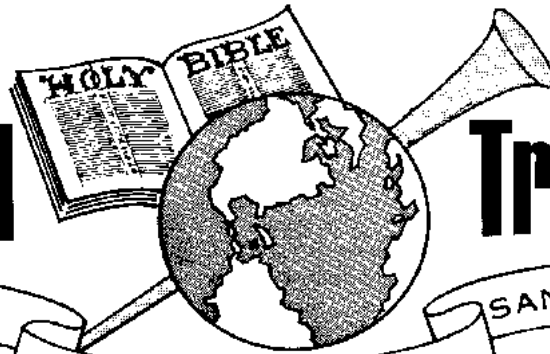


The Gospel



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." Ezk. 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
Mat. 24:31

SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

Vol. 1

March 7, 1971

No. 1

Sounding Out the Trump

*Sound out the trump, O man of God,
Upon Mt. Zion's walls,
Spare not to blow both loud and long,
Nor heed Sanballet's call.
For surely those who would object,
And can't the Word endure,
Have left their love for Christ and truth,
And that one thing is sure.*

*Sound out the trump, O man of God,
The battle rages still,
And honest souls are hung'ring yet,
To know God's Word and will.
For tho' some say, "Cut down, cut down,"
These faithful sheep entreat,
Sound long the trump of God's dear Word,
Lest we should see defeat.*

*Sound out the trump, O man of God,
For tho' some would despise,
The holy band of faithfuls,
Would at thy side arise,
Let not the scorner's prattling,
Distract thee from thy task,
For God is still commanding,
Sound out the long loud blast.*

*Sound out the trump, O man of God,
For those who fail to hear,
Turn to their own destruction,
The Bible makes it clear.
Oh, keep thy faithful hands from blood,
By shunning not to blow,
The precious Gospel trumpet,
We're counting on you so.*

*Sound out the trump, O man of God,
Nor ever be dismayed,
Let not men's faces make thy heart,
To faint or be afraid.
For Christ our Captain soon shall come,
To take His faithful home.
Many there'll be who make it in,
Because thy trump was blown.*

*Down thro' the Gospel Day, we've seen,
Six trumpets have been blown,
Heralding forth prophetic truth,
The Scripture makes it known.
Yet, one more trump must sound, we see,
And sound forth in triumph!
So sound the blast, O man of God,
On this, the last great trump.*

Marie Fowler

THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER

"Sounding Forth the Seventh and Last Trumpet"

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

1 Cor. 14:8

A bimonthly religious journal proclaiming the evening light message of God's Word to saint and sinner, for these last days.

Published in an effort to combat apostasy, expose error, win the lost, and advance the Kingdom of God.

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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; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

Salvation from sin (Matt. 1:21)

The New Birth (John 3:3, 5-7)

A Holy Life (Luke 1:73-75; Tit. 2:11)

Sanctification (2 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; 1 Cor. 11)

Eternal Life (Matt. 25:46; John 3:16)

Eternal Punishment (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:43)

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Christ Governs It (Eph. 1:22-23; Isa. 9:6)

God admits members (Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:13-18)

Sin puts you out of it (Rom. 11:22; Ex. 32:33)

Only the saved 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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Entered at the Post Office, Newark, Ohio, January 11, 1971, as third class matter.

Editorial

We are aware that there will be those who will exclaim, "Oh no, not another paper!" We hasten to emphatically state, "Oh yes, another one!" It is however, the earnest desire of our hearts that it not be just another paper. It is a fact today that there is much being printed that is a waste of both time and money and that the world would be much better off without. Our sincere intention and determination is that with God's help such must not be true of this endeavor. We covet the leading of the Holy Spirit, from issue to issue, in a renewed and greater effort of getting the Gospel out to a lost, confused, sin-drugged mass of humanity. At the same time it is our intention to be a blessing and encouragement to all the saints, wherever they may be, to press the battle on. The hour is far too late to give up, or let down now. There are many verses of Scripture, but there is a passage of verse, that particularly continues to lay on our heart. It is a passage that compels us to take this step in publishing another religious periodical regardless of the possibility there could be those who will be adverse to the effort put forth. These verses are the 11th and 12th, found in the 13th Chapter of Romans: "And knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. (12) The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light."

In these days of non-involvement, when not too many care to stand in the serried ranks of the committed, we are reminded of another day. A day when holy men were dedicated to the advancement of all truth as God gave it to them. Bold in their stand for righteousness, and determined to see the Gospel Light shine out, they ventured forth in the publication of a religious journal known as *The Gospel Trumpet*, in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Recorded history tells us that they had as their objective, and we quote, "The bringing of salvation to sinners, of sanctification to believers, and the uniting of all true Christians into the one visible church." In reference to this objective, the record goes on to say, "Stupendous proposition for that day!" If for that day, we certainly recognize that it is most certainly a stupendous proposition and responsibility particularly in our day. Consequently, we know such an effort must be made and can succeed only as it is saturated with the fervent prayers of concerned and soul burdened saints everywhere. This we desire from you above all else.

Soon, very soon, a full century will have passed, since the coming of the 1880 Reformation. At that time those men of God brought again the message of the one, true, visible church of God, built by Jesus Christ in A.D. 33, and that men are born into her, through a spiritual birth. They came preaching the Bible message of the unity of all truly redeemed mankind. These early brethren saw the falseness and the sin of division brought on by denominationalism and its creeds of men

and came together out of many sectarian bodies. They abhorred the thought of ecclesiastical bodies controlled by and under the power of men not right with God—an earthly headquarters with men sitting in authority and power, ignoring God's leading. These men had a God-given vision of the need to get the God-given message out as rapidly as possible; so they, too, turned to the printed page, publishing *The Gospel Trumpet*, tracts, books, poems, and songs in an effort to more rapidly advance the truth of God. Such has always been true in every age where men with a vision and a passion put forth a greater effort to get out the Gospel more quickly to a larger number of souls. God help us to have no break down in our effort to communicate the Gospel to mankind.

The message of these "Come outers," as they were called, contained in both publication and preaching, was so anointed, so different, so astounding, that it caused some to rejoice in the message and newfound spiritual freedom, while others were incensed and threatened mob-violence. The same is true today, whenever and wherever men still dare to preach or print the truth. That message while causing many to be made glad will cause others to be made mad. This is the true nature of the message of truth. It causes men to make a decision. It has always been so. The Bible indicates this to be true. Space does not permit us to make reference to the many specific instances. As then and now, people who once hear this message of spiritual freedom never forget it. I didn't say that they never ignore it. There is a vast difference between the two. May God help us to be workers together with God in getting that message out to a spiritually bound and spiritually confused people frequenting the divisive bodies of the church world at large. May we ever be vigilant in keeping the message pure, guarding against error, fanaticism, and compromise slipping in. We move forward in fear and trembling before God, in this awesome and grave responsibility. Confident only in His ability and His promise to be with us, in our effort to at least equal the dedication of the past. This must be a cooperative, united effort—God, you, and I. No man dare attempt to do it alone. Let us be reminded of what Jesus once said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27).

There have been those, in past history, who looked upon the printing press as something evil. Not so with the Communists. They know what the value of the printed page is to them in their effort to disseminate their diabolical atheism and dialectical materialism throughout the entire world. Let us also use this legitimate means of getting the message of truth to both saint and sinner. We must not do less in combating the great flood of false teachings, the opinions of men, such as "The future reign and coming literal kingdom of Christ"; and this most damning doctrine of "Sin you will and sin you must," to name only two. The Word of God is very clear in telling us that false teachers will come in the last days, and to not let any man deceive us. Dear one, read the entire 24th Chapter of Matthew, with much prayer and much deliberation. This is a more serious business than many are taking

it to be.

At a times when the false teaching of "Sin you will and sin you must" is rampant, God help us to present a greater proclamation of holiness (Heb. 12:14). The clarion call to holiness will cause the greatest spiritual shaking of that deceitful, sectish and denominationally-minded Babylon, out of which many are still coming today, when they will still hear the cry, "Come out of her, my people." Again, I say, God help us to also dwell together as the people of God in the bonds of peace—with all jealousy, pride, desire for position—in other words all flesh completely gotten out of the way. Then and only then will we be able, in a greater way, to have a greater impact upon the world for good and for God. Certainly we do not mean in a spirit of fraternizing with anything and everything, just for the sake of getting along with everyone. This must never be so.

It is very probable that there are those who today have the idea or belief that to go into any extensive printing endeavor is synonymous with setting up an earthly headquarters, and leading to apostasy. While earthly headquarters have developed in some instances in the past, due to many circumstances too numerous to delve into here now, we know that the spreading of the truth of God's Holy Word through the printed page, as such, is not that which has caused this to happen. Rather, it was the letting up on the message and a failure to seek for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Yes, we are aware that there are dangers that we must guard against. Such is true no matter what we attempt to do for God.

So with much prayer and eyes wide open to the needs, the difficulties, the opposition of the enemy of souls, the responsibilities, the opportunities, the demands, the hours, the involvements, the blessing we hope to be in publishing another religious periodical; we resoundingly cry, "Yes, another paper, Lord, with Your help."

-S.O.C.

SUCCESS

UNDER

ADVERSE

CIRCUMSTANCES

The following story is a true life account of a personal acquaintance of Brother E. E. Byrum as recorded in his book of 1915, entitled "Startling Incidents and Experiences in the Christian Life."

Among those whose fame has become world-wide on account of their power with God to prayer, is Dorothea Trudell, who was born near the beginning of the nineteenth century and lived in Zurich, Switzerland. She was of humble parentage and passed through many privations. Judging

from her natural abilities and capabilities, there was apparently nothing about her that would lead a person to think that she was likely ever to rise to prominence or renown before the world. She had a deformed body, what is generally called a hunchback; she did not possess what the world would call a beautiful face.

Notwithstanding all these things there was something about her life that was really beautiful and winning. The early days of her childhood spent with her Christian mother helped to prepare her for a life of usefulness in later years. She was a lover of flowers, and her flower gardens were admired by all who passed by.

In her childhood days she learned to pray and ask divine guidance in all the affairs of life in later years, not only did she have a secret place of prayer in her home, but she communed with the Lord from time to time in secluded spots in her flower gardens. She was always selecting some of the most beautiful flowers from her garden and carrying them to those who were sick in the neighborhood. These acts of kindness not only brought blessings to her soul, but also brought her more and more in contact with those who were afflicted and suffering. From time to time she gave words of encouragement and then retired to her secret place of prayer to ask God to relieve them of their suffering, sometimes having them to agree with her in prayer at a certain time. So remarkable were the answers and so great the benefits received by the sick, that it was not long until the effects of her prayers were known to such an extent that people would send for her to come and pray for them, while others would bring the sick to her home.

As she advanced in years, her faith became so strong in the Lord that she ventured to lay hands on the sick and asked God to heal them, and He honored her faith and raised them up. In a short time her house was thronged with sick folk, and as many were healed, the medical profession was stirred because they were losing customers.

She was arrested for treating the sick without license and was fined and ordered to dismiss her patients. As they were dismissed, her house was at once filled with others. In court she testified that she used no medicines, that she knew nothing about diseases, but only knew that her Savior healed every sickness. Her friends urged her to carry the case to a higher court. For some time she hesitated to do so, but they made all arrangements for the trial, and after earnest prayer she consented to have the case taken before the higher court.

The affair was published and republished in different countries. Many strangers wrote her that she had many

staunch friends who were offering prayers in her behalf and told her to be of good courage and stand for the truth. When the time came for the trial, there were people present from different countries who were anxious to see her win the case, while the medical profession was united in opposing her. When the evidence had all been produced and the time came for the final decision, the court decided that there was no law to prevent any one from praying and laying on hands for the sick. Consequently, she was acquitted, and her accusers had all the costs to pay.

During the trial many persons testified in favor of divine healing, and instead of the doctors putting a stop to the work, it spread a hundredfold more and people came flocking from every direction to know more about the dealings of the Lord with the people. The secret of the success of her life was in her simple faith in God. In her places of prayer she learned to obtain the necessary help and strength from the Almighty. As she delighted in helping others, relieving them of suffering, and doing what she could to encourage them, the Lord rewarded her.

"Fasting and prayer, repentance, revival, national acknowledgment of a desperate need of God, and a faith in the Lord Jesus Christ can save our beloved country. Nothing short of this can ever do it."

-Selected

Is it not a proof that the Holy Spirit is to a great extent a stranger in the church when prayer, for which God has made such provisions, is regarded as a task and a burden? And does not this teach us to seek for the deep root of prayerlessness in our ignorance of and disobedience to the Divine Instructor, whom the Father has commissioned to teach us to pray?

-Andrew Murray

No one is a firmer believer in the power of prayer than the devil; not that he practices it, but he suffers from it.

-Guy H. King



SENDING FORTH GOOD TIDINGS

As time moves on faster and faster, prophecies of many years standing are being fulfilled. The very things that the Word of God says, or rather foretells will come to pass, are without fail a very part of the scene. Men are plunging deeper in sin, governments grow lax through poor leadership, hatred and resentment toward one another is common among the nations. But in all this the terrible let down of the church, the representative of Christ, as far as the world understands at least, in failing to preach the whole Gospel and now the open door to worldliness; so that the so-called church and the world do walk hand in hand at last.

Meanwhile, the bride of Christ is standing for the same truths, she keeps the same standard, and there is no compromise. These are the days of her preparation. There has already come the call, "The Bridegroom cometh!" There are some things she must do to get ready to order to be in the right condition to go out to meet Him.

She has received a message that is twofold. First, the call is the same. The bride must go out to glean the fields of Babylon. And we read, "My people, go ye out of the midst of her, and deliver ye every man, his soul from the fierce anger of the Lord. Babylon hath caused the slain of Israel to fall, so at Babylon shall fall the slain of all the earth" (Jeremiah 51:45, 49). The bride must come out of her captivity and also rescue those who linger from God's anger. There is no time to sleep or to procrastinate. The days are evil and only the most determined and courageous will win the battle.

Then there is the second half of the call, for the free bride to make herself ready to

meet the bridegroom. How will she be able to do this? The same way all brides prepare to meet their grooms, by donning beautiful garments as commanded:

Isa. 52:1, "Awake, awaken put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments." Also, in Rev. 18:15 we read, "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments." We must appear in the presence of the groom with the wedding garment on.

We all understand this, but I believe also the bride should remember the first part of Isa. 52:1, "Awake, awake!" To whom is this word addressed? To the bride. Why? Because she must be sleeping, or there would be no need of calling on her to awake. There is not enough activity, service, burden, prayer, etc., going on in her midst.

While the church slept, false doctrine, worldliness, and indifference crept in. She must become more energetic and vigorous. The greatest false religion in the world, that which is covering the globe, that which we call "Communism" is being propagated to a great extent through literature; so we must preach, exhort, teach, and join hands to send out to the four winds the great truths we believe and love.

Every effort must be made, every work done, every tract, book, and paper, set to serve that we may redeem the time because the days are so evil (2 Tim. 2:1-2). (1) "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. (2) And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

—Grace G. Henry

WHAT IS LIFE?

For life to be its highest, noblest, purest, and best, there needs to be two strong desires filling the heart. These two desires should be evenly balanced. This is positively necessary to completeness of life. They are found in the life of the Apostle Paul. He desired to depart and be with Christ, and he desired to stay in the world and work for Christ. No life is perfect in which those two desires are not evenly balanced. His was in a strait betwixt the two. If it were left to his choice, he would have been unable to choose. That is life at its greatest usefulness. Those who have a greater desire to stay here and work for Christ than to go to Heaven and be with Christ are not fully qualified to work for Christ. If you do not have such a vision of Christ as to inflame your soul with a holy desire to depart and be in His presence, you cannot tell Him to others with the fervency and intensity that you should. Then, on the other hand, if you do not have a strong desire to live and work for others, you do not have the view of God's great plan for man that you should. At the same time that you are wanting to depart and be with Christ, you are eager to stay here and lead others to Christ, and just as eager for the one as for the other. It is then, and then only, that life is at its best. Please write the following words in your notebook:

"When you see the grandeurs of the heavenly world, and then value life because of the opportunities it affords for helping others to prepare for these eternal glories, and then work with all your might to that end, it is then that life is what it should be."

—C. E. Orr

"If the church would only awaken to her responsibility of intercession, we could well evangelize the world in a short time. It is not God's plan that the world be merely evangelized ultimately. It should be evangelized in every generation. There should be a constant Gospel witness in every corner of the world, so that no sinner need close his eyes in death without hearing the Gospel, the good news of salvation through Christ, at least once.

T. A. Hegre

In Luke the 20th chapter and the 27th through the 38th verses, we have a familiar portion of Scripture here, but we want to consider it again. We trust that the Lord will give us food for our soul and enlightenment for the heart and mind from His Word. Beginning with verse 27, we read, "Then came to him certain of the Sadducees, which deny that there is any resurrection, and they asked him, (28) Saying, Master, Moses wrote unto us, If any man's brother die, having a wife, and he die without children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. (29) There were therefore seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and died without children. (30) And the second took her wife, and he died childless. (31) And the third took her; and in like manner the seven also: and they left no children, and died. (32) Last of all the woman died also. (33) Therefore in the resurrection whose wife of them is she? for seven had her to wife. (34) And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: (35) But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: (38) Neither can they die anymore: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection. (37) Now that the dead are raised; even Moses showed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. (38) For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him."

Those verses are backed with truths, definite truths. Truths that need to be considered in this day and time in which we are living. As bad as I hate to say it, in almost every verse down through there, false religion has gotten some kind of false teaching going regarding them. Every one of us, I'm sure, realize that when the Master opened His mouth and began to speak, He spoke words of truth, deep truths that had an everlasting meaning. Thank God, that when we possess the Holy Spirit, we are able to lay hold of truth that will guide us right through the most trying and most troublesome times. Oh, how many hearts are confused and some even fretting and fearing about some conditions that might exist out ahead of us in the thought of God's plan for mankind. But brother and sister we are glad that we can come right back to the truth and



By E. A. Wilson

nailed some things down in a definite manner, and let our hearts be at peace about what lies in store for us. In verse 34 and 35, I want you to look with me for just a little bit. "The children of this world marry and are given in marriage: (35) But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection of the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage."

I'd like to say first of all that the Gospel just comes out flatfooted and talks about three worlds. Let me tell you, you talk about something profound, deep, or broad, there's nothing any greater than the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We get all worked up sometimes and say we want to hear the news. We don't want to hear from a small timer in some little old town that knows only what's going on down the street. We want to hear international news. Well, I'm going to give you interworld news, and it's from the only place you can read about it. In a day when men are looking down their noses and thinking that the Gospel should be put out of the country, they scratch their heads and look back and say, "Why do people want to go hear the Gospel?"

I tell you it's the only Book wherein you can hear anything about interworld news. Man is certainly limited, in this day in which we are living, in talking about this world; but the Bible just plainly and freely talks about three worlds and what goes on in each of them. I'm thankful for that. Someone says, "Brother Wilson, why in the world does that help you any?" Brother, let me tell you, I like to study about what happened in the old world, and I like to study about what's happening in this world, and then I like to know something about that world which is to come. I'm glad that God and His Word can give us enough understanding, not everything of course because we couldn't comprehend it, or we couldn't hold on to it.

However, He gives us enough, thank God, that we can understand some things.

I made mention of three worlds. There are too many people who do not know that the Bible talks about three worlds. In 2 Peter the 3rd chapter, and the 3rd verse beginning, He said: "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, (4) And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. (5) For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the Word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: (8) Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished."

Now there He talks about the world that then was, the Antediluvian world. In other places the Bible calls it "the old world." The world that God saw had been so ruined by sin that He saw best to take it away with a flood, sparing seven people besides Noah. My heart always gets stirred when I read in Matthew's Gospel where, even though they had no other preacher to preach righteousness and to declare unto them, yet Jesus said, "They knew not when the flood came and took them all away." Think about how many kinds of people there were living then. There were educated people living then, but the flood came and took them all away. Mothers with children, families—the flood came and took them all away. The then known world perished. There is one world. We read in the text, Luke 20:34, "The children of this world marry. (35) But they that be accounted worthy to obtain that world" Amen. The Word sets three worlds in order before us, and gives us some interworld understanding. Whether we realize it or not, we are in the end of this world. God set the bounds of the habitation

of this world. Beginning on the day of Pentecost, the Scripture talks about being in the end of the world. Hebrews 9:28 says, "Christ once in the end of the world, offered himself as a sacrifice for sin." His very crucifixion ordered in the last dispensation of time, the Holy Ghost dispensation. 2 Cor. 10:10-11. Those things that happened back there, happened for our admonition on whom the end of world is come. We have been living in the end of the world since A.D. 33. Christ in His lesson speaks of this world and that world that is to come.

In Matthew the 22nd chapter, Jesus likened the kingdom to a marriage supper. When He finished this lesson, the Pharisees took council, and in Matthew 22:15, it states the Pharisees took council to entangle Him, (18) "But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?" And they left Him, and they went their way. As soon as He got rid of the Pharisees, then in our text, the Sadducees came. They didn't believe in the resurrection. Amen. Jesus laid straight truth to them, by telling them that there was another world after the resurrection of the body. He let them know also that they had no part in it. It was for people who were counted worthy. God ordained a way where every man and woman can be worthy to obtain that new world throughout the ceaseless ages. Amen. These Pharisees and Sadducees were bound with the pleasures of this earth. They were thinking about temporal desire. They said, "If there is going to be another world after the resurrection, who's going to get that woman?" In Matthew 22:29, "Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God." These are two of the things that are causing confusion over the land in the ranks of religion. We are living in a time when people are being turned to forms of godliness, but denying the real power of God.

Luke 20:35-36: "But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: (36) Neither can they die anymore: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection." This does away with the need of marriage altogether, at a time when men do not die anymore. Heb. 1:5, "For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I

will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?" God did not say to the angels, "Thou art My Son" but He will say unto you, "You are my son. The angels are my baby sitters." The angels are sent to take care of those that are the heirs of God. We can look into things the prophets couldn't look into. The angels desired to look, but God wouldn't let them. I not only can look into it, I've got into it. We will be like the angels in one way; we won't marry, nor be given in marriage. How come? Because when we get to that world, no man or woman ever dies. The only reason for marriage is to replenish the earth.

It is hard to think in terms of no time. Someone may ask, "If a child is four years old and he dies, how old will he be in the resurrection?" We determine age by time, and there will be no time in the world to come. God drew Paul so close to Him that He let him take a look from the third Heaven, and Paul saw things for which there is no vocabulary to explain them. Amen.

Jesus didn't bring us up to the brink and let us stand at the river of death with everything blanketed before us and say, you can't know. Through His love and mercy He uncapped hell and gave us a look at what hell looks like. He uncapped Heaven and said, "See Abraham and Isaac and Jacob over there," telling us what the grave holds for us. What a morning we're going to have when He comes back, and the graves lose their power.

When I was a boy, I read about Samuel Morse, a missionary from Africa. My what that boy did when God got hold of him. Amen. He came to America and went to a funeral, and there he saw people weeping. He got up in the preacher's place and told them: "Don't weep and cry. What if you were over in Africa where I came from, where no one knows anything about what happens to the dead: whether we will ever see them again, and where they don't know about the resurrection. You have the Gospel, you know that when you lay your dead away you are going to see them again, that they are going to live again. You shouldn't be sorrowing like this." God has been kicked around like a rubber ball. When these times of sadness come, He is there waiting to help; but we don't appreciate Him as we should.

People hope that something will happen to cause God to change His mind, or that at death's door they will be changed.

Jesus' Word still rings down through the corridors of time. The only ones that are going to enjoy that world are the ones that get ready here, in this time world, before they die. Some of the false teachings tell people that they will be born again when they get their new body if they make a profession of Christ here. We must be worthy here before death comes.

In Matt. 10:7 and 8, we read: (7) "And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. (8) Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give." Underscore *freely received, freely give*. We can only operate in that power, under the authority that God gives us. In 1 Cor. 12, the Holy Ghost gives out gifts according to His own will. Amen. We need to keep the channel between us and God clean. Go as He sends you. First Corinthians the 12th Chapter gives us more understanding about the working of God's Spirit, through these vessels, than Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John ever knew anything about. Amen. Jesus said to the disciples, "I have many things I'd like to say unto you, but you can't bare them now." What were these things Jesus spoke of? The things of the Spirit, how He would work through the individual life, Paul got the understanding of it, and he wrote it in 1 Corinthians the 12th chapter. What do you tell the devil when he tells you at a funeral that you should raise the dead? Tell him that you can't raise the dead but you can raise the devil, now get out of here! Amen. God gave everybody power over the devil.

The Word of God is the discerner of the heart. The Word of God is the test to show whether or not we are worthy. Matt. 10:9-10 (9) "Provide neither gold nor silver, nor brass in your purses, (10) Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes." Now, if that applies to me, I'm going to have to take my shoes off and go barefooted too if I'm going to be a preacher of the kingdom. This Scripture was given to a particular people. Back now to Matt. 10, last part of verse 10 through verse 15: (10) ". . . nor yet staves, for the workman is worthy of his meat. (11) And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. (12) And when ye come into an house, salute it. (13) And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. (14) And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear

your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. (15) Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city."

What makes us worthy? Brother, our attitude toward the preached Word. Matt. 22:2-8. (2) "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, (3) And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. (4) Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. (5) But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: (8) And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. (7) But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. (8) Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy." How did they show their unworthiness? In rejecting the invitation into the Kingdom of God. The Gospel is an invitation to leave the kingdom of Satan and to come into the Kingdom of God through a new birth. When we turn down the preaching of the Gospel, we're not worthy of that new world that awaits us. Matt. 22:2-8 tells what happened to the Jews. He came in His own person when they spitefully used the prophets and killed them. Another reason: He sent His son and they killed Him. What did He do then? He said He would burn their cities. Did He do it? He burned Old Jerusalem. He scattered them, and they were thrown into torment. In the midst of it they were made to see that they were not worthy of that new world.

Paul tells the Jews that they judged themselves unworthy. I'm going to prove to you that you judge yourself by your attitude toward the Gospel. Acts 13:42-46: "And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. (43) Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. (44) And the next sabbath day came almost the

whole city together to hear the word of God. (45) But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. (46) Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles." In the 42nd verse, we see the Jews leaving; they didn't care for that kind of preaching. The Gentiles asked if the message could be preached to them the next sabbath. Self-righteousness hindered the Jews. Luke 15:7, "Ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." The reason they needed no repentance is because they were self-righteous.

If you will understand 1 Tim. 1, the commandment was given in the beginning for one reason. The end of that commandment was to be love. The commandment wasn't supposed to produce something in hearts and lives until Jesus came and fulfilled the old Law. The end of that commandment was love to God and love towards your fellow men. Amen. People wanted to hold on to the commandment back there as well as today, and turn down that which is the end of the commandment to everyone who believeth Christ came to shed the very love of God abroad within our hearts. They were unworthy because they felt worthy. If we are to be worthy of Heaven, we are going to have to feel our unworthiness. If we really feel unworthy towards Christ every day, it will cause us to look to Him; it will cause us to obey Him in a greater way. Some feel that after they find the way, they can go on their own without the help of God.

Read Luke 7:1-7. The reason people err is because they do not know the power of God. The centurion saw Jesus Christ as under authority. Nothing can raise up against Jesus. James 1:21-22. We must receive the engrafted word and become doers of it. When you become doers of it, you will know the power of God. The Word of God received, believed, and acted upon is the channel through which the power of God reaches your soul and brings deliverance to you.

We must have faith in the power and the authority of God. We must have faith in the one that spoke the Word, not just the Word itself. Read Luke 7:8. He was likening Jesus

to a man set, under Eph. 1:22, tells us very plainly that God has put all things, under His feet. The basic falseness of the millennial stand is the teaching that Jesus is coming back to take over the kingdom of the world. The Bible proves that God has never lost His hold on the kingdom of the world. The whole world is under God's moral law. The kingdom that Jesus came to set up is a new kingdom. There is a domain that God never has had control over completely. What is it? That domain of your soul; that portion where He gave you the right of choice. God has taken national leaders off of the stage of action because they were moving too fast, I believe. Read Mark 10:23-30. We need to trust in the power of God and give up all. Luke 20:38. "Neither can they die anymore: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God." We become the children of God by becoming the children of the resurrection. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the life." And we are children of the resurrection. We are actually children of God. God is a spirit. If we are born of God, we are born of the spirit of God. Eph. 2:1-2. "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; (2) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." You can't walk to the course of this world and be worthy of that world. I Peter 1:14, "As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance."

To the Sadducees Jesus said: "You fellows are worrying about a dead man's seed and who's going to be carried?" But there's only one name. The family of God. Amen. No Wilsons just the family of God. Brother, you have to lose your identity. Eph. 3:14 and 15: (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." God's family is being made right here on earth. Eph. 3:21, "Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." In John 17, Jesus prayed, "Father I want you to glorify me with the glory I had with you before the world was; I want you to give them the glory that thou hast given me, that they may be one even as we are." Paul prayed about the church, also. He said, "Let there be glory in the church

throughout all ages world without end." Second Cor. 5:14-16a, (14) "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: (15) And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. (16a) Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh. . . ." Will we know people after the flesh over in eternity? When God gets the church where He wants her, she will not know anyone after the flesh right now. This is what makes a division. Second Cor. 5:16b, ". . . Yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more." We won't even know Christ after the flesh. Second Cor. 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away. . . ." Someone says, "It's going to be different out there." Dear one, it's different now, right here. What are we going to be like over in Heaven? Just like the church is here, brothers and sisters. Rev. 3:4, "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have

not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy." Luke 21:34-36, (34) "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. (35) For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. (36) Watch ye, therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

Let's watch how we live, people, that God may count us worthy to escape these things that are wrecking peoples' lives and drawing their attention from God.

Every 2,000 years something happens. At the end of the first 2,000 years the earth was destroyed. At the end of the second 2,000 years Jesus was born. When that work was completed, God told us where His time clock stood. From the very minute Christ went to the Cross, we stepped into the end of this world. Now we have been in the end of this world over 1900 years. Before the

2,000th year comes around, there is going to be some outstanding event.

If you ever truly see Heaven, you will never again feel at home in this world. Note the words of the song writer:

"Once Heaven seemed a far off place,

Till Jesus showed His smiling face.

Now it's begun within my soul,

Twill last while endless ages roll."

In John's Gospel we find him standing there and saying, "No man has ascended up to heaven; but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven." That's what shook them. He was standing right there in front of them and said, "I'll be in heaven right now." What heaven was He in? The same one you and I are lifted to when we are quickened from a dead condition in trespasses and sin and are lifted to a heavenly place in Christ Jesus.

Yesterday — Today — Forever

A S O L E M N W A R N I N G

By J. GRANT ANDERSON*

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent, because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness" (Acts 17:30,31). By an arrangement of Providence, the awful effects of sin have been modified, and its terrible issues held in check, or else the world might have been consumed by its own lustful burnings. The voice of history proves clearly that sinfulness is accumulative, and it will be found that whatever has characterized one age morally, intellectually, or socially, also has characterized, in a less or greater degree, the following age.

YESTERDAY

The stern simplicity of the first and culminating period of the Roman Empire passed very gradually into the enervating

luxury that signalized its decline and fall. The institutions of chivalry led the nations, quite slowly, from a semi-barbarous to a civilized state. We find by studying history that it was not one generation that was simple, and the next that was wise; it was not one that was rude, and the next that was refined; it was not one that was heretical, and the next that was orthodox; but each infused somewhat of its own spirit into the next, which, in turn, gave what it received, heightened or diminished, to the following one.

Now, if this be true in regard to an empire among the nations, or an era in the course of time, it is true, and the truth is more signally exhibited with regard to mankind at large, and the whole duration of human history. Sin is not an institution peculiar to any age or country. It does not belong to a single race, nor is it characteristic of a single period. It belongs



to every man in all times and through all lands. It descends with unbroken entail from one generation to another and never, like some hereditary disease, does it intermit in its descent one or more generations to reappear in the third or fourth. And just as luxury in the state, or heresy in the church, it gains vigor and becomes more powerful as it proceeds. It might have killed the race long since, just as luxury has destroyed empires, and heresy would have ruined the Church of God in the beginning, but for God's interposing grace. By a law of the soul, by the necessities of our moral constitution, sin gains in malignity with every passing day and year. The same sinful acts become more and more sinful as we

increase in knowledge, and the same corrupt principle is more corrupt in the sons than it was in the fathers. The same ungodly nations are more ungodly now, in the height of their excellency and renown, than when their founders hewed their way to nationality and to independent existence with the sword. The same wicked world is more wicked in this zenith of its march through the firmament than in the days of yore.

Carnal philosophy may scout this truth, and the sons of pride trample it, but revelation on the last day will confirm to the confusion of the philosopher and the abasement of the proud, that the wages of sin is death, both to nations and to individuals. Did not the earth wax worse and worse from Adam's transgression till all flesh had been corrupted, and God sent a flood upon the world? As the human race sprang forth again from Noah, did not infidelity rear itself even before the golden bow of promise, until it was rebuked in the land of Shinar, beneath the unfinished walls of Babel? Did not idolatry and its resulting abominations spread widely until fires of heaven fell from unsettled skies and turned those thronging cities into a land of saltiness and seas of death? Did not the Jews, dignified though they were by divine favor, and bound to God by the Abrahamic covenant, forget him more and more until God hid His face from them for nearly four hundred years? Christ rebuked their hypocrisy and left them to fill up that measure of unrighteousness which their fathers began. Can not we see that sin is cumulative when we note that those same chosen people by national consent condemned the One to death whom God had sent for their salvation? Retribution is sure to come, and in few years after Christ's death, when torn by faction, divided by jealousy, tribe against tribe, family against family, and husband against wife, when beneath the walls of the holy temple in their capital city they fought like demons incarnate, until God allowed the Romans to swoop down upon them and the daily sacrifice was quenched by their own life's blood. That was an awful day of vengeance when the feet of the uncircumcised trod these once sacred courts and consuming fires curled over its battlements. Sin was the cause of their overthrow, and in A. D. 70 the Jewish nation entered into a night the darkness of which has not yet been broken.

Space will not permit me but briefly to mention the fate of the Assyrian, the Persian, the Macedonian, and the Roman Empires,

but history shows us that they reached their heights of excellence and fell to their awful depths from small beginnings. While young and struggling they kept passion more or less subdued, but as necessity for work was not so needful, passion swelled, lust chafed at its barriers and broke them and plunged into excess, riot, and licentiousness. What can you tell me now of the lands of Belshazzar, of Cyrus, of Alexander, and of Caesar? They are gone, and their lands are in darkness and we are supporting missionaries there today, so that perhaps the remnant of their posterity may yet see the light of life.

TODAY

Now if it be true that particular nations, and parallel nations, the chosen and the unchosen, have, ever since the Creation till within the last two or three centuries, been growing wicked as they grew great, and then declined, what then is the inference to be drawn of the age in which we now live, and of the mighty nations on the earth today? You may say that the Dark Ages are past, but I believe that the voice of both Bible and history will agree with me in saying that wickedness and evildoers are waxing worse and worse even to this present time. I will admit that the world has increased in knowledge and wisdom, but let me ask, Who is the worst, the man who sins in blindness and ignorance like the heathen or he who sins with eyes wide open? Again let me ask, Which is the worst, the city whose craftsmen make silver shrines for Diana, believing her to be, in reality, a present divinity, or the city whose craftsmen erect shrines and render propitiatory offerings to antichrist? Which is the worst, a country that sacrifices their own offspring to appease the wrath of an idol god and whose amphitheaters run red with blood of Christian martyrs, or a country that professes the name of Christ, but upon whose throne sits a pope or a priest in august splendor pretending to forgive sins, and claiming that for money he can redeem from purgatory those who closed their life in sin and in rebellion against God, and upon whose forehead is the name written, "Mystery, Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth." And again, which is worse, a nation sitting in darkness hoping for light to break forth, or a nation like ours (U.S.A.) professing to be Christian and orthodox, which boasts of the name of Christ, but denies His divinity;

whose people claim to be His followers, and deny His atonement; profess to be His disciples, and yet commit sin every day; claim to be His "elect," and fight holiness and unity of believers; who have substituted good works, joining church, and human blood for the blood of Christ; have erased the ordinances, sanctification, healing, and purity out of their doctrines, and in its place have allowed drunkenness, tobacco-using, theater-going, gambling, pride, fornication, and the evils of looseness in divorce laws? If like cause will produce like results—and it will—where are we, as a nation, headed? I honestly believe that the Queen of Sheba will arise in the judgment and condemn us for not walking in the light which now shines so brightly.

TOMORROW

I tremble when I think of the future, and of poor sinners when judgment fires are sweeping the earth. Sinners had better been swept away by the flood; or consumed in the burning of Sodom. A sinner had better met his doom with the despairing Jews when they leaped into the flames in the burning of Jerusalem, or have died when Rome was pagan and not papal. It would have been better to have been fed to alligators in a heathen country than to die without Christ in this day and age of free Bibles. He who dies in sin now sinks down to hell with a load of guilt far more terrible than that which rested on the transgressor of Moses' Law. He who falleth from the heights and privileges given him by the Gospel of Christ, will sink like a spent rocket into a hell of awful torment, and the stone which he rejected (Christ) will grind him to powder. I would to God that I had the eloquence of a Bryan, and the reasoning faculties of a Webster, that I might paint in vivid word picture the condition of the earth today as God reveals it to me, and also the awful judgments hanging over this boastful, lustful world.

Sinner, prepare to meet thy God.

*Ed. Note: This article by Bro. J. Grant Anderson is a reprint taken from the Gospel Trumpet of forty-nine years ago. The editor heard Bro. Anderson preach, when he was a young boy, on numerous occasions, when he held revivals for the editor's father.

"What you do when you have nothing to do really shows what you are."



Guaranteed Healing on a Conditional Warranty

By CLEVE GREEN

Ezekiel 38:36, "Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the Lord build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the Lord have spoken it, and I will do it." This promise, like all the rest of God's many promises, is on a conditional basis. With every promise God says, "You do, and then I will do." Divine healing is no exception to the rule. If we meet the conditions He requires in His Word, then we can expect our healing. In Exodus 15:26, we have a wonderful promise; but here again it is on condition. Here we read, ". . . if thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians; for I am the Lord that healeth thee." God has promised us healing in this Scripture, but we must hearken diligently to His Word. In Romans 10:17 we read, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Paul here is not talking about ordinary listening to the Word. If that were true then everyone could have faith, that hears the Word preached. When Paul spoke, "Faith cometh by hearing," he meant faith cometh through spiritual hearing or simply believing the word. We know that Paul doesn't mean that just an ordinary listening to the Word will bring faith. If this were true, many people would have faith. This is the same kind of hearing that Moses spoke about in Exodus 15:26, "If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God." Down further in the same verse, he says that we ought to "give ear to his commandments." This is just another way of saying you've got to believe the promises that He has made. In Mark 9:23, we have these words, "IF THOU CANST BELIEVE, ALL THINGS ARE

POSSIBLE TO HIM THAT BELIEVETH." Please notice that this is another conditional promise.

I can remember a few years ago when a sister in Virginia came one night to be prayed for. She had a weak condition in her body. She came back the next night praising God that He had given her a blood transfusion. She simply took God at His Word and stood upon the promises. It was a marvelous healing. The Scripture said, "IF THOU CANST BELIEVE, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO HIM THAT BELIEVETH." The word *believeth* means a continuation of faith. This doesn't mean doubt awhile and believe awhile. Too many times when the symptoms hang on for awhile, they dull our faith. This is when faith should be the strongest. In verse 24 of this ninth chapter of Mark the man with the demon-possessed son cried out, "HELP THOU MINE UNBELIEF." It will be good to get all the unbelief, doubts, and fears rebuked; and then take a stand on the promise. Doubt is one thing that seems to break the warranty of this guarantee on healing. In Matthew 21:21 Jesus says, "IF YE HAVE FAITH AND DOUBT NOT, YE SHALL SAY UNTO THIS MOUNTAIN, BE THOU REMOVED, AND BE THOU CAST IN THE SEA; IT SHALL BE DONE." Now the mountain that Jesus was talking about was not a literal mountain. These are mountains of fear, doubt, confusion, sickness, and disease, and if you have faith and doubt not, it shall be done. In Mark 11:24, "THEREFORE I SAY UNTO YOU, WHAT THINGS SOEVER YE DESIRE, WHEN YE PRAY, BELIEVE THAT YE RECEIVE THEN! AND YE SHALL HAVE THEM." Here again the promise is on condition. First we have to pray and then believe just like it had already happened and then you shall receive. If you

believe that you receive what you pray for, you ought to be praising Him for it before you actually see it come to pass.

Real faith in God demands real obedience to the Word. Let's look at Heb. 11:6, "BUT WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM: FOR HE THAT COMETH TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS, AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THEM THAT DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM." Someone asked a little boy what faith is and he said, "It's just believing God and not asking questions." You see our trouble is, sometimes we ask too many questions like: "When Lord?" "Why Lord?" "Where Lord?" and "How Lord?" You see, if our logical mind can figure out just how God is going to do it, then it won't be faith. In Heb. 11:1, "NOW FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPE FOR, THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN." If you can see it or feel it, then it is not faith. God's many promises are like a large check book already made out to you for your many needs. All you have to do is just endorse one and cash in on the promise. You see when you get a check for ten dollars, that check is not ten dollars; but is the substance of ten dollars. If we really believe in the person who signed the check; then, it is worth ten dollars to us. You might say that the check is a promise to pay. Then God's Word when correctly obeyed is a promise of payment. Our endorsement of His promises simply means we believe, regardless of the symptoms or the circumstances. Then the pay off is coming. Sometime back when we were in Essex, Maryland, for a revival meeting, a brother who had arthritis so bad that he had to walk on crutches came to the altar. He started to the altar without his crutches; but couldn't make it, so he literally crawled to the altar. While he was at the altar, his faith was

inspired; and we prayed for him and God gloriously touched him. He walked out of the building without his crutches. Praise God! When the conditions are met God comes through with healing.

In the last clause of verse 6 in chapter five of Galatians, Paul makes this statement, "BUT FAITH WORKETH BY LOVE." Now, you can weigh your faith by your love. If you have strong love for God; then, your faith ought to be strong. People that you dearly love, you can really trust. Take, for example, your companion. You are not afraid to crawl in bed with them and go to sleep, if you really love them. If you love them, and they love you; it never enters your mind that they might kill you while you are asleep. You see then that you can easily trust someone that you really love. Then, why is it so hard to trust God? You had better examine your love for "FAITH WORKETH BY LOVE." I read of a young man who took his young wife on an ocean voyage and a terrible storm came up. The young man was very calm as he watched the angry billows roll; but his wife was upset and went below to her room. Sometime later her husband came into the room with an ugly dagger drawn back like he was going to stab her. He tried to look mean; but he didn't scare her at all. She said, "I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU BECAUSE I KNOW YOU LOVE ME." He put the dagger down and smiled and said, "That is just the way I felt a little while ago when we were on deck and watching the angry waves roll. I knew my Heavenly Father wouldn't let any harm befall me because He loves me." Isn't this so true? Where there is pure love there is no fear. In 1 John 4:18, "THERE IS NO FEAR IN LOVE; BUT PERFECT LOVE CASTETH OUT FEAR: FOR HE THAT FEARETH IS NOT MADE PERFECT IN LOVE." God grant unto us more saints with that perfect love. Fear is one thing that will surely break the warranty on God's guarantee on healing for us. In II Tim. 1:7, "FOR GOD HATH NOT GIVEN US THE SPIRIT OF FEAR; BUT OF POWER, AND OF LOVE, AND OF A SOUND MIND." If God has not given us the spirit of fear; we know, then, it must come from the devil. In Proverbs 29:25, "THE FEAR OF MAN BRINGETH A SNARE: BUT WHOSO PUTTETH HIS TRUST IN THE LORD SHALL BE SAFE." Isa. 12:2, ". . . I'll trust, and not be afraid. . . ."

Even though every promise is conditional, I'm glad that it will take in every situation and every person. God so fixed the promises that if you will believe them, He will keep His Word whether you are in a large congregation, or maybe you don't even have a pastor. In Matthew 18:19,

"AGAIN I SAY UNTO YOU, THAT IF TWO OF YOU SHALL AGREE ON EARTH AS TOUCHING ANY THING THAT THEY SHALL ASK, IT SHALL BE DONE FOR THEM OF MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN." Praise God, if just you and your companion agree, it shall be done. Then someone will say, "Preacher, I don't even have a saved companion." Well, you still have a promise. Look at John 15:7, "IF YE ABIDE IN ME, AND MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU, YE SHALL ASK WHAT YE WILL, AND IT SHALL BE DONE UNTO YOU." Notice here again: this promise is conditional. He said, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you then ye shall be able to receive my promise."

A few years ago I was in the state of Michigan, holding a revival meeting. One night I was preaching on divine healing when a sister came to the altar to be prayed for. She didn't tell me what her trouble was; but we prayed and God miraculously healed her of sugar diabetes. She had been taking insulin; but she quit taking it, and as far as I know she is in good health today. She had to simply believe that God had done it before anything would happen. Too often, too many people are like a couple of old sisters I had in my congregation when I pastored in Kansas. When I would instruct them to just believe God regardless of the pain, they would say, "Oh I don't want to claim healing before I feel like I have it. That would be lying." If you go right back to your salvation, you will find that you had to believe that God had saved you before you received any feeling. Now was that telling a lie? No! That is what we call taking a step by faith. I'm sure that feeling has far too much to do with our faith. The story is told of three that walked along a narrow wall. Faith, Fact, and Feeling were their names. Now Feeling fell off the wall and drug Faith off as well. Old Fact says, "I'll not be pulled down by those that fall beside me. It is a fact that God still heals so I'll just hold steady." After Fact held steady then Faith came back up and Feeling came up too. We should not be moved by others dropping off beside us. Too many people are effected when others fall or fail. Our eyes must be firmly fixed on Jesus the Author and the Finisher of our faith. It will take great determination to get this healing at times. Jude verse 3 says, "YE SHOULD EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH WHICH WAS ONCE DELIVERED UNTO THE SAINTS."

I am reminded of the time that wife had what seemed to be a heart attack back in 1968. She had been playing the piano for a couple to sing when she lost circulation half way to her elbows, and had the sharp pains

in her chest with the difficult breathing. We prayed a couple of times and then it seemed that the Lord was impressing me to call up some of the saints and a couple of preachers to agree with us. Then when we prayed again, God completely healed wife of this trouble. You know every physician fills out a prescription when you go and are examined. He wants you to be sure and get the prescription filled and use it. Well, Jesus has filled out a prescription in James 5:13-15, "IS ANY AMONG YOU AFFLICTED? LET HIM PRAY. IS ANY MERRY? LET HIM SING PSALMS. IS ANY SICK AMONG YOU? LET HIM CALL FOR THE ELDERS OF THE CHURCH; AND LET THEM PRAY OVER HIM ANOINTING HIM WITH OIL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD: AND THE PRAYER OF FAITH SHALL SAVE THE SICK, AND THE LORD SHALL RAISE HIM UP; AND IF HE HAVE COMMITTED SINS, THEY SHALL BE FORGIVEN HIM." Aren't you glad that you can read this prescription and understand what it means? That prescription you might get from an earthly physician I doubt you can read it. It might not help you, and it could hinder you; but thank God, this prescription when obeyed will heal the sick. Many people have taken many prescriptions prescribed by men and they have done them no good, and many times it did them harm.

The little frail woman in Mark the 5th chapter had conditions to met before she could receive her healing. Read Mark 5:25-34. Here was a woman with an issue of blood for 12 long years and she said, "IF I MAY TOUCH BUT HIS CLOTHES, I SHALL BE WHOLE." Now her part was pressing through the crowd, and this was not easy to accomplish. You may have to press beyond your family, your relatives, your friends, and maybe even press by some of the church folks who might recommend something besides Jesus. Well she kept pressing until she touched the hem of His garment, and she was made whole. Jesus stopping the crowd said, "SOMEBODY HAS TOUCHED ME AND VIRTUE HAS GONE OUT." He turned and saw the woman and said, "DAUGHTER, THY FAITH HAS MADE THEE WHOLE: GO IN PEACE, AND BE WHOLE OF THY PLAGUE."

Oh, the power in just a touch, when this touch is made in faith. In Jer. 17:14, "HEAL ME, O LORD, AND I SHALL BE HEALED; SAVE ME, AND I SHALL BE SAVED: FOR THOU ART MY PRAISE." Even this promise is conditional. Healing is promised if we obey His Word, and salvation is ours if we repent and believe.

DEVIL POSSESSION

By E. H. AHRENDT



"When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick." Matthew 8:18, "And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them." Mark 8:13. One who is devil possessed is one who is controlled by the devil; he is taken captive in the snare of the devil and obeys Satan's dictates. 2 Tim. 2:28.

Satan is a person. Matt. 4:10. He is a spirit. Eph. 2:2. There are spirits of devils. Rev. 18:14. Satan is also called a devil. Matt. 4:8, 10. He is powerful, presumptuous, wicked, malignant, subtle, deceitful, fierce, and cruel. He is an adversary to God and the truth. He is the prince of devils. Matt. 9:34. He has angels. Matt. 25:41. These angels are messengers of the devil. Their habitation is hell. 2 Pet. 2:4. Since the devils are spirits, they are capable of going anywhere and can come here on earth to disturb the souls of men. Satan is very active. Job 1:7; 1 Pet. 5:8; Acts 19:15, 18. There are many devils. Mark 5:9. Legions—a great number, a host.

There are many kinds of devils: Unclean, Mark 5:2; deaf and dumb, Mark 9:17-28; spirit of divination, Acts 18:18-18; familiar spirits, Deut. 18:10-12; jealous, Num. 5:14; free love, Hos. 4:12; religious, professing, seducing, 1 Tim. 4:1, 2; miracle working, Rev. 18:14; lunatic, Matt. 4:24; and many other kinds. These evil spirits cause untold suffering to many people. There is a true spirit from God that helps people. John 15:28. There is also a false deceiving spirit of Satan. Mark 9:25-28. Some Christians are full of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:4. Likewise there are sinners who are possessed or dominated by evil spirits. Acts 5:3; Luke 22:3; Acts 8:7.

HOW DO PEOPLE GET DEVIL POSSESSED

There are many ways by which people get devil-possessed. One way is by accepting false teaching or false doctrine. There is a false spirit that goes with false doctrine. Dabbling in false religions and questionable practices is dangerous. To go defiantly or whole heartedly into gross sin or going against revealed light are open avenues for Satan to enter. I refer you to John 13:2, 28, 27. Fellowshiping those who are devil possessed when devils are

being cast out may hinder the one seeking help or even give Satan power over you. To believe in signs, dreams, or visions that are in opposition to the plain Word of God; or to sin willfully and profess religion over it are traps Satan uses to catch unstable souls. Often takes possession of such and drives them to extreme and sometimes sad and disgraceful ways.

HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING DEVIL POSSESSED

First of all, get a good Christian experience of salvation; obey God's Word; continue to walk in all the light God gives you and walk humbly before God. Keep away from false teachers and do not accept false doctrine. Do not listen to the devil's suggestions that are contrary to good sense and the Word of God, but resist the devil steadfastly in the faith and keep busy for God. Have faith in God's keeping power for the Holy Spirit will guide according to the Word of God, if we pray and let Him lead. When present where devils are cast out, stand agreed with the ones who are praying and casting out devils. Claim Luke 10:19.

HOW TO DISCERN IF ONE IS DEVIL POSSESSED

The person who is devil possessed may not know the cause of his trouble, only knowing that something is wrong. In the church there are some who have been given the spirit of discernment and can detect such spirits. 1 Cor. 12:10. There are also certain acts or manifestations that

are peculiar to people who are possessed with demons, so that others often can tell what is wrong. Here are some Bible examples: Vexed with the devil, Matt. 15:22; super strength, Mark 5:3-4; the devils may speak through the person, Mark 5:7; unclean spirits, Mark 5:13; lunatic, Matt. 4:24. Some hiss like a snake, bark like a dog, grunt like a pig, have a wild staring look in the eyes, and some even seem very religious, shouting, etc., but their lives do not tally. When in their presence, a Christian may feel a strong opposition to his spirit and not have true fellowship. These are exceptional cases, for not every sinner is demon possessed; however, all sinners are influenced by the devil more or less for every sin is obedience to Satan and disobedience to God.

HOW TO DELIVER ONE WHO IS DEVIL POSSESSED

In the Savior's commission to the twelve, to the seventy, and to others who were sent out, there was and is authority to cast out devils. I have found that one who is devil possessed is not saved and cannot get saved unless he is delivered from the devils; therefore, the ministry is to deliver them for they cannot deliver themselves. The ones who participate in bringing about deliverance, must be agree that he is devil possessed and want deliverance from devil possession and also be agreed on the method of procedure. The one who is to be delivered, must agree that he is devil possessed and want deliverance and submit to the ministry, unless he is not mentally responsible.

Sometimes the devil's name (or kind of devil) needs to be mentioned and commanded to come out if he was made known. If some sin has been covered up and religion professed over it, this sin needs to be confessed. The devil or devils

must be commanded to obey through the authority Jesus gives and through Jesus' name, without compromise, sympathy, or any relinquishing doubting; they must obey and come out. It is good to fast and pray before engaging in the casting out of devils. Matt. 17:14-21. Oftentimes the one delivered will feel limp or exhausted and may want to go to sleep. However, he should repent and believe for salvation at once, then walk humbly before God as He may give him light and fight the good fight of faith.

There are many cases mentioned where Christ brought deliverance to such distressed souls. The same Gospel is to be preached today with the same power to help every need of mankind. No doubt there are more people that are devil possessed today, percentage wise, for a number of reasons. Idol worshipers, heathenism, and crooked professors are an open field for Satan to enter. Every truly God-called minister should have the power and authority to cast out devils according to Christ's commission, if they will but exercise the same in the faith.

MY EXPERIENCE WITH DEVIL POSSESSION

My first experience with one who was devil possessed was while attending a meeting in a mission in Portland, Oregon. A man and wife conducted the mission. When the meeting was well in progress a young lady about 25 years old, rose to her feet, gave an awful yell, and then plunked down with all her weight onto the seat. The preacher remarked, "Surely God's power is present." But to most Christians and people present, this act caused a chill or shudder to settle over the place.

One of the first cases I witnessed was at a camp meeting. A lady got permission from the authorities of the insane hospital to take her sister (about 20 years of age) to this meeting. This sister had to have two or more ladies watch her day and night, for at times she wanted to get to water so she could drown herself. She was brought into the meeting and in time of prayer the devils would speak through her and say, "Don't pray, don't pray," and seem to cause her great suffering. One day several of the ministers present at this meeting took this woman into a private tent; they laid their hands on her, prayed, and commanded the devils to come out of her. The devils spoke audibly through her and said, "We will not come out." A

God-fearing minister said, "In the name of Jesus, you will come out." The devils came out. Then the ministers had her repent, and she was wonderfully converted. Afterwards she did not need to be watched but helped take care of her sister's children and was rational as other people.

I attended a meeting one time and there was a young lady present who was devil possessed. Whenever she got near me, she would slap me in the face with a hideous grin. After this meeting closed, I stayed to help a minister do some shingling on a shed roof. She would come out there and make faces at me. All this troubled me for up to this time I had had very little experience with devil-possessed people and the enemy knew I was afraid. I learned later that she received help and deliverance from the devils that caused her suffering and strange actions.

Another time I attended a camp meeting held in Eastern Washington, where a large crowd was generally present. Sunday afternoon, on the first day of the meeting, another minister and I went to the platform and sat down while people were gathering in for the service. As I was looking over the crowd, while the people were coming into the tabernacle, my eyes fell upon a middle aged lady outside the tabernacle, who was just entering in. From the moment I noticed this woman, I could tell she was different than the rest of the people and I was impressed that she was devil possessed. The devils said to me, "Yes, I have taken possession of her and I am going to take possession of you too." As, yet, I had had very little experience with such cases, and I became frightened and fearful. There was an aisle in the center of the tabernacle and this lady kept coming right on toward the platform, with her eyes (and, oh, how they did look) continually on me. There was a pitcher full of water near the pulpit; she poured out a glassful and drank it, with her eyes still glaring at me and the devils saying, "I'll take possession of you. I'll take possession of you."

I became so frightened and troubled that I left the tabernacle and went to my tent. The enemy harassed me with the thought that the devils would take possession of me too. I just walked the floor, I was so troubled. Soon I heard someone walking by my tent; I called to this brother and requested that he bring another minister to me for I was in great

trouble. These brethren had prayer with me, and the Lord blessed as I resisted the enemy and his fears. Thus I gained the victory and went back to the meeting. That evening the Lord told me that He wanted me to preach and that I was to preach on the subject of Faith. The Lord blessed and I never spoke with as much unction and liberty. Twenty years later I met a man that was present at that meeting and he asked, "Do you remember that night you preached at . . . camp meeting?" Then he said that he never forgot that meeting. The next day the ministers prayed with the lady referred to, and the devils were cast out and she was saved.

One evening at a meeting in North Dakota, while there were several seekers for salvation, an older woman was also seeking help. She was demon-possessed, but was not delivered that evening. In the night, the devils almost choked her to death, so in the morning she arose very early and started out to find us ministers. After she found us, we three ministers labored for several hours for her deliverance. Finally she was delivered from devils and became wonderfully saved and lived it the rest of her years.

About twenty years ago, I was attending minister's meeting in Tacoma, Washington. Between services, the pastor asked me and two other ministers to accompany him and his wife to the home of a lady who was devil possessed. When we arrived at her home, we learned that she was sick in bed. The pastor's wife went into the bedroom to see her, but the sick woman called out, "You are too late now. You are too late." She had tried to commit suicide by taking lye. We prayed earnestly and believed it would not hurt her, and it did not. She had a five-year-old daughter whom she had tried to kill at different times. When we ministers came into the bedroom, she lay with her face downward and buried in the pillow, but kept saying, "You are too late now." We prayed and laid on hands and commanded the devils to come out of her without having any success right away.

The pastor said it was time for us to go now in order to get there in time for the next service. He, his wife, and the two other ministers started for the car, but I felt like lingering in prayer and the Lord told me that there was deliverance for her. I hurried to the car and told them that God had shown me that there was deliverance for this woman. Praise God for that!

They returned with me; we laid on

hands, commanded the religious devil to come out, and also mentioned the lady leader of the sect. Immediately the devils came out and the woman became limp; we urged her to repent and get saved. This she did, and we left her sitting up in bed, clapping her hands, and praising God. This was her story—her husband was committed to the State Insane Hospital. Many times she had a barber friend come and be with her all night. In spite of improper relations, she claimed to be saved and to speak in tongues. I saw her five years after this wonderful deliverance, and she still was happily saved.

One time later in Portland, I was visiting a church service, and sat near the back of the church. A man who was sitting well up in the front, turned his head and looked back so I could see the side of his face. The Lord revealed to me that the man was devil possessed. Several months later, the pastor of that church came to my place and said that he had a man in his congregation who was a problem. The pastor said this man was religious, a heavy financial giver, and attended services regularly. The pastor wanted to know if I could meet with him and this man at the church. I consented. So at the stated day, I arrived a little ahead of time. Then finally the pastor and the man arrived. It happened to be the same man I saw at the church sometime before. I said, "Oh, yes, I understand this case." Then I told the pastor what the Lord had revealed to me about this man. So we decided to fast and pray until the next day. I requested another minister to be agreed with us. The next day we met, laid hands on the man, and commanded the devils to come out in the name of Jesus, and they did. The man was delivered, but was wholly exhausted. We urged him to repent, which he did, and was most wonderfully saved.

The man's story is that for nine years he suffered under this awful burden, knowing something was wrong with him, but did not know what it was or how to get help. He said at times a spirit would come over him and want him to curse God. Finally it overpowered him; he would curse God and call Him all kind of names; he would challenge God to come down from His throne so he could fight with Him and say other things too awful to mention here. After such spells, he would believe that he had committed the unpardonable sin, and suffered a foretaste of hell. Thank God, there is deliverance for those who are taken captive by the

devil at his will.

While serving as pastor in a certain congregation, I received a long distance call to come to a small town some distance away. I was requested to take the first bus out, as someone there was needing help very badly. When I arrived at this place, the parties met me and explained that there was a lady there who was devil possessed. The pastor and most of the congregation had been praying and trying to cast out devils, but the woman got no help and was suffering very much. The parties took me out in country where this lady lived and were ready to cast out devils. I requested that we wait until the morning so I could get my bearings. I went home with the pastor and his wife; the sister of the sick lady went home with us too. After we arrived at the pastor's home, I began to make inquiry about the sick lady: "Who is she? Does she live a good life?" I learned that she was a member of the congregation; that she lived a good life; and that people had confidence in her as a Christian. "Then why do you think she is devil possessed," I asked? They replied that she herself says she is devil possessed, and because of the strange way she acts at times. (While we visited her, she got out of bed and stood on her feet and screamed at the top of her voice.) I told them that does not convince me that she is devil possessed, but I thought she was suffering from a nervous breakdown. I stated that when we lay on hands to cast out devils and rebuke the devil, it will be made manifest if she is possessed.

The next morning on our way to the place, the sick lady's sister who was with us, said with fear and excitement, "Bro. Ahrendt, pray for me. The devils are going to take possession of me." I reminded her of what the Bible said, where Christ was casting out devils. (Matt. 8:28-34) "The devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. And he said unto them, go." I told her, "You are more valuable than the swine, and the devils cannot enter without the Lord's permission, as long as you obey the Lord." Soon we arrived at the home of the sick lady. We laid on hands and prayed for her deliverance; there was no sign of devil possession. I requested the pastor and his wife to step outdoors with me and said to them that this lady is not devil possessed and that they should tell her so and that she is still a child of God. She was nervous, worried, overworked, and needed rest. This is the story: The

family lived on a ten-acre tract. She worked hard, sacrificed much for she was afraid they might lose their home. Her husband was rather easy-going; she had five small children, quite close together, and was now confined with a new baby. With encouragement, assurance, and rest she soon overcame her troubles and was a happy Christian.

A few years ago, when the young people were attending a youth camp in Oregon, a minister drove from there to Portland, a distance of 150 miles, to see if I could help with some strange problems there. He came to my place and rapped on my door in the night and said that the young people were calling for me to come at once. There were four other preachers there, but they had not had experience of this kind. We arrived in the morning, a little before 7:00 a.m., in time for breakfast. Just after we ate, one of the girls got up and started down a path, when all at once she fell down, screaming, "The devil has taken possession of me." She kicked and threw her arms in the air and seemed unable to control herself. Two men carried her to a tent and laid her upon the bed. The Lord helped me to discern that she was not possessed, but that this was an imposition of the enemy. I told her this and said further that if she was obeying God, the devils could not come in and take possession of her. I referred her to the Bible account of Christ casting out devils. They could not even enter the swine unless Christ gave permission. We had prayer for her, and she got the victory over this at once. Before this girl had the victory, another girl fell to the ground, screaming and throwing her arms in a similar experience. She seemed limp as a rag and was carried to the tent. I repeated to her what I told the other girl; and after prayer, she, too, had complete victory. For two days before this, several others in the camp had just such experience, and no one knew just how to help them. When they came to realize it was an imposition of Satan and they need not be so harassed, things soon became normal. In about two hours time, we had victory over this, and no more of the young people were troubled in this way.

A STRANGE EXPERIENCE

While I was pastor of a congregation in a certain city, one Saturday afternoon in early November, I made a call at the home of one of the members. I rapped on the

door, but got no response, so I started to leave. I happened to look back and noticed that a gust of fresh smoke was coming out of the chimney, so I decided to go back and rapped a little harder on the door this time. The man met me at the door, rubbing the sleep from his eyes, saying that I had awakened him. He explained that he was trying to catch up on his sleep, because for more than a week he had been staying over at a neighbor's home until late in the night for some strange happenings were going on over there and the family was quite upset about it. Since I knew the other family, too, I said I would come over that evening, which I did. I found the father, mother, four children, son-in-law, and several neighbors present. The house had four rooms downstairs—front room, dining room, bedroom, and kitchen. A stairway from the dining room went upstairs which was all in one room, but bedrooms separated by curtains. Most of us were sitting in the front room, engaged in conversation. About 10 o'clock that night we were startled by the same unusual melee the others had reported for an entire week. It sounded like a very loud and terrible rap on the wall upstairs. It could be heard a few blocks away even and was repeated at intervals the rest of the night or until about 2:00 a.m. the family stated. We were all puzzled and some of them very much scared. I said to one of the sons, "Let us go upstairs and investigate." So we opened the stairway door, but just as soon as we put our feet on the very first step, this knocking ceased. We remained there for some little time but heard no noise so we went upstairs. There was a window at the head of the stairs; I pulled the upper sash down about half way and wondered if it could be the wind rattling the window or some loose boards making the noise. I put my head clear outside the window, so did the son with me, and immediately that noise started to knock hard to our right, about at the center of the side wall. Then one of us kept his head outside the window and the other looked toward the spot when the noise had come from, but no noise or rapping came. Next, both of us put our heads out over the window sash, and the loud and continuous rapping started up again. We examined things upstairs for some time, found nothing that would explain things, so went downstairs again. As soon as we reached the bottom step, the noise started again—this terrible, loud noise. It would send the cold chills over

most of the people and the family could scarcely sleep at nights.

When I left this place, it was after midnight and my wife was still up when I arrived home, I tried to describe the happenings to her, and she said, "Oh! It's probably a mouse or a loose board outside the building." I told her she wouldn't be there ten minutes until she would change her mind. So she said, "I am going over, too. I'll go Sunday night after church." So Sunday night my wife, son, and several others went over to this home and had a very similar experience as we had the evening before. By this time we began to sense that it must come from some outside cause. Many tests, seemed to prove that whatever produced the noise had some knowledge and much power, for it would refuse to respond to certain acts and show that it knew what others did. My wife felt sorry for the children of the family and suggested that we have them come to our house for a good night's sleep. I told my wife I could not consent to that, because I did not want that thing to invade my home, for it seemed to have special drawing for one of them.

On Monday night, I went there again, and several others were there also. At about 10 o'clock the noise and knocking began. By this time, after ten days of this, the owner of the house was very much perplexed and disturbed by these undesirable noises and there seemingly was no relief in sight. He decided some evil spirit must be after him or some of his family, so he went upstairs and shouted, "What do you want? I rebuke you in the name of the Lord."

No sooner did we get downstairs, than the knocking started again, twice as often as before and twice as hard. The knocking was so loud that the windows and doors of the house rattled as if a strong wind was blowing. The knocking changed from the wall to the floor and came toward the stairway. The women and children were hysterical and screaming that it was coming downstairs. I said, "Let us pray." We prayed and rebuked the devil in the name of Christ and commanded this evil spirit to cease. The knocking stopped right then, and the family had no more trouble with it. You can imagine how happy they were to be free from this fearful disturbance.

We learned later that two or three members of the family confessed that they had consulted spiritualistic mediums several times and were interested in

spiritualism, but the parents were Christians and opposed this sort of thing. My advice is to stay away from spiritualism, mediums, fortune tellers, Ouija boards, and the black arts. Thank God, there is deliverance for every soul in trouble!

A word of warning needs to be said about the danger of becoming devil possessed. God has promised to protect and keep a Christian, and Satan and his angels cannot take possession. But God nowhere has promised to keep a sinner and the disobedient from becoming demon possessed.

Those who were once devil possessed and have been delivered, need to live a consistent Christian life, or they are in danger of again becoming devil possessed, and their later time may be worse than the first. Matt. 12:43-45.

Many who are devil possessed suffer greatly in body, mind, and soul. It is hard to tell what the devil will cause the devil-possessed person to do. Some become insane and become dangerous to themselves and others. Some commit murder, suicide, or some crime, and get into jail or the penitentiary.

Some time ago, one Sunday evening, while a number of persons were at the altar for healing, a man asked to see the ministers who were present. When he met with them, he said he was devil possessed, and he begged to be delivered, for he was afraid he was about to commit a very hideous crime. The devil had such power over him that he was afraid he would do the thing and be unable to resist doing it. He said he was already guilty of committing a crime, and that if the law caught up with him, it would mean no less than seventeen years in the penitentiary. We laid hands on him and he was delivered and was saved. We need to walk humbly and earnestly before God. Then we will have His protection.

*Editor's Note: Bro. Ahrendt was, for many years before his passing, a Church of God minister, and God used him many times in the matter of divine healing and delivering many from devil possession. Space does not permitted us to recount here but a few of his experiences; it is our opinion that there is more devil possession out in false religion than man is aware of, or that they care to own to. Should there be a great deal of interest in this matter of devil possession, we will be happy to print further articles pertaining to this subject at a later date.



**PERSONAL
TESTIMONY**

*". . . so will I we render the
calves of our lips." Hosea 14:2b*

By DAREL MITCHELL

My friend, have you ever wondered whether or not your religion is really true and of God? Have you ever thought, "Maybe I've been deceived"? Now before we go any further, let us find out what the word *deceived* means. Mr. Webster has this to say about it: "To make a person believe something that is not true; to mislead; to cause to err; to impose on; to delude; to cheat." So you see, if you have been deceived you will, in all probability, not realize that you have been misled or cheated.

I can remember how and when God opened my blinded eyes and shed light on my deceived heart and mind regarding sin. There are those who believe and teach that you must sin; you can't do otherwise. But this is not true. I found if you really are a Christian, you do not sin.

Let us look in the Word of God for a minute. In 2 Cor. 15:33-34 we find this word "deceived." Saint Paul says, "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. Awake to righteousness and sin not. . . ." Also, in 1 John 3:7, "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous even as he is righteous."

You might say, "How can I keep from sinning? I can't control my thoughts." My friend, this is why Jesus suffered and died on the Cross. To set us free from the bondage of sin, to give us power to live a sinless life. Jesus tells us His purpose for having come into the world in Luke 5:32. He said, "I come not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." So you see we do not have to sin. Thanks be to God for

Jesus who came to set us free from sin.

Now you may be in some dead, sinning, false religion that teaches you that you can't live free of sin, you can't help but sin. If such is the case, you should look for a religion that will tell you the truth, tell you what the Bible really has to say about sin. "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord," Romans 8:23 Jesus said in St. John 8:34, "Verily, verily I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin."

Do you know what a servant is? You might look it up in your dictionary; servant: An agent; a delegate, a disciple. Now Jesus said if you sin, then you are a servant of sin. Now if a servant is an agent or a delegate or a disciple then when you say I sin, you are saying, I am a disciple of sin. You don't have to be a disciple of sin. Praise God! You can be a disciple of Jesus. Praise be to His holy name. I know this is true because I am a disciple of Jesus right now, and it is wonderful.

Like the prodigal son, "Once I was lost; but now I am found." I was in a religion that taught me, "Sin you will and sin you must." But thank God, one day He showed me that you cannot be a sinner and a Christian at the same time; so I confessed my sin, repented, asked forgiveness for disobeying God's commands, and He saved me and I have never sinned since. So you see, I know by experience you can be set free. Thank God for His goodness to me! Friend, I can never thank Him enough.

Reader, if your religion teaches you that you can't live free from sin, you are being lied to. It is just straight. Jesus can set you free from sin! The Word says that he who is free, is free indeed. I pray that this personal testimony will help some honest soul to get free and to be delivered FROM sin and set free from its heavy entanglements.

Following are a few Scriptures I would encourage all to read: (There are many Scriptures on this manner; but possibly these will suffice for the present.)

commanded to sin no more - John 8:11

sin forbidden - 2 Cor. 15:34

exhortation to holiness - Romans 8:12-18; John 3:5-10

dead in sin (the spiritual state of the sinner) - Prov. 21:18; Matt. 8:22; Rev. 3:1; Luke 15:32

dead to sin - Rom 8:2, 7, 11; 2 Tim. 2:11;

1 Peter 2:21-25

forsake sin - Eph. 4:2; Col. 2:11

punishment of sin - Luke 3:17; 2 Peter 2:9; Rev. 14:11, 20:15

future punishment - Matt. 18:9, 25:48; Mark 3:29; Luke 12:47; Rom. 2:8; Heb. 10:29

definition of holiness -spiritually whole; of unimpaired innocence; godly. Heb. 12:14

JUST BEFORE JESUS COMES

Paul wrote to the Thessalonians that before the coming of our Lord there would come a falling away first. (2 Thess. 2:3) To Timothy he stated that evil men and impostors should wax worse and worse and that there would be perilous times in the last days (2 Tim. 1:1-13). It would be noticed in the apostasy is not concerning education or fine churches or able ministers or large congregations or the progress of intellectual and material prosperity: But it would be a breaking down of faith and a denial of the power of God in a Holy Ghost experience. There is at present well nigh a universal landslide toward higher criticism which is lower than infidelism. There is also a denial of the supernatural working of God in regeneration, definite answers to prayers, and the revelation of divine things to the soul by the Holy Spirit which make up the religion of the apostles and their successors.

We are then to expect great deceptions and delusions deceiving if it were possible the very elect. We may also expect great advances in forms (2 Tim. 3:5) of godliness in the last days. Faith will not become low through worldliness and the denial of the Scriptures only, but also through the remarkable imitative faiths which will work on in their deceptive power. These movements will become an unseen influence in the air around us, and the atmosphere will be peopled with evil spirits heavy with the depression of hell. These evil spirits will do their utmost to injure, mislead, confuse, and depress the children of God. Our bodies will be afflicted. It will press in on our minds and becloud our souls. All kinds of strange feelings and new and peculiar trials will come to us, a surprising lack of desire and energy Godward, a spiritual deadness, a mental heaviness, a lethargy of soul; an alarming

desire for forbidden things and a peculiar delight and fascination in any of the world's pleasures we dare to taste.

It will be very difficult to preach the Word in liberty and power. It will be very difficult to give attention to the Word when it is preached. It will be very difficult to get real earnest and continue in prayer. This is the atmosphere in which we must battle as the last days darken around us. Oh, let us be strong in the Lord, for Satan will no doubt bring a mysterious power to bear on our minds and wills which will make it exceedingly difficult to walk closely with God and very easy to live in the flesh.

We will be amazed at the power he can use against us, and it will become very hard to serve God faithfully, and to pray earnestly for it will seem as if everything without us and almost everything within us has conspired to keep us from following Christ all the way and to influence us to compromise. We will be surrounded by a worldly atmosphere that will draw us away from God, that will render prayer halfhearted and that will deaden our spiritual senses to the realities of heavenly things and the glorious presence of our Lord. It will become very easy to slip out of communion with God, and harder than ever to keep communication open between our souls and Heaven. Already we feel the beginning of the influence of the inrush of these things upon us. Worldliness in various forms weaves the ever expounding power over many congregations. Things are not only allowed but are unblushingly organized, yes, organized now which would not have been possible a generation ago. The craze of the drama and the exciting round of pleasure is catered to in connection with many places of worship to the destroying of deep spirituality and bringing to an end of revivals, and also the furtherance of the spirit of compromise with doubtful things and associations. There is a terrible decline of faith and true religion all over the world at this moment. We do not deny that there may be here and there a few exceptions. But looking at Christendom as a whole, it presents a sad picture. Reviewing these matters, do they not constitute a loud call to the servants of Christ to arise and seek during the intervening short period to make the most of this the day of opportunity before their Lord and Master summons them to give an account of their labors at the Judgment Seat

of Christ?
Originally written in China.

—Author Unknown



Call To PRAYER

Ohio – The wife of the pastor in Springfield, Sister Bill Wilson, is very much in need of the prayers of the people of God. After having lost both her father and mother recently, she herself has had a serious heart attack.

Louisiana – Continue to pray for Brother Beebe. Here at Newark we have been praying for Brother Beebe for some time now. We covet your prayers also in his behalf.

Oregon – Prayer is desired on behalf of Sister Robert Dressler in Molalla, having had a very serious fall down a flight of stairs.

Ohio – Sister Grace Henry is requesting prayer for her body, having had an internal attack of some kind.

Pray much for one another. The work of God everywhere needs the prayers of everyone who knows how to really get hold of God.

Let us be much in prayer for coming meetings: fellowship, camp meetings, and revivals that they shall be truly what God would have them to be.

"Remember this: It is always better to suffer wrong than do wrong."

—Frank E. Wallace

YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE!

As a great number of you already know, this is the first issue of a new religious periodical. The greater responsibility for its publication lays with the New-Ark Tabernacle Church of God, of Newark, Ohio. It certainly is a new experience for most, if not all, of us who work in getting it out here at the print shop.

This first issue is somewhat smaller than what subsequent issues will be. This is due to the fact that we have had to learn many things, much too numerous to list here, in getting out this first copy.

We know, now, a little better, where we can go in regard to the number of articles and thus the number of pages. From now on we will be including a greater number of inspiring and spiritually profitable articles.

Since we know that a great number people never read the masthead of Editorial Page, we would like to repeat here a matter or two:

(a) This journal goes out free of any subscription price; so it will be maintained through gifts and prayers of you reader.

(b) We trust that you will feel free to write to us after having received this first issue. Our heart's desire is that it will be a blessing to all who read its pages.

**THANK YOU, AND MAY GOD
TRULY BLESS ALL OF YOU!**

Summer Night

*Evening mists have stained the hills
With shades of indigo,
The dust of moonbeams filters through
To shed a golden glow;
The stars hang out their silver globes
To give their share of light;
The forest is a fairyland,
On a summer night.*

—Harriet Markham Gill

The Why and How of the Present Reform

BY ALBERT F. GRAY*

A FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY

The present movement is not the work of the enthusiast. It is not born of a desire for fame; no man can claim the honor of starting it. It did not come by human effort, but by the working of God's Spirit in fulfillment of prophecy. The Scriptures clearly predict the great apostasy and also the restoration: "At evening time it shall be light." As certainly as there has been a falling away there must be a reform for God's Word predicts both. The doubts of unbelievers and opposition of enemies can never prevent it, for it is God's work.

IT IS A NECESSITY

The present movement does not rest solely upon prophecy. If there were no predictions which could be construed with any certainty as referring to the present reform, yet we have strong reason for expecting such a movement for it is a necessity and God supplies all our needs. A few are content to let things remain as they are, but a great host of earnest Christians and religious leaders feel the need of radical change. "What is wrong with our churches?" is a question frequently asked and not infrequently answered, at least in part. There is a wide-spread realization that division is ruining the power of the church. Men are calling for unity and more power with God. The present trend of Christian thought is toward a closer union of Christian people. It is plainly evident that division, the curse of Protestantism, is doomed. Sectarian strife can never again claim the respect of the people. That sectarianism is wrong and must be remedied—a truth this reform has proclaimed for more than forty years—is quite universally acknowledged. The question remaining is:

HOW IS IT TO BE DONE?

As this movement is to be the work of God in fulfillment of prophecy, it takes no argument to show that it is not

man's work. Earnest efforts have been made and are still being made to effect a union, federation, or something of that order, to bring the desired result. No doubt God has blessed such efforts to such extent as He can, but this is not His way of reform. The consolidation of sects may eliminate competition and effect a financial saving, but it can no more cure the disease of sectism than the union of trusts into a large merger can destroy the principle of trusts. Division is a fruit of sectism. The roots must be removed.

Sectism is based on two fundamental errors: (1) the substitution of human creeds for the Word of God; (2) the intrusion of human government into spiritual affairs. The merger idea offers as a remedy for the first error, a creed that is broad enough to include all, yet weak enough to be offensive to none. Instead of curing the second error it only aggravates it by laying the basis of an ecclesiastical "machine." The surrender of creeds and the adoption of "no creed" is not the cure but a return to the simple though definite teachings of the Word of God. The obscure things of Scripture furnish no warrant for division, but leave room for research and growth. There is sufficient plain, definite truth to furnish a solid basis for a thorough unity of God's people.

The small amount of human authority in the early church, despite the fact that in it were divinely inspired Apostles, commissioned personally by Christ, is a severe rebuke to present-day ecclesiasticism. Is not the Holy Spirit present today? And will He not still operate effectually among His people? The preaching of the simple Gospel, accompanied by the Holy Spirit, was sufficient to make of the chaotic mass of Jews, Greeks, Barbarians, and Samaritans, a united body of Christians. No humanly devised creed nor self-constituted authority can ever command the respect of all Christians. But the divine authority of God's Word and the convictions of the Holy Spirit are moral forces sufficiently strong to

secure the obedience of every real child of God. These forces alone can effect the unity of God's people.

WHO IS TO DO IT?

Does it not seem presumptive to think that the small number who have attained to the Bible standard of unity will reach the many millions who have not? This appears improbable, but with God's help "one shall chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight." Nevertheless, it is not the task of a few thousand people, but of God.

Recently I ascended a mountain and found a small patch of snow on top. One might have asked, "Can this small bank of snow be spread out to cover the whole mountain?" A strong wind arose and soon the sky was filled with clouds. In a few hours the entire range was covered with a blanket of white that reached far down into the valleys. The snow that had fallen came from the same source as what I had seen and differed in no respect from it. The breath of the Spirit of God blown upon the hearts of men and the showers of truth from his Word are sufficient to effect glorious unity. It is not necessary that this truth proceed exclusively through those who have attained unto the standard of Bible unity, but it must be the same truth from the same Source; and if it be carried forward by the same Holy Spirit, the result can not be different.

Let us who possess this glorious truth proclaim it far and wide. This movement can not fail; it is not ours, but God's.

* Ed. Note: This article written by Brother A. F. Gray is a reprint from *The Gospel Trumpet* of forty-nine years ago. So pertinent to that day and yet so tremendously relevant to our day as well, we felt it would be profitable to give opportunity to many today to read it.

No one is a firmer believer in the power of prayer than the devil; not that he practices it, but he suffers from it. Guy H. King

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Coming Meetings

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GOD'S ACRES
JUNE 25 - JULY 4



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Rock Chapel Church of God, Granite Falls, N.C. - April 7 - 11, with revival following April 7, 1971, at 7:00 p.m. Brother Cleve Green will be the evangelist. Meals and sleeping arrangements on the grounds. (Bring your bedding if possible please.) Mail your reservations to:

Earl Wilson
Fairview Avenue
Granite Falls, NC 28630

The spring camp meeting at God's Acres, Newark, Ohio, will be held from June 25 to July 4, 1971, the first service beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 25, 1971. Lodging on the grounds on a free-will offering basis. Meals can be purchased in the dining hall or lunch stand located on the grounds.

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April 28 - May 2, at 310 W. Willard Street, Muncie, Indiana. Three services daily: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Evangelist will be Emerson A. Wilson from Newark, Ohio. Meals and lodging on grounds on free-will offering plan. For information or reservations, write to:

Paul Everhart
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