

The Gospel Trumpeter

JUSTIFICATION

SANCTIFICATION

UNITY & TRUTH

"So will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day." Eze. 34:12
Jer. 32:39

"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished." Rev. 10:7
Mal. 2:13

SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

Vol. 40 June 2010 No. 6



Church of God Tabernacle in Newark, Ohio

*"I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord."*

Psalm 122:1

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

THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER
USPS #871620

Periodicals postage paid at the post office in Newark,
Ohio 43055.

POSTMAN, send form 3579 to the printer:

THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER
675 N. Cedar Street
Newark, Ohio 43055

This periodical carries no subscription price;
however, it is partially maintained through the gifts
and offerings of its readers, with the balance of the
expenses being paid by the local congregation.

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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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for any reason. We are not responsible for unsolicited
articles or items.

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It's Camp Meeting Time!

It is the first of June all ready,
and we are rapidly moving into
another camp meeting season at
God's Acres. In just a few weeks
(beginning June 20), we will be
gathering together on the old
campground. Again, it will be a
time to be ushered into the
presence of God and to worship
together with the precious saints.

Camp meeting is a special time
when we come into a godly atmo-
sphere, free from the hassles of
life, and have our souls renewed
and refreshed. What a wonderful
opportunity to feast on heavenly
manna and enjoy the good things
God has to share with us! He
always prepares a bountiful table
for His people, and He encourages
the hearts that need to be lifted
up. He enriches each one with
greater understanding, and He
challenges His saints to keep
pressing forward to the goal.

We are as the Psalmist, who
said, "I was glad. . . ." He knew the
importance of going to the house
of the Lord. That was the place
where he received help and un-
derstanding for his spiritual
needs.

Having a spiritual atmosphere
for people to come into is our
greatest desire and purpose. Our
concern and prayer is that the
Spirit of God will be free to work
as He pleases in each service.
Camp meeting is a time for the
lost and the downtrodden to
receive help, but it is also for the
saints to have their strength
renewed and their souls encour-
aged.

We are living in a day when
all the forces of evil have been
turned loose against the people of
God. These forces, led by Satan,
are determined to destroy our
faith and defeat us, if possible.

Satan's purpose is to turn away as
many as he can from the path of
holiness and true righteousness.
We need all the instruction and
direction we can receive from the
Lord. Learning about the good old
paths and understanding those
things that please God are more
needful today than ever before.
The Hebrew writer instructed
each one when he said, "Not for-
saking the assembling of our-
selves together" (Hebrews 10:25).
It is through hearing, believing,
and obeying the Word of God that
brings victory to the soul.

James gave good admonition
when he instructed, "But be ye
doers of the word, and not hearers
only" (James 1:22). This is not a
time for us to relax our efforts or
to become slack in our living, but
rather it is a time, as Paul said in
1 Timothy 6:12, to "Fight the good
fight of faith, [and] lay hold on
eternal life." The wise man said to
"Buy the truth, and sell it not" in
Proverbs 23:23. In other words,
you need to obtain all you can,
and then do not let it slip away
from you. Truth brings freedom
and spiritual stability.

To make Heaven will require a
deeper determination and a great-
er consecration than ever before.
Friend, you owe it to yourself,
your family, the church, and the
world to attend as many of these
services as possible.

We invite you to join us. If you
have not been here for a while, we
will be eager to see you. If you
have not begun to pray for the
camp meeting, we earnestly ask
you to do so. God's direction and
presence is needed in every ser-
vice. Having Him in our midst is
of utmost importance. Christ is
the only hope of redemption.

Father's Day



Brother Roger L. Decker

A Foundation for Future Generations

Father's Day is a day that has been set aside to honor earthly fathers. We ought to honor our Heavenly Father every day. Earthly fathers have quite a role, just as mothers do. They are an important part of the family. In a study in a New England correctional facility, some startling facts were given by six hundred teenagers while they were there. Six out of ten had fathers who drank excessively, and many of them had mothers who did the same. Three out of four were permitted by parents to come and go as they pleased; they were given no parental oversight. Seven out of ten had homes where no group or family activities were enjoyed to-

gether. None of them had a family altar in the home, and none of them attended Sunday school.

I read that in a meeting in Illinois, a man by the name of Gypsy Smith was to be the guest speaker. Only men were present, and when the moment arrived, Gypsy Smith lifted his well-worn Bible and asked, "How many of you men can recall a saintly mother and father who loved this Book, read it, lived it, and instilled it into your mind?" Most of the men there, with tears in their eyes, raised their hands. Then Gypsy asked this question: "With all of that influence, how many of you are so living that your children will remember you for your faithfulness to the same Book?" Not one hand was raised.

Ephesians 6:1-3 says: "Children,

obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

As I said before, Father's Day has been set aside to honor earthly fathers. We also would like to pay tribute to them, because it is a worthy cause. The world has its opinion of what a good father should be, but God also has His opinion of what a good father ought to be. There is only one of these opinions that we have to take seriously, and that is what God thinks. The reason is that the world's opinion will vary, but God's opinion is true for all generations.

I read this interesting definition of a father. One individual wrote, "A

father is a man who carries photographs where his money used to be." The world feels that if a man does certain things, he is classified as a really good father: he provides for his family, has a good job, gain lots of material things, and does not have to worry about anything. The world says he is a member of a church, he takes his child to Sunday school once in a while, and he is involved in activities socially and religiously. Also, he makes sure his child gets a chance to be involved in sports.

Though these things in themselves are not necessarily sinful, there is One whom the world does not mention that is head and shoulders above all else. All fathers need to be born again. As a father, you can do all the things for which the world praises you, but if you are unsaved, your family has nothing for a foundation for future generations. Not everyone is a father with whom God is pleased.

In the Greek the word *father* means "a nourisher, a protector, and an upholder." The Hebrew father was known for having the respect of his children. His children gave him reverence and affection. He was considered to be the head of the family. If one wanted to discuss something with the family, he went to the head of that family, the father. A father that pleases God is a man who not only loves his family but also loves God even more than he loves his family. The more you love God, the more you love your family.

God is first in a godly father's life. He loves God supremely, and he shows his love to God through obedience. He is concerned that his family also obeys God. He shows his children how to worship their Heavenly Father. He teaches them as children and takes them to Sunday school regularly. He makes sure they are not late. He makes sure that he instills in their minds that the services of God are a priority in their home. His children can say that their father really loves God, because God is first in his life.

The Father of the Faithful

Let us look into the Word of God to see what the Bible says about fathers. Let us first consider Abraham. Abraham is called the father of the faithful. Genesis 18:1-4 reads: "And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant: Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree."

Those three angels appeared to Abraham in the plains of Mamre, and during that stay it was presented to Abraham that he and Sarah would have a child in their old age. We read in verse 16, "And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way." They went from the discussion of Abraham and Sarah having a child to the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah. Verses 17-18 let us know that the Lord had confidence in Abraham: "And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?" The discussion was between the angels and the Lord, and the Lord asked the question, in essence, "How can I hide these things from Abraham?" He went on to say in verse 19, "For I know him."

You might know a lot about God, but does God have confidence in you? Can He reveal things to you as He did to Abraham? The Lord spoke and revealed His intentions to Abraham. He had a reason for doing so. Abraham was very obedient. In Genesis 12:1-4 we read: "Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy

kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran."

In these verses of Scripture we find that Abraham was obedient to the call of God. He obeyed exactly what God told him to do. God told him to leave behind all the falsity in which he was involved, so Abraham departed, not knowing where he would go. He had a willingness to forsake all, to obey God's command, and to cling to the promises of the Lord. Then there was Abraham's love to God. He loved God supremely. He proved that in the land of Moriah when he offered his son as a sacrifice.

Genesis 18:19 continues, ". . . he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment."

God's Patience Can Reach a Limit

Let me digress for a while. The awful judgments that came upon Sodom and the Antediluvian world are a warning and an example to all who are spared or hear of them. What is the warning? The warning is that God sees all, and there is a time when God's patience reaches a limit. You must always keep that in mind. God's mercy is not going to follow you all the days of your life as you live in sin. You will find when you read the Word of God that there is a time when God's mercy and His patience will reach an end. He can be provoked to the degree that once judgment is pronounced, no one can change His mind.

Numbers 14:22-23 says: "Be-

cause all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it." I want to remind you that God's patience has a limit to it.

We read in Psalm 78:43-49: "How he had wrought his signs in Egypt, and his wonders in the field of Zoan: And had turned their rivers into blood; and their floods, that they could not drink. He sent divers sorts of flies among them, which devoured them; and frogs, which destroyed them. He gave also their increase unto the caterpillar, and their labour unto the locust. He destroyed their vines with hail, and their sycamore trees with frost. He gave up their cattle also to the hail, and their flocks to hot thunderbolts. He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, and indignation, and trouble, by sending evil angels among them." Down through verse 55, you can read about the things that God did against Egypt, which was holding His people in bondage.

Verses 56-59 state: "Yet they tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies: But turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow. For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images. When God heard this, he was wroth, and greatly abhorred Israel."

God did all those things against the enemies of Israel, and then Israel turned back to idolatry and provoked God's patience. Therefore, God turned on Israel, just as He had turned on Egypt.

God will do the same thing yet today. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not tread on God's mercy. You must quit stomping underfoot the mercy of God. If you see the dawn of another day, it

is the very mercy of God. God sees all. God got angry and turned the judgment on His people. It is very dangerous to be standing under the umbrella of no remedy.

A true father loves God supremely. God is his number one priority. He gauges everything he does in life—his home, his job, and everything else—under the influence of Almighty God. He knows that if he amounts to anything at all, it is due to the grace and the power of God. A Christian father is the head of the household. God has a government in the home as well as in the church. If people will follow the way that God has set it up and the way God wants the home to be, it will bring harmony and contentment.

A Father's Great Responsibility

First Corinthians 11:3 says, "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." Jesus Christ has a head. Ephesians 5:23 states, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." That is the way God has set up this government, dating back to Creation.

We read in Genesis 3:16, "Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule [or have authority] over thee." Is that not a wonderful setup?

Mothers need a real man to take his rightful place as the head of the home, not just a man who makes a good living and supplies all their earthly wants and needs. The husband must take his place as the spiritual leader in the home as well, not just a man who goes to the door when someone knocks, not just a man for whom the wife fixes meals, not just a man for whom the wife makes the bed and does his laundry. A godly father is one to whom the

children can go at any time and say, "Dad, pray for me. I need some help and some counsel."

There are many other kinds of fathers. For example, one father may say, "I'm not going to supply *all* the wants that my children have." Well, when you look back on it, the way you were raised probably was not so bad after all. Perhaps your parents taught you how to conserve a little. The Bible says that the husband is to provide for his house.

First Timothy 5:8 says, "But if any [man] provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." There is nothing worse than a lazy husband. The Bible says he is "worse than an infidel." What is an *infidel*? The word means, "an unbeliever, an atheist, a pagan." If all the husband wants to do is lay around the house all the time and let the wife worry about the support, he is worse than an infidel, or a pagan, and you know that no infidel is going to make it into God's Heaven.

Fathers have a great responsibility, and there are fathers who are not living up to the role in which God has placed them. Sad to say, some fathers do not want to live for God. They are more interested in their children receiving scholarships for athletic abilities and academic achievements. They are not interested in the things of God.

Leading by Example

Some fathers set the wrong example before their children by being caught up with the habits of life. Now, I am sure that no father wants to see his child grow up to smoke cigarettes and sip beer. If that is the case, then why do some fathers smoke, mess around with drugs, and drink alcohol if they do not want their children to do those things? There used to be a sign in my manufacturing manager's office. I will always remember that sign on the wall, which read, "Lead By Example." I have never forgotten

that. We need fathers who are godly examples to the rest of the family concerning how they should live their lives spiritually, materially, and in every way. The father ought to lead by example.

There are fathers who want their children to attend Sunday school and church, yet they will not go. As a father, God wants you to be a good example. I want to clarify this: You are going to make mistakes. God knows that we are going to make them, and it grieves us when we do, but children should not correct their fathers and mothers. Children should not go to their father and mother and tell them off. God will take care of them. If your parents are spiritual, God will correct them and help them to be better at what they are doing.

God said He knew Abraham, that he would command his children, meaning that he would raise them the right way. A father has many things to teach his children. He teaches his children how to fix things, how to build things, and how to conserve. Many things are needful to teach a young man as he grows older and enters into society, but most importantly, he must teach him about spiritual things.

In Proverbs, Chapter 6, there is a list of some terrible sins that have taken over in the lives of many people. I want you to see what the antidote is against these things. The greatest defense against these sins is found in verses 20-23: "My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life."

The best antidote against these terrible things is home training. You must keep "thy father's commandment" and "forsake not the law of thy mother." Children should learn

about these horrible sins growing up in their mother and father's home. Children should be taught against pride, lying, running to evil, and causing trouble with others. Again, verse 20 reads, "My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother." When did the writer insert that verse? He wrote it right after he finished these words: ". . . and he that soweth discord among brethren."

Love and Consistency in the Home

Fathers have a great influence in the home. The Apostle Paul wrote of some things that a father should and should not do. Colossians 3:19 says, "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." The wife should be a delight to the husband. He is to cherish her as Christ cherishes the church, providing support and comfort for her.

The husband is to protect the wife as the weaker vessel. Women have a tendency to cry more than men. Men can be very harsh with their voices. Their voices are louder, stronger, and more authoritative. The husband should be careful that he is not harsh or mean to his wife. She is not a piece of furniture or a doormat. The wife is a helpmeet; she is there to help him. She may not be 100 percent perfect in his eyes, but he may not be perfect in her eyes either. She has faults, but he has faults too.

The wife might have a few little things that he does not like about her, but he might have many things that she does not like about him. That is where the grace of God comes in to keep a home together, just as in a congregation. Every one has his or her little idiosyncracies. They have little things that they do that some people do not like, but the love of God keeps us together. That same love should be in every home, and it will keep a husband and a wife together. Christian couples ought to be down on their knees talking to God about their problems,

not in a divorce court. God can do more for a home than all the lawyers in this nation.

Husband, do not use sour looks or bitter words or act harshly toward your wife, as if she were a slave and not your companion. You should seek her spiritual good; she is an heir with Christ of the grace of God.

An individual wrote about a father's role, and it is so good. He said a father's role is this: "The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." Colossians 3:21 says, "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." A father should not abuse his authority over his children. Discipline should be consistent. If it is consistent, you will not have to be harsh. Sometimes parents turn their heads on some things, and they keep turning their heads; then all of a sudden, they strike out in anger. If they had taken care of the problem in the beginning, they would not have become angry and struck out. It might have taken only a few simple words to reprimand. By allowing something one moment and then not allowing it the next moment, you are being inconsistent. Believe me, children know how far they can take you before you reach the breaking point.

Consistency is very important in raising children. You should not overlook things one moment and then turn around, and because you are upset, correct the child too harshly. You must be consistent. Fathers can provoke their children to wrath. Evidently it was going on in the morning-time church, because the Apostle Paul wrote about it. Some parents spoil their children by being too lenient, and others are too severe. The Bible says not to provoke your children to anger. When you correct your child, you should do it out of love for that child, just as God corrects you out of love. God does it because He wants to make you a better child.

God gave you those children to

care for. They are not someone else's responsibility. Therefore, you ought to know where they are and know what they are doing at all times. They could be in danger.

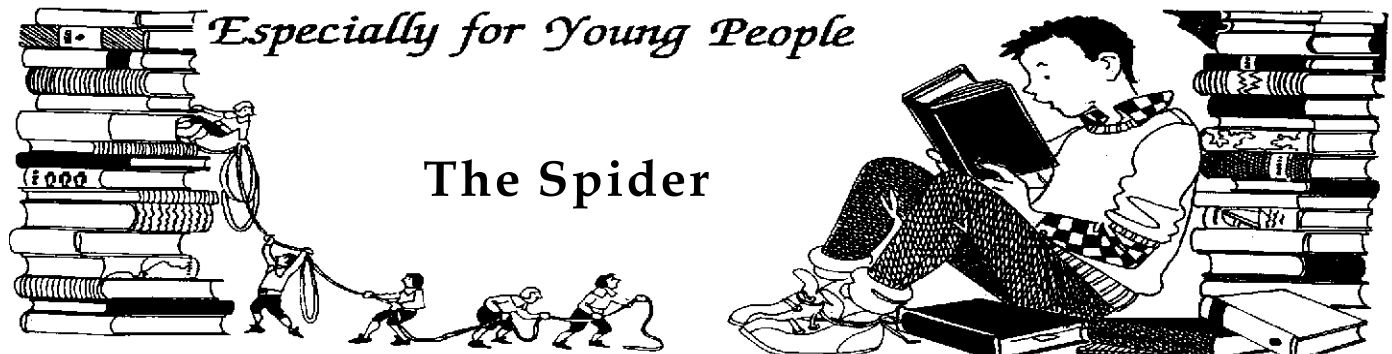
Parents ought to behave lovingly toward their children even while maintaining their just authority over them. Paul said not to provoke your children to anger, lest they become discouraged. What did he mean? You should not provoke them to anger, lest they lose heart and their spirit becomes broken. They may

become depressed, brooding, and careless.

God said He knew Abraham. That is quite a statement for Him to say about Abraham. God knew that Abraham was obedient and that he loved Him supremely. Can God count on you to be faithful and obedient to the Truth? Can God depend on you to instruct your family and show them the way they need to go to be successful in serving God through this life? Are you a father who has been born again and

who is walking in all the light that God has revealed to you? If you have not been born again, you need to be. You cannot, in any way, be the father that God expects you to be if you do not have God on the inside. You must be born again to be a father that pleases God. You must get your instructions from God so that you can pass them on to your family.

(Compact Disc TR-256M)



On a hot summer day a gentleman sat down to think over a subject on which his mind was greatly troubled. He was wondering how it was that so many of his acquaintances had yielded to temptation and had been destroyed. He was wondering how the great tempter could so soon get them entangled in his nets and never let them loose again until they were ruined.

While he was thinking over the subject, he saw a worm moving softly along on the footpath. He moved quietly and without fear. "Now," said the gentleman to himself, "that poor worm can go safely, though it has no reason to guide it. There lies in wait no destroyer to entangle it, while our young men, with reason and conscience, are destroyed by scores!" Just then he saw a spider cross the path about a foot in front of the worm. She did not appear to be thinking of the worm, nor the worm of her. When she got quite across the path she stopped and stood still. The worm kept on, but soon was brought to a stand by a small cord, too small for our eyes to see, which the spider

had spun as she rushed before him. Finding himself stopped, the worm turned to go back. The instant he turned back, back darted the spider, spinning a new cord behind her. The poor worm was now brought up a second time, and twisted and turned every way to escape. He seemed now to suspect some mischief, for he ran this way and that way, and every time he turned the spider darted around him, weaving another rope. There gradually was no space left for him, except in the direction of the hole of the spider. That was left open, but on all other sides, by darting across or around, the space was gradually growing less. It was noticed, too, that every time the worm turned toward the hole of the spider, he was instantly hemmed in, so that he could not go back quite so far as before. So his very agony continually brought him nearer the place of death. It took a full hour to do all this, and by that time the worm was brought close to the hole of the destroyer. He now seemed to feel that he was helpless, and if he could have screamed, he doubtless would have done so. Now the spider eyed

him a moment, as if enjoying his terror, and laughing at her own skill, and then darted on him, and struck him with her fangs. Instantly the life began to flow out. Again, she struck him, and the poor thing rolled over in agony and died. Mrs. Spider now hitched one of her little ropes to her victim and drew him into her hole, where she feasted at her leisure, perhaps counting over the number of poor victims whom she had destroyed in the same way before.

When I see one disregarding his father and mother and doing what he knows will grieve them, or when I see one going to the theater, where nothing good, but all evil, is displayed, or when I have reason to suspect that he takes money from his father or his employer, which is none of his, but which he hopes to replace.

I always think of the spider and her victim and mourn that the great destroyer is weaving his meshes about every boy and drawing them toward his own awful home!

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Humility



Brother Larry Dishman

The Root of Almost Every Sin

The writer began by saying, "If my people. . . ." The first requirement for the fulfillment of our Scripture text is that we have to be the people of God. Then he mentioned four other things: humbling themselves, praying, seeking the face of God, and turning from their wicked ways. We cannot have revival if we meet only two or three of these conditions; we must meet all four conditions. I want you to look at one of these conditions, and that is humility. I stand amazed at the thought of how little humility is sought as a distinguishing feature of the discipleship of Jesus Christ.

The call to humility has been too little regarded in the church because its true nature and importance has been little understood. In too many

cases humility has never had the place of supreme importance that rightfully belongs to it. Humility is rarely preached on. How little it is practiced! The lack of it is felt and confessed among many people. Few attain a recognizable measure of the likeness of Jesus in His humility. Not many people ever think of making it a distinct object of continual desire and prayer. The world has seen so little true humility. True humility is a quality that is not found in many believers. It will lead you to think rightly of yourself.

I heard about a brother who felt that the Lord had laid a message upon his heart concerning humility. He really studied it and felt that it was an excellent message. Since he felt that it was such a wonderful outline, he filed it away so that he could preach it in a meeting and

impress a lot of people. The trouble that many people have is, every time they think, they think about themselves.

Sincere humility attracts. However, the lack of humility subtracts, and artificial humility detracts. The best way to be right and the best way to be wrong is to be humble about it. You ought to have humility in all that you say and do.

Pride is the worst of all spiritual cancers. Did you hear about the man who was given a medal for being humble? He thought so much of it that he pinned it on himself, and then they took it away from him. Nothing is so insidious, so hidden from our sight, and so dangerous as pride.

The old Puritans had a saying that pride is the last thing to leave the human heart and the first thing

to return. The absence of humility is one reason that the power of God cannot be manifested as God would have it to be in these last days. It is only when one truly knows and shows that he can do nothing of himself that God will do it all. Pride, or the loss of humility, is the root of almost every sin.

The First Duty and Highest Virtue of Men

When the serpent in the Garden of Eden breathed the poison of pride (the desire to be as God) into the hearts of our foreparents, they fell from the high and lofty estate into the wretchedness in which man now has sunk. In all the earth, pride and self-exaltation are the gates and the curse of hell.

The lack of humility is the sufficient explanation of every defect and every failure. All wars, all bloodshed among nations, all selfishness, all jealousy, all broken hearts and bitter lives, and all daily unhappiness are the results of wicked pride.

Pride only seeks its own. Some people have gone to the extreme in saying that they have to keep sinning in order to remain humble. Evidently that was kind of the thought that some people had when Paul wrote the Book of Romans. Romans 6:1-2 reads: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" Man's chief care, his highest virtue, and his only happiness now and through all eternity is to present himself as an empty vessel in which God can dwell and manifest His power and His goodness.

Humility, the place of entire dependence upon God, is the first duty and the highest virtue of men; it is the root of every virtue. You cannot pray and seek the face of God as you really should if you do not have humility of heart. Furthermore, you definitely will not turn from any wicked ways in your life if

you are not humble of heart.

How is it in your life? If humility is the root of the tree, its nature must be seen in every branch and every leaf. We must make humility the chief thing that we ask of God. Is it any wonder that the Christian life is so often feeble and fruitless when the very root of the Christ life is often neglected and unknown? I am talking about humility, and Jesus is our example of humility.

Since Jesus is our example in humility, then you must understand the principles in which His humility was rooted and find common ground on which to stand with Him so that your likeness to Him can be attained. Friend, in the Word of God you will see that Jesus left His glory and took upon Himself the form of a servant. Matthew 23:11 states, "But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant." He simply taught the blessed truth that nothing is so divine and so heavenly as being a servant and a helper of all.

While Jesus was in Heaven, He humbled Himself and became a man. He possessed this humility in Heaven and brought it here on earth. He humbled Himself and became obedient, even unto death. His humility gave His death its value and so became our redemption. His humility is our salvation, and His salvation is our humility. Do you know what the Bible says about this great Man—this Man whom we love and adore, this Man who turned water into wine, this Man who went about healing the sick, raising the dead, casting out devils, opening the eyes of the blind, and opening the deaf ears? This Man always went about doing good, yet He made of Himself no reputation. Friend, that is the opposite of what many preachers are trying to do today. They are trying to make of themselves a reputation.

The Humility of the Savior

As I looked at the humility of the Savior, it did something to me. In John's Gospel the Lord spoke of

His relationship to His Father. I want you to see how unceasingly throughout the Word of God Jesus kept saying, "I am nothing." For everything in His life, He gave God the praise. Jesus said in John 5:19, "The Son can do nothing of himself." He went on to say in verse 30, "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."

In verse 41 He said, "I receive not honour from men." In John 6:38 He said, "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." In John 7:16 He stated, "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me," and in verse 28 continued, "I am not come of myself." He said in John 8:28, "I do nothing of myself." In verse 42 He went on to say, "Neither came I of myself, but he sent me." Then Jesus said in verse 50, "I seek not mine own glory." In John 14:10 He stated, "The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself." In verse 24 He said, "The word which ye hear is not mine." This is Jesus, the Son of God.

These words open to us the deepest roots of Christ's life, the deepest roots of His words. They tell us how Almighty God was able to work His mighty redemption through Him. They show how important Christ counted the state of the heart, which became Him as the Son of the Father. They teach us what the essential nature and life is of redemption, which Christ accomplished and now communicates. In the Book of John, Jesus repeatedly said that He could do nothing of Himself and that the doctrine was not His doctrine. In every step of His pilgrimage, He continued to give God all the praise, all the glory, and all the honor. He humbled Himself, and God lifted Him up.

Christ resigned Himself with His will and His power entirely for the Father to work in Him. In essence, Jesus said: "I have given Myself for the Father to work in. I

am nothing that the Father might be all in all."

Can we learn a lesson from Christ's life and His example of humility? He did not go around boasting in Himself, even though He was the Son of God, born of a virgin. There was not a problem that was too hard for Him while He was here on this earth, yet He did not go around lifting Himself up or putting Himself on a higher level. No, friend, He humbled Himself.

What did Christ lose by giving God all the glory? He lost nothing. The Father honored His trust, and since He gave God all the praise, all the glory, and all the honor, in turn, God the Father gave all to Him and exalted Him. Because Christ humbled Himself before God, God was ever before Him, and Christ found it possible to humble Himself before men. He was able to be a servant of all. His humility was simply the surrender of Himself to God to allow the Father to do as He pleased no matter what men might say or do. Friend, we have the example of Christ's humility, His teachings, and His instructions.

The Most Essential Element of True Discipleship

Jesus said in Matthew 5:3 and 5: "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. . . . Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." Friend, the first word of this proclamation reveals the open gate through which one alone can enter. To the poor who have nothing in themselves, He gives the kingdom. The meek who seek nothing in themselves will inherit the earth.

Jesus said the blessings of Heaven and earth are for the lowly. Humility is the secret of blessings for the heavenly and the earthly life. He wants us to learn this. I want you to notice that Jesus said in Matthew 11:29, "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." Jesus offers Him-

self as a teacher, and meekness and lowliness are the characteristics that He offers.

You will find that if you will humble yourself and learn about His meekness and lowliness of heart, you will find perfect peace and soul rest. Child of God, you must never forget that you are a disciple of Him who said, "Learn of me; for I am meek and lowly of heart."

In Matthew 23:11 Jesus said, "But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant." Christ spoke these words to the multitude and to the disciples about the Pharisees and their love for the chief seats. Humility is the only ladder of honor to God's kingdom. Friend, the way up is down. You must humble yourself. The disciples had been disputing about who would be the greatest in the Kingdom of God, so they agreed to ask the Master. He sat a child in the midst of them, and you can read in Matthew 18:4 that He said, "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." The question is indeed far-reaching. What will be the key distinction of the kingdom? Jesus would have given but one answer: the chief of the graces is humility.

Jesus said in the latter part of Luke 9:48, "He that is least among you all, the same shall be great." Humility makes the man feel smaller as he becomes greater. Luke 14:11 says: "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Again, Jesus said in Luke 18:14, "Every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." In the temple in the presence of worship, everything is worthless that is not pervaded by a deep humility toward God and men.

After washing the disciples' feet, Jesus said in John 13:14, "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet." The authority, the command, the example, and every

thought of obedience and conformity makes humility the first and most essential element of true discipleship. Even the Son of Man came to serve.

The Distinguishing Feature of Christ's Disciples

Again, we read in Matthew 20:27, "And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant." Even the Son of Man came to serve. Friend, no doubt, you know what the character of a faithful servant or a faithful slave implies. It is devotion to his master's interest, thoughtful study and care to please his master, delight in his prosperity, honor, and happiness. Greatness is not found in possessions, power, or prestige. It is discovered in goodness, humility, service, and character.

Humility was taught by Christ. The sons of Zebedee asked Jesus if they could sit on His right hand and on His left hand. They wanted to sit in the highest place in the kingdom. Jesus said that was not for Him to give but that the Father would give it to those for whom it had been prepared. They should not have looked for it, and they should not have asked for it. Their thought ought to have been concerning the baptism of humiliation. My friend, meekness and lowliness of heart should be the distinguishing feature of His disciples, just as it was the Master. It should be that way of you and me. How much of the meek and lowly Lamb of God do others see in you?

The Apostle Paul was a great man of God. Peter spoke of him in 2 Peter 3:16 when he said that he wrote some things hard to be understood. Paul wrote of some deep, spiritual truths.

Next to Jesus Christ, the Apostle Paul was the greatest man in the Bible. What made him great? He had the same spirit of humility that his Master had. I want you to notice what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:9-10: "For I am the least of the

apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." Just as his Savior, Paul learned a lesson that Jesus taught in Matthew 11:29, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart."

Paul said in 2 Corinthians 12:11, "I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing." Let us look at Paul's life. In Ephesians 3:8 Paul said, "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ."

If you are not careful, pride will creep in when you testify, and then before you know it, you will begin to let everybody know what *you* have been doing instead of giving glory to God. Jesus did not do that, and the Apostle Paul did not do that. He felt that he was nothing. God's grace saved Paul, and He remembered his sins no more. Paul could not forget how terribly he had sinned against God. Though he was once a sinner, he had been taken up in the arms of Jesus and crowned with His love.

"Be Not Wise in Your Own Conceits"

Humility toward men is the only sufficient proof that humility before God is real. It becomes one's very nature, and like Christ, one makes of himself no reputation. When in the presence of God, lowliness of heart does not become a posture that one assumes only for a time. When thinking of Him and praying to Him, the very spirit of one's life will manifest itself in all dealings toward the brethren. True humility is not what one tries to

show before God in prayer, but he carries it with him and carries it out in his ordinary conduct.

To know the humble man and to know how humbly a man behaves, you have to follow him to the common course of his daily life. His relationship to others and his treatment of others proves lowliness of mind and humbleness of heart; it can be seen. Humility before God has no value except that it prepares one to reveal humility to his fellow-man. Humility is a wonderful trait.

Romans 12:10 and 16 read: "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another. . . . Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits." The humble man sees this rule at all times.

Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 13:4-5: "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil." There is no love without humility at the very root.

In Galatians 5:13 Paul said, "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." In verse 26 he said, "Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another." You would be surprised if you knew how much is being done in churches that is motivated by pride. The Apostle Paul said in Ephesians 4:2, "With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love." He said in Ephesians 5:21, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

The Apostle Paul gave some instructions on humility when he said in Colossians 3:12-13: "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing

one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." When you put on the Lord Jesus Christ, you put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and long-suffering.

Proverbs 26:12 says, "Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him." Have you ever seen someone wise in his own conceit? Proverbs 27:2 tells us, "Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips." Some people boast of their accomplishments as if God would be impoverished if it were not for their efforts. The fellow who does things that count does not usually stop to tell it. People usually admire the fellow more after they have tried to do his job. If you cannot handle criticism, you are too immature to handle praise. Sometimes people say, "I don't mean to brag on myself, but . . ."; then they proceed to do so.

How would you relate to a preacher who comes along and simply talks about all the great things he has done? No doubt, you would say that he was glorifying himself in his ministry, and that is a big turn off. However, if he talked about the great things that Jesus had done and the great things that Jesus was doing, you would say he was a man of God because he was giving Jesus all the glory. That is exactly what the Holy Spirit does. He does not speak of His own initiative or draw attention to Himself. He speaks only what He has been given to speak and reveals that which has been revealed to Him. Again, 2 Chronicles 7:14 says, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray. . . ."

A Contrite and Humble Spirit

Luke 14:11 says, "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." James said in James 4:10, "Humble yourselves in the sight of

the Lord, and he shall lift you up." First Peter 5:6 says, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time."

You need to see that you are not to seek glory for yourself. Jesus is proof of the Truth of these words, friend. He is the pledge of the certainty of the fulfillment to us. The presence and the power of the glorified Christ will come to those who are of a humble spirit. When God can again have His rightful place in your heart and life, He will uplift you. May God teach you to believe that to be humble, to be nothing in His presence, is the highest attainment and the fulfillment of the blessings of the Christian life.

We read in Isaiah 57:15, "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." The path to a higher life is to get down lower. This is what Jesus taught His disciples who were thinking about being the greatest in the kingdom. He let them know that they needed to humble themselves. Also, He told them to take no place before God or man, but to be servants. Just as water seeks and fills the lowest place, the moment God finds men abased and empty, His glory can flow in and exalt and bless. Friend, the holiest will always be the humblest. You have as much holiness as you have of God, and your humility will be according to what you have of God, because humility is nothing but the disappearance of self and the vision that God is all.

Philippians 2:8 says of Christ, "He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death." Humility is the path to death, because death gives the highest proof of its perfection. Humility is the lesson we all must learn. It is the blossom of which death to self is the perfect fruit. Humility must lead you to die out to self. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:31, "I die daily."

The Prophet Isaiah said in Isaiah

65:5, "Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou." You would not say that with your lips, but no doubt you know the old adage that actions speak louder than words. Sometimes by their actions, people are saying, "Don't get any closer to me, because I'm holier than you are." The proud Pharisee prayed, in essence, "Lord, I thank You that I am not as other men. I fast twice a week, I pay tithe and offerings. God, I've been so good." Then there was a sinner who was a publican, and he smote (or beat) upon his chest as if to say: "This is where my trouble is—my heart is wrong. God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

Which man went home justified? Was it the man who told God how good he had been and all the good things he had been doing? No, the man who went home justified was the one who smote upon his breast and begged God for mercy. Friend, the person with true humility never has to be shown his place because he is always in it. May God help each of us to stay humble. Friend, your physical posture in worship is not as important as the posture of your heart. God is not merely looking for the bending knee; He is seeking a humble spirit, a spirit that is willing to bow down.

It is one thing to bow your knees, and it is quite another to bow your will, your emotions, and your mind and say: "God, I will take a lesser place. You are great, You are mighty, and You are holy. I unreservedly surrender all to You." A deep humility would without doubt bring a deeper and fuller blessing. The deeper that you seek humility before Him, the nearer He is to fulfill every desire of your faith. The lower and the emptier a man lies before God, the speedier and the fuller the inflow of divine glory.

The Chief Qualification for Usefulness

Second Corinthians 12:7-10 says: "And lest I should be exalted above

measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

The Bible lets us know that, lest Paul should become exalted by reason of the exceeding greatness of the revelations that he received, he was sent a thorn in the flesh to keep him humble. Paul's desire was to have this thorn removed, and three times he asked the Lord to remove it, but the answer came back that the trial was to bless him, so that in the weakness and the humiliation that it brought, the grace in the strength of the Lord would be manifested in a greater way. Paul at once entered a new stage in his relationship to the trial, and instead of enduring this trial, he most gladly gloried in it. Instead of asking for deliverance, he took pleasure in it and learned that the place of humility is the place of blessing. He learned that it was the place of power and the place of joy. Though it may be hard, let us gladly accept whatever can humble us before God.

I believe that Christians have the choice of being humble or of having God humble them. Power is dangerous if you do not have the humility to go with it. Have you ever prayed, "Lord, keep me humble"? Did you expect God to wave a magic wand over you and make you a giant of humility instantly? It does not happen that way. Do you know what God does when you pray for humility? He sends a humiliating experience, thus answering your prayer. Dear one, when did God use

Saul? The Bible lets us know that it was when he was little in his own eyes. Humility is one of the chief qualifications for usefulness in the Kingdom of God. If a man seeks to serve and give honor to himself instead of seeking to serve and honor God alone, the Lord will not use him.

My father liked to talk to the sixth-seal brethren, and he heard one of the younger preachers inquire: "Why is it that young men go to the altar and consecrate their lives to God and get up and say they feel that God has called them to the ministry, and then they preach with such anointing that they set the house on fire; but it seems that many lose that anointing? What happens?" One older preacher said: "I'll tell you why that happens. When God calls a man to preach, he does not know how to preach. He has to get down before God and pray and seek the face of God, and before he gets in the pulpit, he knows that he cannot do anything if God does not come to his rescue. He enters the pulpit and depends upon God completely, and he tells God, 'If You don't give me the words to say, I'm going to be a complete failure.' The sad fact is that in some cases, after they learn how to prepare a message, they do not feel the need to pray as they once did because they are trusting in what they prepared instead of trusting in God."

We have to trust God, because 2 Corinthians 3:6 tells us that "the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life." I have found that no matter how much you study and prepare, if God's Spirit does not anoint, it is all vain; it is a dead letter. If humility does not come on its own, it must be made the object of special prayer, faith, and practice.

Seek the Humility of Christ

Jesus gave His disciples very distinct and often repeated instructions concerning this point. You ought to feel very determined and persistent in waiting on God. Christ

will disclose any lack you might have in the graces of humility, and He will show you how weak you are to attain what you seek. May you study the character of Christ until your soul is filled with the love and admiration of His humility. When you are broken down under a sense of pride and realize your inability to cast it out, Jesus Christ will give you the grace as a part of His wondrous life within you.

Friend, you must seek a humility that will rest in nothing less than the death of self and give up all the honor of men as Jesus did. You must seek the honor that comes from God alone, which absolutely tells itself nothing so that God may be all in all. The Lord alone must be exalted. You should never lift up or exalt yourself. Until we seek humility in Christ above our chiefest joy, and welcome that humility at any price, there is very little hope that we will see genuine revival.

You must honestly fix your heart on the lack of your humility as revealed in the life of Christ; only then will you begin to feel what Christ and His salvation truly are. If you feel that this life is too high for you and that it is beyond your reach, you must urgently seek Him in a greater way. It is the indwelling Christ who lives this life in you, meek and lowly. If you long for this above anything else, you must seek the holy secret of the knowledge of the nature of God as each moment He works all in all.

Nothing can redeem you but the restoration of your loss of humility, the original and only true relationship of men to God. Jesus came to bring humility back to this earth and to make you and me partakers of it, and by it, save us. It is pride that causes redemption to be needful, and it is from pride that people need to be redeemed. Your insight to the need of redemption will largely depend on your knowledge of the terrible nature of the power that enters you.

I believe that the power of pride was the problem with the church at

Laodicea. In so many words, they said: "We are rich and increased with goods. We have need of nothing." What caused them to say that? They thought too much of themselves. They did not see themselves as God really saw them. I wonder if you really see yourself as God really sees you. Are you clothed with humility?

You may be able to look back over your life and see times of great humbleness and brokenness, but that is from truly being clothed with humility. May your fervent prayer be the desire to be humble with Him and to be like Him. *If the people of America will humble themselves and plead moral bankruptcy before God, our nation will experience the greatest spiritual awakening in the history of our country.* Pride will cause many people to be lost in the end. God only knows how many people have turned away from His offer of mercy. They knew they had needs, but pride kept them from getting their needs met.

In closing, I ask you to earnestly pray that God will make known to you every form and every degree of pride in your heart. I have been praying, "God, I want to know every degree and every form of pride that could possibly be in my heart." Pride will keep you from owning your true condition. A humble heart is like a magnet that draws the favor of God toward you. Our Scripture text says, "If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." There would be nothing wrong with asking the Lord to search you to see if you have any pride in your heart that would hinder revival in your soul.

(Compact Disc TR-346E)

"Pray without ceasing."

Psalm 78:1 Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.

4 We will not hide them from their children [it is our responsibility to pass on to our children these wonderful truths and our experiences in serving the Lord], showing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:

6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:

7 That they might set their hope in God, [The reason for passing these Truths on is so that our children might set their hope in God. It is impossible for God to fail, and it is impossible for God to lie. God is never too late. He will always come to our rescue. He knows what He is doing.] and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:

8 And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God.

14 In the daytime also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire [speaking of the children of Israel in their trek across the wilderness toward the Canaan land].

19 Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness? [It is very serious to question God or to limit Him. We are serving a God who is omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent.

He can do all things, except save you against your will.]

20 Behold, he smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed; can he give bread also? can he provide flesh for his people?

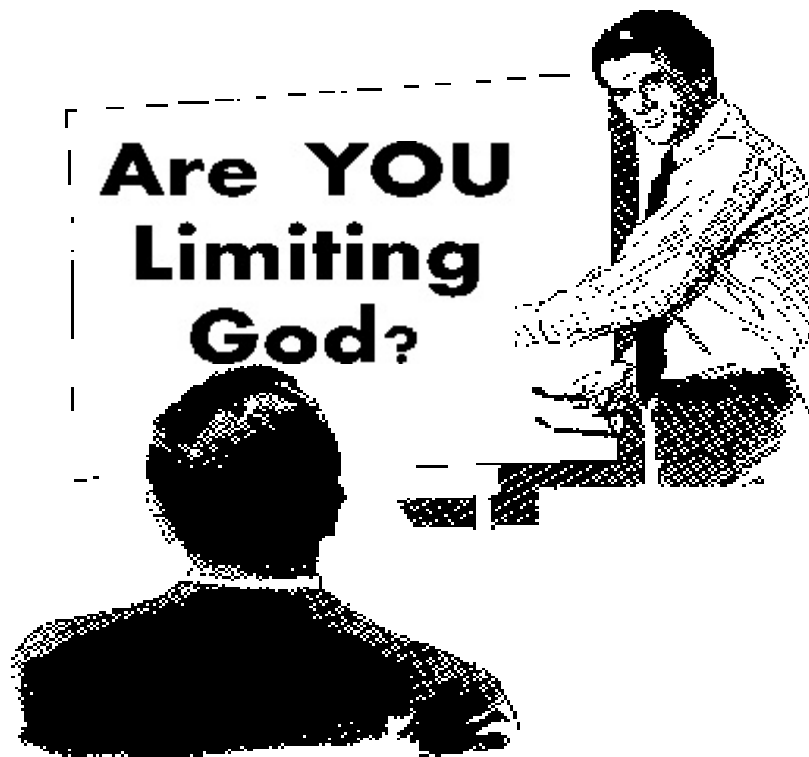
21 Therefore the LORD heard this, and was wroth: so a fire was kindled against Jacob, and anger also came up against Israel;

22 Because they believed not in God, and trusted not in his salvation: [We can trust God! He never will fail us.]

32 For all this [each of us needs to look back once in a while and review and rehearse all the blessings that God has so freely bestowed upon our lives] they sinned still, and believed not for his wondrous works.

40 How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert!

41 Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.



Brother E. David Stegmeier

God Is No Respector of Persons

In this Psalm Asaph traces the history of Old Testament Israel from Egypt, beginning with the great Exodus, their wilderness journey, their conquering of Canaan, and the

tests that God sent to prove them. Those verses cover approximately 1800 years, from the time God gave the promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:2 until the destruction of the nation of Israel in A.D. 70.

In Genesis 12:2 God said to

Abraham, "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing." I believe this verse is still relevant to us today. God is no respector of persons, and He will bless you and me if we have

the obedience and the faith of Abraham. As saints, we are children of Abraham. God fulfilled that promise to Abraham. He worked with Israel repeatedly, blessing them in their obedience and judging them very severely in their disobedience. In A.D. 70 the Roman army surrounded Jerusalem and reduced that marvelous city to nothing.

Today we need to have a healthy fear and reverence for God, for His Word, and for His man. I believe this recounting of Israel's past was for the benefit of the generation to follow, so that they might set their hope in God. Once in a while my wife and I will recall some of the many events that have happened in our ministry so that our children will be aware of these things and will, with us, thank God for where we are today.

I do not know about you, but I do not want to go anywhere in the past. I am glad that I am where I am. We have pastored for many years, and we had some extremely rough years. My wife often says, "We do not want to go back." I believe Solomon said that it was unwise to look back and say, "The former days were much better."

Israel was a rebellious nation; however, God gave them several opportunities to begin again. You should not act presumptuously by going out into sin, but if you should sin, you ought to return to God quickly. Presumptuous sin is the worst kind of sin there is. It is doing something that you know is wrong, but deliberately doing it, hoping that God will forgive you for it. Psalm 19:13 says, "Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression."

Many years ago when my wife and I traveled somewhere to hold a revival meeting, a young couple came to us. Both of them were married. The man had a lovely wife with children and the woman had a husband and several children. They

had allowed their feelings to go out for each other. They both had decided to divorce their companions and marry each other and then ask God to forgive them and carry on with the ministry in which they were involved. That is presumptuous sin! Did they do it? Yes, but the marriage did not last. To sin presumptuously is to overstep, to assume a prerogative, a privilege, or permission without warrant. Many people are presumptuously sinning today.

Verse 41 of our Scripture text reads, "Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel." To limit God means to set bounds or to restrict, circumscribe, confine, restrain, or hold back. We need to be careful of doing that. Many people do that in their lives, perhaps not being aware of it. We can limit God today. I believe that Psalm 78 could be an up-to-date account of many people who profess to be the people of God. Many people profess to follow the Lord. They have seen many wonderful things, yet they resist Him and question His ability to do other things.

Hearken Diligently

Paul wrote in Romans 15:4, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." I want to emphasize that, whether consciously or subconsciously, many people are limiting God. What are some ways that people limit God? First, many people limit Him by living haphazardly and by living an indifferent life. When it comes to serving God, I want to be fully aware of what I am doing and throw my whole heart into His service. That is the only kind of service that God will accept. He must have your best or nothing at all. God will do great things for you if you put your all into His service.

I remember when I was in basic training at Fort Leonardwood,

Missouri, one spring during the Vietnam War. (I had been teaching school, and the school board asked the county draft board if my name was coming up, and they said it was. The school board did not want to give me up, so they requested that I join the Reserves.) The first Sunday morning that I was there, I went to church, and the service was as dead as it could be, but I remember that they had a church bulletin that they handed out. I was not accustomed to having a bulletin because the Holy Spirit ordained and divinely ordered the services at home where I attended. As I was sitting there, I was so hungry for some spiritual food, and in the back of that bulletin they referenced Deuteronomy, Chapter 28. Verses 1-2 read: "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently [that means to give all your attention to God] unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God." Then the writer enumerated all these blessings.

Why do people limit God? Often they are more concerned about pleasing themselves than pleasing God. For example, when it comes to the hair standard, many women are more concerned about looking young and looking the same as the world does than obeying God. They do not want to look like the traditional grandmother. Where are the traditional grandmothers? Today many grandmothers want to look as though they are twenty-five years old, so they dye their hair. You have earned the gray hair, so you should wear it proudly. The Bible says it is a sign of wisdom.

I repeat, more people are concerned today about pleasing themselves than obeying God. Because of that, many blessings are being withheld. Some people

wonder why they are not getting this and why they are not getting that or why they are not seeing this or that. Could it be that they are lacking in obedience? My subject is, "Are You Limiting God?" I do not believe that the day of miracles has passed, not according to the Bible. The day of miracles is still here, but most people are concerned about pleasing themselves rather than looking very carefully in the Bible to see how they could please God in a greater way.

Obedience Is Important in the Little Things

What are some other ways that people limit God? They limit Him by their sin and rebellion. Jeremiah 5:25 says, "Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you." The blessings that God bestows upon you are contingent upon your degree of consecrated living. You should give God the benefit of the doubt. Sister, if you leave your hair long and uncut, it applies to all nations the world over. God has a universal standard.

I have a real problem with professing Christian people who go from America to other countries and try to teach those people when you cannot tell the difference between them and the world. They might as well stay home. People do not need that kind of so-called Christianity, where the people are dressed immodestly and look like Jezebel. One problem that Muslims have with Christianity is that most of those who profess to be Christians expose too much of the flesh.

What else limits God? The lack of faith limits Him. The Bible says faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. Matthew 13:58 reads, "And he [Jesus] did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief." As I was studying, I thought about the martyrs such as John Huss, Stephen, and many others who gave their lives. Today many people are disobedient in the

little things. The martyrs laid down their lives in order to be obedient to the Truth. Many people have a problem with the Bible standard concerning their hair and their clothing. How does that compare to Stephen who laid down his life? They hurled large rocks at him, yet people struggle with the hair standard.

Someone may say, "But I like it this way." Well, how about God? God wants to do many mighty works today, but people are limiting Him. We are serving a God who is powerful. He wants to show what He can do, but many people limit Him because of their unbelief. Unbelief is an obstacle that is hindering many people, obstructing the way of God and the giving of many blessings. God wants to do great things for us, and the lack is not on His part.

Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." Where is the problem? It is with people. Mark 9:23 tells us, "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." Do you believe that? That is a general promise. I do not want to limit God. I do not want to come short of anything in my life that would limit Him from saving my children, my brothers and sisters, or the school children that I teach. When I get sick, I want to have confidence that God is going to heal me. Therefore, I must be obedient in the little things of life. When the scientists send the space shuttles up, they have to tend to many minute details. If they do not, the mission will fail. Your soul is far more important than the space shuttle. It is far more important to help souls get to Heaven and make a successful landing in eternity with God.

The Power in the Word

In Mark 11:24 Jesus said, "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." There is a beauti-

ful song in our hymnal entitled "Faith," written by D. S. Warner. It reads:

*If thou wilt know the fountain deep,
Of sweet unbroken rest,
The rest of faith thy soul shall keep,
He that believes is ever blest.*

*The gift of faith no limit knows,
Save God's unbounded word;
It triumphs o'er its giant foes,
And glorifies the blessed Lord.*

*Stay not in feeble unbelief,
When God commands be strong;
Be strong in him, the word believe,
And shout the overcomer's song.*

*I can do all in Jesus' name,
Thus sings the faith of God;
It sings, and hills of trouble flee,
It rides triumphant on the flood.*

*Put on thy strength, O Zion, rise,
And fix thy trust above the skies:
Move out on faith's almighty plane,
Thro' him that loved us dare to reign.*

Is that not a marvelous song? In too many cases, people are limiting God. Is it possible that you are not receiving the blessings of God that He would like to bless you with because you are limiting Him? God is still the same. Why should His people change? Trusting God for healing is reasonable. Jesus gave the following specific promise in the great commission, "They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." There is power in the Word of God. We can command, "Devil, take your hands off," and he must do it. I have seen demon-possessed people delivered, and it can happen today.

When I was a young minister, a professor came to one of our services. She was a very intelligent woman. One morning she came to the altar. When a minister went to pray with her, suddenly she fell over backward on the floor. (If something overtakes you that you cannot control, that is not God.) I dismissed the audience, and I was

asked if I would like to stay, so I did.

We prayed with her, and this horrible screaming and shouting came out of her throat. She said the devil was going to kill her if she prayed. An older minister said, "Sister, if he kills you, God will raise you up." We took her to a back room, and she turned around and stiffened out like a piece of lumber, and her mouth opened up like an alligator's jaw; then a horrible scream came out. Soon it was gone, and she fell to the floor like a limp dishcloth and got saved.

The next service her husband said, "I have a brand-new wife."

She said, "I will tell you how it feels. It reminds me of that girl that suddenly was talking after more than twenty years. (She was speaking of a girl who was in a comatose state for many years and suddenly began to speak.) She said, "I feel like I have been thawed out. I was in a deep freeze for thirty-five years. I got a high education, but all the time I had to war against this spirit within me. It was always a horrible war. It wanted to control me. It told me it would teach me to do some very wicked things and even kill people, but I warred against it."

She said that some people tried to deliver her, but they could not; however, when she came to the Church of God, she got deliverance. Friend, you should not mess around with false religion. Do not let just anybody pray for you.

The Gifts of Healing

Is divine healing reasonable? Yes, it is. In three of the Gospels we have the Scripture that says they would lay hands on the sick and they would recover. It is in Mark, Luke, and John. Matthew 28:18-20 reads: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even

unto the end of the world."

To the Church of God at Corinth, Paul enumerated the gifts, and among them were the gifts of healing in 1 Corinthians 12:9. Romans 11:29 says, "For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance." In other words, God has not taken back those gifts. The Living Bible says, "For God's gifts and His call can never be withdrawn." God will never go back on His promises. I never preach anything that I am not practicing completely.

God wants you to step out on faith. We all have different degrees of faith. We cannot be fanatical. I believe that man can help us, but there are some things that man cannot do. If you were to break your leg, would you hobble around on a broken leg with one of them crooked? No! You would get it set. Can God heal broken bones? Oh, yes, He can. We should stretch our faith rather than weakening our faith; our faith ought to grow. James 5:14-15 reads: "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." This says we should call for the elders.

I experienced quite a confrontation with a denominational minister once. My wife and I were working with a young woman who was in a certain denomination, and she was distraught. God was moving upon her, and she was seeking salvation. She was gloriously saved. We were there for a while after she was converted, and she wanted to call her pastor to tell him what had happened. We really did not want her to do that, but she insisted. She called him, and it was not long until he arrived, and he worked and worked on her. He did not believe in sinless living or divine healing, and soon her faith in her salvation experience was gone. Matthew, Chapter 13, lets us know that the

fowls of the air can take the seed, and he did. People should not go to false religious leaders. If you have a question, you need to go to God and His Word. Jesus loves you, and He is concerned about you. God is compassionate.

Matthew 20:34 says, "So Jesus had compassion on them [two blind men], and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him." When Jesus saw the leper, according to Mark 1:41, He was moved with compassion. Hebrews 4:15 says, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities." Jesus is moved with compassion when He sees you struggling.

God Answers Prayer

Why are people limiting God? I believe that God can do all things. In the Bible you can read of the story of Elisha and the widow lady. Do you remember what Elisha told her? She was going to have to come up with a lot of money because a creditor was out to get her. She had a debt to pay. Elisha asked her what she had, and she told him that all she had in the house was a cruse of oil. Elisha instructed her to have her two boys go out and gather all the vessels they could possibly find, and they did that. He filled *every* vessel that they collected, so I believe they limited God by the number of vessels they obtained. People limit God. God can do great things. I want to see greater things happen as we approach the end of time. I am not satisfied with what we are seeing.

Jesus said to the two blind men in Matthew 9:29, "According to your faith be it unto you." God will touch your body. Healing is the children's bread. As a little boy, I was healed of appendicitis, and throughout my life, God has healed me of many afflictions.

When I was a boy, we had a Sunday school teacher who always had a running sore on her leg that she kept bandaged. When I became

a pastor in Oregon, she called and asked that we send her an anointed handkerchief. She placed it on her leg, and God healed it.

We had a neighbor who had a heart attack, and he had a blood clot in his lung. The blood clot had gone through his heart and was lodged in his lung, and he was in the intensive care unit. Another neighbor called me and said that he was in the hospital. My wife and I went and anointed him and prayed for him. When we arrived home, his wife called and said, "Brother Stegmeier, do you believe in divine healing?"

I said, "Yes."

She said, "Let me ask you, do you practice it?"

I said, "Yes, why do you ask?"

She said, "My husband is critically ill."

I said, "We have just returned from anointing and praying for him, and God will surely help him." The doctors said it was a miracle how God touched his body.

We are serving a miracle-working God! When one of our sons was a little boy, he had polio. God touched him, but he still had a limp in his walk. Brother Emerson Wilson came for a meeting, and he said, "That little boy does not have to limp for the rest of his life." So he anointed and prayed for him, and God took away the limp.

Many years ago our oldest daughter became extremely ill, and one night they told us that they did not think that she would last until the morning. It was a very, very sad time for us. She would not move, and she would not talk. God moved on her that night and healed her, and she is still healthy yet today. We are serving a wonderful God!

When our son Reggie was born, the doctor said: "He has a dislocated hip. We are going to have to go in and do something." When he walked out, my wife said, "Let's pray." We prayed, and when the doctor came back, he said: "I don't know what happened. I guess I made a mistake. His hip is fine." God answered prayer.

I could go on and on and tell you of many other instances of divine healing. We are serving a God who answers prayer.

Jesus Is Just the Same Today

When the angel Gabriel went to the parents of John the Baptist, in Luke 1:37 he said this: "For with God nothing shall be impossible." One old song in our hymnal is entitled "He Is Just the Same Today." I believe that with all my heart. The song reads:

*Have you ever heard of Jesus,
How He came from heav'n to earth,
With a name of mighty virtue,
Though by very humble birth?
When the world was held in bondage,
Under Satan's dismal sway,
Jesus healed their dread diseases, —
He is just the same today.*

*Do you see the people gather
Round that great and holy man,
Bringing all the sick and suffering,
Coming to him all who can?
See him look with great compassion,
As they fainted by the way!
How he called them gently to him!
He is just the same today.*

*Is it true that ev'ry sickness
May be laid at Jesus' feet?
All my trouble, care, and sorrow,
And I rest in joy complete?
Yes, my brother, ev'ry sadness,
If by faith to him you pray,
He'll remove, with tender mercy,
For he's just the same today.*

*Oh, that precious, loving Jesus!
His compassion still the same,
T'ward poor sinful, suffering mortals
Who seek refuge in his name.
Heed the present invitation,
Oh, you need not stay away!
Just receive his healing favor,
For he's just the same today.*

*He is just the same today,
He is just the same today,
Yes, he healed in Galilee,
Set the suffering captives free,
And he's just the same today.*

If you are having a problem with your healing, you need to check to see that everything about your life is what it ought to be—really check and see. You need to get all the obstacles out of the way and ask God to help you. I believe that sometimes God allows healing to perfect one's spirit and spiritual life. It is God's will to save every man and woman. I believe that it is God's will, in most cases, to heal.

Years ago, one young man in our congregation was involved in an industrial accident, and a chemical destroyed one of his eyes. They considered a transplant, but we kept praying and holding on, and his eye is normal today. God can heal. We are serving a great and wonderful God!

I wonder sometimes if God does not allow some afflictions to keep people humble. God is going to have a humble people, and if He knows that you would be lifted up with pride and maybe lose your soul, He might allow you to carry that affliction. God may see that if He were to heal some people, they might lose out in their Christian experience and leave the church. It is a possibility.

Is it true that every sickness may be laid at Jesus' feet, all your trouble, care, and sorrow, and rest in joy complete? Yes! If you bring every sadness to Him by faith, He will remove it. Now, there is the requirement. You must simply trust Him—simply believe and take Him at His Word. He will remove these things with tender mercy, because He is just the same today. His compassion is still the same toward poor, sinful, suffering mortals who seek refuge in His name. Won't you heed the invitation? You need not stay away. You can receive His healing favor; He is just the same today. If you have a need, won't you come to Jesus? He can do everything. Nothing is too hard for Him.

(Cassette C-5370E)

"Quench not the Spirit."

1 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,

2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

3 Grace be unto you, and peace,

from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

5 That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;

6 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:

7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

"The Grace of God Which Is Given You"



Brother Esau Brooks

Enriched by Jesus Christ

God is still able to deliver no matter what the situation is. No matter what condition your life is in, He can deliver you. Many people throughout the world are in need of deliverance, some from one condition and some from another. Those who have already experienced God's work of deliverance in their lives should have a desire to share their experiences with others.

If you are not careful, you will find yourself becoming a little self-ish in the things of God and saying: "I'm doing fine. Why should I worry about anyone else?" God so loved this world. Paul said in Romans 5:6, "For when we were yet without

strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." Jesus could have stayed in Heaven and continued to enjoy the riches of the glory of Heaven, but He disrobed Himself of it all and came down to afford you and me the opportunity to experience deliverance from the powers of Satan and sin. The great Apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5:14, "The love of Christ constraineth us." May that same experience truly be manifested in each of our lives.

As we look into God's precious Word, I want to encourage you to think upon the grace of God that was given to the church at Corinth. Verse 4 of our Scripture text reads, "I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is

given you by Jesus Christ." Paul was so inspired and so enthused by what he saw in that congregation that he thanked God continually on their behalf for the grace of God that was given to them by Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul was very appreciative of that which he saw operating in that congregation, and it got hold of him in such a manner that he could not help but thank God at every remembrance of them because of that grace.

As you look over these few verses, perhaps you have noted that Paul, in making this statement, made it clear that they were very greatly favored by God's grace. I cannot help but think those verses were placed there as an example to

encourage us today not to be satisfied with just being average and to challenge our hearts to seek the same experience of grace that made those people outstanding.

The congregation at Corinth became a failure in the latter part of its existence; nonetheless, it was outstanding in the beginning. One reason it stood out in that day was due to its location and surroundings. One writer said that the city presented a tremendous challenge to the Gospel because it was a great center of commerce in the ancient world. The people were notorious for profligacy (shameful immoral extravagancies) and licentiousness (unrestrained sexual activity). This being the condition of that city, it was marvelous to see what the grace of God had accomplished among the saints.

No wonder Paul said in verses 4-5 of our Scripture text: "I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by him." The church at Corinth was rich through the grace of God in everything pertaining to the Christian life. I would suppose they were rich in their fellowship with one another as they came together in the services amidst the great presence of God. They were rich in their communion with God in everything, not merely some things.

The Testimony of Christ Confirmed

Paul enumerated some things by which they were blessed and enriched. God blessed them with grace, and they did not come short in their expression of the good things of God. They were enriched in all the knowledge of the things of God. In our day this might not sound very extraordinary. However, in that day, considering the background of those people, the Apostle Paul could not help but marvel at the grace entrusted to them, even to the extent that they were rich in

their expressions of the things of God and their expression was rich with the grace of God.

Today we need to experience more of the grace of God, not only as far as individual demonstrations, but even in our acts of devotion to the Lord. The Corinthian congregation was blessed with such grace that they were rich in all their utterances of the things of God.

The Apostle Paul stated in verse 6 of our Scripture text, "Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you." What does this mean? The message of God was actually being duplicated in their lives. I would like to express it this way: the preacher got up on Sunday morning and preached a message, and on Monday morning it was on exhibition in their lives. They confirmed the message. They believed the message was possible, and they demonstrated it. They confirmed the testimony of Jesus Christ, which is the Gospel. Surely I need not call to your remembrance how great a need that is in our present generation.

Mark 16:15 states the Great Commission, which is, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." They went everywhere preaching the Gospel, and the Lord worked with them to confirm the Word with signs following. We need more confirmation today. It is all right for us to tell people, "I am a child of God," but it is far better for God to put His stamp of confirmation upon what we are saying.

Hebrews 11:4 states, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous. [With Abel's limitations back then as a son of a backslidden father and mother who had been banished from the Garden of Eden, he was able to excel and offer to God 'a more excellent sacrifice than Cain.' As a result of Abel's sacrifice, he obtained a witness that he was righteous. It was not something in his mind telling him that he was right-

eous or some little group here or there saying he was righteous.] God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh." In other words, instead of Abel giving his own testimony, God testified for him by his gifts, though he, being dead, was yet able to speak.

As Paul thought upon these brethren at Corinth and how much he appreciated what God had done for them, he said in verses 6-7 of our Scripture lesson: "Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you. [In what way was it confirmed?] So that ye come behind in no gift." He was saying that in every gift they were right up there in front. Notice in the writings of the Gospel that this remarkable congregation seemingly was the only one to receive so many gifts. It is only in the letter to the Corinthians that you find the mention and the operation of the nine gifts of the Spirit.

The Grace of God Brings Harmony

To remind you of what I am talking about when I speak of the nine gifts of the Spirit, I want you to read what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12:27-28, which states: "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. [Keep in mind that this letter was written expressly to this congregation at Corinth. It must be understood that what he was saying here was not in a generalized sense, but very much in a personal sense.] And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."

These gifts were present only in this congregation. Today we know that these gifts are for all, as far as the church universally is concerned, but they were first directed to the local congregation at Corinth. This letter was addressing existing conditions in that local congregation. In verse 2 of our Scripture lesson, we find that Paul directed his writing to

"the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints." He was writing to a special people. In verse 4 he said, "I thank my God always on your behalf." He was not writing in a general sense. The generalized application of this message was to come after those people passed out of existence, and it remains to be our direction from God today. However, those gifts were all operating in that congregation harmoniously at one time.

It is no wonder that Paul said, "I thank my God always on your behalf for this grace that is given you." God gave them apostles, prophets, teachers, and workers of miracles. Everyone got along together. How wonderful it would be to see that kind of harmony today. Unfortunately it seems that as soon as God lays His hand on someone and blesses him, if he does not become heady, others in a congregation will take an attitude against him. God can hardly honor anyone before the critics say they do not see it that way. They disagree with him, thereby plunging things into a state of disharmony.

Grace was given to the Corinthians, and these gifts worked unhindered in their midst, so much so that Paul said in 1 Corinthians 12:29-30: "Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues?" Of course, the answer was no, but they were able to get along.

Why is it so hard for people to get along, not only in a universal way but also in local congregations? Why is there often a condition of "I am against you" or "You are against me"? It ought to be a constant, steady flow of each one participating in getting the work done for God to get the message out to a lost and dying world. Why is there such a hang-up on how and what one feels or thinks? The reason is that people lack the grace of God.

Paul said, "I thank my God always on your behalf for the grace

that is given you." Today we need a demonstration of this grace so that we can stand out as the Church of God. If there is anything that our generation stands in need of more and more urgently, it is the grace of God.

An Inspiring Influence

My mind goes to an experience in the morning-time church. Acts 11:19 reads, "Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only." They were scattered because of persecution, but each one did not go into his own little corner to weep, lament, murmur, and complain over his lot. They were persecuted in Jerusalem, but they did not go out and hide. They went out and preached the Gospel wherever they were scattered because of persecution, but some were preaching only to the Jews.

Verse 20 states, "And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus." Some were preaching to the Jews only, but others went a step further in the grace of God and were preaching to Grecians or Gentiles. What was the result? Verses 21-22 tell us: "And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord. Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch."

These brethren, who were scattered because of persecution, were creating quite a stir in that far-off land. When the church in Jerusalem heard about it, they became enthused for that work, so the brethren sent Barnabas to Antioch to see what was happening. They wanted to see if it was genuine.

Verse 23 continues, "Who, when

he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad. . . ." Barnabas knew what the grace of God was because he was from Jerusalem and had seen the work of God that had been accomplished there. He was sent to Antioch, a Gentile nation, among a heathenish people. How many times have you gone here or there to church and have seen everything else but the grace of God? In some places you can even see the hatred, the bad attitudes, and the lack of fellowship.

When Barnabas got to Antioch, he saw the grace of God. Where the grace of God is, it can be seen. Barnabas was glad when he saw a people far from Jerusalem with the same grace working among them that he left in Jerusalem, so he "exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord."

Verses 24-25 read: "For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord. Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul." Barnabas thought this was a good environment for a young convert to get into, so he took Saul to Antioch.

Verse 26 says, "And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." That is where the name "Christian" came into being. We can say without a doubt that it was due to how the people lived and expressed themselves. Today too many people are coming short along this line. There is more grace to be obtained than what men and women have obtained.

This was an inspiring influence on the great Apostle Paul when he visited the church at Corinth. He knew that this action of grace being manifested by them was on God's part. This action of God upon this people constrained the Apostle in such a way that he told them, "I

cease not to give thanks for you always." They were always in his thoughts. Nothing is more inspiring to a man of God or to a child of God than to see the work of God in action in the midst of a congregation.

Paul did not tell what they did to have this favor bestowed upon them, but it is clear that they had been a people who had gone all the way with God. How can we tell? By Paul's introduction of 1 Corinthians, when he said, "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus." They were completely set apart from the corruption that was prevailing around them in that city. They were in the city of Corinth, but they were not of Corinth.

Today it seems to be so difficult to get people to realize the corruption that Satan has used to affect Christianity. Many people are dealing with Christianity as if it is unimportant. Nevertheless, as far as the experience of salvation is concerned, it still remains as glorious as it was in Jesus' day. That which is being offered by the masses in religious circles today is far removed from the real thing.

The Corruption of Worship

Going back to the time of Cain and Abel, we can see how Satan's endeavor back then was to corrupt man's worship and service to God. The Bible tells us that in the process of time, Cain and Abel came to offer sacrifices to God. The Lord had respect to Abel and his sacrifice, but He had no respect to Cain and his sacrifice. It affected Cain, and his countenance fell because he was rejected while his brother Abel was accepted.

Someone may say, "That was because Abel's sacrifice had blood and Cain's sacrifice had no blood." There is not one single mention about blood in that chapter. If you stick to the way the Bible reads, you will discover something much deeper than just the lack of blood on the part of Cain's offering. The reason

his offering was rejected by God was the very same thing that the devil is putting across in our time, thus robbing many people from experiencing that which is their rightful privilege.

Genesis 4:1-2 reads: "And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground." There is no mention of Abel being preordained to be a shepherd or of Cain being preordained to be a farmer. It was by their own choice. I would suppose that Adam and Eve endeavored to teach their two sons about the goodness of God and the need to offer sacrifices. Nonetheless, the Bible does not reveal that God said: "Abel, I want you to keep sheep because the Redeemer is going to come by this route, and you can be a fit representative of what the Redeemer will be in years to come to redeem man from sin. Cain, you are to till the ground and that will not amount to very much."

In the process of time, as the boys developed and matured, they no doubt felt the need of rendering to God a service of sacrifice. Therefore, Cain brought of the fruit of the ground; that is all he had. Cain could not have offered sheep. He was not a shepherd. Abel offered sheep because he was a shepherd.

Verses 3-7 continue: "And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering; [Had the story ended there, we would all be left to come up with our own ideas or opinions concerning the real facts, but the Bible continues.] But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest

well, [notice that the Lord did not say, 'If thou had offered well' He said, 'If thou *doest* well'] shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well [something was hindering him from doing well], sin lieth at the door."

You see, the program the devil is putting across is keeping people from doing well, or from doing their best. Paul, in writing to the Roman church, in Romans 2:7-9, said: "To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for . . . immortality, Eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, . . . Tribulation and anguish. . . ." From way back, the devil was injecting into religion the idea, "It does not matter how you do something, just as long as you do it" or "It does not matter what the attitude of the heart is, just as long as you do it."

Cain and Abel had the same teachers: Adam and Eve. They both heard their parents tell the story about the fall and about living in paradise. Both of those boys listened, but as they grew up, Abel chose a different course from Cain. By faith he went on to offer to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain and obtained the witness from God that he was righteous. Cain went about it halfheartedly. No doubt, he thought that just as long as he went through the performance, it would not make any difference as long as he did it.

The Grace of God Brings Down Walls and Partitions

As you look over the country, you can see there have never been more church activities and churchgoers than there are today, yet few are truly dedicated to God. There have never been more church buildings with spires reaching toward Heaven than there are today, but unfortunately, there is the smallest demonstration of the principle of pure religion in the lives of many people. If all the people who profess faith in Christ and claim to be born again were real Christians, there is

no telling what great condition our world would be in. I know for sure that children would not be looking to drugs for a thrill. They would not be looking to the rum bottle or the whiskey bottle for a thrill, because they would be finding a thrill in serving God.

"I thank my God" Paul said concerning the Corinthians, "for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ." Paul saw the works of God among them and thanked God on their behalf. One may go places and see the manifestations of God and say, "Oh, that is all in the flesh; that is only emotion." Paul did not reject it or try to downplay it. He rejoiced in it and thanked God. Dear friend, the reason the Corinthian church was so outstanding was due to the grace of God prevailing in their midst. They were enriched spiritually, and God gave them the ability to know the things of God. They confirmed the testimony of God by their lives.

The nine gifts of the Spirit were working unhindered and harmoniously in their midst, and it was all due to the grace of God. Paul exhorted them to continue in the grace of God. So many people start in the grace of God, but then they stop; they fall. Paul brought to the attention of those brethren the greatness of God's favor upon them by bestowing this grace. Then in 1 Corinthians 1:10 he made an extraordinary demand. Since God

had blessed them with much grace and all those works had been manifested in their midst, he gave them good advice when he said: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ [let this be added to the things you already have], that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you." They had been blessed and enriched with all utterance and with all knowledge, and they had confirmed the testimony of Christ up to this point. Paul instructed them to add this to the list when he said, "I beseech you, . . . that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

Why did Paul say that? Verse 11 tells us, "For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you." Paul knew that if this condition was allowed to continue in their midst, it would destroy all the good that had been bestowed upon them. If you study that Book, you will notice that contention was the first step downward. Next, he went on to say that he could not speak to them as spiritual, but as carnal babes because of the division that was among them. Then they began to take one another to the courts of the land in disputes. Also, they had an individual in their midst who was having an affair

with his own father's wife.

My friend, if you leave the door ajar just a little, there is no telling what will come in and destroy a congregation. Those brethren started well. They started out being blessed with the grace of God. Had they continued to seek the grace of God as they progressed and heeded the admonition of the great Apostle, that church would have been in a far better condition than it was. Paul said, "I thank God for the grace which has been bestowed upon you . . . but let me beseech you in the name of the Lord Jesus that you all speak the same thing." There is no room in the Church of God for anything else.

In Ephesians 2:14 Paul spoke of how Christ came and broke down the middle wall of partition and made of twain one, so making peace. Many people have built walls and partitioned themselves off. They have this clique and that clique and this one and that one hold out for their own views, bringing a state of disharmony and confusion. May there be no division among us, but let us be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same Spirit. That is what it will take to reveal to lost mankind God's way for them to be saved and to bring glory to the great name of God.

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2010 Youth Revival

Messages, Songs, and Pictures



Messages on Success, songs from the youth and junior choirs, and pictures from the youth workshops can be viewed and listened to on our youth website.



Visit us at: ChurchofGodYouth.com





My Personal Testimony



*"Let the redeemed of the LORD
say so."*

Psalm 107:2

I was born in Comstock, Michigan, in October 1929. I was my mother's tenth child. Three brothers that I never knew died very young. Our family (the Nemire family) was well known in the area. People would say, "If you saw one Nemire, you have seen them all."

My mother was healed of tuberculosis when I was four years of age. My oldest sister was seventeen years old at the time, and she took full responsibility of the home. She was good to me, but I was happy when my mother was released from the sanitarium. I did not want her to be out of my sight. When I could have started school, Mother kept me home until the next year, which made me one of the older students in the class. When we got our first radio, I would hurry home from school, sit down beside my mother while she was peeling potatoes for supper, and listen with her to Howard Pascal. The program's theme song was "Tis the Old-Time Religion." My mother wrote to Howard Pascal and asked him questions, and he was good to reply to her letter. We attended a Mennonite church, where we had a woman preacher. My father was dissatisfied there, so he began to attend a Free Methodist Church. I went with him a few times, but I had questions. They would recite the Lord's Prayer every Sunday morning, and I wondered about the phrase "thy kingdom come." When was it coming? I was so confused.

One day when I was eight years of age, I sat down on the attic steps with my mother's Bible. I told the Lord, "Surely there are people who live this." All I knew was that someone would go to the altar and then say that he or she was saved. I was in the fourth grade, and I had gone to the altar. The following day my class was to view a movie, but I told the teacher that I did not feel I should go. She took me down to the assembly and pointed out my brother and my sisters. I told her that they did not go to the altar the night before as I had. In her class we learned chapters of the Bible and songs, which we had to repeat before the entire class.

Every time I was called upon to recite, my mind would go blank, and I would have to recite to the teacher after school. One day the teacher called upon me

to recite Psalm 100, and I said it perfectly! She told the whole class: "Something has happened to Myrtle. I thought she was going to have to take this class over, but she is going to pass!" This was God.

My two brothers had to go into the army. This was so hard on my mother. One brother was sent to Germany, and the other was sent to Japan. Mother would say, "The Bible says to pray and not to faint." We would get down on our knees and pray for them. Eventually they both came home safely.

My best friend moved away from our school to Kalamazoo. I was so hurt, but then she wanted me to meet a boy in her new class. I talked to him on the phone many times, but my mother said that I was too young to date. One Sunday I went to visit her, and we walked into town. This boy walked by with some other boys, and my friend pointed him out to me. I liked his looks, so the next time he called, I told him that I wanted to go with him.

I was going against my mother's wishes, and I was afraid. We dated only a few times, and then I did not see or hear from him again. I would pray, "If he is the right one, bring him back." Months later he called and asked me to go out with him. He said that he was almost afraid to talk to me. I had in my mind that I did not want to date anyone other than the one whom I should marry.

We were married a few months after we graduated from high school. We did not go to church. He was raised in Dutch Reform and knew less about salvation than I did. We took care of my sister's first child when she had her second one. Soon afterward, I began to pray for a little boy of my own, and our son was born one year after that.

My husband worked long hours and on Sundays. I asked my mother if I could have the Egermeier's Bible Storybook that she had sent home to all the family when I was born, so she gave it to me. Our son so enjoyed having those Bible stories read to him that he could have sat all day listening to them. He loved hearing them! We then had a baby girl, and I was so happy! My husband was going to get cigars to pass out to the men with

whom he worked, but I told him, "God has given us a beautiful baby girl and a boy, and that is no way to thank Him."

One Sunday evening I heard someone on the radio say, "If you have never been sorry for your sins, you are not saved." That bothered me all evening. The next morning I knelt down beside my son's bed and told the Lord all about it. I felt as though I could not reach up to Him, and in agony I prayed. My three-year-old son said, "Mamma, don't pray like that." I stopped, and Jesus said to me, "If you will ask those you have wronged to forgive you, I will forgive you."

As things came to me, I made telephone calls and wrote letters to ask for forgiveness. All went well until I remembered that on the way home from school once, my friends and I had stopped at the gas station to buy a soda pop. Back then the pop was in bottles in a chest of ice water. We paid for it. After I drank mine, I filled the bottle with the ice water from the chest, put the cap back on, and put it back in the ice water. I had forgotten all about it, but God did not.

As I remembered this incident, I became scared. We had just moved into our new home, and I thought my husband would not understand. I wanted Jesus more than anything. I decided that if we were sued and had to lose everything, so be it. I had to ask for forgiveness. I called the grocer and told him who I was and what I had done years ago. He did not know who had done it, but he did not have any trouble from it, so he said that I was forgiven.

On Tuesday evenings I went to a cottage prayer meeting. The Lord impressed me to ask them to sing "Only Trust Him." As they started to sing, I felt so clean, and I felt as if my feet were not even touching the floor and that all Heaven was rejoicing. Folks from the church where I was raised traveled past our house, so they would pick up my two children and me for church. However, I was not getting my soul fed. I prayed to the Lord, "Where can I go to church?" I felt that I should ask them to take my name off their church book. They did not like that. It hurt my mother, but she had told me, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

For Thanksgiving we had all my husband's family over for dinner. My brother-in-law asked where the ashtrays were. I told him that I did not want anyone to smoke in my house. He went to the cupboard and got a saucer, but the others were uncomfortable with that and no one joined him even though they all were smokers.

I was to have my new baby in January, but a few days after Thanksgiving, I was having labor pains. My husband took our children to my oldest sister's at two o'clock in the morning, and we went to the hospital. Our youngest daughter was born weighing only 4 pounds, 4 ounces. She looked so small! The doctor said she looked like she weighed only two pounds. I asked if I could see her a few hours later. She was in the incubator. They told me to come down with my husband that night. My

husband had to work, so I went back to my bed and started reading my Bible. It was a Catholic hospital, and a nurse came in and said, "Oh, you are a Dutch Reform?" I said, "No, I am not." I did not know what I was, but in God's Word I had read, "I will give you fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, houses and lands." I did not know exactly what that meant, but it was a comfort to me, because life seemed so hopeless at that time.

I told the Lord if I could not raise this precious baby for Him to take her. The doctor came in and said, "She is losing weight, but we cannot find anything wrong with her." I asked if I could nurse her, and he said no. When the next doctor came in, again I asked if I could nurse her. I told him that I had two other children whom I had nursed until they were over a year old. This doctor said, "I don't know why not." I went home but was able to feed my baby. In a few weeks we were able to bring her home.

Our son was so thrilled with the new baby. One day as I was in the kitchen, the baby began to cry. Our son brought her to me. I do not know how he got her out of that bassinet, but I quickly got my hands on her, because if he had dropped her, she could have been badly hurt.

Our daughter has always been such a joy to us, wanting to do what is right. She loved to play school with the neighbor children, pretending that she was the teacher. I went to cottage prayer meetings with people whom I felt were really Christians. We had a church standard, such as no television, the women were not to cut their hair, as well as others. It was only a few families, and the pastor had children who were my age with little ones. We had much in common. The children sang easily, for I rocked them and sang to them, no matter where they were playing. If I rocked the baby, the other children came running to sing too. It was a real joy!

When I was a senior in high school, we had to write what we wanted to do after we graduated. I wrote that I wanted to get married and start a family that was musical. My friend said: "How can you expect to have that? Neither you nor George is musical." Later, I found out that my husband had a musical background. I clearly remembered my own father placing my sister on one of his knees and me on the other. He would rock us and sing to us. I remember the songs so clearly. My husband and I got accordions for our children when they were eight and ten years of age. Our youngest wanted to take piano lessons, and in time she became the piano player for our congregation in Michigan. Our son brought so much joy to the home as he played the accordion every evening. We enjoyed it so much!

The folks with whom I had been worshipping built a church in Kalamazoo. We lived in Richmond, so I hitchhiked in front of our house on Sunday mornings with our three children into Kalamazoo. From there, we would ride a bus to church. Later, a church was built in Vicksburg. We decided to buy a lot there and had a house built beside the church. Then they built a school,

and our children were taught by a retired school teacher. She was a good teacher, and our children received a good education. When they went to high school, they earned good grades and were always praised at the parent-teacher conferences. To God be the glory!

Our pastor lived two houses down from us. Her two daughters and their families lived on each side of us. A family who lived three houses from us had a daughter whom our son married. A few months after they were married, we all decided to go to a sing in southern Indiana. Our daughter Norma and I pulled the camper, and we were going to wait for my son and his wife to get there to set it up. We received a call that they had been in a terrible automobile accident. They were in the hospital in Goshen, Indiana. Norma and I started to go there. After we arrived there, we parked the camper at the home of some friends near the hospital. When we got to the hospital, my son's mother-in-law and sister-in-law said that he had brain damage and was in intensive care.

I could not get to him soon enough. When I opened the door, I said, "Ken?" and he said, "Mother." Praise the Lord! We were only allowed a few minutes with him. The next morning we went back to the hospital. Both of them had brain concussions, but our son was out of intensive care. We went to where the accident happened. They had been thrown from the car into a cornfield. The farmer and his wife told us that they had covered them up, but the man who had hit his head on a rock was dead. I said: "No, that was my son, and he is out of intensive care. He was able to go with us to another room in the hospital to visit his wife." Our son and his wife were soon home, and he was back to teaching school, although he had tunnel vision for a while. They had three sons. The youngest son and his wife and their five children live nearby us now and attend worship services with us.

Our oldest daughter Carol married a young man who lived five houses from us, and our youngest daughter married a man who lived a block away. Most of us were in the congregation there. An evangelist came the week of the fourth from Florida. Our in-laws moved to Florida. So when we went to visit them, we visited the church where dear friends spent a few of their winters.

The Sunday school teacher was reading *The Gospel Trumpeter*. It was so good! Brother Collins was his name. I so wanted to know where he found such truths. Our pastor was invited to the June camp meeting in Newark, Ohio. She asked my husband if he would drive her motorhome for her. Our pastor said, "This looks like a Billy Graham event; we'll leave in the morning." We said, "Let's at least go to the first service." Brother Emerson Wilson was preaching from the Book of Revelation. That was a closed book to us, because our pastor said that she did not understand it. We were so thrilled that we had to look at the clock when Brother Wilson said that it was time to go to the dining hall to eat dinner. Our pastor said, "We have always been United

Missions, and we always will be." God had different plans for us.

We had put our tithe in for forty years to God, and our families also had. We had stayed there even though our pastor's son started another church in Three Rivers, where our son and many others had left. We were left with taking care of everything. It was more than we could handle, and no one felt the call. Brother Friskey said he would have the name changed to Church of God, and if it dissolved, it was to go to the Church of God in Newark, Ohio. We put our house up for sale, and it sold before it was even placed on the market. Soon our daughter's house was sold. We moved into the parsonage, trying to sell the church. We got an apartment in Newark, thinking that we would be there for the rest of our lives. We went to our apartment some Sundays. Brother Samuel Oree, Sr., from Detroit often encouraged us, telling us to "hold fast." We could not move before my husband retired.

Finally, some Korean folks were thrilled with the church building and purchased it. The day my husband retired, we put the last of our belongings in the car. We were free to leave Michigan! It was hard to say goodbye to our grandchildren, but thank the Lord, He will lead them if they will let Him.

We have had the privilege of enjoying fellowship with the saints in revivals, traveling on the church bus, and attending camp meetings. In addition, we have a precious, divinely-led pastor who feeds our souls service after service.

One year we went to the Oregon camp meeting. We stayed for a few days after the meeting and had a good time. We returned home, and on Saturday they were painting the dorm. We went over to help. The ladder did not set level. I thought the ladder would settle in the soil as it had when I lived in Michigan, but the soil in Ohio is different. I fell over, landing on a pipe and breaking my shoulder in two places, but the Lord wonderfully healed that. I do not even have arthritis in it, sixteen years later.

My husband had heart trouble five years ago, but God is helping him. I had a blood clot behind my knee after hurting my leg. I had so much pain in my foot, and no blood could get to it. I was in intensive care where the doctor tried to remove it, but he gave up and sent me back the next day.

I was in such terrible pain. My pastor came and prayed for me, and the pain was relieved. When they came to take me to surgery, I told them: "My pastor prayed for me, and the pain has been relieved. I don't have any pain." I did not know that my foot was turning black. It was the night before Thanksgiving, and the saints were having prayer meeting. The doctor called for a wire that was to be inserted in my artery. There was blood everywhere. They were mopping up the floor. I knew that I was not going to be here much longer if something was not done quickly. I looked up at that

doctor and said, "Jesus holds all mighty power in His mighty hand divine." He said, "Why doesn't He bring us some balloons?" I started praying for God to help them to find the balloons. Soon I heard someone say, "We found them." A doctor from Iraq was working on me with a Chinese doctor, who had worked on me the day before, looking on.

Finally, blood started flowing into my foot. They were all praising the doctor. I shook hands with him, but I said, "God gave me my next breath." They told me that the next day was Thanksgiving and that I would be missing a good dinner. I told them: "My daughter will look after my husband. I just want to rest." They took me back up to a bed in intensive care, and the next day I was moved out of intensive care. I was so thankful that I did not need to have my foot amputated or worse.

Not long after moving to Ohio, we were able to move into a house right behind the church. We have a stream going through our backyard, and we enjoy it so much. Our grandson got saved, and he and his wife and their children are a blessing to us. The children enjoy the sandbox and the flowers and the water. They love their playroom where we read and sing and pray together. We are so blessed, as the Bible says in Psalm 66:12, "Thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place." Isaiah 51:11 says, "Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away."

Sister Myrtle DeVries

Meeting Announcements

Gilboa, WV
May 31-June 5

REVIVAL: Church of God, Off SR 39 on Hutchenson Creek, Gilboa, WV
Evangelist: Brother Earl R. Borders, Summersville, WV
Service times: Monday-Saturday 7:00 p.m.
Preaching from the Book of Revelation nightly.
For further information contact: Sister Dorothy Johnson at telephone number 304-872-2564 or Brother Earl R. Borders at telephone number 304-872-4047

Newark, OH
June 20-27

SPRING CAMP MEETING: Church of God, 675 N. Cedar Street, Newark, OH 43055
Service times: 10:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. The first service begins Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. Three meals served daily in the dining hall, plus the snack stand is open in the dining hall after the evening services. Bedding is supplied; please bring your own towels. For lodging reservations contact Brother Dave or Sister Ruby Bush by calling 740-345-1213 or by writing Church of God, Attention: Lodging, 725 N. Cedar Street, Newark, OH 43055. Please make reservations in advance, if possible.
For further information contact: Pastor Roger L. Decker, 87 Decrow Ave. Newark, Ohio Telephone: 740-344-2543 or 888-730-0461

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August 16-22

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