they had waited and watched, for which they still search; the answer to the darkest night, the balm for the most anguished pain was in Him.

The baby was Jesus, born to the Virgin Mary after the promise and visit of the Holy Ghost. The Gift lay swaddled inside the form of that small child who grew into full manhood, later to be unwrapped, broken open and offered to all. The gift was the offering of salvation from the self-centeredness, from the bondage of tyranny in our hearts and souls of seeking to satisfy our personal desires and appetites at the expense of others.

Even as He was wakening to this world for the first few hours or days, a powerful king sought to maintain his own power over the

nation by commanding the slaughter of thousands of infant boys. Later, the same spirit of self-promotion and self-preservation gave rise to the very leaders of the faith accusing, attacking and crucifying the Lord on the cross. In so doing, they unwrapped the gift that was given to heal the deepest diseases of humankind. He came to bring Love, Light, Peace, Joy and Charity, to live in our hearts and empower us to share His great gift with all we meet and know.

As Christ walked along the roads, He looked into the eyes of the hurting men, women and children and taught them, and us today, by word and deed, a more perfect way of ruling the world by allowing His divine love to reign in our hearts, by healing our eyes that we might see the pain of those around us as poignantly as we feel our own. He unwrapped that gift to the eyes of His followers as they watched Him. He healed the sick. He cuddled and spoke blessings to the children who were shooed out of the way by others as beneath His concern. He violated sacred rules by which the rulers had measured their righteousness and that of others. He dined with sinners, and received adoration from repentant, defiled women. He taught on the hill-sides and from boats as often as in temples. He fed thousands of souls and took time to feed their bodies as well. When exhausted, He looked on the people as sheep without a shepherd, had compassion on them, and continued to tell them of love, light, repentance and life everlasting. His death was necessary to demonstrate the perfect way to live. His resurrection from

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that grave revealed His power over mortality, and His ascension left us a promise that we may live in a perfect Kingdom by receiving His gift and letting it catch fire in our hearts.

Re-gifting—A few decades ago, as affluence became more prevalent in our nation, I began to hear of a term called re-gifting. A gift—perhaps dearly purchased and given as a wedding or birthday gift—was received, opened and acknowledged. But the gift was never really put into use. It was just stored on a closet shelf. Later, because it really held little value to the new owner, it would be gift-wrapped again, and given to another individual. Though it was of such little value to them that they never bothered to use it, they would give it to another.

Too often, the Gift of Salvation is re-gifted in a similar fashion. It is nominally received by an individual, but they never value the gift enough to put it into practice in their own lives. They desire to look like a gracious giver, when, truly, they did not value the gift enough to even see how well it worked. The gift of Salvation is unique, genuine and priceless. It is the greatest treasure of life, and yet some wish to pretend they have received it and choose to quickly rewrap it and pass it on to someone else. This precious gift can not be re-gifted. There is no middle man, no rewrapping. There is only one supplier, and that is the designer, the creator, Jesus Christ and His divine Father.

Retail—Through the two thousand years since this precious gift of Salvation was first presented to hurting man, we have sought to retail the Gift by attempting to add a few dollars to the price and make a profit from the resale of the gift. We have added lavish packaging and advertising. Packaging such as saying “this is the way you must receive it.” It has been hidden behind gold altars, lavish robes and stained glass windows. It has been wrapped in the words of philosophers and theologians. The price tag of “how I see it” has been added. The excise tax of “to belong to this band of united believers” you must pay this additional price. Wars have been fought in its name. Lives have been ravaged in its behalf, though falsely. Prestige and power have been linked to it—often in a fraudulent way. But there is only **one** price: humility, repentance, believing and receiving. The rest is part of the package deal—Salvation full and free.

Last Will and Testament—Parents, grandparents and past ancestors have sought to leave this great treasure to their descendants. They have been baptized at birth, schooled in the catechism, dressed in the attire, and made to conform to a set of acceptable behaviors. They have purchased positions of power and honor among men, but not an authentic deed to the property of the eternal kingdom. They have demonstrated their personal persuasive abilities before their children and neighbors, in a vain effort to demonstrate proprietorship of the great gift. But they often never unwrap it. The gift never lights a spark in their souls, never burns out the self-love. The true gift is never seen—only the gift-wrap of power, self-righteousness, self-love.

The True Gift—It can not be purchased, re-gifted, marked up or left in a man's or woman's Last Will and Testament. The True Gift is free to anyone who comes to the Originator of the Gift and genuinely applies for ownership. You can find a detailed description of the Gift in the Word of God. No man can give it to you and no man can take it away from you. No man can tell you how you must use it, for the uses and operations of the gift are fully and adequately described in the users manual and are personalized to each recipient. The Holy Bible unfolds detailed instructions, which are personalized to each reader by the Holy Spirit. Each must read it and receive it from the author for himself. The Old and New Testaments give several examples of how it works, as well as examples of people who have misused it.

Demonstrations of the uses, special features and applications of the Gift can be seen in those who have taken possession of the precious Treasure. Though they can not give you title to it nor submit your application for it, you can see how it works in their lives. If they are genuine owners of this rare Gift, it will change the way they live their lives. They understand the value, and treasure it above all else. It is impossible for them to hide it. Heavenly Love causes them to love and bless others. Blessed peace shines out in their eyes. Pure joy causes praise to rise to their lips in the most surprising times, whether they are in great difficulty or in the presence of other sharers of the Gift. They are never selfish, never seeking to add a mark up profit margin, never think they can put you

in good with the seller, nor try to sell you a wrapped unused product. They are, however, eager to tell you what an awesome Gift it is, and are more than willing to demonstrate the features and how well it works. They are happy to give you information about getting in touch with the original Designer, and are glad to share information about the One Who bought the gift for you with a price you could never afford on your own. They are in touch with the Designer, and all profits go directly to Him. It is not a pyramid, but has only one Giver Who has lots of advertisers. His only advertisers are those who have made application for ownership directly to Him, with encouragement and guidance from fellow-owners.

Jesus wants to share this gift with all who will come to Him. He stands at your heart's door offering to clean it and put His precious light in your eyes, His joy and peace in your heart. He offers you forgiveness for all the sad and selfish things you have ever done or felt, and then expects you to forgive others. His love and joy more than fills the hidden closets where you've been hiding bitterness, hurt, hatred and unforgiveness. His love will transform your life. The light He shines on your heart will correct your vision so that you see others as He sees them—as hurting, lost, sad individuals who long for His peace in their hearts, too. The gift is one size fits all. He is just as intent on sharing it with the hungry, neglected child or downtrodden woman in some dark corner of the world as to the golden-voiced speaker who stands to share the Wonderful Words of Life.

If your heart is sad, hurting, full of despair, call out to Jesus. Pray to the Heavenly Father Who loves you as none other. He knows your heartaches. He knows your failures, your weaknesses, your wants and needs. He can bless you and give you peace, joy and love. He can make your heart glad. The promise is that if you ask, it will be given. If you seek, you will find. If you knock, it will be opened to you. Jesus came as a tiny baby, and lived so that you might see the best way to live. He died so that you and I could witness the perfect way to live and die. Then He has promised a life that will go on beyond this one, even after we leave this life as we know it. Accept His gift, I pray, and open the doors on a life of joy, peace and love. It is truly the greatest treasure you can ever have. His Gift will truly transform your life.

Walking with God

By C. E. Orr

How delightful to walk with those whom we love! How blessed is the companionship of true and faithful friends! As our hearts commune together, we grow deeper into each other's love. The husband and wife grow so deeply into each other's affections that they seem to live in each other. They are of one heart and soul and life, and so much like each other are they that to meet one is to meet both. God is man's true friend. Never was there a love for man like God's love. Oh! the wide, deep and unfathomable love of God. It encircles the universe. It reaches to the most insignificant of His creatures. You may have other friends of His creatures. You may have other friends and those who love you, but He is the truest friend, and no love is as His love. How sweet must it be to walk with Him! How blessed must be the companionship of such a true and faithful Friend! How glorious to commune with Him as heart talks to heart and to feel oneself growing deeper in His love! To live in Him and to have our being in Him and to have Him dwell in us is to have Heaven in us and to be in Heaven.

In giving the biography of some men, whole volumes have been written. The three-hundred-years' history of one man is told in these few words: "He walked with God." Men have conquered nations, discovered continents, built cities, founded empires; and volumes are required to tell of all they have done. But Enoch did more—"he walked with God." What a history! Whole volumes have said less than this. But this privilege did not belong to Enoch alone; it is yours, reader, and it is mine. We have the blessed privilege of engraving this epitaph upon the hearts and the minds of men: "He walked with God."

It is not said that God walked with Enoch, but that Enoch walked with God. Some heart might sighingly say, "Oh, that God would walk with me!" Let the sighings of thy heart be changed to saying, "Oh, let me walk with God!" There are many who would be pleased to have God walk with them, but who will not walk with Him. God's course was marked out before man was created. From this course He never turns. If you desire His companionship, you must walk in His way. Some seek the honor of walking with

(Continued on page 8.)

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.

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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.

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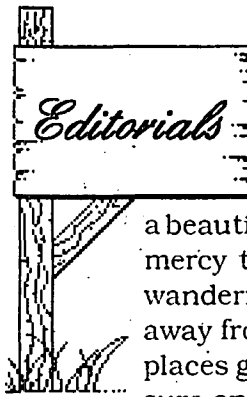
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"He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings." Psalms 40:2. This verse is

a beautiful testimony of God's loving mercy to mankind. When we were wandering in the paths of sin and away from God, we were in slippery places groping in darkness for pleasure and fulfillment out of life, but

the joy our soul craved eluded us, leaving us miserable and trapped in a wretched condition away from our Creator. But the nail-scarred hand of Jesus reached down into our dark pit of sin and lifted us out into the marvelous light and brought us to a wealthy place. Now we are able to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Praise the Lord for His great salvation.

Let us look at some of the places the child of God is able to dwell in. Speaking of children, Jesus said, "...Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3. When we humble ourselves to become as a little child then we are able to receive a special blessing from the hand of the Master. Mark 10:16 tells us, "And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them." The loving arms of Jesus provide a sacred place of shelter, blessing, rest and communion for those who have entered the kingdom of heaven.

The Holy Spirit inspired David with the verses of Psalm 23 that have been such a comfort to untold thousands of people. From the perspective of the Great Shepherd caring for His flock, David tells of the place of security with an abundance of provisions that are provided by the green pastures and the still waters. The still waters would indicate they were deep and flowing peacefully with a gentle slope. With God there are no shortages, His flock is able to be filled with all good things that are edifying and to have their souls richly supplied with those things that are noble and pure. In Psalm 1:3 the righteous are compared to a tree that has been planted by the rivers of water. The bountiful supply of nourishment the roots enjoy causes it to bring forth fruit and have no worry of the leaves withering from the drought.

The prophet Isaiah was inspired with a beautiful view of peace, security and quietness; in the 32nd chapter and verse 18 it says, "And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." When one enters into the kingdom of God they find these precious places real in their souls. One can pick up the newspaper, and the headlines reveal the trouble and turmoil that is churning in the world, and it is a blessed privilege to know we are safe under the protecting wings of our heavenly Father. Isaiah 4:6 says, "And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain." Oh that more people would run to this glorious place of refuge; they would find the security that their souls are crying for.

Have you found some trial in life particularly hard to bear? Consider this lovely passage in Isaiah 41:13, "For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee." Sometimes children are frightened to go certain places with their parents and at those times their parents take the hand of their child and suddenly the fear is gone. God often does that for us and it changes our whole outlook in an instant. Something frightening and insurmountable quickly changes into a pleasant task that is easily accomplishable because of God's help. God holding the hand of His children is a joyful experience that makes one feel many times taller than they really are.

When Moses was desiring to see the Lord in a more real and personal way, God gave him this direction, "And the LORD said, Behold, *there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:*" Exodus 33:21. God has a place for you that is near to Him, a place you can communicate the most intimate matters of the heart and have your understanding enlightened regarding these spiritual issues of life. When one is near the Lord they are on solid footing. The counsel they receive is sure and true and will hold them secure in the most vicious blast of the enemy. Psalm 27:5 tells us, "For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock." When a tempest of evil is raging, there is no better place to be than sheltered in His blest pavilion. It is an ark

of safety that will bring you safely through the storm.

This verse in Deuteronomy 32:10 contains very special meaning to the child of God. It says, "He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye." The special care that God gave the children of Israel as He brought them out of Egyptian bondage, through the wilderness and into the land of Canaan clearly exemplifies the same care God has for all those who love Him. The Lord is still the same today and is safely bringing His people through many dangerous situations. In the phrase, "he kept him as the apple of his eye" the word *apple* as directly translated from the Hebrew means, *the little man of the eye*. There is a similar meaning to the word *pupil* which is derived from a latin word, *pupilla*, which means "A little doll" in reference to the small reflected images of oneself that can be seen when looking closely into the pupil of another person's eyes. It is like God is saying, "if you come closely and look into my eyes you will see that you are there—in a place that is carefully guarded and protected. That is how special you are!"

While there are many scriptures that describe the places of security, comfort, peace and refuge for our souls there are some other places the Lord would have us be also. One of those places is pointed out by Jesus in Matthew 9:37-38. "Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Matthew 9:38. The Lord has work for us to do in reaching souls for Him. All of us come in contact with people who need to hear about how good and gracious our heavenly Father really is. We know how the enemy tells us lies about God and he has been busy spreading falsehoods to the lost also. He tells them things like, "there is no hope for you," "God doesn't love you," or "your sin is so bad God would never forgive you." But we know better and we need to be telling the wonderful story of Jesus glorious birth and explaining the life changing plan of salvation to the world.

Revelation 3:20 says, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and

open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." There is a place of communion we have with Jesus that we need to dwell in—a time of prayer and meditation in which we share our needs, our woes and our questions. During these times God is faithful to minister to us and fill the deepest needs of our heart.

Finally in John 14:2 Jesus told his followers, "In my Father's house are many mansions:...I go to prepare a place for you." Jesus has prepared a wonderful place for His Saints and He will soon be returning to gather them into His immediate presence and give them an eternal home in Glory. "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." Revelation 3:21.

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



CA—I have a prayer request for my friend who has cancer and my wife who is recovering from pneumonia. —Bro. Don Viser

MO—Please continue to remember our two daughters, Cathy and Mary Ann, in your prayers. Especially Cathy who has many needs although God is blessing us to see a gradual recovery in her physical condition. —Bro. Jim Broker

TX—Continue to remember my daughter, Evelyn, who is recovering from cancer. They say she is doing better than most, and lots of people (that have cancer in their families) have given us good reports, so that helps. Thanks to God and everyone for their prayers. —Bro. Elbert Johnson

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Standing Prayer Requests

- Bro. Carlos Arriaga
- Sis. Gladys Cashio
- Sis. Helen Carson
- Sis. Genevieve 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. Virginia Myers
- Sis. Elsie M. Offerman
- Sis. Melba Powell
- Sis. Marilyn Rendall
- Bro. Vernon Robinson
- Sis. Ruth Shehee
- Sis. Cheryl Smith
- Bro. Michael Smith
- Bro. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor
- Sis. Imogene Taylor
- The Mitch Taylor family
- Sis. Norma Tiller
- Bro. Delmar Wilkins

MEETING DATES

California State (Pacoima, CA)—Dec. 25-Jan. 3
Oklahoma State (Guthrie, OK)—Dec. 26-Jan. 3
Bakersfield, CA (Revival Meeting)—Feb. 10-14



MEETING NOTICES

CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The California State Camp Meeting will be held, Lord willing, from December 25, 2009, to January 3, 2010. The campground is located at 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, CA 91331.

The first service will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 25, with three services daily thereafter. For more information you may contact: Sunset Guest Home (818) 899-2022, Bro Paul Phillips (661) 251-6956 or Bro. Herbert Clay (818) 897-1396. The chapel phone number is: (818) 899-9021.

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held at Guthrie, OK, from December 26 to January 3. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U.S. The first service will be held Saturday, December 26. Daily worship services throughout the meeting will start at 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. There will also be morning prayer services and youth services, the times of which will be announced at the meeting.

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

We especially urge the Saints in Oklahoma and the surrounding states to attend this meeting. Come praying with a burden for the unsaved and for all those who need help in soul and body. Please send all contributions for the coming State Assembly Meeting directly to the State Treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, 807 W Lake Rd, Guthrie, OK 73044.

To obtain further information about the meeting, contact Bro. Philip Gellenbeck (405) 282-2999.

BAKERSFIELD, CA, REVIVAL MEETING

The Bakersfield, CA congregation is planning to have a revival meeting February 10-14, 2010.

Service times are:
 Wednesday-Saturday 12 noon and 7 p.m.
 Sunday 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Bro. Jerry Melot will be the primary evangelist for this meeting. Please pray for the success of our meeting.

All are invited; call us at the numbers below for more information.

—Pastor Hayward and Tina Cox
 Chapel (661) 324-4945
 Pastor (661) 836-3877



LETTERS
 FROM
 OUR
 READERS

LA—Dear Ones: Greetings to all in Jesus' dear name. We have so much to praise and thank Him for. I do appreciate all the prayers for me. Keep praying! The Lord was faithful to bless and anoint our Assembly Meeting. I was blessed to be able to go to five of the services.

In Psalm there is a very special verse to me: "I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live. I will sing praise unto my God while I have my being."

—Sis. Dorall Forbes

TX—Dear Blood Washed Saints and Friends: We want to thank God, our Father, for leading us to a large two bedroom, third floor apartment. We rented this apartment in Juarez, Mexico, for \$92.30 a month. It will be used as a central meeting place (chapel) for some of the new believing saints in Juarez. We want to say, "Thank you, Saints, for sacrificing of your funds to make this possible." We estimate that we may fit anywhere from 80 to 100 souls per meeting in the large living room. We will provide showers and home-cooked meals for the homeless as long as our Lord God provides the means for us to do so. Lisette and I had only 12 folding chairs, so we purchased six long wooden planks and three buckets per plank to serve as benches for now. (The planks cost \$3.34 each and the buckets \$2.34 each.) We hope, in time, to pur-

chase more buckets and planks so as to fill the large room.

We rejoiced to have our first meeting in this apartment on Sunday, November 22. Only a few had been notified of this new location. Due to this fact, we had only six present at the 10:00 a.m. service, and four present during the 3:30 p.m. meeting. A woman and her adult son heard the singing on the second floor and came and joined us. Many gave testimonies of praise to God. One of the Saints testified that God healed him of his arthritis a few days after we anointed him with oil and prayed to God in faith through Jesus' holy name! A visitor testified that God had taken away his stress during the preaching of God's message! Lisette and I are so happy to finally have a location where we can freely invite the Mexican community and where many of the Saints can all come together for worship and fellowship in Christ. In the midst of all these blessings, I also exalt God for giving me a new part time job as a cook!

For more than thirty months we have only walked across the border and used the Mexican bus system to travel in Juarez. But, a week ago we took our car into Juarez for the first time, as it was necessary to transport the planks, buckets, chairs, groceries and clothing. While we cleaned the apartment (meeting place), and arranged the furnishings, someone attempted to burn or blow-up our car. We found a large circular clump of ashes on our hood and windshield. How we praised God for sending His angels to protect our car! The engine did not catch on fire, and the damage was minimal to the paint on the hood and the windshield wipers. Glory to Jesus! It appears someone that knew we preach "Jesus" obviously wanted to make a statement or give us a warning! When we are persecuted, Jesus taught us to "rejoice in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven:..." We've rejoiced a lot and jumped for joy since that day. (smile)

We praise God for setting many free from drugs (nicotine, alcohol and narcotics.) This freedom also allows them more money for living a better life in the future. Some who have claimed salvation are yet in bondage to these chemicals, so please pray for them to also be delivered.

One with you in the body of Christ, through the precious blood. Sincerely,

—Bro. Tony and Sis. Lisette Sanchez

Walking with God

(Continued from page 3.)

men of renown, but no higher honor can be given man than the privilege of walking with God. Others may delight to sit in the court of kings and desire to walk in the way with lords and noblemen; but my heart craves naught else than a walk with God.

God will condescend to walk with those who walk with Him; but if you would walk with Him, you must go in the ways in which He leads. Suppose you and another man took a ride through the country. He owned the horse and carriage, and did the driving. He went the way he desired. You went along for the sake of companionship. You do not say that the man rode with you, but that you rode with him. When you see a little child walking by the side of its father with its hand in his, you say that the child is walking with its father. It goes where its father leads. But you could not say that the child was walking with the father if the father was being led aside by the child in its chase after the gay butterfly. To walk with the Lord, you must put your hand in His and go where He leads.

"But take diligent heed...to love the LORD your God and to walk in ALL his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul." Joshua 22:5. You will not fail to notice, I trust, that you are here commanded to **be diligent to walk in all His ways**. The ways in which you are to walk, if you walk with God, are all to be His ways. None are to be yours. Let me here speak to you very feelingly. The simple reason why you do not have a satisfactory walk with God is because you have not left all your own ways. Here is a very precious secret not found by everyone. You would walk with God in a great many of His ways and would leave many of your ways; but there is one little way you are loath to leave. Whenever the way of God begins to lead you from that way, you feel a little uneasy and almost ready to murmur. You have had many pleasant hours along that way of yours. The lust of the eye has been so often gratified there that, indeed, it seems like plucking out the eye to leave that way. Oh, how difficult to turn away from it! So many fond recollections are clustering along that way. Some dear friend is walking there, with whom you are loath to part

company. It may be a father or a mother, a husband or a wife, or children. It may be houses or lands. But all these must be forsaken to walk with Jesus.

One young man asked, "Must I forsake my mother to walk with God?" The reply was, "Yes, you must forsake your mother—you must forsake all." But here is the explanation: This is not meant in the literal sense. You need not leave her home, but you cannot walk in her ways if she walks in sin. If she will forsake her ways to walk in God's ways then you and she will walk in the same way; but you cannot walk in the Spirit with anyone who does not walk with God. When their associations would interfere with your walk with God, you must forsake even that. To walk with Jesus means for you to forsake everything that would hinder your walk with Him. Herein lies the precious secret of a safe, prosperous, and happy Christian life.

A walk with God is a satisfactory walk. He who walks with God is delighted all the way. Alas! many who are hoping that they are Christians and that they will reach the fair climes of Heaven and there delight themselves in God are quite dissatisfied with their walk here. A dissatisfied walk on earth never ends in Heaven. Wherever God is, there is Heaven, and wherever Heaven is, there the soul is satisfied; consequently, to walk with God satisfies the soul. It is only when man chooses his own way and walks apart from God that life becomes dissatisfactory. Those who choose their own way will meet with disappointment and with difficulties that they will not be able to overcome. In God's ways there are no disappointments. When our wills are submitted to Him and we humbly and submissively walk where He leads us, we meet with no disappointments. A trusting Saint said in a recent conversation: "I can be satisfied only when I know I am in the way with Jesus; only when I know my hand is in His and He is leading me. I would not take one little way without Him. One step without His leading may be fatal. I can walk through darkness in safety when He leads. I would rather walk through the furnace flame with Jesus than through the fields of roses without Him. Amid the flowers there may be a thorn to prick me, but the furnace flame can not kindle upon me when Christ is by my side."

As remarked before, to walk with God one must follow where He leads. The command is,

"Be ye followers of God as dear children." A friend remarked, "Oh! if I only knew where He would lead me, or if I could only see to the end of the way." Thou foolish child! Such a faint heart cannot walk with God. One night during a very heavy rain a father and child were compelled to walk a mile to a neighbor's through water up to the child's waist. When their wet clothes were exchanged for dry, the neighbor said to the boy, "Were you not much afraid while walking through the deep water?" "No, Sir," said the boy, "Papa was with me." Though our walk with God may lead us through deep water, we need not fear; for God hath said, "they shall not overflow thee." A vessel at one time was in an angry storm at sea. Among the many passengers on board was a skeptic, a Christian lady, and her little boy. During the storm the skeptic was in great alarm, but he could not help noticing the calmness and restfulness of the lady and her boy. After the storm was over, he talked with the boy.

"My child," he began, "were you not afraid during the storm?"

"No, Sir," replied the boy.

"And why were you not afraid?" inquired the skeptic.

"Because my mama was with me," answered the lad. Turning to the mother, the skeptic said,

"Lady, were you not afraid during such a storm?"

"No, Sir," replied the woman.

"And why were you not afraid?" he asked.

"Because," said she, "my Father was with me."

Sometimes the way in which God leads you may be through the storm and through the dark, but you need not fear nor falter. Only listen, and you will hear Him saying, "Fear not, for I am with thee." He may lead you over some stony places, but He is only bringing you to the green pastures and the still waters just beyond. He may need to lead you close by a dark and dangerous precipice in order to bring you into the land of flowers in the valley. One time there was something I very greatly desired. I sought for a time, at the advice of my friends to seek for it in **MY** way, but I found it not. At that time I felt the Lord calling me in a way I had not walked before. The way led through some privation and suffering, and it seemed to lead directly away from that which I had been seeking. Nevertheless I decided to follow where Jesus led me, be

that where it might. After I had passed through some suffering and tests, behold, He brought me to the very thing I was desiring. Blessed be His name!

Jesus knows best. If you could see down your future way, your eye would rest only upon the dangerous precipice or on the stony place; and you would fail to see the green pastures, the still waters, and the flowery fields lying beyond!

Abraham started with his only son, Isaac, whom he loved, to go into the land of Moriah, there to offer him upon one of the mountains as a burnt offering. The journey required three days. As they walked on their way, the happy, innocent boy said to Abraham, "My father, behold the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" The father replied, "My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering." The child went happily on his way, never thinking he was that lamb. Had the father told his son that he (Isaac) was to be slain and burnt upon the altar, in fear he would have seen the glare of the knife and have heard the crackling of the flames, and he would have failed to see the angel's delivering hand.

Behind every cross there is a crown; beyond every shadow there is sunshine; below the rapids is the still water. If you were to see the cross in the distance, you might shrink and consequently never wear the crown; if you saw the deepening shadow, you might never enjoy the sunshine; if you hear the rapids roar, you might never sail your bark on the tranquil waters. Not until the cross is reached will God give grace to bear the cross. Put your hand in God's and trust Him every step of the way—

Do not seek to know the future,
Do not stop to question why;
Follow where the Savior leads you,
Trust Him, trust Him all the way.

Never fear. He will be with you in the shadow. He will be with you when the waves are dashing your little bark about on life's sea. Listen, and in His own time you will hear Him say, "Peace, be still."

A devoted brother across the continent related to me by letter some of his experience, which finds an appropriate place here.

"Nine years ago God brought me out of darkness into this beautiful way. He gave me a fixed decision to follow where He would lead me. At the time I did not know what the cost would

be, but I realized it would be safe to place my hand in the Lord's and walk life's way with Him. I felt sure that as long as I trusted and obeyed Him, He would do to me as He had promised. God said to walk with Him I must leave my medicine behind. This I did, whereupon He stretched forth His hand in healing power and healed me instantly. Not a symptom of the disease have I felt unto this day.

"My people became much opposed to me and tried in every manner to turn me from the way in which the Lord was leading me. Some time after I had taken the narrow way with Jesus, God in His loving providence saw fit to take unto Himself two of my children in one week. Because I trusted in God, I was bitterly persecuted and threatened. My people endeavored to persuade me that God was not with me. Like those miserable comforters of Job's, they said that God was against me. I told them that though He should take every child I had and my dear companion and all, yet would I trust Him. Well, God saw fit to put me to the test, in order to see whether I would hold my integrity. He took my little rosebud children one by one until all the six were blooming in Heaven. Then He called for my companion. She who had been my comfort through the tests and the trials was called to join the happy throng on the other side of the river, and I was left to mourn alone.

"My people scoffed at religion. 'How,' asked they, 'do you expect us to believe on God? Do you want Him to take our families as He has yours?' This was the most trying of all, because I did so much desire them to serve my God. Satan tried me severely. He endeavored to make me feel so lonely; to feel that no one cared for me and that God had forsaken me. I was a poor outcast, my family were all gone, and my friends had turned against me. Satan tried to make me ashamed ever to smile again. There seemed to be no more cheer or sunshine in this world for me. The light had all gone out, and I was alone in the dark. But in the midst of all this I said, 'The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of the Lord.' I held fast my integrity and by God's help did not sin.

"Soon the light of a happier day began to dawn. Some of my people began to be favorable to the blessed Gospel Truth. One of my brothers yielded to God and was saved. (He is now heralding the Gospel which he once opposed.) Next came my dear old mother. Her salvation was the full rising of the sun to my soul. Then

came another brother and later another. All these are in the blessed light of God and I am happy. I tasted the bitter, but now I am tasting of the sweet, and it tastes all the sweeter because of the bitter. I walked with God through the shadow, and now He has led me into the beautiful light. Bless His name!"—God has also given this brother a dear companion of gentle disposition and blesses them with a happy, sunny home. To take God's way is always best, because it ends best.

Daniel's walk with God led him through the den of lions, but it gave him victory over his enemies and brought him into greater favor with the king. The three young Hebrews that walked with God were led through the fiery furnace, but their promotion in the king's court lay just beyond. Peter's walk with God led him through the dungeon, but an angel's visit was awaiting him. Paul's walk led him through the perils of the sea, through hunger and fastings, through weariness and painfulness, through cold and nakedness, through perils of robbers and perils in the wilderness, through stoning and beating and whippings. Imagine this old man with his back bared and bowed beneath the lash. Hear the heavy strokes as they fall; see the blood flowing from the wounds; listen—what is that we hear him saying? Is he saying, "The way is too hard; the Lord has treated me too cruelly, and I will walk no more with Him"? Listen more closely. Ah! he is saying, "None of these things move me; nothing shall separate me from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, my Lord. I reach forth to those things before; I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Henceforth a crown of righteousness is laid up for me."

My dear Christian reader, will you not seek a still closer walk with God—not for your happiness in life nor for your crown in Heaven, but for the good your example may do to others? You know not what effect your life is having upon some other life. Your life is casting either sunshine or shadow behind you. This will linger long after you are gone. It will linger in the hearts and lives of others. Long, ah! long after you are gone from the shores of time, will live the effects of your good example. Many years will be required to efface from the sands of time the footprints you make while journeying through this life. In the earnestness of my soul I appeal to your hearts to seek diligently a close walk with God. The closer you walk with Him, the

brighter will be the beams of light that will stream from your life down through the future years. Knowing this my soul cries out, "O God! help me to walk close to thee, that I may be the greatest possible help to my fellow men and leave as much light in this world as I can."

Recently, while a father and son were conversing upon the subject of inheritance, the son remarked, "Well, Father, since you are giving your life's service freely to the Lord, I suppose I need not expect any great inheritance from your estate." The father replied: "No, my son; I shall never have anything of this world and shall not be able to leave you any of its lands or silver or gold; but by the grace of Heaven I will leave you the sunshine of a holy life, which, I trust, will lead your feet into the way of eternal life—a richer inheritance than the gold of earth."—I owe my awakening to my sinful state and the realities of salvation to the example of a godly man.

How blessed it will be when, long after your body is laid in its narrow home, your name is spoken and someone remarks, "Ah! truly, that man walked with God." Many of Christ's persecutors in life said at His crucifixion, "Truly, this was the Son of God." I knew a godly young man who was persecuted by many; but after God called him to a foreign field, many of his persecutors said, "Well, he was a good young man, after all!" You may be scoffed at in life; your name may be cast out as evil; you may be defamed and threatened; but after you are gone, many will say of you, "Truly that was a child of God." As the pleasantness of summer days is never fully realized until the winter days have come; as the blessings of good health is never fully known until sickness comes; so the beauty of your Christian life will shine brighter after you are gone.

O beloved, be not weary in the way. Toil on; heed not the wind and the wave. God is with you. With all the energy of your soul cleave to Him. As the vine clings to the towering oak, so cling to your God. Live for Him, show forth His praise, exalt His name, honor His Word, serve Him faithfully, and from your life will flow the joyful message, "He walked with God." This, falling upon the hearts and lives of other men, will be echoed to other generations and by them re-echoed to future generations and thus it will be echoed and re-echoed on to the great and final day, and the last earth will hear will be, "He walked with God, and God took him."

Teach Me to Live

*Teach me to live! 'Tis far easier to die—
Gently and silently to pass away—
On earth's long night to close the heavy eye,
And awaken in the realms of glorious day.*

*Teach me that harder lesson—how to live.
To serve Thee in the darkest path of life:
Arm me for conflict—fresh vigor give,
And make me more than conqueror in the strife.*

*Teach me to live! Thy purpose to fulfill;
Bright for Thy glory let my taper shine;
Each day renew, remold this stubborn will;
Closer round Thee my heart's affection twine.*

*Teach me to live for self and sin no more,
But use the time remaining to me yet,
Not mine own pleasure seeking, as before—
Wasting no precious hours in vain regret.*

*Teach me to live! No idler let me be,
But in Thy service hand and heart employ,
Prepared to do Thy bidding cheerfully—
Be this my highest and holiest joy.*

*Teach me to live! My daily cross to bear;
No murmur though I bend beneath its load
Only be with me. Let me feel Thee near:
Thy smile sheds gladness on the darkest road.*

*Teach me to live! And find my life in Thee—
Looking from earth and earthly things away:
Let me not falter, but untiringly press on;
And gain new strength and power each day.*

*Teach me to live!—with kindly words for all—
Wearing no cold, repulsive brow of gloom;
Waiting with cheerful patience, till Thy call
Summons my spirit to the heavenly home.*

—Selected