

The Way of Truth

Vol. 77

“Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

No. 5

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Editorial

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**Mother's
Day Issue**

HONOR THY MOTHER

THERE is in the Bible a promise that goes like this: “Honour thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee” (Deuteronomy 5:16). Since May 12 is Mother’s Day in the U.S.A., it seems appropriate to share a few thoughts about the office of motherhood. It is clear from the verse above that the Lord puts a premium on our attitude toward our parents. God designed the plan of family and home! It is a beautiful plan clearly spelled out in the Word of God. Genesis 2:24, “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Nowhere in the Bible does it approve of two women or two men cleaving to one another as husband and wife. In fact, such a practice is condemned in the most fervent terms. The world in which we live has provided an environment that not only permits and legalizes same-sex marriage, but seems to glorify it. The foundation of the properly constituted home is under attack!

To complete the beautiful plan of family and home, the love of a man and a woman produces children. Some persons rebel against that natural result of marriage, but clearly God ordained such. “I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully” (I Timothy 5:14). That abortion takes place thousands of times (doubtless millions) is a curse to our society. That which a woman aborts is not just a mass or a growth—it is a human life! That unborn child is completely innocent. How cruel to terminate such a one.

Back to the thought of honoring mothers. It actually takes more than bearing a child to be a true mother. She must nurture and cherish her child and love him with an undying love. If she does so, she is honored by her children and her husband. Proverbs 31:28, “Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.”

Children in the home should honor their mothers by obedience. Ephesians 6:1-3, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.” Such is not often the case in today’s world. The wise man spoke long ago, “There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother” (Proverbs 30:11). We are living in that generation. As a culture, we are experiencing the decline of morality that accompanies such blatant disregard of God’s plan.

So God commands one and all to honor thy mother. If we do, we have the promise that long life may go well with us. But besides the command, a true mother deserves such honor and respect. Her love for each of her children compels it. A mother’s love is among the strongest and purest known to the human family. Love is giving. And Mother gives and gives some more.

How often is mother’s love a type of God’s love.

True story—About 6:00 A.M. on a Wednesday morning, James Lawson of Running Springs, California (in the San Bernardino mountains), left home to apply for a job. About an hour later, his thirty-six-year-old wife, Patsy, left for her fifth grade teaching job down the mountain in Riverside—accompanied by her two children, five-year-old Susan and two-year-old Gerald—to be dropped off at the baby-sitter’s. Unfortunately, they never got that far. Eight and a half hours later, the man found his wife and daughter dead in their wrecked car, upside down in a cold mountain stream. His two-year-old son was just barely alive in the forty-eight-degree water. But in that death the character of a mother was revealed in a most dramatic and heart-rending way. For when the father scrambled down the cliff to what he was sure were the cries of his dying wife, he found her locked in death, holding her little boy’s head just above water in the submerged car. For eight and a half hours Patsy Lawson had held her beloved toddler afloat and had finally died, her body almost frozen in death in that position of self-giving love, holding her baby up to breathe. She died that another might live. That’s the essence of a mother’s love.

If she is a Christian, her life demands honor—the command infers that parents live an honorable life.

Countless times each day a mother does what no one else can do quite as well. She wipes away a tear, whispers a word of hope, eases a child’s fear. She teaches, ministers, loves, and nurtures the next generation of citizens. And she challenges and cajoles her children to do their best and be the best.

Mother has a profound influence upon her children’s character and beliefs.

Someone is quoted as saying, “Why do I believe? All good reasons, none of them the really real reason. There’s my family. I believe because I was brought up in a believing family. I don’t make any bones about that. I don’t know what would have happened to me if I had been born in the depths of Manchuria of a Chinese family. I just don’t know. I do know that I was led to believe in the love of God as soon as I learned I should eat my oatmeal. We did a lot of believing in our house. We did not have much else to do, as a matter of fact. Other kids sang, ‘Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.’ I sang, ‘Jesus loves me, this I know, ’cause my ma told me so.’ I wasn’t alone.” Families are God’s primary missionary society.

Respect your mother. Never refer to her as “the old lady.” Ask her advice, seek her prayers. Don’t talk back! Love her and never work ill toward her. We may take it for granted that our mothers know we love them, but it is proper that we make special effort to let them know we do.

Remember her and make her feel a part of your life. Don’t neglect to call her and take time to visit her. You will not always have her with you. If she has passed on, recall her voice, look at her picture, talk about her attributes.

A man stopped at a flower shop to order some flowers to be wired to his mother who lived two hundred miles away. As he got out of his car he noticed a young girl sitting on the curb, sobbing. He asked her what

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—Gregory E. Tyler, Editor

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was wrong and she replied, "I wanted to buy a red rose for my mother. But I only have seventy-five cents and a rose costs two dollars." The man smiled and said, "Come on in with me. I'll buy you a rose." He bought the little girl her rose and ordered his own mother's flowers. As they were leaving he offered the girl a ride home. She said, "Yes, please! You can take me to my mother." She directed him to a cemetery, where she placed the rose on a freshly dug grave. The man returned to the flower shop, cancelled the wire order, picked up a bouquet and drove the two hundred miles to his mother's home.

Pattern your life after hers. That's how you honor your mother—live a life she can be proud of!

"The best thing to give your enemy is forgiveness; to an opponent, tolerance; to a friend, your heart; to your child, a good example; to a father, deference; to your mother, conduct that will make her proud of you; to yourself, respect; to all men, charity."

—Arthur James Balfour

These are a few ways you can honor your mother. May I leave this thought with my readers: don't limit honoring your mother to Mother's Day. She cared for you seven days a week, 365 days a year. So then honor her every day. †

"When all is said, it is the mother, and the mother only, who is a better citizen than the soldier who fights for his country. The successful mother, the mother who does her part in rearing and training aright the boys and girls who are to be the men and women of the next generation, is of greater use to the community, and occupies, if she would only realize it, a more honorable as well as a more important position than any man in it. The mother is the one supreme asset of the national life. She is more important, by far, than the successful statesman, or businessman, or artist, or scientist."—Theodore Roosevelt

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THE POETRY PAGE

MY MOTHER'S BIBLE

George P. Morris

This book is all that's left me now;
Tears will unbidden start;
With faltering lip and throbbing brow,
I press it to my heart.
For many generations past,
Here is our family tree;
My mother's hands this Bible clasped;
She, dying, gave it me.

Ah! well do I remember those
Whose names these records bear,
Who round the hearthstone used to close
After the evening prayer,
And speak of what these pages said,
In tones my heart would thrill;
Though they are with the silent dead,
Here are the living still.

My father read this holy book
To brothers, sisters, dear;
How calm was my poor mother's look,
Who loved God's Word to hear!
Her angel face—I see it yet!
What thronging memories come!
Again that little group is met
Within the halls of home.

Thou truest friend man ever knew,
Thy constancy I've tried;
When all were false, I found thee true,
My counselor and guide.
The mines of earth no treasures give
That could this volume buy;
In teaching me the way to live,
It taught me how to die.

MOTHER'S GROWING OLD

Author Unknown

Her step is slow and weary,
Her hands unsteady now,
And paler still and deeper
The lines upon her brow;
Her meek blue eyes have faded,
Her hair has lost its gold,
Her once firm voice now falters:
My mother's growing old.

Her days of strength are over,
Her earthly joys depart,
But peace and holy beauty
Are shining in her heart.

The links that bind her spirit
Relax their trembling hold,
She soon will be an angel:
Sweet mother's growing old.

My thoughts flow back to childhood,
When fondled on her knee,
I poured out all my sorrows,
Or lisped my songs of glee;
But now upon me leaning,
So wearily and cold,
With trembling lips she murmurs:
"Dear child, I'm growing old."

I think of all her counsels,
So precious to my youth,
How faithfully she taught me
God's sacred words of truth;
How tenderly she led me
To Jesus' blessed fold,
Where she will soon be welcomed
No longer bowed and old.

The path of daily duty
Was ever her delight;
She walked by faith and patience,
And trusted God for sight.
Her hands with useful labor
Each day their mission told;
Her deeds like heavenly roses,
Still bloom, though she is old.

Alas! those hands so skillful,
Which toiled with loving grace
To make me blessed with comfort,
And home a happy place—
Those dear hands, pale and wrinkled,
By time are now controlled;
They rest in prayerful quiet:
Dear mother's growing old.

Yet though her earthly temple
Still faileth day by day,
Her soul, with faith increasing,
Pursues its heavenward way;
And when the mists of Jordan,
Shall from her sight be rolled,
She'll shine in youth and beauty,
Where spirits ne'er grow old.

O mother fond and faithful!
Thou truest earthly friend,
May I be near to soothe thee
When all thy struggles end;
And while with sad heart yearning,
Thy form my arms enfold,
I pray in peace to meet thee
Where saints no more grow old. †

HONOR YOUR PRECIOUS MOTHER!

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



A SILENT WITNESS

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

"After you gather the eggs this evening, I need you to wash and weigh them," said my mother as I came downstairs from changing out of my school clothes. "When we go into town after dinner, we'll deliver a couple of dozen to people who want them."

I opened a lower cupboard door and took out the egg scale that my grandmother had given us during one of her yearly visits. "Did you use this egg scale when you were a little girl?" I asked my mother.

She laughed. "Probably," she said. "It's as old as the hills."

"Did you separate the medium eggs from the large ones way back then?" I asked her.

"Of course," she answered. "We always called anything over twenty-five ounces 'large.' That's the way we decided how much to charge people for the eggs."

"How many chickens did you have?" I asked her.

"Oh, probably as many as we do now," she said. "We always bought baby 'peeps' and raised them to fryers and laying hens. That's how my mother made her spending money—by selling eggs and butter."

My mother paused, smiling at a memory. "One time Mom bought a pocketbook that cost so much it took every bit of her egg and butter money to pay for it. My daddy laughed and said, 'Well, now you no longer need a pocketbook, for you have no money to put into it.'"

"Did you hate taking care of chickens?" I asked. I thought I knew what the answer would be. I pictured my mother as the perfect child, never lazy nor hating to do chores.

"Well," said my mother. "I don't know as I hated it. I just liked doing other things better." She smiled to herself again, and I knew she was remembering another story from her past.

"Mom was picky about the way she cared for her chickens," my mother continued. "The huckster said she had the best eggs and butter on his route."

"What's a huckster?" I asked.

"A *huckster* was a man who went from door to door selling things to people who lived out in the country, like we did. Sometimes the huckster would take items in trade, such as Mom's eggs and butter.

"Well," continued my mother, "one time Mom and Daddy went to Ohio for a week to visit some of our relatives. My older brothers were almost grown, and so my parents left us children in their charge. They also told us that we were to do all of our chores without being reminded.

"Now you be sure and clean out the chicken water-ers at least every other day," Mom said to me as she and Daddy were leaving. "Don't forget!"

"I won't," I promised.

"We had a good time while my parents were away," said my mother.

"Did you do your chores?" I asked.

"Pretty much," said Mom. "But we pulled weeds in the garden only when we felt like it—not in the middle of the day when it was hot. We girls stayed inside during the hottest hours and worked on our embroidery." She paused. "And I didn't wash out the chicken water-ers. They didn't seem all that dirty, and so I just dumped the old water out every day and put fresh in. I thought that ought to be good enough. How would Mom ever know?"

"When Mom and Daddy got back from Ohio, they seemed pleased with the way the house and garden looked. They told us we had been good children while they were gone. That is, until breakfast the next morning. Mom took a bite of her egg. She frowned and looked straight at me. 'Did you clean the chicken water-ers while we were gone?' she asked me.

"I couldn't lie. 'No,' I told her. 'They didn't look dirty, and so I just put fresh water in them every day.'

"Well, I can tell," said Mom. "This egg doesn't taste like it should."

My mother shook her head at the memory. "I looked and looked at that egg on my mother's plate," she said. "It was a silent witness to my disobedience. Without saying one word, it had condemned me."

Children, do you know what a "witness" is? A *witness* is someone who gives evidence about an event. In this case, the egg gave evidence that my mother had not done what her mother had asked her to do.

Our wise saying this month comes from Proverbs 14:25, which says, "A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies."

The egg was a true witness. My mother was not happy about that, but it did teach her the value of being honest and obedient.

It always pays to tell the truth, even when it does not seem convenient. If we are ever called on to witness what we have seen or heard, we must give an honest account. We should never tell lies in order to get someone else in trouble, or to get ourselves out of trouble. After all, we would not want someone telling lies about us.

We read in Psalm 15 that only those who walk uprightly and speak the truth will have God's favor. That is something we should desire above all else.

Activity

God loves honesty and truth. What else does God love? Unscramble the words below to find out. There is a scripture given after each item that you can use to check your answer.


1. a freeluch vireg (II Corinthians 9:7)
2. tigsourshesen (Psalm 11:7)
3. gudtmenj (Psalm 37:28)
4. het uchrch (Ephesians 5:25)

"Be not overcome of **evil**, but overcome **evil** with **good**" (Romans 12:21).

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the **victory** that overcometh the world, even our **faith**" (I John 5:4). †

THE SANCTITY OF THE HOME

BY THE LATE BRO. H. R. MATTHEWS

 I RECALL my childhood days, when my days of summer were spent at Grandmother's farm, it brings to mind the evening Bible reading and prayer by lamplight. Though my teenage years and early twenties were spent in sinful pursuits, I am certain those earlier days at Grandmother's farm were the influence that brought me to Christ. Yes, my mother was a Christian, but the influence of an unsaved father created a rather dysfunctional atmosphere in the home. I am sharing this with the readers that it might help us to better understand the importance of the sanctity of the home. The apostle Paul's son in the faith, Timothy, shone brightly in the early church, largely because of the influence of a godly mother, along with a godly grandmother.

Many new homes are formed without any thought of prevailing sanctity. Offspring that are reared in a godly environment will, when they come to years, be far more apt to make the wise choice that the man Moses made when he came to years. "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward" (Hebrews 11:24-26). Moses' wise choice was the result of the training of his godly birth-mother who was his nurse-maid until he was weaned.

It is not possible that the sanctity of the home has been achieved where neither parent is a Christian, and neither has the ideal sanctity been achieved where only one parent is a Christian. The ideal sanctity is achieved only when both parents are living Christian lives that are meeting the Bible standard and having the children in subjection with all gravity (I Timothy 3:4). When speaking of sanctity in the home, and the Bible standard, we must understand that we are to maintain the same standard in the home that is maintained when we are attending Church of God services.

Sanctity in the home would be supported by the husband loving his wife, even as Christ loved the church, and the wife being in subjection to her husband, with the offspring obeying their parents in the Lord. Fathers will not provoke their children to anger, but will bring them up in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Daily family devotionals are a much looked forward to event of the day. All family members should be expected to attend. There must not be anything in the home that would attract attention to that of an unclean nature.

This would include reading material and much of our modern technology. Computers have become a wonderful technological member of many households, but precautions must be taken that they have a lockbox that prevents evil from harming the sanctity of our homes.

A sanctimonious home will be guided by a set of bylaws that will maintain the sanctity of the home. An evangelistic spirit (a genuine interest in the spiritual and material welfare of others) will be as a beacon of hope to all on whom its beams are cast. This is extremely important, for it is the design of the Master that every family member be employed in His service in sharing the good news (the gospel) to others, for God is not willing that any should perish.

Mention was made earlier of an ideal sanctity prevailing in the home. This does not mean that we discard our humanity and no mistakes are ever made. It does not mean that there will never be occasions when forgiveness must be sought because of harsh or unkind words or deeds. "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32). In the home where sanctity prevails, the foregoing admonition, penned by the apostle Paul, will be lovingly obeyed. It does not mean that there will never be any conjugal problems arise or never any correction necessary for the children. It does not mean that the spiritual man has reached his peak maturity, for growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior will not cease until this corruptible shall have put on incorruption. Love must reign when problems arise and the problems must be handled in the Bible fashion.

Courtesy and consideration is shared by family members in the home where sanctity prevails. Each one cheerfully does his part to make it a functional home where no one becomes an imposition on the other family members.

Sanctity in the home does not mean that there will never be trials to endure or an enemy to face on the field of battle. It does not mean there will never be another temptation from the evil one or the fiery trial which is to try us. What it does mean is that God will never allow a fiery trial in which we can never be the victor, nor the temptation which we are not able to overcome. He has promised to supply all our needs according to His riches in glory.

In the home where sanctity prevails, the other family members are ever ready to lift up the one who has stumbled, to encourage the discouraged, to comfort one another in times of sorrow and sadness, to bring tranquility when offences occur.

The home where sanctity prevails is a classroom where family members are educated in righteous principles. Their textbook is the Holy Bible. This textbook was written by approximately forty-two Holy Ghost inspired scribes with the Holy Spirit Himself being the instructor.

In addition to writing seventy-two of the Psalms, King Solomon authored three books of the Old Testament. Much of his instruction was to family members. To the son, he wrote, "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother. ...

My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not" (Proverbs 1:8,10). Along with the other family members, the daughter is instructed, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23). To Mother and Father, along with other family members, he wrote: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5, 6).

The home where sanctity prevails is a replica of the Church of God, God's family. The family where sanctity prevails is a Church of God in miniature. Its plan of government and its standard for Christian living come from the same source, the Word of God.

The spirit of love that pervades the home where sanctity prevails is the same spirit of love that pervades the universal family of God.

The geographical boundaries that now separate the universal family will pass into oblivion when time shall be no more, and the enemy of God's family shall be forever confined to his eternal abode. †

WINNING A CROWN

By the late C. W. Naylor



Part X (conclusion of Entire Sanctification)

A Twofold Sanctification

IN THE Old Testament there was a double sanctification of the object. In the twenty-ninth chapter of Exodus, after giving instructions concerning the sanctification of Aaron and his sons, the garments, and the altar (verses 21, 35-37), the Lord goes on to say: "And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory. And I will sanctify the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar: I will sanctify also both Aaron and his sons, to minister to me in the priest's office" (verses 43, 44). It was not enough that Moses and Aaron should sanctify these things, but God Himself by a separate act must also sanctify them. When the tabernacle was completed and set up ready for dedication and had been dedicated by the priests, the glory of the Lord fell upon it so that they could not enter in, and thus the Lord did His part of the sanctification.

This idea of a double sanctification is also brought over into the New Testament. We note first man's part: "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). "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work" (II Timothy 2:21). This is man's part. This he must do, so that God may do His part. Through Ezekiel, God gave a promise relating to His part. "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness and from all your idols, will I cleanse you" (Ezekiel 36:25). In Romans 15:16 we

read, "That the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost"; and again in I Peter 1:2, "sanctification of the Spirit," that is, of the Spirit of God. And Jude says, "Sanctified by God the Father" (Jude 1). As the result of this twofold sanctification, believers become "sanctified, and meet for the master's use" and "holy and without blame before him in love." Of such Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8).

Those who make sanctification a mere dedication miss the deepest and most glorious idea which it contains. The idea of purification is always included in the word, and the idea of the state in which the object is left is always that it is pure. It is no longer a common thing—it is holy unto the Lord.

What the Bible Teaches

Just before Jesus was taken away from the apostles, He gave them two promises, or what was equivalent to two promises. The first is stated in these words: "If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth; which the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (John 14:15-17). The second we find in the seventeenth chapter where these words are recorded: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth"; "And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth" (verses 17 and 19). This, though a prayer, amounts to the same as a promise. He clearly expressed His will for them. He sanctified Himself, that is, He dedicated Himself to die for them that, through the shedding of His blood, they might be sanctified. He not only sanctified Himself in the sense of dedicating Himself; but through that sanctification He became, as the Savior of men, "holy and harmless," sacred in that office. He needed no moral purification. He could have none, for He was already pure. Nevertheless, the word contains the idea of His being holy in His office as a Savior, and this is no exception to the common use of the word.

Did the apostles receive this twofold experience? Let us see. In the second chapter of Acts we have the account of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost and the perfect fulfilment of Christ's words relating to it. Then was His prayer for their sanctification also answered? and if so, when? Peter ought to be a very good witness. At the council of the church in Jerusalem, Peter said, in reference to the time when he went to the household of Cornelius, "And God which knoweth the heart, bear them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith" (Acts 15:8, 9).

In the tenth chapter of Acts, Luke gives the story of Peter's visit. Cornelius, though a Gentile, was a devout and holy man, one that feared God and prayed much, and in verses 34 and 35 Peter acknowledges him to have been accepted with God. In verses 44-47 he gives the account of how the Holy Spirit fell upon those who were in Cornelius' house; and in his speech before the council Peter declares that the same thing was accomplished there as was accomplished on the day of

Pentecost, that is, those present received the Holy Ghost and their hearts were purified by faith. If the apostles were not sanctified when they received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, then we have no account that they ever received the experience; and if they did not, then Christ's prayer was never realized, His answer was never granted. Those who make a separation between the baptism of the Holy Ghost and the experience of entire sanctification do violence to the Sacred Text. And those who say that we are sanctified wholly and then afterwards receive the Holy Spirit, likewise pervert the gospel. The two—being sanctified and receiving the Holy Spirit—cannot be separated. They belong together—they belong together in the Bible, and they belong together in personal experience.

Sanctification has two aspects—the negative, relating to the cleansing of natural depravity, the cleansing which leaves the soul pure; and the positive, relating to the filling of the soul with the divine fullness by the Holy Spirit. Without both of these, we are not wholly sanctified.

Incompleteness of the Regenerated

When one first enters into the state of regeneration, that experience usually seems, not only to satisfy the soul, but also to reach beyond one's highest expectations. It fills his whole horizon; he sees and can see nothing beyond it. In course of time, however, as he begins to understand himself more perfectly, he becomes conscious of a certain incompleteness. He sees a spiritual standard lifted up in the Scriptures to which he has not yet attained. He reads such texts as the following: "That ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" (James 1:4). "That ye might be filled with all the fulness of God" (Ephesians 3:19). "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:17). "In him verily is the love of God perfected" (I John 2:5). "His love is perfected in us" (I John 4:12). He realizes that these scriptures do not describe his experience, or at least do so only in a limited way.

As time passes, he becomes more and more conscious of this fact. Not only so, but he feels more and more a longing and yearning in his soul for something higher—a reaching out, a calling for something he has not attained. He may not understand this longing nor feel able to express it by words, unless he has been taught sufficiently to recognize his need. This yearning of his soul is for a something that is real. It is for that heart-satisfying fullness of God. This yearning followed out has led into the experience of entire sanctification many souls who had never heard a sermon or teaching of any kind upon the subject and did not even know that the Scriptures teach that we may enter into such a state. I have personally known of a number of such instances. One brother told me that he received the experience two years before he ever heard a word said upon the subject. No stronger proof of two works of grace can be produced from any source than this heart-hunger that leads one on and on into God and to the full fulfilment of his purpose.

The Test of Experience

It is a self-evident truth that the testimony of one witness who can speak from knowledge gained through

his own experience is of more value than that of ten thousand who know nothing by experience upon the subject. There are tens of thousands who have been sanctified, who know what the fullness of experience means because of the work that has been done in their own hearts. To spend time arguing with them against its reality is to waste words. They know what they are talking about; they know what God has done for them; they have applied to the doctrine the acid test and found it true metal. Once while I was holding a meeting for a church that believed in entire sanctification, an interesting incident occurred. There was a business man of that community who had violently opposed the doctrine. He had said a great many bitter and harsh things against its professors. But during my stay there, he became very ill. The physician told him that he could live only a short time. In his distress he desired prayer, and he sent for a neighbor who professed the experience of entire sanctification, and whom he had violently opposed. Others who did not believe in sanctification came in and offered to pray for him, but he refused to permit anyone to do so except that sanctified man whom he had before affected to despise. When facing death, he wanted the prayers of a man whom he believed God would hear, and so he sent for this sanctified man.

The people who have been and who are mighty to accomplish things in this world for God have been and are people of pure lives and hearts. When not in need of prayer, sinners and evil professors may laugh and jeer at them; but when the time comes that they desire to draw nigh to God, they know to whom to turn, they know whose prayers will be heard and answered. In the days gone by the men who turned many to righteousness were men who believed in holiness. Their theology was sometimes at fault; but their hearts were right, and it was because of this that God could work through them so mightily in the uprooting of wickedness. Holiness of heart and holiness of life go together. There can be no holiness of life unless there is first holiness of heart. One is the complement of the other, and having the one, we naturally live the other. And nothing can be more real to the consciousness than the assurance of the heart that is thus cleansed. There is a satisfying reality in the experience that gives a person a real knowledge of the work wrought and of the state into which he is brought. He has a quiet, definite assurance, and in this he rests and is satisfied. He knows for himself. All the testimony that may be offered contrary to it, affects him not. He knows, and he trusts, and he is at peace.

How to Obtain the Experience

We are sometimes asked to direct people over a road which they have never traveled. We may do this to the very best of our ability, telling them about all the general characteristics of the way; but notwithstanding our best efforts, they are sometimes perplexed and do not know just which way to turn, or which way to go; they do not and cannot understand our explanations and directions, and sometimes, even after we have done our best to point out the way, they must needs inquire of others. The same is true concerning our explanations of how to obtain the experience of entire sanctification. Make it as plain as we can, there will be some things

that we cannot explain to the satisfaction of the seeker. He can only partly understand the things that we tell him. When he comes to some place in the road where he would put our directions into practice, he may find himself perplexed, not knowing what to do; our directions fail of being plain to him.

I used to wonder why the Bible did not make the way plainer. I could not understand why the way should not be marked out step by step even as others and I tried to mark it out for seeking souls. I tried to make the way still plainer, but failed to obtain better results. I was much troubled and prayed over the matter long and earnestly. When at last the answer came, I marveled that I had not understood it before. I saw that, if the way should thus be marked out step by step with what the teacher supposed to be great clearness, souls would often follow it out in a mechanical and formal way and would fail to obtain the experience; they would not get their hearts into the seeking enough to enable them to find. But I saw also that, if the way could not be seen as clearly as the seekers would wish, their hearts would longingly turn to God, and they would seek for Him instead of an experience. They would seek for Him instead of anything else, and in seeking Him, their hearts would seek aright and find.

I saw then the wisdom of God's silence. I saw that, if the footsteps were sometimes uncertain, it would more fully arouse the desire, and that that pent-up desire would burst through all obstacles to God. Whatever increases the heart's hunger for God, whatever draws us out more earnestly to Him, is a step upon the way, even though it be a step taken "in the dark." God is not hard to find. He places no difficulties in the way of the one seeking Him; but what He desires is that He be sought so earnestly that the soul will reach that depth of consecration which will make it all his own. Though I cannot tell all the details as to just how one should seek the experience, I can point out a few way-marks that may be of benefit to the seeker.

There are some things that a person must needs know. Whether this knowledge be obtained through preaching or through his own heart's yearnings, it matters not; but first of all he must know his need. He must have an internal consciousness that there is something more, a deeper experience, for him. His heart must hunger and reach out after God for higher attainments of grace and spirituality. The more conscious he becomes of his need, the more certain will he be to seek so as to obtain. Also he must believe that there is such an experience as he craves obtainable. If he believes teachers who say that these heart-longings can never be satisfied in this world, he may be discouraged and not seek for satisfaction, or at least he may seek only in a half-hearted, discouraged way without really hoping to find. There are those who would tell him that life is a time of long-drawn-out dissatisfactions, of lifelong conflicts with the internal corruption. They will tell him that there is no remedy for it, no way of having his heart cleansed. If he believes this, he will have hard work getting beyond his present experience; that false idea will stand as a barrier in his way. Therefore, it is necessary that he have knowledge that he can obtain a

higher state of grace. Having this knowledge, he can go forward.

Desire must follow knowledge. I have seen many persons seek in a half-hearted, uncertain sort of way, not feeling in their hearts that fervency of desire which made them earnest in their seeking. Desire is the foundation of all true seeking. The more intense that desire becomes, the more likely the soul is soon to find the thing he seeks.

There must be a consecration or dedication of ourselves to God. When we came to Him for pardon, we sought Him with all the ardor of our souls and yielded to Him so far as we could understand. But now we know Him better, and we know ourselves better; and we are, therefore, able to dedicate ourselves to Him in a higher and better and fuller and deeper sense than we could then. Some tell us that we must consecrate our houses and land, our relatives and friends, and everything that we possess to Him. This is useless. They belong to Him already. What He wants us to consecrate is ourselves. If we ourselves, with every power and resource of our being, are His, then everything that belongs to us, or everything that has to do with our life, belongs to Him. All is in His hands to use as He sees fit. The secret of consecration is but the yielding of self. Everything else may be given up to God, and yet self be held back. If such is the case, there is no real consecration; for that means that I myself am laid upon the altar of His will in a complete and unreserved sacrifice. God must have full control. There must be a "yes" in our hearts to all His will. We must empty ourselves of everything else before we can be filled with God; but when the heart is once truly empty, God will come in and fill it to the utmost.

We sometimes hear a great deal about meeting conditions in order to get sanctified. Let us remember this one fact: Nothing that we can do puts God under any obligation to sanctify us. We may meet all the conditions we ever heard of, but that does not put God under obligation to us. When He does sanctify us, He does so by the act of His free grace. We cannot purchase sanctification, we cannot earn it, we cannot do anything to bring ourselves into the experience. The whole work is God's work. All our desire and consecration and seeking merely serve to remove the barriers that are in the way of God's working. When all the barriers are removed, then faith reaches forth and opens the channel of grace; and when this channel is thrown wide open, God's grace runs in as naturally as water runs down hill. In Acts 15:9 we are told that the purification of our heart is by faith. In Acts 26:18 we are told that we are sanctified by faith in God. Remember, God is to do the work, but we are to do the believing.

We cannot, however, believe over any obstacles. If there is something yet unconsecrated, faith cannot act. It can overcome all obstructions without, but it cannot surmount obstructions within ourselves. These must be overcome by our own wills, by definite heart surrender to God. Faith is simply trusting, just relying on God to carry forward His plan in us when we give Him the opportunity. It is just believing that His Word is true, true for us, and true for us right now. God will not fail us. He has placed Himself under the most sacred

obligations to do His part, and He will not come short. When the soul has poured out itself before God until it is conscious that it has reached the full depth of its measure, when it realizes that it has done all within its power to do, it may then rest and wait. Now has come faith's opportunity. Let her reach forth her hand and take hold upon God, and declare "it is done." Faith is not a trying to believe; it is not a straining and struggling; it is a confident relying upon God's promises. Never mind what the emotions are; they have nothing to do with the case. God does not want our faith to stand in emotions, but in His unchangeable Word. When we reach the point where our faith does take hold on God, there is an immediate result. There comes into our hearts a consciousness that God hears us and accepts our offering. Faith always brings assurance. This assurance cannot come so long as the heart is full of doubts; but when faith really takes hold upon God, assurance comes.

We must carefully distinguish between this assurance and the emotions that sometimes come along with it. Assurance is that inner knowledge by which we know that we are wholly the Lord's. It is also the testimony of the Spirit of God in our hearts. Its voice can never be heard when faith dies; but so long as faith is quick and vigorous, its voice is never silenced. When we have reached the place to believe, we may confidently believe and trust regardless of emotions. We may have no emotion or feeling at all, or we may have a variety of emotions, one following another. But no matter what emotions may come, or what emotions may go, it is our privilege to believe. Emotions are superficial; faith goes to the very foundation of things, and produces satisfactory results. The emotions, no matter how great they are, will soon subside; but the assurance stays so long as faith holds true. If we believe, we need not trouble ourselves about the outcome—God will take care of that. God wants us to rest calmly, to wait on Him, to trust Him in full assurance. He will see that our hearts are fully satisfied.

An Instantaneous Experience

Sanctification is often taught as being a state to which we gradually attain. It is said that we grow in grace and become more and more holy as time goes on until finally somehow, someday, sometime, we reach the experience of entire sanctification. I have yet to find among those who hold to this theory the first person who claims to have reached the fullness of the experience. They are all still growing, still going toward it but never getting there, or never knowing when they do get there if they do. The fact is, this is not the method at all. Sanctification is not a thing of growth; it is the work of God. Growth there is and must be in the Christian life; but growth does not change the nature. Only the work of God can do that. In every case in the Bible where people received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit "fell upon them," or "they were all filled with the Holy Ghost." This baptism was not a gradual thing, a thing that came by degrees; it came suddenly. It was a definite something at a definite time and in a definite manner, and so it always is.

Sanctification is received by faith; and being the result of an act of faith, it must of necessity be an

instantaneous work. A man may be sick and be dying by inches, and he may be a long time in this condition, coming nearer and nearer to death; but there comes a time when he dies. One moment he is alive; the next moment he is dead. Death is invariably instantaneous. The same is true of sanctification. We may draw nearer and nearer to God. We may become more and more like Him. We may yield ourselves more and more to Him. We may receive more and more of His grace. But we cannot say that we are wholly sanctified until we have fully surrendered self and have received the baptism of His Holy Spirit and have been filled with all the fullness of God. When this is done, an instantaneous work of God has been wrought. One man under the influence of the Spirit may yield in a few minutes what it has taken others years to yield; but in either case the outcome is the same, the work of God is the same.

How to Retain the Experience

There are two things necessary to the retention of the experience of entire sanctification. One is faith. The other is a life of obedience to God. If we rebel against God, we become sinners. If we fail to believe in God, we open the door to doubts of all kinds, to fears, troubles, trials, distress, uncertainties, and perhaps despair. A mere weakening of our faith under trial will not destroy the grace out of our hearts, it will not render our hearts impure, neither will it bring us into sin. It will, however, destroy that assurance God gives to us, and it cannot be restored until our faith is restored.

Doubts do not contaminate the soul. We may get bothered and feel uncertain, having various sorts of fears about our experience, but this will not render us impure. When our faith mounts up to God again, the assurance will be restored to our souls, and we may go on our way rejoicing. Only sin can destroy the experience from our hearts. Only sin can drive away the Holy Spirit. So long, therefore, as our hearts do not turn away from God, we can rely in Him. No matter what our emotions are, no matter how dark some days may seem, no matter how we may be tested, we are still sanctified. This subject will be further considered in the chapter on Faith. †

OUT OF BOX 88

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the dear name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I want to thank you all for sending me the wonderful *Way of Truth* magazines. They have been a blessing to my soul. Many times when I am down in spirit, especially not having any brethren around, I just reach for one of the magazines and I find comfort and encouragement. Thank you again and again. Please continue sending them to me.

Keep up the good work. Your reward will be great. Enclosed is a little offering. May the Lord continue to fill your needs according to His riches in glory.

—L. A., New Jersey

The Potter's House

2018 Hagerstown Convention Message by Bro. Duane Jeffries



PRAISE THE Lord! It is indeed a wonderful, wonderful privilege to be back in Hagerstown. The last time I was here was three years ago for a spring revival. I didn't think it would take me so long to come back, but the Lord knows what He's doing. We just have to trust His leading.

I just want to say how blessed I have been during this convention. This has been an outstanding convention. My heart is on higher ground. My soul is filled. As we say in the Caribbean, "My saucer is running over." We thank the Lord for blessing every service. Every message has truly been a source of encouragement and an inspiration to me. I am small in stature, but I feel even smaller. Please pray for me. It is a great responsibility to preach the gospel, and it is a job that I just can't seem to get used to. It is new every time, but I'm thankful to know that I have a God who is able to help me.

If you have your Bibles, please turn to the book of Jeremiah, the 18th chapter. We will take our text from verse 1 to verse 6: "The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words. Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it. Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel."

The more I live in this world, the more I realize how much I need God. It doesn't matter what happens to me, or what befalls me, as long as I have God with me, I know I'll be all right. I pray, by the grace of God, that I will never reach the place in my life again where I don't have God with me. I don't ever want to experience that again. I know what it is to live without God in this world. The brokenness, the despair, the loneliness, the emptiness, the feeling of condemnation and alienation, I don't want to ever experience again. So, may God help me that every day of my life, I'll walk with Him. I've found Him to be a friend. In the good times and in the bad times, God is always there. Friends may forsake you. People who you put confidence in may let you down, but I can tell you tonight with confidence in my heart, God will never let you down. God will never fail you. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Praise God!

I am glad to know that God loves me. Sometimes as you go through this walk called life, and you walk through some very cold and hard places, people turn their backs on you. They give you a cold shoulder. Sometimes the people who you thought would love you will be the hardest; but I can tell you with confidence in my heart, God will walk with you through the trying

scenes of life. The reason why is because He loves you. He is the Potter; I am the clay. Every morning when I awake, my heart yearns for God. David said, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God" (Psalm 42:1).

God has put in us a little part of Him. This is something that this world can never satisfy. Money can't satisfy the human breast. Billionaires in this world who have just about everything money can buy are miserable. As a matter of fact, I can venture to say, they are some of the most miserable people on this earth. Money can't buy happiness. Only Jesus can satisfy the longing of your soul.

WE LIVE IN A BROKEN WORLD

We live in a broken world, and all you need to do is to look around and you will see. Outside of the grace of God, the world is a broken place. So many people are living below their privileges. So many people are dissatisfied, unhappy, even though they have so much in the material sense, but they're broken. The reason why, Beloved Friends, is because God created us to serve Him. It was for His purpose that we were brought forth. Outside of God, man can never find the true purpose in life.

Let us go back to the beginning. The Bible says, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." When you look at this world and see the beauty of nature, you have to come to one conclusion. There is a mighty power somewhere. David said, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1). This world doesn't belong to the Queen of England nor to President Donald Trump. This is God's world, and everyone who lives in it is subject to God. He is the Potter and we are the clay.

Beloved, I will tell you tonight, this God who brought us into existence, who created us, has the right to tell us how to live. The problem with the world is that they want a God who gives them what they want, but they don't want a God who tells them how to live and what to do. God has the right by creation to tell us how to live. We don't live by our own standards. We live by God's standards; and if we call ourselves the people of God, then we must abide by God's standards. He created this world. Scientists try to tell us that there was a big bang. Some meteorite or something else came out of the sky and created this. That's what they try to tell us, but I read in the Bible, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." God spoke the words, "Let there be light: and there was light. Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters," and there was

a firmament. He said, "Let the dry land appear," and the dryland appeared. What a God! After God created the world, you will see in the book of Genesis, chapter 1, verses 12, 18, and 21, that God said, "It was good." God is incapable of creating anything that is broken or flawed. Everything He made was perfect and good. There was no deficiency. It was good, but something was missing.

What good would a world do without someone to live in it? God wanted to create something different. After He created the animals and everything else, He wanted something that represented Him, something that bore His very image, and something that reflected His very likeness. Do you see, Beloved Friends, from the beginning of time it was God's design that we live after His likeness, that we reflect Him in everything we do and say? God said, "Let us make man." Scientists have said that we evolved from some prehistoric creature or monkey. Well, I can tell you tonight, I did not come from any monkey. The Bible says, "I was made in the image of God." When I look at myself in the mirror, I see the expressed image of God. I'll ask the evolutionist tonight: Why is the monkey still creating a monkey? The evolutionist is so confused. We need to pray for this world. Yes, God made us in His own image. For His own purpose were we made. God made man perfect and upright. God is incapable of making anything that is evil or corrupt. He's too holy and pure. Man was upright and pure, just as God designed him.

Now, think about this: Imagine a place where there is no envy, no malice, no hatred, no strife, no sickness, no suffering, no death, no back pain, no arthritis, no cancer. Right here on earth, there was such a place. It was called Eden; Paradise. Do you see the mind of God, the design of God, and His plan for man? From the very beginning, God desired that man live in Paradise. He created a Paradise right here on earth, and He placed a man and a woman in it. Let me stress this tonight: it was a man and a woman. It wasn't two men; it wasn't two women. It's contrary to God's plan. I don't care how many kings and queens legislate laws that says it's okay. The Bible says it's wrong, and I believe the Bible. But the picture changed—

SIN IS TO BLAME

Sin entered into the world. By the way of disobedience, one man caused sin to enter into the world. From that time, this world became a broken place. Man was no longer the same. Imagine, in the cool of the day, God would come down and commune with Adam and Eve. What a privilege! God Himself in the present would come down and fellowship with them. What a privilege! They were unclothed, but they were so innocent and pure that they didn't even know it. It was a pure world, but when sin came upon the scene, everything changed. Adam and Eve saw their nakedness. They hid themselves. They were ashamed of God. That holy and pure communion was broken. From that point on, sin has preyed upon humanity. The Bible says, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way." David said, "Behold, I was shapen in

iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." Job said, "Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble." Because of sin coming into the world, we have murders, rapes, drugs. Sin corrupted the world. Because of sin, man became broken, shattered, beaten, and battered.

In this material world, we have people who can fix just about anything. If a car breaks down, it can be taken to a garage and be fixed. A broken part can be replaced with a new one and the car runs again. If an airplane breaks down, providing it's on the ground, there are mechanics who can fix it. If a pipe breaks, there's a plumber who can replace it. If the electricity fails, there are those who can get it running again.

ONLY CHRIST CAN FIX MAN'S SOUL

Beloved, as far as the soul of a man is concerned, only Christ can fix it. The problem with the world tonight is that people who have their souls broken are going to the wrong places. The psychiatrist can't fix the soul. He can help you get through some problems, but he can't fix your soul. The doctor can't fix it. He'll collect your money and give you a prescription, but he can't fix your soul. Only One can fix your soul, and that is Jesus Christ.

I had a friend with whom I went to college. He was one of those individuals with a super-elevated IQ. He graduated and received a double Master's Degree. He went on to hold a very important job. I thought that everything with that man was okay. On the surface, he was smiling. There was no indication of any problem. He had a good job and a good education. He had just about anything that a normal individual would want, but deep inside there was a battle raging. He was broken. This young man went on in this condition. He was too proud to cry out. One day I saw him shed a tear, and I asked him if he was okay. He was so proud that he couldn't admit that he was in deep depression, to the point where, he was having suicidal thoughts. One day I was at work and the call came, "Your friend is gone." He was so broken and depressed that he went on the Internet and researched for himself the easiest and the less painful way of committing suicide. He was so intelligent that he carried it out just that way. The forensic people concluded that the apparatus he used to take his own life, it only took five seconds for him to die.

Even here in a setting like this, we have people who come and they're smiling on the outside, but on the inside something is going on. A war is raging. They're broken inside. Even some professed Christians are in such a state. They come to service, they raise their hand and pretend that everything is okay, but there's a private war going on in their souls. I'm here to tell you, there is Someone who can fix your souls. He is the Potter and we are the clay. You see, God won't criticize us if we're honest with our struggles. The truth is, every Christian, no matter how young or old in the faith, has private struggles. I'm not trying to put anyone down, but we're all human beings. Struggles, private thoughts that others don't know about. Things keep us up at night that cause anxiety sometimes, but God knows about them. God will help us, but we must be honest with Him. He won't criticize you tonight. He won't put you

down nor cast you away. The Bible says, “A bruised reed, he will not despise.” Beloved Hearts, I am telling you, if you’re in a broken state, you don’t have to do what that young man did. God can fix you, help you, and see you through, but you must be honest with God.

MARY WAS BROKEN

The Bible speaks of a woman called Mary. When Jesus was in the house of Simon, there along with the other disciples, and a religious group, Mary came to the little place. She was a broken woman, a woman of reputation. The Bible says that she was a prostitute. Through the eyes of faith, I can see her now as she approached the little place. She was downtrodden and wondering what the people might think of her, but she heard of a Man whose name was Jesus. She came down to the Potter’s house, and she didn’t care who was criticizing her. Her desire was to get to the Potter, to get to Jesus. She came with what could have been her only possession, an alabaster box of very precious ointment. She came into the little hall where Jesus was, and I can just see the tender look of the Master Himself towards her. She came down and didn’t even as much as to utter a word. She knelt down with tears flowing from her eyes. She anointed Him with her ointment and washed His feet with tears and wiped them with the hairs of her head.

I can just see the piercing eyes of those religious people now. As they started to criticize her, they asked, “What is this purpose of this waste?” They cared not for her soul and her well-being. “This could have been sold in the market and given to the poor.” But there was something more valuable than money that was at stake. When it comes to your soul, Beloved Friends, Jesus values your soul. Jesus looked down in pity at a life that was broken and fragmented. Pieces everywhere. One wonders how it could be put back together again, but He is the Potter.

I WAS BROKEN

When I look back at my life and see how far in sin I went, I walked far enough away from God to be lost in a devil’s hell. Pieces shattered everywhere, but Jesus put it back together again. Thank God, He didn’t throw the clay away. The times that I forgot Him and wandered away, He didn’t throw the pieces away.

Over and over, He molds me and makes me,

Into His likeness, He fashions the clay.

A vessel of honor, I am today,

All because Jesus didn’t throw the clay away.

I was lost and undone, without God or His Son, but my Savior reached down for me. Jesus took that woman’s broken, beaten, and battered life and He uttered these words: “This that was done before you today will be spoken of for generations and generations to come.” Over 2,000 years have come and gone and we’re still speaking of Mary today. God made her what she became. He is the Potter; we are the clay. Who is this Potter? Jesus. He loves you tonight. There are so many in this building who are broken. Perhaps you’ve tried this way once and you’ve failed; but I’m here to tell you, He can put the pieces together. Come down to the Potter’s house.

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COME TO THE POTTER’S HOUSE

In the Potter’s house, there is love and compassion. He won’t cast you away. Jesus is here to receive you tonight with open arms. None of us are deserving of His love. None of us merit His grace, but because He loved us, He went to the cross, freely shed His blood for you and for me.

In the Potter’s house, there is forgiveness for your sins. It doesn’t matter how far in sin you may have roamed, or how broken you may be tonight, He is willing and able to forgive you of your sins.

In the Potter’s house, there is restoration. David went very far into sin. The Bible says that David was a special young boy. He was consecrated and dedicated to God. God was able to do great things in his life. A great man of God. David was called “a man after God’s own heart,” but in a moment of weakness, he impregnated another man’s wife, and to cover up his sin, he hired a hit man to kill that wife’s husband. He was a man after God’s own heart, but yet David slipped away from God. Beloved, be careful how you walk away from God. But David, at some point, realized that he needed God. He cried out, “Have mercy upon me, O God. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation.” God will restore you again. Thank God, when He does fix us, we’re well fixed.

In the Potter’s house, there is an abundance of grace. “Grace, grace, God’s grace, Grace that will pardon and

cleanse within; Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that is greater than all our sin." His grace is greater than all of our sins. Thank God, love found a pardon for me. I didn't deserve it, but He paid the price for me.

In the Potter's house, there is friendship and companionship. We heard a message this week, "We Be Brethren"—

*I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God,
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!*

*Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family,
The family of God.*

What a wonderful family! Unsaved Friends, you don't know what you're missing. Don't you want to be a part of this family? Don't allow this opportunity to pass you by. You can be a part of this wonderful family.

CONCLUSION

What about you? Where are you? Perhaps there are those who have come to this service tonight, troubled. Circumstances, problems, heartaches, disappointments—we all have had these. Strained relationships; broken dreams; shattered hopes. Perhaps there are some who have come tonight, searching. You've tried everything this world has to offer and you're still searching. Come to the Potter. Jesus specializes in the broken. He can put the pieces of your life back together again.

In closing, I want to read this poem written by Myra Brooks Welch—

*'Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer
Thought it scarcely worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin,
But held it up with a smile:
"What am I bidden, good folks," he cried,
"Who'll start the bidding for me?"
"A dollar, a dollar"; then, Two!" "Only two?
Two dollars, and who'll make it three?
Three dollars, once; three dollars twice;
Going for three—" But no,
From the room, far back, a gray-haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow;
Then, wiping the dust from the old violin,
And tightening the loose strings,
He played a melody pure and sweet
As a caroling angel sings.*

*The music ceased, and the auctioneer,
With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said: "What am I bid for the old violin?"
And he held it up with the bow.
"A thousand dollars, and who'll make it two?
Two thousand! And who'll make it three?
Three thousand, once, three thousand, twice,
And going and gone," said he.
The people cheered, but some of them cried,
"We do not quite understand
What changed its worth." Swift came the reply:
"The touch of a master's hand."*

*And many a man with life out of tune,
And battered and scarred with sin,
Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd,
Much like the old violin.
A "mess of pottage," a glass of wine;
A game—and he travels on.
He is "going" once, and "going twice,"
He's "going" and almost "gone."
But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd
Never can quite understand
The worth of a soul and the change that's wrought
By the touch of the Master's hand.*

We will sing, "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross." Is there someone here, broken, who needs a touch from the Master? Come tonight; come to Jesus. Come down to the Potter's house. †

MOTHER AND HOME

Radio Message

*by the late Sis. Hope Glidden-Borden
(previously aired over Radio Cayman)*

PARTICULARLY today, you will agree with me that two words tend to produce a lump in our throats. They are: *Mother and Home*. You really can't separate them. They go together because Mother is the central figure. If she's still in the home, she's the central figure; if she's left this world, she's still the central figure.

From Ephesians 6, I will read three verses of scripture. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

Mothers were made by God to be honored. The scriptures I just read reminded us that it is the first commandment that was ever given with a promise. There is a reward in honoring our mothers. I trust that there's no one in the sound of my voice today who might be inclined to do otherwise than to honor your mother. Why? (1) because she is your mother; (2) because she is special and a very special gift from God; (3) because she was created to be honored, loved, and respected. I say today, however, too many children are forgetting what Mothers really are.

Now, the best mother that I can think of to speak about today is my own. That's the one I knew best; and if I get a little personal, and possibly a little emotional, pardon me, but I feel duty bound to do this.

I'll take for a pilot chapter, Proverbs 31. I will talk about the verses there from 10 down, depending on how much time I might find myself with.

I like to remember Mama. In fact, I'll never forget her. I sleep in the room in which she died, and she always seems to be near to me. To me, my mother was a very special person, and I would want to know that you feel the same way towards yours.

I think of Mama in our days when we were preparing to go out for the day. We children were so excited. It seemed as if we were preparing for this day from the time we heard of it, and she would have us all bathed and dressed and ready to go, and now we had to wait on her to get ready. I would go in the kitchen and say, "Mama, you're not getting ready yet?" She would answer, "Child, I'm getting ready all the time." You see, we didn't realize as children that there were other things she had to do. All we had to do was to bathe and get dressed, but she had so many things to take care of. A mother; a special mother. I've always remembered her process of getting ready meant more than the putting on of clothes.

Another thing I remember about my mother was: Before we left home, she knelt and prayed and asked God to protect us in our traveling. I don't know what she would do if she was living in this day. I don't know if she would have gotten off her knees because then there were about three or four cars. Now we are so bombarded that we just have to say, "Thank you, God," when we get there, and "Thank you, God," when we get back. She was so conscious of the need of God in our movements and that has been embedded in our lives. A mother who prayed! I remember missing her for a little while, and I would say, "Where is Mama?" and all of a sudden she would appear out of a closet where she had been praying. That wasn't in the morning nor at night. She had already prayed in the morning. She always prayed at night, but during the day we would miss her and that was where she was. She was drawing strength from God for her needs. We couldn't understand this as children, but as an adult, it stands out in my mind.

Listen to these words from Proverbs 31—

Verse 10: "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies." You just can't measure the price of a good woman, the price of a good mother, the price of a good wife with silver and gold and diamonds. You can't. It is far above rubies.

Verse 11: "The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil." My father never had to worry one moment about my mother being untrue to him. She was a virtuous woman. She was an honorable woman. She was a woman that we could look up to and honor, even today, years and years after her passing. This is the type of mothers we want in our society today. This is the kind of mothers we need in order to have homes that will tide us over the crisis over which we're passing.

Verse 12: "She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life." Have you ever heard of such things that Mothers are doing Fathers today? Let me tell you one thing, My Listening Audience, my mother taught us to respect and love our father, and we had to love and respect him because she did. Mother, if you're not respecting your husband today, if you're not respecting the father of your children, don't expect your children to respect him.

Verse 13: "She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands." My mother was the most diligent woman. She had no idle moments. She took care of her children and her family.

Verses 14 and 15: "She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens." So often I remember getting awake through the night and seeing a little stream of light. I would tiptoe out of my bed and go, and there was my mother darning clothes. The whole household was asleep, but there she was putting on buttons, fixing button holes, and putting on a patch here and there. I wonder if anybody patches clothes any more? No, no one needs to. We are living in such a society that we don't have to stay up till midnight patching clothes. God bless us for it, but what are we doing with the time?

Verse 16: "She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard." All of this my mother was involved in. She loved to see trees growing. She loved to see fruit-bearing. She was able to take the fruit and use it wisely. I remember her selling things and counting out the tithes from it to be paid into the church's treasury. A wonderful woman!

Verses 17 and 18: "She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night." I remember that we always had a drum of kerosene oil in the yard and the neighbors would sometimes come and get some oil, but it annoyed my mother if they waited until after sunset. She would tell them, "You're not a good housekeeper. You should have known from this morning that the oil ran out in your lamps last night." It did not go out in my mother's lamps. There was one duty I had to do. I had to take care of those lamps. When I told her what I did, she would ask, "Hope, did you wash those chimneys?" I said, "I cleaned them." She said, "Did you immerse them in soapy water and then dry them?" Well, I hadn't done that, so I had to go back and do it. She believed in those lamps being trimmed, filled with oil, and burning brightly. This is the same way our lives are to be, spiritually speaking.

Verses 19 and 20: "She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy." I remember my mother feeding the needy and the hungry. I remember so many people coming to our house and my mother would look at what she had and say, "Well, the Lord's going to have to do with this what He did with the loaves and fishes." She meant He would have to multiply it, but there was always enough. She was very frugal in her living. She wasted nothing. One time I said to her, "Mama, you don't have to save this." She said, "Listen to me, Hope, if I hadn't saved as much as I did, you wouldn't have so much to waste." I've never forgotten it. If she hadn't been so frugal, I would not have had so much to waste. There were six of us to waste what she saved and that was plenty. May God help Mothers today to be as careful in saving as she was. In the midst of plenty, or in the midst of want, she was as careful when our cistern was running over with water as she was when there was only a foot in it.

Verses 21-23: "She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scar-

let. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land." Let me tell you, my father never left home with a rough, dry shirt. People walk about with all sorts of clothes today, but any time my father and my brothers left our house, their clothes were stiff and starched. They were something to be admired because they had a thoughtful wife and mother behind them. I see too much sloppiness today. Too much sloppiness! It wasn't seen in my four brothers and my father. They had a mother and there was a wife who cared.

Verses 24 and 25: "She maketh fine linen, and sell-eth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come." Mother believed in honor, in perfectness, and in a person being the best of whatever he or she could be. She did not believe in halfway duties. She would always tell me, "Hope, what is worth well doing is worthwhile doing well." That has stayed with me.

Verse 26: "She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness." My mother was such a wise woman. I have a list of things that she always said. One of them I will take time to say here: "Enough of anything is as good as a feast and too much is good-for-nothing." That is so true in every walk of life. She was a woman of wisdom.

Verse 27: "She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness." She always said, "It isn't how much you make, Hope; it is how much you save." That is still true today. She also said, "Everybody thinks we're rich, but we're not. It's just that I've tried to take care of the little money your father made." What a thoughtful woman! Many today are taking it out, as it were, with a shovel while the husband brings it in with a tablespoon. It's just waste and waste and rent and tear. Oh, for more mothers like my mother! God bless you, Mother, if you had a mother like my mother. Honor her if she's still alive. Honor her if she's dead because she, being dead, yet speaketh. Emulate her. Try to be the mother to your children that my mother was to me and your mother was to you.

Verse 28: "Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." Often my father would say from the pulpit, "What I am, my wife made me." It has been said, "Behind every successful man there is a good wife." That can be said of my father. I don't know what he would have done without my mother. It was he who gave the honor to her. He didn't put her in the place of God, but you understand what I mean. He attributed his success in life to having a good wife, a careful wife who tried to take care of what we had.

Verse 29: "Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all." A good mother!

I have precious memories of my mother today. It is Mother's Day, and it never comes around that she's not predominately fresh in my memory. Precious memories! She read her dear old Bible. She took time to honor God and to take care of her family. She was the mother she was because she knew the Bible. She lived by it. She followed it, and in doing so, she was able to raise her six children in the fear of God. She took time to pray and read the Bible with her children. A mother

whose memory must live on in the hearts of those who were so dear to her.

Mothers, if you have been neglecting some of these things that I spoke about today, it's not too late to start. Find God; find His Word. Make your life something that will be indelible in the hearts of your children because you love and fear the Lord.

May God bless you. †



Editor's Note: The Questions and Answers in this issue are taken from *The Way of Truth Question and Answer Book*, 1946-2001.



QUESTION: Is there a difference between tithe and offering?

ANSWER: Yes, the tithe is one-tenth of your increase. An offering is in *addition* to the tenth.

QUESTION: If Jesus was God, to whom did He pray? And whose voice was it that stated, "This is my beloved Son, hear ye Him"?

ANSWER: Matthew 1:23 tells us, "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." So if you believe the Bible, there is no question about Jesus Christ being God. This same truth is brought out in John 1:1,14, where we are told, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Verse 14, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." It was the physical that Mary was the mother of. The Word had no beginning.

It was God's voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

QUESTION: Please explain I Peter 4:17, 18: "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

ANSWER: First, let me point out, Peter is not implying God's grace is so limited we can hardly make it. Satan has used such thoughts in an effort to discourage people from serving the Lord. God will keep anyone who will take advantage of His grace.

Adam Clarke says the word translated *judgment* in this verse, "may mean no more than afflictions and distress; for it was a Jewish maxim that, when God was about to pour down some general judgment, He began with afflicting His *own people* in order to correct

and amend them, that they might be prepared for the overflowing scourge.”

The sixteenth verse seems to bear out this thought, for Peter said, “Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”

The Christians did suffer before the fall of Jerusalem. However, nothing to compare to what the Jewish people suffered who rejected Christ and remained in the city when the Roman Army destroyed it. All Christians fled from the city, and not one perished in it.

QUESTION: The Bible says that no man shall see God and live: Exodus 33:20; Judges 13:22; and I Timothy 6:16. Why is it not so in the following verses: Genesis 32:30; Exodus 24:10; 33:11?

ANSWER: First, Judges 13:22 gives us the words of Manoah. I suppose his statement is based on Exodus 33:20. Of course, he and his wife had been visited by an angel. I Timothy 6:16 speaks of the light, splendor and glory of heaven, and I do not question at all that no man in a physical body could live in such glory.

Now in regard to Exodus 33:20, let me point out that God spoke in reference to His face. Verse 23 does say God permitted Moses to see His “back parts; but my face shall not be seen.” What about verse 11 then? Adam Clarke says, “That there was no personal appearance here we may readily conceive; and that the communications made by God to Moses were not by visions, ecstasies, dreams, inward inspirations, or the mediation of angels, is sufficiently evident: we may therefore consider the passage as implying that familiarity and confidence with which the Divine Being treated his servant and that he spake with him by articulate sounds in his own language, though no shape or similitude was then to be seen.”

Now in regard to Genesis 32:30, it says in verse 24, “And there wrestled a man with him.” I suppose it would be safe to say it was an angel in the form of a man. The angel came as a representative of God. He did God’s bidding and, as it were, God talked to him face to face, but just as in Exodus 33:20. It would be incorrect to say that God actually appeared as He is to Jacob, for Jacob could not have stood such a sight.

Now we come to Exodus 24:10 and I would think this verse should be understood in the same manner as Exodus 20:18. God manifested His power in such a manner as to leave no doubt that He was the one that was leading them.

QUESTION: Please explain I Peter 3:19, “By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison.” Also, Isaiah 42:7, “To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.”

ANSWER: Some people have taught that Jesus went to hell and preached to souls during the three days He was in the tomb. I Peter 3:19 certainly does not support such false teaching. Reading the latter part of verse 18 shows us that Peter was speaking of the Spirit and not Christ. Reading verse 20 shows us that Peter was speaking of “in the days of Noah.” The Spirit

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of God used Noah to preach the gospel to the unsaved of his day, warning them of the coming flood. Every sinner, not only then, but now, is in the prison house of sin. Isaiah prophesied that Christ would open “the prison to them that were bound” (Isaiah 61:1). Christ read this passage of scripture, as is recorded in Luke 4:18, 19, and told the people, “This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears” (Luke 4:21).

Isaiah 42:7, in fact, you can read from verse one and understand that the prophet is talking about the coming of Christ and the work He would do. You will notice in verse 6 that the Gentiles were to be included in Christ’s redemptive work. Here again, the thought of being delivered from sin is compared to being delivered out of prison. †



Dear Young People,

When faced with trials and temptations, strive to remember some fundamental truths: (1) God cannot lie. When He says He will be there to help you and answer prayer, He means it. (2) The devil will always lie or twist the truth. As soon as you realize a thought or a feeling is coming from him, do your best to throw it out. (3) No trial or temptation will last forever. Endure hardness as a good soldier. (4) God loves you; GOD loves you; God LOVES you; God loves YOU! Claim it; believe it; stand on it.

We will continue with our reading of *The Heavenly Footman* by John Bunyan. During this section, he gives us nine incentives to help us run. May the Lord richly bless and strengthen you.

With Christian love,
Sis. Crystal Gossard

The Heavenly Footman by John Bunyan

YET before I do quite take my leave of thee let me give thee a few motives along with thee. It may be they will be as good as a pair of spurs to prick on thy lumpish heart in this rich journey.

The First Motive—Consider, there is no way but this: thou must either win or lose. If thou winnest, then heaven, God, Christ, glory, ease, peace, life, yea, life eternal, is thine; thou shalt be made equal to the angels in heaven; thou shalt sorrow no more, sigh no more, feel no more pain; thou shalt be out of the reach of sin, hell, death, the devil, the grave, and whatever else may endeavour thy hurt. But contrariwise, and if thou lose, then thy loss is heaven, glory, God, Christ, ease, peace, and whatever else which tendeth to make eternity comfortable to the saints; besides, thou procurest eternal death, sorrow, pain, blackness, and darkness, fellowship with devils, together with the everlasting damnation of thy own soul.

The Second Motive—Consider that this devil, this hell, death and damnation followeth after thee as hard

as they can drive, and have their commission so to do by the law, against which thou hast sinned; and therefore, for the Lord's sake, make haste.

The Third Motive—If they seize upon thee before thou get to the city of Refuge, they will put an everlasting stop to thy journey. This also cries, run for it.

The Fourth Motive—Know also, that now heaven gates, the heart of Christ, with his arms, are wide open to receive thee. O methinks that this consideration, that the devil followeth after to destroy, and that Christ standeth open-armed to receive, should make thee reach out and fly with all haste and speed! And therefore:

The Fifth Motive—Keep thine eye upon the prize; be sure that thy eyes be continually upon the profit thou art like to get. The reason why men are so apt to faint in their race for heaven, it lieth chiefly in either of these two things:

1. They do not seriously consider the worth of the prize; or else if they do, they are afraid it is too good for them, but most lose heaven for want of considering the prize and the worth of it. And therefore, that thou mayest not do the like, keep thine eye much upon the excellency, the sweetness, the beauty, the comfort, the peace that is to be had there by those that win the prize. This was that which made the apostle run through anything—good report, evil report, persecution, affliction, hunger, nakedness, peril by sea and peril by land, bonds and imprisonments. Also it made others endure to be stoned, sawn asunder, to have their eyes bored with augers, their bodies broiled on gridirons, their tongues cut out of their mouths, boiled in caldrons, thrown to the wild beasts, burned at the stake, whipped at posts, and a thousand other fearful torments, “while they looked not at the things that are seen [as the things of this world], but at the things that are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” O this word “eternal!” that was it that made them, that when they might have had deliverance, they would not accept of it, for they knew in the world to come they should have a better resurrection.

2. And do not let the thoughts of the rareness of the place make thee say in thy heart, This is too good for me; for I tell thee, heaven is prepared for whosoever will accept of it, and they shall be entertained with a hearty good welcome. Consider, therefore, that as bad as thou have got thither; thither went scrubbed, beggarly Lazarus, etc. Nay, it is prepared for the poor: “Hearken, my beloved brethren [saith James—take notice of it], hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom?” Therefore, take heart and RUN, man. And:

The Sixth Motive—Think much of them that are gone before. First, how really they got into the kingdom. Secondly, how safe they are in the arms of Jesus; would they be here again for a thousand worlds? Or if they were, would they be afraid that God would not make them welcome? Thirdly, what would they judge of thee if they knew thy heart began to fail thee in thy journey, or thy sins began to allure thee, and to persuade thee to stop thy race? Would they not call thee a thousand fools, and say, O that he did but see what we see, feel

what we feel, and taste of the dainties that we taste of! O, if he were one quarter of an hour to behold, to see, to feel, to taste and enjoy but the thousandth part of what we enjoy, what would he do? What would he suffer? What would he leave undone? Would he favor sin? Would he love this world below? Would he be afraid of friends, or shrink at the most fearful threatenings that the greatest tyrants could invent to give him? Nay, those who have had but a sight of these things by faith, when they have been as far off from them as heaven from earth, yet they have been able to say with a comfortable and merry heart, as the bird that sings in the spring, that this and more shall not stop them from running to heaven. Sometimes, when my base heart hath been inclining to this world, and to loiter in my journey towards heaven, the very consideration of the glorious saints and angels in heaven, what they enjoy, and what low thoughts they have of the things of this world together, how they would befool me if they did but know that my heart was drawing back, hath caused me to rush forward, to disdain these poor, low, empty, beggarly things, and to say to my soul, Come, soul, let us not be weary; let us see what this heaven is; let us even venture all for it, and try if that will quit the cost. Surely Abraham, David, Paul, and the rest of the saints of God were as wise as any are now, and yet they lost all for this glorious kingdom. O! therefore, throw away your lusts, follow after righteousness, love the Lord Jesus, devote thyself unto his fear. I'll warrant thee he will give thee a goodly recompense. Reader, what sayest thou to this? Art thou resolved to follow me? Nay, resolve if thou canst to get before me. “So run, that ye may obtain.”

The Seventh Motive—To encourage thee a little farther, set to the work, and when thou hast run thyself down weary, then the Lord Jesus will take thee up and carry thee. Is not this enough to make any poor soul begin his race? Thou (perhaps) criest, O, but I am feeble, I am lame, etc: well, but Christ hath a bosom; consider, therefore, when thou hast run thyself down weary, he will put thee in his bosom: “He shall gather the lambs with his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.” This is the way that fathers take to encourage their children, saying, Run, sweet babe, until thou art weary, and then I will take thee up and carry thee. “He will gather his lambs with his arms and carry them in his bosom.” When they are weary they shall ride.

The Eighth Motive—Or else he will convey new strength from heaven into thy soul, which will be as well—“The youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” What shall I say besides what hath already been said? Thou shalt have good and easy lodging, good and wholesome diet, the bosom of Christ to lie in, the joys of heaven to feed on. Shall I speak of the satiety and of the duration of all these? Verily to describe them to the height, it is a work too hard for me to do.

The Ninth Motive—Again, methinks the very industry of the devil, and the industry of his servants, etc.,

should make you that have a desire to heaven and happiness to run apace. Why, the devil, he will lose no time, spare no pains, also neither will his servants, both to seek the destruction of themselves and others; and shall not we be as industrious for our own salvation? Shall the world venture the damnation of their souls for a poor corruptible crown, and shall not we venture the loss of a few trifles for an eternal crown? Shall they venture the loss of eternal friends, as God to love, Christ to redeem, the Holy Spirit to comfort, heaven for habitation, saints and angels for company, and all this to get and hold communion with sin, and this world, and a few base, drunken, swearing, lying, covetous wretches like themselves, and shall not we labor as hard, run as fast, seek as diligently for the company of these glorious, eternal friends, though with the loss of such as these, nay, with the loss of ten thousand times better than these poor, low, base, contemptible things? Shall it be said at the last day that wicked men made more haste to hell than you did make to heaven?—that they spent more hours, days, and that early and late, for hell, than you spent for that which is ten thousand of thousand times better? O let it not be so, but run with all might and main. †

BIBLE LESSON OF THE MONTH

JUSTIFICATION

KNOWING WE ARE JUSTIFIED

Scriptures: I John 3:14, 21; 5:9, 10; Galatians 4:6, 7; Acts 16:23-34.

I John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

I John 5:9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

Galatians 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Acts 16:23 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:

24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

27 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

Memory Verse: The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

—Romans 8:16.

Aim: To show that a Christian can and should know that he is saved.

INTRODUCTION

ONE OF the common lies that the devil has imposed upon religious-minded people is that no one can know that he is saved or justified until he reaches heaven. How can anyone be happy in his Christian experience and be joyful in Christ if he is haunted by the thought that he is not sure he is justified, and does not know if the approval of God is upon him? This lesson will bring to light the fact that we can know that we are saved. Anyone who does not know for sure that he has passed from death unto life is certain to have a weaker testimony than the one who has the confidence of being delivered from sin and has asserted his liberty in Jesus Christ. We are told by the holy Scriptures that with joy shall we draw water out of the wells of salvation. We need a strong Christian testimony born of a strong Christian experience. Things of the world or personal ambitions should not be permitted to crowd out the still small voice of God as He commands His forces. The object in giving this lesson is to strengthen the Christian forces on Earth and to encourage each individual soldier of the cross.

MEDITATIONS

LOVE, A FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT—I John 3:14—Love the brethren—The gospel of the Lord Jesus removes from the human heart hatred and envy, planting in its place the fruit of love. Consequently, it will become natural for a Christian to be interested in the welfare of his brother, and he will manifest a genuine concern and devotion toward him. If there is hatred in the heart toward a child of God, it is proof then that that soul is not born of the Spirit of God but abides in death. The next verse declares that anyone who hates his brother is a murderer.

CONDEMNATION ABSENT—I John 3:21—If our hearts—If in our souls we have no consciousness of transgression, having made all our wrongs right and departed from sin, we are then free from condemnation; and by this we have the knowledge that we are born of God. Since we cannot see God or hear His voice with our natural ears, it is by faith that we attain freedom in Him. If we doubt, we lose the joy of our salvation.

THE WITNESS WITHIN—I John 5:9—Witness of God—It is a serious error not to believe the witness that God has given of our salvation. Of course, it is the devil's business to get us to doubt if he can. We will believe the witness of men; then why not believe the witness that God has given? **Verse 10—Made him a**

liar—Of course, we are not to say that a man has the witness of the indwelling presence of Christ just because he believes in his head that God has sent Jesus into the world. We must believe in our hearts, and to believe in our hearts does effect a change in our lives, and he who is a new creature in Christ Jesus does have the witness within. At times it may seem as if Christ is not there, but that may not be a sign at all. No one would doubt that he was married just because he could not at the moment see or reach out and touch his companion. To doubt God is to make Him a liar. Of this, we must be very careful.

THE EFFECT OF CONVERSION—Galatians 4:6—Ye are sons—This is a marvelous transformation and blessed indeed. Though we are delivered from the hand of the devil, he is able to wield an influence over us if we let him. God's Word is always dependable, and we soon learn that the devil's never is. We know that we are sons because our hearts have been changed from the love of sinful things to the love for things of God.

DIVINE SONSHIP—Galatians 4:7—No more a servant—Men while in sin are slaves of the devil, bound and unable to deliver themselves, but he who comes to Christ is delivered from the power of servitude and delivered unto the glorious liberty of sons of God. Being then a son of God, it naturally follows that we have become heirs of the eternal kingdom of the living God. This great knowledge should be a great inspiration to the one who is in the toils of sin. In Luke 12:32 we read that it is the Father's good pleasure to give His kingdom to His little flock.

EVIDENCES OF DISCIPLESHIP—Acts 16:23—Laid many stripes—Here we see the reaction of a bitter world when it beheld the working of the Spirit of God in the lives of true Christians. This is a very good proof of discipleship, but one which we are not faced with today. However, the world still does recognize the Spirit of Christ in a true disciple and often does all within its power to make the Christian miserable. Paul faced one injustice after another, but through it all he gave a commendable testimony.

FREEDOM IN CHRIST—Acts 16:25—Sang praises unto God—With their feet fast in the stocks and their bodies completely subject to the will of evil men, it took much grace for Paul and Silas to sing and shout the praises of God. But the consciousness of God in their lives was so real that they were able to manifest it in the severest situations of life. "They loved not their lives unto the death." The air was filled with their holy praise which fell upon the ears of the unholy prisoners.

DIVINE INTERVENTION—Acts 16:26—A great earthquake—Let us always remember that all of nature is subject of the great will of God, and he who is faithful in every detail may be sure that, if need be, God will command nature in his behalf. If Paul and Silas had been doubtful in regard to their standing with God, there could have been no rejoicing and, consequently, no victory. God miraculously loosed every prisoner. Who can stay the great hand of God when He decides to work?

HOPELESS—Acts 16:27—Would have killed himself—The jailer knew not God, had no hope; therefore, he was in a state of despair. Paul, his prisoner, now stood in a better place than he did.

THE PRISONER SAVES THE JAILER—Acts 16:28—Do thyself no harm—It is not the Christian's place to do violence to any man or to interfere with the natural course of the operation of the law. Paul could not here have accomplished God's purpose if he had taken advantage of the miraculous event to have secured his liberty with those who were retained with him; God had a good purpose, and all things worked out to His glory.

PAUL WINS—Acts 16:30—What must I do?—This was the supreme purpose of the life of Paul: to see souls saved. Although a prisoner in the flesh, he was a free man in the Spirit, and he was doing the work that he was called to do. Our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of spiritual wickedness in high places. If Jesus is allowed to lead, we will win in this fight as Paul won.

THE SURE CURE—Acts 16:31-34—There is but one salvation for all men of all ages and all nations. The sound of the gospel touched the heart of this hearthen jailer and accomplished its purpose. Our commission is to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Wherever we can get a listening ear from one end of the world to the other, we are to tell the story of salvation. It is certain to strike a responsive cord in the hearts of some.

CONCLUSION

This lesson discloses the fact very plainly that we can know that we are saved and also that the knowledge of it makes the Christian testimony much more effective. The great apostle Paul gave evidence of this by faithfulness in the adversities he met. If we are true when the hard places come along, we can expect a great lift from the Lord in the increase of His kingdom. If we let down when the trial comes, we cannot be trusted in the heat of the battle and will fail to win any victories. By staying true and exhibiting a victorious spirit after he was beaten, Paul was able to see the jailer saved with all his household. This was the atmosphere in which the early church made its growth. We must have the same spirit if we are to produce a victorious church.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What advantage is there to the Christian to have a real knowledge of his salvation?
2. Name two things by which we know that we are saved.
3. What is it that brings condemnation to the soul?
4. What is our testimony if we doubt God?
5. Name a few things that salvation does for us.
6. How was Paul able to stand up so victoriously under such horrid treatment?
7. What was the strong influence that convicted the jailer?
8. Why did not Paul flee when his bands were broken? †

BE CAREFUL OF THE LITTLE FOXES THAT SPOIL THE VINES

By Sis. Enid Jones
(Jamaica)

*“Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines:
for our vines have tender grapes.”*

—Song of Solomon 2:15.



FOX is a sly, crafty, cunning, mischievous animal that digs underground to make its nest. Because he lives in a den, he is not seen as often as other land animals. The adage “as sly as a fox” is often used to describe persons who are deceitful. The ground where the fox has its den often looks very safe on the surface, but as we often say, “looks are deceiving,” and if we are not careful, we will fall into the hole that lies where the den is. On the surface, it looks so good, but underneath is much deception.

In reality, what King Solomon was saying is that the little sins (although sin is sin, and there are no big or little ones), even though as small as a mustard seed, will not allow us to enter the kingdom of heaven. Any sin that is left unrepented of will destroy lives, homes, the church, the community, and the world.

The sins that appear like roaring lions are easier to deal with because they are readily seen. The little foxes often go undetected and pose the greatest danger. The person often does not fall into deep and open sin, but a little slipping here and there will very soon lead to a state of relaxation, which results in lukewarmness.

What are some of these little foxes?

- **Self**—me, myself, and I. It's all about me; always on the defensive, always thinking I am right and everyone else is wrong. It's what I want, what I say, what I think. So many relationships have been destroyed because of this little fox. Selfishness needs to be destroyed. Oh, that we will learn to see others before self! The world would be a better place if this fox was eradicated.

- **A cold-shoulder**—leads to malice. A simple thing happens, but instead of talking about it with each other, we no longer greet our brother or sister. We avoid them. There's no shaking of the hand, no “good morning” or “good evening.” Soon this develops into full-scale malice. What about forgiving in order to be forgiven? Christ forgave us of our sins. Who are we that we cannot forgive others? Romans 15:1 says, “We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak.” Let us consider ourselves to be stronger and forgive others who have wronged us.

- **Neglecting church services**—leads to backsliding. There are times we can't make it to a service because something has happened, but putting self ahead of worship is just not acceptable to God. There are set times for services. We need to lay aside the excuses that we often make for not being there. If the disciples had disobeyed the command to tarry at Jerusalem until they be filled with the Holy Ghost, what would have happened on the day of Pentecost? May He find us in our place when He needs us. The songwriter reminds us to be faithful to the trust, striving to do His will.

Will the Lord find us watching and waiting when He comes?

Not only do we want to be present in body at the services, but we must be present in Spirit as well. When we come to the house of God, we are called to lay aside every weight so that we can praise God with our whole heart, mind, body, and soul. Our God deserves our very best. After all, He gave His best for us.

- **An unforgiving attitude**—leads to ill-feeling. One little misunderstanding causes a grudge. “I am never going to talk to him or her again.” Yet, you sing of “Peace! peace! wonderful peace, Coming down from the Father above, Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray, In fathomless billows of love!” Let the love of God cause you to have a forgiving attitude.

- **Worldly pleasures**—will cause a lack of love for God. This world is filled with all types of attractions, especially in this age of time. There are things that can hinder our love and devotion to God. As soldiers in the army of the Lord, we must be determined to shut our eyes and ears to these things. No wonder the Bible tells us to, “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

Our heavenly Father, through the apostle Paul, warns us of perilous times that will come. We are in them right now. We must watch and pray, lest we enter into temptations and be destroyed by the little foxes which work so hard to spoil the vines. Let us be reminded that if the vine is damaged in any way, the fruit will not come to maturity, so the harvest will be non-existent, and the end result will be spiritual starvation.

- **Disobedience**—never goes unpunished. “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right” (Ephesians 6:1). Another scripture says, “Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice.” Obedience is an essential component to Christian living. If it is necessary to obey earthly parents, how much more important it is to obey our heavenly Father! Remember, disobedience was the first sin. That is why we are paying the penalty, even to this day. At times we tend to believe that obedience is only for children, but as adults we are called upon to be obedient to the laws of the land, to those in authority, to obey as long as the requirements do not go against the commands of God. So then, if we are called to obey those we see, it is of the greatest necessity that we be obedient to God, the One who will judge us at the last day.

- **Pride**—one thing that God hates. We are still looking at the little foxes. Pride manifests itself in so many subtle ways. It causes individuals to think that they are better than the next person. They won't talk to So-and-so. Some think of themselves better than others based on their education, their job, their place of abode, their financial standing, etc. Sickness and death will come to one and all. We will leave those things behind. It has been said, “Never have we seen a hearse with a house or a plot of land attached to it.” If we are blessed with any special thing from the hand of God, let us glorify Him and help some less fortunate soul.

- **Covetousness**—having greed. This is a little fox that has grown into a big one in our environment. We look around and we see so much evidence of this. Some want to get rich, but are not willing to work for riches,

so they have devised ways to rob people of their hard earned money. They hide behind the argument that their fore-fathers were robbed so there's nothing wrong with what they are doing. Christian Parents, I call on you today to be careful how you embrace and boast about your children who are engaged in this lifestyle. When disaster strikes, you will be drawn into its web. You will be charged as an accessory to the crime. Teach your children to work for an honest living. I do know that after they reach a certain age, you cannot tell them what to do, but do not shield them in their wrongdoing. Do not be a partaker of their evil ways. God will hold you responsible if you fail to stand against it.

As we get closer and closer to the end of time, let us build our lives on Christ, the solid Rock, knowing that all other ground is sinking sand. Do not let ourselves be deceived by the little foxes that work undercover to spoil our Christian experience and prevent us from hearing the final well done! †

WINNING THE ELDERLY TO CHRIST

By Bro. G. E. Tyler

THROUGH the years, I have been called on many times to visit the elderly, pray with them and often attempt to win them to Christ. I have found that there are many remarkable similarities in individuals who have lived without Christ and are nearing the end of the way. I would like to deal with these characteristics and what we can do to see more elderly people saved.

First, let me say that the most difficult age group of people to convert are the elderly. Very seldom do you hear of someone who has never professed Christ turning to God in his latter years. There are reasons for this. Years of sin make the heart hard to penetrate. An elderly person gets set in his ways and is not easily convinced to change. Ofttimes older people figure they have lived as good a life as the next person. They dwell on their many "good deeds" and assume those works will cancel out their faults. Then too, occasionally they will express doubt in the existence of God because of many hardships they have experienced. And invariably they are convinced that they will make it somehow, whether they were baptized in their youth or they have present standing in some church somewhere, or they are convinced that God wouldn't send anyone to hell. There are many obstacles for elderly persons to overcome if they are to have their names inscribed on the Lamb's Book of Life before they die. And there are many difficulties we are to overcome if we are to successfully win them to the Lord. But it is not my intention to discourage my reader, rather I want to inspire you to pray, fast, and overcome these obstacles so that more precious souls may be added to God's vineyard. To recognize what must be overcome is half the battle. Then we must go about tearing down walls Satan has built up through the years.

I want to outline some things we can do to help our dear elderly friends find peace for their souls. As a foundation for this effort, we must understand the fol-

lowing: (1) Any effort in soul-winning must be preceded by much prayer and presented in wisdom. "He that winneth souls is wise." (2) We must understand that though we are dealing with a mature person, as far as age is concerned, the spiritual understanding of many of the elderly is on the level of a small child. We make a mistake if we assume they know even the most basic biblical teaching. To present the gospel in childlike simplicity without offending the sensibility and pride of the aged takes a great deal of wisdom indeed. (3) Never be intimidated by accusations and pointed questions. Many times an elderly person will defend himself by going on the offensive. Deflect such accusations as quickly as possible and return to the Word of God. (4) You must win their confidence before you can win their hearts. Make sure that you have a genuine concern for their souls' eternal destiny. If you have any ulterior motive in trying to convert them, they will quickly sense it and lose interest in what you have to say. However, if they sense your interest in their fate, it will do much to stir their own interest in eternity.

With these points in mind, you are ready to get to the heart of the matter: How can I convince an elderly person to give his heart to the Lord? Every individual is different. However, as I said earlier, there are some characteristics that seem to be common in most elderly people. My thoughts in this article will deal with these.

Break down carnal pride. After you have won an elderly person's confidence, you must go about pointing out that no matter how good a person he might think he is, to be saved one must humble himself and ask for forgiveness. Many an aged person has gone to his grave lost because he was too proud to humble himself before God. Self-justification must be exposed as a hindrance to salvation. There is only one way to heaven, and that is through the blood of Jesus. "Our own righteousness is as filthy rags" in His sight. Without Him our life is worthless. All the money in the world is worthless, the fame and goodwill of men is without merit when it comes to salvation. It is a personal restoration of fellowship with God that can only be won when carnal pride is conquered and repentance takes place. Point out that one sin is all it takes to defile the soul. Don't be brash, but be firm. Without a spirit of sorrow an elderly man or woman cannot be saved.

Build up confidence. Once an individual realizes his lost and undone condition before God, you must then encourage that aged one to have faith in God. I have found that it is very difficult for the elderly to manifest faith and believe. If Satan cannot doom him through pride and self-righteousness, he will attempt to doom the aged by despair and hopelessness. Here is where we need to be on our toes to quote scriptures of hope and the faithfulness of God. I John 1:9, John 3:16, Matthew 11:28-30 are just a few. Equip yourself with encouraging scriptures before you visit the aged. Emphasize that when an individual realizes his hopelessness without God, then he is in a place to receive eternal life in Christ.

Sometimes the multitude of sins presents itself as insurmountable to the victim of a Christless life. A poor aged soul, with many years of sin weighing him down,

needs to realize that the very reason Christ came into the world was to bear those sins on Golgotha. Again, quote scripture. Ezekiel 33 is a good chapter to show all sin is wiped away by repenting of and forsaking sin. There are many others. The key here is to inspire faith to believe and trust in the Savior's blood. Build up their confidence in God's love and His willingness to save.

Continue to show an interest. Most of the time elderly people are not converted on the first visit. It takes a continual interest in them to show them love. Many times aged people can't see the love of God until they see it through your love for them. Aged people like attention—particularly from young people. Young people taking time to work with the elderly impresses them and inspires confidence from them. Remember, don't be discouraged if at first you don't succeed in seeing a conversion. Try, try again. Be giving, loving, true to their souls, persistent in pointing them to the Lamb of God. The seeds you sow will bring forth a harvest.

Yes, it is difficult to see the elderly won to Christ, but it can be done by God's grace. They need someone to care. Is that someone you?

"Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins" (James 5:19, 20). †

—Reprinted from January 1990 issue

BUILDING GODLY CHARACTER

By Bro. Ralph Craig

(given in a Young People's Service)

IT SHOWS good character in your life to ask godly advice from those who you know will give you the best examples to follow. To have a desire to know how to be the godly person God wants you to be is certainly a good quality.

If you have been blessed with godly parents, then you have great examples to follow in developing godly character. As you watch your parents deal with day-to-day problems, you can learn from their examples. For instance, when your dad is trying to fix the car and he cracks his knuckles when the wrench slips off the bolt, I don't think he gets mad and throws the wrench across the garage; or, when your mom accidentally burns the dinner, I don't think she just sits down and cries out, "I'll never cook again!" There is a right way and a wrong way to handle every situation—a carnal way and a godly way.

How about when you come to a church service? Watch your mom and dad as they pay attention to the chairman, to the singing, and to the preaching. Watch how they worship God and copy after them. You will learn respect for the house of God and how to be reverent in the services. Now, if you don't have Christian parents, I think it would be okay to look at other godly adults and follow their examples.

Another way to build godly character is to read and study your Bible. There are many wonderful examples in the Bible to follow after. For young men, especially,

I would encourage you to read from time to time the story of Joseph, which is found in the book of Genesis. I don't know of a better example you could find than Joseph. With all of the difficulties and temptations he encountered, he still remained true to God.

You will go through difficult situations and will be tempted to say the wrong thing, to do the wrong thing, or even have a wrong attitude. But when you use the knowledge that you have gotten from your godly parents, or from reading the Bible, or listening closely to the preaching, it will help you to not say the wrong thing, nor do the wrong thing, and not to have the wrong attitude. Each time you are successful in doing the right thing, then your godly character is being built up more and more. The more times you are able to go through a situation in the right way, it is going to make it a little easier the next time to choose the right way again. So you build godly character by simply living the way God wants you to live.

You learn how God wants you to live by listening to and obeying your Christian parents, by reading and studying the Bible, and by paying close attention during church services. More importantly, don't forget to pray. Ask God to show you for yourself what He wants from you. Then when someone asks you what makes you a Christian, you won't need to say, "Well, this is what I'm taught at church"; or, "This is what my father told me." No, you should be able to say, "This is what I believe in my heart." Once you have that firm belief in your own heart, then you need to be determined that you will keep that belief in your heart, no matter what happens.

The last thing I'll say about building godly character is: be consistent. Be someone who can be counted on. When you tell someone you're going to do something, do it. Be careful when you make promises, but when you do, keep them.

Be consistent in your prayer life. Make a schedule if you need to and include prayer on that schedule. Be consistent in reading the Bible. You don't have to spend hours each day on prayer and Bible reading, but just make sure you take time each day to make this an important part.

Be consistent in your chores at home, even in the things you may not enjoy, like piano practice or cleaning your room.

Be a person of whom others can say, "I can count on him"; or, "I can count on her. They always do what is expected of them." You want God to think of you the same way, too. In the Bible, God asked Satan, "Have you seen my servant Job? I can count on him to live a godly life." We all want God to be able to say that about us. Be consistent and He will.

Again, follow the godly examples before you—your godly parents, other Christians, and Bible examples. Remember, be consistent in reading and studying your Bible. Pay attention in Sunday school and church services. Desire to know the truth in your own heart—what you believe and why—then be determined to hold on to what you have learned. All these things will help you to become a godly person who can be counted on by God and by others. †

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Bro. Gregory E. Tyler, Host Pastor

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2019 CAYMAN CONVENTION

83A Walkers Rd.

George Town, Grand Cayman

November 26-December 1, Lord willing

Bro. James Arch, Host Pastor

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REVIVAL SERVICES

Deville, Louisiana

April 28-May 1, 2019, Lord willing

Bro. Greg Tyler, Evangelist

Bro. Terry Deville, Pastor

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Jonesville, Louisiana

May 2-5, 2019, Lord willing

Bro. Greg Tyler, Evangelist

Bro. Marion Trisler, Jr., Pastor

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Craigsville, West Virginia

May 2-5, 2019, Lord willing

Bro. Mick Akers, Evangelist

Bro. Harley McClung, Pastor

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Patton, Pennsylvania

June 7-9, 2019, Lord willing

Bro. Greg Tyler, Evangelist

Bro. Mick Akers,, Pastor