

The Way of Truth

Vol. 77 “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” No. 10

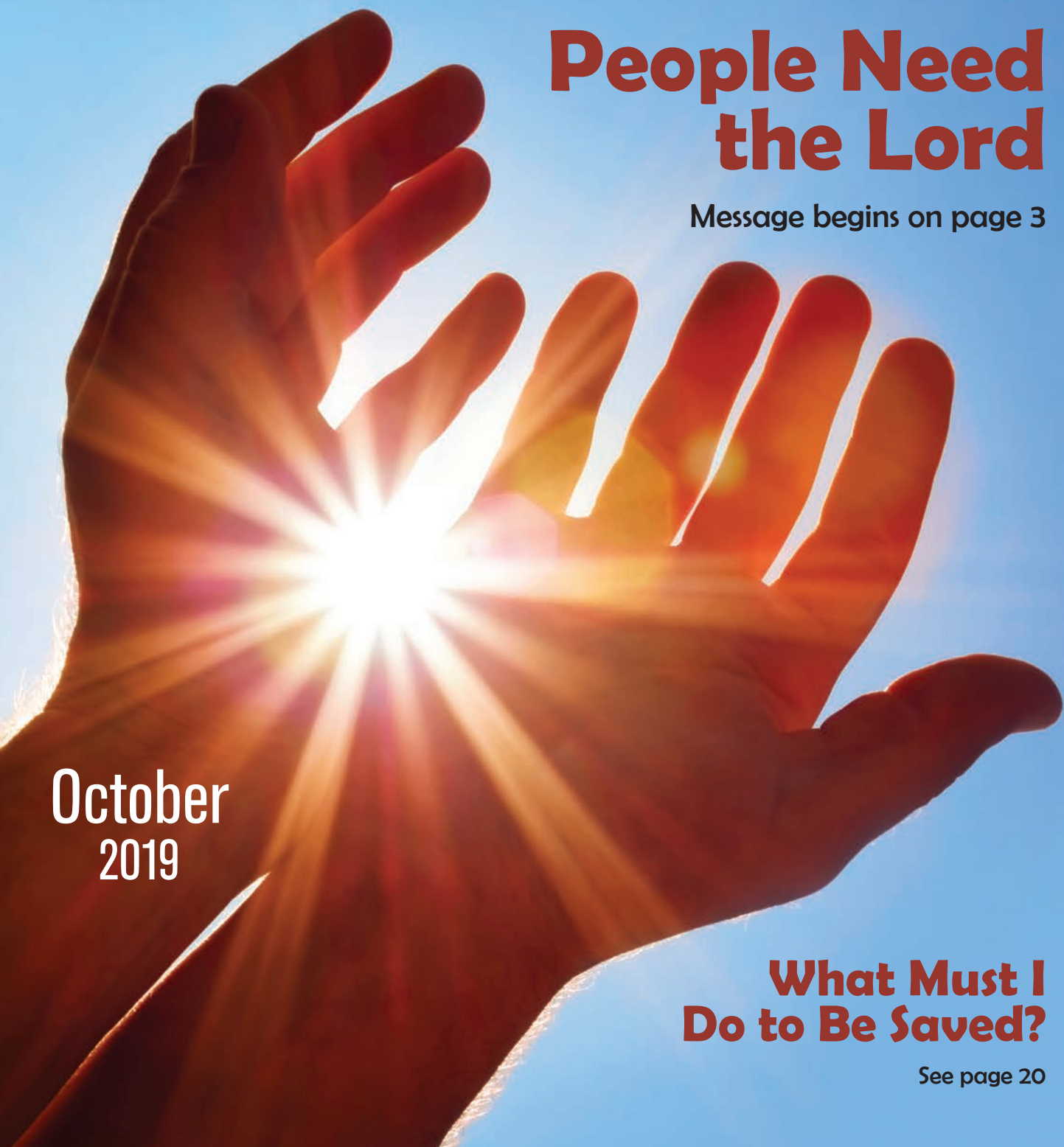
People Need the Lord

Message begins on page 3

October
2019

**What Must I
Do to Be Saved?**

See page 20



THE SPIRIT OF THE GOSPEL

“Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.”

—II Corinthians 3:6.

THE GOSPEL of the Lord Jesus Christ is the most glorious message ever given to the family of man.

There is nothing that compares to it! It is more than mere words. It is more than scriptures to be quoted. It is more than principles to be emphasized. It is the power of God that changes lives! The apostle boasted, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16).

The letter alone lacks power and life. To be effective the gospel must be animated by the Spirit of truth.

Proclaiming the good news must be appropriated in the right spirit. According to II Corinthians 3:6, “The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.” So we must speak the truth, but it must be accompanied by the right spirit. Ephesians 4:15, “But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.”

There are many spirits in the world, many of which profess to represent the gospel. But John said, “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (I John 4:1). We must be aware that there is the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. “We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error” (I John 4:6). Obviously, the Spirit of the gospel is the Spirit of truth.

There are spirits of error which degrade the gospel message and cause it to have none effect. For instance, let us examine Luke 9:51-56, “And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.”

Here we see that James and John were influenced by a spirit of revenge. These were two of Jesus’ closest disciples, yet they tried to apply the power of God under the influence of a wrong spirit. The Lord rebuked them. He came to save lives, not to destroy them. Even today some people try to use God’s power in a selfish and destructive manner to personally threaten others. The Lord still rebukes such a spirit! That spirit of revenge is not the Spirit of the gospel.

Another spirit which hinders the true gospel is *the spirit of the world*. I Corinthians 2:12 tells us, “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.” When the gospel is presented under the influence of this spirit, it becomes watered-down and ineffective. The spirit of the world is animated by the diabolical enemy of mankind, and when he is in control people are blinded and cannot see the benefits of holy living. “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

The spirit of disobedience is another spirit of error. Ephesians 2:2, “Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.” This spirit tries to apply the gospel to allow for sin in the Christian’s life. This sin-you-must spirit is NOT the Spirit of the gospel. In times past we all have sinned. But the Spirit of the gospel provided deliverance! When we are born again, we receive power to overcome.

There is another spirit that hinders the true gospel—a *haughty spirit*. Proverbs 16:18 says, “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.” There are those who get puffed up and become know-it-alls and manifest a holier-than-thou attitude. This spirit is directly opposite to the Spirit of the gospel. When this kind of spirit is in control, individuals abuse their authority and do harm to the family of God. Paul said, “What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel” (I Corinthians 9:18).

A related spirit which hinders the gospel is *the spirit of preeminence*. Some have followed the biblical character, Diotrephes, who imbibed this very spirit of error. In III John, verses 9 and 10 we read, “I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.” What kind of spirit is this? When someone is under the influence of this spirit, he feels he has the authority to cast people out of the church! What a spirit! God puts one in the Church of God when he is saved; only God can put one out when he sins. Christ only has the preeminence in His church!

There are many other false spirits out there, but I will only mention one more: *the spirit of bondage*. Romans 8:15, “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.” This spirit binds on people more than the gospel requires. This is how the letter kills—bind-

ABOUT THE COVER

We are living in an age when the spirit of the world controls the minds and hearts of the multitudes. To line up with that thinking leads to a life of disappointment. Today, more than ever, it is evident that people need the Lord. Reach out to Him!

THE WAY OF TRUTH

(Registered Trademark)

Vol. 77 October 2019 No. 10

Devoted to the gospel of our loving Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave freely His life-blood, to save us from our many sins, to sanctify our fallen nature and to bring into one body all true believers, by whose stripes we are healed.

Published by the Church of God which assembles at 12819 Point Salem Road in Hagerstown, Maryland. Publishing office: 12811 Point Salem Road, Hagerstown, Maryland, U.S.A.

The Way of Truth is published without any given subscription price, and is supported by freewill offerings from our readers and funds supplied by the local congregation. It is sent out free to anyone who is interested enough to ask for it. We shall continue this policy as long as God sees fit to make it possible. FOREIGN READERS are requested to write us at least once a year if they wish to continue receiving the paper the following year. Address all correspondence to: The Way of Truth, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown, Maryland 21741, U.S.A. Always when writing, give your name and address clearly, please.

—Gregory E. Tyler, Editor

Our telephone number is 301-739-2980

Our fax number is 301-739-7173

Our e-mail address is truth@fred.net

Visit our website at www.wayoftruth.org

ing personal convictions or preferences on others, thereby causing unnecessary struggles on the saints and building roadblocks which keep people out of the kingdom of God. The Bible says, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Timothy 1:7).

In closing, I will briefly allude to some manifestations of the true Spirit of the gospel:

It is the spirit of holiness—Romans 1:4—"And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."

It is the spirit of meekness—Galatians 6:1—"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

It is the spirit of faith—II Corinthians 4:13—"We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak."

It is the spirit of love—Galatians 5:6—"For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love."

It is a spirit of manners and kindness—I Peter 3:8—"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous."

It is the spirit of Christ—the gospel presented with humility, compassion, forbearance and mercy.

It is the spirit of soul burden. The Spirit of the gospel is manifested when we weep over lost souls because we love them so much.

The letter alone or accompanied by a spirit of error kills the souls of men. But the gospel, accompanied and empowered by the Spirit of the gospel, produces the miraculous regeneration of souls, the building up of the kingdom of God, and the resulting gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. †

OUR SERVICES ON CD'S

CD's of our services are available for purchase. These are \$3.00 each; however, orders of 10 or more are only \$2.50 each, postage paid. Please write in the blank how many you would like to receive. Send check or money order to: The Way of Truth CD Ministry, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown, MD 21741-0088 U.S.A.

___ CD #1067 Our Attitude Towards Sin—Brian Richards

___ CD #1068 Sin, When It Is Finished—G. E. Tyler

___ CD #1069 What Is Your Desire?—Paul Wilson

___ CD #1070 The Proof of Your Love—G. E. Tyler

___ CD #1071 A Well of Living Water—Doug Shenberger

___ CD #1072 Testimonial Worship

___ CD #1073 A United Heart—Rebecca Bland

___ CD #1074 What Would You Give in Exchange for Your Soul?—Doug Shenberger

___ CD #1075 I Must Be About My Father's Business—Thomas Harris

IN THIS ISSUE:

The Question Box **Page 2**

Our monthly feature

People Need the Lord **Page 3**

Full-length sermon by Harley McClung

Winning a Crown **Page 6**

Part XIV of the book by the late C. W. Naylor

Bible Lesson of the Month **Page 8**

"Justification for All"

"I Will Never Leave Thee, Nor Forsake Thee" **Page 9**

Radio Message by G. E. Tyler

Missionary Page **Page 11**

Report of Jamaica Youth Revival

The Children's Corner **Page 12**

"Mistakes," by Rebecca Bland

The Poetry Page **Page 14**

Expressions of worship

The Effectiveness of Praying in Faith **Page 15**

Divine Healing message by David Shaw

Young People's Page **Page 18**

Sarah Arch comments on "Pilgrim's Progress"

Errors Concerning the Holy Spirit Refuted **Page 19**

Article by the late D. O. Teasley

What Must I Do to Be Saved? **Page 20**

Answered by the late Hoyt Matthews



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



QUESTION: How does one get rid of the carnal nature?

ANSWER: It is the baptism of the Holy Ghost that burns out the carnal nature and fits us for consecrated service in the kingdom of God. John the Baptist foretold it thus, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire." The fire symbolizes the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit which will eradicate the carnal nature.

QUESTION: We read in I Samuel 13:7-9 that Samuel was late for an appointment and King Saul offered the burnt offerings, which he was not to do. Wasn't Samuel partly to blame for not being there on time?

ANSWER: No! We do not know why Samuel was late, but regardless of the reason, Saul was king, but he was not a priest, or a prophet. His office was what we would call a political office; he had no right nor authority to act in the office of the priest or prophet. What we have here is a man trying to fill an office he had no right to fill. This is a lesson it would be good for us all to learn: fill the place God would have us to fill, and do not try to usurp someone else's place. Note the seriousness of what Saul did: "Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the Lord have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever" (verse 13).

QUESTION: As Jesus and God the Father are One, why does Jesus need to intercede to Him for us?

ANSWER: That is a part of His work in filling the office of "High Priest" in this New Covenant. John tells us, "We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." Jesus is the "propitiation for our sins." This word, *propitiate*, means, in part, "win favor of; appease or conciliate." Sin is so offensive to God that we as sinners could not come directly to Him; Jesus has to be our go-between. "There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (I Timothy 2:5).

QUESTION: What is meant by these words, "The children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness"?

ANSWER: It would seem that Christ here referred to the Jews as the "children of the kingdom." They were

"cast out" because they did not accept Him as their Savior. They were invited to, and are still invited to, along with all others. The only way they can find peace with God is to accept His Christ the same as everyone else.

QUESTION: What is the difference between destiny and the will of God for one's life?

ANSWER: *Destiny* is "the seemingly inevitable or necessary succession of events; fate"; etc. To subscribe fully to that idea would be to do away with man's free will, his ability to choose. God made us with a mind, a will, and He has given us the responsibility of choosing. That is why we must give an account to Him of our lives. If everything was left to "fate," we would not be responsible.

As to the will of God, we must choose to let Him accomplish His will in us. We do that by obeying Proverbs 3:5, 6: "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."

QUESTION: Who are these that are still alive in I Thessalonians 4:15-17? When are they to meet this appointment in Hebrews 9:27?

ANSWER: When you read these verses in their context, starting with verse 13, you will see that the saints were concerned about their departed loved ones (asleep). Paul calls this physical death. They were afraid these loved ones would be left behind when Christ came again, which they seemed to think could be any day, and Paul tells them they had nothing to worry about, because those loved ones would be raised and would be caught up together with those who were living at the time of Christ's coming.

Now, Paul does not go into detail, but it is clear that he is referring to those who were physically alive, when he said, "Then we which are alive ...," yet he also spoke of those who had spiritual life, for only they that have spiritual life will "ever be with the Lord."

Now to the second part of your question: Hebrews 9:27 does not say that *every man* that ever lived must die a physical death, so there is no contradiction here.

QUESTION: Will you please explain John 1:1?

ANSWER: As God had no beginning, we understand the word to mean before, or at the beginning of creation—see Genesis 1:1. "In the beginning was the Word"—this shows that Jesus Christ was not part of the creation. In fact, we are told in verse 3, "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."

The word "Word" in this verse comes from LOGOS, which means, "a word spoken, speech, eloquence, doctrine, reason, or the faculty of reason"—Adam Clarke.

Verse 14 tells us "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." So there is no question that John speaks of Jesus Christ, the spokesman of the Godhead. John states in this first verse that the Word was God. Those who deny that Jesus Christ was Emmanuel, i.e., "God with us," simply deny the truth of the Bible. †

PEOPLE NEED THE LORD

2019 Hagerstown Convention Message by Bro. Harley McClung

WE ARE sitting together in heavenly places. God has so richly, richly blessed us all day long. We need His help in the furtherance of our service. We covert your prayers. God knows our need.

We are always happy to come to Hagerstown for the convention. I've said on other occasions that it's a high-light of our year. We look forward to it. We try our very best to prepare our hearts and our minds. A lot of prayers have gone up, and we've put ourselves in a position to stand on the promises. We're exercising our faith. We're doing our very best in prayer and fasting and in whatever God asks us to do so that we can please Him.

We're a blessed people. Very few people have the privilege that we have tonight to be in a divine worship service that we're now engaged in. Very few people really understand what it means to be a Christian. Most people miss out on what it means to follow Jesus. So few people understand what great blessing God has for them. They're missing out on the good life. Jesus came to give us life; but not just life, He came to give us life in abundance. It's a glorious life. He has given us a glorious day. We're blessed. I'm blessed tonight.

If you will, look with me to Isaiah's writings in chapter 55, verses 6 and 7: "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." I would like to entitle my thoughts, "People Need the Lord."

Whenever we read of Isaiah telling us to "seek the Lord," he's saying, "Ask for the Lord; look for Him. Try to find Him. Explore with sincere investigative effort to find the Lord." The tenure of Isaiah's words here issues a warning. He says, "Seek ye the Lord *while* he may be found," which indicates to me that there are times when the Lord is not going to be easily found. But, we believe with all of our hearts, if you haven't already found the Lord, you can find Him here tonight.

Now, why do we want to find the Lord? Let me ask you a question: Would you raise your hand if you don't want to go to heaven? So everyone wants to go to heaven. Well, the only way to go to heaven is to find the Lord, "for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." So, if you want to go to heaven, you have to find the Lord.

Before Jesus came into this world, there were prophets of old who prophesied of His coming. Moses, Samuel, David, and others prophesied. They expected Him to come. Well, before we came to this convention, we told people that if they would come to the convention, they would find the truth here, the Spirit of God, and the way to salvation, because we believe that God is going to favor us this week, and He is already giving us His favor. Have you felt His presence? Do you believe He is here?

Jesus told His disciples, "I need to go through Samaria." Jesus always had a purpose in wherever He went. He saw a soul in Samaria that needed Him. As He sat on Jacob's well, there came a woman. This woman came in the middle of the day. Well, some people believe she came at that time because she didn't want others to see her. Whatever the reason as to why she came in the middle of the day was her business, but she came at a time when she was able to find the Lord. Let me tell you something: whenever you put yourself in a position to find the Lord, He's going to make Himself available to you. If you want to find the Lord here tonight, He's going to make Himself available to you. Sometimes He says things to really, really get our attention. Jesus asked the woman, "Will you give me a drink of water?"

You know, sometimes Jesus asks us for little things, simple things. This woman started to think. Listen to me: sometimes the devil will cause people to start thinking about things. She said to Jesus, "How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans."

Jesus has something to do with everybody. He leaves no one out. No matter what you have done, no matter how low you have gone, Jesus wants to be found by you. He has made Himself available. He's offering you something of great, great value here tonight. He offered the Samaritan woman something of great value. Jesus said, "I'll give you living water. I'll give you something that is very, very valuable, and something that will make you rich." She said, "Sir, give me." To me, that was a simple statement, but Jesus gave her the desire of her heart. Did she really know and understand fully what she was getting? No one does; but after we get it, and after we keep it for awhile, then it keeps opening itself up and shows such greatness to us.

This Samaritan woman found truth when she found Jesus. It is only the truth that is going to set you free. So, whenever we find Jesus, we find the means by which we can be freed. We find salvation. The Samaritan woman was freed. She found life, she found glory, and she found power. She found the King who mended her broken heart and restored all of her dreams. People need the Lord! People everywhere need the Lord.

Look around the world that we live in. We see people who are suffering. They're suffering because they need the Lord, and they haven't found Him yet. He is the means by which they can have all of their sufferings and situations taken care of. He took care of this woman at the well. He took care of all of her needs. He restored life to her and restored her broken dreams.



I'd like to quote a part of a song Bro. Ralph sings—

*Everyday they pass me by,
I can see it in their eyes.
Empty people filled with care,
Headed who knows where?*

*On they go through private pain,
Living fear to fear.
Laughter hides the silent cries,
Only Jesus hears.*

*People need the Lord, people need the Lord.
At the end of broken dreams, He's the open door.
People need the Lord, people need the Lord.
When will we realize, people need the Lord?*

*We are called to take His light
To a world where wrong seems right.
What could be too great a cost
For sharing Life with one who's lost?*

Jesus came into a dark world. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." His own did not find Him, because whenever Jesus taught them the truth, as He told this woman at the well the truth, they would not accept it. To them, it seemed like, His truth, His doctrine, His way that He was advocating for them to live turned their world upside down. Do you know what they said to Jesus? "Who gave you the authority to tell us how to live?" That is the way it is many times when you try to preach the gospel to a people who are carnal in their hearts. They have sin and self in their hearts. "Who are you to tell us how to live?"

Well, let me tell you something: Jesus had the authority, because at one point in time, there was a voice that came from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." We need to hear Him. Whenever you hear the truth, and when you receive the truth, that is when you'll find Him. Whenever you find Him, then you're going to find this glorious life. Jesus came to give it to everyone. He came to His own, but they believed Him not, because His way and doctrine turned their world, in their perception, upside down.

John 12:36, 37, says: "While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them." What! You mean Jesus hid Himself? When Jesus hides Himself from you, how are you going to find Him? Now, we see Isaiah's warning. There is a time and a place when people simply cannot find the Lord. If they can't find the Lord, how are they ever going to get to heaven? "But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him." It seems to me that no matter what Jesus did, they just couldn't find Him. I believe if He were here tonight in the flesh, and working mighty miracles, a lot of people would be just like these people (Israel). They would turn their backs from the Lord. But yet, there were a few who saw and received Him, and as a result, they found Him.

There are people who see other people getting saved, or converted. They see lives that were in the dungeons

of despair turned around and brought over to a good life. Then they see them living on a heavenly plane where Jesus brings people up to sit on. They see the miracle, the great transformation that happened in those lives, but they say in their minds, "Well, they just turned over a new leaf." No! Listen to me: when people find the Lord, there is a great conversion in their hearts and lives. That's what people really need to have. They need to be converted from a life of sin and darkness and be brought over to the kingdom of God's dear Son, the kingdom of Light. That's what Jesus wants from you tonight. When you come to find Him, He'll give that to you. There were only a few people who really understood that. They did whatever they could do to obtain Him.

Jesus said of a certain man in Matthew 13:44, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field." "Bro. Harley, you mean I can buy it?" The Scriptures tell us, "Buy the truth, and sell it not." You have to give your heart to it, your will to it, and your mind to it. If we would only give the Lord that little bit! All He said to the woman at the well was, "Give me a drink of water." In comparison to what He gave her, it was so little; and what the Lord asks from you here tonight and what He's going to give you, it's so little in comparison.

In a South American country, slaves are used to scrape up soil from the bed of the Rio Janeiro, and wash it carefully in order to find particles of gold and diamonds; and it is a law of the state that he who finds a diamond of so many carats shall have his freedom. This causes the greatest ardor and diligence in searching, washing out the soil, picking, etc., in order to find such a treasure, with great anxiety for success; so precious is liberty to the human soul and heart, for it brings one to a life of sublime living.

The question here tonight begs for an answer: Why will people not seek the Lord? You can say, "Well, many are ignorant." That's true. There are a lot of reasons. You know, some people don't know that they have a need. There are a lot of people in the world today who are really good, good moral people. They don't do anything wrong. Whenever they look at themselves, they say, "Well, I don't need anything," but they need to look into the Mirror that God has provided for us. Do you know the Bible is a looking glass for us to see our deficiencies? A lot of people look in there with the wrong attitude, for the wrong purpose. They really don't want to see themselves as they are. Did you know that? If you look into the Word and you don't want to see yourself as you really are, you might not find the Lord there. We need to look in there so that we can find the Lord and see ourselves just the way we are, so that He, the Great Physician, can take care of us and bring us back to completeness. But many people look in there and they don't see themselves like they really ought to see themselves.

Sometimes I look in the mirror at home. Well, I don't really see an old man there. I don't know what other people see. Yesterday, I checked into a motel here and the man looked at me. When he gave me my key, I went up, and what I had was a handicapped room. What did

he see? I was thinking I was feeling pretty well. I don't see myself really as an old man. Well, how do other people see me?

A year ago, when I was here, I really didn't feel well. You know, convention really starts at 5:00 in the morning and goes till 10:00 at night. We're here to labor. We're here to strive for the faith of the gospel. We're engaged. Well, last year by the time Sunday evening came, I was worn out. When I got up to preach, I had to ask the congregation to pray for me. I was tired. I didn't know that something was wrong with me. Darese and I were walking downstairs for lunch the other morning and I was telling her about my condition. She said, "You didn't know it, did you?" "No, I didn't know." I got home, and a few days later as I was walking up from the barn, I felt some pain. "What is this?" I went into the house and told my wife about it. She said, "Well." I went back out to the barn again and came back into the house. I had the same pain. "What's wrong with me? Some thing is wrong in here." So I just wrote it off and went to bed.

The next morning, I got up and sat in my recliner. I said, "Judith, it's back." I felt pain. Well, I have a Hiatal hernia and sometimes it gets agitated. I was thinking that I had indigestion. Sometimes people don't know what's wrong with them. Sometimes they could have a real serious situation. Judith said, "Well, you better go and have it checked out." I went to the doctor and had a stress test done. He said, "Well, you're going to have to go to Morgantown." I was taken to Morgantown and I was given a mild sedative. As I was lying there, all of a sudden, I got this pain. A test was being done through my arteries to see if I had a heart condition. As they were going through there, and right down through my chest, oh, I had pain. I was aware enough to know. I said, "Doc, I'm having so much pain." He said, "Well, of course, you're having pain. I'm in there digging it out." I had to have two stints put in. Do you know what? I have a new lease on life. Now I can think clearly; now I can walk up the hill without pain.

Sometimes to get things out of people's hearts, and things that might obstruct the blood of Jesus flowing into hearts, some things have to come out of the way. For me to feel well and be able to be alive, I had to get some things out of the way. That doctor got in there and rooted it out and put in a free passage. Listen to me: Jesus Christ shed His life's blood there on Calvary, but sometimes there are some things that get into people's way that they just can't get that blood applied to their hearts so that they can find the Lord and all that is about Him.

What are those things? You know, whenever there's an obstruction in the way of you finding the Lord, how are you going to find Him? You have to get the obstruction out of the way. It is true that Jesus came to break down all the partitions so that we can then be reconciled with God, but we have to make sure we're not putting the obstruction in the way, because the Lord is not going to save anyone against his own will. He said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock." Listen to me: He is not going to force His way in, or on anyone. We have to open the door of our hearts to Him. We have to give Him an invitation.

I'm telling you, I'm glad to be here this year. I always look forward, as I've said before, to come here. I find it to be a privilege and an honor to be here in Hagerstown. Thank you, Bro. Greg, for giving me an invitation. If he didn't give me an invitation, I wouldn't be here. I don't think there's anything wrong with saying that.

If you don't give the Lord an invitation to come into your heart, He's not coming in. He's knocking on your heart's door. He wants to come in. He said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." He'll give you a good life, but you have to open the door. I had to open the door for Him. He's not going to force His will or way on anyone. If you want to find the Lord tonight, you have to open the door for Him and invite Him to come in.

There are some things that can obstruct or get in the way. One thing is: the world. The world is out there and the devil is using it as much as he possibly can. There is the lust of the eyes and the lust of the flesh. People are seeking to gain all that they can gain. If you did get all of the world, and you lose your soul, what's the profit? What are you going to gain? Like I said before, there a lot of people who are good moral people, and they really don't have a great deal or issue with the lust of the eyes, or the lust of the flesh, but oh, what about pride? Pride! The devil knows just exactly how to put it into every single person. Even in the church, we have to be careful.

What appears to be humility, we have to take a closer look at it sometimes. *A congregation looked at a man. He's a good man, and so they thought, "We're going to give him a badge because he's humble. He's the humblest one among us." They gave it to him. The next day, he came wearing that badge. They took it away from him. He was proud of his humility.*

Let me tell you something, when you really find Christ, the truth is, you'll find true humility. True humility! It's pride many times that gets in the way of people striving together. "Well, I know more than they know." I know what I know, and I believe God has given it to me. I want to keep what I know. I don't want to be changed in any way from the truth, because it's only the truth that is going to set me free and keep me free. So we need to strive for the truth and in the truth. We need to contend for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints. Fight for it and keep it! It's that faith and that truth that Jesus came to give to you and me an opportunity to find.

Rejecting Jesus, His truth, builds barriers that prevent finding Him. When the truth is preached, many times people don't like to hear it. So if you want to find Jesus tonight, you have to come to the place where you're willing to receive with meekness the engrafted Word, because that is what will save your soul. That is what will put you in a position and in a place where you can find the Lord and be found of Him.

Unbelief leads to stiff-neckedness. Foul and wicked and unreasonable spirits tend to rebellion, apostasy, disobedience, and disloyalty; a wall many encounter brings about a place where many then fall in love with the world. We can't love the world. If we love the world, we can't love God. We have to look to see if there's

anything within our connection that will get in the way of our receiving the benefits of the blood flowing into our hearts.

Many times, if it's pride, it may take some pain to get it rooted out. It took some pain to get that obstruction out of my heart. That obstruction was extremely dangerous to me. The doctor said, "You're a very, very fortunate man." I said, "Why? Is that the one that's called the widowmaker?" He said, "I don't like to call it that, but yes, it was 90% blocked."

Listen to me: pride, loving the world, or the things that obstruct you from finding the Lord, they're going to obstruct the blood of Jesus coming into your heart. John said, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." When we get all the pride and all the love of the world out of us, we're in a place where we can find the Lord. We can find Him the sweetest Savior and the most glorious Lord. We can find Him as the Master who will give us power to live every day in victory.

I love to be a winner, don't you? I don't like to be a loser. Jesus is a Captain who has never lost a battle. He then will enable you to live a life of victory every day. He will give you the power to live every day without sin, without pride, without any desire for the world. Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

We're not trying to push religion on you tonight. We're not even trying to push the Lord on you. We're trying to get you to see the benefits and the value of being saved. We're trying to get you to understand that you're going to be the one who will benefit by finding the Lord. He's the only means whereby you can be saved from sin, be cleansed from all iniquities, and have a robe that gives you a safe entrance into heaven. But, if there is something in the way of you finding the Lord, you need to get that out of the way. It doesn't take much to be in the way.

The rich young ruler came to Jesus and said, "Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" Jesus didn't say a lot. He said, "One thing thou lackest." There can be one thing that can keep you away from completely finding the Lord. Get it out of the way! Get yourself in a position where you can find Him. He will free you.

Revelation 22:17, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

Will you tonight? Do you want to find the Lord? You can. He's here. He wants to be found of you. Jesus gave the woman at the well the water of life. He gave it to her freely. He's here tonight to give it to you. The woman at the well found Him. She found a life of glory and power. She found a life that was sublime and abundant. She found something of great value—the Savior, the Pearl of great price. You can find Him tonight. If you haven't already found the Lord, He bids you to come. He's beckoning to you, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

We'll have a song. †

WINNING A CROWN

By the late C. W. Naylor



Part XIV

The Sanctified Life

Justified and Sanctified Life Compared

IN SANCTIFICATION *there is a deepening and enriching of the spiritual life.* To suppose that we are sanctified when the current of life runs no deeper and is no richer than before is to be mistaken. All the fruits of our righteousness are increased. All the graces of the Spirit are multiplied. How inconsistent it is for one to profess to be sanctified when his life is superficial and occupied by frivolities and trifles! and how sad it is to hear the lament of such a one when he cries out, "My leanness, my leanness"! Is this truly the sanctified state? Is this all that it means? I grant that people who have once been really sanctified may come to such a state, but how sad that state and how far from the normal condition of a sanctified life! God means that we have a bountiful supply of His grace; that we be rich in grace, in faith, and in all the things that go to make up the experience of entire sanctification. The sanctified man has a heart full of treasures. If he grows impoverished and lean, it is because he is well on the way to a backslidden state. The channel of grace has become clogged, and the supply has been cut off. The Spirit of God is hampered and hindered, and his spiritual life is not normal in any respect. Sanctification touches and enriches the deepest depths of man's nature. It brings out all his better qualities, and increases and develops them; and as the years go by and he develops more and more in the divine life, he is more and more enriched and ripened, and more and more glorifies God.

The sanctified life excels the justified life in power. The coming of the Holy Spirit means that we receive an endowment of heavenly power. Jesus said, "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you" (Acts 1:8). The Holy Ghost is not a weakling; instead, He is clothed with all the power of the Almighty. When He comes into our souls as an abiding Comforter, it means the bringing into us of a power that never was there before. It is not a power that seizes hold of us and makes us do unseemly things; it is not a power that takes hold of us and operates us independently of our own will. God does not act in this way. He acts in us only when He can act in conformity to our will and His own at the same time. The power that we receive is a power to be what God designs that we shall be in our inner lives. It is the power to be victorious over sin, and the power to rule our own lives. It is the power of self-control, and the power to yield to God and be completely under His control. It is the power to be pure within. It is the power to be in subjection to the will of God. It is the power to love God with a pure heart fervently. It is the power to keep from loving other things more than we should. It is the power to preserve our spiritual balance.

It is power over temptations, so that they may not rule us, so that we may resist and conquer them, no matter what may be the form in which they come nor the strength with which they come. It is the power that gives mastery over natural desires. It is the power to say “no” and to enforce it. It is the power to keep under our bodies, to keep them in subjection to the will of God. It is the power to live right in our everyday life. It is the power to translate the Bible into human life in all its beauty and grace.

It is the power that enables us to overcome timidity and man-fear and to be witnesses for Christ. It not only enables us to witness for Christ, but puts into that witnessing a power that makes it convincing and effective. Many a sermon is powerless and many a testimony falls flat because the power of the Holy Ghost is not in it and through it. Look upon the timid apostles, fearing and shrinking before the day of Pentecost, and behold them thereafter. What boldness! what power! what authority! What was it that wrought all this change? It was the coming of the Holy Spirit upon them in power. He wants to come into our lives in like manner and mark them with His power. He wants to put into our words the same power that He put into the words of Peter and John. He wants to put into our hearts the same boldness that they had, the same unshrinking courage and fortitude. How many sermons are merely words, words, words! How little the hearers are moved! how little they are pricked in their hearts! Ah! the power of the Holy Ghost is not there! But when we are full of might and of power by the Spirit of the Lord, the words that we speak have in them this power of the Holy Ghost to take hold upon men’s hearts, to stir them to consider their condition, and to make them feel that it is the voice of God and not the voice of man that is speaking to them. He will manifest Himself not only in public testimony, but in our ordinary conversations. If we are full of the Holy Ghost, His power and presence will manifest themselves in our words, and they will be effective in bringing conviction to the hearts of those who hear. Empty words are of little avail. Words full of the Holy Ghost and power are full of something that touches the spring of life.

This endowment of power fits us to serve. A truly consecrated man is one who is willing to fill his hands with busy labors for the Lord. He is saved to serve. He does not serve for honor, for the applause of his fellow men; he serves because he delights to do so. The sanctified man does not need to be offered a reward in order to be induced to serve; he does not have to be bribed to do his duty. If honor comes, well and good, but he does not live for honor alone. He serves not for what he may receive, but he counts serving a privilege. There is a disposition among many “holiness” people to want to be the “bell sheep.” They strive to excel that they may be leaders. Such a disposition does not come from the workings of the Holy Spirit. It is from man, pure and simple. It is opposed to the Spirit of God and His workings. If we are sanctified, we are willing to serve even in an unnoticed capacity. We are willing to serve as unto the Lord and not unto man. We are willing to serve whether we are praised or criticized, whether men take note of what we do or disregard it. It is true that we

still have the faculty of approbateness, and not only desire the approval of others, but feel that when we do well we merit proper recognition and approval, and we feel encouraged when we receive such; but the true heart is willing to go forward and do for God even if men withhold what is due. It will serve whether conditions are favorable or unfavorable.

When we are wholly sanctified, we have power to accomplish for God, and need not be faltering and weak workers; but, being clothed with the power of the Holy Spirit, we accomplish what others cannot do, not because we are greater than they, but because He that worketh in us is greater than he that worketh in the world. Oh, for more men and women with the power of the Holy Ghost in their souls! That is the need of the hour. That is the need of the world. “Ye shall receive power” is the promise. Reader, has that been made true in your own life? Is the power of Christ resting upon you—the power to be and to do and to act for Christ, the power to witness, the power to conquer, the power to serve? It is your privilege to have it; it may be your possession.

In this higher life there is a greater illumination of the spiritual understanding. The Spirit takes the things of Christ and shows them unto us. He broadens and elevates our vision. He reveals to us the mysteries of God. He unlocks the secret of the Scriptures and makes us to truly know the Almighty. Our spiritual perception increases in keenness, so that we can understand more readily the things of the Spirit. The Bible sometimes appears as a new book. Jesus promised that when the Spirit of truth was come, He should guide us into all truth. This does not mean that He will lead us into all truth at one time, but that step by step He will lead us from truth to truth; and not only so, but He will protect us against error if we will carefully follow His leadings.

Entire sanctification brings us into an evenness of life and temperament not possible before. It brings a stabilizing of our lives, so that we are not so easily moved by outside influences. We are not tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine like children. We are not easily affected nor moved by everyone’s opinion. Our feet are planted on the Rock of Ages; we are solidly anchored there. Sanctification brings a calmness into our lives. It is like oil on the troubled waters of life. There is a holy quietness that broods over the soul and keeps it serene.

People do not backslide from the sanctified life every little while and get restored to it over and over. Those who claim to do so, do not reach this grace. It is not an “up-and-down” life. One of the qualities of truly sanctified souls is their steadfastness. They are settled, established, rooted, and grounded in God; therefore, they are not swept off their feet every little while. Doubt may sometimes cloud the life and obscure the light and dim the assurance; but the sanctified state is far removed from sin, and people do not, except under extraordinary circumstances, fall from a high state of grace into sin. There is almost always a preparation for sin by a previous declension of the spiritual life. Backsliding from a sanctified life is not merely stepping over a line; we must go far before we reach that line. It is true that we may sin at any time, but we are not

inclined to sin. It is not a “prone to wander, Lord, I feel it” experience. Sin is unnatural to the purified man. His natural element is holiness. In it he delights. It is only when the channel of grace is obstructed so that it no longer flows into his heart as before that spiritual declension begins. He may decline rapidly, for it is not possible for him to be spiritual without this inflow of grace; but it is only when his supply of grace has greatly dwindled that sin comes to have any attraction for him. In the normal state it repels him, and he repels it. It is obnoxious instead of attractive to him. So long as his experience is normal, he is altogether unlikely to do that which is evil. †

BIBLE LESSON OF THE MONTH

JUSTIFICATION

JUSTIFICATION FOR ALL

Scriptures: Isaiah 55:1-3; I John 2:2; John 4:14; 7:37; Revelation 21:6; 22:17.

Isaiah 55:1 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

2 Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

3 Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

I John 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

John 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

Revelation 21:6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Memory Verse: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.—Acts 2:21.

Aim: To show that justification is offered to all who will receive it.

INTRODUCTION

MAN IS the crown of all God's creation, and it is a sad disappointment to Him that man has done so wickedly through the years. It was a source of grief to God when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, and He could not even enjoy their fellowship in the Garden of Eden each day. Since Adam had no power to redeem himself and since those who should follow him

would be hopelessly lost as far as their own power to redeem themselves was concerned, God provided a way out; and His provision, if accepted, would reach every soul who came into the earth. Not one man from Adam to the last born need die lost. God would have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Not only would God have men escape hell, but also know the rich graces and mysteries of His wonderful truth, which is Christ Himself. The Word declares that all have sinned; therefore, all must be justified in the sight of God if peace is to be restored.

MEDITATIONS

THE UNIVERSAL CALL—Isaiah 55:1—Every-one that thirsteth—The free and lavish offering of the gospel is made known by the fact that no money is needed in its purchase. Its value is made evident by the comparison to those things that were considered indispensable to the human body in those days.

MISSING THE GOAL—Isaiah 55:2—Eat that which is good—Millions today are seeking for pleasure and are finding it not! Why? Because they are looking in the wrong place. The things of the world cannot satisfy the soul. The living water that cannot be bought with money is the only thing that brings real and lasting peace. Jesus Christ gives this peace to all who come to Him and get saved.

THE PROMISE OF LIFE—Isaiah 55:3—Hear, and ... live—This promise goes out to everyone who thirsts or desires; as many as will, let them accept the matchless gift from the hand of our eternal God. An everlasting covenant has no end. **I John 2:2—The whole world**—The Lord Jesus did not only die for the Jews, but also for all mankind, including Adam and Eve. Any man who gains heaven does so only by the redemptive power of the blood of Christ shed in the latter end of time. As we look back to the blood of Christ and live, so men before Christ looked forward to the promised sacrifice and lived. All are invited to come to the fountain and drink, and he who fails of the eternal reward does so because he refuses to accept the invitation.

THE SATISFYING WATERS OF SALVATION—John 4:14—Shall never thirst—Good, cool water is very satisfying to the physical thirst for a short time, but very soon again men must drink; but not so with the great and satisfying soul salvation of Jesus Christ. He who drinks deep of the eternal water shall ever be satisfied. Oh, that we might get this great information to the multitudes of dissatisfied people today!

THE ZEAL OF THE MASTER—John 7:37—Stood and cried—Jesus knew the worth of eternal life and the agony of eternal death; therefore, He was compelled to urge the people to come to the Giver of life and live. He could not and would not compel people against their wills. If anyone accepted the way of life, which He alone had to offer, he must do so by consent of his will. Feast days were days of religious exercise, but these things were mere forms and could not save the soul. The need of the multitude He here addressed was a heart experience of soul salvation. The same conditions exist today. Millions have only an outward

form of religious observation and stand greatly in need of the soul-regenerating salvation of the Lord Jesus.

THE END AT HAND—Revelation 21:6—Of life freely—We are warned plainly of the second coming of Christ to reward both the good and evil; soon time shall be no more, and all salvation work shall have ceased. But let the Christian rest assured, for he shall receive freely and abundantly from the hand of Christ the eternal waters of salvation that shall satisfy, time without end.

THE URGENT INVITATION—Revelation 22:17—Whosoever will—The Spirit of God and the bride of Christ, which is the Church of the living God, are working hand in hand, endeavoring to bring precious souls to the knowledge of the truth. Under the Spirit's guidance, the Church neither neglects nor slights anyone. Gladly she sends out the universal, "Whosoever will." It may be difficult to get the food and water for the body of man, but with God there is no shortage of food and water for the souls of men. All are invited to satisfy themselves.

CONCLUSION

What a wonderful field any Christian has to labor in! Every way we turn we find men in need of the gospel, children coming up who need to be taught the ways of the Lord, and if they are not taught His ways, they will learn the ways of Satan. Today, a child needs to be fortified against the powers of paganism that fill our public school systems before he enters their ranks. Oh, how subtle are the powers of false religion, having succeeded in hiding its true nature from the multitudes of the earth! Religion is not necessarily salvation; therefore, we must work at the task of teaching the multitudes the truth in regard to the born-again experience and that it is offered freely to all.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Who may have the gift of salvation?
2. What does it cost?
3. Why should we refuse to spend our money for that which satisfieth not?
4. What is the passport for men of all ages into the kingdom of God?
5. How did Jesus look upon the urgency of men accepting the way of salvation?
6. With the end of time so close at hand, what should be our attitude toward the water of life?
7. What is your part in carrying the message of salvation to the dying world? †

SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE

For many years, The Way of Truth publishing work has provided Church of God Sunday school literature for many congregations. If you would like a sample of Bible-based literature and a price list, please request it. We have a six-year series of lessons. Each quarter we print quarterlies for Adults and Young People, Intermediates and Juniors. We also print leaflets for younger children. Write or call and order your sample today.

"I WILL NEVER LEAVE THEE, NOR FORSAKE THEE"

Radio Message by Bro. Greg Tyler

OUR TEXT of scripture on this broadcast is found in Hebrews, chapter 13, verses 5 and 6: "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

The thought we would like to emphasize is: the promise of Jesus Christ that He would never leave us, nor forsake us, for He hath said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

There are circumstances in life that arise from time to time, which make us wonder, where is God? We see so much evil and so much heartache. We see so many things that are bad in life and we sometimes wonder, where is God? Why is God allowing such and such? But, Beloved, I want you to know that everything that happens is not according to the will of God.

When the Lord made this world, He set in motion certain laws and certain principles. When those laws are broken, there are devastating effects. God wills not that anyone should die in an accident because someone was drunk or under the influence of drugs, but those things happen in life.

Dear Ones, when we're going through a trial, we're to realize we're endeavoring to serve God. We realize that people who are not serving God, take themselves out of the will of God and throw themselves open to the attacks of the adversary; but those who are serving God would seem to expect protection, would seem to expect God to be near and for Him to care of them, especially in times of trial, suffering, and trouble.

Job found this be so. In different times when he went through his severe trial, he wondered why the trial had come upon him, but he did not question God. Job always had that underlying faith and confidence that God was with him.

I desire this message to be a message of encouragement, but no matter how the situation appears, or how things seem to be, if we are serving God and living a life that is faithful to Him, then we can and should have the assurance that God is with us, that His eyes are over us, and His ears are open to our prayers. God didn't promise us an easy road, but He did promise that He would never leave us, nor forsake us.

In Isaiah, chapter 43, beginning with verse 1, we read: "But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour."

We see from those scriptures that the Lord was promising the children of Israel, the children of Jacob, His chosen people, that when the trials of life come upon them, He would not forsake them. This proved true. Throughout the history of mankind, we have great evidence that God never forsook His own. Men have been forsaken by the world, by their friends, and by their own family, but God will never, never, never forsake His own.

In our text taken from Hebrews 13, God promised that when the waters were passed through that He would be with us. Yes, Beloved, there are waters, troubled waters to be passed through by everyone of us. Were we to pass through these waters in our strength, or our own ability, doubtless we would drown under the flood, but God has said, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee."

I think about the children of Israel who were encamped about by their enemies and how Moses had led the people to the great Red Sea. There were great waters before them and the enemy had them surrounded. If they had looked at the situation as it stood, it would have appeared to look hopeless. Truly, many of the Israelites found the situation hopeless and began to find fault with Moses for leading them to that place, but it was not Moses who was doing the leading. It was almighty God, and He had not forsaken them.

God told Moses to lift up his rod before the waters. He told the people to "stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever." God proved that He was with them. He parted the waters with a great wind and the children of Israel went across on dry ground. The Bible tells us, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee." The waters were there. The sea was before them, but God parted the waters and took them across. When the enemies tried to pursue the children of Israel, they were taken away with the flood. The waters came upon them and God's Word proved true. They did not see the Egyptians any more.

Beloved, what does that mean to you and me? It means at times the situations of life are going to crowd us. We're not going to be able to see a way of escape. If we were to look upon the surface, it would look like we are going to be overtaken. It would look like the enemy is going to conquer us. It would look like the situation is hopeless, but we need to get our eyes off the situation and put our eyes upon Jesus, for He is with us. Yes, truly, somewhere in the shadows, you'll find Jesus. Just like He opened the waters for the children of Israel, He will make a way for you.

The Bible tells us in the book of I Corinthians 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." Just be true! Just keep your eyes fixed on God and the Word of God and He will bring you through. "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee," saith the Lord. "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall

not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned."

There was a time when the people of God were in bondage and King Nebuchadnezzar made a great image. He told the whole kingdom to bow down before his image, but there were three young men who had faith and confidence in God. They had too much integrity to disobey the Word of God and to bow down before that golden image. They would not do it; and because they would not do it and stood against the commandment of the king, they were threatened with death. They were threatened to be thrown into the fiery furnace.

When the king gave the three young men another opportunity to bow, they said, "There's no sense giving us another opportunity, because we didn't bow down the first time, and we're not going to bow down now." King Nebuchadnezzar was made wroth and he commanded that the furnace be seven times hotter than it was. It was so hot that it even lifted out of the furnace and lifted up those who were taking care of the furnace. They threw in Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, but Beloved, God's promise proved true. "When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

Nebuchadnezzar was amazed, but when he looked into that fiery furnace, he saw something he didn't expect to see. He expected those three young men to be burnt to a crisp, but instead, he saw them walking around in the fire, and he saw a fourth figure and that figure was likened to the Son of God.

Beloved, Jesus has promised us that if we will live true and faithful to Him, He would never leave us, nor forsake us. He proved it true to the three Hebrew children. The flames burnt through the cords and set them free, but it didn't singe a hair on their heads. Jesus was in the fire with them. This means to us today that when we face a fiery trial, when we face a difficult test of life, we're not facing it alone. There is Someone who is facing it with us. Yes, Beloved, there's Someone beside us. Standing somewhere in the shadows, you'll find Jesus. Whatever the difficulty might be, whatever your trial might be this very hour, be encouraged. You're not alone. Somewhere nearby you'll find Jesus, because "When thou passest through the waters, I [the Lord] will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour." He has promised to never, never, never leave thee, nor forsake thee. †

OUT OF BOX 88

Dear Friends,

Thank you for sending out the truth of the gospel. It has been a blessing and I pray that *The Way of Truth* ministry continues to prosper in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Romans 15:8, "Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers."

—J. H., Virginia

2019 JAMAICA YOUTH REVIVAL REPORT

Grants Mountain, St. Ann

Theme:

"Jesus: Our Only Hope Then; Our Only Hope Now"

The services were as follows:

Tuesday, July 23

7:00 P.M.—Evangelistic Service—Speaker: Bro. Barnie Hydes. He spoke on the theme for the revival. Text: Mark 5:25-34. Excerpts: "I will encourage you to turn to Jesus. No matter how much in sin you are, Jesus can make a difference in your life. Jesus is the only hope for the world; He is the only hope for sinners. Like the woman with the issue of blood, who spent all she had, there is still hope for you. If you spent all you have and have nowhere to turn, try Jesus."

Wednesday, July 24

Prayer Meeting was led by Sis. Keisha Shaw. Title: "Unity."

10:00 A.M.—Exhortations were done using the acronym: H-O-P-E.

1st Speaker: Bro. Brandon Bascoe. He stated that the **H** meant *Help*. He began by saying that all Christians need help, no matter how independent they are. "Our source of help comes from above. Christians are at a better advantage. Psalm 121; 139; 46—Why not serve Jesus? Whatever we need to give up, let us give and seek the source of help. Let us anchor our souls to this present help."

2nd Speaker: Sis. Susan Darby-Ellis. "**O**—*Optimistic*—As Christians, once we have hope in the Lord, we are to be optimistic. As Christians, we may have struggles. Being optimistic, doubts can step in and can cause us to lose faith. Job 13:15; 19: 25-27. We need confidence in God. Through all situations and temptations, be optimistic. The armor of God applies to all areas of life. Be optimistic."

3rd Speaker: Sis. Abigale Davis. "**P**—*Promises*—II Peter 1:4; I Corinthians 15:19; II Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 11:9; 10:23. When we stand on the promises of God, He never fails. God is true to His words."

4th Speaker: Sis. Fee Fee Ebanks-Cox. "**E**—*Encouragement*. Philippians 3:14; *Endurance*—Matthew 24:13; *Everlasting*—I Timothy 6:12. With all three, we have hope. When we go through hard times, we should endure. We can encourage others to join, so we all can have eternal life."

2:30 P.M.—A Singspiration and Testimony Service. Activities: Bible Relay—Teams were made. One member of the team ran/walked with the scripture to another member who had to run and search for the scripture in the Bible. The first one to find it, won. Bible hunt: Random scriptures were read and the church teams (two) had to find the scriptures. The first team to find such, won.

7:00 P.M.—Evangelistic Service—Speaker: Bro. David Shaw. Title: "Remember Now Thy Creator." Excerpts: "God asked us to remember Him, the Creator,

the One who keeps your life and determines your death. God is calling all sinners. The greatest concern is to save your soul. The decision you make will spell your eternity. If you refuse God, you are deciding to go to hell. I encourage you to come to the Savior. He is calling. God desires that each of us finds a place in His kingdom."

Thursday, July 25

Prayer Meeting was led by Bro. Orlan Malcolm.

10:00 A.M.—Speaker: Bro. Orville Bascoe. Text was taken from the book of Daniel. Excerpts: "Standing up for God in confidence is what every Christian should do. God is our present help. In very circumstance, He will come through for us. He is our deliverer and our eternal source. We only need to trust in the hand of almighty God. He is our help."

2:30 P.M.—Sis. Joyce Lamey directed an activity. This meeting took the form of Community Evangelism. The brethren met for prayer and singing first. After prayer, the members of the church separated themselves into two groups to do evangelism in the community.

7:00 P.M.—Evangelistic Service—Speaker: Bro. Franklyn Bascoe. Text: Colossians 1:7. Excerpts: "God deals with humble hearts. He sees the proud afar off. Like the eunuch, we should be humble to receive the Word of God. It is sad to be in an hopeless condition, but hope comes through Jesus—St. John 5:1-12; Mark 5. Jesus is here. He asks if we want to be made whole. In sin, you are not whole. Impotence is not only physical, but we can also have spiritual impotence. We need to be able to function in God. There is work to be done for God. Jesus is saying: 'Wilt thou be made whole?' Hope is here."

Friday, July 26

Prayer Meeting was led by Bro. Nelson from Grants Mountain.

10:00 A.M.—Speaker: Sis. Narda Wilson. Presentation was focused on: "Soul Destiny." Small activities were done, emphasizing the destiny of a soul. We were reminded that the body will be destroyed and only the soul would remain. We were encouraged to care for our souls, as that was the only thing that matters. Each person got the opportunity to look into a mirror that was placed in a box. Selected few were asked to explain what they saw when they looked at themselves. Scriptures were given in line with the soul and individuals had to explain what the scripture meant to them.

2:30 P.M.—The Annual General Meeting was convened to discuss the business and social aspect of the church.

7:00 P.M.—Evangelistic Service—Speaker: Bro. Barnie Hydes. Title: "Mercy." He emphasized that we were all shapen in iniquity, but Christ, our Savior, came and gave Himself for us. "Even though we were guilty and deserved to die, Jesus took our place. His mercy saved us. It is by His mercy that we are here."

Saturday, July 27

Prayer Meeting was led by Bro. Orlan Lamey.

10:00 A.M.—Presentation was done on "The Mind." Presenter: Sis. Orinthia Shaw-Allen. The focus of the discussion was on the ID (natural tendencies and impulses), EGO (the rational aspect of our personality),

and SUPEREGO (moral and expected norms) of the mind. Scenarios were presented and the church identified the ID, EGO, and SUPEREGO responses to the scenarios. Characters from the Bible were also highlighted who allowed their ID to respond to situations instead of the EGO, and this resulted in them committing sin. Christians were encouraged to allow their EGO (rationality or reasoning), through Christ, guide their every decision.

7:00 P.M.—Evangelistic Service—Speaker: Bro. Hezekiah Lamey. Title: “The Great God.” Text: Psalm 48. Excerpts: “We all will die one day. None of us will live forever on this earth. The minute we were born, we began to get closer to our graves. The mighty God has the power to put one in hell and no one can remove him. Likewise, He has the power to place one in heaven and no one will be able to take him out. Sinner Friends, give your hearts to God. He will save you from eternal damnation. One day Christ will return. You need to be ready to meet Him.”

Sunday, July 28

Prayer Meeting was led by Bro. T. J. Brown from Grants Mountain.

9:00 A.M.—Sunday school—Teacher of the lesson: Bro. Franklyn Bascoe.

Divine Worship followed. Mini Sermons were given as follows:

1st Speaker: Bro. Roland Wilson. Title: “Encourage Yourself.” Texts: I Samuel 30:6; Psalm 27; 71:14-16. Excerpts: “We need to encourage ourselves in God. To serve God, you have to love Him. There is nowhere else to find hope but in Jesus. In whatever we need to do, we need to consult God. In all we need, we must acknowledge God. He brings victory. Encourage yourself in God. He is able.”

2nd Speaker: Bro. Brandon Bascoe. Texts: Joshua 1; Psalm 139; Acts 7:55. Excerpts: “We face many dead situations, but with God we can rise from those. We are strengthened by the mighty power of God. Get up out of your dead state. We lose out sometimes because we sit back, but we serve a mighty God. In Him, we find assurance. He is able to deliver us from any situation.”

6:30 P.M.—Evangelistic Service—Speaker: Bro. Barnie Hydes. Title: “Please Don’t Come to This Place.” Texts: II Corinthians 4:8, 9; Luke 16:19; Revelation 20:10. Excerpts: “We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. I am thankful to be a part of this family. People have the tendency to show appreciation to persons after they have died. We need to learn to appreciate those around us when they are alive.

“Young People, the finishing line is in front of you. It is in front of all of us. We need to endure. The greatest part is that we are on the winning side. We are not defeated. When the church gets together, the devil trembles. Sinners, the clock is ticking; time will soon end. All individuals have an end. We all will meet death, but death is not the problem: it is where you will go after you die. Some sinners laugh at salvation, but it is no joke. In hell, there is no laughter. Christianity is not something we joke about. The way we live determines our end.” †

—Submitted by Sis. Orinthia Shaw-Allen

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



MISTAKES

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

“Grandma, do you have anything for me to do?” I asked. It was a cold winter evening, and I was sitting on Grandma’s couch, wrapped in a warm blanket.

Grandma, who was a teacher, looked up from the papers she was grading. “Why don’t you read a nice book?” said Grandma. She pointed to the bookshelf where she kept her books. “I have a few more sets of papers to grade, and then maybe we can read a story together.”

I went over to the bookshelf and took down a couple of books, but decided that reading didn’t appeal to me at the moment.

“Grandma,” I said, going over to the table where she sat, “couldn’t I help you grade some of your papers?” Even though I was only seven years old, I knew how to read. Surely I was big enough to help grade papers if someone showed me how to do it.

“Well,” she said slowly, “these are high school papers. I’m not sure you know all of the words on them.” She thought for a moment. “How about I let you take my red pen and mark an ‘X’ on each item that I point out to you as incorrect?”

“Does ‘incorrect’ mean ‘wrong’?” I asked her.

“Yes,” said Grandma. “It means the student made a mistake.”

I pulled up a chair and sat down beside Grandma, taking the red pen she handed me.

“Now on this paper,” she said, “number 3 is wrong. Put an ‘X’ in front of it.”

Carefully I marked the “X,” trying my best to make it look just like Grandma’s. “The students won’t even know you didn’t make that ‘X,’ will they?” I asked.

“It looks almost exactly like mine,” agreed Grandma.

Grandma wrote a grade at the top of the paper after we had finished checking it. She explained how the number of mistakes helped her know what the grade should be.

“Do you think every paper will have mistakes?” I asked. “Does anyone ever have a perfect paper?”

“Oh, yes,” said Grandma. “Lots of times there is a student who makes no mistakes on an assignment and receives 100%. But every student makes a mistake from time to time. There is no one who always gets a perfect score.”

I thought about that for a moment. “Grandma,” I asked, “have you ever made a mistake?” My grandma seemed just about perfect to me. I couldn’t imagine her ever making a mistake.

Grandma smiled. "Of course I have, honey," she said. "Everyone makes mistakes. Big mistakes, little mistakes, serious mistakes, funny mistakes ..."

"Tell me about a funny mistake you made, Grandma," I begged. "Please?"

Grandma looked away for a moment, searching her memory. Suddenly she threw her head back and laughed—one of those musical laughs I loved so well.

"Well," she said, "this happened a few years ago—before you were old enough to remember."

"Did you live here in this house then?" I asked.

"Yes," said Grandma, "and that's just where the mistake happened. I was working away here in this kitchen, and I happened to look up at the clock. 'Oh no!' I said to myself. 'It's almost time for church! I'd better hustle, or I'll be late!'"

"So I washed my hands, grabbed my coat and Bible, and hurried down the stairs and up the sidewalk as fast as I could go."

I could picture Grandma hurrying to the church, which was just one block away from her house. I could picture her hurrying up the church steps and down the aisle toward the platform.

"It was important for me to be on time," said Grandma, "because I was the songleader."

"Did you make it on time?" I asked.

"Yes," said Grandma, "I got there just in the nick of time. Everyone was ready to begin. I pulled off my coat and laid it with my Bible on the front bench where I always sat, and then walked up the steps to the platform."

"The people in the congregation smiled at me, and I smiled back at them. I picked up a hymnal and announced the number of the hymn we would be singing first."

"Which hymn was it?" I asked.

"I don't remember," said Grandma, "but I'm sure it was one whose number I knew by heart. I didn't have time to hunt for a hymn that evening."

"Well," said Grandma, continuing her story, "I noticed as we sang that first hymn that people were smiling at me a lot more than usual. Smiling is a good thing, you know, but there was such an unusual amount of smiling that I began to wonder what it was all about."

"I began to wonder if I looked funny. I knew my face was clean. I looked down at the clothes I was wearing, and then I knew why everyone was smiling so much."

"What was it, Grandma?" I asked. "Tell me!"

"Well," said Grandma, "when I looked down, I saw that I had been in such a hurry to leave for church that I had forgotten to remove my apron! There I was, up in front of the whole congregation, wearing my apron!"

Grandma and I both laughed and laughed.

"What did you do?" I asked when we had finally stopped laughing.

"Why, what else could I do?" she said. "I just reached back, untied it, took it off, and laid it on the bench behind me. And I kept on singing."

Grandma paused for a moment. "That's what we have to do when we make mistakes," she said, her tone now thoughtful and serious. "We can't dwell on them."

We have to learn from them, fix them the best we can, and then keep on going.

"Mistakes keep us humble. They help us remember that no one is perfect but God."

Our wise saying this month comes from Proverbs 18:12, which says, "Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honor is humility." The word *haughty* means "proud." The word *humility* means being "humble."

A certain amount of pride can be a good thing. We should do our work in such a way that we can be proud of the results. If we take no pride in our work, we will not do a good job on it. But we must not be proud of ourselves to the extent that we think our talents and accomplishments are of our own doing. Without God, we can do nothing. He is the one who gives us life and breath, and the ability to do anything at all.

God will not honor us if we are proud. But if we are humble, and if we remember to thank Him for all that we are able to accomplish, He will bless us with His approval. There is no greater blessing in life than this.

Activity

Can you remember a parable Jesus told about a man who was proud and a man who was humble? See if you can find the parable in the Bible and read it to an adult. Talk together about the lesson we can learn from this parable.

Answers to Last Month's Activity

God's Word contains many warnings to keep us out of trouble. Were you able to find one that starts with each of the letters of the word "WARNING"? Here are some ideas if you had trouble.

"Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation"
(Matthew 26:41).

"Abstain from all appearance of evil"
(I Thessalonians 5:22).

"Resist the devil and he will flee from you"
(James 4:7).

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together"
(Hebrews 10:25).

"If ye love me, keep my commandments"
(John 14:15).

"Neither give place to the devil"
(Ephesians 4:27).

"Go not in the way of evil men"
(Proverbs 4:14). †

VIEW OUR WORSHIP SERVICES LIVE!

As many of our readers know, we can be found on the internet at www.wayoftruth.org where in addition to reading past issues and other information, you can view our general services every Sunday LIVE at 10:40 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. E.S.T. Enjoy Spirit-filled singing and preaching. Also, our mid-week service at 7:00 P.M. Wednesdays is aired live. Tune in and worship with us!

THE POETRY PAGE

FOLLOWERS OF THEM

Anonymous

Daniel's wisdom may I know,
Stephen's faith and spirit show;
John's divine communion feel,
Moses' meekness, Joshua's zeal;
Run like the unwearied Paul,
Win the day and conquer all.

Mary's love may I possess,
Lydia's tender-heartedness;
Peter's ardent spirit feel,
James' faith by works reveal;
Like young Timothy, may I
Every sinful passion fly.

Job's submission may I show,
David's true devotion know;
Samuel's call, oh, may I hear!
Lazarus' happy portion share;
Let Isaiah's hallowed fire
All my new-born soul inspire.

Mine be Jacob's wrestling prayer,
Gideon's valiant, steadfast care;
Joseph's purity impart,
Isaac's meditating heart;
Abram's friendship may I prove,
Faithful to the God of love.

Most of all, may I pursue
The example Jesus drew;
By my life and conduct show
How He lived and walked below;
Day by day, through grace restored,
Imitate my blessed Lord.

GOD'S MYSTERIOUS WAY

William Cowper

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill,
He treasures up His bright designs,
And works His sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.

IN HEAVENLY LOVE ABIDING

Anna L. Warring

In heavenly love abiding,
No change my heart shall fear;
And safe is such confiding,
For nothing changes here.
The storm may roar without me,
My heart may low be laid;
But God is round about me,
And can I be dismayed?

Wherever He may guide me,
No want shall turn me back;
My Shepherd is beside me,
And nothing can I lack.
His wisdom ever waketh,
His sight is never dim;
He knows the way He taketh
And I will walk with Him.

Green pastures are before me,
Which yet I have not seen;
Bright skies will soon be o'er me,
Where darkest clouds have been.
My hope I cannot measure,
My path to life is free;
My Savior has my treasure,
And He will walk with me.

HOLY SCRIPTURE

Anonymous

Who has this Book and reads it not
Doth God himself despise;
Who reads but understandeth not,
His soul in darkness lies.

Who understands but savors not,
He finds no rest in trouble;
Who savors but obeyeth not,
He hath his judgment double.

Who reads this Book, who understands,
Doth savor and obey,
His soul shall stand at God's right hand,
In the great judgment day. †

The Effectiveness of Praying in Faith

2019 Hagerstown Convention Message by Bro. David Shaw

*He touched me, Oh, He touched me,
And oh, the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened and now I know,
He touched me and made me whole.*

WHAT a Savior Jesus is! He's our Savior, our Redeemer, our Deliverer, and our Healer. He's one who cares about our status and desires to bless us with the abundance of His treasure. In Him is our all in all.

I would like to call your attention to a very familiar passage of scripture found in the book of James, chapter 5. I will read from verse 13 to verse 16: "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." My thoughts I want you to consider with me this morning is, "The Effectiveness of Praying in Faith."

James wants to inspire our hearts to realize that when it comes to certain conditions that exist within our lives, we're not just to pray, but to pray in faith believing. Prayer is not just words being spoken. It is not of our intelligence. It is that of our divine connection with God that we make our request known unto Him. So our heart's status is very important. The belief we have in God is very important.

I remember an incident where a man in the Bible requested a blessing from Jesus. Jesus said to him, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible." He said, "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." He wanted to make sure that he believed to the highest dimension that his heart could attain to. So, when we come to the Lord, He wants us to "believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

This Bible lists a lot of prayers that were ascended to God's throne. Answers were given instantaneously to some seekers, but some had to wait. However, this morning, we are requesting of the Lord to give us an instantaneous response. We desire that the hand of the Lord will move vividly in our midst so that we can see even miracles among us. We have prayed, we believe our prayers will be answered, and that He will grant the requests of each heart. You have a right to come believing, because He said, "Cast your care upon me, for I careth for you." The Lord calls us to come unto Him with all of our burdens and concerns. When we are sick, He has promised, "By my stripes, you are healed."

When we look into the scriptures as stated in Psalm 50, the psalmist David made a comment. In verse 15, David said, "And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." God desires that we glorify Him in whatever we attain as

a people. When we pray and receive our blessings, we should remember that God should be glorified. He wants praise from all of us. He wants to be first in all of our undertakings. The writer of a hymn says, "In my affections first He'll be, And first His righteous will."

Let's go to the Old Testament. Numbers 12:11-13, "And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned. Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb. And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee." This chapter is referring to Miriam and her brother when they spoke against Moses, and because of doing so, God brought leprosy upon Miriam. Leprosy is a dreadful disease that was incurable in those days, so Aaron was concerned about his sister dying from this disease, and he ran to Moses to ask for mercy and forgiveness. We learned that Moses prayed, but because the sin was so great, she was prohibited from being in the camp for seven days. So, Miriam suffered from this condition for seven days before she was cleansed, but the Lord in His mercy healed her.

Today, My Friends, at times we have conditions that are very unbearable. Sometimes it seems we can't cope with these conditions, but we need to understand that if we sin against the Lord, we should ask Him for forgiveness. Again, James tells us, "If you have committed sins, they shall be forgiven"; then when your sins are removed, this opens the way for your healing. Let us know where we stand before the Lord as individuals, especially when we need from Him what we're asking for.

If we sin against nature's will, we will pay the penalty. Certainly, in many instances, we do. Take for example: you know that your body is frail, yet you will take off your shoes and walk on the cold tile floor, and eventually, you'll find that you got a chill and was made sick. Do you know you can fight against nature? We should study ourselves, know our nature, know what we can cope with, and what will be against us. Let us not make ourselves sick. Try our best to remain healthy, but if we are sick beyond our control, then that's when we realize we are helpless in our condition. Jesus, however, will be willing to heal us, whatever the condition, but we want to be honest with ourselves.

Miriam accepted the fact that she had sinned. Moses prayed for her and she was healed. Christ is still the same today. In your suffering, He will be ready to heal



you if you'll meet His conditions. We see here a picture of what the Lord desires of us. He desires that we be willing to walk in the pathway of righteousness and to obey His Word in whatever capacity He leads us.

The Word of God brings healing. Moses spoke of healing; and today, I believe this body of ministers is ready to speak healing for whatever your sickness may be. If you know you have transgressed nature's law, it is for you to be willing and honest to say, "I have." That will make haste for your healing. James also says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." So we will pray that God will grant the request of our hearts.

David realized the value of the God he served and loved. He desired that God be praised from the blessings he received. He said in Psalm 103:1, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name." We are obligated to praise God when He blesses us. Healing is one of the major blessings we look forward to. Whenever we are sick, it brings discomfort. No one wants to remain sick, so we seek aid for relief. There is something we call *first aid*. I want us to make the Lord our "first aid." If we can come believing that He is, certainly, He will reward us of the blessings we desire.

Some of us have never been well. Every day something irritates a member of the body. Some people are so delicate that they remain ill almost every day. But,

in the midst of it all, God spares them for years and years in their condition. Some seek for recovery but find none. Many have gone to various physicians and the medication did not help. It brought relief for a period of time, but then the sickness returned. The body became accustomed to the medication. The medication stopped working, and they were left puzzled as to what to do. In many instances, there are those who would tell you, "It would be better if I died." They became disgusted. They are burdened down and in despair because of constantly being ill. It is no comfort in being ill. No one wants to be ill. When all they have tried didn't work, it brought extra concern.

Psalm 103:2, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." Beloved Ones, we want you to know that even in the midst of your illness, you are benefited from God, because He gave life. Though you are ill, you have life. If you don't give thanks for healing, give thanks for life, and expect a miracle. David realized that some easily forget to be thankful to the Lord, especially when things did not go the way they wanted it. We should not allow our dissatisfaction to hinder God's praise. We should allow ourselves, in whatever state we are in, to be thankful.

David came to the point where he said in verse 3 of Psalm 103, "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases." I am thankful for the God we serve. There is no disease that's impossible for Him to cure. He cures every single disease. Today, Beloved Ones, whatever your condition, He's here to bless you. Just lean heavily upon the Lord, and allow your faith to reach out to Him, as His ears are open unto you, and He will grant unto you the request you ask of Him. As you come this morning, come believing that God will heal you of whatever be your condition. God always answers prayer. When you pray believing, don't forget God will be willing to answer and grant the desire of your heart.

A few days ago, Bro. Shippy was very, very sick. It was a concern as to whether he would live or die. When he went to the doctor, he was told he would have to stay in the hospital for a few weeks, but I prayed, "Lord, I don't want Bro. Shippy to be there for the weeks that the doctor said. I want him to get out of that place." Bro. Shippy can tell you how many days he stayed. The Lord relieved him in less time than the doctor said he would have to stay in the hospital. So we are thankful to the God we serve. He hears and answers prayer. If you pray effectively, God will answer.

We read in II Kings 20:1, where Hezekiah was sick unto death. A messenger of the Lord brought a message to Hezekiah who was ill, saying to him, "Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live." Hezekiah was in a serious condition. What a sad message that was heard! Who in this audience today would be glad to hear that you're dying? Would you be happy? Life is so meaningful to us. No one wants to die. Hezekiah did not want to die. Have you ever been sick unto death?

The message to Hezekiah was shocking to him. He didn't accept it. He became very, very concerned. He turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord. Hezekiah was sincere in his prayer. His entire heart was set on the Lord. He accepted that the Lord was in

2019 HAGERSTOWN CONVENTION

CD's are available of these wonderful services. These may be purchased for \$3.00 each. Any orders of 10 or more, \$2.50 each. The complete set of 16 preaching services, plus 5 musical CD's, \$50.00.

Please indicate how many you would like by placing the number in the blanks. Send check or money order to: The Way of Truth, CD Ministry, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown, MD 21741-0088. (Credit cards are now accepted).

- ___ CD #1046 Christ's Desire for His Church—G. E. Tyler
- ___ CD #1047 One Spirit, One Mind—David Shaw
- ___ CD #1048 People Need the Lord—Harley McClung
- ___ CD #1049 A Desire for the Faith of the Gospel—Raymond Martin
- ___ CD #1050 At Evening It Shall Be Light—Donovan Darby
- ___ CD #1051 For the Work's Sake—Doug Koerner
- ___ CD #1052 What the Lord Has Restored—David Goble
- ___ CD #1053 A Great Work in the Day of Small Things
—Darrell Sanford
- ___ CD #1054 Are You Breaking the First and Great Commandment?
—Doug Shenberger
- ___ CD #1055 The Effectiveness of Praying in Faith—David Shaw
- ___ CD #1056 Ponder the Path of Thy Feet—Matt Deville
- ___ CD #1057 The Inaugural Anointing—Mick Akers
- ___ CD #1058 Ordinance Service
- ___ CD #1059 There Is Still Hope in God—Paul Wilson
- ___ CD #1060 The Value of Your Soul—Tim Crooks
- ___ CD #1061 Jesus Can Make the Impossible Possible—Ray Hydes
- ___ CD #291 Singing #1
- ___ CD #292 Singing #2
- ___ CD #293 Singing #3
- ___ CD #294 Singing #4
- ___ CD #295 Singing #5

control. Hezekiah desired to change the mind of the Lord. He said to Him, "Not yet, Lord; give me another chance." He poured his heart out and said, "I beseech thee, O Lord, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight." This man did something that the Lord took note of. He was asking of the Lord a blessing that he desired to receive. Hezekiah walked before the Lord with a perfect heart.

How many times have we disobeyed the Lord and yet we want Him to bless us? A lot of people won't serve the Lord, but they want His blessing. They want the blessing but not the One who gives the blessing. The Lord doesn't want us to be unreasonable. He wants us to be reasonable in our dealings. Let's be honest with Him and He'll be honest with us. Hezekiah was honest to the Lord and He heard his prayer instantaneously. It wasn't a day or a week after. Immediately, as the prophet was leaving the house, the Lord sent him back to Hezekiah. He brought him another message that was accepted by Hezekiah. I tell you, no wonder the writers have said, "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry"; and, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Hezekiah had a perfect heart toward the Lord, and he did that which was good in His sight. Hezekiah wept sore. Can't you just hear him by faith? He cried before the Lord. At times when ailments are upon us, we can't do anything else but cry. Have you ever felt that you had reached the place where you poured out your heart and there wasn't anything more to tell the Lord? Have you ever asked, and asked, and asked until you ran out of words?

I remember when my wife was sick with a very bad flu that was going around in Jamaica. She was in bed for eight days. Eight mornings I knelt down and put my hand on her and said, "Lord, if I should say anything to Thee this morning, I will have to rewind myself. I've said out all to you, Lord, and I'm waiting for an answer." That's exactly the prayer I prayed. I got up and went outside. About 15 minutes after I prayed, I saw someone walking outside. I looked to see if it was her, but I denied myself of the fact that it was her. I kept on doing what I was doing, but I looked again to really see if it was her. She was out after eight days. It was a very bad flu because people died from it. Her color and features changed, but I held on to the Lord.

Beloved Ones, when you really want the Lord to answer your cries, you have to cast your all on Him. You cannot trust Him part way. If you doubt, you will be like the wave of the sea that dashes to and fro, and you'll never receive what you're asking for. Your entire trust must be placed in the Lord. Let's not take Him for convenience. Too many times the Lord is taken for convenience. He's on the back burner, as it were. To some, when all has been tried and nothing works, then it's the Lord. "In my affections," said the songwriter, "first He'll be." So, when you need first aid, don't forget that our "first aid" is God. If something seemingly is going wrong, run to the Rescuer. I'm sure you will find shelter in the arms of the Lord.

Let me say again: Hezekiah told the Lord of his sickness. He was not condemned by Him. Hezekiah

could say to the Lord, "I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight." The Lord did not say no. Let's get to the point, Brethren. Let's get to the reality of what the Lord wants out of us as a people. He wants us to love, serve, and adore Him. He wants us to put all of our trust in Him.

II Kings 20:4, 5, "And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the Lord came to him, saying, Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, *I have heard thy prayer; I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee:* on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the Lord." That is the effectiveness of praying in faith.

The Lord is saying to you today, "I will heal thee." You must meet the condition. As I said earlier, let's not take Him for convenience. Know that He is your Lord, the One whom Daniel served. When Daniel prayed in the lions' den, he was delivered. He's the One whom Peter served, and when Peter prayed while in prison, he was delivered. I could name other saints who believed and prayed unto the Lord for deliverance. He came to their rescue. Today, He's just the same. He knows exactly how to bless you. All Hezekiah asked the Lord for was his healing. The Lord gave him 15 more years to live. Isn't that great? All because he met His approval. Beloved Ones, the blessings are here to be received when we meet the Lord's approval.

The prophets and the apostles prayed for deliverance, but let's look at Jesus and His attitude towards sickness. In Matthew, chapter 8, it is recorded that Jesus healed a leper; but if you'll notice, He commanded. He didn't pray for the leper. Jesus prayed at Lazarus' grave, but whenever He encountered the sick folks, He spoke the words, "Be healed." Do you know why? He was the healer. He commanded the healing. Jesus was effective even by the touch of His garment. That's the Christ we are talking about today. If you can touch Him by faith, you can be healed. You are going to be healed, because the power is in Him to heal you. Verses 1-3: "When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him. And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed." Jesus has the power to discharge sickness and command health to you. So, at that point in time, this man received his deliverance instantaneously from his leprosy.

The multitudes followed Jesus because they knew once they got to Him, all would be well. Jesus did notable work as He journeyed through the various areas He trod. Miriam wasn't healed instantaneously, but this man's leprosy was healed immediately. Jesus touched him.

I sang at the beginning of this service, "He Touched Me." Can you imagine the joy that filled that leper's heart when he looked at his body and it was normal? Health was once again his. His skin was back to normal. The scornful state was removed by the touch of the Master's hand. That was outstanding! That is something to awaken our enthusiasm towards the Lord. We should

be enthused with that thought. What the Lord did for that leper, He will do for you and me. He has not changed. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Malachi 4:2 tells us that Jesus came with healing in His wings. Today, we can rest assured that the Lord is with us. He will deliver at any cost. May we trust Him fully and believe that He will reward us according to our faith.

I'd like to bring one last thought to your attention. In I Kings 17, we see an incident that took place. You know, many times we think when someone is dead, it is finished. There's no hope for the dead. The prophet Elijah came in contact with a condition that was seemingly hopeless. There was a mother whose son was sick, and he died. She knew the prophet because he was the one who told her that she was would have this child. So, when her son died, she thought that she would go to no one else but the prophet. She lay her child upon the bed and went to Elijah. When Elijah arrived at the home, the child was dead.

What did Elijah do? He went into the room, shut the door, and lay upon the child. Elijah prayed, nothing happened. He walked across the floor and went back and lay on the child. He prayed, nothing happened. Elijah did not give up. He did that until life returned to the child's body.

Beloved Ones, I speak of the Lord who can deliver you from every condition that you may have. Whatever disease you can name, He can and will deliver. Let's build our hope on the Lord who lives, rules, and whose ears are open to our cry. If we pray effectively in faith believing, we shall receive.

May the Lord help us to hold on to the hem of His garment, and say as that woman said, "If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole." †



Greetings, dear Young People!

The Lord has saved us. The Lord has kept us. Blessed be the name of the Lord! We can never thank Him enough! I encourage you to make an extra effort to praise Him more.

This month we have an article written by Sis. Sarah Arch. Sis. Sarah teaches Grades 9-12 at

our local church school, Truth Christian Academy. She has a special gift of reaching the young people. May the Lord bless her in all that she does.

In His love,
Sis. Crystal Gossard

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ARMOR OF GOD

IN MY high school Bible class at Truth Christian Academy, we have been studying John Bunyan's book, *The Pilgrim's Progress*. As the pilgrim Christian journeys toward heaven, he realizes the importance of always wearing the armor of God. Without this armor, he is



powerless against his enemy, Satan. Without this armor, he will not finish his journey to the Celestial City.

The class had heard of and was well aware of the armor of God. But I wanted them to delve a little deeper, so I gave them an assignment asking them to explain why each specific piece of armor was to protect the particular body part. As I write this article about the armor of God, I am going to include some of the teens' thoughtful and informative comments.

Ephesians 6:11 says, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Then in verse 14 we are told, "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth." The dictionary identifies loins as "the parts of the body between the hips and the lower ribs, especially regarded as the seat of physical strength and generative power." In the physical battle, even a slight injury to the loins could be disastrous because of the danger of infection. In the spiritual battle, truth is so important, because without it a person is susceptible to error (Cassie), and error infects and kills spiritually. Gabe warns us that if we start out with truth, but allow it to become tainted with error, we will then be more vulnerable to false teachings that may cross our paths. Truth will protect us from the evils of this world (Angelina) and keep us free from the enemy's lies (Ally). Knowing and embracing and fighting for the truth will enable us to recognize the tactics of the enemy.

Verse 14 goes on to instruct us to wear "the breastplate of righteousness." Many of our vital organs are in the chest area (Cassie), especially the heart (Ally). A cut to the heart can be fatal to a soldier (Dylan). If we keep Christ and His righteousness in our hearts, nothing ungodly can reside there (Dylan). The enemy naturally attacks our hearts because he knows that God wants us to have righteous desires (Chely). Obeying God's commandments and living in a way honorable to Him protects us spiritually (Ally).

Verse 15 tells us that our "feet [are to be] shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." A soldier's feet need protection, because it hurts to walk if the feet are injured (Cassie). The proper shoes allow soldiers to step freely and without fear so that they can turn their full attention to the battle at hand (Angelina). A battle will not be won unless the soldiers are moving, so the feet need to be protected from cuts so that a soldier can march forward (Sam). Life can become rough and rocky, and it would be easy to lose peace without protection (Casey). Feet shod with the gospel of peace allow us to traverse the otherwise painful trials and tribulations of life without fear (Angelina). Satan will put rocks and spikes on the pathway, but a Christian can safely walk over these with the protection of peace (Gabe). Most importantly, if you walk with the gospel leading your feet, you won't go where God doesn't want to go (Chely).

Verse 16: "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Soldiers have faith that the materials their shields are built with will be durable enough to protect them. In the same way, Christians can be assured that their faith in God is strong enough to protect them from the enemy's darts (Gabe). A shield is resistant (Mya) and used to deflect the enemy's blows (Dylan).

Faith, or believing unflinchingly in God, is what helps a Christian stay a Christian. When the enemy attacks with questions and disbelief, the shield “shields” doubt from defeating you (Chely). Faith allows us to trust in God so that we have no fear of the attacking the enemy (Ally). Faith in God shields us from the enemy’s overwhelming attacks because we know we have God on our side to help us win the fight.

Not only do we have a shield for protection, but also a “helmet of salvation” (Ephesians 6:17). A helmet protects a soldier’s head and brain (Emily) from shell fragments and flying debris (Mya). A person’s brain makes decisions; without salvation, we tend to make bad choices (Dylan). The enemy is always working to play mind games (Chely) and insert nasty thoughts (Gabe), but salvation helps a person to think rationally (Casey). Salvation is the Christian’s lifeline (Joseph) that works like a helmet to protect our minds from the discouragement and despair of this world (Angelina). Not only does salvation protect us from the onslaughts of the enemy, but it also gives us the desire to see others saved (Cassie).

Christians are warned to utilize “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:17). A soldier without a weapon is useless and will be of no use to the effort (Joseph). The soldier’s sword is suited for both defensive and offensive roles (Angelina); a Christian is given a sword to win the battle instead of just surviving it (Dylan). Christians must do their part in defending the body of Christ; they must prepare themselves through the study of God’s Word (Joseph). Memorizing verses is important, because we can fight off temptations with the Scriptures (Emily). When the devil tries to tell us lies, we can stack him with promises from the Bible (Cassie). If we have it in our hearts, the Word of God is quick and powerful and able to overcome Satan (Chely). The Word of God is the ultimate weapon to fight off evil (Casey).

God has given Christians this armor for a purpose; He does not send us to the battlefield with no protection. God wants us to win in this great spiritual battle, so let’s apply the armor He has given us and win the fight against evil. †

ERRORS CONCERNING THE HOLY SPIRIT REFUTED

By the late D. O. Teasley

*From the book,
“The Holy Spirit and Other Spirits”*

THERE ARE many errors concerning the Holy Spirit, but we shall notice only few that are the most common.

Error 1.—“Spirit of Christ and Spirit of God different.”

Refuted.—Those who propagate the above-named error teach that the Spirit of Christ is received in justification and the Spirit of God in sanctification. This is basely false for several reasons. (1) This would make

four in the Godhead, when the Bible teaches but three; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). (2) This false theory would make two Spirits, when the Bible says, “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling” (Ephesians 4:4). (3) The rule by which there are supposed to be two Spirits proves more than two, hence is incorrect. The argument used is, that the Bible says Spirit of Christ and Spirit of God. The Bible also says, “Spirit of truth” (John 16:13), “Spirit of glory” (I Peter 4:14), and “Spirit of grace” (Hebrews 10:29); so according to this rule, there would be at least five Spirits; Spirit of Christ, Spirit of God, Spirit of glory, Spirit of truth, and the Spirit of grace. Such is the height of foolishness. These different names are only figurative names of the Holy Spirit.

By this same false reasoning we could prove plurality of Gods; for the Bible speaks of Jehovah, Lord, God, etc. It would also prove many Christs, as the Bible mentions Emmanuel, Christ, Messiah, Lamb of God, Savior, etc. This lowers the Bible to the plane of heathen philosophy, which teaches many gods. The truth of the matter is, that all these different appellations are used for the same three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Error 2.—“Holy Spirit and Word of God, or New Testament, identical.”

Refuted.—Those who believe that the Word and the Spirit are the same draw their conclusions from John 6:63, where Jesus said, “The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life.” Jesus here had no reference to the new covenant in general, but was speaking of the words which He had just spoken. “The declarations which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.”—*Rotherham*. That is, the bread which He gave, of which He had just finished speaking, was unlike the bread which was eaten in the wilderness: one was temporal food; the other, spiritual food, producing spiritual life.

The apostles received the words of Jesus before the day of Pentecost (John 17:8), but did not receive the Holy Spirit till that day; hence the Word and the Spirit are not the same thing. The Samaritans first “received the word of God” (Acts 8:14), after which they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:15, 16). This is conclusive evidence that the Word and the Spirit are different. Any man who ever knew anything about the Holy Spirit knows that this position is false, and only those who, like the blind followers, of Alexander Campbell, never received the Holy Spirit could be induced to believe such fabricated sophistry.

Error 3.—“Gift of the Holy Spirit and the reception of the Holy Spirit different.”

Refuted.—Three verses of Scripture are sufficient to expose this error. “While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them that heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 10:44, 45). This is clear and plain, that the Gentiles here received the “gift of the Holy Ghost”; and if we can ascertain what they received we can arrive at a conclusion as to what the “gift of the Holy Ghost” is. “Can any man forbid water that these should not be

baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?" (Acts 10:47).

This is too plain to need further comment; both Jews and Gentiles received the Holy Spirit as a gift from God, hence it is called "the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Error 4.—"The Holy Spirit dwells in impure temples, or in the hearts of unholy men and women."

Refuted.—Many profess to have the Holy Spirit, who are impure at heart and live unholy lives; but all such are deceived, for the Spirit of God is pure and dwells with only the pure. "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" (I Corinthians 3:17). The children of God are His temple or dwelling-place, in which He dwells through the Spirit (Ephesians 2:22); and "all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord" (Ephesians 2:21).

Error 5.—"The Holy Spirit is received at conversion."

Refuted.—This doctrine is believed by the majority of professed Christians; but it is, nevertheless, false. Paul, who understood well the operations of the Spirit, asked certain disciples the question, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost *since* ye believed?" (Acts 19:2). Paul knew that they did *not receive* Him *when* they believed. He also said to the same disciples afterward, "After ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise" (Ephesians 1:13).

Error 6.—"Only the apostles received the Holy Spirit."

Refuted.—The above error is believed by only a few, so far as I know, who are very ignorant of the truth. A few texts of Scripture will settle this once for all. On the day of Pentecost at the first descent of the Holy Spirit there were present about one hundred and twenty-three, and only twelve of these could possibly have been apostles, and yet we read, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:4). We also read of the house of Cornelius (Acts 10), the Samaritans (Acts 8), the Ephesians (Acts 19), and many others who were not apostles, who received the Holy Spirit. In fact the promise is made to "all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:38, 39).

Error 7.—"The baptism of the Holy Spirit and the baptism of fire different."

Refuted.—There is a false notion among several different classes of people that we receive a baptism of fire subsequent to the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This position is falsely based on the language of John in Matthew 3:11. "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire." That the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire are the same work, or that they come at the same time, needs but little comment for all reasonable minds to understand it. The visible appearance of fire at the notable scene of Pentecost, at which time the Holy Spirit was received, was a literal fulfillment of this prophecy. It is also fulfilled when the Holy Spirit comes to our hearts and burns away all depravity at the time of sanctification, or baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Many men have supposed to find in these words of the prophet John many things that are foreign to the truth. Some have thought that affliction is the baptism

of fire here mentioned; some have thought it to be some great visitation of persecution; some have thought it to be the fire of judgment; some have thought it to be the fire of hell; and the Catholics think they find here the fire of purgatory. Our modern "fire-worshippers," or so-called "Fire-baptized Holiness Bands," etc., think they find in this text a justification of their extraordinary gesticulations and frantic jumping; but the Holy Spirit does not behave itself unseemly, and we cannot accept forced shouts and empty screeches for the manifestations of holy fire. While the Holy Spirit brings the fire and sometimes causes people to leap and shout for joy, it is vastly different from the wild screams and vulgar actions of those under the influence of "strange fire." †

—Reprinted from April 1992, issue

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

By the late H. R. Matthews

WHEN the bondage of sin begins to weigh heavily upon the guilt-ridden soul, we say he is under conviction. A sinner who is under conviction is in a miserable state of mind, but in reality, conviction for sin is a blessing, for conviction is a work of the Holy Spirit to bring about reconciliation between the sinner and his Creator.

Shortly before Jesus left the earthly scene, He told His followers that after His departure He would send the Holy Spirit to carry on the work that was assigned to Him. The leading work assigned to the Holy Spirit was expressed in the following words by Jesus: "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin" (John 16:8). This reproof or conviction produces godly sorrow which worketh repentance to salvation. "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death" (II Corinthians 7:10).

The end of godly sorrow is a deep regret to the sinner that he has transgressed the law of a righteous God, and this brings him to repentance where he becomes a new creature; sinful things have passed away, behold all things have become new in Christ Jesus. Worldly sorrow is that sorrow that results from the sins that produce broken health, broken friendships, and many other evils that belong to worldly living. Taking one's own life is the result of "the sorrow of the world." Blessed is the man that experiences the godly sorrow that leads him to repentance.

When Jesus was led away from Gethsemane, where He had been betrayed by the kiss of Judas, He was led to the palace of the high priest to be interrogated. Simon Peter followed Jesus from a distance to the high priest's palace where he denied three times in succession that he even knew Jesus, and doubtless with each denial his conscience became more troubled. On the third denial,

Peter saw Jesus looking his way with a saddened countenance. Peter's conscience could bear no more, and he went out and wept bitterly the tears of repentance.

As Saul of Tarsus beheld the godly countenance of the righteous man, Stephen, as the stones were being hurled, he heard the voice of Stephen as he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God." As Saul heard Stephen's dying voice, saying, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge," he began to experience the reproof of the Holy Spirit pricking his conscience. However, Saul was determined to destroy this Jesus and His religion. But, alas, Saul was a chosen vessel of the Lord, but it would take stronger measures to pierce the seared conscience of this man.

God began to set the stronger measures in motion as Saul traveled the road toward Damascus where he planned to persecute Christians. As he neared the walls of the city, a bright light shone from heaven. The light was so brilliant that it not only drove him to his knees, but it blinded his eyes, and to his great astonishment, he heard a voice, saying, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" The Lord now had his attention and he asked, "Who art thou, Lord?" The Lord replied, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks [conviction]." Saul's subdued spirit responded, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Saul was now a new creature in Christ Jesus and was destined to become the greatest Christian witness of all time.

Saul, now called Paul, and Silas were singing praises to God at the midnight hour. This would not be so unusual except that they had been severely beaten, cast into prison, and their feet were fastened in the stocks. This severe punishment was inflicted for a good deed that they had done. The Scriptures declare, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). And, so it was in this case, for the jailer who had thrust them into the inner prison and fastened their feet into the stocks, fell at their feet, pleading, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

The apostle Thomas questioned Jesus, "Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?" Jesus saith unto him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

Jesus said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture" (John 10:9).

Paul and Silas, being well-acquainted with the teachings of Jesus, were able to instruct the jailer in the following manner, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31). The believing must result in the salvation of the soul. Many believe that there is a divine being called Jesus, but it is a head knowledge only, and will result in salvation only as the head knowledge moves from the head to the heart. The jailer believed from the heart and was saved and baptized. His household was not saved until they believed. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16). Baptism is always subsequent to believing. Baptism in itself never saved anyone.

Jesus has offered rest from the bondage of sin to all who labor therein. "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). This verse is being addressed to those who have need of repentance.

To get the full impact from Matthew 11:28-30, we must ask a few in depth questions:

1. What takes place when a sinner repents? The repentant sinner begins "to feel so contrite over one's sins as to change or decide to change, one's ways."—*Webster's Dictionary*.

Jesus says unto the sinner who has reached the point of repentance, "Come unto me ... and I will give you rest." A godly sorrow accompanies repentance and forgiveness of sin is sought. When the adulterous woman of John, chapter 3, reached this point, Jesus said unto her, "Neither do I condemn thee; go and sin no more." True repentance brings an end to the sin business.

2. What did Jesus mean when He said, "And I will give you rest"? "And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made" (Genesis 2:2). Does this mean that God grew tired and weary in body from His work in creating the heavens and the earth? If this were true, there would be seasons in our lifetime when God would be unavailable. Did he not assure us that He would never leave us nor forsake us? I can assure you of this: our mutual enemy, the devil, never tires in perpetrating his evil deeds. To say that God rested, we are saying that He simply ceased, stopped His work of creation. When Jesus said, "I will give you rest," He meant that we would cease the life of sin; we would go and sin no more. This rest has no reference to physical rest; it is a spiritual rest.

3. "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me." This appears to be a contradiction to "I will give you rest." There is absolutely no contradiction here. We are to cease the life of sin and take up the good fight of faith (I Timothy 6:12).

4. "Take my yoke upon you." Being under a yoke means that we are joined with one or more others in the field of labor. Our efforts can only be without failure as we are yoked together with Jesus Christ. Did Jesus not say, "I am way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh to the Father, except by me"?

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Those who ignore such a magnanimous invitation, live life in such a way as to ignore the fact that there lies ahead a day in which all shall be judged according to their deeds. They live life in such a way as to say in their heart, there is no God. King David spoke truly when he declared, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psalm 14:1). The unbeliever will quickly become a believer when the soul departs from the body in death, but there is no possibility of repentance after death. Pardon can only be achieved while soul and body are still intact. †

Church of God (Universal), Inc.
The Way of Truth
P. O. Box 88
Hagerstown, MD 21741-0088 U.S.A.

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Mercersburg, PA
Permit No. 15

RADIO LOG

The Way of Truth Broadcast

Alvin A. Craig, Radio Minister

(Aired on Sundays unless otherwise noted.)

Alabama, Mobile, WIJD 1270, AM & 97.9 FM 6:00 A.M.

Georgia, Augusta, WFAM 1050, 8:00 P.M. Wednesday & 11:30 A.M. Sun.

Illinois, Carmi, WROY 1460, 9:00 A.M.

Kentucky, Prestonsburg, WDOC 1310, 7:30 A.M.

Louisiana, Ball, KWDF 840 & 99.7 FM, 9:00 A.M.

North Carolina, Mooresville, WHIP 1350, 6:30 A.M. Sat.

Listen live—tunein.com/radio/whip-1350-s29320/

Oklahoma, Marlow, KFXI-FM 92.1, 7:00 A.M.

Listen live—Go to www.kfxi.com

Pennsylvania, Altoona, WFBG 1290, 9:00 A.M.

Pennsylvania, Martinsburg, WJSM 1110, 11:03 A.M.

Pennsylvania, Martinsburg, WJSM-FM 92.7, 11:03 A.M. & 7:30 P.M.

Listen live—Go to www.wjsm.com

Tennessee, Chattanooga, WLMR 1450, 3:00 P.M.

Tennessee, Chattanooga, WLMR-FM 103.3, 3:00 P.M.

Virginia, Narrows, WZFM-FM 101.3, 8:00 A.M.

Virginia, Blacksburg, WKEX 1430, 8:00 A.M.

Virginia, Christiansburg, WKEX-FM 105.9, 8:00 A.M.

Virginia, Lynchburg, WKPA 1390, 1:30 P.M. Fri., 5:30 P.M. Sat. & 6:00 A.M. Sun.

Virginia, Lynchburg, WKPA-FM 106.7, 1:30 P.M. Fri., 5:30 P.M. Sat. & 6:00 A.M. Sun.

Virginia, Roanoke, WKBA 1550, 1:30 P.M. Fri., 5:30 P.M. Sat. & 6:00 A.M. Sun.

Listen live—Go to www.wkbaradio.com

Virginia, Smithfield, WKGM 940, 6:30 A.M.

West Virginia, Summersville, WCWV 92.9, 8:30 A.M.

SHORTWAVE

WWCR, Nashville, Tennessee 4.840 on SW band

Sunday, 7:30 A.M. Eastern Time—12:30 G.M.T.

Listen live—Go to www.wwcr.com

WINB, Red Lion, Pennsylvania 9.320 on SW band

Friday, 9:30 P.M. Eastern Time, Saturday, 9:30 P.M. Eastern Time—2:30 G.M.T.

Listen live—Go to www.winb.com

COMING MEETINGS

2019 CAYMAN CONVENTION

83A Walkers Rd.

George Town, Grand Cayman

November 26-December 1, Lord willing

Bro. James Arch, Host Pastor

2019 PHILIPPINE CONVENTION

Lacayanga Subdivision

Paniqui, Tarlac, Philippines

December 26-30, Lord willing

Bro. Rey Fabian, Host Pastor

REVIVAL SERVICES

HAGERSTOWN, MD

October 4-6, 2019, Lord willing

Bro. Matt Deville, Evangelist

Bro. Gregory Tyler, Pastor

ESSEX, MD

October 22-27, 2019, Lord willing

Bro. Eric Jones, Evangelist

Bro. Doug Koerner, Pastor

ADD A NAME TO OUR MAILING LIST

If you know of someone you feel would appreciate this magazine, feel free to send us the name. Please make sure he/she wants it and it won't be refused.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____