
Vol. 75

January—February—March, 2023

No. 1

Faith & Miracles

Adult and Young People's Quarterly

INTRODUCTION

In Hebrews 11:6 we read, "Without faith it is impossible to please God."

So it follows that the more faith we have, the better we can please God. Therefore, it is necessary that we do our very best to increase our faith, and a study of this great subject will help us to this end. How very fortunate we are that we have the Word of God, which is so rich in teaching and in example!

The deplorable situation as found in world conditions today, socially and politically, is due to the lack of faith in God. Men say they have faith and make a profession of religion, while at the same time their lives repudiated their testimony. The greatest contribution we can give to the welfare and promotion of our country is not sacrifice on the battlefield, but a genuine, operating faith in God.

Then, too, our reward in eternity will be determined by the measure of our faith, for every man shall be rewarded according to his works, and James declared that he would show us his faith by his works.

In this quarter, we desire to set before the people a group of lessons, which will make the student conscious of the power, presence, and existence of the Lord. One of our greatest problems is to get people to study the Word of God. If we can interest the people in the great personality of God and get them started in the quest for truth in regard to His existence, then we have some hope of getting them to accept Him as their personal Savior. It is incredible that the world has wandered so far from God, especially in the last few decades, that in many instances there is no desire to seek after God but a determination to pursue the things of the world with utter abandonment.

The lessons set forth here include citations of the miracle-working power of almighty God, which go far beyond the accomplishments of men. Let us study these lessons, not only that we may learn about the facts that concern them, but also for the purpose of making them actually work in our day.

THE WAY OF TRUTH

P. O. Box 88

Hagerstown, MD 21741

PUBLISHERS OF CHURCH OF GOD LITERATURE

LESSON NUMBER ONE FOR JANUARY 1

LIVING FAITH

Scriptures: Hebrews 11:1-6; Ephesians 6:16; Matthew 17:19, 20; I Corinthians 12:9.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Ephesians 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Matthew 17:19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?

20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

I Corinthians 12:9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit.

Memory Verse: Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.—Hebrews 11:1.

Aim: To define and set forth faith that works.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday Hebrews 11
Tuesday II Timothy 1
Wednesday Joshua 2

Thursday John 6:16-40
Friday Genesis 6:8-22
Saturday Luke 13:10-17

INTRODUCTION

Man is a very dependent creature, having no creative power of his own. He lives by the things that he finds in the earth. Sometimes man gets into a place where the necessities of life are scarce, making hardship. Under such circumstances he has to look to a power greater than his own in order to survive. However, there are some who do not know God and are unaware of the power of faith in the name of Jesus. It is our purpose to set before the people the truth concerning faith in the name of Jesus Christ that all may know what God's Word offers to saints and sinners. It seems proper here to point out that all the miracles that occur in these days are not the result of faith in Christ. Satan has been using his power to perform miracles and thus causing people to think the many false religions are of God. Therefore, how

very necessary it is that we try the spirits, as God has said, to determine whether they be of God. Any demonstration of any kind of faith that is not of God is to be rejected and exposed.

MEDITATIONS

THE BIBLE DEFINITION—Hebrews 11:1—Substance of—Faith is the assurance we have in our hearts that causes us to believe God will do that which His Word has declared of Him. Though today we may not have received the thing that we asked of God, yet faith that wavers not is as good to us as the thing itself. Faith keeps and assures the soul when the enemy (Satan) pours in his lies and depressions.

BIBLE EXAMPLES—Hebrews 11:2—The elders—By the “elders” are meant the patriarchs and prophets of old. Several are particularly mentioned in the succeeding verses of this chapter. Their great faith in God placed them in the pages of history as men who pleased God and whose lives are given us as examples. Among these elders were Caleb and Joshua, two of the twelve spies who were sent to search out the land of Canaan. Their great faith in God caused them to declare, upon their return, that the Israelites were well able to take the land of Canaan.

UNDERSTANDING BY FAITH—Hebrews 11:3—Worlds were framed—It is entirely impossible for any man to comprehend how so vast a system as the earth, sun, moon, and stars could be brought into existence by speaking the word, since man within himself does not have the power to create anything. But by belief in the great and all-powerful God, we can get understanding. The earth and all created things were made of things that do not appear; in other words, invisible things. He who has arrived at the place where he can, with his whole heart, believe that the great creative hand of Almighty God made the earth, is in a position to begin to believe God for other things that shall appear in life.

ABEL'S FAITH—Hebrews 11:4—More excellent sacrifice—A sacrifice in itself is of no value at all unless the heart that is back of it is right. The thing that made the sacrifice of Abel more excellent was the fact that he was right with God. The difficulty with Cain was the fact that sin lay at his door. Abel believed that the living of a righteous life would bring a worthwhile reward; therefore, his faith caused him to live a righteous life. The life of Cain was void of faith, and the result was miserable failure and disappointment. Every man today who does not have active faith in the true and living God is certain to suffer spiritual shipwreck. The example of Abel is still powerful for good. His reward cannot be computed until time has ceased.

MIRACLES CONCERNING ENOCH—Hebrews 11:5—By faith Enoch—From this scripture we learn that the living faith that Enoch

had in God was responsible for his translation. Few indeed are the men of this earth who have passed to the next world except by the death route. Enoch was one of them, and it was faith that did it. But faith is noted for doing what to man is impossible. He who will cultivate faith in God will be able to do great things for humanity, for all things are possible to him who believes.

PLEASING GOD—Hebrews 11:6—Believe that he is—The Lord moves continually unseen in our midst. He steps from mountain to mountain, star to star. He rides the clouds, unseen, unheard. The faith of the Christian causes him to believe this without hesitation. It is usually Satan who moves upon a soul to disbelieve God, as in the case of Adam and Eve. Why should we doubt One who always tells us the truth? We are not pleased when someone believes a lie that is told about us, neither is God pleased when we do not have faith in Him. To please God we must believe all His Word without reservation. God is no respecter of persons, and He answers the prayers of everyone who trusts Him.

PERFECT DEFENSE—Ephesians 6:16—The shield of faith—The devil is powerful but God is almighty. Thus, God can assure us that He will be able to give us the victory in every conflict. After Satan has done the worst that he can, we can still be standing if we put our trust in God. Fiery darts were very destructive. Satan can torment with great suffering, but the shield of faith will enable us to overcome in every conflict. Fiery darts were used in ancient times by men of war. They were arrows, being on fire, shot from a bow. They could be sent over a wall that protected a city, setting fire to any combustible material they might come in contact with. Only God's grace can put out the fire of Satan's attacks.

SHORT ON FAITH—Matthew 17:19—Why could not we—It was the sight of the waves, no doubt, that struck fear into the heart of Peter when the Lord commanded him to come to Him in the water. Many times, the things that our eyes see cause us to doubt. If we will but keep our eyes on the right things, there are things all around us that will cause us to believe. Can we behold the sunshine without having faith in God? Life itself, in any form, is proof of the faithfulness of God. The prayer life of the disciples was not deep enough to enable them to cast the devil out of the child.

UNBELIEF, DEATH TO THE SOUL—Matthew 17:20—Your unbelief—We are told in the Word of God that all things are possible with God. Also, we are told He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think. If Christians really believe this, this would be a different world in a very short time. Our faith would not remove Satan, but would give us victory over every one of his attacks and give us great grace and joy invading his territory. A seed of mus-

tard was very small but still it carried within it all that was needed to produce a great plant if it were cast into the earth. So faith in the true and living God makes all things possible to us that are possible to God.

THE GIFT OF FAITH—I Corinthians 12:9—To another, faith—Every man is entrusted with some faith, and the proper and faithful use of it opens up the way for God to impart more faith. So, with the use of what faith we have, we find our faith is strengthened. If we fail to use what we have, our faith will, at once, become weaker. Although every man has some faith, yet there is a definite gift of faith coming from the Spirit of God. A man, with the gift of faith, will have great power in accomplishing things in the furtherance of the kingdom of God on earth.

CONCLUSION

The greatest examples of living faith are to be found in the history of the morning church. In those days men loved God more than they loved their own lives. They did not hesitate to put everything they possessed into the work of the Lord. Signs and wonders followed the preaching of the Word. If one man lost his life in the mighty conflict, others were ready to step in and take his place. The forces of evil that face us today are mighty, and they can be overcome only by such demonstrations of faith that won in the morning time. To say we have faith in God is of very little use in convincing an unbelieving world. If we will convince the world of God, we must have the works that are the result of a living faith in the true and living God. "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils ... they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover." Oh, how the world does need the ministry of the saints that can lay their hands on the sick and see them recover! The devil has imposed much suffering on humanity in the way of disease, but there is a cure for this. God is the divine Healer who operates without a knife and heals without pills. Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil in both soul and body. Living faith in Jesus Christ will produce in the believer everything that is spoken of in the Word of God.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Give the Bible definition of living faith.
2. In whose name are all things possible?
3. Give two Bible examples of living faith.
4. What hinders most people from having faith in God?
5. We as Christians are unable to believe for many things. Are we guilty of sin?
6. What is possible through the use of the shield of faith?
7. Why were the disciples unable to cast the demons out of the child?
8. Does everyone have the gift of faith?

LESSON NUMBER TWO FOR JANUARY 8
RELATIONSHIP OF FAITH TO WORKS

Scriptures: James 2:14-26; John 6:28, 29.

James 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.

19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his

son upon the altar?

22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

John 6:28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

Memory Verse: For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.—James 2:26.

Aim: To show the connection between faith and works.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday Galatians 2
Tuesday Matthew 21
Wednesday I John 5

Thursday John 10
Friday James 2
Saturday Luke 7:1-10

INTRODUCTION

Many people do not understand the relationship between faith and works, declaring that a certain amount of works must be performed in connection with faith in order to get the attention of the Lord. For instance, they say that he who is sick must do what he can to help himself in the way of seeking medical help. Of course, it is true that in life there are certain things we must do if we are to have our faith rewarded. One could not sit idly down and say, "I have faith that God will provide food for me to eat." Such a man would certainly starve to death unless someone who had plenty would take pity upon him. God has declared that men should work with their hands that they might have to give to them that have need.

If a man has faith in God, he can see the sick healed as a result of his faith. These are the works that follow faith. Works is the believing on the One whom God has sent, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is very difficult to know how to do anything for a person who is sick, for the human body is so delicate, and we, with our limited knowledge, are very likely to do something that will do harm and not good.

MEDITATIONS

TRUE FAITH IS PRODUCTIVE—James 2:14—What doth it profit—It isn't uncommon to hear it said by individuals that they have all kinds of faith, meaning that they have strong faith. It is true that most people believe in their minds that God is all-powerful and does great miracles, but that is not the kind of faith that produces results. Any man who has faith in God is certain to be accomplishing something in the way of works. By faith in God the prophet Elijah caused the heavens to give rain after a drought of three and one-half years. Peter raised the dead, Philip cast out demons, and Stephen wrought many mighty miracles. If anyone has faith, the world will know it by the things that he does. He need not tell anyone he has faith.

DOING OUR PART—James 2:16—Depart in peace—We are commanded by the Word of God to work with our hands that we may have to give to them that have need. The man who has work for his hands and has health is fortunate, indeed, and should be willing to share with the unfortunate. This is God's plan for the care of those whom misfortune has made cold and hungry. He who feels he must keep all for himself, fearing the future, is lacking in faith. He who gives, not fearing the future, has faith. God will keep a man of faith alive in famine.

DEAD FAITH—James 2:17—Being alone—We hear some speak of what they believe God can do, and yet we see no results from such supposed faith. Living faith produces works. First of all, it will cause us to do what we can to help others, as the previous verses point out, and living faith will enable us to pray for God to do that which we cannot do. Dead faith will not move God on His throne, it will not bring answers to prayer, and it will not enable a person to please God. Such faith is of the head and mouth alone and is as sounding brass, for no works follow it.

THE EVIDENCE OF FAITH—James 2:18—By my works—A farmer gives evidence of a natural faith when he prepares his ground and plants the seed and waits for sunshine and rain. His faith that his labors will be rewarded causes him to work. If a man is out of work and he asks God to give him employment, if he has faith, he will go out expecting to find work, leaving no clue unexplored. But in case of sickness, what are the works that will follow faith, or, in the words of James, what works would be shown by one's faith? Some say it is the use of medicine, or going to the hospital. But suppose a person and the

doctors have done all they know to do, and the doctors say there is nothing else that can be done! Must the sick one die? No! True faith will try the Great Physician, and the works of healing will follow true faith. If any man gets healing from God, it is a work that follows faith.

FAITH IN GOD—James 2:19—One God—There is one ruling force or power comprehended in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. Besides this one ruling power, whose kingdom ruleth over all (Psalm 103:19), there is none other. Satan is an imposter, having imposed himself upon millions of deceived souls. No one knows better than Satan that there is one God who is almighty. He believes and trembles, for he knows he must suffer the wrath that rewards disobedience.

WHEN IS LIFE VAIN?—James 2:20—O vain man—Here James points out that one who has “dead faith” is a “vain man.” In other words, a religious profession without living faith, without a true experience of salvation that enables one to live the gospel and produce fruit is vain. We need to remember, Jesus said, “Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21).

ABRAHAM’S EXAMPLE—James 2:21—Justified by works—God commanded Abraham to offer up Isaac, but in Hebrews 11 we read that his faith caused him to believe that God could raise him from the dead. Therefore, he was willing to carry out the command of God. We are not to understand this verse as saying Abraham was justified from his sins by this act of obedience, but that his living faith in God enabled him to carry out the will of God, and thus he was just in God’s sight.

FAITH PROVEN BY WORKS—James 2:22—Made perfect—Living faith cannot exist without being active in works of righteousness. Abraham’s faith was demonstrated to the world by the things he did. His faith would have been of no avail to him had it not been manifested by works. True faith will die if a person does not live in obedience to the Word of God.

GAINING GOD’S FRIENDSHIP—James 2:23—The Friend of God—What a privilege! To be a friend of God is the greatest blessing anyone could know in this time world. Abraham was a friend of God because of his faith in God and his obedience to the will of God. You too can be a friend of God by having faith in God and by obeying Him, as Abraham did.

FAITH AND WORKS INSEPARABLE—James 2:24—Man is justified—No man can be justified unless he has to his credit works that attend and follow faith. (Here again, the word *justified* is not being used in the sense of pardon from sin; but in the sense of being justified in that you are obeying the commands of God.) Faith cannot stand alone; if it is alive, it will be accompanied by works.

THE EXAMPLE OF RAHAB—James 2:25—Received the messengers—For some reason Rahab feared God and His people; therefore, she acted accordingly, and her faith was rewarded.

THE PROOF OF DEAD FAITH—James 2:26—Faith without works—As there is no life or activity in a body from which the spirit has departed, so faith that is not producing works is dead.

WORKS DEFINED—John 6:28—Work the works of God—Erroneously, the Jews were stressing material things and excluding spiritual things. They would have liked to have had a king who could provide abundance for them without their labor. The slight rebuke of Jesus aroused their interest, and thus, they sought to know what the works of God were. **Verse 29—Ye believe on him—**To believe on the name of Christ is to do all His will requires. It is believing, or faith, that produces the works. Never is it the works that produces the faith or friendship with God. Satan opposes the believer with great vehemence; thus, sometimes believing God, in opposition to Satan, runs into work.

CONCLUSION

When we pray that God will increase our faith, we are unconsciously praying that God will increase our works, for faith without works is dead. The greater our faith becomes in God, the greater will be the works that follow us. There is opportunity in the world for men of great faith, for there is such a great need in salvation of both soul and body. The foreign fields are crying for deliverance from oppression of sin and disease. Our social system, the world over, is degraded by the evils of graft, greed and tyranny. I trust that every Christian who reads this shall wait before God until faith is strengthened and increased so that the justice and good will of Jesus Christ may increase in the earth.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What will happen when true faith is exhibited?
2. How did Abraham prove that he had faith?
3. Is helping the poor a demonstration of faith in God?
4. What is dead faith?
5. What is happening in the life of a man who has faith?
6. Describe the life of a man who has no faith.
7. Why was Abraham called a friend of God?
8. Give the Bible definition of works.

LESSON NUMBER THREE FOR JANUARY 15

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Scriptures: Romans 5:1-6; Jude 3; Ephesians 4:6, 13; Colossians 1:18; Mark 16:15-18.

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Jude 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Ephesians 4:6 One God and Father of

all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Memory Verse: Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.—Jude 3.

Aim: To show the Christian's obligation to stand on the faith of the Bible.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Jude	Thursday	Titus 2
Tuesday	II Timothy 3	Friday	I Timothy 4
Wednesday	II Timothy 4	Saturday	I Timothy 1

INTRODUCTION

The fact that God has given to His people a strong and formidable armor indicates that there is in store a great battle. The truth must be defended against all contenders, and the defense is in the hands of the saints. When we consider how badly the truth of the Word of God has been twisted by the powers of darkness, we are at once made

aware of the strong defense that is needed. Why should so many say that the day of miracles and healing is past? It is an effort of the devil to rob man of the great blessing of physical health. He does not like for anyone to receive the blessing of healing at the hand of God.

The "faith" that Jude exhorts us to contend for are the doctrines, the teachings of the Word of God: justification by faith; sanctification by the Spirit; Divine healing through the prayer of faith; the one body, the Church of God; unity of the believers; holy living in our daily lives, which includes separation from the evils of the world; and modesty in dress. We who know Christ should contend earnestly for the faith that was once delivered to the saints.

MEDITATIONS

FAITH FOR JUSTIFICATION—Romans 5:1—Being justified
—The entire plan of redemption is built upon the foundation of faith. To have peace with God, the soul of man must recognize himself as a sinner and acknowledge Christ as the One appointed of God to save. Many false teachers have set aside this truth, substituting works, handshaking, and whatnot for the faith once delivered to the saints. We who know the truth must stand by the gospel in its purity, even though it means death.

FAITH FOR SANCTIFICATION—Romans 5:2—Into this grace—This is the standing grace of the power imparted to the human soul by the incoming of the Spirit of God, which enables the Christian to overcome every attack of Satan. This is the grace of victorious living, which brings joy to the soul. This, too, has been distorted by modern teachers; but if men have power with God, they must have the sanctifying grace of Jesus Christ. It is the incoming of the Spirit (imparting the grace of sanctification) that makes possible the gifts that are so sorely needed in the body of Christ.

POWER IN ADVERSITY—Romans 5:3—Glory in tribulations—A Christian can and does draw strength and courage from the day of adversity, for he knows that everything in his life is under the direct supervision of God, who will work all things out in the end for good. It is a great thing to be able to rejoice in the day of tribulation, and such is the inheritance of the victorious Christian. A person who is patient is not irritated by the reverses of life. He who has acquired great patience is accomplished indeed.

THE STRENGTH OF HOPE—Romans 5:4—Hope—Hope of eternal life brings rest as well as joy to the soul. These teachings are all strong elements in the faith of a Christian and are to be set forth constantly, both by example and teaching.

THE GREAT COMFORTER—Romans 5:5—By the Holy Ghost—Jesus petitioned the Father to send the Holy Ghost into the

hearts of His followers in order that they might have an abiding Comforter and Teacher. God answered this prayer, and ten days after Christ's ascension, the Spirit came upon His disciples, and from that day to this He has been available to every believer who would receive Him.

THE ROCK OF OFFENSE—Romans 5:6—Christ died—This was the “stone of stumbling.” The Jews wanted prestige and power with the world, so does nominal Christianity today. But Jesus came emphasizing true values and not material values. Life does not consist in the abundance of things we possess. Life is knowing God and enjoying the presence of His Spirit in our lives. It is the material emphasis that men are putting upon life that is causing trouble. We must give spiritual values their proper place if our civilization is to survive. We must contend for this truth.

EARNEST CONTENTION—Jude 3—For the faith—The faith of the gospel of Jesus Christ is not of recent origin. It is embodied in the Word of God, which is eternal. The eternal Word in the hands of unscrupulous men has been given much abuse, and its meaning, twisted almost beyond recognition. This ungodly practice should be met with the greatest of vehement opposition, and that is what was meant by “earnestly contend.” This gospel is entrusted to the saints only and will not be found in the hands of a drinking, smoking, gambling, show-going ministry. Contention as spoken of here is not carnal, but mighty through the Spirit of God, to the pulling down of the strongholds of sin.

THE ONE GOD—Ephesians 4:6—Father of all—Three divine Persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, constitute the one ruling force in all creation. The devil is a rebel and before long must be brought to trial, after which he shall be confined in God's penitentiary, the lake of fire.

UNITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE—Ephesians 4:13—Till we all come—God-called ministers go abroad, not only for the purpose of carrying the good news, the gospel, but to teach and instruct the people that God's people are one. God never sent one preacher out to build up Catholicism or any other “ism.” His ministers are sent to tear it down. Improper teaching has divided and scattered the flock of God, and wolves have done their destructive work because of the lack of protection for the flock in this divided state.

CHRIST THE HEAD—Colossians 1:18—Head of the body—The body of Christ is the church that Jesus is building. It is the spiritual and can be seen only as God the Father reveals it unto men. That is why people who are not spiritual declare that the Church of God is only a church among churches. Many souls have been very pleasantly

surprised when the exquisite beauty of the Church of God has been revealed to them. Others die, contending for divided religions, having never seen the beauty of the bride.

THE GREAT COMMISSION—Mark 16:15—Go ye—Here is real opportunity. He who desires to progress, to make a name, to gain knowledge and wisdom, to amass a fortune or gather riches, let him enlist in the service of God and lay every talent and resource at the feet of Jesus. This time world may buffet him, deny him food, water, and shelter, may imprison him; but it cannot mar the crown of glory that is being prepared for him if he stays true. It is required of every Christian that he put forth persevering effort in the work of God.

THE GOSPEL RECIPE—Mark 16:16—He that believeth—Entrance into the kingdom of God is gained by faith in the Word of God. We keep favor with God through obedience. Water baptism is an act of obedience and has no power to wash away sins.

WORKS FOLLOW—Mark 16:17, 18—Lay hands on the sick—The gospel of Jesus Christ is broad enough to include every possible need of man. This takes in the healing of the body.

CONCLUSION

In contending for the faith of the gospel, we are duty bound to champion every teaching that comes from the Word of God. The religious confusion that we know today comes from the incorrect interpreting of the Word of God. Therefore, we must have the understanding that comes direct from God alone. He will not send out one message that will cause confusion. He speaks nothing but the truth, and the truth of the Word of God makes us free. As a people, we are too self-satisfied, leaning upon the leadership of the people who have never gained an experience with God for themselves. They are like unto the leader, Nicodemus, who came to Jesus by night and was informed that he needed to be born again. How can anyone impart to another that which he does not have himself? Yet Nicodemus was trying to lead the Jewish people in the way of righteousness. Such is the sad plight today in much of the world. We who know the truth must not spare anything in carrying the message to the ends of the earth.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. For what purpose has God given His people a strong armor?
2. What does faith in justification do for the sinner?
3. How can we get glory out of tribulation?
4. What is the blessing of Christian living?
5. Why should we contend earnestly for THE faith?
6. Why is it that everyone cannot see the bride of Christ?

LESSON NUMBER FOUR FOR JANUARY 22

DIVINE HEALING

Scriptures: Acts 17:28; Psalm 103:2, 3; Matthew 4:23; Isaiah 53:5; I Peter 2:24; James 5:14, 15; III John 2.

Acts 17:28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

Psalm 103:2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.

Matthew 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are

healed.

I Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

James 5:14 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:

15 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.

III John 2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

Memory Verse: Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.—Hebrews 13:8.

Aim: To enlighten the student on the Bible doctrine of divine healing.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday Psalm 6
Tuesday Isaiah 53
Wednesday Psalm 103

Thursday Mark 7
Friday Matthew 8
Saturday Matthew 20

INTRODUCTION

Men believe they are making rapid progress in their search for knowledge in regard to the human body and its care. Even so, there is yet much mystery about it. The need for the Great Physician who can care for every sickness and ailment still is and always shall be very urgent. But it is true in the healing of the body, as in the saving of the soul, our faith must take hold if we are to receive the blessing. Sickness has been a great enemy of mankind through the centuries, and we shall be confronted with it as long as the world stands. But if men can only believe, they have a deliverer in Jesus Christ! We hope to set forth this truth plainly in this lesson.

MEDITATIONS

MAN TOTALLY DEPENDENT—Acts 17:28—Have our being—Men little realize how dependent they are upon God. Jesus said once that without Him we can do nothing. If we live and move and have our being in God, it is quite evident that God supplies all the strength that

we have. Then why should it be difficult for us to believe that we could receive from God any repair work that needs to be done on the body? As this scripture states, we are His offspring; therefore, He created us; and if He created us in our beginning, again, it is only reasonable to conclude that He heals. The Scriptures bear out this reasoning.

GOD'S MANY BENEFITS—Psalm 103:2—Forget not—The majority of people are receiving from the hand of God the blessings of life, but failing to acknowledge Him. This is deplorable. Among these many benefits are health and the promise of healing if our health becomes impaired.

DELIVERANCE FROM ALL DISEASES—Psalm 103:3—Heal-eth all—In this scripture we first have the promise of forgiveness of all sins, and then David hastens on to add that we also have healing for all diseases. So, it would be just as reasonable to think that God would not forgive all our sins if we asked Him, as to think that He would not heal all our diseases. **Matthew 4:23—All manner of sickness**—In His personal ministry on earth Jesus never found any sickness that was too hard for Him. He healed everyone who came to Him. He has left His ministry in the hands of His appointed followers, and He expects them to carry on the work He started.

LIGHT FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT—Isaiah 53:5—By whose stripes—Isaiah looked down through the centuries and saw the sacrifice that was to be made for healing of the diseases of men in all ages. He made his statement concerning healing in the present tense, which proves he included healing in the ministry of his day. The saints of that day looked forward to the coming of Christ; we look back.

PETER'S TESTIMONY—I Peter 2:24—Were healed—Peter here uses the past tense in referring to the healing purchased for us by Christ, indicating that it was a completed transaction. Healing has been provided for us; and if we do not contend for it, we are living below our privileges.

GOD'S PLAN—James 5:14—Any sick—The great power and providence of God leaves out no one. Is there any sick? Oh, that we might point the suffering to Christ! But there is something for them to do. They are to call for the elders of the Church. There are many churches but God has only one, which is the Church. Healing might proceed from the prayers of the elders of a false church, but the healing would not be of God. Nothing Satan has to offer is to be desired. **Anointing him with oil**—The oil that is used in anointing is a symbol of the Holy Spirit's power. A very small amount is applied with the finger or a drop or so poured on the head. This is done in the name of Jesus Christ, for we are told if we ask anything of the Father in His

name, He will do it. If we desire results, the commands of God must be obeyed. **Verse 15—Raise him up**—How helpless man is when disease strikes! Any assistance that man can give is based upon the slow process of healing by nature. In an operation, man makes an incision, but he cannot heal; he must wait for nature to heal the wound. God gives us the gracious assurance that when the prayer of faith is offered, He will raise up the sick. More than this, at the same time the sick person, if he is a sinner, can have his sins forgiven.

HEALING, GOD'S WILL—III John 2—Be in health—Bro. John put it very strongly here, and we are to accept it that way, "Above all things." His desire was that the saints be in health and prosper, even as they prospered spiritually. Healing is offered just as freely as salvation is.

OUR MEMORY VERSE—Hebrews 13:8—There is only one Savior, only one who gave His life, shed His blood, to redeem us from sin. He suffered outside the walls of Jerusalem to sanctify His people, and He suffered stripes on His back for the healing of our bodies. His sacrifice is just as effective today as in ages past.

CONCLUSION

There are two processes that God uses in healing. One is by the slow process of natural recovery. For instance, if a person is sick with a disease, when the prayer of faith is offered, the disease is rebuked, and nature restores the body to normal. Possibly, most healing is of this nature, and skeptics would say that God had nothing to do with it. The other process is by miraculous restoration. The sick person is instantly restored to health. The writer once prayed for a woman who was slowly bleeding to death with a hemorrhage of the nose. The Lord allowed us to continue in prayer for about three hours, and then God instantly restored her. While we watched, we saw the color instantly come back into her face. God miraculously replaced the blood that was lost, and the woman was normal. Healing is made seemingly difficult by the constant opposition of Satan, but we must learn to overcome him. He has robbed many a poor pilgrim of his blessing of healing and defeated others even before they got started.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Does the learning of men make the healing ministry of Jesus less necessary?
2. What is meant by the elders of the church?
3. Describe the two methods of healing.
4. To what extent is the human family dependent upon God?
5. How desirous is God to heal us?
6. Compare healing and salvation in the plan of God.
7. Give an experience of healing.

LESSON NUMBER FIVE FOR JANUARY 29

THE GREAT HEALER PROMISED

Scriptures: Malachi 4:2; Isaiah 35:5, 6; 53:4, 5; 61:1, 2.

Malachi 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

Isaiah 35:5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

Isaiah 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 61:1 The spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn.

Memory Verse: But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.—Malachi 4:2.

Aim: To teach that Christ came as a fulfillment of prophecy as a Healer.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday **Matthew 11**
Tuesday **Isaiah 61**
Wednesday **John 5:1-15**

Thursday **Acts 3:11-26**
Friday **Luke 7:18-23**
Saturday **Malachi 4**

INTRODUCTION

In the beginning God created man perfect in every detail. His health was perfect; therefore, he had no need of a physician or any form of medicine. The food was perfect and supplied everything the body could need. But when Adam and Eve sinned they were driven out of the garden, and away from the tree of life, thus sickness and disease entered the life of the family of man. Therefore, God provided the plan whereby the soul could be restored to its original state and instituted the doctrine of healing that the body could be delivered from disease until the end of time, when, according to His plan, He would redeem the body. So, through the Old Testament writings we gather the promise that Christ, a Healer, would come. To them who believed He would come, God granted the blessings of His coming, even as He does to us who believe that He did come.

MEDITATIONS

MALACHI'S PROPHECY—Malachi 4:2—Healing in his wings
—Wings in the fowl family, especially at brooding time, are an emblem of protection, or safety. In the Sun of righteousness (Jesus Christ) there should be given to the people safety and protection. This scripture by no means can be confined to physical healing, for the healing of the soul takes first consideration here. Men need protection from themselves, and it is only by the conversion of the soul that men can come to a place where they can be trusted. However, it does take in healing of the body, and through the blood of Jesus we have deliverance from every disease and sickness that can come to the human family. With God's help for soul and body, surely the Christian should flourish in his place as a calf fed in the protection of a stall.

ISAIAH'S PROPHECY—Isaiah 35:5—Shall be opened—In order for anyone to accomplish all that God desires that he should, he must have the right use of all his faculties. Misfortune, disease, and intemperance often destroy part of man's faculties, but there we are promised that the time would arrive when the blind eyes and deaf ears would be restored. Why is not more work of this kind done since the "Deliverer" has come? Because men are not trusting God to do what He has promised, but rather they are trusting man. Also, false teachers have set aside the truth of the Word of God so that the majority of the people do not know what God's will is for them. **Verse 6—Waters break out**—To be without literal water is torture, and to be without spiritual water (the Word of God in its true meaning) is far worse. The Pharisees taught for doctrine the commandments of men, and Jesus said, "In vain do they worship me" (Matthew 15:9). God planned that not only the Jews but also the Gentiles should have the truth of His Word. At the time of the coming of Christ, there was no "open vision." The people "sat in darkness." The spiritual condition of the people was as dry as a desert. The day of Pentecost certainly reversed this condition. People began to shout for joy as the "pure water of life" was poured out to them.

Isaiah 53:4—Esteemed him not—Many of the people did not regard Jesus, especially the religious leaders. They put their traditions ahead of the true Word of God. Jesus taught the people the truth, they should seek first the kingdom of God, not the material things of the world. Because He did, they were ashamed of Him and finally became so irritated that they crucified Him. **Verse 5—Wounded for our transgressions**—The great problem is to get men to set the proper value on spiritual things. They realize there is a need, but rather than carry out the Word of God as God directs, they make a form of religion and ease their conscience by becoming a part of it. This is one of the things for which Christ was wounded, and from

which men need to be delivered. It is the work of Satan to get the affection of men on things, ahead of God Himself. Disease is in the wake of sin. Christ not only was wounded for our transgressions, but also for the effects of them.

Isaiah 61:1—Preach good tidings—What could be better tidings to any of us than the knowledge that Someone was coming who would lift all our heavy burdens? One of our heavy burdens is sickness. How wonderful to have One come to set us free from the bondage of disease, as the daughter of Abraham who had been bound eighteen years was set free! In the fourth chapter of Luke and verse eighteen, Jesus refers to this prophecy in Isaiah 61:1 and declares that He is the One who fulfills it. He is just the same today, thank God! **Verse 2—To comfort**—How wonderful it is when God comforts the heart by lifting disease. A widow was taking her son to the cemetery. Jesus stopped the procession and returned the son alive to his mother. Surely Jesus does comfort, in a real way, all who mourn.

CONCLUSION

There can be no question but what many hearts rejoiced in the old dispensation as they read the promises that God would send a Deliverer. Some in that day had a true conception of what He would be and what He would do, but for the most part the people looked for a warlike overlord who would, without mercy, destroy every enemy in a natural sense. It is true that Jesus does, without mercy, destroy every enemy in a spiritual sense (this includes sickness), but He did not come to conquer the world by the means of the sword. He did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them. Since we all believe that Christ came in fulfillment of prophecy and the prophecy so strongly declared that He should heal, why then should anyone doubt that He heals today?

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Why was there no sickness in the beginning?
2. What does sin have to do with sickness?
3. When sin and sickness were imposed on the human family, what did God do about it?
4. If Jesus died that all men might be healed, why is not everyone healed?
5. What is the spiritual meaning of waters breaking out in the desert?
6. What is the meaning of the desert?
7. Why did many of the Jews turn their backs on Jesus?
8. Is the nominal Christian today any better than the Jews in Jesus' day?

LESSON NUMBER SIX FOR FEBRUARY 5

WHY SOME ARE NOT HEALED

Scriptures: II Chronicles 16:12, 13; II Samuel 12:13-19; Luke 4:27.

II Chronicles 16:12 And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the Lord, but to the physicians.

13 And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign.

II Samuel 12:13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said unto David, The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

14 Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

15 And Nathan departed unto his house. And the Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.

16 David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and

lay all night upon the earth.

17 And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.

18 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?

19 But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead.

Luke 4:27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.

Memory Verse: If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.—Psalm 66:18.

Aim: To show how some people forfeit their right to be healed.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday

Isaiah 59

Thursday

Proverbs 1

Tuesday

Jeremiah 42

Friday

Psalm 41

Wednesday

Jeremiah 43

Saturday

II Chronicles 33

INTRODUCTION

There are a number of reasons why men fail in their efforts to get healing from the gracious hand of God. But there is one thing certain: If the conditions of the Word of God are met, healing will be the result. However, we will make this exception, that the will of God always must be permitted to operate, for in some cases it is best that a loved one be taken out of this world. But if we reply that he does not need to die sick, then good enough, but we have learned from experience that God has taken the greater majority of His people out while they were sick. Divine healing is one of the great blessings that God has given to men, so we need to know more about it so that we may be able to receive it ourselves and help other souls to the experience.

MEDITATIONS

FORGETTING GOD—II Chronicles 16:12—Sought not the Lord—The knowledge of man is so small and insignificant in comparison to the knowledge of God. Is it not true that no man has any power to heal, that at the best, he can only assist nature, which is entrusted with the care of the human body? Often if nature is permitted to take its course, death is the result; but men can do some things that will change the course of nature, and the sick person will recover. Divine healing is the intervention of God, miraculously restoring any sick person back to health or changing the physical situation so that nature can restore health. **Verse 13—And died**—The king's age was not great, falling far short of his allotted seventy years. We are given no reason why Asa did not look to the Lord.

SIN HINDERS HEALING—II Samuel 12:13—I have sinned—One thing that was in the favor of David here was that he did not try to cover up his sin. No man needs to expect to receive anything from the Lord if he tries to cover up his sin. He who covers his sin shall not prosper. **Verse 14—Given great occasion**—Any sin that man commits becomes a testimony to the world that sin pays and is to be more desired than righteousness. God is greatly grieved at the knowledge of sin, but it is a source of fiendish glee to the devil. David's act here gave great satisfaction to the devil. The nations around about the kingdom of Israel had occasion to speak against the religion of one who previously had held such a high standard and had boasted of what great things God could do.

THE JUDGMENT OF GOD—II Samuel 12:15—The Lord struck—What man could offer any assistance under such a circumstance? Neither men nor devils could effect a cure. Neither men nor devils can hinder once God has stretched forth His hand to heal. The sin of David demanded a just recompense, and God saw to it that it was given. **Verse 16—David fasted**—In those days men valued very highly the lives of their children; and David, having known God and what He could do, sought earnestly to turn back the judgments that God had pronounced. He did everything within his power, but it was of no avail.

CONSOLATION OF NO HELP—II Samuel 12:17—The elders—Those in his own house who had walked before him, facing life as it is, came to him, but their words were comfortless. This was a circumstance in which God alone could give comfort.

GOD CARRIES OUT HIS WORD—II Samuel 12:18—The child died—The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. How the flesh does cling to those whom we have learned to love! Yet we know that the Word of God declares that the day of one's death is better than the day of one's birth. David exercised himself so greatly in prayer, for he

knew the compassion of the Lord, and he reasoned that he might win out. **Verse 19—Is the child dead?**—David reasoned that now since the child had died, he could not bring him back, but he could go to him, and he ceased his grieving. We see very plainly that sin was in the way of the healing in this particular case.

SPIRITUAL BANKRUPTCY—Luke 4:27—Was healed—The spiritual state of Israel had fallen very low during the years, even though the Israelites were the chosen people of God. Having the insight of the Scriptures that they did, they naturally should, first of all, reap the benefit of the power of God in healing. We are in the very same place today in the religious world. Few people, comparatively speaking, are receiving any healing from God. Naaman was an outsider and what the Jews would be pleased to spit upon, but he obeyed the Word of God to the letter and received the blessing. It remains true today that he who obeys the Word of God is in line for the blessing of healing.

OUR MEMORY VERSE—Psalms 66:18—If I regard—The Word does not teach that God will not hear a sinner's prayer of repentance, for certainly He will. But the Scriptures do teach that His eyes are over the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers. Further, the Scriptures teach, His face is against those that do evil. It is true that Jesus healed many that were not living right, but it was not their prayer that healed them; it was because of His compassion. And He told various ones to "go and sin no more." To seek healing, to seek to be well, so that you may continue a life of sin is not the will of God.

CONCLUSION

There are many reasons why men are not healed other than have been given so far in this lesson. God loves to heal and never fails to answer the prayer of faith, but we meet a powerful enemy in Satan, who will hinder in every opportunity that he can produce. His most common tool is that of unbelief. The Scriptures declare that the prayer of faith shall save the sick, but many people will not believe that they are healed until they have the feelings. Failure to confess our faults will also hinder the healing of our bodies, as we are told by the writing of James. We know that everyone has faults, and it is well to examine ourselves if our healing is hindered.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Why was it that God did not heal King Asa?
2. Give a reason why more people do not trust God for healing.
3. Why was it that God did not heal David's son?
4. Why were the lepers not healed in Israel in Naaman's time?
5. Why is it that more people are not healed today?
6. Can you give from your own experience a reason why you were not healed?

LESSON NUMBER SEVEN FOR FEBRUARY 12

CHRIST'S POWER OVER THE ELEMENTS

Scriptures: Matthew 14:23-33.

Matthew 14:23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

28 And Peter answered him and said,

Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

Memory Verse: And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.—Matthew 28:18.

Aim: To show the miraculous power of God over the elements.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday Matthew 14
Tuesday John 2
Wednesday Ephesians 1

Thursday Luke 5
Friday Mark 6
Saturday Mark 8:1-21

INTRODUCTION

In giving the last commission Jesus made it plain that signs and wonders would follow the preaching of the Word of God. Therefore, if signs and wonders are not following the preaching of the Word, we may be sure that there is something wrong. Signs and wonders are of great value in furthering the cause of Christ. As in our lesson today, when the disciples saw the Lord walking upon the water, they were assured that He was the Son of God. In these last days there is a need that we seek to let the gospel have its full sway with all the signs and wonders that God may desire to perform, for our generation is drunken on the marvelous material creation that has been given unto us.

MEDITATIONS

OBTAINING POWER—Matthew 14:23—There alone—Christ was divine, yet He denied His heavenly glory and became subject to the limitations of the flesh. To have power as a man it was necessary that He pray. We find Him frequently resorting to prayer and contin-

uing on even through the night. There never arose an emergency in the life of Christ for which He was not prepared, He having gotten the victory previously in prayer. It was the prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane that made Him face the cross with victory. One reason for the lack of power among Christians today is the lack of prayer.

THE ELEMENTS OPPOSE MAN—Matthew 14:24—Wind was contrary—For the most part, the manifestation of the forces of nature in the form of waves, winds, and storms is the result of the operation of natural laws. However, sometimes the great Author of nature sees fit to intervene for the sake of a praying saint or for His own pleasure and cause it to rain or not to rain as He sees fit. So it was in the days of Elijah when he prayed that it would not rain, and the heavens withheld their rain for a period of three and one-half years. He prayed again and the heavens gave rain. Man has struggled in his helplessness against the bitter cold and scorching heat, the mighty waves of the ocean, sometimes losing and sometimes winning. When he sees that he is losing, it is then usually, that he calls on God. If he has been faithful and walking in the truth, he will have confidence that God will help him; if he has been in rebellion, he will not have faith to that end.

PRAYED UP—Matthew 14:25—Walking on the sea—It is hard for a rebellious soul to believe an unnatural occurrence; but the man who knows God finds it easy to believe, for he expects God to be doing things that are unnatural. Oh, that God would give His people a keener understanding of His miraculous power! If we do not expect the miraculous, we shall see nothing but the commonplace. Then, too, it is well to remember that sometimes God works miracles when it looks as if it is only the forces of nature at work. It is easy for an unbeliever to say, when God sends rain in answer to prayer, "It was only nature; it would have rained anyhow." Or when the prayer of faith saves the sick, he may say, "They would have recovered anyhow." But walking on the sea was something that could not be turned aside by saying, "It would have happened anyway."

HUMANITY UNSTABLE—Matthew 14:26—Were troubled—Men who are so occupied by the material things of this short life have very little time to explore the spiritual realm, and any manifestation of the great spiritual realm will cause them concern because they are not acquainted with it. If we are expecting manifestations from the spirit world, we will not be surprised when we see them. Through experience with God we learn to trust Him, and sudden emergencies will not upset us. The fear of the disciples was great because they had not seen anything like this before. For all they knew, there was more danger from this happening than from the waves that were tossing all around them. When children or grown-ups get into a place where they

know nothing to do or there is nothing they can do, they will cry out. This is just a natural reaction. Perhaps a loud cry will bring help from somewhere.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—Matthew 14:27—Be not afraid—The words of Jesus brought assurance, for it was a voice that had power to comfort. Though Jesus is not in the earth today in body, yet He is here in the Spirit, and His voice is as assuring and as comforting today to the troubled soul as it was when He walked the shores of Galilee. Today there is much trouble in the land. Christianity has many foes. We as Christians must stand firm at our posts of duty, not fearing the roar of the lion or the threat of civil powers. Jesus is always present to comfort, if we trust Him. We should be encouraged when we know that He who walked upon the water is with us.

IMPETUOUS DECISION—Matthew 14:28—Bid me come—Most of us desire to see before we believe. Such was the case with Peter. He knew Jesus' voice, and addressed Him as Lord, but still he was not ready to believe fully until he had further proof. Doubting Thomas desired more proof, but Jesus reprimanded him mildly by saying, "Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed." By nature, Peter was impulsive, but had he stopped to weigh the matter more carefully, he possibly would not have suggested such action.

MAKING A GOOD START—Matthew 14:29—Walked on the water—Peter made a good start. He walked some on the water, which no other man but Christ ever did, as far as we have record. But his faith took in nothing but smooth water. Just as soon as the waves reached him, he wavered. So it is in life. Smooth sailing does not bother the average Christian, but it is when the trials and the storms of life come that difficulty is encountered and faith fails. It was good that Peter was going toward Jesus and not away from Him.

LOSING FAITH—Matthew 14:30—Wind boisterous—The hollow howl of the wind and the boisterous foaming of the waves engaged the attention of Peter to the point where he lost sight of the Master. He began to sink immediately. In this predicament there remained but one thing to do and that was to cry out. He was calling on the right One to save him. The same thing will happen to any man that loses sight of the power of God by being moved by what his eyes may see around him or by what he may feel. If we find ourselves in that place, there is only one thing to do and that is to do as Peter did. Call on the Lord. If we mean it with all our hearts, God will always hear us.

JESUS ANSWERS—Matthew 14:31—O thou of little faith—Jesus answered at once, but with a gentle rebuke. Little faith is evidence of little acquaintance with God. He who made the heavens and the earth by speaking the word is greatly reproached when we, by the

way we act, tell the world that God is a little God or that God does not mean what He says in the Word of God. He assures us that if we ask in faith nothing by any means shall be impossible to us. God is no respecter of persons, so we all may do great things in the name of the Lord if we dare to believe Him.

CONTROLLING THE ELEMENTS—Matthew 14:32—The wind ceased—On another occasion (Mark 4:39) Christ rebuked the wind and said unto the sea, “Peace, be still.” Then the disciples said, “What manner of man is this that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

RECOGNIZING DEITY—Matthew 14:33—Worshiped him—His demonstrations of power here convinced His onlookers that this man was more than man; He was God and deserved to be worshiped. He has gone to be with His Father that He may intercede for mankind, and now He has left to us the work of convincing the world of His deity and gospel plan. He promised us in the last commission that signs and wonders should follow the preaching of the Word of God. This is for the purpose that they who see the signs and wonders may see that God is in that people of a truth, and as a result, they will worship God.

CONCLUSION

God said in His Word that it pleased Him through the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. All preaching is committed to men themselves, so we need never expect that God will dispatch an angel to earth to do the work. If we are to do the preaching in the effort to get men to turn from sin to God, it is needful that we have some signs and wonders to follow the preaching, since we ourselves are nothing, that men be convinced of the truth of the Word of God. In *The Way of Truth* publishing work and in the local congregation of the Church of God, we have seen the invisible hand of God move in our behalf many times. It is indeed a very great encouragement when the Lord sets aside the laws of nature and moves out of the way the mountains that hinder the progress of His work. There needs to be greater visitations of the power of God, and we are looking forward to them.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Why was it necessary for Jesus to go aside alone and pray?
2. What can man do when the elements get too strong for him?
3. What is the value of wonders following the preaching of the Word?
4. Why were the disciples afraid when they saw Jesus walking on the water?
5. Why did Peter so suddenly ask Jesus to command him to come walking to Him on the water?
6. What do you think caused the wind to cease?

LESSON NUMBER EIGHT FOR FEBRUARY 19

THE RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS

Scriptures: John 11:1, 2, 4, 14, 15, 17, 21, 27, 43, 44.

John 11:1 Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

2 (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

4 When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

17 Then when Jesus came, he found

that he had lain in the grave four days already.

21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

Memory Verse: Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

Aim: To show Christ's miraculous power over death. —John 11:25.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday John 11:1-25
Tuesday John 11:26-57
Wednesday Luke 15

Thursday Luke 8
Friday Luke 7:11-17
Saturday II Kings 13

INTRODUCTION

In raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus demonstrated His mighty power of life and death. If He can raise the dead, we are encouraged to believe that He can more easily heal any sickness. At one time when Jesus sent out the disciples to preach, He commanded them to raise the dead. If in that age the dead were brought back to life through the labors of the Church, do we not have the right to expect as much today? Has God lost any of His power, compassion and love? The answer is, NO! Then the shortcoming is with the Church. Let us seek earnestly to be all that God would have us to be.

MEDITATIONS

SICKNESS STRIKES—John 11:1—Was sick—We look for a land where there will be no more sickness. In the land in which we now live, we know that disease is likely to strike any moment. We may be in the best of health today, and tomorrow be taken captive by a great fever, or become a victim of a serious accident. Mental powers may depreciate. Lazarus was not an old man, it seems, but was a victim of a serious disease. One does not have to be old to die.

UNMATCHED DEVOTION—John 11:2—Wiped his feet—The Lord knew perfectly the heart of Mary as she bestowed such affection upon Him. Mary, without doubt, had felt the joy of the forgiveness of a great load of sin, and it was a joy such as she had never known. She was entirely conscious of the fact that this great blessing had come from the divine heart and love of Christ, and in deep humility she tried her very best to show her Master true appreciation. This act of devotion pleased the Lord, and He found great satisfaction in His visits into the home. Divine favor becomes the blessing of all those who love as Mary loved, and we feel sure that this act of devotion had much to do with the raising of Mary's brother from the dead. If we would have the blessings of the favor of God, we, too, must show like devotion. **Verse 3—Whom thou lovest**—It is evident from this verse, too, that Lazarus had also shown special devotion to the Master. Mary and Martha knew of the love that Jesus had toward their brother; so, undoubtedly, sometime during their acquaintance Jesus had made an open avowal of it. In their great distress they did the very natural thing. They knew Jesus as One who did miracles.

MIRACLES GIVE GOD GLORY—John 11:4—Glorified thereby—Satan spends the entirety of his energy in an effort to make it appear that God, like himself, is a liar, having no power of His own. So when men offer faith, that makes it possible for God to work. He is permitted to reveal Himself to the world as He is, and that brings glory to Him. To fail to pray through, or to fail to believe God, pleases Satan and gives a testimony to the world that is misleading in regard to the personality of God. **Verse 14—Lazarus is dead**—Of course, Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen. Although Lazarus did die and had been buried four days, he would again take up his abode among the men of earth. Often in the Scriptures death is referred to as sleep. In mentioning the death of the Jews, the Scriptures often say, "So-and-so slept with his fathers." Even though the physical body does deteriorate and go back to dust, it shall be awakened from its slumber and stand before God in judgment.

DEAD WITHOUT DOUBT—John 11:17—In the grave—Christ allowed sufficient time to elapse after the death of Lazarus so that there could be no possible doubt about his being dead. All through the centuries men have deceived the people by making things appear different from what they were. Unscrupulous religious leaders have paid individuals to walk to a healing campaign on crutches (the individuals being perfectly normal), but after prayer was offered, the crutches were discarded. They have twisted the Scriptures and presented them in that manner as truth. The true religion of Jesus needs no deception nor any assistance. It is sufficient in itself to perform everything that is said of it. Jesus needed no deceptive help.

MARTHA HAS FAITH—John 11:21—If thou—Martha knew Jesus well enough that she could say Lazarus would not have died had

He been there; but her faith was greater than that, for in the next verse she declared that even then the Father would give Him whatever He might ask. Not only is it true that the Father would have given Jesus whatever He asked, but it is true that He will give us whatever we ask, if we ask in the name of Jesus.

CONFESSING CHRIST—John 11:27—Thou art the Christ—It is evident that Martha had an experience of salvation, this being the basis of her testimony. The Jews believed that the Promised One would be very unusual, possessing great power. Jesus had demonstrated His power, and Martha eagerly acknowledged that she had recognized it. It would be a great boon to Christianity today if Christ were permitted, through the faith of men, to demonstrate His miraculous power.

BREAKING DEATH'S GRIP—John 11:43—Cried with a loud voice—Jesus was somewhat filled with emotion at this time because of the sorrow of the sisters and His great love for the family. No doubt, He was eager to relieve them as soon as possible, but it was necessary to take advantage of this opportunity to set forth some truth concerning the gospel. This He took time for; and when He imparted the necessary gospel facts for the time being, He found relief in crying aloud, "Lazarus, come forth." Truly, Jesus is the resurrection and the life. **Verse 44—Let him go—**Jesus had successfully done His part. He had brought the dead back to life. The grave clothes, however, were still in place, and it was necessary that they be removed. Doubtless the hands that loosed him were the hands of excited and joyous and amazed people. What a relief it must have been to the sisters to receive alive their brother!

CONCLUSION

This great account was recorded for our benefit, and surely we do want to get all the benefit that is to be had from its study. We know that Jesus Christ has not changed through the years; and if men could trust Him in those days for the needs of the soul and body, we know that we can today. At the command of Jesus, Lazarus came forth without any hesitation. There is still authority in His command, thank God!

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Give one reason why Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.
2. In your estimation, why do we see no one raised from the dead today?
3. Can we look forward to a land that sickness will not visit?
4. How does God get glory by working miracles?
5. Why do you think Jesus delayed His coming to help the sisters?
6. Why did Martha confess with such certainty that Jesus was the Christ?

LESSON NUMBER NINE FOR FEBRUARY 26

THE CONVERSION OF SAUL

Scriptures: Acts 7:58; 9:1-9.

Acts 7:58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

Acts 9:1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

8 And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus.

9 And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

Memory Verse: And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do.—Acts 22:10.

Aim: To emphasize the miracle in the deliverance from sin.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday Acts 22:1-16
Tuesday Acts 22:17-30
Wednesday Acts 23:1-11

Thursday Acts 23:12-22
Friday Acts 23:23-35
Saturday Acts 24

INTRODUCTION

We know little of the factors that were brought to bear upon Paul to bring about his conversion. It cannot be doubted, however, that the faithful adherence of Stephen to the faith of the Lord Jesus, even under the hail of stones that ended his life, had a very great influence upon Paul. But there were others besides Stephen who had felt the wrath of Paul, for persecution of the Christians was his business, and with each succeeding experience, no doubt, his heart was operated upon by the Holy Spirit, until he was ready for the experience on the road to Damascus when the sudden appearance of the great light of heaven, with the voice of the Lord Jesus, fully broke him down. How faithful is the gracious Spirit of God to all men, continually striving to lead them into safety away from the damning influences of sin!

MEDITATIONS

PAUL, THE PERSECUTOR—Acts 7:58—Young man's feet—

Paul believed that he was doing the will of the Father when he persecuted the followers of the Lord Jesus, for he had been taught that Jesus Christ was an imposter. His understanding of the Scriptures could not allow that Jesus was the Messiah who was to come. When he kept the clothes of them who did the actual stoning, he was as guilty as they who did the stoning, and there can be no doubt but that his conscience hurt him; but his devotion to man-made teachings caused him to ride over the check of conscience. Paul had the very same spirit and state of mind that the Hebrews had who stoned Stephen, whose clothes he kept. They became so filled with hatred and jealousy, as they listened to the testimony of the holy man Stephen, that they had to put their fingers in their ears so that they could no longer hear his words. This action of the Hebrews is parallel with the teaching of Jeremiah 17:9, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

Acts 9:1—Breathing out threatenings—Men will often seek to stay the hand of conviction by deeper indulgence in sin, and not infrequently, they will go the limit. In Paul's case, no doubt, the death of Stephen was still fresh in his mind, and he pressed on the conquest with more fury. In the very midst of it, the Lord struck. A conversion like this is very striking, and no doubt very convincing to the world. People who knew Paul as a persecutor could not help being moved by so great a change. **Verse 2—Any of this way—**There always has been and always will be great opposition between truth and false doctrine. Peace can never be effected between them. In the age in which we live, anyone who contends for the truth, as Jude commanded us to do, is very likely to be accused of intolerance or stirring up religious hatred and prejudice. Paul was accused of being an agitator because of his firm stand for truth. But regardless of what the accusations may be, we should still be strong for the truth, for it is only the truth of the Word of God that can solve the great difficulty that the world is in today. It is only the truth that can give us favor at the judgment bar of God. Solomon said that we should buy the truth and sell it not. This way Paul spoke of was the plain old gospel path that Jesus trod.

DIVINE INTERVENTION—Acts 9:3—A light from heaven—

The sun is a marvelous creation, and on a hot summer day the light and heat are intense, but such natural light can in no way compare to the light of heaven. If the full light of heaven were to be turned on material things, it would consume them. **Verse 4—Why persecutest thou me?—**The great Spirit of God had long endured the evil work of the persecutor Paul, but finally now He had led Paul into a place where he could not free himself. The desire of God is that He might lead everyone into a place where He can help him to see his real self

and encourage him to take the only avenue of escape, which is the redeeming power of His dear Son. False and degenerate religions are revengeful in their attack upon the pure religion, not realizing that they are not attacking some individual but they are fighting against God. This is what Paul was doing. The brightness of this supernatural light was too much for the frail frame of man. Paul lost the use of himself and fell to the earth. Oh, if men could only realize the great power of God and the terrible danger of resisting it!

HUMAN RESISTANCE—Acts 9:5—It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks—From this statement we are informed that God had been dealing with Paul, meeting him at every turn, and he had bitterly opposed every attempt of God to lead him out into the light. This saying was derived from the practice of prodding a yoke of oxen on by the use of a sharp stick or goad. In resentment the ox would kick at his assailant, but it was of little use. A harsh, persecuting spirit is never of God, regardless of the fact that the persecutor may belong to some great organization which makes the highest claims to favor with God. One organization in particular, in an effort to justify its spirit of persecution, declared it was God's way of ridding the church of heretics. The early church, under the leadership of the apostles, did not resort to carnal means or persecuting methods in an effort to establish or defend the truth. God fought their battles; and if we are going to be true disciples of God and do His work, God must be permitted to fight our battles today.

PAUL SURRENDERS—Acts 9:6—What wilt thou have me to do?—Paul, as he later testified, did have an honest heart and was zealous of what he thought was the cause of God. When he heard God's voice, he listened and obeyed. Here is where he found salvation. The same is true of any man. In order to be saved, perfect obedience is demanded. One of the great needs in this modern age is that we get back to the life-giving principles of the gospel of the Lord Jesus. The world is starving for a heart-felt experience with God. What a difference it made in Paul after he said, "What will You have me to do, Lord?"

THE MYSTERY OF THE INVISIBLE—Acts 9:7—Stood speechless—Man is very frail, both in power and understanding; and when the magnificent, almighty powers of heaven are manifested, it is no wonder if he be speechless. Even the great Apostle John (as we are told in Revelation 1:17), fell as dead at the feet of the magnificent Master. Then why should not these sinners be speechless in the presence of the pure and holy power of heaven? They were permitted to hear a voice, but were unable to detect whence it came.

PAUL SUBDUED—Acts 9:8—They led him by the hand—No man can be a trustworthy servant of the Lord Jesus until he has been completely subdued and brought to the place where he will acknowl-

edge that Jesus Christ is the Lord of lords and King of kings. A few moments ago the persecutor Paul was vibrating with persecuting fury; now he is broken in spirit, having fallen upon the Rock, which, had it fallen upon him, would have ground him to powder. How helpless is puny man in the hands of our eternal God! Paul could still open his eyes, but he could not see. A few moments before, he could count on his own faculties in accomplishing his purposes. Now he must depend on someone else, and he could not be certain what would be the result.

PAUL ON THE RIGHT TRACK—Acts 9:9—Neither did eat nor drink—Paul had been very much accustomed to having his own way and doing his own thinking. It was rapidly leading him to destruction. Now he had changed his manner of life. Food and water meant nothing to him as he now lingered in a state of total darkness in the natural sense. But his soul was receiving light that far outshone the light of natural day and the glitter of material things and personal honor. To know God is worth more than a million worlds, and to know Him is worth anything that it might cost. These were the things Paul was learning.

CONCLUSION

It took the light from heaven to awaken Paul to the true situation in the religious world. He had the very best religion the Jews could produce and was very energetic in his work for it. But it brought no peace to his soul. He was made to cry out that he was a wretched man. But, oh! the difference when he was really born again! We find him giving expression to his heart's feelings in 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." The purpose of these lessons is not to present some new truth or man-made idea. It is to bring again to the minds of the people the need of having a genuine experience with God as Paul did. He obtained something that gave him assurance in this life and gave perfect hope for the world to come.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Who was more guilty, they who stoned Stephen, or Paul who kept their clothes?
2. What were the pricks that were hard for Paul to kick against?
3. What do we know about a church that has a persecuting spirit?
4. What is the work of the Church today?
5. What are the evils of the modern practice of church joining as a substitute for heartfelt religion?
6. What is going to happen in a church that really prays?
7. Why did Paul neither eat nor drink?
8. How could it be said that Paul was persecuting Christ?

LESSON NUMBER TEN FOR MARCH 5

PETER AND JOHN AT THE GATE BEAUTIFUL

Scriptures: Acts 3:1-8, 16.

Acts 3:1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I

none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

Memory Verse: And the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

—Luke 5:17b.

Aim: To show that the apostles were vested with power to heal, as was their Master.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday Acts 3:1-12

Tuesday Acts 4

Wednesday Acts 5

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Acts 9:23-34

Acts 19:11-20

Luke 9

INTRODUCTION

We might divide faith into three parts. First, we have the faith that an individual may exercise in his own behalf without any outside help. Then, we have that kind of faith where two unite their faith in order to gain their purpose, and third, that faith in which an individual believes for another without his help. This latter kind is the faith that is described in this lesson. In order to help others to the blessings of divine healing, it is very necessary that we have a real compassion for them in their sickness. Jesus' success in healing was due in a great measure to His faithfulness in prayer and His compassion.

MEDITATIONS

FAITHFULNESS IN PRAYER MUCH NEEDED—Acts 3:1—At the hour of prayer—There can be no question but that they were much exercised over the great victory that they had gained so recently on the day of Pentecost when so many were added to the young church. They had seen a mighty outpouring of the Spirit of God, such as had never been seen before. The influence of that great event was still coursing through their spiritual veins, and they felt equal to any occasion that might come before them.

A CASE OF HUMAN MISFORTUNE—Acts 3:2—Laid daily at the gate—His invalidism was so great that he had to be carried to and from the place of begging. Having been laid there daily, his pitiful condition was widely known, and thus a miracle wrought upon his body would influence a large number of people. The situation would seem more hopeless, but those things that seem impossible with men are no problem with God. **Verse 3—Seeing Peter and John**—Financially speaking, these two men were poor, but they must have had some appearance of prosperity, or the beggar would not have asked an alms of them.

WORDS THAT INSPIRED HOPE—Acts 3:4—Look on us—Peter and John were not thinking about this man as they approached the gate. The beggar gained their attention by asking an alms, so Peter suddenly encouraged his expectation by asking him to look upon them. The words of Peter, “Look on us,” carry weight. Something is going to happen. The beggar is filled with expectancy.

MEN WHO HAD SOMETHING TO GIVE—Acts 3:5—Expecting to receive—He usually received small sums of money, so that was his expectation now. His hopes were being built up; and he was experiencing one of his few pleasant moments, moments of anticipation. Apart from happiness, life means little to anyone, and the constant search of the heart is for that elusive treasure, *happiness*. He who has truly found Christ has found that elusive treasure. **Verse 6—Silver and gold have I none**—As far as silver and gold were concerned, Peter and John were as destitute as the beggar. But they had something to give that money could not buy. However, it seems that the gift of miracles resided with Peter alone, for here he states, “I give,” not “We give.” When he said, “Silver and gold have I none,” surely the curiosity of the beggar was aroused, his anticipation, somewhat repulsed. Peter did not come in his own name, but in the name of Jesus Christ. He had something to give, but it was what he had received; it did not originate with himself. It was necessary that every servant of God recognize Christ and always give Him His rightful place. “If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it” (John 14:14).

FAITH THAT COULD NOT BE DEFEATED—Acts 3:7—Took him by the right hand—The lame man knew little concerning the thing Peter was talking about. He did not rise at the command of Peter but rather sat there in bewilderment. He sought an alms, but what was this that was happening? But Peter had a faith that would not be defeated. When the man failed to rise to his feet, Peter immediately reached down and took the man by the hand and with physical force lifted him; and as he did so, God rewarded his faith and sent His healing power from heaven through his body. Feet that had been useless now were vitalized with strength. God did not create feet to be useless, and useless feet do not do the will of God. All feet should do

the will of God; therefore, we should bring to all sufferers the marvelous gospel of healing, as Peter did.

FAITH REWARDED—Acts 3:8—Walking and leaping—We who can walk anywhere we please little appreciate the good use of our feet and ankles, but this man, who had never known what it was to walk, was so overjoyed at the experience that he leaped with joy, and he praised God mightily for the great “alms” that he had received at the hands of His servants. This happened at the hour of prayer, and many were gathered together at this hour; thus the great work of God was made widely known, for he was known as a beggar for so many years.

THE ALL-SUFFICIENT NAME—Acts 3:16—Faith which is by him—This was a magnificent opportunity for Peter to give a convincing argument in behalf of the divinity of the Lord Jesus. Many there were adherents of the practice of the law and had spurned the name of Jesus, but here was another one of His very notable miracles. They thought that they were rid of the impostor forever, but here He was as much alive as ever, still doing marvelous miracles. It filled their minds with wonder and certainly filled their wicked hearts with conviction. Peter pressed the truth home to the hearts. He spoke with the same boldness to the sinners as he did to the afflicted one. The man actually was lame from his mother’s womb, never had he walked, but now before them all he stood perfectly whole.

CONCLUSION

The influence of this miracle that Peter performed was great. A large crowd was in the temple. They were all well-acquainted with this man upon whom the miracle was performed. At once Peter began to preach to them, and it seems that the hour of prayer must have been greatly interrupted, for they arrived about three in the afternoon and continued on until eventide. The emotion and influence became so great that the rulers of the Jews became indignant and put the disciples in prison. However, their efforts were too late, for about 5,000 were persuaded of the truth by this incident and the preaching of Peter. The success that was experienced on this occasion among the followers of Christ was not made possible by great personalities or trained men, for these men were ignorant and unlearned. The secret of their success lay in the fact that they had power with God.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What had just recently happened that raised the faith of Peter and John to such a high pitch?
2. Why is it that all Christians cannot perform miracles?
3. Did the crippled man exercise any faith?
4. Name three different divisions of faith.
5. Why did Peter take the lame man by the hand?
6. Consider the results of this miraculous healing.

LESSON NUMBER ELEVEN FOR MARCH 12

THE DEATH OF THE FIRSTBORN

Scriptures: Exodus 12:21-36.

Exodus 12:21 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the passover.

22 And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the basin; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning.

23 For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the Lord will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.

24 And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons for ever.

25 And it shall come to pass, when ye be come to the land which the Lord will give you, according as he hath promised, that ye shall keep this service.

26 And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service?

27 That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the Lord's passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped.

28 And the children of Israel went away, and did as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they.

29 And it came to pass, that at midnight

the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle.

30 And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead.

31 And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as ye have said.

32 Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and be gone; and bless me also.

33 And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, We be all dead men.

34 And the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneadingtroughs being bound up in their clothes upon their shoulders.

35 And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment:

36 And the Lord gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians.

Memory Verse: And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, We be all dead men.—Exodus 12:33.

Aim: To further reveal the miraculous power of God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday Exodus 6
Tuesday Exodus 7
Wednesday Exodus 9

Thursday Exodus 10
Friday Exodus 11
Saturday Exodus 12

INTRODUCTION

The last plague that was brought upon the land of Egypt was very grievous indeed. A normal father and mother regard their children as the greatest possession that they have and will defend them with all they have. The sorrow created by the loss of the firstborn engulfed the land for but a short period, for after the children of Israel had escaped, Pharaoh's heart again became hard, and he sought by the use of his army to return them to Egypt. But God was still on the throne, and He had an eye of watchfulness upon His children to protect them from anything that the enemy might try to impose upon them. The enemy that opposes the children of God is just as real today.

MEDITATIONS

SAVED BY THE BLOOD—Exodus 12:21—Kill the passover—

This lamb that was to be slain was typical of the Lamb without blemish that should be slain for the sins of all the men of the earth. The blood of this lamb upon the doorpost secured the house upon which it was found when God visited the land with the death angel. It will also be so in the day of judgment that the death angel will pass over the soul that has received the atoning blood of Jesus.

THE ONLY ESCAPE—Exodus 12:23—Lord will pass over—

When God provides a way of escape, that is the way we must take. His way is always right and is always best. Could not God have saved the firstborn of the Israelites without doing this? We suppose that He could, but had He done so, He would not have been able to do what His great mind knew was best. This method of escape provided for the children of Israel foreshadows our escape from sin through the blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb without spot or blemish. He who refuses the blood of Jesus is lost indeed, and that forever. **Verse 24—Forever—**This was a command given to the Jews as a people, or nation, who were the people of God and entrusted with the laws of God. However, they ceased to be a nation, or people, peculiar to God with the death of the Lord Jesus on the cross. From that time on, the people of God were those who accepted Christ as their personal Savior.

REMEMBERING GOD—Exodus 12:27—Delivered our houses

—From this the children of Israel from year to year would be made conscious of the love and providence of God and give Him honor and praise. (It is very easy to get busy with the affairs of life and forget the Giver of life. It is a sad day when men forget God. We are told in Psalm 9:17 that the wicked shall be turned into hell and all nations that forget God.)

THE DEATH ANGEL VISITS—Exodus 12:29—The Lord smote

—When God strikes, who is it who can resist? In the very dead of night the angel struck, visiting every house that didn't have the blood applied, whether it was of Israel or of Egypt. If an Egyptian had believed, he would have escaped; but, without doubt, every Egyptian

was asleep when silently the angel who brought death visited. The catastrophe was very soon discovered, and Pharaoh rose up to weep.

UNIVERSAL VISITATION—Exodus 12:30—A great cry—It would seem that with the visit of the angel there was also a silent spiritual power that aroused the sleepers. Not a home was missed, but in every house there was the death of the firstborn. It does not pay to resist God or disbelieve Him. His Word is truth and will be carried out just as He has spoken.

PHARAOH RELENTS AGAIN—Exodus 12:31—Called ... by night—Without doubt, he did not let a day pass, but called yet that night. The death angel could pass over the whole of Egypt in less time than it would take to tell it; so, very shortly after midnight, the whole of Egypt was in mourning, and it was not necessary to tell Pharaoh the reason why. The source of his trouble, as he saw it, was Moses; and he was the only one who could help him; therefore, he called him at once and instructed him to take the children of Israel and go and worship the Lord.

A GREAT CHANGE OF HEART—Exodus 12:32—Be gone—At this moment Pharaoh did not want anything around that would even suggest the thoughts of Israel. The flocks and herds would have been of value to him, but he didn't desire them. The urgency now was to get rid of them.

Exodus 12:33—We ... dead men—There was now some fear of God and His people in the hearts of the Egyptians. They had no way of knowing what God might do next if they further detained the people. Therefore, the one needful thing to do now was to get these people out of the land. This was the mind of Pharaoh and also the whole nation.

LEAVING IN HASTE—Exodus 12:34—Took their dough—So great was the haste that no time was to be had in baking the dough that was prepared. The time had arrived to be on the way, and everything was second to this. **Verse 35—Borrowed—**Pharaoh was to the point where he desired Moses to ask a blessing from heaven for him; therefore, the attitude of the Egyptians was somewhat benevolent toward the Israelites. It was a time when it would be easy to get the loan of some of their jewels, even clothing for the journey. **Verse 36—Spoiled the Egyptians—**Since it was God who commanded that the children of Israel receive such things from the Egyptians, the word "borrow" here can be better understood as "asking with no thought of return." The Israelites were entitled to such a small remuneration for the long and hard service they had given to the Egyptians.

CONCLUSION

The heart of a man that is deep in sin is very, very hard indeed, and it takes much to awaken it to the mercies and graces of God. How evident it is that we need to start early in the life of a child to teach it the ways of the truth of God. Error in the soul very soon callouses it

against truth and light and, as in the case of Paul, when he was bent upon the destruction of the Christians, only the manifestation of a great power from heaven could change him in his course.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Why did the loss of the firstborn bring such pressure on the Egyptians?
 2. Why did not this miracle convince Pharaoh of the sovereignty of God?
 3. Of what was the paschal lamb a symbol?
 4. Why do we not observe the feast of the passover today?
 5. Why is it so hard to awaken men to the grace of God?
-

LESSON NUMBER TWELVE FOR MARCH 19 THE MIRACLE AT THE RED SEA

Scriptures: Exodus 14:13-16, 21-29.

Exodus 14:13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will show to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

14 The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

15 And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

16 But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

23 And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

24 And it came to pass, that in the

morning watch the Lord looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians,

25 And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the Lord fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

26 And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.

27 And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

28 And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.

29 But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

Memory Verse: Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord.—Exodus 14:13b.

Aim: To further reveal the miraculous power of God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Exodus 13	Thursday	Exodus 15
Tuesday	Exodus 14:1-15	Friday	Exodus 16
Wednesday	Exodus 14:16-31	Saturday	Exodus 17

INTRODUCTION

In this mighty deliverance there should be great inspiration for us. We have some “red seas” in our lives, and we may be sure that God will do just as much for us as He did for the Israelites. It is all based upon an unwavering faith in God. One of the “red seas” in our day is the great work of carrying the gospel to the ends of the earth. There are millions of dollars being spent for the works of sin, but the money available for the work of the Lord seems small indeed. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ will open up this sea and give deliverance to the gospel.

MEDITATIONS

MOSES' FAITH HOLDS—Exodus 14:13—Fear ye not—This was a test of faith for Israel as they saw the approach of the armed might of the Egyptians when they had nothing more than their hands and perhaps a few rocks or clubs that their hands could lay hold on. Besides this, there was no training and but little morale. Again the men were looking only to what their eyes could see for help. In the hand of God was power that they little realized. He provided a cloud which served as light unto the children of Israel and served as darkness unto the Egyptians. Moses assured the faltering Israelites that the nation which had plagued them so and had filled their hearts with fear were to be seen now for the last time. This marvelous deliverance was not to be wrought by the power of arms or the skill and wisdom of men, but by the invincible power of God.

IF GOD BE FOR YOU, WHO CAN BE AGAINST YOU?—Exodus 14:14—Shall fight for you—Of course, the greatest battles that are fought in life are those that the Lord fights for us. In our own strength we are unable to meet the foe on the field of battle, but through the strength of almighty God there is no foe that can defeat us. Through the years we have seen many pitiful defeats. Men who were once giants in the army of the Lord have been humbled by defeat at the hand of the enemy, being conquered by the lust of fame, wealth, or ease. The man who has been defeated is a pitiful soul and lives in a realm that is far below that which was intended by God. The man who trusts God as he should has the promise of peace in the midst of the battle.

TIME FOR ACTION—Exodus 14:15—Go forward—When the children of Israel crossed the Jordan River, the waters did not divide until the soles of the feet of the priests touched the waters. Had they not gone

forward at the command of God the waters would never have separated. It was now time for action as they stood before the Red Sea. We often show our faith by moving forward when the way does not seem opened up yet. Abraham went out at the command of God, not knowing whither he went. Although he did not know the place toward which he journeyed, he had faith that God was with him and that He was directing his path.

POWER COMMITTED TO MEN—Exodus 14:16—Stretch out thine hand—God could have divided the sea without Moses' stretching forth his rod, but God chose to do the work as Moses (or Aaron) stretched forth the rod. Not only were the waters separated, but the land was dry to the point where the children of Israel could safely pass over. If God does anything for us we may be sure that every detail will be taken care of.

GOD DOES THE WORK—Exodus 14:21—The Lord caused—The prophet, in speaking of the waters being divided, declared that the waters congealed, which means that they froze. Usually, in that section of the country the winds are hot, and we would not expect that the freezing was the result of the wind, for it would be more likely that the hot wind was used to dry the sea floor after the waters had separated. Conjecture is of little value when the great and unlimited power of God is under consideration. All we know for sure is that God made the winds to blow, and we are led to believe that by this means the desired end was accomplished.

VICTORY IN THE MAKING—Exodus 14:22—Went into the midst of the sea—Such a sight had never been seen before and never has been seen since. Because the walls of water congealed, we do not need to think that the temperature was down to thirty-two degrees. God could have made water like wax, which congeals at a much higher temperature; or He could have caused the whole of the sea to congeal so the children of Israel could go over the top; or He could have given them all power to walk on top of the water as He did Peter, withholding the power from the host of Egypt. But again, we know that God did this great miracle, and He did it in the way that was best for all concerned; therefore, we rest in confidence that should we have a need similar to this, God would do as much for us as He did for them. **Verse 23—The midst of the sea**—After all the marvelous manifestations that Pharaoh had seen performed by Moses, it would seem that he would have hesitated a great deal before he would have exposed himself to so great a danger. Someone has said that fools rush in where angels fear to tread. It was the purpose of God to destroy the army of Pharaoh that was bent upon a mission of mischief toward the children of Israel.

GOD IS WATCHING CLOSELY—Exodus 14:24—Troubled the host—The ways that God could have troubled the host of Egypt were many, yes, as many as the ways that He could have helped Israel. A man

or a nation is in an awful place if God is against the thing that is being done. The safest thing is to be on the side of God. **Verse 25—Let us flee**—They still had some of the experiences from home fresh in their minds, for with this first interference of God, they recognized the hand of God and wanted to return to safety. **Verse 26—Waters may come again**—They once had said, “Let us get rid of these Israelites lest we lose our lives.” It would have been better if they had followed this reasoning, but any man that is under the influence of Satan may be sure that the things that he does are going to be contrary to what are for his good. **Verse 27—In the midst of the sea**—The Israelites had made a successful crossing, but they were pursued closely by the Egyptians. If the sea was twelve miles across and the Egyptians were in the midst, then they were about six miles behind. The unarmed Israelites were not yet safe. At this point the Lord stepped in again, instructing Moses to raise his hand for the closing of the sea. At once the waters began to return, not with a rush but slowly; and the Egyptians sought to flee against it. The twenty-eighth verse reveals the fact that the return of the water was fast enough that not one of the Egyptians escaped. Thus, the great victory for the people of the Lord was complete as far as the Egyptians were concerned. **Verse 29—A wall unto them**—That which had proven a protection to Israel became the destruction of the Egyptians.

CONCLUSION

When the children of Israel arrived safely on the other shore and they saw that the Egyptians were overthrown in the sea, they had a great rejoicing. Some little time was spent in this. Satan had used the Egyptians for the purpose of defeating the hosts of Israel and had failed. His servants had lost their lives. However, Satan was not dead in the days that followed. He sought other means to trouble the people of God. In some cases he was very successful. From this we can learn a great lesson. Our great opponent through life is Satan; and, usually, his power of deception and affliction is at the hand of some human being. But we, like Moses, must put our trust in God.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Does the opening of the Red Sea appear as a big thing compared to the great strength of God?
2. Why does God sometimes require us to move forward when we cannot see the way opened up before us?
3. Why did God wait for Moses to stretch forth his hand before He opened up the sea?
4. Do you think that the children of Israel were always conscious of the presence of God as they looked at the cloud?
5. How do you account for the fact that the Egyptians so blindly followed in after the children of Israel?

LESSON NUMBER THIRTEEN FOR MARCH 26

MIRACLES IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER

Scriptures: Mark 16:14-20; James 5:16; Ephesians 6:10; 2:20.

Mark 16:14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the

sick, and they shall recover.

19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

James 5:16 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.

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.

Memory Verse: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.—John 14:12.

Aim: To show that the normal Christian should witness some miracles in his life.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday Mark 16
Tuesday John 14
Wednesday James 5

Thursday Matthew 28
Friday Ephesians 6
Saturday Ephesians 3

INTRODUCTION

In a world where there is such a wicked force at work as is found in Satan, there is need of signs and wonders. Thousands upon thousands of people are working hand in hand with Satan, thinking it is the proper way. The millions of heathens, or pagan, who are totally given over to devil worship are hopelessly lost if we cannot, by the convincing power of signs and wonders worked by the grace of our eternal God through the instrumentality of believers, show them the truth. In our own land millions are deceived by the formalities of our present-day Christianity; they have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof. Miracles wrought in the lives of believers are certain to have a convincing effect upon the lives of this class of people.

MEDITATIONS

UNBELIEF DESERVES REPROOF—Mark 16:14—Upbraided them—Christ had told His followers that He would be raised from the dead, but it did not seem to make any impression. They were shocked by the fact that He submitted of His free will to the indignities of the cross. They were offended because of this, but the divine will called for this, and there was no way around it. We, too, will suffer some things that will offend, but he who suffers for the Christ's cause gains the day.

THE GREAT COMMISSION—Mark 16:15—Go ye—The command is as urgent today as it ever was. The forces of sin are raging, and Satan has a mighty hold; but we are encouraged by the fact that where sin did abound, grace did much more abound. There is no sin so deep and no enemy so powerful that the gospel of Christ cannot win.

CONDITIONS OF SALVATION—Mark 16:16—Believeth—Water has no cleansing power over sin; baptism is only an answer of a good conscience toward God (I Peter 3:21). Salvation is entirely dependent upon the belief in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. Eternal damnation is decreed to the man who will not believe.

RESULT OF BELIEVING—Mark 16:17—Signs shall follow—Jesus declared that He would give His followers power over all the power of the enemy. So no devil can successfully resist the man who is a true believer in Jesus Christ. For the sake of spreading the gospel to foreign lands, the Holy Ghost will give the believer power to speak with a new tongue, and the word *tongue*, properly interpreted, means "language." This is not an evidence of Holy Ghost baptism, nor is it a language that no one understands, as taught by the modern Pentecostal movements. It is the power to speak a language that is unknown to the speaker for the express purpose of telling the story of Jesus. **Verse 18—Take up serpents**—A good example of this is the experience of Paul when a serpent fastened itself upon him as he laid the sticks on the fire. Paul did not take the snake up and handle it, but shook it off into the fire. He was actually bitten, but through faith in Jesus Christ it did not hurt. The same holds true in the event that we accidentally drink something that is poisonous; by faith in the name of Jesus, no harm will result. The believer shall lay his hands upon sick bodies, and by faith in the same name, health shall be the result.

ANOTHER MIRACLE—Mark 16:19—Received up—While they looked, Jesus was taken out of their sight, quite contrary to the course of natural life. But can we not expect the supernatural in the life of Christ and likewise in the lives of those who believe on Him? Christ is now at the right hand of God, interceding for the men of the earth.

STARTING TO WORK—Mark 16:20—Lord working with them—No soldier of the cross ever enters battle alone. He always has

the presence of Christ with him in the person of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is sent to do the will of Christ. Miracles must be performed in many cases to straighten out the messes that Satan has gotten people into. He who catches the full significance of the message of Christ, first of all receives the benefit of the miracle-working power in his life, which restores him to normal living; and from then on there will “flow from his belly rivers of living waters” in the form of miraculous events wrought in the lives of others.

A DIVINE COMMAND—Ephesians 6:10—Power of his might—

The unlimited power of almighty God is at the disposal of the man who is walking in the light of God’s holy truth with the one purpose in mind of carrying the gospel to the ends of the earth, according to the plan and will of God. Mountains will not stand in his way. Neither waves, winds nor personalities can stop his forward march. This is the dynamic gospel of Him who once was dead; but, behold, He is alive forevermore! God does not expect His people to be powerless.

A STRONG BUILDING—Ephesians 2:20—Are built—

To be built into a building is to become a part of it. So if the Christian of today is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief Cornerstone, then he is well-blended with real harmony into that building. There can be no other building erected like it. Some may have a similar appearance, but he who is versed in religious architecture will easily tell the difference. Many today have no understanding of the great architecture of Jesus Christ, and, as a result, there are religious buildings being erected that causes many to be deceived.

CONCLUSION

We are rapidly moving into the end of time, and the opportunity to do things for God will soon be over. Satan knows that his time is short, and he is working with a vengeance and a thoroughness that is astonishing. Can we who love the cause of Christ and the souls of men be any less interested or determined in the great work of the gospel and the salvation of souls? Most certainly not! We have the wonderful promise of the greatest Leader and Captain who ever existed, that He will go with us, yes, even to the end of the world.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Why do we need signs following the preaching of the gospel?
2. Can a man become a Christian without a miracle being worked in his heart?
3. Why were the disciples offended in Christ when He was crucified?
4. What are the conditions of salvation?
5. Name the signs that shall follow the preaching of the Word.
6. Give an instance wherein a miracle or sign was the result of your Christian experience.

Name _____

Class _____

Faith & Miracles

ADULT & YOUNG PEOPLE

FOR THIS QUARTER:

L#1	January 1	Living Faith	Page 3
L#2	January 8	Relationship of Faith to Works	Page 7
L#3	January 15	Contending for the Faith	Page 11
L#4	January 22	Divine Healing	Page 15
L#5	January 29	The Great Healer Promised	Page 18
L#6	February 5	Why Some Are Not Healed	Page 21
L#7	February 12	Christ's Power Over the Elements	Page 24
L#8	February 19	The Resurrection of Lazarus	Page 28
L#9	February 26	The Conversion of Saul	Page 31
L#10	March 5	Peter and John at the Gate Beautiful	Page 35
L#11	March 12	The Death of the Firstborn	Page 38
L#12	March 19	The Miracle at the Red Sea	Page 41
L#13	March 26	Miracles in the Life of the Believer	Page 45