

# FAITH <sup>AND</sup> VICTORY

## *Church of God Servant*

*This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith*

Volume 92. No. 3

92nd Year Guthrie, Oklahoma

July/Aug 2014

By Adriel Bowman

**B**lood, sweat and tears! Have you ever heard this phrase? It brings to mind images of strenuous effort in human endeavor. We could apply these words to many of the long, arduous strivings that we undertake to accomplish and succeed here in this life. Sometimes these strivings define people's entire lives. Think of the dedication it takes to properly provide for, train and guide our children. For years, consistent effort is required to train children to be responsible, well-mannered, hard-working adults. You have seen proud parents at their children's graduation from college. What a grind, what a relief! There have been many uneducated parents—immigrants to the United States—that have worked long and hard, sacrificed, and denied themselves pleasures and vacations in order to pass something down to their children and to see them succeed. They have made the statement: "I'm doing this for my children so they won't have to work and have it as hard as I have."

What about men and women who have driven themselves to acquire, develop and establish a business in this country? I have been acquainted with some who have worked hard and long hours for years through much difficulty, failure, disappointment, and poverty before they achieved success. The business defined their lives and sometimes destroyed their families and family



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relationships. All this was done to gain something temporal and give it to another generation for them to inherit. Think for a moment about the people who have done these things. Consider

the vision have manifested. Now think about those, the next generation, who have profited from the efforts of their fore parents. They are the heirs, benefactors of others' labors. Do they appreciate what they have been given? Do they understand the self-denial that was endured on their behalf? Even though they have been given great privilege, treasure and wealth, history has borne witness that it has often been squandered until they are left bankrupt. Think about the life of Jesus Christ while on this earth--a life of self-denial, laying aside

creature comforts and temporal stability, and of facing great opposition and threats of death. He did all of this with the single-minded purpose of providing access to great spiritual riches, a spiritual land of Canaan flowing with milk and honey, a

Beulah (married) land, purity, peace, holiness—indeed, to all things that pertain unto life and godliness and eternal life for all mankind through our faith in him. This he finished and sealed *for us* in the Garden of Gethsemane in agony and earnest prayer, with his sweat becoming as great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (Luke 22:44). Eventually, he made the ultimate sacrifice: the shedding of his blood—*for us*.

Now think of our parents, our ancestors, who spent their lives with a mind to follow Christ's example, taking advantage of the spiritual inheritance given to them by God through Christ's sacrifice. They were godly people, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. They valued the inheritance from God enough to seek after it with all their heart. Through their faith, earnest prayers, tears, and spiritual discipline they have secured a heritage for us. This heritage is passed down to us living today by means of examples in the Bible, examples in early New Testament history, examples in the middle ages, examples in recent history, and examples lived before our eyes today. This is the heritage of the Lord.

For what would you sell or give up your heritage? Money, comfort, pleasure, approval of ungodly men, worldly wisdom, honor, recognition? I would say like Paul in Romans 8:38-39, "...that neither death, nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." I emphasize that *nothing* is able to separate us from our heritage.

There is a commandment in Deuteronomy 19: 14 that says, "Thou shalt not remove thy neighbour's landmark, which they of old time have set in thine inheritance, which thou shalt inherit in the land that the Lord Thy God giveth thee to possess it."

This commandment was given in the Old Testament Bible times to assure each family of their inheritance in the land which was promised to them. A proper parallel for this commandment in the New Testament dispensation is that *we should protect our heritage by not attempting to change or shift the lines of demarcation between holiness and godly living and ungodliness and worldliness*. There are some in this modern world that would, by false teaching or deceit, shift these boundaries or blur them by belittling or negating light and understanding as though it is of no consequence. (Reference Isa 5:20)

Let us go back to our Father's praying ground. What does it take to pass on a godly heritage to future generations? *We must strive* to pass on this heritage. This striving should mark the life of each Christian. Let us be undeterred by human wisdom, ridicule, threats and anything else that would attempt to separate us from the love of Christ.

## Can We Forgive?

I vividly remember a son and daughter giving testimony of how their mother was murdered years previously. Although many years had elapsed, the pain and hurt was still very evident.

Forgiveness, simply put, is not easy, depending on the severity of the offense. It is impossible to do within ourselves; it will be only by the grace of God. Sometimes we can have the knowledge in our head that, yes, I am supposed to forgive and it is necessary for me in order to make heaven, but this knowledge within itself doesn't bring an automatic forgiveness. It takes a working of God in our hearts as we humble ourselves before our Lord.

Perhaps you remember the account of Corrie ten Boom, who suffered greatly in a Nazi prison camp, losing her sister there. Some years later, after a speaking engagement, one of the Nazi guards approached her. When she recognized him, feelings and hurts came to her. She made a choice in those few moments, and as she reached out her hand to shake his, the peace of God flooded her soul.

Offenses are many and the world is filled with hurting people who are struggling with their wounds. Victory will never be found in our resolutions and purposes. Victory over wounds is through Jesus Christ. "We are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

—Bob Wilson

# A Modern-Day Miracle in the Soviet Union

*\*As Related by Andre Sivvy*

**W**hen the Soviet government was trying to wipe out the church from the face of the Soviet Union, many brothers had been thrown into prison because they were leaders of churches or some other Christian groups. While they were in the prison camps, they suffered from malnutrition just as the rest of the prisoners. They became very thin...as we say, "skin and bones."

Because of this, many inmates got weaker and weaker, and some of them weren't able to report to work.

Sometimes after hard work days, some prisoners weren't able to walk into their barracks. They had to get down on hands and knees and literally crawl onto the three-step porch to get into the building. So, in a meeting, the Christian brothers started

talking about what they should do to survive. They felt that they were losing their strength day by day, and they needed to do something about this in order to return alive to their churches and families. They had to survive this camp. We need to mention that imprisonment was, at that time, 10 to 15 years. Everyone was tired from this life and everyone was ready to give up and die. That would be easier than to continue struggling through life this



way and working this way. There was no way to get extra food. So one of the brothers said, "Let us fast and cry out to God so He would find a way for us to survive!" All of the brothers agreed. I am not sure how they fasted....every day? three days in a row? or some other way? But in a short while, the inmates and prison guards began noticing that these men started to gain weight. If you compared them to the rest of the prisoners, they started getting some "cheeks." Their skin looked better, smoother! The prison guards suspected they had been getting extra food from somewhere. But after checkups and questioning, they found these

Christian brothers were actually getting less food than the rest of the prisoners!

It happened just as in the old days with Daniel and his friends. They looked better than the other men who ate from the king's

table! (recall the Old Testament story). And of course these brothers did survive the camp, and they got back home alive by God's provision.

"And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God." Luke 18:27.

**\*Editors' note: Brother Andre Sivvy and his family came to the United States from Uzbekistan in 1999 as religious refugees. They have been attending the Church of God in Jefferson, Oregon for over six years.**

## FAITH AND VICTORY

### (Bi-Monthly Holiness Periodical)

This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, divine physical healing, and unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed and was manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost.

**Its motto:** Have faith in God.

**Its object:** The glory of God and the salvation of mankind: the restoration and promulgation of 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.

**SUBSCRIPTION:** \$5.00 per year

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.

**Acting Editors:** Clifford and Patsy Smith

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

**Articles, meeting notices, testimonies, etc. must be submitted at least one month prior to date of publication.**

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

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## Editorial

The great challenge of our day is to maintain a fervent love for God in the midst of a world that is legalizing sin, condoning unrighteous behaviors and calling good evil. In the religious world, forgiveness is taught without repentance, salvation, without a change of heart, and heaven, without hell. We will sink into a state of spiritual lukewarmness when we continually ask "What's wrong with this or that?" "Is it a sin?" Rather, our questions should be, "Is this the way of greater faith, greater love, purity, courage and humility?" "Will the attitudes and activities we engage in make us more like Christ?"

In the message to the church at Laodicea, Revelation 3:15-16 states: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So, then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." It is our prayer that the thoughts presented in this month's paper will challenge you to a greater carefulness in your life as you seek to please God. A great price has been paid by our Savior and His followers to allow this glorious gospel message to reach us in this day and age. God made provision for us to enjoy the treasures of His kingdom when He sent "The Two Witnesses" to enable us to live holy lives. Let us treasure the wonderful "Spiritual Heritage" of the gospel message that has been passed on to us from those gone before.

### On-line Index to Evening Light Songs

Bro. Joseph Gellenbeck has just released an on-line, searchable index of the Evening Light Songs hymnal: <http://eveninglightsongs.com> We have been looking forward to the completion of this project. This is a great use of evolving technologies to enhance and further gospel outreach. Thank you Brother Joseph for developing and making available this excellent resource.

### Divine Guidance

We continue to pray for God's will and guidance concerning the future of this literature ministry. As we make decisions concerning the future of this work, we seek divine understanding from the Lord. We appreciate and solicit the continued prayers of the saints.

## Brother Trimble's ol' Barn

by Clifford Smith



It was late on this balmy California summer night. There were no stars in the sky, and it was very dark outside. As I turned off the main road and slowly made my way down the long tree-lined lane toward Bro. Trimble's old farm house, the wind played on the leaves of the magnificent Eucalyptus trees, sending out a wonderful fragrance. As I neared the house, the silence

was broken by the loud frantic barking of dogs. I came to a stop, turned off my lights, and got out of the car. Soon the most humble, sweet-spirited, godly man of prayer I ever knew poked his grey head out the old screen door to see what the commotion was about! "Hi, Bro. Trimble, it's me. Just came to pray in the barn." He waved me on with encouragement, and I carefully made my way down the path toward the old rickety barn. I slowly opened the barn door and walked into total darkness, the aroma of hay and farm stuff heavy in the air. I knew where I was going. I "felt" my way along until I found the little altar bench and dropped to my knees onto the packed hay floor, careful to make sure they fit snugly into the two deep indentations created by Bro. Trimble's hundreds of hours of prayer. Somehow I felt closer to God in that spot. It was there in tears I poured out my heart to God until I felt the touch of his love and sweet spirit sweeping away the burdens of my heart and filling me with the reassurance, comfort, and hope I was looking for! His presence was undeniable. There...in that old barn!

It was a *special* place of prayer, because that's where Bro. Trimble prayed—often. As a teenager

endeavoring to live for the Lord during those challenging high school years, he taught me—all of us—the value of prayer! He taught us to "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thes. 5:17) and that "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16). What a wonderful heritage this sweet man of prayer left us.

Bro. Trimble's old barn did not begin to compare in beauty to the grandly-constructed cathedrals men have built, but where God meets and pours out His Spirit on the penitent, seeking heart is a place of incomparable worth.

I learned early on after I got saved how important it is to pray *every day*! Dear young friend, make it your practice to pray *every morning* before you start your day and *every evening* when you end your day. Sometimes it's tough to roll out of that bed early to begin the day in prayer. And after a long hard day, it's tempting to head straight to bed without taking time to pray. But it is so vital to make daily prayer the most important part of your life!



*"Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice."*  
*Psalms 55:17*

I know how great the challenges are, the temptations you face, the often nagging questions that seem not to have satisfactory answers, the uncertainties of what the future holds, the

decisions that have to be made, the disappointments you experience, and, yes, sometimes the hurts that come along the way...and the failures (yes, those, too). The good news is Jesus will be a special friend who will commune with you, comfort you, cheer your heart, pick you up when you fall, wipe away the tears, bear your burdens, and brighten your uncertain future. He really cares for you, loves you, and wants the very best in life for you.

***Find that special place of prayer and meet with Him often!***





## Viewpoint

By Julie Elwell

*Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.*

*Isaiah 55:1-2*

In the past few years many people in our country have experienced a financial strain due to the downturn in the economy. Have you ever been in the unpleasant position of wondering how in the world you were going to make ends meet or pay your bills? Our family was one such family affected. I distinctly remember the day I served warm chocolate chip cookies to a guest who had come to our home and having the specific and sad, wistful thought it would be the last time I would be able to serve cookies in the setting which I was in. Although the Lord *knew* better than I what His plans were for us—and thanks to Him I have baked many more batches of cookies in the same kitchen since that time—I had the very real feeling that money would have solved almost any problem we had.

I am thinking, however, on a much deeper level, of the incredible offer God has extended to us for spiritual food and drink that will satisfy the deepest longings of our hearts—all without cost! This offer goes far beyond serving chocolate chip cookies in the midst of financial uncertainty. He has not only promised to take care of our temporal needs, but also the great emotional and spiritual needs that only He can meet—needs that cannot be met by money!

**To every hungry and thirsty soul, God has a wondrous and vast personalized storehouse of riches.**

We need to be aware that we are at risk of not taking full advantage of the benefits offered us through Jesus Christ. Even as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, in a world so focused on superficial things, we need to take care that our minds are “not corrupted from the simplicity [*generosity/bountifulness*] that is in Christ.”

Have you ever felt the Bible to be tedious, hard to understand and maybe even boring? We intellectually know this is not the case—that within its pages are everything about which Isaiah speaks which meet all the needs of our lives, no matter our current situation. However, because we are so bombarded with and have become so accustomed to being sold products in a *sensory-appealing* way, we could be tempted to undervalue God’s word because we cannot see Him with our eyes, hear Him with our ears, or touch Him with our hands. We are at risk of not diligently seeking him because there is nothing about Him to appeal to our physical senses. Isaiah, under the anointing of the Spirit, asked this question: Why do you spend your money for things

that will not bring you life, and why do you expend your energy on things which won’t satisfy? There are a lot of “cheap substitutes” people seek after which appeal more to the physical senses—including empty religion. The truth is, the Bible calls for us to live a

quiet and holy life. We conduct our church services in a simple manner. The preaching of the cross is foolishness to those who do not believe. And yet....let us never begin to believe we need to prop up the gospel with miserly elements that would appeal only to the outward senses. To every hungry and thirsty soul, God has a wondrous and vast personalized storehouse of riches. Do we really believe that? There is absolutely nothing simple or cheap about God. One only needs to look up into the heavens to understand his majesty!

As we lift our cup toward heaven, our diligent prayer should be this: *God, Please give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation of Jesus Christ. Enlighten the eyes of our understanding so that we would know the riches of the soul-satisfying word you offer us.*

# Let Us Be One!

By Angela Gellenbeck

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:1-3).

This is an urgent call. From his prison cell, Paul is begging the church to manifest the gentle graces worthy of our high calling, our invitation by Christ Himself to be brethren in one family. What is this special blessing—this unity—that we are to endeavor so diligently to preserve? Why is it important?

The word *unity* here means "The God-produced oneness between believers; the harmony from sharing likeness of nature with the Lord." So this is something that comes from God. When both believe and abide in Christ, and He abides in us, and we share His nature, He produces something very real, very special, very vital between us. He, our Peace, tore down the walls that separated us by his cross. (Eph. 2:14-16). Our fellowship *is with the Father*, and with His Son, Jesus Christ. (I John 1:3). He prayed for our oneness, paid for it with His life, and gave us His glory and His abiding—that we may be one. And the standard? The pattern? "*Even as we are one.*" This speaks of the relationship between Jesus and His Father. (John 17:22).

Haven't you experienced this? Maybe you meet someone who is a total stranger to you, but there is just *something* that resonates between you, and your spirits just agree, because you find that you both just love the Lord, have been given His life, and now you want to please Him! After a time you may find that you think or believe very differently

about some things, but that oneness is there, because both of you have just one purpose: to be filled with God and walk in His light. Seeing everything just the same way doesn't necessarily mean there's God-produced oneness; instead, it's the oneness that helps us to deal with any differences we may encounter. And we will encounter them. We come from different backgrounds, cultures, upbringings, beliefs. We may differ in age and gender. Oneness transcends all of those. We don't ignore our differences, or say that they're not there. As they come to light, we bring them to God. Committal to God is not skirting the issues; rather, it's the only way to deal with issues. Commit. Wait. Pray. Communicate.

Love and encourage. Trust. Accept God's Word on the issue. And commit some more.



David wrote about unity in Psalm 133. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Then he compared it to two things; first, the very unique and sacred ointment that was used to consecrate the priests. God specifically commanded its formula and its usage. It was not to be put on strangers, nor copied for personal use. You couldn't say, "Oh, I like that fragrance! I

think I'll make me some." No, and God-produced oneness is just like that. It's His formula and His creation, and it can't be put on "strange" flesh or used for personal gain. It is a special blessing that is only put on His consecrated ones; those who have been made kings and priests unto Him by Jesus' blood. (See Ex. 30:22-33, Rev. 5:10 and I Pet. 2:5, 9).

Secondly, David said unity was like the dew that descended upon the mountains. Again, it is something that comes down from God. Dew is

distilled water, the purest water you can get. The oneness that comes from God is very pure. Anything impure or tainted with human interest is not the true unity.

Now, we are entreated here to endeavor to keep this unity. The word *endeavor* means to be earnest, eager, prompt, and diligent. It means to *make every effort*. We spoke of committing. Of trusting and waiting patiently for each other because of our differences. You might wonder, "How can that be anything like the standard--Christ's relationship with His Father? They didn't have disagreements." Seems a paradox, doesn't it? But remember, we are dealing with humans here.

God gives us something special from heaven, but we aren't in heaven yet.

We are still on earth, we still have flesh, and we can still be tempted. AND we have an enemy who seeks to hijack unity. So that's why we have to *endeavor*. This word is the same word as the word "study" in I. Tim 2:15, and the word "labor" in Heb. 4:11. Jesus bought and paid for this unity with His own blood.

Now we must labor earnestly, study diligently, and fight the enemy for this unity, making every effort. We give up our lives for the brethren, our tastes, our preferences, our desires. We forbear. I read somewhere this word *forbear* evokes a picture of a roof that overhangs the house. It extends beyond, it reaches out, it goes further.

God's Word does set limitations and guidelines. "But 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 cleanses us from all sin" (I John 1:7). This involves personal obedience. I can't do this for you, but I must be faithful in my own life. When I back up on God's light, what do I have left to walk in? Darkness. And darkness is the

realm of shame, fear, hiding, running, dishonesty, and a total break in fellowship with someone who is still in the light. This is very serious. My obedience or disobedience affects my relationship with you, my fellow believer. Walking in light also involves speaking and believing only TRUTH, as it is in Jesus. There are false spirits. There are false doctrines. There are false prophets. Walking in light means separation from those, because light has no fellowship with darkness. If there is no God-produced unity, making valiant efforts to fellowship something false can only bring deception. Reaching out, forbearing, and endeavoring to preserve unity has its Biblical limits.

But, within Biblical bounds, as we both walk in Christ's light, I can receive you, as Jesus received me. And

be willing to die for you, commit to loving you as Jesus loved me, and forgive you as God forgave me. To be tenderhearted, and gracious, and cover your faults and shortcomings with charity-- unconditional love. I must never listen to nor engage in gossip about you. I need to communicate often with you, be true to you, and speak the truth in love to you. I need to warn you and admonish you if I see you beginning to walk in darkness. We need to be able to trust each other, that we would not hurt each other for the world, and that we always have each other's good at heart.

The verse finishes with the thought of preserving the unity "in the bond of peace." Remember, HE is our peace. We must seek peace, follow peace and holiness, live peaceably--with all men. The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace, by them who make peace. The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable. The fruit of the Spirit is peace. The kingdom of heaven is peace...in the Holy Spirit.

**We must seek peace, follow peace and holiness, live peaceably--with all men.**

**"A Man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word, 'darkness' on the walls of his cell."**



# The Keys of the Kingdom

## The Two Witnesses

By Michael Williamson

I was ready to go home from a day's work. I went to my truck and reached into my pocket for my keys. They weren't there. I suddenly had a nauseous feeling in my stomach. I looked inside the truck and could see the keys dangling in the ignition switch, but I couldn't open the door. It was locked. I was locked out. There I stood, on the outside looking in. I wanted to go home. I was cold, I was tired. Now, I'm no thief, so I couldn't get in without doing some damage. I called a friend of mine who is a locksmith Twenty-five dollars later I was on my way.

This inconvenient event happened two more times within a month. My friend finally asked me "Mike, what's the matter with you?" "Don't know, guess I just have a lot on my mind," I said. Really embarrassing, but it got me to thinking about being on the outside looking in. The truck was mine. I could see inside. The shift lever was there, the steering wheel, heater, radio, and comfortable seats. The whole thing was there, I just couldn't access it. I didn't have the keys. Keys give access. They are used to gain admittance. If I had had my keys in my possession, I could have used every facet of my truck; but, alas, that was not the case! Jesus told Peter in Matthew 16:19, "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven." How desperately we need these keys! The Lord has given to His children the ability to gain access to all of His provision, with the keys.

The Lord gave the prophet Zechariah some insight concerning these keys. **Zec 4:11-14** *Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the*

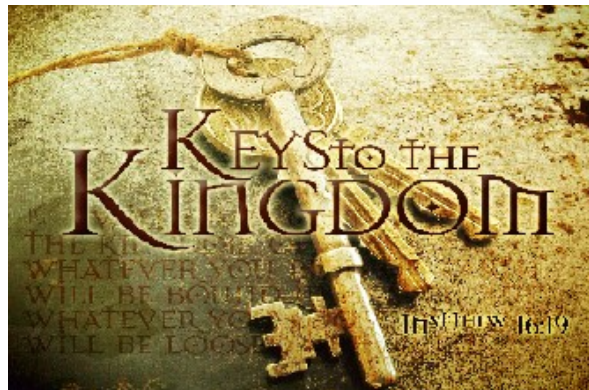
*candlestick and upon the left side thereof? And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.*

These two anointed ones are God's word and His Spirit. They are the *keys*. They are eternal. They will unlock the mystery of God for us. The golden oil is God's Holy Spirit flowing into the hearts of His children. There have been people drinking of that oil. Here is a little quote from Bro. Ostis Wilson: "*The Holy Ghost is the supervisor and general overseer of all the work of God being*

*carried on by the church. It is by the Spirit that believers are baptized or inducted into the body, or church, and their unity and oneness is maintained by **drinking** into that one spirit."*

Always, there have been those who would allow themselves to receive from the golden pipes into their hearts and

lives, into the innermost being. With God's Spirit illuminating His word, we have the keys. We have access to all of God's provision for us. It is so vital to have "The Two Witnesses" working in our lives. They are the keys to the things we desperately need. When we have them, we are in the place where God can bless our souls, use us in His work, instruct us, and we can be truly blessed by His abundance. You see, the truck was mine. It belonged to me, but without the keys, I had no ability to use it as it was intended. When it was unlocked for me, I was able to get in, sit down, crank the engine, turn on the heater, radio, and drive myself home. Oh, how many times do we



miss out on God's design for us by not following on to gain the full benefit of His plan? Why would we want to stand on the outside and look in? Why would we be content just to sit in the seat and not use the keys to gain the fullest access to the abundance of His grace? Jesus told His disciples in some of His last words to them in John 14, *"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."* Comfortless in this phrase means orphans. HE said He would not leave us as orphans. Praise God! He sent His Spirit on the Day of Pentecost to His disciples, and oh, what a different realm opened to them! He has imparted to us, through His animating force (*Holy Spirit*), the ability to access the fullest depth of God a human is willing to obtain. His word comes alive to us through the

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Holy Spirit. The oil flows through the golden pipes to give ever abundant light. *"And the light ever glows in the temple of God."* It is a never ending supply that flows from God Himself!

Don't be afraid to take the keys in your hands. Walk up to the vehicle, if you will, unlock the door, look inside, sit down and go. Don't be afraid. Don't be afraid to let God have control of your life and give you the keys to whatever you need to propel you through good times and bad, daylight and darkness, the sunshine and the rain. Let God have His way. Get inside and go. It's the best way—the most convincing and peaceful way a person can live in this life. There will be trouble in life, but with the keys, all of these issues will be diminished. The keys will give the answers. They will unlock the storehouse of God. How many are on the outside looking in? I stood there looking in not able to do anything about my situation until the truck was unlocked. For centuries, the mystery of God was locked to humanity. God is handing us the keys. Let's open the mystery of His plan. It is complete. We won't be disappointed.

## Speaking In Tongues

*"It was not until modern times that Christians began looking to the scripture to justify ecstatic, unintelligible speaking. It was never introduced by Christ but was already in practice among the heathen. This pagan practice in churches today is emotion at best and a false spirit at worst. Ecstatic utterances are mistakenly seen as something godly and spiritual. Incoherent speaking and praying did not take place in the early morning church and it is not in God's church today."*

The current issue of ***The Gospel Truth*** periodical is devoted to the subject of "Speaking in Tongues."

### TOPICS

- ◆ From Babel to Pentecost or "Other Tongues"
- ◆ Beware of False Teaching
- ◆ Speaking with New Tongues
- ◆ The Gift of Tongues
- ◆ Gift of Interpretation
- ◆ Scriptural Examples of the Gift of Tongues
- ◆ Everyone Does Not Speak With Tongues
- ◆ Tongues (Foreign Language) is just One Gift
- ◆ Evidence of the Spirit is Power to Live Holy

The controversial subject of "Prayer Language" is addressed:

- We Are Instructed How to Pray
- The Spirit Maketh Intercession
- The Tongues of Men & Angels
- "Unknown" Is Added to Some Translations

### I Corinthians 14

**"Paul was not teaching a new practice of tongues but was reproving them for their wrong exaltation and misuse of foreign languages."**

Key verses in this chapter are clearly explained.

***The Gospel Truth* can be found online at:  
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## *In Memoriam*

**Erma Lee (Hill) Francisco**  
**May 27, 1924—February 28, 2014**



Erma Lee Francisco went home to be with Jesus Christ at the age of 89 years and 10 months. Erma was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the first child born to Katie (Newton) and Tollie Penson-Hill. She attributes her desire to

serve the Lord from the godly influence and wisdom of her Grandmother Newton.

Erma attended school, excelled, and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School. She was accepted into Tuskegee Technical Institute of Nursing, where the world renowned professor George Washington Carver conducted research.

Erma married Manuel Francisco in Tulsa, OK on October 10, 1943. To this holy union 15 children were born: Emma LaFaye, Cecelia Dee, Patsy Ann, Manuel Jock Sr, Anceo Stalin Sr, Zedore Lamar, Arnulfo Tollie, Juanakee Joy, Sebe Delbert, Tymara Lou, Wendell Roy, Darryl Jountti, and Colette Marie.

Erma flourished spiritually under the teaching of Pastor Issac Chandler and became the Young People's teacher. Many ministers and gospel workers attribute their start and spiritual stamina from the example and foundational teachings they received from her. Erma felt the call to preach the gospel and became a minister. She also had a gift for working with the elderly and infirm. She was a caregiver to saints and would often receive more than 10 phone calls throughout the day.

Erma was critical in instilling principles of exceptional conduct, good grades and strict discipline in her household. She treated everyone with love, kindness, tact, and respect. She was a confidant to many people. She would often remark, "Oh, I'm turning that over to J.C. He can handle that and you too, Honey Dear. I'm not the least bit worried!" She believed and practiced being a virtuous woman. She is preceded in death by her husband Manuel, two sons (Zedore and Arnulfo), two infant children (Manuel Jr and Louie), her parents (Katie and Tollie), two brothers (Floyd Jackson and Wilburn Penson), and one sister (Genevieve Hall-Johnson).

Erma leaves behind to cherish her memory five sons: Manuel Jock Sr. (Jacquelyn) of Bakersfield, CA; Anceo Sr. (Goletha) of Sylmar, CA; Sebe (Kim) of Lancaster, CA; Wendell (Sherry) of Valencia, CA; and Darryl of Bakersfield, CA. She leaves six daughters: LaFaye Francisco of North Hills, CA; Cecelia (Adriel) Bowman of Sylmar, CA; Patsy (Alex) Fields of Lexington, OK; Juanakee Francisco of Pacomia, CA; Tymara (James) Douglas of Bakersfield, CA; and Collette Teagle of Northern, CA; Two brothers George and Herbert Jackson of Bakersfield, CA. She also leaves a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends and saints who will greatly miss her presence and infectious smile.



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 at [www.KNEO.org](http://www.KNEO.org). Daily devotionals by Bro. Ed Wilson, Pastor of Neosho, MO Church of God.

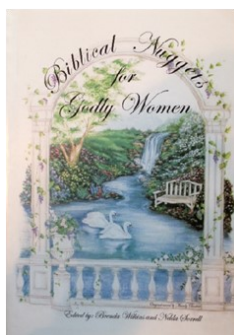
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