

# 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. 41 May 2011 No. 5



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?"

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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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We reserve the right to edit and/or decline any material for any reason. We are not responsible for unsolicited articles or items.

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Vol. 41 May 2011 No. 5

# Guest Editorial

*"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."*

*Galatians 6:10*

*"But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men."*

*Philippians 2:7*

## WE ARE SERVANTS

Jesus Christ came into this world to save men and women from the destruction of sin and death. He gave Himself willingly, taking on the form of a humble servant to humanity. He gave Himself so freely to unworthy mankind, and He expects men and women to give of themselves to Him and to serve others in return. The Christian's life is a life of giving as well as serving God and others. Serving Christ through obedient living, heeding His words, and following His example is very important.

In 1 Peter 2:21 Peter wrote, ". . . because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow his steps." Providing a life of service and giving to God and others is a Christian's duty. Unfortunately, we live in a world where men and women think mainly of themselves and do as they please, never finding time to consider the needs of anyone else. Their lives are so wrapped up with self and what self wants that they fail to see the soul that desperately needs help and attention. This is contrary to Jesus' teaching and example. He was not concerned about His own comforts. His life was spent helping and serving the needs of mankind. The Bible tells us that the poor and needy will always be around, thus giving the child of God an opportunity to demon-

strate the love of Christ. Great blessings are bestowed upon those who help men and women who are unable to help themselves. Sacrificing one's own desires helps to eliminate self-centeredness and covetousness. Sharing and giving builds strong Christian character and reaps deep satisfaction.

In Matthew, Chapter 20, you can read that a mother who had two sons came to Jesus and wanted them to sit on each side of Him. This dear mother did not truly realize what she was asking. She was thinking of greatness and prestige for her two sons and not of the cost required to be paid for such positions. Jesus stated that "whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:26-28). Many would like to be great and recognized as highly spiritual in society, but are they unwilling to follow the guidelines that lead to such heights of success?

Serving others can often be thankless and can go unrecognized by the great majority. However, that which is done in secret and to the glory of God never goes unrewarded. There is

[continued on page 12]

*Proverbs 31:10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.*

*11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.*

*12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.*

*13 She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.*

*14 She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.*

*15 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.*

*16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.*

*17 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.*

*18 She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.*

*19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.*

*20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.*

*21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.*

*22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.*

*23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.*

*24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.*

*25 Strength and honour are her*

*clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.*

*26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.*

*27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.*

*28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.*

*29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.*

*30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.*

*31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.*

# True Mothers



*Brother Roger L. Decker*

## **The High Calling of Motherhood**

This Scripture reading contains the beautiful words of the wise man Solomon. This month a day has been set aside to honor the mothers throughout the nation. It has been called Mother's Day, but I say every day is Mother's Day. It has been

said that the destiny of a child is a work of its mother. Being a mother is one of the greatest positions of honor a woman will ever attain in this life. God let us know that it is honorable. That is the reason He said in Exodus 20:12, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which

the LORD thy God giveth thee." We read in Ephesians 6:2, "Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise)."

Being a mother is a place of honor. For a considerable time, parents stand in the place of God to their children. They do not replace God, but until that child is brought

to a knowledge of God, mothers and fathers have the high calling of standing in that place to teach them and bring them to an age of accountability in their lives.

To rebel and to disrespect a parent's lawful command is serious in the sight of the Lord. It has been said that one of Abraham Lincoln's quotes was, "I remember my mother's prayers, and they have always followed me; they have clung to me all my life." Another quote by him was, "All I am or can be, I owe to my angel mother."

A mother has a persuasive power over her child in the home. Her influence can persuade, or bend, a child for or against right and wrong. "Mother" is the greatest title ever bestowed on a woman.

Today it is sad that many women are not satisfied with being a mother. God gave mothers such an important role, and it is so sad that some women do not want to be bothered with children. I believe it is the desire of every young girl's heart to grow up to someday get married and have children.

Too many women are discontented. They go out into the work force, and their children are suffering as a result of it. Now, there may be exceptions to the rule, but I am not preaching the exception. I am preaching what the Bible says. The Word of God says in Titus 2:5, "To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."

No one is qualified to take the place of a real mother. Day care nurseries cannot take the place of a mother. No home is stronger than the mother who guides it. Satan did a really terrible work when he attacked the homes in this nation. The oldest institution that God formed on this earth is the home. When Satan attacked the homes, he caused many homes to get out of order. When a home is out of order, there is nothing but chaos. There is an order for the home that God has set up.

## The Role of a Christian Mother

The Word of God covers the role of the Christian mother, both young and old. The Apostle Paul wrote in Timothy 5:14, "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully." He wrote in Titus 2:3-4: "The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children."

God does not want mothers to look like their teenage daughters or one of their grandchildren. A mother should act like a mother or a grandmother, whatever the case may be. She should teach her daughters how to clean a house, how to fix a meal, how to make a bed, how to do the dishes, and how to do spring cleaning. She ought to teach the children to pray before they eat their meals, to wash their hands, and to be respectful at the table. She should teach her children that 10 percent of every dollar they get should go in the offering. The best training that a young man or a young woman receives is in the home.

God knows that mothers have a big influence in spiritual things as well. A mother should teach the children how to dress properly. They should not get caught up in every fad that comes out. A mother should teach her daughters that their skirts should be below the knees. Their clothes should be loose enough, not so tight that they show the form of the body. There is much that goes with the influence of a mother. A mother should start guiding her children in the right direction when they are little.

Our Scripture text says in verse 10, "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies." The word *virtuous* is used three times in the Bible: once in the

Book of Ruth, speaking of Ruth, and twice in the Book of Proverbs. That word in one language means "a force," and that is what a mother is. She is a force of strength and of courage, and she is one who is noble. There are some things about a virtuous woman that we need to consider. First of all, her worth is far above the wealth of this world. She is a costly treasure, a treasure not found everywhere. She is an ornament, a joy, and a blessing above all that the earth affords. Proverbs 18:22 says, "Whoso findeth a wife [not a woman, but a wife] findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD."

## The Duties of a Godly Mother

Money cannot compensate for the heartaches there are with a contentious, unsubmitive, and disobedient woman. Proverbs 31:11 says the virtuous woman can be trusted. It reads, "The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil." She is a help, and she does her husband good. She is a help to him in his spiritual life.

Young man, if you are looking for a wife, you want to find one who will do you good and who will help you spiritually in your life, someone who is strong spiritually. It can be a problem if two spiritually weak people marry. When that happens, there is nothing but disaster. A godly wife will do her husband good. He can trust her, and she will help him; she is a helpmeet. She does good for the welfare of the home. She does good to her husband and also her children.

A good mother teaches her children responsibility. She insists on a family altar to bring the family burdens to God for strength in a time of need. She insists that they have family worship, prayer, and read the Word of God in the home. Proverbs 31:1 says, "The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him." She enforces discipline. She should not use the

father as a threat. She needs to keep discipline in the home. She cannot allow the children to run over her. She has to hold that discipline even when the father is at work or wherever he might be.

Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." A godly mother should get them involved in the things of God. It is a full-time job to train children. She ought to teach them to have reverence for their elders. One thing I was taught, and that was to respectfully address an elder man by calling him "sir." If a man came into our home, my father always taught us to address him as "sir." When I entered the military, I did not have any problem saying sir, because I was taught in the home to be respectful to elders.

A child needs to be taught to observe, to think, and to reason. A godly mother will train her child in good morals, temperance, honesty, forgiveness, purity, and prayer. She will train her children to take their burdens to the Lord in prayer.

Every child is going to face some difficulties in life. Children are going to get their feelings hurt, and they are going to get hurt physically. A godly mother teaches her children to call upon the Lord. As a parent, you must train up your children in the way that you want them to go. You need to train your children in private devotions and obedience. When they get up to go to school in the morning, you should train them to talk to God before school and to call upon the Lord during school. Children have rough times in school, and God can help them through those times.

A mother helps to make the atmosphere of the home a good one. How often does she do it? The wise man said "all her days." A virtuous woman can be trusted to manage the home. She rises early and applies herself to her household. Many times she rises early to check on the children. The husband could be sound asleep and unaware of

what the mother is doing. She is not afraid of work. Our Scripture text says in verse 13, "She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands." Verse 16 of our Scripture text states, "She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard."

### **Having Wisdom and Good Understanding**

The virtuous woman is very charitable, and she teaches charity in the home. Verse 20 tells us, "She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy." We read in Deuteronomy 15:11, "For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land." The virtuous woman takes care of her own household and reaches out to others.

A virtuous woman is a praise to her husband. Verse 23 of our Scripture text reads, "Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land." In other words, he sits in a place of respect. He has been accepted with the elders. Deuteronomy 16:18 says, "Judges and officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, throughout thy tribes: and they shall judge the people with just judgment." Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land. Behind him, as a support to him, is a good, virtuous woman. He sits in a place of respect because of her loyalty and the good she has done for him in their home. He is respected among the elders because he is first respected at home.

Proverbs 31:26 says, "She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness." Why does she have such great wisdom and such good understanding? The reason is that she has kept the

commandments of the Lord. God gives a mother wisdom and a special discernment. It is hard to hide things from a mother. It seems as if she already knows. Our Scripture text states in verse 26, "She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness."

Psalms 111:10 says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever." Her wisdom and her good understanding come from the Lord. Her children and her husband praise her. She is rewarded with praise and honor, especially by those who are the closest to her.

Verse 30 of our Scripture lesson tells us, "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised." A virtuous woman is one who lives a spirit-filled life and desires to obey all the commandments of God. She wants to have all the understanding that God will reveal to her.

A mother can turn the hearts of her children toward or against the Lord. She has a greater influence over her child than teachers in the schools and the father. As a mother, it is so important that you teach the children right in the home. If you will teach them the Truth, then they will not accept the devilish doctrines being taught in the schools. A mother can turn the hearts of her children.

### **Having the Right Priorities in Life**

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy often to help him to stand for Truth. However, Timothy was blessed with a good mother and a good grandmother. The Scripture says they had unfeigned faith, and that means their faith in God was real.

In 2 Chronicles 22:3, speaking of Ahaziah, we read, "He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counsellor to

do wickedly." Mothers have a tremendous influence. I trust, dear mother, that you are guiding your household in the right way. The number one priority of every mother should be that her child will know the Lord early in life and serve God all the days of his life.

Too many mothers have their priorities mixed up. They believe that having the best education is a top priority. Some believe they should have the best job and the best education to make it in the world, but the world is against God. A child needs to be taught that the number one priority in life is to serve God with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength. Other things should come after that. There is nothing wrong with getting an education, getting a good job, having a nice home, and getting a good companion. All these things are good, but your number one priority should be to seek the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

When it comes to spirituality, too many mothers put that on the back burner. Some parents say their children are old enough to choose whether or not they want to go to church. We did not let our children choose. While they were in the home, the choice was ours. They went to church, and

whether they wanted to go was not an issue. It was not even discussed. They got in the car, and we all went to church.

It makes no difference what you eat in the home or how your home is, God needs to be number one in your home. Today many families are too busy to eat together. The children go to ball practice, Dad gets home late, or whatever else might be going on. We used to try to gather all our children around the table. You would be surprised what you find out sitting around the table. That is a good place to have conversations.

Mother, are you guiding the household the right way, the way that God wants you to? If not, it is not too late to start. It is better to start late than not to start at all.

I read this Mother's Day poem. It is simple, yet it explains the role of a mother. It is called "Super Mom."

*Mom, you're a wonderful mother,  
So gentle, yet so strong,  
The many ways you show you care  
Always make me feel I belong.*

*You're patient when I'm foolish;  
You give guidance when I ask;  
It seems you can do most anything;  
You're the master of every task.*

*You're a dependable source of  
comfort;  
You're my cushion when I fall.  
You help in times of trouble;  
You support me when I call.*

*I love you more than you know;  
You have my total respect.  
If I had my choice of mothers,  
You'd be the one I'd select!*

As people get older and think back concerning their mother, often people say, "I wish I would have called her more often" or "I wish I would have done this or that for her." If your mother is still living, you ought to respect her. The Bible puts much emphasis on honoring your mother and your father. Ephesians 6:2-3 reads: "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." Many people have disobeyed their mother and father and have gone into eternity quickly by doing things that their parents were against.

How are you training your children in the home, mother? Are you bending the home toward right or wrong? You have a choice.

*(Compact Disc TR-611M)*

## How to Enjoy the Bible

A young lady read a book, and having completed it, remarked that it was the dullest book that she had read in many a day. Not long after this experience, she met a young man, and in the course of time, their friendship ripened into love, and they became engaged. When he was visiting at the home of his fiancée one evening, she said to him, "I have a book in my library that was written by a man whose name and even initials are precisely the same as yours. Is that not a singular coincidence?"

"I do not think so," he replied.

"Why not?"

"For the simple reason that I wrote the book."

The young lady sat up until the early morning hours to read the book again. When it was completed, it seemed to her the most interesting book she had ever read. It wasn't dull at all. She found it fascinating. What was the secret? She knew and loved the author!

You will enjoy the greatest of all books, the Bible, God's Word, if you love the Author. We love Him, because He first loved us.

*Ephesians 3:13 Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.*

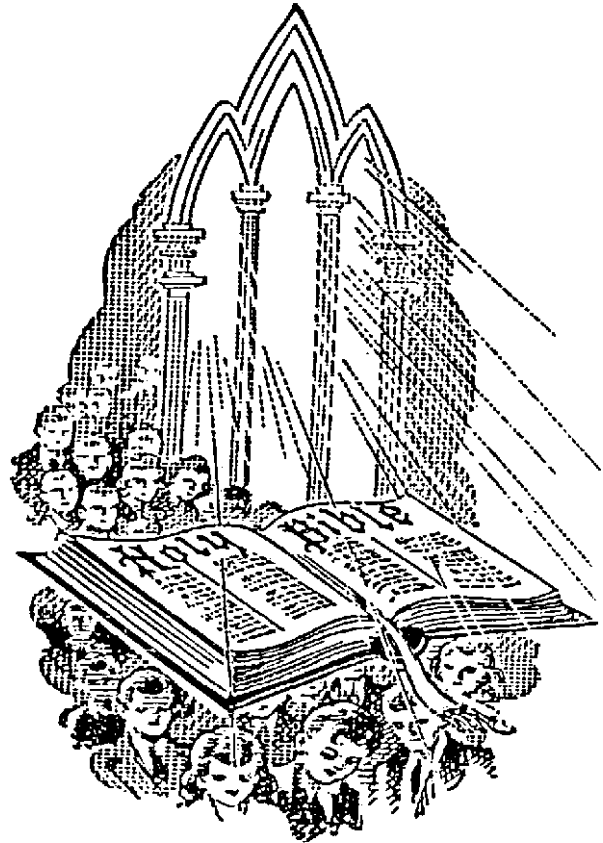
*14 For this cause I bow my knees*

*unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

*15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,*

*16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.*

# The Family of God



*Brother David Watson*

## **The History of the Church**

I do not know of any institution anywhere that has a greater history than the family of God. I do not know how many souls are in Heaven, but in our Scripture text the Apostle Paul was speaking of those in Heaven as well as those who are on the earth. I thank God that the family of God is not just a handful of people, as some might envision it to be, but it is greater than we can number. You can read of those in Hebrews, Chapter 11, who traveled by faith, heroes of faith who made it to their reward with the Lord. You

can read of those in Revelation, Chapter 14, who stood with the Lamb, and in Chapter 7 you can read of the "hundred and forty-four thousand" out of those descendants.

God had a special seed, a seed that He qualified, a seed that He would honor, a people whom He had set His heart upon. In 1 Chronicles, Chapter 1, we find that from Adam to Noah, there was a seed that God honored; then from Noah to Abraham, there is a seed that God honored. In Matthew, Chapter 1, we find the generation of Jesus Christ, all the way from Abraham to David, God had a special seed.

In Matthew, Chapter 1, we find in verse 17 that from Abraham to David there were fourteen generations of a special seed that God honored. From David to the carrying away into Babylon, there were fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon to Jesus Christ, there were fourteen generations.

In Luke, Chapter 3, we find that Luke went back through the genealogy of Jesus Christ. He went all the way back to Adam being a son of God. You see, we have a great history as the church. We have a wonderful Heavenly Father and a

divine family. We have a people whom God called, a people who stood faithful throughout the ages of time. Regardless of what the conflict was, how hard the battle was, or what rage they had to face, they were faithful people and a people of Jesus Christ.

Church of God, are you not glad that you are in a family that has stood true, that has faced the heat of the day, that has faced the battles of life and still stood up and said, "My God is real"? We read in Genesis, Chapter 15, that God looked on Abraham and put him through a test. He laid out his sacrifice. Abraham had to run and fight the fowls of the air, but when the sun went down, there came a burning lamp, a smoking furnace and a lamp that went down and searched all those pieces of meat. Abraham kept his sacrifice clean, and God testified of Abraham: "I know him. He will lead his children." Whenever you look back to Abraham, there is a seed. There is a history of the family of God that loved God. They were faithful to God regardless of the cause of the trial or the conflict. There is a people of whom we can be proud. I thank God for the history of the great Church of the Living God!

### **Doing the Will of God**

When I think of the family, I think of what Jesus said to them in Matthew, Chapter 12. In this chapter Jesus was teaching and some approached Him who said His mother was outside and wanted to speak to Him. We read in verses 47-50: "Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."

The family of God is not a natural family, but rather it is a spiritual, divine family. It is not a family that gives lip service; it is a family that is doing the will of God. When Jesus stood and His disciples asked Him in Matthew, Chapter 6, how to pray, He told them to pray that His Father's will would be done in earth as it is in Heaven. God's family is a special family that is doing the will of God. The will of God is not man's will or woman's will; it is a divine will that has come down from Heaven in a soul.

Jesus said in Hebrews 10:7, "Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God." The Bible is what the family of God lives by and is guided by. The family of God enjoys doing the precious will of God. Doing the will of God is not grievous; it is that which we enjoy because we belong to Him and love Him. We must endorse Jesus' will and know His Father's will and follow His Father's will.

Jesus gave us the best thing this side of Heaven, and every man and woman who pleases God is obedient to the Word of the Lord, because the Word of the Lord is God's will. When we follow the Word of the Lord, we are doing God's will, and God's will must be done in earthen vessels, just as it is done in Heaven. We can do the will of God right here in this world.

### **Who Is the Family of God?**

The family of God consists of those who do the will of God. Are you not glad that you are in the family of God and that you enjoy doing something for our Heavenly Father? I am glad we have a Heavenly Father. I thank God for my Heavenly Father! What a wonderful Heavenly Father we have! Oh, how I would like to take Him in my arms and embrace Him and hold Him and love Him! What a wonderful family we are in! We are really enjoying the great family of God! Oh, what a great Father He is to us!

The Apostle Paul said in

Ephesians 4:6, "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Our Heavenly Father loves you. Child of God, He loved you when you were unlovable, when you did not love Him. Oh, how much it means to know that Someone loves me as Jesus loves me! When I was unlovable, my feet were in the miry clay, and I had no hope, He reached way down in the miry clay and lifted me up and set my feet on a solid Rock, as He did David of old, and put a song in my heart. He said, "Someone loves you," and that Someone is God. He came to be my Father, and what a Father He has been to me! When no one loved me and when no one cared, my God cared for me and helped me. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

In this world many fathers forsake their families, and some fathers deny their children. Others have fathered a child but were never the father they should have been. I want you to know that since God came to be my Heavenly Father, He has never left me, and He has never forsaken me. He has never left me alone. He has given me a good law, a good spiritual home, and blessings from on high.

Whenever I have stood before Him and felt so little and so unworthy, God has put His big arms about me and pulled me close to His bosom and loved me. When sorrow compassed my heart, He took it away and gave me something that I could sing about. He has given me something worthwhile to live for. How wonderful my Father is and what a leader He is in the family! I thank God for the family of God!

My Heavenly Father has given me a good name. Do you know there are lots of fathers who have brought disgrace upon their families? Many fathers have brought a bad name on the family. Some people have felt too embarrassed to speak of who their father was. I want you to know that I can hold my head high and give this world a smile and say, "I have the greatest

Father who has ever been or ever will be. He is God, He is divine, and He is the Head of the family. He has been there for me, He has loved me, and He has taken care of my needs. He has cared for me, and He has given me a hope for the future. He has given me a good outlook on life. He has done something for me that the world could not do. He is a great Father.

### **God Has Given the Church a Name**

God has a name that is above every name, and He is worthy of His great name. Philippians 2:20 reads, "For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state." The Father has exalted Jesus and given Him a name that is above every name. The Ephesians embraced it. In Ephesians, Chapter 1, Paul said that it is far above all principalities and power. It is above all that is in Heaven, and it is above all that is in earth. There is no greater name than the name God.

The greatest name that could ever be spoken is the name God. His name is far beyond all that any vocabulary can express. He is beyond every experience that you will ever have in this world, and His name means more than you can ever express to other people. What a God! What a name He has given to His family.

Did you know that God has given us a name? He has given us a good name. John stated in 1 John 3:1, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." I want you to know that Jesus is God's only begotten Son, but since then He has gotten many sons. Whose name do we take? We take the Father's name, and His last name is God. God's first name is Jehovah. His Son's name is Jesus, and the Holy Ghost is a part of the three in one. Every saved individual is a son of God.

Thank God, we look like Him

and act like Him. I am proud of my Heavenly Father. I have two sons, and it does me good when someone says, "That boy looks like you." We ought to want to look like Jesus. We ought to say, "I thank God that I favor my Heavenly Father. People know that I belong to Him."

God has given us a good name. Acts 20:28 speaks of the family, the Church of God. I am proud of the Church of God. Why? Because it is God's family, and I am a part of God's family.

When Paul was a Pharisee of the Pharisees and God brought him down on the road to Damascus, in Acts, Chapter 9, and in the Book of Galatians, Paul said he was a Pharisee of the Pharisees by law. However, when God brought him to knowledge and understanding, he gave it all up, and he got a new name. That name he came to was Church of God.

Did you know this message is God's mail to you? It is a love letter. Do you like to go to your mailbox and read every good piece of mail you get except bills? I like this mail from God. In 1 Corinthians 1:1 God, through the Apostle Paul, wrote a letter to the Church of God. I thank God that we have some mail from God, and it is about doing God's will and tells us how God loves us. In 1 Corinthians 10:32 he said, "Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God." I am glad that we can live the way God said to live right here in this world and be the Church of God; that is the family of God.

In 1 Corinthians 11:16, Paul wrote, "But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God." What was he letting us know? God's family is not comprised of customs and traditions. It is not a ceremonial church, and it is not something you can join. It is not something wherein someone can write your name or baptize you in the seven seas to make you a part of the Church of God. We have no such custom. You have to be born from Heaven to

come into the family of God, and when you come into the family of God, you come in by the Holy Spirit, who will baptize you into the family of God.

### **Bear One Another's Burdens**

Luke, Chapter 14, says that you cannot be His disciples without loving Him. You have to love Him above, or more than, your father, your mother, your sister, your brother, your spouse, your children, and yourself or you cannot be a part of the family of God. If you are going to wear His Name, you have to give all in order to come the divine way and be a part of the family of God.

In 1 Corinthians 11:22 Paul said, "What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God?" I think Paul was telling the church to be careful of what they did in their admonishing, in their actions, and in their deeds because the church is God's family. We must enjoy doing things for God, and we must please Him. In 1 Corinthians 15:9 Paul said he persecuted and wasted the Church of God. He did something that displeased God. God knocked him down with the light, but when he opened his eyes, he could see the Church of God. Do you know something? He quit persecuting the church. When you see the Church of God, you will quit quarreling and fussing. The church is God's family.

In 2 Corinthians 1:2 again Paul addressed his letter to the Church of God. In Galatians 1:13 Paul was telling them that they had heard about him, how he had persecuted the saints beyond measure and wasted the church. He wrote that letter to the Church of God. Thank God, we have a family that has a history that tells us where every man has been and what every man has done. Whenever God brings a person to Truth and brings him to light, he will confess the Church of God.

Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 3:5,

"For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?" When God puts us in His family, He teaches us to take care of one another. He was talking about taking care of the Church of God. You may ask, "How do you do that?" Through the love of God, the grace of God, and the revelation that comes from God, we take care of the Church of God. I thank God that He so loved us that He put a love in our hearts so that we are willing to lend a helping hand and help one another right here in this world, because we are a family, the family of God.

Do you love helping people? I do. I get a blessing from helping people and doing things for others. As the family of God, we enjoy taking care of the great church. Sometimes we see people who are discouraged and bearing a heavy load. Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." You can carry your own burden, but if you will scoot over just a little, others will help you carry your load. You see, brother, sister, your cross is my cross. In 1 Corinthians 12:26 Paul said that when one member suffers, all the members suffer. We are family; we must take care of the Church of God.

I do not want you to fall or to get beside yourself. I want you to go to Heaven. In order for us to go to Heaven, we need to lend one another a helping hand as the Church of God. In 1 Thessalonians 2:14 Paul commended congregations of the Church of God. As long as a person is walking in the light, you can help him. You can work with a person and be a blessing to the person who is walking with light. Paul wanted to lend a helping hand. Some people may not understand what you understand, but you should not want to tramp on them or put them down further than they are. You could have been there. At one time I did not know about the church what I know now, and I wandered a little. I thank God for my Heavenly Fa-

ther. He took me by the hand and led me into this great inheritance. He showed me the path in which I was to walk.

### **The Mother of Us All**

Friend, God loves you, and you are to follow the Lord. In 2 Thessalonians 1:4 Paul again commended the congregations of the Church of God. I thank God for my Heavenly Father, for the good name that He has given us, and for my spiritual mother, the church. I have a great mother! Oh, she is wonderful! My Father married her. Did you know that my Father married a good woman? He married the Church of God. Oh, what a good mother I have! What a great family this is, and what a blessing it is to have a good Father and a good mother!

I can testify to you and tell you that on earth many children do not even know who their mother is. I was seventeen years of age before I saw the face of my mother. I did not know what she looked like. I understood some things that folks told me about her, and whenever anyone passed me on the street in my city that had her description, I would turn around and look at that person and wonder, "Is that person my mother?" She did not know me, and I did not know her. I prayed many times with my face to the wall, "God, help me to see my mother."

It means something to have a good mother. Yes, it does! I remember one day playing on the hillside, and I said, "Nobody loves me; nobody cares." God spoke from Heaven and said, "Son, I care." I will never forget that. I thank God for my spiritual mother. Isaiah 49:15 says, "Can a woman forget her suckling child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." The great Church of God will not forsake you. The church will be there when no one else will be there; the true

Church of God will be there.

The church is holy, pure, and undefiled. She is from Heaven, and she is glorious. She has no spot and no wrinkle; she is a holy woman. She is my mother, and she is the Church of God. I thank God for my spiritual mother. In Revelation, Chapter 21, we see her coming down from Heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. She is married to Christ, the One who was raised from the dead. Praise God, He has a wife, and she is our mother.

Children born into the family of God are not born out of wedlock; they are born into the family of God. Children are born because this family is healthy. This family is not sick. Our family is well, and our mother is producing children because she is well and she loves her husband. She is still seeing her children born in the family of God.

In Revelation 19:8 John said that to the church it was granted her "that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white," and the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints. Our mother is not a mother using her self-righteousness; she is adorned with that which is from Heaven.

In Galatians 4:26 Paul said that the Jerusalem, which is from above, is free, and she is the mother of us all. You see, our mother is free from Babylon, or free from confusion. Our mother knows who she belongs to, and she knows who she is married to. She is faithful; she is not a fornicator. She is one who loves the Husband, and the Husband loves her. Thank God, she is glorious!

### **The Mother's Love**

Ephesians 5:27 tells us there is no spot or wrinkle in her. Christ washed her, cleansed her, and sanctified her. She is the glorious Church of God. She loves her husband, and thank God, we belong to Him. What a mother we have!

I have preached funeral after funeral, and I have seen mothers

leave this world. What a darkness it brings to the home! Oh, what grief and hurt when the bond is broken, when the family has to stand aside and fold their hands and say, "Good-bye, Mom." Growing up in the home, Mom usually is the last one to go to sleep at night because she wants to know that the family is well. She is the first one there in time of trouble. It seems that she knows what to do for the child. She can see the hurt of a child before he or she can talk.

I want you to know that my spiritual mother knows every hurt that I have had. When I have cried, the church has cried with me. When I have rejoiced, the church has rejoiced with me. When I did not know which way to turn, the church was a counselor. A real mother is a counselor. Oh, what battles the church has fought for her children, because she loves the children of God. The world is dark and cold, and we have someone to turn to and someone who will help us along the way. What a spiritual mother!

Our mother has no blemish and no darkness. She knows love; she knows how to love her children. If you will take the time to read Proverbs, Chapter 31, you will find that she knows how to reach into the forest and bring the kind of merchandise that the family needs. She knows how to comfort us in the cold. When it seems that some have lost their joy, she knows what to do. She is not lost. She has an experience, and she has a Husband right beside her, One who is guiding and leading her. Her children rise up, after knowing her and knowing how great she is, and call her blessed.

In Song of Solomon 6:8-9, when he saw the concubines and the queens, the daughters all came down and looked at her, and they praised her. They said she is but one, and the only one of her mother. The Church of God is the only one of her kind. There is not another one like her. She is the same in a foreign country as she is in this country. Our mother knows how to help the soul

in a foreign land just as she does here. God is a God that loves, and the church is still in love with the Father.

### **The Bond of Peace**

The family of God has a great bond of peace. I do not know of a family that is any more bonded than the family of God. Sometimes my personal family did not understand why I liked to go to church and why I would say to company, "Do you want to go to church with me?" When they said, "No, we will just stay here," I said, "I will be back after a while." They did not understand. I have something in common with my spiritual family that I do not have with my natural family.

You see, when I am with my spiritual family, we have the Spirit that flows from heart to heart. In Ephesians, Chapter 4, Paul spoke of the bond of peace among the family of God. Paul said in verses 2-3: "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." What bonds you and me together and gives us peace is the good Spirit of God. Letters will not bring people together, water baptism will not bring people together, and ceremonies will not bring people together; but the Spirit of God will bond God's people together.

First Corinthians 12:13 tells us that we all are baptized into the one body of Christ by one Spirit. Child of God, the same Spirit who put you and me in the family of God and bonds us together in the family of God. Paul went about explaining the members in the family of God. For example, my physical body is one body, and my right hand is a member. It has the gift of being the right hand, and it has a gift of fingers. There is one spirit in my body that is called "me," and that one spirit operates my one body. The body has many gifts, but only one spirit operates my body. Not one member of

my body is rooting to push another member out. The same is true of the spiritual body, the body of Christ.

We are bonded together through the Spirit of God, and we are helpers to one another. We are the family of God working to get done what the Lord wants done. When I say, "Right hand, reach," it obeys. We so love our mother and our Father that when the Holy Ghost says, "Member, move," that member moves. We do not complain whether we are the little finger or the thumb. Why? We are bonded in peace. The thumb can do things that the little finger cannot do. The little finger is the smallest, but it can dig deeper into my itching ear than any other finger that I have.

You should never put someone down because he is not as educated as you are or because he may not have the personality that you have. Remember, we are bonded together by the Spirit of God, and it is the Spirit of God that operates the great Church of God. When I first got saved and came to the Church of God, we were not measured by education. The old pioneers discerned whether you were saved or not. If you were saved, they loved you and helped you. They did not hold you off if you did not know as much to preach as someone else knew. If God called you to preach, they still gave you an opportunity to preach. Why? The mother loves her children.

Do you know why sometimes a mother gives more attention to one child than she does another? It is because that child is sick and needs it. Sometimes the church has to give more attention to one member than it does another, because that one may not understand and may need help and may need to do some growing. We must not be jealous; we must keep the love and the Spirit in the bond of peace.

### **"Come on Home"**

Now I want to speak to the backslider. You left the family of God, and you need to come back

home. Do you remember the parable of the prodigal son? He was at his father's house. The Father's house is the church. The prodigal son was with the family, and he went away. The further down the road he went, the worse off he became. Sin will take you further than you want to go, and it will keep you longer than you want to stay. The prodigal son journeyed, and he got into deep trouble, because there was a famine in the land.

Friend, I want you to know there is a famine in the land where the backsliders are. The soul is not happy where the sinners are. The soul is crying out: "Take me home. I am homesick. I want to go home." The further away from home you

are, the sweeter home sounds. You will *never* be satisfied away from home.

I backslid one time in my life, and I want to tell you, I was afraid to ride in a car, I was afraid to go to sleep, and I was afraid that I would die lost without God. One night I looked toward home. I was like the prodigal son. I wanted to go home. My soul cried out, "Take me home." Do you know what I did? With trembling feet and trembling hands and a trembling voice, I came home to Jesus. I could not count the sins that I had committed, but I said, "God, forgive me."

Do you know what the Father did? He was standing with His big arms outstretched. He was saying:

"Come on home, son! Come on home!" Do you know what my spiritual mother, the church, did? She said, "Father, let's forgive him." Do you know what the prodigal son said? He said, "I have sinned against heaven, and before thee" (Luke 15:18), and all was taken care of. Praise God! I am a member of the great Church of God. I am a member of the family of the Church of God, and I am satisfied where I am. I would not trade this for the world if it were all piled at my feet. I would rather have Jesus than anything else. He is the great I AM! I thank God for Jesus. Will you come to the Lord?

*(Compact Disc TR-635E)*

## HOW TO BRING A REVIVAL

Gypsy Smith was once asked how to start a revival.

He answered, "Go home, lock yourself in a room, and kneel down in the middle of the floor. Draw a chalk mark all around yourself, and ask God to start a revival inside that chalk mark. When He has answered your prayer, the revival will be on."

[Guest Editorial—continued from page 2] One who never misses a thing; He sees every act of kindness given and every mercy shown. He hears the words of comfort you offer to a hurting heart. We are to serve and give willingly, not to receive in return or to be seen of men. Jesus instructed, "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. . . . But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly" (Matthew 6:1, 3-4).

There are many ways to give and to serve our fellow man. The greatest way to serve and to give is to live the Gospel every day everywhere consistently. You can speak words of admonition to the lost and unruly as the Lord directs. You should share God's love and mercy with everyone possible. Serving is

using the gifts and the talents that God has given into your trust. Repairing a brother's or a sister's automobile can preach the Gospel without ever saying a word. Visiting and taking food into the home of a sick person shows God's love and concern to the needy. Inspired words of comfort to a saddened heart reveals that the Lord is touched with the feelings of man's grief. There is a very great need for giving and serving. Are you doing all you can?

Serving others is serving Christ. God will judge all people according to their attitudes toward others. Someday all mankind will be gathered before the judgment bar of God. He will judge each individual according to the deeds that he or she performed in this life. God will place those who pleased Him on His right hand, and those who displeased Him will be placed on His left hand. The Lord will commend the faithful for the life of service

rendered. Those on His right hand will hear Him say: "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? . . . And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:34-37, 40). Those who are on His left hand will be condemned for refusing to walk as He commanded and cast from His presence forever.

Selected



## Mother

What a power in the very word Mother! No power can break the love which a good mother throws around her child. He may wander away from home and for a while may even seem to have forgotten a mother's prayer and a mother's kisses, but somewhere and somehow that lovely face and fond caress will flash upon the mind. It is true to nature, although it

may be expressed in a figurative form, that a mother is both the morning and the evening star of life. Heaven has imprinted in the mother's face something beyond this world, something which claims kindred with the skies—the angelic smile, the tender look, the waking watchful eye which keeps its fond vigil over her slumbering babe.

Can a mother's love be supplanted? No! A thousand times no! There is an enduring tenderness in the love of a mother for her child that transcends all other affections of the heart. It is neither to be chilled by selfishness, daunted by danger, weakened by worthlessness, nor stifled by ingratitude. She will sacrifice every comfort to his convenience. She will surrender every pleasure to his enjoyment. She will glory in his fame and exult in his prosperity. If misfortune should overtake him, he will be the dearer to her because of his misfortune. If disgrace should

settle upon his name, she will still love and cherish him in spite of his disgrace. If all the world should beside cast him off, she will be all the world to him.

The mother can take man's whole nature under her control. She becomes what she has been called "The Divinity of Infancy." Her smile is its sunshine, her word its mildest law, until sin and the world have steeled the heart. She can shed around her the most genial of all influences, and from the time when she first embraces her little one in clasping him to her bosom, its first paradise, to the moment when that child is independent of her aid, or perhaps like Washington, directs the destiny of millions, her smile, her word, her wish is an inspiring force.

Dear reader, I hope you will always love, respect, and obey your mother.

Selected

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## Home

What a hallowed name! How full of enchantment and how dear to the heart! Home is the magic circle within which the weary spirit finds refuge. Home! That name touches every fiber of the soul and strikes every chord of the human heart with its angelic fingers. Nothing but death can break its spell.

What tender associations are linked with home! What pleasing images and deep emotions it awakens! It calls up the fondest memories of life and opens in our nature the purest, deepest, richest gush of concentrated thought and feeling. Home of my childhood! What words fall upon the ear with so much of music in their cadence as those which recall the scenes of innocent and happy childhood now numbered with the memories of the past? How fond recollection delights to dwell upon the events which marked our early pathway when the unbroken home circle presented a scene of loveliness vainly sought but in the bosom of a happy family! Intervening years have not dimmed the vivid coloring with which memory has adorned those joyous hours of youthful innocence. We are again borne on the wings of imagination to the place made sacred by the remembrance of a father's care, a mother's love, and the cherished associations of brother and sister.

Home! How often we hear persons speak of the home of their childhood. Their minds seem to delight in dwelling upon the recollection of joyous days spent beneath the parental roof, when their young and happy hearts were as light and free as the birds who made the woods resound with the melody of their

cheerful voices. What a blessing it is, when weary with care and burdened with sorrow, to have a home to which we can go and there, in the midst of friends we love, forget our troubles, and dwell in peace and quietness!

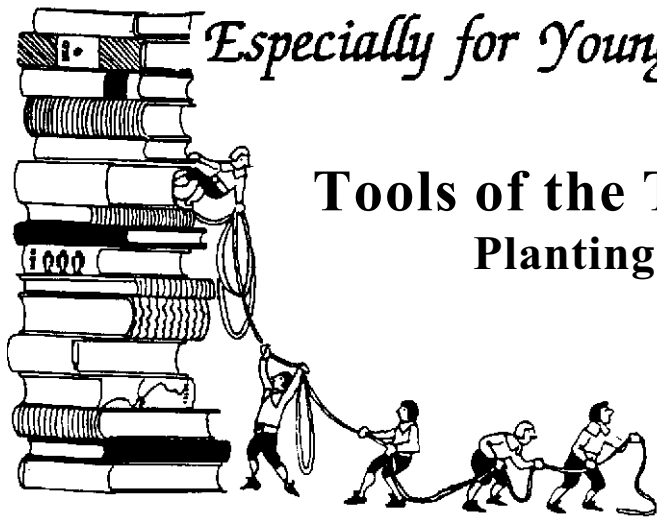
There is music in the word "home." Among the many songs we want to listen to, there is not one more cherished than the touching melody of "Home Sweet Home." None can tell how often the commission of crime is prevented by the memories of home and loved ones. If, then, the love of home is so powerful, how important it is to make it pleasant and lovable! Many a time a cheerful home and smiling face do more to make good men and women than all the learning and eloquence that can be used.

How sweet the words "Mother, Home, and Heaven"! One might almost say that the word "home" includes them all, for who can think of home without remembering the gentle mother who sanctified it by her presence? Is not home the dearest name for Heaven? We think of that better land as a home where brightness will never end in night. Oh, then, may our homes on earth be the centers of all our joys, may they be as green spots in the desert to which we can retire when weary of the cares and perplexities of life, and drink the clear water of a love which we know to be sincere and always unailing.

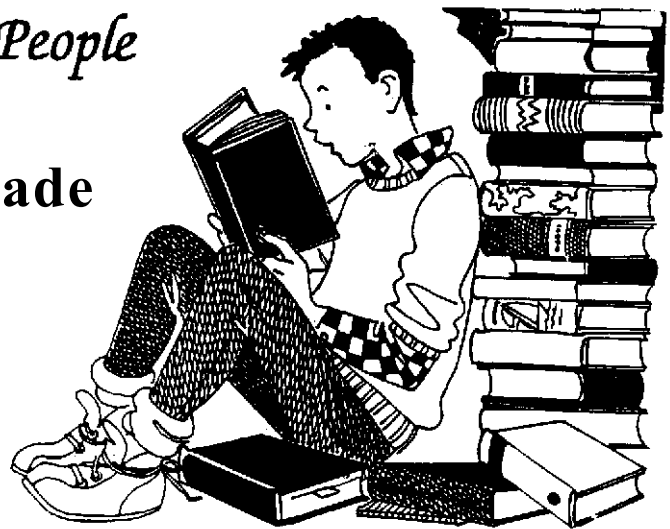
Heaven is to be our eternal home. Through the rich grace of Christ Jesus, may we all reach it.

Selected

*Especially for Young People*



## Tools of the Trade Planting



When God saves your soul and moves into your heart, a new seed is planted. It reminds me of the process of a flower's growth. You can take a seed packet and put little seeds in the soil where it is warm, and it will sprout. This is like your communion with God. If you study God's Word and let it work in your life, you will grow into a good soldier for Him. You have a Master, the Lord Jesus Christ, and He is the One who will keep you, but you must put forth effort. You have to pray to cultivate the seed. You have to work at becoming a good worker for God. In whatever line of work God has given you, He will help you. However, you must stay close to Him and remember that the devil will always be there to cause problems. That is what he was designed to do, and he is good at his job.

When God saves your soul, you become a new creature in God. He removes the old, sinful spirit. Now, you will have to use your imagination a little. Thinking of your Christian experience, imagine a large garden. Next to this big garden is another plot of land, and there is a hedge between them. That is the devil's garden. He is always camped next door to see what is going on.

God has given each of His children a marked row in this garden. No doubt, you have heard the old saying, "You've got a long row to hoe." That means you must labor

down through life, day by day, week by week, year by year, until God says, "You've been a good gardener," and then He takes you home. As you work in this garden, you are going to find different types of soil. You are going to hit hard places, clay, rocks, and stony places that you will have to work through.

It will not hurt to leave knee prints in the ground where you have had to get down and pray for help from God. As you go along through life, you will see other saints ahead of you who have been good workers for God for years before your time. You can look at their row and see where sometimes they must have gone through dry places. That was where faith had to come in. They had to keep going during the times when it seemed that God was not there.

When those times come, remember that God knows your thoughts. He knows everything that is going on. Do not forget that, and then when He does shower a blessing down upon you, you can rejoice. When you hear a good message that blesses you, it is like a plant getting the water and the sunshine it needs to make it grow into a healthy plant. When a Christian stays close to God, reads the Bible, prays, listens to the messages, and digs deeper, he will blossom into a beautiful person. People around him will notice that he is different.

Maybe he will get a chance to testify to them, and some of them might become Christians too. We are here to be workers for God.

As time goes on in this garden, each gardener will have problems, because Satan is right next door. He is watching, and he does not like anything that God has going on. Satan's garden is full of weeds, poison ivy, and thistles. He has many people working for him, trying their best to keep up with the Christian. Satan will do anything to cause problems. He will gather armfuls of thistles and poison ivy and throw them over the hedge into the garden. If you are not up to power with God, those thistles and poison ivy will wound your heart and poison your mind and cause you to stumble and fall. Satan needs more workers. He likes to get all the workers from God that he can. When he does, that makes his day. If Satan can get a saint to fall, he will jerk him over to his side of the hedge.

As you work in the garden, problems will arise, but God will always come to the rescue. You should not be afraid to get down on your knees and pray and ask God to help you. He will send down the blessings. God sends down blessings on the unsaved as well, but they do not fully appreciate them. In Matthew 5:45 Jesus said that God "sendeth rain on the just and on the

unjust." Rain is like the preaching of the Word. You need that spiritual food to help you grow. If you will obey the Word and walk close to the Lord, you will prosper in life. Then you can look back and say, "I remember when I got victory over that."

I was a young boy when World War II broke out. I was ten years of age on the day that Pearl Harbor was bombed. Although I was young, I was worried about having to go to war, because Adolf Hitler had youth corps of eleven- and twelve-year-old boys. The newspapers were full of such stories before Japan attacked us and we got into war with that country. On the Sunday morning that the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, I kept asking my mother, "They're not going to take me away from home, are they?"

I was in the Korean War later on. During that war, the government wanted people to put in victory gardens to support themselves. Everything was planted in a V shape, which stood for victory. Every little space that was available in town or in yards was made into victory gardens.

I remembered those gardens as I thought about our spiritual garden. In this garden God will give you a row, and that is your row of life, the path you are going to travel. As you travel this row, you will have opportunities to testify to friends and relatives and to people with whom you work. It makes you a good gardener when you tell them about God, so that God can talk to their hearts, and that will add to your basket of flowers, or souls. In a way this is very similar to how you put the seed in the rich soil and then give it some plant food, such as Miracle Gro. It is a miracle when God saves your soul.

When I was a boy, farmers hired other boys and me to pull suckers off the corn plants. We pulled the bottom leaves off the cornstock and pulled out the wild vines that would wind around and try to choke the plant. It was important to remove what we called "pea vines," because they would wind around the

cornstalk and girdle that stalk until the sap could not come up through. If that vine was not pulled off, when the ears came on, they would not have full ears. So that was kind of a spiritual lesson to me. As we went through the field, someone cultivated behind us; then we would hill the corn.

Looking across to the devil's garden, we see that we are much more fruitful. The Christian's plants look so nice, because God has given him a good crop. He has blessed his garden as He does the soul. The workers for Satan say to the Christian, "Maybe we can get you to come over or your Master Gardener to come and talk over the hedge to us and show us what we are doing wrong." Their weeds and vines are drooping, and there is nothing pretty about them. The only blossoms they have are the kind that float away, and that is what the devil wants them to do. He will try to get a breeze to blow those seeds toward the Christian's garden because he wants that seed to get over the hedge and take root in the soil. God will not permit that. They are tares.

The reason the sinner has a hard time is that he does not get that good, spiritual rain that the Christian's garden gets. About the only thing a sinner can water with is wine or liquor of some sort. Plants do not thrive on that, but that is another way the devil keeps the sinner in darkness. Satan promises a reward down the road, possibly a vacation with friends and relatives. We know where that vacation really is—hell. That will be their reward, or vacation, at the end of their row. It is different in God's garden. When we get to the end of the row, after we have lived a good life for God and have been a good worker, He will have a place for us in paradise. It will be a victory for us. We will go through hard places and dry places, but God will send showers and blessings down on us, just as He does for the literal flowers, and we will blossom and work for Him and win others to God. You cannot

get by with sin. There is a payday for everything you do in life. God will put a protecting hand over you if you serve Him.

I want you to know there is only one way to live. There is nothing out in the world but trouble. When young people go out into sin, they get in trouble. Even some of my own children have gotten into trouble. When they got out from under Dad and Mom's roof, they decided to do what they wanted to do. When I had them where I would watch them, I liked that. I could wash their faces, get them ready, and take them to church. During the church service, they sat only a couple of seats away.

I trust that in this message I have said something that might help you through life. God knows where you are all the time. He knows your thoughts. He knows what you are doing, whether it is good or whether Satan has his claws in you. Our reward is to make Heaven our home. All of us want to go to Heaven. If you were to ask a sinner, "Do you want to go to Heaven?" he would say, "Sure, I want to go to Heaven." On the other hand, if you were to say, "Why not come to church, study about God, and get saved?" no doubt, he would answer, "Well, I don't have time."

No one knows how much time he has left in this life. You could be snatched out of this world at any time. God could take you. It is only by His mercy that you are alive. It is His mercy that you can get out of bed every morning. When you put your feet on the floor and stand upright, you ought to say, "Thank You, God." God has been good to you, so trust in God and live for God, and you will never go wrong. There are all kinds of attractive things in sin. That is what people lust after. There is nothing like being able to get in touch with God quickly when you need Him. You ought to live so that when you need Him, He is there.

*Brother Tom Huddy*

*Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison*

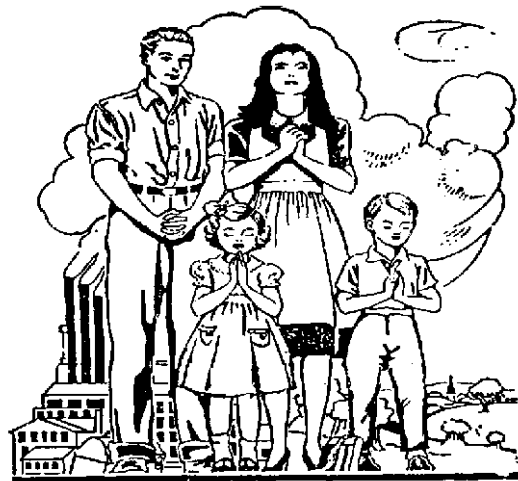
*to them that are bound;*

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

*3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for*

*ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.*

## The Garment of Praise



*Brother Paul Prinkey*

### Obtaining the Garment of Praise

The garment of praise first must be acquired before it is adorned. As we consider the Scripture text, I want to draw your attention to verse 3, which lets us know that we can have the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Have you ever experienced heaviness? Every child of God who has lived for God any length of time has experienced heaviness, but God has something better for us. We can adorn ourselves with a garment called the garment of praise.

People buy garments for many different reasons. You might have purchased an item because it was on sale or because you liked it, but you

did not really need it. You might have bought an outfit because someone else thought it looked good on you. Have you ever bought something because a salesman convinced you that you needed it?

As a young person, you may wear something because your mother or father told you to wear it. That was the way it was in the home that I grew up in. My parents said: "This is what you are going to wear. This is how we dress because it is what the Bible teaches." I did not have a choice. There were no options, so I wore what they told me to wear.

All these things pertain to the physical man, but in many ways there are parallels with the spiritual man. As saints, God wants us to

adorn ourselves with the garment of praise. If we are to wear the garment of praise, we have to put it on.

God has a big family, and sometimes it is a noisy family. I pay attention when I attend church services, and I have noticed spontaneous praise coming forth from the saints. However, I have noticed over the years that praise has diminished. People have gotten a little quieter with their praise, and the lifting up of their palms of victory. I have been listening to lots of recorded messages, and you do not have to go back very far to realize this. I can remember as a boy growing up that sometimes the preacher was preaching and his mouth was moving, but you could not hear all his words

because there was so much shouting over the whole house. I am not saying that we do not say "amen" and "praise the Lord," but it is a little quieter than it used to be.

God's church is a thankful church, and His people like to give Him praise. The Bible is filled with references to God's people praising the Lord. It just naturally goes along with being a Christian. If you are a Christian, you want to give praise to God. After I got saved, I did not have to force myself to stand on my feet and thank the Lord for salvation. It just came automatically because my heart filled up with praise. God still fills up my cup. Sometimes it is as though God takes the lid off my cup and fills it up all at once. I overflow and my hand goes up into the air and praise comes from my mouth. Why? When God fills my cup, it is just natural for me to thank Him and praise Him for what He has done. It is just natural for a Christian to thank God.

### **"Let Every Thing That Hath Breath Praise the Lord"**

One fact about a garment is, if you are going to enjoy it, you have to put it on. Sister, would you buy a nice dress, and as soon as you get it home, put it in the closet with a plastic bag over it, and every so often get it out and look at it and say: "Isn't that nice? I'm glad I bought it," and then put it back in the closet and never wear it? I do not know of any woman who would do that. You would put it on and wear it. Likewise, that is what you have to do with the garment of praise. After you acquire the garment of praise, you must put it on. You have to put forth effort. God is not going to make you do it. He is not going to force your lips open to say, "Praise the Lord!"

We read in our Scripture text that Isaiah prophesied about what was going to happen when Jesus came. As I read through those verses of Scripture, my heart rejoiced. You can read in Luke 4:17-22 that Jesus

took the Book of Isaiah and began to read. When He finished reading, He said, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears" (verse 21). The whole house should have shouted Him down. Everything they had prayed for and hoped for had happened right in front of them.

Many people had died waiting for that day, but the people in this Scripture were dumbfounded. No doubt, some of them said, "Who does he think he is?" They got angry and tried to throw Him over a cliff when they should have been rejoicing and shouting His praises. They should have been begging Him to tell them more, but it did not happen that way. The people had waited for that day, and it had finally come to pass, but instead of rejoicing they said in verse 22, "Is not this Joseph's son?" They knew His family, because He lived in the same village. He was just the carpenter's son to them, yet He was far more than that.

Psalm 145:3 reads, "Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable." You will never discover all the goodness of God. We could not even scratch the surface when it comes to telling how great God is. He is so great, and greatly to be praised! You will never search out all the goodness of God.

Isaiah 12:6 states, "Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee." When God is dwelling among people and dwelling in them, they have a lot of praise for God. I am glad that I am not in a dead church. I am glad that I am going to church where God goes to church. He is still blessing and filling my heart with His Holy Spirit.

Psalm 150:6 says, "Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD." I want you to notice that he began and ended this psalm with "Praise ye the LORD." He led by example. He encouraged everyone who is living and breathing to praise God. We have so much to praise Him for.

Sometimes we get too quiet about praising God. The more we praise God, the more others will be encouraged to praise God. If you feel like giving God praise or feel like saying amen, you should not hold back. How is your praise for the Lord today?

### **"Quench Not the Spirit"**

In 1 Corinthians 14:15-16 we read: "What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?"

I want to draw a thought from these two verses of Scripture. The Apostle Paul was saying that when you pray or sing, you should do so with the Spirit and with understanding. When the Spirit of God is present in your life, you will be motivated and active in different ways of praising God. You can praise Him in prayer and in song.

Ephesians 4:30 tells us, "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." First Thessalonians 5:19 reads, "Quench not the Spirit." You can quench the Holy Spirit of God. When the Holy Spirit moves and prompts you to praise the Lord, to sing, to testify, or to pray, you will quench the Holy Spirit of God if you hold back. The Holy Spirit of God wants to work through you. He wants to bless the body of Christ through you. He wants you to give praise to God. If you hold back, you will quench the Spirit of God, which is like pouring water over a roaring flame.

The Spirit of God wants you to be active in praising the Lord. One natural thing that the Spirit of God motivates you to do is to give praise to God. You need to have your pure mind stirred by way of remem-

brance. Sometimes a person needs to be schooled in the ways of praising the Lord, and then he needs to put on the garment of praise. Our Scripture text says that the Spirit of God will give to us the garment of praise, so we need to put it on. When do we need to put it on? How about when God answers prayer? Have you thanked Him for your answered prayer?

How many times have you called out in need and God came to your rescue and met your need? Have you thanked Him? As you go through life and a need arises, have you prayed to God in your mind, "Lord, help me in this situation" and God met the need? Have you thanked Him for it? Sometimes I have paused in prayer and said: "Lord, for the times that You have answered prayer that I have forgotten, I want to thank You. I do not want to take for granted what You have done for me. You have been so good." I am confident that the reason God is not answering some prayers today is that people have failed to thank Him for what He has already done. Sometimes I think we are like children who say, "I want . . ." but never return to give thanks.

### **Giving God Praise**

David made it a practice to thank God for answering prayer. Psalm 34:6 reads, "This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles." David was thanking God by penning a psalm of praise, and we can read it many years later, seeing the thankfulness of David for answered prayer.

When should you put on the garment of praise? What about when God saves you? You should give God praise. You may say, "I don't know much about the Bible, so I don't have much to say." You do not need to say a lot. You can just stand up and thank God that He saved you. Romans 10:10 says, "For with the heart man believeth unto

righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." All of us who are saved have a testimony.

You owe God praise when He heals your body. Luke 17:12-19 reads: "And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go show yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole."

When God heals your body, you owe Him praise. The leper who returned to give praise to Jesus was a stranger, but Jesus had mercy and healed him. He turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God. He fell at Jesus' feet and worshiped Him because he was cleansed. The Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:13, "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

I am thankful that God has brought me near Him through the healing of my body. There are different ways that God can draw you close to Him, and He has drawn me close to Him through the healing of my body. I give God the praise.

### **Putting on the Garment of Praise**

What about putting on the garment of praise when God's Word is being preached? You can read in the Book of Nehemiah that Ezra stood on a pulpit and preached to the people. We read in Nehemiah 8:4-6: "And Ezra the scribe stood

upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose. . . . And Ezra opened the book. . . . And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground."

Did you notice what the people did? As Ezra preached and blessed God, all the people answered, "Amen, Amen." You do not need to say just one amen. Some people like to say only one amen at church, and that is the one at the end of prayer when the service is finished. When all the people said amen, lifting up their hands and bowing their heads, it all came under the category of worshipping the Lord.

Sometimes people wonder why we do what we do in the Church of God. Have you ever wondered at that? Why do you raise your hand? Why do you say amen? Why do you bow your head when we pray? There are reasons, and they all come from the Scriptures. It is not just tradition. I lift my hand and give praise to God because that is what I have been taught through God's Word.

I want to emphasize this point: if you cannot praise God in a worship service, where can you praise Him? A worship service is the easiest place to praise the Lord and lift up your hand and say amen. It is the spiritual gymnasium for the child of God who wants to serve, worship, and praise God. Do you want to exercise for the Lord? You can do it in the worship service. There are more Christians in the worship services than in the shopping mall or in your place of employment. You will have an easier time among God's people than any place else.

In Acts 2:14 you can read that Peter stood up to preach, and do you know what the other eleven Apostles did? They stood up with him. You may notice that sometimes the brethren stand up and sometimes the people of the congregation stand up. Where does that come

from? It comes from God's Word. They stand to their feet to acknowledge to God and others that they are in agreement. Their hearts are filled up, and they want to give praise to the Lord.

David said in Psalm 145:4, "One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts." May God help us. We have to leave a heritage to our young people. If you quit praising Him, you cannot expect your children to praise Him. If you expect your children to be saved and to live for God, to sing, to testify, and to praise the Lord, you had better do it. We need to set an example for the young people.

Praising the Lord is not just for the men. It is all right for a woman to say amen aloud and to raise her hand in the congregation. You do not need to be bashful about praising God if you love the Lord. Let us prove that we love the Lord. Again, the Psalmist David said, "One generation shall praise thy works to another." We owe it to our children to show them what praising the Lord is all about.

My dad left a heritage for me. My parents did not have much of this world's goods, and they did not strive for great things in this world. They did not live in an expensive home or drive expensive cars. They did not have fine, fancy things; that was not their focus. Their focus was on living for God and glorifying Him with their lives. My father could not meet a person and talk to them for more than five to fifteen minutes without telling them about how he came to know the Lord and inviting them to church. He would testify to them about what God could do for them if they would let Him in their lives. My father could not be quiet in the church services. Often he would testify at least once and sometimes twice, and then sometimes he would sing a song as well. He was not bashful about praising the Lord, and he left a heritage behind for me. I am glad for that heritage. He would not have

done me nearly as much good if he had left me two million dollars in the bank.

### **What Is Your Focus in Life?**

We need to lose our focus on what this world is after and realize what God wants us to pursue. What is most important in your life? What are the best things you could leave to your children? The best thing you could leave them is a heritage of living for God. You could not leave them anything better. We must put on the garment of praise so that the heritage of praise will be passed down to the next generation of believers.

Psalm 146:1-2 reads: "Praise ye the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul. While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being." David's energy was focused on praising the Lord. I am investing my life's energy in giving God praise. Will you do the same? You cannot wait until you are dead to praise God. You need to do it while you are living.

Psalm 147:1 tells us: "Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely." Psalm 149:1 says, "Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints." This Scripture gives you full permission to sing praise to God in the congregation of the saints. When you go to church to worship the Lord, you should go ready to praise God. You should be prayed up, read up, and ready to worship and praise the Lord. Jesus said that God seeks such to worship Him. He wants you to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. Praise is part of our worship to the Lord. This is one reason we sing in the worship services. The Bible sanctions it.

Psalm 150:1-6 states: "Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his

excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD."

We have instruments in our church services, and we use them to praise the Lord. I am glad that we have music. I am glad that God has given talents and people have exercised themselves to perfect their talents. They use their talents to bless the worship services and the believers with what God has blessed them with. I like to hear what God has done for others. I am blessed when the saints are willing to get up and use their talents for the Lord. I encourage all young people to try to learn to play an instrument and use it for the Lord.

### **Lift Up Your Hands and Bless the Lord**

In 2008 and 2009 I spent about six months of that time in a hospital in a bed. I am thankful that I had my guitar with me and was able to play it while I was in the hospital. I was able to use the talent that God has given me to encourage others as well as myself. Sometimes the nurses would line up against the wall in my hospital room and just listen to me sing and play. They asked me if I would mind if they brought some of the patients down the hall and let them listen. I said that I did not mind, and they began to bring wheelchairs and beds down the hall and into the room until it overflowed and people were up and down the hall, with the nurses standing by their bedsides to tend to them. My wife and I played and sang to them and testified to them of the goodness of God. The tears rolled down their faces. It was not because I played something special. We were just singing good old Gospel songs, and it blessed people.

You do not know how God may use you if you will apply yourself to a talent. If God chooses to bless you and enable you, as you practice and put yourself into your talents, God can bless you to the household of faith. Do not be discouraged if you cannot learn a talent, because not everyone can. Still, I encourage you to try. God can make you a blessing and use you, and you can give God praise even in the hard times. You do not have to be on the mountain-top to praise God. I like the song that says, "While the storm rages, I've still got a song."

Everything will not go well all the time. You cannot expect life to be all rosy. There will be lots of valley experiences and hard times. Jesus said that in this world we will have tribulation, but He also said to "be of good cheer." We can be of good cheer, fight the devil, and praise God. In Nehemiah's day the people fought the enemy of old with a sword in one hand and a trowel to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem in the other hand. They were still doing God's work and fighting the devil.

The Bible says that God inhabits the praises of His people. If you want to have more of God, you need to praise Him. He will inhabit your praise, but if you complain and murmur, He will not be in that. If you sing out praise to God, He will be with you. We read in Revelation 19:1-6 that they were singing praises to the Lamb, and we can do it today too.

Why do we raise our hands in church? In 1 Timothy 2:8 Paul told Timothy that we can lift up holy hands. Psalm 134:2 states: "Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD." You can lift up your hands in the sanctuary and bless the Lord.

### **Proclaiming God's Rich Blessings**

God has given us many ways that we can praise Him. Paul said in the Book of Romans that they were without excuse. We have no excuse for not praising the Lord. He has

done many things for us, whereof we are glad. I do not know about you, but I am glad for what the Lord has done for me. I am glad that I can still praise Him. He has never given me a reason to quit Him. He has never done anything but good to me, and I have no reason to quit God. I only have reason to give Him praise.

Last of all, we can praise God before the world. We can praise God before our lost families and unbelievers. Giving praise to God is not just for the church services, for the quiet places at home, and for the secret place where you get alone with God. Praise can help lift up others who are discouraged. Jesus commissioned us to go into all the world and make disciples. How can you do that? We can do it by giving God praise.

Do you remember what Jesus said to Legion, who was delivered of devils? The people of the town were upset by what Jesus had done, and they were afraid. Therefore, they wanted Jesus to leave their coast. Legion wanted to go with Jesus, but in essence, Jesus told him, "I want you to go home and tell your family and friends what great things the Lord has done for you." Jesus wanted him to be a witness to his lost family and friends. One of our opportunities to witness and testify

is to give praises to God before people.

Do you take the opportunity to thank God before unbelievers? The situation that I have been through has stirred interests in many people. Sometimes people who do not know the Lord come up to me and ask how I am doing. I always thank the Lord for how well I am doing. It is only the mercy of God and the prayers of His people that have brought me this far, and I give God the praise.

Do you have on the garment of praise? Are you a child of God? If you are one of God's children, He wants you to have on the garment of praise. If you are not one of God's children, He wants you to know Him today. You do not have to be disappointed or wanting. If you do not have on the garment of praise, you need to put it on. One of the best ways to get the devil off your back is to praise God for what He has done. Paul told Timothy that God has given us richly all things to enjoy. I appreciate the blessings of God. He has given me far more than I can ever repay Him and praise Him for. I will never catch up on the praise that I owe Him, but I am going to enjoy trying.

*(Compact Disc TR-547M)*

## **God Is Never Out Given**

The story is told of a good farmer who loved the Lord and believed in stewardship. He was very generous indeed and was asked by his friends why he gave so much and yet remained so prosperous. "We cannot understand you," his friends said, "why you seem to give more than the rest of us, and yet you always seem to have greater prosperity."

"Oh," said the farmer, "that is very easy to explain. You see, I keep shoveling into God's bin, and God keeps shoveling more and more into mine, and God has the bigger shovel."

Matthew 13:24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Numbers 32:20 And Moses said

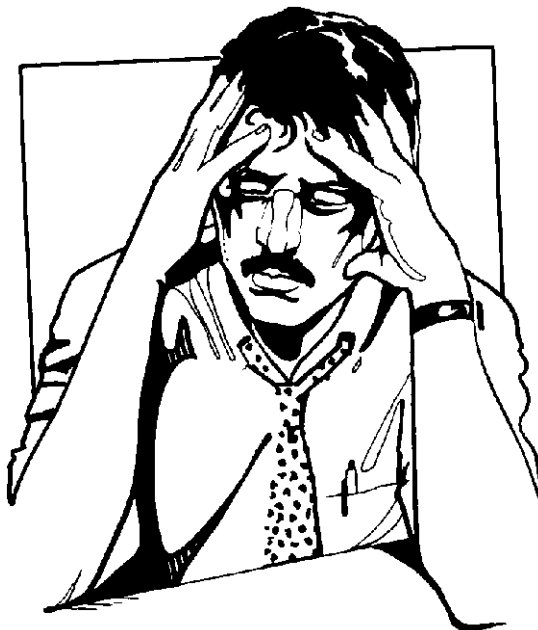
unto them, If ye will do this thing, if ye will go armed before the LORD to war,

21 And will go all of you armed over Jordan before the LORD, until he hath driven out his enemies from before him,

22 And the land be subdued before the LORD: then afterward ye shall return, and be guiltless before the LORD, and before Israel; and this land shall be your possession before the LORD.

23 But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.

## "Be Sure Your Sin Will Find You Out"



*Brother Leamon Whitehead*

### **Staying Clear With God**

It behooves us to live godly, righteously, and holy in this time world, because we are on our way to the Judgment. Hebrews 10:31 states, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." My friend, it is an awesome thought to think that you will have to give an ac-

count for every idle word that you have spoken.

Jesus said in Matthew 12:36, "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." That ought to cause you to speak cautiously, to make sure that your words are ordered by the Lord, and to be sure that you are

doing those things that God would have you to do. If I knew that I was going to leave this world soon, I would want to spend a few quiet moments alone with God just to make sure that everything is all right and to have His assurance that I am ready for Heaven.

Jesus taught about the ten virgins in Matthew, Chapter 25. The

five wise virgins said they had just enough oil for themselves and could not give any to the others. I believe we each must check our lives and make sure that we are clean and clear and right before God; then we can shout the victory and praise God!

Let me remind you that your sin will find you out. Sin has a way of sticking up its ugly head and exposing itself. Do you remember the old Jack-in-the-Box toy? You cranked the handle, not knowing how many turns it would take until Jack popped up out of the box. That is what sin does: it pops up unexpectedly. Your life and everything you do is open before God. The Bible lets you know that your life is naked and open before God; it is not covered. God knows all about you. God knows if you have any skeletons in your closet, so to speak. Do you have any hidden sins? Are you walking uprightly before God?

You know if you are playing the hypocrite, pretending to be something that you are not. Dear one, if something is in your heart that ought not to be, now would be a good time to bring it to the Lord and confess it. You need to get the skeletons out of the closet and bury them. You must bring those hidden sins to the Lord and make things clear between you and God. You need to live uprightly day by day. Do not live a life that is displeasing to God. Do not try to cut corners on God, because surely your sin will find you out.

The enemy would like to undermine you. This is the reason you need to keep everything clear between God and you. My friend, you may fool people, but you cannot fool God. He knows you. You are on your way to the Judgment. On Judgment Day you will have to give an account to God of your actions and deeds. When you leave this world, your spouse will not stand with you before God and tell Him what kind of person you were. You will have to give an account of your own life. That is the reason you need to live

righteously day by day.

This present world is the only place and time to make things right with God. Ecclesiastes 11:3 reads, ". . . in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be." There will be no change to the condition of your soul after death. If you will stay clear with God, you can have the victory. You can praise God because your soul is clear, your heart is clear, and your mind is clear. You may say, "I would like to live like that." Well, you can! Dear one, Jesus can set you free and give you a new life, but if you fail to seek Him, you can be sure your sin will find you out.

### **Tares Among the Wheat**

Let us study a little about the wheat and the tares. In our Scripture lesson, the tares were growing among the wheat, and they looked much like wheat. (You see, it is not enough just to look like a Christian or to associate with Christians. You need to check with God to make sure that everything is okay.) When the tares and the wheat were young, they looked much alike. When the servants discovered the tares in the field, they wanted to uproot them, but the householder said no, because they would uproot the wheat too. God is after the beautiful, golden wheat. My friend, that is what God wants you to be.

If you have tares among your wheat, one of these days, just like the Jack-in-the-Box toy, the tares will spring up. One brother said, "What is down in the well will come up in the bucket." If sin is down in your heart, it is going to show up, so you need to get it out of there. If sin is not down in your heart, you will not have to bite your tongue to keep from saying ugly words. You will not almost say something bad if your heart is clean. I know this goes on in some religions, but not around the saints of God. If you have ugly words just waiting for the right time to come out, you need to let God do heart surgery and cleanse you. He will cleanse your mind and your

heart. Praise God!

Nothing compares to living on the hallelujah side and knowing that all is well with your soul. It is wonderful to know that you are living as God would have you to live day by day, whether you are alone, in a crowd, on vacation, or wherever you are.

Some people slip away on vacation and do things they should not do. You can be sure your sin will find you out! Remember, if there is anything ungodly or wrong in your heart, you are going to face it at the Judgment. Your pastor may never know anything about it, but one day you are going to stand before the great God of Heaven. Nothing is hid from His eye. It is sad when people are hypocritical away from the church and do things they know they ought not to do. They are not keeping God in view. Some try to hide their sin from their companion and the pastor.

Friend, if you desire to go to Heaven more than anything in this world, you must keep your life clean. You have to live holy. Not many people get a warning that tomorrow afternoon God is going to take them out of this life. Many times people are just going along doing their own thing, working and planning, when death comes. Then there is no time to make things right. That is the reason you need to live right and make sure that all is clear between you and God.

What a blessing it is to know that all is clear between you and God and between you and your fellow man. That is wonderful! Salvation is real! One songwriter said, "I love God's way of living best of all." It suits me, and I enjoy it! Praise God! I enjoy the feeling of being clean from the sin that once had me bound. The victory that God gives set me free, and it keeps me free. This Christian life has been a great journey, and it is not over yet. I do not know how much longer the world is going to last, but I am convinced that the best is yet to come. I want to hear Him say, "Well done."

Going back to our Scripture lesson, when the tares were young, they looked much like the wheat, but as they matured, it was revealed that they were not wheat. No doubt, you have heard the old saying, "If you give people enough rope, they will hang themselves." Dear one, there is no substitute for the real thing. Being almost saved is not enough. I heard a song a few years ago which says, "*Ninety-nine and a half won't do. Ninety-nine and a half won't do. You have to live right, make a hundred. Ninety-nine and a half won't do.*"

Being close is all right in the game of horseshoes, but it is the way to lose your soul in the things of God. You need to go all the way with God. You have to cut loose from the shore and step into the water. The enemy convinces many people to do just enough to get by. Their whole life is geared that way. On the job they do just enough to get by. Their hardest work is done when the boss is around. They like to cut corners.

### **Obedience Is Better Than Sacrifice**

One dear sister used to sing, "It is an awesome thought to know that God is looking down." He knows what you think about this message. Also, He knows what you think about your pastor. God knows if you are sincere when you smile and say, "I love you. What a wonderful pastor you are!" Ecclesiastes 5:5 states, "Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay." If you do not mean what you say, it would be better not to say it, because if you say something and do not mean it, you are guilty of lying.

We each are heading for the Judgment. If I knew death was going to come to me in the next few minutes, I would be on my knees making sure that everything was clear before God. I would be praying, "Lord, one more time let me know that all is well." It does not

hurt to take inventory.

Again, verse 23 of our Scripture text says, "Be sure your sin will find you out." This was so true with King Saul. First Samuel 15:13-14 reads: "And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD [he might have said that to many people and gotten by with it, but Samuel was a man of God]. And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"

Saul told Samuel that he had done what God said, but when Samuel heard the bleating of the sheep and the lowing of the oxen, he knew better. Saul lied about it. One sin called for another. Often when a person tells a lie, he has to tell another one to cover it up. It just snowballs. That is the reason it is better to live right and to tell the truth. Then if you have to tell it again the next day, you will not have to worry about what you said previously. If you tell the truth, you can tell it over and over. If you tell a lie, soon the evidence will come out and your sin will be exposed.

How did Samuel know that King Saul disobeyed? Because the command from God was to go to the city of Amalek and destroy everything there. When Samuel caught King Saul in the lie, Saul began to try to smooth it over and make excuses and blame it on the people. In essence, he said, "I could have killed them all, but the people spared the best and brought them back to sacrifice to God." God loves sacrifice, but He loves obedience more. Obedience is better than sacrifice, and King Saul had not done what God told him to do. His sin found him out. Some sheep could not keep their mouths shut, and some oxen could not be quiet. My friend, if you have something hidden in your life, believe me, God will bring it to light. You need to realize that you are the one who is being fooled if you think you are hiding anything from God. The Scripture says that

which is done in secret will be shouted from the housetop.

### **The Principle of Sowing and Reaping**

When I was studying for this message, I thought about a story that I once heard. A man had two sons. He was going to be gone awhile and told the boys to plant corn. He gave them quite a bit of corn to plant; however, they did not know much about planting anything. They planted until they got tired, and they still had a lot of corn left, so one of them pulled up a big rock and threw the remaining corn under the rock and put it back down. They thought they had gotten rid of it all and their father would not know anything about what they had done. All it took was time for the corn in the rows to come up, and the corn under the rock did the same thing. Had it been a kernel or two, their dad would not have been excited, but when he saw many stalks coming out from under the rock, the secret was out. That is the way it is with people's lives when they try to hide things.

The Lord wants to clean you up completely. He will forgive you for any past sins, give you victory, and fill your heart with His power and love and goodness so that you do not have to sin anymore. You can live as God would have you to live.

If the Holy Spirit has bid you to do more or to dig deeper and you refuse, you are in trouble with God. Whatever the Holy Spirit convicts you of needs to be corrected. When you pay the price, then you can have the blessing. You cannot look around at the world and find an example of godliness. You will see terrible things in the world. It is pitiful. You need to say, "Lord, You check me out." You need to make sure that you are living so that your heart does not condemn you and your conscience does not feel defiled. Oh, what a wonderful feeling it is to know that all is well!

King Saul's sin found him out.

He wanted to be praised as a king who had done something great. Perhaps he thought, "My way is better. We can sacrifice all this to God, and God will be more pleased." No, what pleases God is when you do what He asks you to do; then He will smile on you, and that is worth everything.

Has God ever condemned you? I know the feeling. When I was living in sin, I felt condemned. I have also had that feeling a few times since I have been saved, when I opened my mouth when I ought to have kept it shut. I would even argue with God and say, "That person deserved it. He asked for it, so I gave it to him." However, I did not feel better, so I talked to Him again and still did not feel any better. Finally, I had to say: "Lord, You are right; I am wrong. I confess it." Then the joy of the Lord began to come back.

This is what I am talking about when I speak of getting God to smile on you. You cannot literally look up into the heavens and see God with a big smile on His face, but you will know when He is smiling on you. You will know when He is pleased and when He is displeased. He does not literally put His big arms around you, but you can feel His presence. You can hear Him say, "You are my child." If you are saved, you know what I am talking about. King Saul was in trouble because he had not done what God commanded him to do.

### **There Is Only One Way**

John, Chapter 10, talks about climbing up some other way. Cutting corners will not do. Sin cannot enter Heaven. God will not put His approval on wrongdoing. Climbing up some other way is sought by those who do not want to go God's way, but there is only one way. You will have to pay the fare if you want to go to Heaven. More than anything in the world, I want to make Heaven my home. As long as I retain that desire, I will pay or give

anything to God. We all must have the desire to keep paying the price.

God's way is not hard. Whenever God says no, it is for your good. He is not sitting up in Heaven trying to make you miserable. Look at all the things He does to bring you pleasure. He could have made the world blah, but everywhere we look we can see the beauty of God. You can see beautiful flowers, beautiful trees, and a beautiful landscape, all created for us to enjoy. Then He gave us the ability to look it over. The animals are not like that. They do not have the same ability that we do. God loves and cares for us. He made many different things for us to enjoy. I repeat, He is not trying to make you miserable. He is an awesome God! All He asks is for us to love and obey Him. We are to live for Him while we are in this time world and show appreciation for all that God has done. He did not make the world for Himself. He made it for us to enjoy.

Sometimes while driving I look for deer and other animals. I like to travel through the Smoky Mountains. What wonder and beauty! God gives us the ability to enjoy these things. My dog is not interested in the Smoky Mountains. He is not interested in stopping to eat at a nice restaurant. I can just give him a dog bone and he is happy, but we can enjoy the wonderful things that God made for us.

Life does not have to be dull. This is the day that the Lord has made. Did He say to be grumpy? No! We are to rejoice in it and to be glad! I love to serve God. Oh, how blessed it is! If you try to climb up some other way to Heaven, you are going to get in trouble. False religion does this, and it is so sad how they have misguided people by making them think they do not have to pay the full cost. Some department stores are really popular with their specials. That is the way many religions are. What they offer does not cost the full price. They say, "You do not have to do that." False preachers tell the people they sin,

you sin, and we all sin. Friend, people who cut corners on God are going to find out the truth at the Judgment, but it will be too late.

### **Hidden Sins**

Consider this: If it were possible to do more than you need to do and to pay more than you need to pay to live for God, and find at the Judgment that you could have gotten by cheaper, would you prefer that or would you rather cut corners on God and find out when you get to the end of the way that He will not let you in? Which would you rather do? I would rather have some extra credit. That extra is not going to keep you out of Heaven, but a lack in your life will keep you out. Once death overtakes you, there is no way to straighten it up or to change it. If you are worried about doing too much, you need to remember that it is not going to hurt you.

I truly want to make it. How sad it would be to spend years cutting corners on God and miss it. You will have missed not only Heaven but also the joy of the Lord while you are in the world. It has been said that some people have just enough religion to make them miserable. However, you can get on the hallelujah side and live for God, and you will have more joy and more pleasure than you can imagine.

Proverbs 28:13 says, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." I say again, if you have hidden sins, you need to confess and repent and lay them down at an altar of prayer. Let this be the day that you come clean with God. People have dabbled around in sin, cut corners, and done things that were not right, only for it to destroy their marriage and their home. They had to endure much embarrassment. Friend, do not live that way.

Did you know the devil is at every service because he does not want to miss an opportunity to get your mind off the message? He is

there to keep you from getting the needs of your soul met and to keep you from drawing close to God. He can be everywhere, and he is there to hinder the service. I tell people the devil has never done anything good, but he is good at what he does.

If you cover your sin, you will not prosper; but if you will confess and forsake your sin, God will forgive you. Then you will not have to get down every night by your bedside and ask the Lord to forgive you for the many sins that you have committed. You will not have to go to bed with any of them. It is possible to fail, but you do not have to.

In 2 Samuel, Chapter 11, David failed. His sin with Bathsheba found him out. Being a king, David probably thought he had things well hidden and no one would accuse him of anything because he was the king. James 1:14 says a man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. David's journey downward started with looking. He could not help what he saw from the rooftop, but he could help what he did from there. The Scripture says that it was time for kings to go to battle, but David did not go. If you fail to attend the church services, there is no telling what the devil has in store for you. You are already out of order with God when you stay home without a good reason. If you walk with the Lord, He will take care of you.

### Consequences Follow Sin

It is hard to imagine how a man like David went wrong. God said He found David, the son of Jesse, a man after His own heart. It is hard to understand, but once you start downhill, it is difficult to recover. David committed adultery and had Bathsheba's husband killed, yet he probably thought he was getting along well. However, God saw it all. After a while, God sent the Prophet Nathan to talk to David.

We read in 2 Samuel 12:1-7a: "And the LORD sent Nathan unto

David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.

"And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; [God has a way of unraveling things. David did not have the slightest idea that Nathan was getting closer to uncovering his sin all the time.] but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die [David still did not realize that he was the man who was the offender]: And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man."

When Nathan was telling David about this man, David's anger was greatly kindled; but as soon as Nathan told David, "Thou art the man," he wanted mercy. His sin found him out. Thank God, you can get rid of sin. You can receive forgiveness and get your sin cleared up; however, in most cases, consequences will follow. Many times people think God will fix everything back the way it was and think that everything will be all right. They cannot deal with the consequences.

Certainly David was granted mercy, but he was also told that the sword would never depart from his house. The child died that David and Bathsheba had. Sin carries a consequence, and the longer you live in sin, the worse it gets. That is the reason the Bible says in Ecclesi-

astes 12:1, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."

Belshazzar's sin found him out. He had a big party to impress people. Those who were at the party drank wine from the golden vessels that had been taken from the temple at Jerusalem and carried down to Babylon. He wanted to use the nicest vessels, but God was looking down. Right in the midst of that drunken stupor, Belshazzar was not too drunk to see a man's hand writing on the wall. He did not know what it meant, but it is uncommon to see something like that. He knew that something serious was going on. He did not know what it said, but he called Daniel to interpret it for him. God let Belshazzar know that He had numbered the kingdom and finished it. He was killed that very night.

Friend, God holds your life in His hands. That is the reason when you plan to do this or that, you need to say, "The Lord willing, I will do thus and thus." You can be sure your sin will find you out. If you have anything hidden in your life, you should not let it linger, but bring it to the Lord and get things cleared up between you and God. You need to get your sins covered by the blood of Jesus.

*Compact Disc TR-477M)*

Nowadays it  
seems that people  
are always trying  
to fix the  
blame instead  
of the trouble.

## HIS MOTHER'S BOOK

Years ago, when W. P. Mackay left home for college, his mother gave him a Bible. On the flyleaf, she wrote both his and her names and a Bible verse. This young man became a physician, having been a brilliant student in a medical school he had attended. In time he became head of a large hospital. His success in medicine and surgery was equaled only by his wickedness as an infidel. He was elected president of a society of atheists and consistently went far into vicious living.

Into his hospital one day was carried a man who was fearfully injured. As Dr. Mackay looked at the pitifully crushed body, he was amazed to note the peace and radiance on the victim's face. The desperately wounded man put this question to the surgeon: "Just what is my condition? I want to know the truth."

"You have at the most three hours of life," was the reply.

The brightness on the face of the one who would be in eternity did not dim at the news. He asked, "Will you please send at once to my

landlady and request her to read me the Book?"

"What book?" questioned Dr. Mackay.

"Oh, just ask her for the Book. She will know."

The doctor made arrangements for the Book to be brought and went on to other patients in the great hospital. But some words that the dying man had said came repeatedly into his mind. They were, "I am ready; I am going to be with the Lord Jesus Christ."

A few hours later, Dr. Mackay was back in the ward where the injured man had been taken. The doctor asked the nurse in charge about him, and she replied, "He died just a few minutes ago."

The doctor put another question, "Did he get the book in time?"

"Yes, not long before he passed away."

"It was his bank book, wasn't it?"

"No, he died with it under his pillow. It is still there; go and look at it."

The physician stood beside the bed and reached under the pillow and drew out a Bible. Of itself, it opened at the flyleaf. There, written

in his own mother's handwriting, was her name, his own name, and a Scripture verse! It was the very Book he had received from his mother years ago as he was leaving for college.

Long before, on a drunken spree, he had pawned it to obtain money for more liquor. Overwhelmed by tremendous memories, he hurried down to his private office, fell on his knees, and prayed to his mother's God for mercy on his soul. The petition was heard. His blind eyes opened on a new sweet world. The old things passed away, and he became a new creation in Christ. Some time after his conversion, Dr. Mackay, the physician, became a minister of God. As a preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, he turned many to righteousness. He also wrote a little book that was the means of many finding Christ as the Savior of their souls. The Bible his mother gave him truly proved divine dynamite unto his salvation, even though "after many days."

Selected

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# Announcements

**Moss Point, MS**  
May 26-29

**FELLOWSHIP MEETING:** Pine Grove Church of God, 11629 Hwy 614, Moss Point, MS 39562. (Located 12 miles West of airport in Mobile, Alabama)  
Service times: First service is Thursday at 7:00 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. A meal will be served after each service. **MOTELS:** *Motel 6*, Telephone 251-343-8448; *Fairfield Inn*, Telephone 251-316-0029; *Hampton Inn Suites*, Telephone 251-776-5866  
Holy Ghost preaching and special singing. Everyone Welcome!  
For further information contact: Pastor Larry Dishman, 11629 Hyway 614, Moss Point, MS 39562. Telephone: (Home) 228-588-6288; (Cell) 251-776-2100

## 2011 Camp Meeting Dates

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