

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?"

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This monthly religious journal is published for the benefit of the Church of God universally. It is our supreme purpose to reach the world for Christ through the printed page. Our burden is to reveal the truth of God's Word to all mankind, to expose sin and error, war against apostasy, and to eradicate the longstanding traditions of men that have no biblical foundations.

Brother Roger L. Decker Editor
Workers Too Numerous to Mention

THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

- A personal God (John 4:24)
- A divine Christ (John 1:1, 14)
- An infallibly inspired Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- Salvation from sin (Matt. 1:21)
- The new birth (John 3:3, 5-7)
- A holy life (Luke 1:73-75; Titus 2:12)
- Sanctification (1 Thess. 5:23)
- Unity of God's people (John 17:21, Eph. 4)
- Divine, physical healing (James 5:14-16)
- The ordinances (Matt. 28:19-20; John 13; 1 Cor. 11:23, 34)
- Eternal life (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:43)
- The Trinity (1 John 5:7, 8)

**SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS
PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH**

- Jesus organized it (Matt. 16:18)
- On a good foundation (Eph. 2:20; 1 Cor. 3:11)
- Christ governs it (Eph. 1:22-23; Isa. 9:6)
- God admits members (1 Cor. 12:13-18)
- Sin puts you out of it (Rom. 11:22; Ex. 32:33)
- The saved only are members (John 15:2-6)
- Membership is offered to all (Rev. 22:17)
- Final rewards (Rev. 20:12-15; 21:3-4; 22:14)
- Bible name of the Church (Acts 20:28; Gal. 1:13; John. 17:11)

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2000 Winter Camp Meeting Report

"Turning thy face from all the past, On to the goal keep pressing; All of the weights from off thee cast, On to the goal keep pressing." These words penned by Brother C. W. Naylor and Brother A. L. Byers and sung by the choir the closing night of the Winter Camp Meeting well express the tenor of the messages of the meeting.

The songwriters repeatedly emphasized the phrase that was the title of the song, "On to the goal keep pressing." One stanza of the song says, "Waiting for thee a wondrous prize" and echoes the words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:24, where he declared that each of us are 'to "So run, that ye may obtain" speaking of "the prize."

Each dear brother who unburdened his heart had the primary concern to encourage the saints of God to "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14). Brother Allen Polston from Mechanicsburg, Indiana, served as the evening evangelist, and the Lord used him in a great way. He brought enlightening and challenging messages, such as "Heavens Report for These Modern Times" and "The Voice of God in These Last Days."

The host pastor, Brother Roger L. Decker, brought two very sound teaching messages concerning, "The Two Covenants" and dealt with the distinction between the law given by Moses and the grace and truth which came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17). During the afternoon services, various brethren laid forth the glorious truths of the Gospel. On Saturday morning Brother E. David Stegmeier from Canby, Oregon, brought an inspirational message entitled, "The Benefits of Divine Healing."

Though the meeting was short, it was rich in Spirit and in Truth. A very sweet spirit pervaded the meeting, and harmony and unity was indeed good and pleasant, as the Psalmist described in Psalm 133:1. If you were unable to attend the meeting, we encourage you to order the tapes. We are confident that you will be blessed as we were by the messages of Truth. We trust that you will make plans now to be in the Spring Camp Meeting in June. Until then, dear saint of God, "On to the goal keep pressing."



Proverbs 3:1 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

4 So shalt thou find favour and

good understanding in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

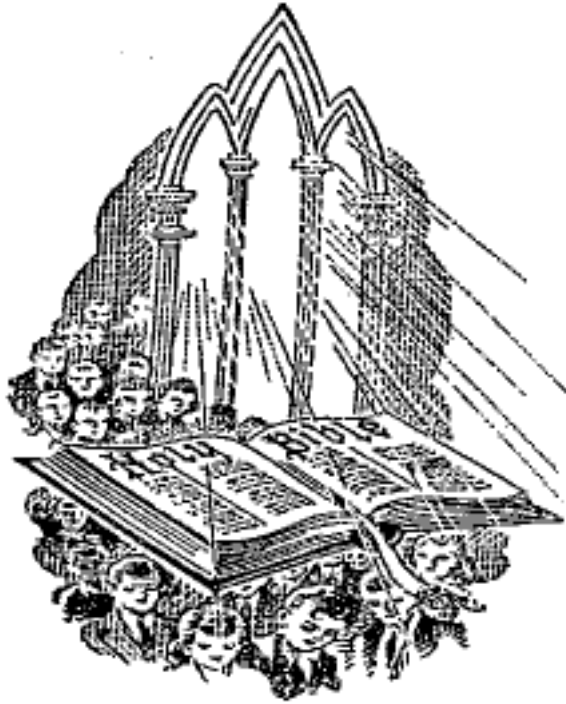
6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.



Trusting in the Lord

Brother Roger L. Decker

Lean Not to Your Own Understanding

The verses of Scripture in our text are very encouraging and uplifting. We all have trusted in friends, loved ones, relatives, or those whom we call close associations. Sometimes they have proven to be a disappointment, but no one has ever trusted in the Lord and been disappointed or defeated. Only when you lean to your own understanding and the arm of the flesh do you end up in a hopeless state. The Proverb writer said in verses 5-6 of our Scripture text: "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways [not

just in part of them, but in all your ways] acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Second Corinthians 1:8-10 reads: "For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and cloth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us."

Paul related that when he was in Asia, he was "pressed out of measure," or beyond human

strength, insomuch that he despaired of his life. However, he put his trust in God, not in himself, and the Lord delivered him from so great a death. Paul had felt that the sentence of death was upon him, and because of that, it caused him to put his whole dependence on God.

Christian friend, you dare not trust in yourself. You cannot trust in your own strength, your finances, or your knowledge. You must realize that you have come this far by faith, by trusting in the Lord. You dare not trust in the arm of flesh; it will prove to be disappointing.

I want you to read about Hezekiah preparing for battle in 2 Chronicles 32:1-8: "After these things, and the establishment

thereof, Sennacherib king of Assyria came, and entered into Judah, and encamped against the fenced cities, and thought to win them for himself. And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib was come, and that he was purposed to fight against Jerusalem, He took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the fountains which were without the city: and they did help him.

"So there was gathered much people together, who stopped all the fountains, and the brook that ran through the midst of the land, saying, Why should the kings of Assyria come, and find much water? Also he strengthened himself, and built up all the wall that was broken, and raised it up to the towers, and another wall without, and repaired Millo in the city of David, and made darts and shields in abundance. And he set captains of war over the people, and gathered them together to him in the street of the gate of the city, and spake comfortably to them, saying, Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: for there be more with us than with him: With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah."

There are no more encouraging words to bring to people in a battle than "with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles." Those words are very encouraging. Hezekiah put his confidence and trust in God, not in the arm of flesh.

"What Things Were Gain to Me, Those I Counted Loss for Christ"

The Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 3:1-7: "Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe. Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the

circumcision. For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ."

Paul put before the reader his credentials from birth until Christ. He was a God-fearing, law observing Jew. His lineage was as pure as it could be. He also belonged to the most aristocratic tribe of the Jews, the tribe of Benjamin, which was an elite tribe. He let us know that his parents were not heathen and that he was not a proselyte. He then said he was a Hebrew of the Hebrews, and he retained his Hebrew tongue, or language.

Paul also had in his heart a burning zeal for what he thought was the cause that God would have him to carry out. His record in Judaism, he felt, was blameless. What did he say? "... touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless." Nevertheless, this entire honor had to be laid aside when he met Christ. Why was that? The ground before the Cross is all on one level. In other words, there are no big "I's" or little "you's" when you come to Jesus Christ. All human achievements are written off as nothing more than bad debts when one comes to Christ. Paul could not trust in his own achievements, but rather only in God.

Read again what Paul said in verse 7: "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ." There was a time when those things were gain to Paul. Those credentials belonged to the

elite, and he had quite a name. He also had a name among the church; the church trembled to think of his name. However, after Paul's conversion, he said, "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ." The same is true of each of us today. Anything that is gained or achieved for Christ is by trust in a very merciful God. You need to always keep that in mind. It is not gained by who you are or who you think you are.

Encouraging Promises

In the face of opposition, God is so good to His people. God is always one step ahead of everything the enemy plans. Why is that? Though you may not know about the counsel that is going on, God does, and He can tell you what move to make next. The church does not operate by leaning on the arm of the flesh or she would have gone down a long time ago. In the past, some thought the work of God could not go on without them, but they found out that the work is not built on man; it is built on the foundation of Jesus Christ, and He is unmovable.

God can use any vessel who wholly consecrates his life to Him, whether that person is educated or uneducated. Some people sit around and wait for some spectacular move on God's part. It could be that God is waiting on you to get your house in order so that He can use you.

No one is so important that he has a monopoly on God. If you think that, your thinking is wrong; you have gotten off the right track. The Apostle Paul, speaking to the Romans, said in Romans 12:3, "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." Over the years, some have quit this or that to make a statement, yet the work of God

has continued. Yes, sometimes it is more difficult, but when payday comes around, those who labor receive well from the Lord. Hebrews 6:10 says, "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." God will not forget your labor of love, as long as that labor is not self-centered or to put on a show.

The first part of Psalm 11:1 says, "In the LORD put I my trust." Saint, your trust should be in God, in His Word, and in Jesus Christ. Paul wrote in Ephesians 3:11-12: "According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him." Saint of God, you have the Word of God to help you. Psalm 119:41-42 reads: "Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, even thy salvation, according to thy word. So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word."

Many encouraging promises are in the Word of God for those who trust in the Lord. Those who trust in the Lord are kept from fear. Isaiah 12:2 says, "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation." We read in Hebrews 13:5:6: "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Those who put their trust in God have some very special promises in God's Word.

Those who put their trust in the Lord can be kept from falling by putting their confidence in God's Word, not in the arm of flesh or in their own knowledge, strength, or wisdom. They do not have to slip

and slide around and fall back into the pit of sin. They can walk on dry ground, just as the children of Israel did. Psalm 37:31 reads, "The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide." Why is that? Because the Law of his God is in his heart.

Those who put their trust in the Lord can enjoy perfect peace. Isaiah said in Isaiah 26:3, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." He was not saying that you will be free from trouble, but you can have peace in the time of trouble. Jesus said in John 16:33, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." With all the tribulation, you can still have the peace of God in your soul. Though things are in turmoil and upsetting, you can have perfect peace down in your heart if you trust in the Lord.

God's Word Is Unfailing

Those who trust in the Lord are a happy people. Proverbs 16:20 says, "He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he." Though they have burdens and trials, in the midst of it all, those who trust in God are happy. You may say, "Well, I am happy because my team won the ball game." Yes, but that happiness is short-lived. The happiness that I am speaking of is based on trusting in the Lord. Is He your Savior, your Master, your Heavenly Father? You can trust in Him, and when you do, that will make you happy. Psalm 144:15 says, "Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD."

There are many reasons that you should trust in the Lord. The first one is that His Word is unfailing. Other people's word may fail, but God's Word cannot fail. Jesus said in Luke 21:33, "Heaven and earth

shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." He is not competing with any other god, because He is the only God there is. Psalm 102:25-28 reads: "Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. The children of thy servants shall continue, and their seed shall be established before thee." God's Word is unfailing; He cannot fail.

When an individual comes to God seeking salvation, if he meets Bible conditions, confessing and forsaking and turning from sin with godly sorrow, he will be saved. God's part of the covenant is true. Nowhere has man ever had any problem with God's part of the covenant. If there has been a problem, it has always been on an individual's part. God's part is true. When He says, "I will save you and deliver you," that is exactly what He means. When He says, "I will lift you up out of the miry clay," that is exactly what He will do.

God's Word is forever settled in Heaven. He has esteemed His Word above His name. Many people know about the name of Christ, but that knowledge does not do them any good unless they believe His Word. Knowing about His name does not change a person, but believing His Word does.

A God of Truth

The second reason you should trust in the Lord is that He cannot lie. It is impossible for Him to lie because He is a God of Truth. Numbers 23:19 says, "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" Titus 1:1-2 reads: "Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to

the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began." God cannot even be tempted to lie; therefore, you can trust what He tells you in His Word.

The third reason you should trust in the Lord is that He will carry out what He says He will do. In Romans, Chapter 4, speaking of the promise given to Abraham and of how Abraham was going to be the father of many nations, Paul wrote in verses 20-21: "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform." What God says, He will do. He is God; there is no other. Paul, writing to the Philippians to encourage them in their stand, stated in Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Fourth, you should trust in the Lord because He is the way out of temptation. God will deliver you. You do not have to sin. Temptation is not sin, but yielding to temptation is sin. God will make a way of escape so that you do not have to yield to the temptation and commit sin, even in the most heated trials. You do not have to fail. The Lord will either deliver you out of it or give you the grace to bear it. First Corinthians 10:13 states, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

You can live holy before God. You do not have to commit sin. At one time, each of us committed sin, but those who are born of God have ceased from sin. Those who have been born of God live holy lives, not in their own strength, but by the

grace of Almighty God. This salvation is a common salvation, so the temptations you go through are also common; but God is faithful. He will not allow you to be tempted above what you are able to bear. With the temptation He will make a way to escape so that you may be able to resist it. That is holiness.

"He Careth for You"

The fifth reason you ought to trust in the Lord is that you can trust that He will not leave you in the heat of the trials. A friend might leave you and say, "Forget it. I am not hanging around you any longer. It seems that the more I hang around you, the more trouble I have." However, that is not so with the Lord. He will never leave you in the midst of a heated trial.

Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 4:14-18: "Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: Of whom be thou ware also [in other words, beware of him]; for he hath greatly withstood our words. At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

The Lord will not leave you if you do not leave Him. When others have forsaken you, God will stand with you and deliver you. Paul said the Lord delivered him out of the mouth of the lion. He was not speaking of a literal lion; He was talking about the devil using people.

The sixth reason you can trust Him is that He cares for you. Though you have wandered away from Truth and it seems that you

are a million miles from God, He cares for you. He does not like what you are doing, because He hates sin; yet Jesus died for the sinner.

Friend, God knows the battle you are in. You may feel that your life is in constant turmoil, but God cares; and His true people care. First Peter 5:7 says, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." God cares for you individually, and He knows your problem. He knows your thoughts, your affections, and your desires.

When you do not feel well, God cares. If you do not have enough money to buy groceries or pay the bills, God cares. That is the reason He bids you in His Word to come to Him and talk to Him about those things. God has ways of working things out. He cares so much that He sends His Word and His Holy Spirit to show you that He loves and cares for you. You need to cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

Our text states in verses 5-6: "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." God wants you to trust in Him. In the heat of temptations or trials, you may feel that God is not going to move or that He has forgotten about you. Perhaps you have thought about turning to an alternative to try to work it out, but you should keep trusting in the Lord and keep leaning upon Him. He knows who you are, and He knows where you live. He knows everything about you, and He cares for you.

At times, when you are sick and in pain, you may think that no one even cares about your suffering, but God does. He cares because He loves you. He loves you so much that He gave His Son to die for you. God showed His love to us by the death of His Son. All He asks you to do is trust in Him and acknowledge Him in all your ways, and then He will direct your paths.

(Cassette C-4246E)

1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is

come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Overcoming Antichrist Spirits



Brother C. H. Dickerson

The Need to dig Deep

The Scripture lets us know plainly that the Gospel light is going to get brighter in these last days of time. As a result, we must realize that the opposer, or the devil, will become bolder and more deceptive. Consequently, many people are being deceived because they are looking for another way other than the Bible way to right themselves with God. Some are looking for a millennial reign, but there is no such thing. Others are looking for purgatory, so that others can supposedly pray them out of their lost condition. Still others are looking for a great revival to break out, thinking that would make it easier to get down to business with God.

Today we are in what the Bible calls the third earthquake. In fact, we are almost through that period, and God is shaking the church more than He ever has. The Hebrew letter says that the Lord is going to shake not only the earth but also heaven. He was not talking about the terra firma or the firmament, but He was referring to man-made religious organizations that are earthly and the church. God's people are a special, peculiar people.

Many people are looking for an antichrist to come as a person out in the future who has a visible kingdom. By doing so, they overlook the deception of opposing the church right now. The Prophet Zechariah wrote in Zechariah 3:1, "And he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of

the LORD [in other words, a man of God was standing there], and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him." This is a picture back then of an antichrist spirit working, and this is also the picture that we see today. This antichrist spirit has one purpose, and that is to oppose every saint of God and every preacher who preaches God's eternal Truth. The devil opposes every congregation that stands for the Truth.

Zechariah wrote in Zechariah 2:6-9: "Ho, ho, come forth, and flee from the land of the north, saith the LORD: for I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heaven, saith the LORD. Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwellest with the daughter of Babylon. [I want you to notice that He did not say, 'I am going to deliver you.' He said,

'Deliver yourself.' In other words, 'Deliver yourself from Babylon.'] For thus with the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you [when someone does something to try to pull down a saint of God, that person glories in it and marvels at what he has done]: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.

"For, behold, I will shake mine hand upon them, and they shall be a spoil to their servants: and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me." The Lord said He had scattered them. Matthew Henry's Commentary says, "Therefore, you should not even consider coming together again." The Lord said, in essence, "Come forth and flee; escape for your life, and do not look back." Certainly, the Lord had a message here. He shows that the devil cannot pull you down if you desire to stay true to God.

Your big responsibility is to get down to business with God and build on the Rock. Then when the wind stops blowing, you will still be standing on the solid Rock. I thank God for the Church of the Living God. All the devils in hell cannot shake you loose from her if you are determined to stay true to God. You need to dig deep, get your eyes off people, and keep your eyes on Jesus Christ. No matter what changes, you need to keep your eyes on the goal, and you will make Heaven your home.

"Even Now Are There Many Antichrists"

Antichrist spirits are not out in the future, but they exist now. In verse 3 of our text of Scripture, John said, "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

John wrote in 1 John 2:18, "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye

have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time." Many people want to argue that antichrist is a man and that his coming is in the future. Paul said in Romans 4:3, "For what saith the scripture?" You need to stand on what the Scripture says. John said that many antichrists were already in the world.

Many people want to picture the devil as a red fellow with horns and a tail up over his back. God works through men, and they have the glory of God on their faces. Also, they talk differently, act differently, go to different places, and dress differently. On the other hand, the devil works through men. Often they are dissatisfied and do not want others to have any joy. The same is true of an antichrist spirit.

As a saint, there is not a day that you are without opposition. The devil has set out to oppose you all day long. Why? Because he wants to defeat you, and he never gives up. God said to just hold on. The gates of hell cannot prevail against you, and you will come out victorious. Soon it is going to be over.

Antichrist spirits are not political rulers, but the attacks are made by false teachers, false prophets, and false spirits. John wrote in 2 John 1:7, "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist." He said these deceivers confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. What was he talking about? Today people take the Lord's name in vain, they are bound by habits of life, and they are scantily dressed; however, if they find out that you are a saint of God or a preacher, suddenly they begin to talk about where they go to church and what they did in Sunday school. John was not talking about people confessing Christ with their mouths, because many claim to be Christians; nevertheless, they have false spirits and fierce spirits.

They have ungodly, worldly actions, and they dress as the world does. The Word of God makes it quite clear that when people are possessed with the devil, they are exceedingly fierce.

When Christ stood for the Truth, many people became fierce. Paul said that the last days of time were going to be the most deceptive, and he also said that people would be fierce and despisers of those who are good. Today people are fierce against God's eternal Truth and fierce against the church. When you stand for the Truth, they are fierce against you. These are antichrist spirits working.

Try The Spirits

The devil has set out to deceive the very elect, if possible. Often the devil works to get the saints of God so busy that they do not take time to read the Bible and pray as they ought. Some leave their local congregations and make excuses for leaving. Anything that tries to keep you from reading the Word of God or attending the services to get your soul fed is an antichrist spirit. Furthermore, when you get so busy that you do not have time to pray, an antichrist spirit is working on you. This does not have to be, because there are still twenty-four hours in a day, and God has still given you time to read the Bible and pray and assemble yourself at the house of God so that you can get your soul fed.

You may say, "I can get my soul fed at home." No, you cannot get your soul fed at home. Hebrews 10:25 says, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Why is that? So that we can encourage one another, and so much more as we see the day approaching. The saints of God need encouragement, and pastors need encouragement. Do you tell your pastor and your Sunday

school teacher that you appreciate them? Do you tell the saints of God that you appreciate them? We each need encouragement in a day and age when the devil has set out to discourage and deceive. One way that he can deceive you is through discouragement.

These deceivers that John spoke of have a spirit about them that is fierce, and they can turn on a person, tear him up, chew him up, and spit him out. That is a fierce spirit! Often they act saintly, but they are fierce. They have one thing in mind, and that is to destroy. My friend, that is an antichrist spirit.

Antichrist spirits are not something new. Jesus warned people of such spirits a long time ago. In Matthew 24:24 He said, "For there shall arise false Christs, [We have seen it. There are people who claim to be Christ on earth, and others struggle along in their pathway, and they think they are really something. Some might not claim to be Christ, but they act as though they think they are.] and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."

In Revelation, Chapter 17, John let us know that he saw a woman drunk with the blood of the saints and the martyrs of Christ. He said in verse 6, "And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration." This drew John's attention. Today the devil wants to get your attention, because if he can get your attention, next he might get your ear. If he gets your ear, he will get inside you and you will become deceived.

When John saw this woman, he was amazed. However, the angel said to him, "Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns" (verse 7). I want you to see this happened back

then, and it can happen to you.

You need to try the spirits. No matter how long you have been following someone, you need to keep your eyes on the Spirit of God. If that person quits following God, you had better find a true people of God who love and serve God.

The Purpose of Antichrist Spirits

In Mark 13:21-23 Jesus said: "And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not: For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things." He let us know that antichrist spirits (and they appear as men) have one purpose, and that is to seduce you. In other words, they will lead you away from the Truth. The devil does not care if you have religion.

Many people are not particular about how they dress. When you have salvation, you will dress as the Word of God tells you to dress, you will act as the Word of God tells you to act, and you will go where the Word of God tells you to go. A seductive spirit will tell you that you can dress any way you want to dress and do anything you want to do. God still has a standard. When anyone tries to lead you away from the Bible standard, that is a seducing spirit working through that person, and his purpose is to draw you away from God's eternal Truth so that you will have no power. I am not going to fail to declare the Gospel, because it is the only thing that will save you.

The purpose of antichrist spirits is to promote deception and spiritual seduction. John wrote in 1 John 2:26, "These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you." According to the Scriptures, God has ordained that man press his way into the Kingdom of God. Then after one is in the kingdom, he must continue to press his way day by day to stay in

the Kingdom of God. The Apostle Paul stated in Philippians 3:14, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Antichrist spirits cause people to relax their efforts and sit idly or do only what is convenient. If you are not careful, antichrist spirits will cause you to switch over to seeking pleasure instead of praying and reading and studying the Bible as you once did. When that happens, it always shows up on your experience. Seducing spirits will tell you, "You don't have to be so fanatical about serving God." They will cause you to put pleasure ahead of the Word of God, ahead of going to the house of God, and ahead of prayer. My friend, is an antichrist spirit working on you? Unless you get back to the old-fashioned Gospel of putting God first, you are going to be lost. God must come ahead of pleasure.

Many people who once knew God are lost. The devil wants the saints of God to let down so that all they can see is themselves. Too many have lost their soul burden and their closeness with God. Sometimes Jesus prayed day and night over conditions. If you are not careful, seducing spirits will cause you to get up in the morning and say, "God, here I am, thank You," and away you go, never thinking to pray for anyone else.

Who Are the Children of God?

John said in 1 John 2:18-20: "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. [Where did they come from?] They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things." What was John saying?

First of all, he said they went out from them. They were once a part of them. God's Spirit is still the same. John let us know that they went out from them because they did not want to continue with them.

I am glad that I am a part of the family of God. Who did Jesus say were the children of God? He told us when preaching the great Sermon on the Mount in Matthew, Chapter 5. In verse 9 He said, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Who are the children of God? The peacemakers. There are many troublemakers; there have always been troublemakers. All they want to stir up is trouble. When someone has a spirit to stir up trouble, he is not a peacemaker; therefore, he is not a child of God. Jesus said the children of God are peacemakers.

In Luke, Chapter 9, when the disciples went into a Samaritan village and they would not accept Jesus, James and John said, "Lord, do You want us to call fire down from heaven and consume them?" Jesus said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of." This is exactly what is going on today. When someone has a spirit to destroy, he is not a child of God, no matter what he claims. I will stand on what Jesus said. He said the children of God are peacemakers. He did not change His mind and back away from what He said.

Going back to the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said in Matthew 5:43-45: "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

John said in 1 John 3:10, "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil:

whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother." "Whosoever doeth not righteousness" is anyone who does things that are not right. He said whoever does not do righteousness is not of God, and neither is he that loves not his brother.

First Peter 3:18 reads, "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit."

Power to Overcome the Devil

Our Scripture text tells us in verse 4 that the children of God have overcome that spirit of antichrist. In Revelation 3:12 Jesus addressed the Philadelphia church age. The Philadelphia church age was the age after man-made rule. Man had ruled them and had given them their orders, but the church had been brought back in view again in the eyes of the people. Jesus said, "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name."

Christian friend, God put you in the temple when you got saved. He did not use you for a sidewalk. He made you a pillar. My friend, you have to get past man and get to God. You have to get a preacher who hears the Word at God's mouth, and then feeds it to the people.

When God places a person in His body, or His church, He makes him a pillar to support God's Truth and God's man. Are you standing for the Truth? After Christ makes one a pillar, He said he would go out no more. Then He went another step and said, "I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new

Jerusalem [the church], which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name." When you are born into the Church of God and God makes you a pillar, you are to support and do your responsibility; then God said, "I will write My name upon you."

How does one overcome? Revelation 12:11-12 tells us that also: "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he bath but a short time."

First, John said they overcame the devil by the blood of the Lamb. The blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin. After they killed a sheep or a goat and offered it as a sacrifice, it was not long until they had to do it again. However, Jesus gave His blood upon the Cross of Calvary. Never again does His blood have to be applied, because when God saves an individual, he can overcome the devil by the blood of the Lamb. He has the victory.

Second, one overcomes by the word of his testimony. The Word of God tells you that when you get saved, you are a changed person, a brand-new creature. Also, when you get saved, you receive the Holy Spirit and power to overcome the devil. You have discernment to know right from wrong. Today many people have no discernment whatsoever. They want to follow the crowd. All they would have to do is seek the Lord for discernment and they would see that the crowd is wrong.

When you get into the true Church of God, you are going to hear old-fashioned, Holy Ghost preaching that will shake you and stir you. A literal plant will not grow unless you get the hoe and dig close to the roots and shake it up a

little; then it will start to grow. God has called a ministry in the last days to preach the Gospel to shake up your reserves so that you will grow.

Unafraid to Stand for Truth

Third, they overcame because they loved not their lives unto death. They were not afraid to stand for the Truth no matter what the cost. God's people love God more than they love their own lives. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego let it be known that they loved God more than anything else. In so many words, they said, "If you want to cast us into the fire, you go right ahead; we are going to stand for God." Daniel prayed despite the king's decree that anyone who asked a petition of anyone but the king would be thrown into a den of lions. God was in the furnace with the three Hebrew boys, and He closed the mouths of the lions. God wants people who love Him more than anything else and who stand for Truth, even if they have to stand against Grandma, the husband or wife, or their children.

Another important consideration is found in 1 John 2:20, which reads, "But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things." John said they had an unction. That unction is anointing from the Holy Ghost. As God's people, we have an armor on. (My friend, if you will stand your ground and keep on the whole armor, antichrist spirits will not take you down; they will be turned away.) You can have power, to overcome antichrist spirits, because greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.

Paul said in Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

John wrote in Revelation 12:11-12: "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved

not their lives unto the death. There fore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

What was he saying? He was saying that the devil has come down with great wrath. In other words, the end is almost over, and the devil is angry and fierce. He is doing everything he can to work against the church. He is working against the true saints of God and true pastors. Friend, if you do not have opposition, you should get on your knees and find out why, because Satan is loose, and the Scripture tells us that the latter end is worse than the first.

In 1 John 3:24 John said, "And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us." How can you know that He abides in you? You have His Spirit. You cannot act any differently than God acts if you have His Spirit. On the other hand, if you have the devil's spirit, you will act as he does. God is love, and He is longsuffering. He will work with people as long as there is hope.

"Believe Not Every Spirit"

Antichrist spirits can and must be overcome. Let us reread our text. In verse 1 John said, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." What does God do? He does things that are right. He does not do things wrong; He does things Biblically. He does things as He laid out in the road map. False prophets do not do things God's way.

If you have God's Spirit, you do things God's way. If the flesh gets in the way and you make a mistake, then you need to back up. We all make mistakes, but what do you

do about them? Do you back up? If you just keep going and refuse to acknowledge your mistakes, that shows who you are.

He said in verses 2-4: "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

I want to draw your attention to verse 4. He said, "Ye are of God . . . and have overcome them." The devil has been cast out of his lofty position. In Job 1:7 God spoke to the devil and said, "Whence comest thou?" Satan answered, "From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." When Christ came on the scene, Satan's power was broken, and he was cast down. Revelation 12:9 tells us, "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Satan was in a lofty position, deceiving anyone he wanted to deceive, but when Christ came on the scene, his power was broken immediately.

You may say, "Well, the devil was cast out of Heaven." Luke 10:17-20 reads: "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."

Jesus said, "I beheld Satan as

lightning fall from heaven." Now, He did not see Satan fall from Heaven; He saw Satan fall from his power as quickly as lightning shoots across the heavens. That was how quickly his power was broken. He was walking to and fro, doing anything he wanted to do, and he had power. Then Christ came on the scene, and his power was broken. He was never in the Heaven where God dwells. He was never even on the threshold of Heaven, because everything that enters Heaven is holy.

When people do not love the Truth, they are vulnerable to false teachings and antichrist spirits. An antichrist spirit of being against the Truth is a damnable thing. When someone starts to run down a saint of God, it is easy just to keep your mouth shut and think, "I'm not going to say anything." Well, you had better stand up for God's eternal Truth, the church, and the man of God, otherwise you may fall for the same thing. Silence gives consent, they always say. You need to love the Truth.

Continue in the Faith

Colossians 1:21-23 states: "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister."

Paul let us know that the only way you can be holy is if you continue in the faith and get grounded and settled and refuse to be moved. Truth has never changed. It has always been the same, it will always be the same. One of the most important things as far as the Word of God is concerned

is the doctrine. No one could keep the Ten Commandment Law; therefore, God moved on the scene and hung it on the Cross. Still, no one can keep it short of the Spirit of God.

Grace and Truth came by Jesus Christ, and every saint of God has grace and Truth, but an unsaved man does not have either. When one gets saved, he gets Truth on the inside and grace to stand for Truth and be what God wants him to be. Getting saved is one thing, but continuing to walk in Truth is just as important. You see, you could go to an altar of prayer every service and get saved, and then each time go out and sin again. That would not do you a dime's worth of good. On the other hand, if you got saved and continued to live holy and uphold the Truth, then you would become grounded and settled. You should not be wishy-washy, so to speak. Some try this one week and that the next week. You need to get in where the Truth is, get grounded, and get settled.

Some people sample religion in the same way that others sample different kinds of wine. The only ones the church will satisfy are those who are hungry for Truth. It will not satisfy anyone else. It is not due to a personality problem. When people come and go, they do not want the Truth. They want to go someplace where someone will soothe them, pat them on the back, and lower the standard to where they want it to be. Then they say, "Oh, we love that brother." Yes, but they are going to lose their souls in hell, because God has a standard to live by. When you come up before God at the Judgment and the Books are opened, you will be judged by how you have measured to the Truth that you have been taught.

Cleave to the Lord With Purpose of Heart

The Bible admonishes all of us to be overcomers. Acts 11:23 says, "Who, when he came, and had seen

the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord." When he saw that people had the grace of God, he was glad. He encouraged them, and he exhorted them that with purpose of heart they should cleave to God at all costs. You need to cleave to the standard; cleave to the Word.

Christian friend, you need to work hard and be committed to the love of the Truth. Second Thessalonians 2:10 reads, "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth [in other words, they were not committed to the Truth], that they might be saved." They heard the Truth, but they did not love it. When you love something, you preserve it.

I read about a mother whose house caught fire, and her babies were in there. Though the house was engulfed in flames, she went in to try to get her little ones out and perished. She loved them so much that she gave her own life for them. If you saw someone come into your house and mistreat your wife and your children, would you just sit on the couch and say, "Well, I can't do anything about it"? No, you would give your life to protect them. Likewise, if you love the Truth, you will stand for it and defend it.

I want you to see what love will do. If you love the church, you will stand for it. If you love your pastor, you will stand by him. Those who do not love the Truth will perish. As a saint, you will defend the saints and God's ministry. Also, you will read the Bible, pray, attend the services, support one another, stand for Truth, and defend it. If you love the Truth, you will sacrifice your time to make sure that you read the Bible and pray. You will sacrifice to support Truth.

When it comes to tithing, sometimes people say, "I have just enough money either to pay my electric bill or to pay my tithe. If I don't pay my electric bill, the power

company will shut off my electric." Yes, that is true; but if you do not pay your tithe, God will shut off your power. Which one would you rather have shut off? We are in a spiritual war, and the latter end will be worse than the first. The devil is at his end; time is almost over. Therefore, he is putting everything he has into killing souls spiritually, and he is defeating them by the millions. The battle is hot, and people do not want to stand and fight. It is easier to run than to stand and fight. Antichrist spirits are real! They are not coming in the future; they are here! Because people do not love the Truth, they do not sacrifice for the Truth. They are not saved because they do not love the Truth.

The soldiers who fought in World War II loved America, freedom, their wives, and their children enough to lay their lives on the line. I ask you, my friend, How much do you love the Truth? Do you love the Truth enough to stand for it, regardless of who you have to stand against? Do you love the Truth enough to stand for who is right and what is right, even if others forsake you? You may never face being tortured at the stake, but many saints are being tortured spiritually today by the same spirit that tortured and killed the martyrs in the morning time. You are going to stand or fall. It all depends upon your love for the Truth.

You may ask, "If I do not love the

Truth that much, what should I do?" You need to ask God to forgive you, and then take a stand. Will you stand up and be counted? Will you stand for what is right? Have you been afraid to take a strong stand because you are fearful of others turning against you? You had better go God's way. You need to obey God. Will you do what God tells you to do? If you have been wishy-washy, you need to ask God to forgive you and strengthen you, and then drive the stake of determination down deep and say, "God, You can count on me." Are you willing to obey Truth?

(Cassette C-4469M)

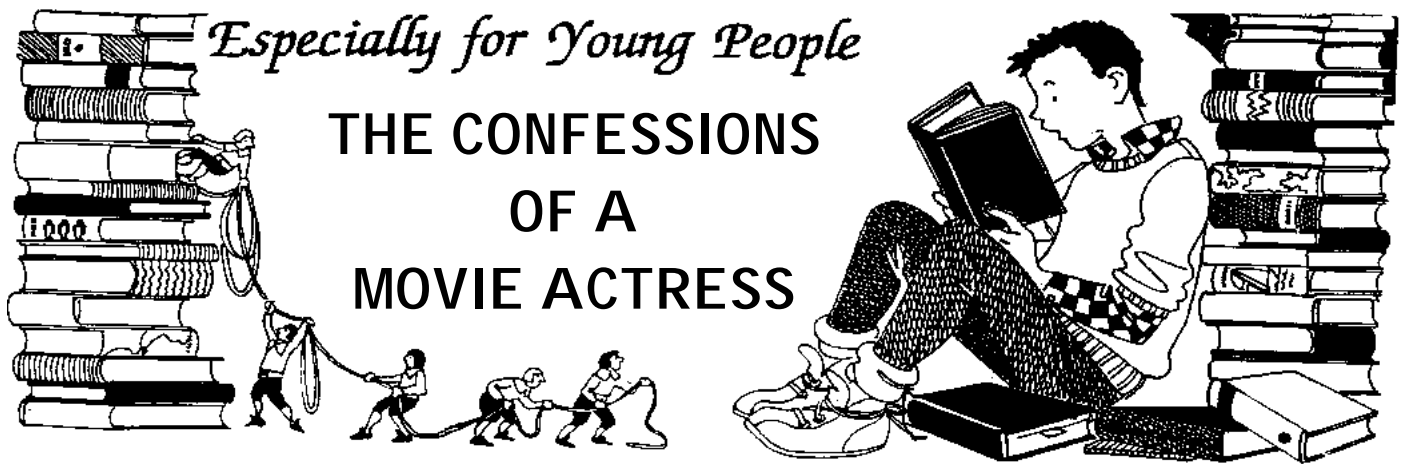
Parable of the New Neighbor

A certain man moved into a neighborhood. By chance a neighbor came by and saw him. "I'm running behind in my schedule today," the neighbor said to himself. "And besides, the pastor probably knows about this new resident already."

In like manner another neighbor came by, and passing by on the other side, he said, "I don't believe in being fanatic about religion. I will wait until he brings up the subject of the church, and then I'll invite him to Sunday school and worship."

But a third neighbor came by, and when he saw the new resident, he was moved with compassion. He stopped to welcome the neighbor into the community. He showed an interest in his spiritual life and invited him to church the next Lord's day. On Sunday morning he introduced the new neighbor to the pastor and the Sunday school director, made him feel welcome, and said, "Whatever else I can do, I will do it."

Now which of these three do you think was a neighbor to him who moved into the community? Go thou and do likewise.



In early childhood I knew the peace and warmth of a Christian home. When I was about ten or eleven years old, in response to an invitation given by the pastor of the church I attended, I publicly confessed Christ as my own personal Savior. Shortly after this I was baptized and I remember the song we sang. It was:

Happy, happy day

When Jesus washed my sins away.

I had always been rebellious and independent in wanting to live and think my own way, and though I had been somewhat subdued as a child, as I grew older, I began to put my foot down, and sometimes I put it down hard. I developed a talent for dramatics and became intensely interested in reading books of a philosophical nature. I was very fond of Shakespeare and attempted play writing myself. As a freshman in high school, I began to live by the Socratic philosophy that there were no rights of age, parents, state, or conventions when their demands ran contrary to my own reasoning. Consequently, I earned a notorious reputation around my neighborhood for being a wild, undisciplined child.

At the age of fourteen, I won some local recognition for honors received in a bathing beauty contest in which on adventurous impulse I became involved, lying about my age.

At sixteen, I was asked to represent my community in the

city-wide community and commercial club contest where I was elected from our city to represent the United States with six other girls on an official goodwill tour to Canada. During the festivities that followed while aboard a U.S. battleship, I tasted gin for the first time and drank my first cocktail. I became fascinated in the whirl of social life that followed, contact with wealth, politics, and the flattering popularity I enjoyed.

At seventeen, while but a sophomore, I left school. I was Hollywood bound, with a screen contract tucked away in my luggage. If my final screen test proved successful, I anticipated beginning work in a picture two weeks after my arrival in Hollywood.

In the dizzy pace that followed, I lost all sense of reality. I ate, drank, dined, and danced with heroes and heroines of the land of pretense and make-believe, and began to realize with a shock that the lives that they lived were perhaps after all the biggest fake of all. But my heart was hard and I longed for the glamorous, brittle tinsel of the world and refused to see where the sin lay in having a "little fun." Because I already had my entree into Hollywood with all expenses paid, a chauffeur and car at my convenience and all business affairs attended to by my publicity manager, it was easy to relax in the engulfing flood and let the tide carry me wherever it would.

From some of the lowest dives

in Hollywood to the most exclusive club where I was made an honorary member, it was the same old story. This was my first realization of what sin really was. I remember sitting in a famous night club watching young lives, some young as myself, not even out of high school, sacrificing their lives to the mad goddess of pleasure and laughing and enjoying the orgy of licentious debauchery going on around us.

I hardened my heart, although I could not eat because of the butterflies jumping around in my stomach and because of verses of Scripture which came before me, thanks to the careful and thoughtful instruction I received in my early childhood from God-fearing parents, Scriptures such as: "The wages of sin is death" and "What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

I looked around at the people, at faces that but a few years ago used to be famous on the screen and favorites of my own, already forgotten by the fickle public and now receiving the wages they earned while serving Satan. My heart felt like lead and my escort, noticing my apparent distress on this particular occasion, asked if I would like to leave. I quickly assented. Wishing to remove the bad taste in my mouth, he drove to the most exclusive club in Hollywood where, upon recognition of my companion, iron doors swung open by a button pressed from the inside, and we were admitted to

luxurious surroundings, where the devil endorsed his checks behind silken veils, and if you did not look too closely, you could hardly detect his presence.

It was not long before I realized I could never pay the price Hollywood demanded. I left Hollywood, and no brass band was playing, but the words of Jesus came to me, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

My heart was hard and my will like flint, but God's hand was heavy upon me, and during the years that followed, God heaped weights upon my soul until I could not rise from under them. Finally, exhausted, I fell at Jesus' feet, saying, "I'll go any place, pay any price, live any life, die any death. Teach me to follow Thee."

Oh, it pays to serve Jesus, it pays every day. The Bible says, "What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his

own soul." John 3:36 says, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." Young people who are tempted to go out into this sunken and condemned world to see life should remember that he that believeth not God's Son shall never see eternal life, but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Selected

The Seven Wonders of the Bible

There are the seven wonders of the world, but here are seven wonders of the Word.

- 1. The wonder of its formation; i.e., the mysterious method of its formation. The way in which the Bible grew is one of the mysteries of time.**
- 2. The wonder of its age. It is the most ancient of all books.**
- 3. The wonder of its sale. It is the bestseller of any book.**
- 4. The wonder of its interest. The only book in the world read by all classes.**
- 5. The wonder of its language. Although written largely by uneducated men, it is the best from a literary standpoint.**
- 6. The wonder of its preservation. It has been the most hated book of all books. Time and again efforts have been made to annihilate it, yet it still exists.**

"The word of our God shall stand for ever. "

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

6 There was a man sent from God,

whose name was John.

7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

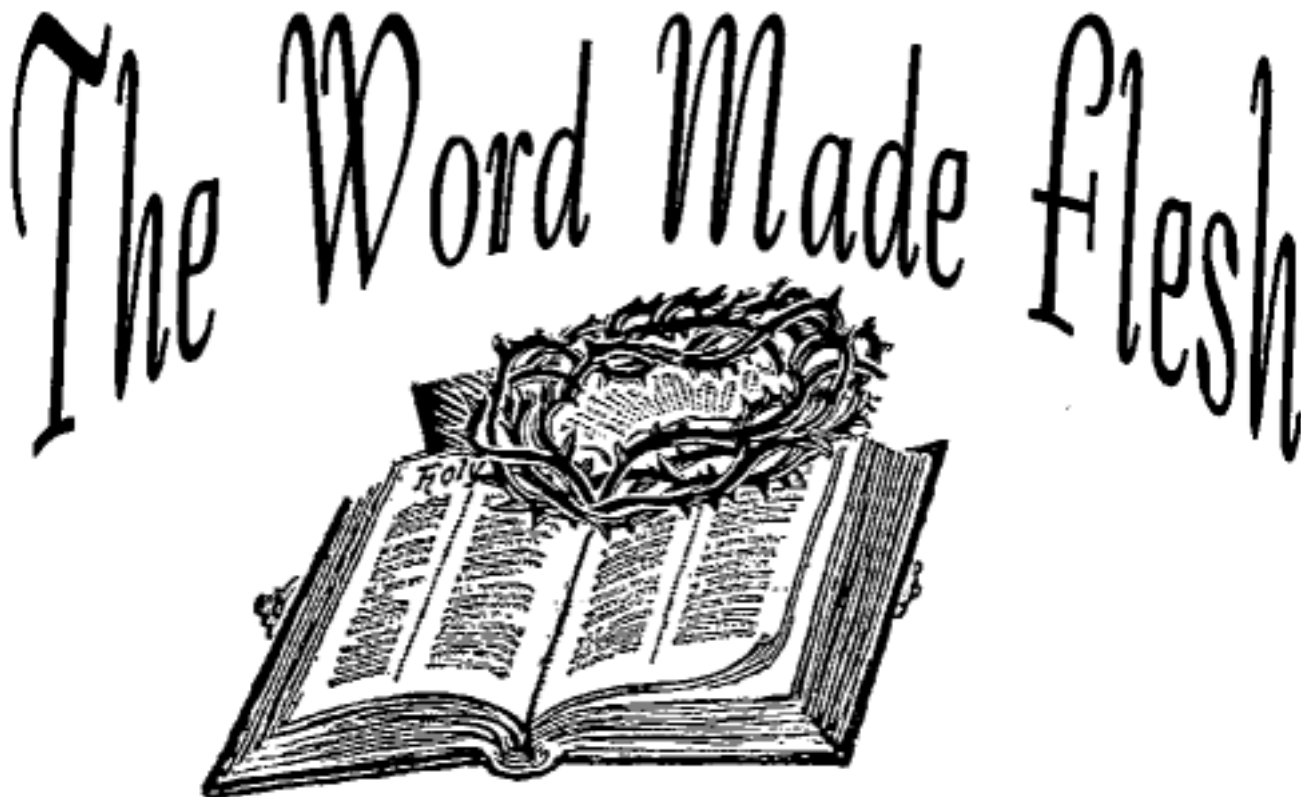
11 He came unto his own, and his

own received him not.

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.



Brother Calvin Foster

Translated into the Kingdom of His Dear Son

I would like to call your attention to the first part of verse 14 of our Scripture text, which states, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." The Word of God had to become flesh to become plain and powerful. This was not the wisdom of man; this was God's way of doing it. God's Word was in the beginning, but it did not become flesh until Christ came. The Word becoming flesh means that God translated the Bible into life. When

the Word became flesh, Jesus Christ put on human flesh. He knew that the Old Testament man could not live by the Word of God, so Jesus Christ put on human flesh.

Let us read Colossians 1:12-13: "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." I thank God that I have been translated into the church. You cannot join the church or sign a card to become a member

of the church. You must be born again. If you do not have a born-again experience from God, you are not in the church. The Christian has been translated. In other words, God has turned his life around completely. God can save a man in a moment of time. One moment he is a sinner, and the next moment he becomes a saint of God; that is being translated.

Peter and two other disciples saw Jesus transfigured on the Mount of Transfiguration. I was not there when that happened, but I will never forget the day that I was

translated. I was eighteen years old, out in the streets, gang-banging, doing drugs, stealing, and so on. When I got saved, it was the best thing that ever happened to me. I do not look at what I have been missing by giving my life to God. I became a partaker of God's divine nature. Therefore, it is no strain for me to go to church and sing the songs of Zion, and it is no strain for me to want to pray and read my Bible. I want to do those things. I appreciate God. He puts the Spirit of His Word within us.

Ezekiel 11:19-20 reads: "And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh [I had a hard heart before I got saved, but God gave me a tender heart]: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.' Sinner friend, God can put a new Spirit in you.

Living Examples of the Word

Galatians, Chapter 5, talks about the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, and long-suffering. You cannot possess the Spirit's fruit without having the Holy Spirit in your life. Anyone who gets saved has the Spirit of God in him, and he begins to possess the fruit of the Spirit. The Word of God takes on flesh and blood right in our hearts and lives. God wants you to go out and live the message among people and prove that the Word of God is true.

Paul, writing to the Corinthian church, said in 2 Corinthians 3:1-3: "Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you? Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of

the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart."

Paul was teaching the church that they were living examples of his ministry. Usually you can tell what the preacher is preaching by looking at the congregation that he has been preaching to year after year. The congregation is the pastor's letter of commendation to the world. Often people say, "I wonder what church they go to?" As people look upon the saints, they can see something different about the people of God. The saints do not curse or lie, they work hard, and they do the right things.

Job 1:8 says, "And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?" Notice that God said, "Have you considered my servant Job? He is a perfect and an upright man." That is the way you ought to want God to testify about you.

I am reminded of how Elijah sat around and said, "Lord, I am the only prophet left." What did God tell him? "No, you are not the only prophet left. I have many prophets who have remained true to Me." Today God has many prophets left who love Him and love the Truth. I pray for those who think they can work against the Church of God and try to pull her down. One cannot pull down anything that God has ordained. Some may hinder or slow down the work, but the Bible says that the Church of God is a militant church. She is marching forward on her white horse.

The battle is the Lord's, and God's people are on the winning side. Praise God forever! Truth cannot go far unless it has a body. God needs your body. The saints are the only hands and feet that Jesus has. The Word must become flesh.

Every Scripture that deals with our commission says to go and

preach the Gospel. I know it has value on the radio and on the printed page, but nothing is like the power of God when you preach the Gospel. People should be able to see that your life backs up the message of Truth. Some people will beat you down and put pressure on you. As the old saying goes, if you take a sponge and dip it in liquid and then squeeze it, whatever is in the sponge will come out. When people on the job or your relatives put pressure on you, the spirit you have is going to manifest itself. If you have a sweet spirit, you will be humble and act as the Lord would have you to act.

The Word must become flesh to become powerful. One cannot preach it with power if he is not living it. There is no sense in fooling yourself. Your life must back up the message. You cannot testify to anyone if you do not live it. God has ordained the Word to get out by flesh and blood. As a Christian, when you go to work and other places and act as a saint ought to act, the Word of God is being manifested in flesh and blood. If you cross someone, do something wrong, or make a mistake, you should ask for forgiveness, and then get up and keep going. Do not quit God or quit going to church. When you are ill, if you are able go to church, you should go to church. When you have a headache or when you feel discouraged, you should go to church.

Living Righteously

Noah put the world to shame. He condemned the whole world, and he did not quit. Can you imagine how people must have laughed at Noah? No doubt, some people said, "Look at that old man building that ark out in the desert," yet Noah kept on building. He preached to them, "The world is coming to an end! You had better heed the warning." I can almost imagine the day the rain began to fall. People probably came and

shouted, "Noah, let us in!" but it was too late. The Bible says that God had shut the door.

God ordained for the Word to go forth in a flesh and blood setting. Therefore, as a Christian, you cannot live any old way and yet represent God. The Christian should talk right, act right, pay his bills, and keep his word. He must be a godly example. Paul taught it that way. He said in Romans 10:14-15: "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

What did the Apostle Paul say in 1 Thessalonians 2:10? He testified to the brethren, "Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe." I do not want to speak disrespectfully of any minister, and I do not want anyone to misunderstand me or take me wrong. I respect my elders. My Bible tells me in 1 Timothy 5:19, "Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses." The Bible says, "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel." God's ministers will get out of bed to visit and pray with others.

I remember laboring with some saints in the hospital when their mother was sick and dying. It has been years since she passed away, but those saints still come to me and say, "Brother Foster, we remember you from years ago when Mama was sick in the hospital."

Your co-workers or your next door neighbor may not understand the first thing about the Book of Daniel or the beasts in Revelation; but if you live a righteous and holy life, they can see that. They know if you are living a holy, righteous life. People are watching the life you

live.

John 14:6-11 reads: "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus with unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake."

The world is not waiting for more Truth put in words, but for more Truth put in deeds. The world needs to see more people walking in the light and living godly lives. In too many cases, people who profess to know Christ are going out and not living the message. Have you ever noticed how far a giraffe's mouth is from its heart? Its mouth is along way from its heart, and that is just the way many people are. God does not need lip service. You ought to live the same message you preach. One thing an older sister used to say was, "You can leap high when you sing, but when you come down, you have to live the message in the song."

I love the beauty of holiness. The Lord said He would beautify the meek with salvation. I do not want to get away from holiness. The battle is over holiness. Many professed Christians are going out and not living the Word of God, so people looking on think the message is not true because of their lives. This is the reason a greater work for Christ is not being done. Too many people sit and listen to the Word of God and sort out what they like and what they do not like.

I surely do not want to catch that spirit. If it is the Word of God, I want it and I need it.

Does Your Life Line Up With the Word of God?

Many people carry a Bible under their arm, but God wants to see the Word become flesh. We read in John 6:48-56: "I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him."

Jesus was using figurative speech. The bread that He was talking about was His teachings. You can eat all you want of the Word of God and let it become a part of you. Isaiah 55:1 says, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that bath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

You can eat the Word of God and delight yourself in fatness. If men were to burn all the Bibles, as Rome did, they still could not separate us from what has already become a part of us. They cannot remove those principles that have been put down in our hearts.

If you were to go to the United States Patent Office and tell them, "I

have an invention that will shine your shoes, brush your teeth, wash your face, and comb your hair at the same time," they would say, "It looks good on paper, but do you have a working model?" If you say, "No, I don't have it built yet, but it is on paper and I know it will work," they would say, "You take that piece of paper home, and when you get a working model, you can come back."

It is the same with the world regarding the Christian. You can go out and tell people that you are a part of the church that Jesus built, but does your life line up with the Word of God? You need to realize how important unity and love really are. You may go out and tell people that you live free from sin, that you live holy, and that you have the Truth, but they will say, "Let us see."

God is watching each of us. He is looking at how you live. He sees how you treat your husband or wife, your mother, your father, your sister, and your brother. You may say that you are saved, but how do you treat others? The home is older than the church. As the home is, so is the church. What you are in the home is exactly what you are. If you are arguing all the way to church in the car, and then when you get out of the car, you are all smiles, singing, "To thy house, O Lord, with rejoicing we come, for we know that we are thine," God sees that.

Two things that can get you in big trouble are your ears and your tongue. You have to be careful of what you listen to and what you say. Even if something is true and you know it is truth, you need to be careful about what you repeat. Some people find it good to tell new converts the history of every problem the church has ever had. That is not edifying or encouraging. Some call gossip the "scoop." They say, "What's the scoop?" People used to blame gossip on women only, but many men are also at fault. Some say, "Do you have any scoop for me today?" Some people

are rude and nosy. What business does someone have of walking up to a sister and asking, "Are you pregnant again?" I believe people have a right to their own privacy. If my wife were pregnant again, I am the one who would buy the milk and the diapers.

You should not intentionally hurt other people's feelings. Do you have a sharp tongue? You need to be careful of how you talk to others and have respect, love, and compassion for others. When gossip starts going around about a person, that is not a good thing. The Bible talks about talebearers, those who want to tell something about someone.

The Word of God is to help you become strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. You need to put on the whole armor of God to stand against the wiles of the devil. Our fight is against sin. It should never be against one another. Church of God, we need one another as never before. We need one another's prayers and encouragement. We need old-fashioned camp meetings where we can pray together, sing, and hear the Word of God so that our roots can go deeper in God. May God bless you.

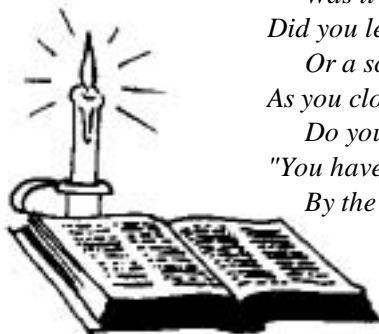
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At Day's End

*Is anybody happier
Because you passed his way?
Does anyone remember
That you spoke to him today?
The day is almost over,
And its toiling time is through;
Is there anyone to utter
Now a kindly word of you?*

*Can you say tonight, in parting
With the day that's slipping fast,
That you helped a single brother
Of the many that you passed?
Is a single heart rejoicing
Over what you did or said?
Does the man whose hopes were fading
Now with courage look ahead?*

*Did you waste the day or lose it?
Was it well or sorely spent?
Did you leave a trail of kindness
Or a scar of discontent?
As you close your eyes in slumber,
Do you think that God will say,
"You have earned one more tomorrow
By the work you did today?"*



John Hall

FINDING FAVOR IN THE EYES OF GOD



Sister Millie Stegmeier

Cultivating Your Relationship With the Lord

Young person, God wants to set you in the body of Christ. You may think, "I don't know what my place is. I don't have much talent." God has a place for you in the body of Christ; He has a wonderful position for you to fill. The best thing you can do is to pray and seek God's face and ask Him what He would have you to do. I can tell you from experience, when you begin to ask God what He would have you to do, He will tell you. If you do not want to know, do not ask Him, because He will tell you.

I was privileged to be a young person on God's Acres, and I have precious memories that I treasure. You are in the process of making memories right now, and they will be very valuable to you in life. I can remember walking out across the campgrounds and talking with the

Lord, saying, "God, you know about my life. I don't know where I am going. I don't know what Your plans are, but I know that my desire is to fit into Your plans." I am so thankful that I talked to the Lord that way, because He has given me such a beautiful life. He has given me above that which I could have ever thought or asked for.

Young person, you are in the dreaming stages. You do not know what God has for you. I remember some dreams that I had when I was a teenager, and I remember the disappointments I had. I know a little about how you feel, what your thoughts are, and the questions in your mind. Let me encourage you. The most important thing you can do is to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

We could go through the Bible and read experience after experience of those who found favor in the eyes of God, and obtaining

His favor today is possible for you. You do not have to wait until you have graduated from high school or college. You do not have to wait until you find a boyfriend or a girlfriend, a husband or a wife, and then say, "Well, now I will settle down and work on my experience." There is no better time than the present to begin to cultivate your relationship with the Lord. How do you develop a friendship? By spending time with someone. As you talk together, you learn about each other's interests, you learn how each other thinks, and you learn how each other reacts.

Often I tell my piano students, "You need to form a friendship with the piano. You need to get to know the piano and get to know what music is all about." When you form a friendship, often it is a beautiful bond for life. That is the way it is with the Lord. You need to get to know Him, and it all starts with

being born again. When you are born again, God comes into your life, and that is truly a miracle and a beautiful experience; but it is only the beginning. From there you need to learn who Jesus is. He already knows who you are. The Bible says the very hairs of your head are numbered. Think of that! That Scripture is in the Bible partly to let us know how concerned God is about the tiniest details of our lives.

Christ has likened our relationship with Him to that of a bride and bridegroom. So much of what we put into practice in spiritual matters is applicable to our home lives when it comes to submission and the way we treat each other. That is how it is with the Lord. You want to get well acquainted with Him. You cannot hide anything from Him, even if you think you might want to or if you are a little embarrassed about something in your life. Hopefully, you do not want to hide anything from Him. As a mother, often I have said, "Whenever you have to hide something, that is a sure sign that it is wrong." If you are thinking that you need to do something on the sly, remember that it is wrong and you ought to refrain from it.

Keeping God's Commandments

I would like to encourage you to read the Book of Proverbs. It is a wealthy Book in the Bible. The entire Bible is wonderful, but I think the Book of Proverbs is especially good for the youth to study. Proverbs 3:14 says: "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour [This is the way to find favor with God. Learn what the Word of God says, hold it close to you, bind it about your neck, and write it on the table of your heart and you shall find favor.] and good understand-

ing in the sight of God and man."

God gave His Word as a road map for our lives. It has the answers for any problem that you could ever encounter. Young person, you need to find time in your busy schedule to read the Scriptures and meditate on them. If you can read the Bible in the morning, God will bring what you have read back to your mind throughout the day, and it will be just what you need. In thinking back to when I was a freshman in college, one morning at the breakfast table, I opened the Word and read the Scripture, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Timothy 2:3). That day I needed to take a stand for the Lord in one of my classes, and I felt very intimidated in the situation. However, God brought that Scripture back to my mind on the spur of the moment: "Endure hardness; don't be ashamed. Square your shoulders for Jesus Christ." It gave me that special impetus and what I needed for the moment so that I did not cower down. That is just how God works through His Word. He will give you exactly what you need to fight every battle in this life.

You need to trust in the Lord with all your heart. You can safely trust in Him. Sometimes young people have said to me, "I want a Christian companion. I want to trust the Lord, but what if He gives me someone ugly?" Have you ever had that thought? God will not do that. The person God gives you will be the most beautiful person in the world in your eyes. That is just how God works. God will give you the very best.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says: "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." God wants you to acknowledge Him, and He really will direct your paths. The burden of my heart is to let you know from the voice of experience that God wants to direct you in

your life right now. Are you seeking God's face for direction in your life? Are you talking to Him about the really personal things of life? You need to, because God knows.

The Importance of Listening to God

I used to think, "I want a husband." You must wait until God brings the right one along. I remember telling my dad, "I am going to be an old maid. I don't have a husband, and everyone else does." Dad used to say, "Busy yourself in the work of the Lord. Do everything you can do for God. He knows that is a desire and a need in your life, and He will fulfill it." Sister, God made you to want to have a husband. By nature, a Christian young lady wants someone to take charge of the affairs of her life. My husband did not have to teach me that; it is a natural tendency. God designed us to be that way. You really need to talk to God about getting the right companion. You should do as much talking to God about it as you do to your friends. This is so extremely important.

I am going to tell you of an experience that I had. There was a fellow in my life at one point. He was very nice, and he was a nice looking fellow. Also, he was very serious about the things of God. I remember his going to Honduras to help build buildings years ago. I was probably eighteen or nineteen years old. Our dating consisted of going to the house of worship, and he came to our home and visited. I thought maybe I had found the right one, but I kept talking to God, because I did not want to make any mistakes. (One thing worse than not having a man is having the wrong man, so you do not want to make a mistake.) God was mindful of where I was.

I was a sophomore in college. I had already met my husband, but he just came in for camp meeting and lived way out West. He was

horrible about writing letters, and he called me on the phone once a year. I thought he was the neatest person I had ever met, but I wondered why he did not keep in touch. I thought that I must not have meant anything to him. Meanwhile, I was spending time with another young man.

One day God said to me, "This is not the right one." It was just astonishing to me, so I was thinking, "Okay, he is not the right one. There must be a good reason why he is not the right one." Well, there was a very good reason, but God did not choose to tell me. He just said, "This is not the right one." I thought, "Now what am I supposed to tell this fellow? What reason am I supposed to give him?" He was such a mannerly, respectful young man. That was a really difficult situation. One minister came to me and said, "You know, you really hurt that fellow by dropping him like a hot cake." Well, God just kept putting that on me, and I could not get away from it. When I prayed, it would come back again. So, as kindly as I knew how, I had to tell him that I could not spend time with him anymore.

Nothing took form quickly with the man who later became my husband. Several years down the road, we did begin to correspond a little more. As time went on, my heart grew fonder, and apparently his did too, because it culminated in marriage.

You know, the other young man to whom I am referring is now in a very drastic state of life, and he is out in Babylon. I am so thankful that God spared me, and I am so thankful that I knew enough to talk to God, and that I listened. He was a very sincere young man when I was with him. I did not know what the future held, but God did. To me, that is very personal. It is very dear to me that God took time to work with me and did not let me just go on my own foolish impulses. He cared and directed my footsteps because I listened to Him.

God Is Fashioning the Right Companion for Your Life

Young person, God knows your end from the beginning. Who would not want to go to God and communicate with Him when He has all the answers and knows the future. You only know what a person is today. You need to tune your ears in and listen to Him. There is no time in life when you can cease listening to God. All the experiences I have passed through in life are not enough to take me on to Heaven. You do not know what the future holds. You need God.

I am so extremely thankful that God gave me a companion who felt the same way I did. When my husband and I were dating, our courtship was spent at camp meetings, revivals, in his home, and in my home singing around the piano. Honestly, he would have me singing until I was ready to drop in a faint. I thought, "I believe this man would sing twenty-four hours a day!"

When he called me on the telephone, he always forgot the two-hour difference in time, so the phone calls often came at two or three o'clock in the morning. He apparently did not care, and I surely did not when I heard his voice on the other end. Often our time on the telephone was spent with him playing the piano and singing to me some new song he had just discovered. It may sound foolish to you, but it was wonderful to me. Every time we were together, our conversations centered around God's Word. The most beautiful thing was that we understood God's Word alike, because we had the same Spirit.

As I was growing up, I thought that God would give me someone from Newark and that we would spend the rest of our days there. Why did He have to bring someone from eighteen hundred miles away? I do not know, but He was fashioning that man to be the perfect man for me many years

before He brought us together.

Young person, God is fashioning the right companion for your life. You just need to talk to Him and find out who he or she is. In the meantime, you need to deepen your roots in the things of God and spend your days serving Him. You cannot go wrong, because when you get the right one, you will have a jewel of a person. God is going to be working with that person too. Starting this process very early is really important, because marriage is a wonderful, divine creation from God, and it is so fulfilling.

When I was a teenager, I wanted twelve children, but God saw that seven was what I needed, and that is what He gave me. That is so fulfilling. When I had a child, I would think, "Oh, I hope God gives me another one. Children are so wonderful." And then God would give me another one. I remember after my first child was born, he was just the dearest little person in my life. I took him with me everywhere I went, and David took him with him everywhere he went.

Allowing God to Direct Your Steps

God gives us wonderful blessings in life. If I go back and think about what all I wanted in life, and then I think of what God has given me, He has not left one of my needs unmet. That only comes by seeking God's divine will and living in the center of His will. Jeremiah 10:23 says, "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." No matter how learned you are, you are not capable of directing your own steps. God wants to direct your steps.

Prayer is such a wonderful thing. You can cultivate a close relationship with the Lord. The Bible says we need to be instant in prayer. We read in Romans 12:12, "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in

prayer." You do not have to have long, drawn-out prayers. Now, sometimes you do need to spend a long time with God in prayer, but as far as God is concerned, God knows your need before you even ask.

No doubt, your life is very busy. Perhaps you are in school and you work nights. So, how do you get prayer built into your day? Cultivating the habit of praying and spending special time alone with the Lord is wonderful, but you can also pray throughout your day, even when you are driving the car. You can learn to pray wherever you are. I have special memories in my life of specific times when I was praying. I could take you to the high school where I graduated, to a spot in the hall where I really needed help from God. As I was walking through crowded halls, I remember having my own private conversation with God, and I remember God hearing and answering my prayer. You do not have to be in a specific setting to pray.

Sometimes the devil tries to really pull one over on us, by causing us to think we have to be in a kneeling position in a closet with the door shut behind us. No, you can talk to God anywhere. Sometimes people think I am silly when I say, "I love to wash dishes." I have a dishwasher now, but I have not always had one. I love to wash dishes, because while I wash dishes, I can talk to God and meditate on the things of God. I grow through meditation. Do you meditate? I am not talking about some weird kind of yoga meditation. I am speaking of wholesome meditation—being quiet and saying, "God, what do You have to say to me today? Lord, I have this problem, and I don't know how to solve it. I need to hear from You." Then just be quiet. Finding those times is difficult. Sometimes I meditate and think upon the goodness of God. It builds me up spiritually and makes me feel so good. It often gives me the

strength that I need to fight the battles of life.

Hearing God's Still Small Voice

Cultivating a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is so important. No one can take that personal relationship away from you. Only you can let go of it. You will pass through some very difficult scenes of life. I am not telling you that to frighten you, but I believe in being realistic. I am realistic with my children at home. Sometimes Mom is hurting, and they say, "What's wrong with you, Mom?" and I just spill it out. I say, "I am hurting, because this and this happened, and it hurts. I need to ask God to help me." I tell them how real life is, because I think they need to know. They need to know that I am a human being just as they are, and I am just as dependent upon God as they are.

There will be times in your life when you will not know which way to go, but you have an avenue. If you cultivate your friendship with God, He will be your best friend, and you can call on Him and say, "God, this is totally baffling." Then you will hear a voice whisper to you. Someone may try to influence you in the wrong way, but you do not need to be led astray, because God is faithful.

In thinking of our thirty years in the ministry and the decisions my dear husband has had to make from time to time, I can recall times when he had to separate himself from anything that I would say or any influence that I would cast on his life, because the decision involved people who were very dear to me; yet he was responsible for my spiritual welfare. I am so thankful that he did not listen to my groaning and my human feelings. He separated himself and listened to the voice of God, and then gave that direction to me. I appreciate it so much. The voice of God has always been faithful to give us the direction we have needed at the

right time.

I am not afraid of going astray. What I am afraid of is ever releasing my grip on the hand of God. I fear to ever let go of His hand. I fear displeasing God in my thoughts, my actions, or my attitudes. This is what life is all about, young person: obeying God, listening to Him, pleasing Him, and watching Him bring to pass beautiful things in your life.

Another Scripture tells us that we need to labor to be accepted of God. In serving God, there is some work involved, some denying of self, and some things to lay aside; but God will be faithful to prick you on the shoulder and say, "You know, it would be a little better if you didn't do this. It would be better if you were a little more careful of how you are dressing." I learned years ago that I did not like that uncomfortable feeling that the Spirit of God causes one to have at times, when maybe what one was doing was not wrong but was getting too close to it. I learned that it was much better to please God.

I remember back many years ago when I first heard the message on long hair and that it is given to the woman for a glory. There was a fight going on inwardly when I first heard that message. The fight was, "I don't know what to do with my hair. You mean, I should never cut it again? How am I going to fix it in the front and in the back?" All these thoughts whipped through my mind in a moment's time. I did not like that inward strife that was going on, so it did not take me too long to say, "Wait a minute! If the Word says I need to have long hair, I need to have long hair. Quit the quibbling. Lord, I want to obey You. Would You help me?"

God's Loving Care

Soon after my husband and I were married, he moved me off into the mountains of Montana. I was very much a city girl, and I was a very afraid city girl. He moved me

into a darling, little, three-room cabin on a mountainside in a town of thirty-two people. There was a very fast-moving stream coming down by our bedroom window. Our bedroom window was open all the time, and you could hear that rushing water; it was a neat sound. He was used to going up in the mountain and praying, so when he moved me there, he said, "Let's go pray." Trying to be a good, little, submissive wife, I trekked up the mountain with him to pray. When we got to the spot that he had picked out, I was looking around for mountain lions in the trees and bears behind us. I had a hard time shutting my eyes. Finally, we had to come to an agreement. I said, "Honey, you can go up the mountain to pray if you want to, but please let me stay in the bedroom to do my praying." I could not pray up there. I had to watch while he prayed, because I was afraid.

Then, he took a job working in a lumber mill all night long. He would leave me at ten or eleven o'clock at night and not come home until seven in the morning. I could not sleep. The bears often got in our

garbage can right outside the window. He thought that was the neatest sound to have those bears rattling the garbage can right outside our bedroom window.

I learned a Scripture during that time, and I have never forgotten it to this day. It was Psalm 4:8, which says, "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety." I would say that Scripture repeatedly until finally my eyelids closed, but the Lord was with me there. Wherever we have gone, God has been with us, and we have continued to acknowledge Him in our lives. He has directed our paths. That is the beauty of it all. I do not know how many more days or years I have to live for Him, but my greatest intentions are to continue walking with God and walking in the order of His will. God has given me an abundant life, and I know He is going to continue to do so. Do you know what? He is no respecter of persons. However insignificant you may feel, God is concerned about you, your life, and your future. He really cares about you.

I want you to read a Scripture from the Amplified Version. Isaiah

49:15-16 says: "[And the Lord answered] Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yes, they may forget, yet will I not forget you. Behold, I have indelibly imprinted (tattooed) a picture of you on the palm of each of My hands. O Zion, your walls are continually before Me."

Did you know that God has a picture of you in the palms of His hands? That is how special you are to Him. You are always before His mind; He cares about you. I feel His care and concern in my own life, and God is no respecter of persons. He cares for you. Young person, if you feel discouraged and feel that you have failed, you can pick up where you left off.

I could talk all day of the wonderful goodness of our Lord and how He has been with us, how He has helped, and how He has guided us; but I want you to experience that too. That is the deepest desire of my heart. I trust that you will submit your heart and life to Jesus Christ.

(Cassette C-4467A)

Radio Log



LOCATION	STATION	DAY	TIME
Newark, Ohio	WCLT-AM 1430	Sunday	7:15 a.m.-8:00 a.m.
Anderson, Indiana	WQME-FM 98.7	Sunday	8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.
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The Man That Died For Me



Many years ago I wanted to go as a foreign missionary, but my way seemed hedged about, and after a few years I went to live on the Pacific Coast. Life was rough in the mining country where I lived, and this was my chance for missionary work.

I heard of a man over the hills who was dying of consumption. "He is so vile," they said, "no one can stand it to stay with him, so the boys place some food by him and leave him for twenty-four hours. They'll find him dead some time, and the quicker the better. Never had a soul, I guess."

The pity of it all haunted me as I went about my work, and I tried for three days to get someone to go and see him and find out if he was in need of better care. As I turned from the last man, vexed at his indifference, the thought came to me, "Why don't you go yourself? Here's missionary work, if you want it."

I'll not tell how I weighed the usefulness of my going, or how I shrank from one so vile as he. It wasn't the kind of work I wanted.

At last, one day I went over the hills to the little cabin. It was just one room. The door stood open, and up in one corner on some straw and some blankets I found the dying

man. Sin had left awful marks on his face, and if I had not heard that he could not move, I should have retreated hastily.

As my shadow fell over the floor, he looked up and greeted me with a dreadful oath.

"Don't speak so, my friend," I said.

"I ain't your friend," he said. "I never had any friends, and I don't want any now."

I reached out, at arm's length, the fruit I had brought him, and stepping back to the doorway, I asked him, hoping to find a tender place in his heart, if he remembered his mother, but he cursed her. I asked him if he ever had a wife, and he cursed her. I spoke of God, and he cursed Him. I tried to speak of Jesus and His death for us, but he stopped me with his oaths, and said, "That's all a lie. Nobody ever died for others."

The next day I went again, and every day for two weeks, but he did not show the gratitude a dog would have shown.

At the end of that time I said, "I'm not going any more." That night, when I was putting my little boys to bed, I did not pray for the miner, as I had been accustomed to do. My little Charles noticed it and said, "Mama, you did not pray for

the bad man." "No," I answered with a sigh.

"Have you given him up, Mamma?"

"Yes, I guess so."

"Has God give him up, Mamma? Ought you to give him up before God does?"

That night I could not sleep. I could only think of the man dying, and so vile, with no one to care.

I got up and went away by myself to pray, but as my knees touched the floor, I was overpowered by the sense of how defective had been my prayers. I had had no faith, and I had not fully cared, beyond a half-hearted sentiment. Oh, the shame, the sham of my missionary zeal! I fell on my face literally, as I cried, "O Christ, give me a little glimpse of the worth of a human soul."

Did you ever ask that and mean it? Do not do it unless you are willing to give up ease and selfish pleasure, for life will be a different thing to you after the revelation. I stayed on my knees until Calvary became a reality to me. I cannot describe those hours. They came and went unheeded, but I learned that night what I had never known before—what it is to travail for a human soul. I saw my Lord that night as I had never seen Him

before. The next morning brought a lesson in Christian work I had never learned before. I had waited on other days until the afternoon, when, my work being all over, I could change my dress, put on my gloves, and take a walk while the shadows were on the hillsides. That day, the moment my little boys went off to school, I left my work and hurried over the hills, not to see "that vile wretch," but to win a soul. There was a human soul in the balance, and I wanted to get there quickly.

As I passed on, a neighbor came out of her cabin and said, "I'll go over the hills with you.

I did not want her, but it was another lesson for me. God could plan better than I could. She had her little girl, and as we reached the cabin she said, "I'll wait out here."

I do not know what I expected, but the man greeted me with an awful oath. It did not hurt me as it did before, for I was behind Christ and I stayed there. I could bear what struck Him first.

While I was changing the basin of water and towel, which I had done every day, and which he used but never thanked me for, the clear laugh of the little girl rang out like a bird's note.

"What's that?" the man said eagerly.

"It's a little girl outside waiting for me."

"Would you mind letting her in?" he said in a different tone from any I had heard before.

Stepping to the door I beckoned to her and taking her by the hand said, "Come in and see the sick man, Mamie."

She shrank back as she saw his face and said, "I'm 'fraid." But I assured her with, "Poor sick man! He can't get up and wants to see you."

She stood near him, with her face framed in golden curls, her eyes tender and pitiful, and in her hand the flowers she had picked from the sage brush. Bending toward him, she said, "I sorry for 'ou, sick man.

Will 'ou have a posy?"

He laid his great bony hand beyond the flowers on the plump hand of the child, and tears came to his eyes as he said, "I once had a little girl and she died. Her name was Mamie. She cared for me. Nobody else did. Guess I'd been different if she'd lived. I've hated everybody since she died."

I knew then I had the key to the man's heart, and the thought came quickly, born of that midnight prayer service, "When I spoke of your mother and your wife you cursed them, and I know now that they were not good women or you could not have done it."

"Good women! Oh, you don't know nothin' 'bout that kind of women. You can't think what they was."

"Well, if your little girl had lived and grown up with them, wouldn't she have been just like them? You would not have liked to have her live for that, would you?"

He had not thought of this, and his great eyes looked off for a full minute. As they came back to mine he cried, "Oh, no!"

Reaching out and taking the poor hand, I said, "The dear Lord didn't want her to be like them. He loved her better than you did. So He took her away where she could be cared for by the angels. He is keeping her for you. Today she is waiting for you. Don't you want to see her?"

"Oh, I'd be willing to be burned alive a thousand times over if I could just see my little gal once more, my little Mamie."

Oh, friend, what a blessed story I had to tell that hour, and I had been so close to Calvary that I could tell it in earnest.

The poor face grew ashy pale as I talked, and the man threw up his arms as though his agony was mastering him. Two or three times he gasped as though losing breath. Then clutching me he said, "What's that, woman, you said the other day 'bout talkin' to somebody out o' sight?"

"It's praying. I tell God what I want."

"Pray now! Pray quick! Tell Him I want to see my little gal again someday."

Dropping to my knees I asked Mamie if she would pray for the man. She said, "Dear Jesus, this man is so sick. He lost his little girl, and he feels bad about it. I'm so sorry for him, and he's sorry too. Won't You help him?"

Heaven seemed to open before us. There stood One with the prints of the nails in His hands and the wounds in His side.

Mamie slipped away soon, but the man kept saying, "Tell Him more about it, tell Him everything—but oh! You don't know."

Then he poured out such a torrent of confession that I could not have borne it but for the One that was close to us that hour, reaching out after that lost soul.

It was the third day when the poor, tired soul turned from everything to Him—the Mighty to save—the Man that died for me."

He lived on for weeks, as if God would show how real was the change. I had been telling him one day about a meeting, and he said, "I'd like to go to a meetin once. I never went to one of them things."

So we planned a meeting, and the boys came from the mills and the mines and filled the room.

"Now, boys," said he, "get down on your knees while she tells about that Man that died for me."

I had been brought up to believe that a woman should not speak in a meeting, but I found myself talking, and I tried to tell the simple story of the Cross.

After awhile, he said, "Oh, boys, you didn't half believe it or you'd cry, you couldn't help it. Boys, raise me up. I'd like to tell it once."

So they raised him up, and between his short breathing and coughing, he told the story.

"Boys," he said, "you know how the water runs down the sluice boxes and carries off all the dirt and

leaves the gold behind? Well, the blood of that Man she tells about went right over me just like that. It carried off all my sins, and it left enough of me to see Mamie and to see the Man that died for me. Oh, boys, can't you love Him?"

Some days after, I saw that the end was near, and as I left, I said, "What shall I say tonight, Jack?"

"Just say 'Goodnight,' and when we meet again, I'll say 'Good morning' up there."

The next morning the door was closed, and I found two of the boys sitting silently by a board stretched across two stools. They turned back the sheet from the dead, and I looked on the face, which seemed to have come back nearer to the "image of God."

"I wish you could have seen him when he went," they said. "He brightened up 'bout midnight and, smiling, said, 'I'm goin' boys. Tell her I am going to see Mamie. Tell

her I'm goin' to see the Man that died for me,' and he was gone." Kneeling there, with my hands over those poor, cold ones that had been stained with human blood, I asked to come to understand more and more the worth of a human soul and to be drawn into deeper sympathy with Christ's yearning compassion—"Not willing that any should perish."

Selected



WINTER 2000 CAMP MEETING TAPE LIST



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