

# The Gospel Trumpeter

JUSTIFICATION

SANCTIFICATION

UNITY & TRUTH

SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

I  
have no  
greater joy  
than  
to hear  
that  
my children  
walk in truth.

3 John 4

*In Memory of Brother E. A. Wilson*

Pastor  
of the  
Church of God  
Newark, Ohio

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

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

Ron Albaugh Printer

**THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:**

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

**SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS  
PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH**

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

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**Editorial**

The Church of God congregation at God's Acres deeply mourn the passing of our beloved pastor of 32 years.

We are a blessed people to have had Brother Emerson A. Wilson as our pastor these many years, and this community is a better place to live because of his godly influence.

The late Emerson A. Wilson was the son of the late Pastor & Sis. W. A. Wilson. Sister Opal Wilson is the daughter of the late Mr. & Mrs. Walter Smith of Crooksville, Ohio. They are the parents of Thomas, Walter, Susan (Mrs. Darell Wolfe), Tim, Terry, and Sandra (Mrs. Steve Abbott); and grandparents of twenty grandchildren.

In 1954 the congregation purchased the land on Route 79 North. This land was for the development of a future church camp grounds. On October 2, Bro. W. A. Wilson and Bro. Emerson A. Wilson stood viewing the grounds, which were to be called God's Acres. He told his son the vision God had given to him for the grounds. He said, "They will come in from the east, west, north and south, but I will not be here for the first meeting." That night God called that faithful pastor home. Amid sorrow God supplied the congregation with courage and wisdom to continue the plans for God's Acres.

The Spirit-filled congregation prayed for divine leadership in seeking a pastor. God heard the prayers of His people on Sunday, October 10, 1954. Bro. E. A. Wilson, who had been ordained in August, was ready to preach from the Book of Matthew. God spoke to him and said, "After the death of Moses, I spoke to Joshua. I would not speak to you as long as your father lived. I had a leader, now he is dead. Turn over to Joshua 1:1-9." As Brother Wilson read that Scripture, God said to him, over and over, "Be strong, be of good courage, be careful to follow

My instructions and you will prosper."

As he stood to preach that morning, he read, amid the tears, the Scripture Joshua 1:1-9. He knew God had placed the mantle upon his shoulders to pastor the congregation. Following the Scripture reading, Bro. Louis Stargell stood and said, "Brothers and Sisters of this congregation, God is placing His hand upon Bro. Emerson Wilson to be our pastor."

On June 26, 1955, the land on Route 79, now called God's Acres, was dedicated to the glory of God. Also at this time the recreation-dining hall building was completed. The barn was restructured to be used for the summer evening services and camp meetings. The first camp meeting was held in 1955.

As the years progressed, attendance doubled at the church on Sixth and Locust Streets. A vision from God was given to our pastor for the erection of a new church tabernacle at God's Acres. God had already placed in the congregation the skilled help and other laborers needed to do the work, which was started in 1967. Dedication for the new tabernacle was on June 29, 1969. Our prayers were, then as today, that many sinners would find refuge for their souls and the sick would find healing for their bodies.

Bro. Wilson has held evangelistic meetings throughout the United States and Canada. His missionary trips have been to the Philippines, Haiti and the West Indies. The congregation supports mission work in Haiti, Philippines, India, and Africa. During these years of leadership, the congregation has granted hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest-free loans to other congregations so they could remodel and buy church buildings.

Through God's leadership, Bro. Wilson was shown the universal need that deep within the heart of every individual is a desire to know God. Thus, in 1971 a print shop was opened to publish the magazine *The Gospel Trumpeter*. This monthly magazine is mailed to 25,000 subscribers throughout the world. Booklets, tracts and Sunday school literature are also published.

(Continued on page 8)

2 Corinthians 5:13 For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God: or whether we be sober, it is for your cause.

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.

16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed

away; behold, all things are become new.

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

# Are You A New Creature?

Brother E. A. Wilson

## Wondrous Qualities of the Church

If you are truly a son of God, the world does not know you. You are as much a mystery to the natural mind of man as Jesus was. They do not understand you because they did not understand Him. If you are a real child of God you are just like Him.

In verse 13 of our Scripture text, he said, "For whether we be beside ourselves . . ." The Apostle Paul had the same charge put on him, time and time again, that Jesus did: they said that he was beside himself. In another place they said that much learning had caused him to be mad, or to lose his mind.

Mark 3:21 reads, "And when his friends heard of it [Jesus had been casting out devils], they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself." His own friends, or another Scripture says His family, said that He was beside Himself. Why? The claims He made were too high for any man on this earth to make, except God Himself.

His own people thought He was mad because He claimed to be the Son of God and He claimed to be equal with God. Even though His friends, His mother, brothers, and sisters in the flesh did not know Him, the devils knew Him; the spiritual world knew Him.

Let us read Mark 3:11: "And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God." The unclean spirits knew Him; but when He told His friends that He was the Son of God, they wanted to slip up behind Him and cease Him because they thought He had lost His mind. Mark 1:34 says, "And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him."

At Corinth, the Apostle Paul was lifting up such a standard that they said he was beside himself. People could not deny the passion, the enthusiasm, and the unwearied zeal Paul had for the cause of Christ; that is what shook them. There was something about Paul that caused him to waste his physical strength, his physical body, and they were saying that he was going to extremes.

The qualities that were the wonder of the morning-time church are still the qualities that make the church a wonder in the eyes of the people. The world charges the church with extremes, being beside ourselves. When we lose that vital passion and zeal, we fall to the level of other religions, and people will not give us a second look.

Those people in Paul's day recognized that something was different

about him. They could not deny the facts, but the truth is, they could not rightly interpret them. This is the trouble yet today. When the facts are there, they are undeniable, and the world still gets troubled about it.

In Paul's day, and even more so today, people say it is mass fanaticism and that you are going overboard. Listen to Paul's answer. He said, "For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God: or whether we be sober, it is for your cause." In other words, Paul was saying, "Yes, you people are right. I am beside myself. I have quit serving myself and living for selfish ends. I am living for God; I have given myself to God."

In verses 10-11 he said: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body . . . Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men . . ." Paul was letting them know that he was taking it soberly and seriously for their cause.

## The Love of Christ

In verse 14 Paul began to give you the reasons, and I want you to read it slowly because I want you to notice something. "For the love of Christ constraineth us . . ." Paul said "the love OF Christ." He did not say the



love to Christ, or the love for Christ; that will not constrain you.

No one loves Jesus enough that that love will give you a passion. It is the love OF Christ, the very love Christ has, and when it gets into your heart, it will make you act just like Jesus acted. Too many are trying to stand on the foundation of, "I love Jesus too much to fail Him." No, you do not. Your love is not strong enough; your love is not constraining enough.

If the very love that Christ had in His heart is in your heart, you will not need committees and committee meetings to stir you. The sad part is, today in too many cases, this love of Christ has waxed cold; the people are not constrained. You will not have to worry about people being constrained that go beyond the call of duty: you cannot even get people constrained to do their duty. People take it so lightly. We have to go to the Judgment; we must give an account of the deeds done in the body.

The devil, working through the devilish television and the movies, has Americans just laughing their way into hell, just as lost as they can be. Many do not give the least thought about their souls, and if you talk to them and try to get them to think soberly about it, they get peeved at you. Why? The spirit of pleasure, the spirit of entertainment has a great hold on them. My! How the flesh is calling out for entertainment today!

That spirit will not leave you and me alone; we must be careful. That spirit is loose in the world. The devil has the world, and he is working on the Christians. Do not forget that, according to Revelation 20:9, those devilish powers have surrounded the camp of the saints. The Gatling guns of Satan, with all the false spirits that he can muster up, are being shot toward the hearts and minds of God's people.

What is the love of Christ? Love to men. Christ did not love Himself: He loved the church and gave His whole self for it. If you get the love of Christ burning in your heart, you will do the same thing. Paul's way will not be

strange to you. Oh, you may not lay in cold jails and basements of the jails like he did, but there will be something burning in your heart that puts the work of God and the work of the church far above anything else in your life; it will not be hard.

### A Constraining Force

Somebody may say, "I have to make a decision. I have been invited out for the evening, and revival is on. Pray for me so I can make a decision." You are telling on yourself! The love of Christ is not constraining you. You will start shaking this old world when your reply to their invitation is, "I thank you for asking me out, but I cannot come because revival is going on."

"Well, why do you want to go there?"

"The love of Christ constrains me."

The word *constrain* means "compel." In the Gospel of Luke, the same word is used. "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in . . ." (Luke 14:23). There is that constraining force of the love of Christ. This is what many are lacking today.

That same love can be seen when Jesus needed twelve men to help Him; He was all alone. I see Andrew, a tax collector, busy taking in taxes and handing out receipts. All at once, the shadow of a man moved over him and a stranger stopped him, saying, "Andrew, come and follow Me."

I see another man who had his entire life's earnings wrapped up in a boat and some nets. It was everything he possessed. One day, a shadow fell over him; he looked up, and there was a stranger who said, "Come and follow Me. I will make you a fisher of men."

Then I see the Apostle Paul, who when he was called Saul was one of the devil's greatest tools. He fought the Church of God; he was out to kill and destroy it. He was so worked up against the truth that he was ready to destroy it himself. Going down the road to Damascus, with papers in his pocket to put the Christians in jail, he met Christ. A light shone down

brighter than the noonday sun. He fell down and looked up, and said, "Who art Thou, Lord?" Then he said, "What wilt Thou have me to do?" A bull-headed man became so easy to handle.

Christ told him to go on into the city where he was headed, but instead of killing the Christians, he told him to go over to a street called Straight and wait there, and he would be told what to do. He was meek as a lamb. Ananias, one of the fellows Paul was going to kill, told him what he was to do. Then, thank God, Ananias laid hands on him and the scales fell from his eyes. He was filled with the Holy Spirit and the love of God was shed abroad in his heart.

The Bible tells us that he walked right out on the streets and preached the very thing that he had fought against. It did not take committee meetings or a ministerial assembly to get him straightened out: it was the love of Christ that brought the great change in his life. From that day forward, the love of Christ constrained him. He had such a constraining force in his life that it caused him to go night and day.

Too many today lightly test their love by determining whether or not they hate somebody. Well, thank God, if you can truthfully say that you do not hate anyone, but friend, why not put this test on your life: Is there a working force within you that compels you to go far beyond what the religious world does? Some have not even come up to their standard yet. They have no constraining force within. Many have been led astray to feel that the only hope of their salvation is by works.

This constraining force that Paul spoke of, and it is what we must have to truly be the Church of God, will put us to work for God beyond anything that man can come up within religious institutions. You need to take a look at what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us that we could be called the sons of God. What manner of love is it? The same love that was in Christ and the same love that was in Paul; it is the same love that is shed abroad in our hearts by

the Holy Ghost.

### **A Change Takes Place**

Oh, what changes take place when we become new creatures! We can be thankful for the testimony of deliverance, but every one of us needs to answer the question: Are new things happening in my heart and life? There is a song that says: "Is the Spirit glowing in your heart? Oh, my brother, can you say, that you feel the burning love of God in your bosom day by day?"

In the fifteenth verse of our Scripture text, notice that Paul pointed to the love of Christ when he said that Christ died for all and rose for all. He died for the whole world. Why? The whole world is lost without Him. Paul said that since He died for all, then all were dead. The Bible makes it clear that every child who comes to the age of accountability goes into sin.

Then he began to narrow it down a little. Not everybody has accepted life through Jesus Christ; not everyone is being made a new creature. Everyone gets the opportunity to hear the Gospel, but not everyone will accept it. So he said that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him who died for them, and rose again.

My friend, Paul made it very plain that if we really live for Christ, a definite change takes place; we no longer live for ourselves. This is one of the hardest things for people to really lay hold of and understand and practice. The work of God suffers today as never before; not from worldly men, rather it suffers because God has to wait until you get what you want to do done so that you can get His work done. There are too many not really living for God. You may testify that you have been saved for thirty years, but you are not living according to this standard. There is too much living to ourselves.

In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Paul preached a truth to the Church of God to set them straight. He said: "What? know ye not that . . . ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price [the precious blood of Jesus];

therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

Young people today want to go wild over sex and do not want anyone to say anything. If you do say anything to them, their answer is, "This is my body. I will do what I want to do with it." No, it is not your body, and you will not do what you want to do with it without suffering the consequences. No one is doing what they want to do when they suffer the consequences. They may do what they feel they can find pleasure in, but hooked right onto it are the consequences that go along with it. God is still in control. You cannot do wrong and get by.

We, as the church, are doubly indebted to God. Why? First of all, we are all God's offsprings. We belong to Him because He made us. The Book of Job lets you know that He was right there when the conception was made in your mother's womb. It was God who gave you life. The earth is His, the world and the fullness thereof.

When we hear the Gospel, and confess and forsake our sins, we are doubly bought by the blood of Jesus Christ. We ought to be the last people in the world who would live unto ourselves. Oh, how this truth needs to shine forth: the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ bring a great change to those who will accept it.

### **No Longer a Christ After the Flesh**

Paul was dealing with folks who had walked with Christ; they knew Him after the flesh. The sixteenth verse of our Scripture text reads, "Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more [after the flesh]."

Church of God, if you will open your hearts to the Holy Spirit, He will clear you up on this supposed-to-be double-cleansing, living with Christ, and then getting Christ in you. Paul was nailing down a very simple truth. He was actually dealing with people

(this was A. D. 55) who had walked with Christ. They had followed Him, heard Him teach, and watched Him work miracles. They knew Him just as the disciples did before Pentecost, with a knowledge that fleshly acquaintance could bring.

It is sad to see how many are holding on to Christ after the flesh. If we do not get our eyes turned away from the past, God cannot help us. When I talk about Christ after the flesh, I am talking about His fleshly body that He walked in before He went to the Cross. When He died and rose again, He received a glorious body; He became a spiritual Christ.

Paul was telling them that since Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, we have stepped into a spiritual age. To go back and try to fit that fleshly Christ into our experiences today only brings confusion because that day has passed and is gone. A great deal of the preaching on the radio is about Christ walking about Galilee, the works He did there, and the things He said there. They bring people to an experience of Christ being with you.

Christ spoke of a greater day that would come than just having Christ after the flesh who walked with men. We need to realize that the world is moving on, and the revelation of God continues right on. I repeat, we have moved far beyond the scenes of Galilee. They knew him well by fleshly acquaintance, but they did not know who He really was.

When Christ was in the flesh, He was hemmed in; He could only be in one place at a time. He could not dwell in the hearts of men; He was just with them. The Bible is very plain if you will just look. We are living in a different age. Since the Day of Pentecost, He has never walked *with* anyone. Today we cannot come to the Lord or follow Him unless we receive Him as an eternal Spirit.

### **A Spiritual Christ**

In 2 Corinthians, Chapter 3, Paul talked about Moses putting the vail over his face because they could not look to the end of that which was

abolished. What was abolished? The old Law. What was the end of the Law? Paul said in Galatians that Christ was the end of the Law. They could not look to Christ because their minds were blinded.

Let us read verses 14-17: "But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord [read closely], the vail shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

What is the Lord now? He is that Spirit! Jesus promised the disciples when He was with them that He would send another Comforter. He said that He was with them, but He would be IN them. In John, Chapter 14, Jesus told them, "If you love Me, keep my commandments, and in that day, the Day of Pentecost, My Father and I will move in and make Our abode in you through the Holy Spirit."

Now we are dealing with the Lord as a Spirit, not in the flesh. He never wanted to walk with people: He wants to be IN you. Until His blood was shed to take away man's sin, He could not dwell in man; but when the price was paid, when Christ went to Calvary's Cross, and died, rose again, and ascended to Heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit. Now Jesus Christ is an eternal Spirit. He is the One you are dealing with, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

We are going to have to do just as Paul said. Too many people are not ready to lay hold of the truth that God is opening up. God is leading us back to the path of truth that the morning church walked in. Jesus told those disciples that in just a little while the world will not see Him, but they would see Him. He was not talking about His Second Coming. He was talking about His returning as the Spirit of God. Glory be to God! I am so glad for truth! We are in a Holy Spirit dispensation. Jesus Christ is dealing with the hearts of men

through the power of His Spirit.

Jesus' own mother did not know who He was. From the time the Holy Ghost overshadowed Mary, she pondered in her heart over every move that was made. When you ponder over something, it means that you do not understand it. When Jesus became old enough for circumcision, He was brought to the temple and Simeon took Him in his arms and said that mine eyes have seen thy salvation. Mary kept all those things and pondered them in her heart. When they led Him to the Cross to be crucified, Mary could not understand it, but thank God, when the Holy Spirit came, she received understanding.

Christ never will be a fleshly Christ again; He was not a fleshly Christ when He ascended into Heaven. The angels that spoke to those who waited at Bethany said that this same Jesus who went away will come again. What kind of Jesus went away? A spiritual Christ.

#### A Greater Experience

The world yearns for a Christ after the flesh. People who want a millennium want a Christ after the flesh to sit on an earthly throne and fight with carnal weapons. According to 1 Thessalonians 4:17, Jesus will never touch the earth again. When Jesus splits the clouds, we are going to rise to meet Him in the air, yet many are holding out for a fleshly Christ. How this truth needs to be proclaimed.

The least child of God that is truly born again today knows more about Jesus than His disciples did when they walked with Him before Pentecost. People today envy those disciples, but I want you to see what a blessed day we are living in. Thank God we can rejoice in a greater experience and a greater knowledge of Christ than men could who only knew Christ in the flesh.

Isaiah 53:2-3 tells us of Christ in the flesh: ". . . he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief . . ." This is

a Christ after the flesh. Paul once despised Him; he lightly esteemed Him and fought against Him and His cause.

Now that same Christ who walked in the flesh as a man of sorrows is Christ in the Spirit. Now He is Savior and Lord. He is the King of kings, and He is altogether lovely. It is in Him that we make our abode. The loveliness of Christ never came out until after He went to Calvary's Cross, died, and rose again. The power of the Holy Spirit was then afforded for man to understand Christ and to understand just exactly what He is doing and what He has done for us.

My friend, I want you to see that this spiritual dispensation is much greater than when Christ walked in the flesh. Jesus Himself said in John 16:7, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient [The word *expedient* means "advantageous." In other words, it is better.] for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." Many people are living short of their privileges, wishing that they lived when Christ walked in the flesh. Our day is much better than that day.

Listen to the words of Jesus in Luke 11:27-28: "And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."

I want you to understand the truth of that verse. The relationship between a mother and a babe is the closest fleshly relationship that people can have. That fleshly connection is a blessed relationship, but thank God, it is more blessed to hear the Word of God and keep it.

Let us also read Matthew 12:47-50: "Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother

and my brethren? For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."

What was He talking about? They were His mother and brethren in the flesh, but not to a Christ in the Spirit. They that hear His Word, obey it, and walk in the light of it are the brothers, sisters, and mother to a spiritual Christ. Those who saw Christ in the flesh and walked with Him every day were timid, feeble, and sluggish. Every one of His disciples fled when the test came. If you would have been one of them, you would have fled too.

### **Are You in Christ?**

We are in a day and time when power is given. Jesus promised that in this day you would receive power and that He would receive you unto Himself. Since the days of Christ after the flesh are gone forever, we cannot liken someone who is born again as walking with Him. The time of walking with Him came to an end when the Holy Spirit dispensation came. The Scripture said, "The Lord is that Spirit."

The Lord made it so clear in verse 17 of our Scripture text. It reads, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature . . ." I want you to notice that Paul never used expressions of being with Christ or Christ being with you. His expressions were always "in Christ." Paul's great prayer of determination was that he might be found in Him.

Many have the experience today of being with Jesus, using that term in the broadest sense. You may ask, "When are you with Jesus?" If your Sunday school teacher is filled with the Holy Ghost and teaches you, you will be with Jesus while you are in that Sunday school room. If Mommy and Daddy have Christ living in their hearts and they teach you in the home, you will be with Jesus.

After Christ rose from the dead, He had to go and round up all the disciples to get them on that mount in Galilee. When Christ joined them, they did not know Him, and after He left, they said, "Did not our heart burn

within us, while he talked. with us by the way?" (Luke 24:32).

The only way that people are brought to the place of being with Jesus today, since He is a spiritual Christ, is when they are around someone who has Jesus in his heart; however, that does not make one a Christian. There are plenty of sinners who have walked with Jesus. They are with Him as someone brings the Gospel to them.

What does it mean to be in Christ? Let me illustrate it to you this way: Fathers and mothers and children may live together and be with each other every day, but even though they are with each other, the innermost thoughts and feelings of their hearts are not known. A father and mother can tell when there is something wrong with their children, but sometimes it takes quite a while to get them to tell you what is bothering them.

Even though we are with our children or our companion, we do not definitely know all that is going on down inside them. The only way that you can know what is going on down inside someone is by what he tells you. The same thing is true of real salvation.

Paul taught it this way. He said in 1 Corinthians 2:11, "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?" He went on to say that even so the things of God knoweth no man but the Spirit of God. We may be with Christ just as the disciples were, and yet never be able to enter into His real heart and mind, His feelings and His love. His innermost feelings and the moves He made were a mystery to them.

To be in Christ, you have to enter into His soul. You have His Spirit and His mind; you are right down inside Him. The disciples were with Christ, but they did not know what was going on inside Him. Then, thank God, when He died on Calvary's Cross, He poured out His very Spirit. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:16 that we have the mind of Christ. We have the love of Christ and the feelings of Christ. First Corinthians 12:13 tells us, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one

body [the body of Christ]."

### **A New Life in Christ**

The veil of Christ's flesh kept man from seeing what was going on inside Him. Thank God, when He went to the Cross and the veil of His flesh was rent from top to bottom and His heart was poured out, His Spirit was given. Now you and I can enter into the very heart of Christ and have the Spirit of Christ, the mind of Christ, and the love of Christ. The very feelings that were going on inside a fleshly Christ are inside the heart of every man and woman who has the Spirit of Christ.

To what extent is an individual a new creature? Certainly not in a physical sense. It does not change the color of one's eyes or make one taller. The principles, motives, aims, and purposes are changed inside a man. His whole state is changed when he becomes a new creature.

He was a child of Satan, but he is now a child of God. He was a slave to sin and his works were death; now he is free from sin, and the fruit of his life is holiness. He was full of pride and wrath; now he is meek and humble. Formerly, he had his portion in this life; now God is his portion. He no longer has his eyes on the things you can see with the natural eyes, but he has his eyes on the things you cannot see.

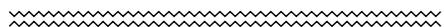
The things you can see with the natural eyes are temporal; the things you cannot see are eternal.

The world cannot understand this experience that God wants you to have. They will not go along with it, they cannot acknowledge it, and they cannot copy it. They will misjudge you. The secret of it is, you become a new creature. A new Spirit implanted within you gives you a new life. The constraining parts of the love of God are shed abroad in your heart by the Holy Ghost. It will give you zeal that men cannot match or understand.

The question is, Are you a new creature? When your life is wrapped up in the things of God, you want more of the things of God. You will not care about having more of the things of the earth. Church of God,

we are right on the brink of one of the greatest opportunities that God has ever given the church in any age. God is asking us (and He is requiring us to make a decision), "What are you going to do about it?"

Are you going to go on and try to serve God in a mediocre way? Is the love of Christ burning in your heart a bright and holy flame that causes you to go beyond the call of duty? What constrains you?



*(Editorial-continued from page 2)*

In addition the congregation saw the need to further spread the Gospel through the radio. The program, "The Trumpet Sounds," originated in 1977 at the recording studio on God's Acres. This weekly program can be heard locally at 8:30 a.m. on WHTH and WNKO each Sunday and many other radio stations around the world.

Around the camp grounds are 18 dormitories. The first dormitory was built in 1955 and the last in 1984. There is a dining hall, which will seat 320, a bookstore, lunchstand, bus garage, and men's shower house. For the summer camp meetings, we have 70 camper-trailer spaces.

The Bible teaches us that God led Moses through the wilderness, but it was Joshua who led them into the Promised Land. For the Church of God at God's Acres, it was Bro. W. A. Wilson to whom God gave the vision for God's Acres. However, it was Bro. E. A. Wilson, under divine leadership, who fulfilled that vision.

He was a man of God in every respect and is greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. His life will live on. As it says in the Scriptures "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord . . . that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

It can truly be said of him as in 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith."

Our loss is Heaven's gain!

His family wishes to take this means of thanking each one who came by the church to pay their last respects to him, to the hundreds who

attended the beautiful funeral service, to those from Haiti, Cayman Islands, Honduras, and from all over the United States, for the many, many beautiful flowers, cards, and the food that was sent in, to Brucker & Kishler Funeral Home for their kindness, to Bro. Harold Kelly for his stirring message. For all this they say a heartfelt thank you.

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"The greatest gift that we could have given Heaven was Emerson A. Wilson. Our loss is Heaven's gain."

- Roger Decker

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Whenever I am troubled and lost in  
deep despair  
I bundle all my troubles up and go  
to God in prayer  
I tell Him that I am heartsick and sad  
and lonely too  
And that my mind in deeply  
burdened and  
I don't know what to do.  
But I know that He stilled the  
tempest  
And He calmed the angry sea  
And I humbly ask that in His love  
He'll do the same for me.  
And then I just keep quiet  
And think only thoughts of peace  
And if I abide in stillness  
My restless murmurings cease  
What a friend we have in Jesus  
All our sins and griefs to bear  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer.

## MY TESTIMONY

I am thankful for the privilege of sitting under Brother E. A. Wilson's ministry and for his stand on many biblical truths, one of which was the doctrine of divine healing. In a day when many have lost sight of the precious truth, our pastor practiced and preached divine healing in a manner in which inspired faith in God and His Word.

I, personally, have had the experience of being able to trust God for the healing of my body. Three years ago, when I was expecting our third child, I dropped a chair on my foot and developed blood clots. God gave me definite assurance through His Word that He was more than able to meet the need. The blood clots traveled to my heart and lungs, and I was in a serious condition for some time; but thank God, He came to my rescue.

My pastor and his dear wife visited and prayed for me many times, and he always assured me that he felt God was going to take care of it, and He did. I am here today because God is true to His Word and because of a faithful man of God who unselfishly gave his life for the cause of God and for others.

- Sis. Joyce Mangus

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"Brother Emerson Wilson loved without restraint."

- Harold Kelly

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There's never a thought God doesn't  
know  
And never an act He doesn't see.  
Every moment of our lives,  
He's looking after you and me.  
There's never a pain He doesn't share,  
And never a joy He doesn't send,  
Never a cry He doesn't hear,  
And never a heart He cannot mend.

There's never a wrong God doesn't right,  
Or noble deed He doesn't bless,  
Never a worthless soul to Him,  
Though it be clothed in shabbiness.  
Never a dream He doesn't know,  
Never a hope He doesn't share,  
There's never a day when God forgets,  
And never a time He doesn't care.

- Grace E. Easley

## A MIRACULOUS

# HEALING!

Mandy Elizabeth Green was born to the Clarence E. Green family August 17, 1981. She was reported in excellent health upon leaving the hospital. Around the age of 9½ months, we began to notice she didn't feel well. After many doctor appointments and tests she was diagnosed as having a very rare blood disorder called "Hystiocytosis."

There are hysticite cells that clean the blood stream; but in Mandy's case, they cleaned up her good blood. They also made moth holes all over her bones, enlarged the liver, and increased the size of her spleen to ten times the right size.

The day the doctor diagnosed the disease, he sent Mandy home with us and told us to make a decision what we wanted to do. After much earnest prayer, we decided we wanted to trust God.

As time went on, Mandy seemingly grew worse. Each time they took a blood test, she was needing a transfusion.

After 1 ½ years, a new doctor decided Mandy needed medicine. She suffered severely for 9 months from the medicine. When Mandy was so sick, she would point to the phone, and I would ask if she wanted me to call Brother Wilson and she would say yes. She lived on someone else's blood for 3 ½ years.

After all of this my husband said, "No more chemotherapy!" He said the worst thing that could happen was for her to die and go to Heaven. At this very hour God began to move with a great parade of miracles in Mandy's life.

Our precious Pastor, Brother E. A. Wilson, who wasn't just another man or pastor, he was doubly anointed,

special of God. Yes, God definitely had His hand upon him. From the beginning until the end of Mandy's sickness, he was always there when we needed him the most. He'd pray and the presence of God would surround us and lift our heavy burdens. His prayers always helped Mandy to be strengthened. His prayers would heal all our broken hearts, heal the wounds from mouths that would speak with wounding darts that would crush us in the most difficult hours of Mandy's sickness.

When Mandy would hemorrhage, as she so often did (2-4 times a week), we'd call Brother Wilson for prayer and he would be there waiting in his driveway for us to come. He would pray and off again to the hospital we'd go. Year after year we would go this route.

The doctors said any other child would have died. But they'd shake their heads and say they just couldn't understand why she would live. I'd tell them every time the same story. With tears of rejoicing how Pastor E. A. Wilson prayed, and they have all recognized it was God! Some didn't want to, but it was so obvious they had to believe. That thrills my soul and has put shouts of victory in my heart that no one can or ever will take out!

March 1986 was the greatest victory in Mandy's illness. That is when our Brother Wilson prayed after being told by us that the hospital did not want to transfuse Mandy anymore with hopes she would produce her own. (The hospital had tried not giving Mandy blood and platlets before, but it was disastrous and it always took Brother Wilson's prayers, begging God for mercy to lift her out of the jaws of death again.)

But this time he asked God to have mercy and pleaded with God to help her produce her own blood and from that day forth, she's NEVER had to have anybody's blood transfused into her body again. Her blood count is okay as of April 1987. They said she would never walk again because of her problems and overdosing of medicine that turned Mandy's bones to powder. But again, Brother Wilson prayed and God answered prayer. Today she is walking, skipping, and running.

This is why I sing and shout the greatest victory. Praise be to our God and praise God for our great, precious Pastor, Brother E. A. Wilson who kept his love for God and truth and the love for others like the boundless sea. Through all of this, our pastor was always there.

We, all in our family, have precious memories and love and respect for our Pastor. We miss him more than the tongue can begin to utter!

Let us all live to meet him at Heaven's gates and walk up those golden stairs together when it's our turn to leave this time world.

Love,

Mandy Elizabeth  
(Mandy means a gift I prayed for from God, and Elizabeth means dedicated to God)

Brother and Sister Clarence Green  
and all the children

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"I've never said this about anybody and I've never said this at a funeral before, but I wouldn't be afraid to change places with him (E. A. Wilson). I know where he is. I don't have a doubt in my mind."

- Larry Dishman

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"Brother Emerson Wilson has left a mark in the sands of time and he will always be a memorial to the ministry.

- Alvin Wilson

# Charles Wesley

Novella Preston Jordan



*Charles Wesley was forced to walk the last mile, although he was almost starved to death.*

"Sh-h-h!" The three young Wesley children muffled their Christmas greetings and laughter as they joined their older sister Hetty beside the open fireplace. In their excitement, they almost forgot about Baby Charles, born a week before Christmas, and lying so still in his cradle.

Charles Wesley lay there for two months, warmly wrapped in wool, never opening his eyes or moving his hands or feet. And then one day, as father Wesley looked at his eighteenth child, he saw the tiny eyelids flutter and heard a weak little cry.

"Susanna," he called to his wife, "I believe God will spare our baby. This child will help fill the emptiness we have felt since our six little boys went to Heaven."

The mother smiled through her tears. "Let us thank God and ask Him to bless Charles and make him a great and good man. Perhaps he will be a preacher and hymn writer like you."

God answered the prayers of Charles Wesley's mother and father. The weak little baby grew into a

strong, healthy man and became one of the greatest hymn writers of all time. Here is the story of what happened.

Before Charles could talk, he asked the blessing at meals by bowing his head and making motions with his hands. As soon as he could talk, he said his prayers every morning and every evening and memorized Bible verses his mother selected.

In the Epworth parsonage, the children's education began early in life. The day before Charles was five, his mother told him, "We shall celebrate your birthday tomorrow by beginning your schoolwork." She spent six hours a day with Charles, as she had with each of the other children.

The first day he learned the alphabet. The next day his mother opened the Bible to Genesis 1: 1 and taught him to read: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." When he learned that perfectly, they went on to the next verse. His mother always opened

and closed the school day with a prayer.

One day something happened that made Charles sad. Brother John, four years older, had gone away to school. Now Charles was the only boy at home. His oldest brother, Samuel, Jr., had entered Westminster School in London before Charles was born.

Family members were proud of Samuel and his fine record at Westminster. His excellent grades had helped him win a King's Scholarship, which entitled him to free board and tuition and placed him in line for a university scholarship. He was now a teacher in the school.

On one of his visits home, Samuel asked his mother and father: "May I take Charles with me to London and enter him in Westminster School? I promise to take good care of him."

Mother was silent for a moment. "He's only eight years old," she said. "Of course we would miss him," said the father, "but I think he should go."

Almost before he knew what was happening, Charles was seated beside Samuel in the coach going to London.

The big city with its tall buildings and old cobblestone streets fascinated Charles. He liked the school and studied diligently. Because of his friendly disposition, he made many new friends.

When Charles was fourteen he decided to take part in the school competition to win a King's Scholarship. Competition for the scholarships took the form of a mental and musical tournament in which the contestants tried to excel. Sometimes the battle of wits and skills lasted all day and into the night.

Charles had more than one reason for wanting to win one of the scholarships that were offered to the boy with the highest grades and most desirable character traits. In addition to the honor of winning, he would have his school expenses paid. Charles said to his brother, Samuel: "You have paid my expenses since I came here six years ago. Now I want to earn my own

way."

"I will help you," said Samuel. "I will coach you after school. And you must watch the King's Scholars to learn how they carry out their duties."

Each morning at five o'clock Charles heard the voice of a monitor as he went through the dormitory crying, "Surgite!" to wake the boys. When they knelt beside their beds, Charles listened carefully as the monitor led in the prayer responses. And the same monitor inspected the bed making, the floor sweeping, and even the washing of hands and faces.

By six o'clock Charles was in class. About the middle of the morning came the first meal of the day—a combination of breakfast and lunch. For this the boys lined up in rows. A King's Scholar stood at the head of each line and led the boys into the dining hall. When everyone was in place, a King's Scholar led in the prayer of thanks.

Charles learned much by keeping his eyes and ears open. But he still had much hard work to do to win a

scholarship. He had to spend many hours studying when he would have preferred to play instead. His favorite subjects for this preparation were music and singing, but all his grades were good.

When the big contest finally took place and the judges announced their decisions, Charles's name was seventh on a list of nine winners.

Although winning a scholarship at Westminster School was a great honor, Charles did not stop with that. By working hard and being friendly and helpful to his schoolmates, he won an even greater honor. He was chosen captain of the school, which had more than four hundred students.

In their favorite recreation, fist fighting, he was able to hold his own. Once he proved his skill in boxing when he rescued a smaller Scottish boy from a gang of bullies.

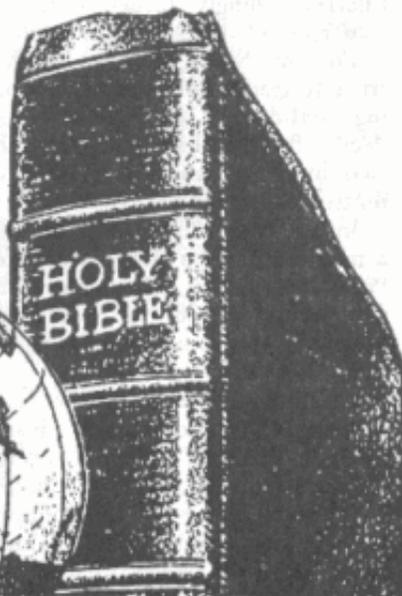
On Sunday, Charles had only a few steps to walk to worship services in famed Westminster Abbey. He and his schoolmates spent Sunday afternoon writing much of the morning sermon as they could

OUR MISSION IS TO "GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE" – MARK 16:15

THE COSTS OF THIS WORK CONTINUE TO RISE. YOUR SUPPORT IN PRAYER AND FINANCE ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED. – EDITOR



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"You can talk about me all you please, but I'll talk about you on my knees."

remember and translating it into Latin.

Before Charles reached his fifteenth birthday, he had to make one of the most important decisions of his entire life.

"There's someone waiting to see you in the parlor," one of his teachers told him.

When Charles entered the room he saw a handsome, well-dressed gentleman.

"I am Garrett Wesley, your cousin from Ireland," the man said. For some time this wealthy relative had been sending money to help with Charles's education. Now he had come to see his young cousin and to make him a most unusual offer.

"I have no son of my own," said Mr. Wesley. "I offer you the place of a son if you will come home with me. I would adopt you, and you would be the heir to all my fortune."

Charles had never thought he would have the opportunity to become rich. He had been poor all his life. Here was a chance for him to step into a home of wealth and influence.

He asked his cousin for time to think about the matter, and it was granted. If he accepted the offer, he would have no more hard work to do. No more getting up early and staying up late to study. And how he would like to help his poor preacher father and his mother; who had worked so continuously and was sick most of the time?

But what of his future? What kind of life would Garrett Wesley expect him to live? Would he have to give up his music and poetry writing? After thinking it over carefully, he gave the wealthy kinsman his answer.

"I thank you, sir, for your kind offer, but I must finish my schooling."

After Charles graduated from Westminster he entered Oxford University with a scholarship of one hundred pounds a year. Although he was not very tall, he had a handsome appearance and carried on an interesting conversation. But, like most college freshmen, he

wanted to have a good time while he was learning.

For a while it looked as if Charles would spend more time playing than working, but his older brother John, an instructor there at Oxford, stepped in with some advice.

"I want you to settle down, Charles, and lead a religious life."

"What?" asked Charles, "would you have me become a saint all at once?"

After John left Oxford, Charles decided his brother's advice was just what he needed.

"Diligence led me into serious thinking," he wrote to John. And thinking was not all Charles did. He and two of his friends formed a club for serious study. Because they studied the Bible and prayed and went to church services regularly, some of the students nicknamed their club the "Holy Club."

The members of the club planned carefully everything they did and carried it out according to a plan or method. For that reason they received another nickname, "Methodists." That named stayed with them years before the Methodist Church came into existence.

Soon after Charles graduated from Oxford he began teaching there, and so he continued to lead the "Methodists." When John returned to Oxford and joined them, Charles willingly turned over the leadership of the club to his brother.

For six years, Charles Wesley tried to lead a holy life by practicing self-denial and doing good deeds. But he, like Martin Luther two hundred years earlier, found no true happiness.

In January 1737 Charles found a new friend who changed his life. Peter Bohler, a Moravian from Germany, wanted to learn the English language and chose Charles to teach him.

As they came to know each other they talked about many things, especially religion. Peter Bohler tried to explain to Charles that he would not save himself. He must trust Jesus to save him. A

month later when Charles became very sick, he sent for Peter Bohler. After Peter prayed for his sick friend, he asked him, "Charles, do you believe you are saved?"

"Yes," replied Charles.

"Why do you think so?" Peter asked.

"Because I have done my best to serve God," replied Charles.

Peter shook his head sadly and left the room.

"What could Peter mean?" Charles asked himself. "Does he think I am not a Christian? I, Charles Wesley, a faithful member of the Church of England and one of its leading preachers? Could it be that I have never been saved from my sins?"

Charles got well and returned to his work. In April he visited his brother John. They talked about religion with each other and with friends. Some believed, as did Peter Bohler, that a man could not save himself. Charles argued with them.

Had he not grown up as a member of the church? Had he not lived a good life? Had he not given his time and best efforts to serving God? Yes, he could answer. Then what else should he do? He wanted to know the answer to that question more than anything else in the world.

Again he became sick, and again Peter Bohler came to see him. That time Peter brought a book that Martin Luther had written explaining how he had trusted Jesus as his Savior. Peter and Charles read Luther's book, and they read the Bible and prayed. Charles trusted Jesus as his Savior and, for the first time in his life, found true peace and joy.

His heart began to sing, and he reached for pen and ink to write the words of a hymn to express his joy. Here is a stanza of what he wrote.

*Where shall my wondering soul begin?  
How shall I all to heaven aspire?  
A slave redeemed from death and sin,  
A brand plucked from eternal fire;  
How shall I equal triumphs raise,  
Or sing my great Deliver's praise!*

Charles Wesley now preached

with new spirit and power. Before he was saved he preached that people should "awake to righteousness," but he could not tell them how to find that righteousness. Now he preached that people must repent of their sins and trust Jesus to save them.

Only then could they find righteousness, the righteousness of Jesus, not their own, for they had none. Charles Wesley preached the Gospel of Christ to everyone—rich and poor, white and black, educated and ignorant. He preached in many London churches, including Westminster Abbey.

Then some of the church leaders decided they did not want him to tell people they were lost and needed to trust Jesus to save them. That attitude hurt Charles deeply.

One day as he was about to enter the pulpit to preach, they stopped him. Leaders of other churches did the same, and soon he had no pulpit in which to preach.

The people who disliked his preaching also disliked his hymns because they, too, told people they needed to repent of their sins and trust Jesus. The leaders in the churches wanted songs that made them feel good.

Charles Wesley, always a loyal member of the Church of England, had been taught that he must preach in a building or on ground dedicated to God. What could he do now that he had no church in which to preach? He prayed that God would show him the right thing to do.

He thought of Jesus and John the Baptist, who had preached outdoors, and decided to follow their example. And that day he preached in a field to nearly ten thousand people. The throngs stood listening for hours. Many had never been inside a church. God blessed Wesley's preaching, and many people were saved.

One day near the end of summer, Charles joined his brother John at Bristol. That night they attended a meeting in a room at the horse fair building. Next day they visited members of the "Methodist Society," the name given to the groups of people who followed the Wesleys'

teachings. The brothers worked together. Both continued to preach, but Charles also wrote many hymns for the people to sing. At that time Charles was better known as a preacher. Now he is best remembered for the great hymns he wrote.

Sometimes the brothers traveled together, sometimes separately. Both of them deeply loved the poor and suffering people and desired to give them the Gospel message. Each had one purpose: to tell people about Jesus and His death to save sinful men. Both met with hatred and ill treatment from mobs and from ministers of the Church of England.

At Walsall, as Charles stood on the steps of the market house and preached, jeers and stones were hurled at him. At Sheffield, a military officer ran at him with a sword and held it to his breast. Charles threw open his shirt and smiled as he said, "I fear God and honor the king." The officer put up his sword and left.

At St. Ives in Cornwall, an army of rebels burst into the house where Charles was preaching. Of that experience, he later said, "Several times they lifted their hands and clubs to strike me, but a stronger arm restrained them." Finally the mob began fighting among themselves and drove one another out of the room. Then Charles resumed preaching. For that victory he wrote:

*Worship and thanks and blessing And  
strength ascribe to Jesus  
Jesus Alone  
Defends his own  
When earth and hell oppress us.*

In many places the town officials were ringleaders in the persecution. They forced people to promise never to listen to the Methodist preachers, or their houses would be torn down. There were other kinds of dangers and trials for the Wesleys. In the winter of 1744, Charles was caught in a blinding snowstorm. Drifts reached as high as his saddle stirrups.

"I walked to Sunderland and back again," he wrote. A few days later he rode to Spennithorne when he was so weak that he could hardly walk.

But he was forced to walk the last mile when he was almost starved to death. Some Methodist people came out to meet him. "I was led, I know not how," he wrote, "by the brethren, up to the knees in snow, the horses oftentimes sinking up to their shoulders."

In spite of all these trials and hardships, the work of the Wesleys prospered. Soon they enlisted helpers. Some of the helpers traveled with the Wesleys. Some went in other directions, preaching in new places.

The preachers went all over England and made several trips to Ireland. Everywhere they preached, the people sang the hymns that Charles wrote for them. Often he made up hymns as he rode horseback from town to town. Sometimes at the end of his journey, he would jump from his horse, run into the meeting-house, and call: "Pen and ink! Pen and ink!" He wrote more than six thousand hymns.

Charles Wesley also compiled many hymnbooks for use in the meetings. John appreciated his brother's hymns and spent much time editing to improve them. He once said, "Charles' hymns have won more people to Christ than my preaching has." Of course, not all the hymns he wrote were great. Most of them have been lost or forgotten. But the ones that have endured are many in comparison to the hymns of other writers.

Charles Wesley's hymns that we sing today are great because they express Bible truths arranged in good poetic form. Some of his biographers rank him among the chief lyric poets of all ages.

Along with his brother John, Charles Wesley is known as co-founder of Methodism; but he is best remembered as a great hymn writer. He is known as the "Father of Methodist Hymnody," because he wrote the first hymns for the Methodists and started the people to singing them.

God answered the prayers of Samuel and Susanna Wesley when He spared the life of their tiny, weak baby and led him to become a great preacher and hymn writer.

*Revelation 16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather*

*them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*

*15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his*

*garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*

# "Blessed Is He That Watches"

*Brother E. A. Wilson*

## **Armageddon**

We already have studied about the three unclean spirits gathering people to a place of final showdown. We explained to you what Armageddon was and where it was found. In the Old Testament, the geographical location was the southern slope of Mount Carmel; it was a place of battles fought and victories won. Even so, my friend, these three unclean spirits are working today to bring people to a final showdown. It is called the great day of God Almighty because it will be a day of crisis.

This conflict has been going on since the Garden of Eden and is coming to a final conflict very, very quickly. The great day of God Almighty will be a day when the issues will be plainly determined. I definitely believe that God is pulling back the covers and driving away the fog that has clouded men's minds so that men can be awakened to what the issue really is. We are coming right up to a time when there is going to be a final showdown. There have been some other times in the Bible and in the Revelation when there was a showdown. Brother, when the devil gets uncovered to a great enough degree, we will feel his hand. Mark this down, before this conflict is over, before Jesus splits the clouds, the conflict will be brought to a crisis.

As we have previously studied, Armageddon is not a literal battle; it is a battle of principles. The gathering of these unclean spirits is to gather

you as an individual into a place where your life and the influence of your life goes out against God and the Kingdom of God. The Spirit of God, on the other hand, is endeavoring to bring a people out where their influence stands for the Kingdom of God, or where God can seal you, as the Revelation uses the language, with the Father's name in your forehead.

Every one of us who understands this Scripture knows that this battle is a daily one. We are in it every day; we don't get any days off from this battle. There is nobody on furlough or sick leave. This is a battle from which no one is discharged as long as he is here on the earth. The only means of discharge is death, if you are a Christian. If you are not a Christian, you don't get discharged from the battle when you die; you get into it in a more heated stage than ever before. Whatever our deportment may be, whether we are in the home, on the job, on the street, we are in this battle daily. Even so, there is little to remind many of the fact that they are in a battle.

My friend, one of the great reminders is God's Word. Because the Word of God has not been preached as faithfully as it ought, too many people look to circumstances and say that we couldn't be in a battle. Friend, this is a deceptive battle. You can be in it day by day and not realize what is really taking place. My friend, the only way you can know at the close of the day whether you have overcome and been victorious is by looking right into the mirror of God's Word.

You can't look at circumstances and know whether you have been victorious. No, we are only victorious as the Word of God reveals the victory to us.

The very existence of such a battle is forgotten in too great a way in the daily rounds of life, and this is what the devil really wants. He wants us to get so taken up in the daily cares of life that we fail to realize and keep upon our minds daily that we are in a battle. When everything seems to be going well, you are in a battle. When you feel like you are blessed and that God is really holding you up, you are in a battle. Nine times out of ten, when the Lord is really blessing you is when you have to be more careful than at any other time. When you least feel a need to be careful is the very opportunity the devil is waiting for to make his approach and do his work.

My friend, we are quickly being led to the great day of God Almighty—the final Judgment. This great day of God Almighty is the final judgment, where the powers of evil will be physically shattered and destroyed right before man's eyes. We are heading toward that; every day puts us closer. The closer we get, the more the devil is going to work in his deceptive ways. Just look out for more deception from here on out than we have seen up to this point.

If we make it through victoriously, my friend, it is going to take a greater prayer life. We just might as well commit ourselves to it. Victory is going to require more constant com-

munion with God through prayer and the reading of God's Word. We must have daily strategy, daily understanding, daily help, daily life, and daily wisdom from the hand of God to make it through. Well, that really isn't difficult, not if you love God and love His Word.

### **A Christian's Weapons**

We are coming up to a final showdown where the powers of evil are going to be shattered. Now, friend, the devil knows that. He believes it and trembles, and he is going to be on the move as never before. In the meantime, Christ said in verse 15: "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."

We read in Ephesians 6:12, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Now, here is the battle point: we are warring against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Second Corinthians 10:3-5 tells us: "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations [or reasoning; here we begin to see that a great part of the battle is in the mind], and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

Here is where the battle is. If you have been born again and have a knowledge of God, the enemy is out to spoil that knowledge. He is out to switch you over to a profession and cause you to lose the true knowledge of God that you have in your soul. How does he work? Through our reasoning and imagination, he begins to set up high things. Any time you have a thought contrary to God's Word and you hold on to it, you are exalting your thoughts against God's thoughts and His Word. Whenever

the devil can get man to thinking that his thoughts are higher than God's thoughts, and turn down God's thoughts and go his way, the devil has worked a work.

If the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, what are they? The sword of the Spirit and prayer. There would not be so many people rising up against God, His Word, or His men if they would do more praying about it. Brother, if we ever get our minds clear and in the position that God wants them in, we must use the weapons of the Word of God and prayer.

Ephesians 6:1-18 tells us what our weapons are: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eye service, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.

"And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him. Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with

truth; and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

### **Watch and Pray**

In Revelation 16:15 Jesus warned us: "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments . . . ." This is an expression that Jesus used in the Gospels, when He said, ". . . if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up" (Matthew 24:43). Paul also used this expression, and in the Revelation it is used more than once.

False religion holds to the thought that Jesus is coming as a thief to steal away the church and have a rapture and all those things. There is no truth in that teaching whatsoever. Anywhere the expression of Jesus coming as a thief is used in the Word, it simply means "at an unguarded hour."

The Bible says that when He comes, He will "appear"; the heavens and the earth will be on fire. No one will be asleep. No, everyone will be awake, and everyone will be taken to a final judgment. When He says, "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments . . ." He merely is talking about this terribly disobedient age. It is an age when these frog spirits have been turned loose. They already have affected a good part of the religious world, and now they have centered their works on the true children of God. The devil wants our garments to become spotted.

Let's consider Revelation 3:1-3: "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God,

and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee."

Sardis was one of the first locations where the Gospel was planted in Asia. She was an old congregation that had been a powerful congregation for God, but when Jesus sent the letter to her, He began to point out that hypocrisy was there. People were saying that they were alive, but they were spiritually dead. Not only had hypocrisy set in, but a lamentable decay in their religion was the sin that Jesus charged them with.

Consider the things He pointed out and compare how many of them are true among people who claim to be the people of God today. They had a name of life (the Church of God), but not the principles of life. There is a vast difference between saying you are a Christian and having the principles of Christianity in your life. It is very easy to raise your hand and say, "I am a Christian," but it is altogether different to live out the principles of a Christian life.

Verse 15 of our Scripture text says: "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments . . . ." As Jesus told the church at Sardis of their sad condition, He said, "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain . . . ." The real cause of their sinful declension was that they had not watched. We are in this battle every day, and there is no time when you are awake when you don't have to watch. This easygoing religion that a lot of people are substituting for Christianity just isn't getting the job done. The Scriptures, over and over, instruct us to "watch" unto prayer. The Scriptures concerning our day and age deal with a lack of prayer.

Whenever we fail to keep watch, we lose ground. We must turn to our

watchfulness against sin, Satan, or whatever is destructive to the life and the power of godliness. The keynote of the message is that He is coming as a thief, at an unguarded hour. Maybe He will come and take you singularly in death, at an hour you think not. My friend, you may not be having the least thought about your battle coming to a crisis, to an end, but it can all be over in a second of time.

### **Spiritual Declension**

When Christ removes His gracious presence from a people, He comes to them in judgment. Christ only comes to you in one of two ways: He comes to you in graciousness, and if you spurn that, the only other way He comes to you is in judgment. His judicial presence will be very dreadful to those who have sinned away His gracious presence. According to these Scriptures, His judicial approach to a dead, declining people will be surprising.

Why was Sardis surprised when Jesus finally came and took them off the map? My friend, the very deadness of their experience kept them in false security, kept them from discerning His coming or preparing for it. When this spiritual deadness comes over people, there is a false security about them, and they are the last people in the world to get excited about anything spiritually. They can sit and sleep right under the preaching of the Word. When they are on fire, they are testifying, praying, and doing the things that go along with the fruit of a Christian experience. On the other hand, when this spiritual declension takes hold of them, you don't hear a thing out of them.

This is why Jesus said, "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments . . . ." These spirits are working on our individual experiences, symbolized by our garments. Brother, this battle brings us down to an individual state; we can't stand in groups or congregations. The congregation may be spiritual, but that doesn't help you a bit as an individual if you are not spiritual.

Revelation 3:17 shows the pitiful condition people can be left in when these unclean spirits get through with them: ". . . thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Every one of these letters was written to the pastors of the churches, and through them they were to be brought to the congregation. The reason more congregations are not getting the letters read to them is because they get hung up right in the ministry. History tells us before most of these congregations got in such a shape, before Jesus had to come and deal in judgment, Paul sent letters to them trying to awaken them, trying to get them to see their condition.

We read in Colossians 4:15-17: "Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house. And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea [if Laodicea had listened to this epistle, they would never have fallen under the judgment]. And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfill it." What was causing Sardis to decline? Archippus wasn't fulfilling his ministry. There would be a spiritual fervency in many Church of God congregations if the ministry would be true to the call and true to the ministry of God's Word.

### **The Laodicean Spirit**

Let us read Revelation 3:14-17: "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and

poor, and blind, and naked."

A look into history reveals that the riches this church boasted of were material riches. First of all, they certainly had not increased in spiritual riches. When they said they were rich, they were referring to spiritual riches, but they were looking at something else to make them feel they were spiritually rich. Spiritual pride and lukewarmness are produced many times by worldly prosperity.

It is only natural to want to prosper. If you have good, sound principles in your life, you will want to prosper. That is just as natural as wanting to stay clean, wanting a home, and wanting a companion. When prosperity comes, however, whether it comes in small amounts or great amounts, you have to be careful. You have to watch because it can bring spiritual pride and work a deception to the place of making you feel you are spiritually rich when you are not.

It is not enough to contribute worldly goods and consider the task done. Laodicea had done that; their treasures were full, prosperity was good, and they had contributed much in worldly goods. There is a greater zeal needed than that. The greater the zeal in your experience, the less will be the inclination to rely on what you have already done.

Let's read Luke 18:9, "And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others." These devilish spirits will switch you over from actually trusting in God to trusting in yourself. Here is an earmark of the Laodicean spirit—you trust in yourself that you are righteous and despise others. My friend, when this thing begins to work, the very fervent love of God for other people and a lost-and-dying world begins to cool and decline.

Let's read verses 10-12: "Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in

the week, I give tithes of all that I possess." Another earmark of this Laodicean spirit is that you go to measuring yourself by others. The Pharisee (verse 11) threw himself in a funny position, didn't he? The Bible lets us know that all men are either sinners or saints, but he wasn't either one—he was a hypocrite.

A third mark of this spirit is that you begin resting on the things you do. There isn't any profit in any of the things you do; salvation is a gift. Certainly it is necessary to walk in the light of God's Word and obey it, but when you are definitely doing that in the right spirit, you will never try to rest on anything you have done. In any case, it isn't what we can say that we have done; the question is whether or not we are like Jesus.

Jesus' inquiry of the church, in the light of the fact that He is coming again at any hour, is not "What have you done?" or "How much better are you than somebody else?" but "How much fire-tried gold do you possess?" Anyone who studies the Scriptures knows that gold tried in the fire points you right to real faith and love. These Laodiceans were miserable and deserving pity. They were poor in the wealth that should have been accumulated in the zeal of God's work. They were rich in many other ways, but they were poor in the wealth that can be accumulated only by faithful service to God.

The Bible calls it laying up for yourselves a reward. There is no reward for salvation; it is a free gift. The reward comes from your faithful, zealous labor. When it came to that, the Laodiceans were poor. They were blind to the real condition or their spiritual safety. They were spiritually naked. They were without the cloak of charity, or the fervent love that would have covered them. According to 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13, without divine love, we are nothing and we have nothing. If you will get the fervent charity, or the divine love of God, burning in your heart, it will produce zeal; it will produce faithfulness; it will produce watchfulness. It will produce all the other ingredients that it takes for you to live the stan-

dard and truly five for God.

### **We Can Be Ready**

We read in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3: "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." Whenever you allow the seeds of indifference, lukewarmness, carelessness, and apathy to be sown in your heart and mind by the devil, destruction will come. It is a fixed and settled law of God that no one is going to get around.

Verses 4-5 read: "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." Some people feel that all people will be surprised by His coming. Friend, He will never overtake us as a thief if we are ready. Jesus tells us in Luke 12:35, 36, and 38: "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants."

The Lord wants you to live with eternity in view; live every hour as though it might be the hour when the Lord will come. Have your house set in order. You may be on the job when a heart attack strikes you; there will be no time to go home and tell your wife that you are sorry for being grumpy that morning. There will be no time to go fix up anything. My friend, it is our privilege as children of the day to live every hour so that we are ready to welcome the Lord.

We read in 1 Thessalonians 5:6, "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." Again, Revelation 16:15 says, "Behold,

I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments . . . ." You have to get up and do something. Many times, we pray and God will reveal to us what we need to do, but the spirit of procrastination can cause us to put it off and fail to do God's will.

We are instructed in verses 6-7: "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night." There are two things on which Christians can become spiritually drunken. One is the cares of life. People get so carried away with the program of life that they fail to watch; they lose the real sober fact that Jesus could come this hour. Another thing we can become drunken on is the wine of Babylon's fornication. It makes you feel you belong to the church when you are not really a Christian. Let's stay sober.

#### **Are You Willing to Pay the Price?**

Paul said in verse 8, "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation." Faith and love are the two things which will stand the fire; they will stand the trial.

Someone may say: "It sounds as though Paul didn't think he was saved. It sounds like he was hoping to be saved." No, sir. Paul taught all through the Book that salvation lies in three tenses: past, present, and future. You may have been saved in the past, you may be saved in the present, but whether or not you are saved in the end will be according to whether you endure unto the end. You can become careless about the future, so you need to put on a helmet to hold the mind with this thought: "I am not fully saved. I haven't attained. I am just on my way. God has done wonderful things for me, but all I have to do is become careless, and I can be lost in the end." So we need to put on a helmet of hope for salvation.

We read in Romans 5:5, "And hope maketh not ashamed: because the love of God is shed abroad in our

hearts . . . ." If the love of God is burning in your heart and you keep it burning in your heart, you will make it through. The devil doesn't have enough traps to tear you down or destroy you. If you keep the love of God burning in your heart, thank God, you will make it through.

While the unclean spirits are doing their work, the Holy Spirit is also doing His best to gather a people and seal them with the Father's name in their foreheads. We are coming right up to the great day of God Almighty, the final judgment. Jesus is saying, "Behold [consider, stop, and think this over], I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." Jesus does not have an attitude of heart to want to embarrass us or to put us in a bad spot. As He pled with the church of Laodicea, He told her of her true condition. He offered her the gold, if she was he is home willing to pay the price.

He has a real experience for you. You may have lost it, but He has it for you, if you are willing to pay the price. If you will just repent, nobody will have to see your spiritual nakedness. Jesus deals with us individually, but if we refuse to repent, mark it down, your sin will find you out and your spiritual nakedness will come out before everybody.

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"Our whole family has precious memories. We loved and respected our Pastor more than the tongue can begin to utter."

-The Green Family

#### **TRIBUTE TO OUR PASTOR**

What can we say and what can we do?

Must we only mourn and grieve?

Why did God take him we want to ask

Did he really have to leave?

Oh, foolish children, God would say!

He's come to be with Me!

He was a servant for many years

But now he is finally free!

And I will take good care of him

His work and his worries are o'er

He is rejoicing, and he walks

with Me

Here on the faraway shore.

Yes, you will miss him, for you loved him much

But this is all part of My plan

And he has felt my loving touch

As he crossed the golden strand.

His memory you will cherish for many years,

And much good will be spoken of him

For he had a vision of the Kingdom of God

That had never faltered or dimmed.

The tears you weep and that fill your eyes

Had often filled Mine too.

For I saw the time and love he gave

In his ministering unto you!

Heaven's rejoicing now that he is home

And here with Me he must stay.

And if you stand true with love like his

You can come and join him someday!

Be glad for him that he is here

And has finally received his reward!

For the whole intent and purpose of life

Is to reach Heaven and be with the Lord.

He was faithful and true, but his work is done

So mourn and weep for awhile

But remember real life for him has begun

And in Heaven he is wearing a smile!

# FUNERAL REPORT

of

## Pastor E. A. Wilson

APRIL 15, 1987

On the evening of April 11, 1987, at about 8:30 p.m., God sent His Death Angel to 865 Cedar Run Road in Newark, Ohio, to relieve our dear Pastor from the burdens that he so faithfully carried.

Brother Wilson had been afflicted with a malignant tumor on the left side of his face and neck. As he said, "It certainly entertains me both night and day." Such was the illness since the 1986 winter camp meeting.

As you would probably guess, much of the time Brother Wilson was ill, he spent in time praying for others. No matter how intense the pain or how dark the way, God blessed him with sustaining grace. Although weary, he testified to many saying, "I'm not discouraged."

Through the whole affliction, he did not complain or question God. He was just the example and leader in this trial that God would have him to be. His sincere and unwavering faith was an inspiration to all.

Having a true heart for God's people, he carried the burden of the church, even on his death bed. His family believed his greatest burden was not of his own affliction, but that of the church.

Brother Sherm Romine led the congregation in the opening hymn "He's the Lily of the Valley." They then sang the old song "Jesus Loves Me."

Brother Roger Decker spoke in behalf of the Newark congregation regarding our godly heritage. He gave credit to Brother Wilson as a leader. He referred to him also as a man very close to God as the reformers were. He said Brother Wilson's anointing and humility were obvious. He closed by saying, "Our loss is Heaven's gain." Brother Decker then led in prayer.

The Newark Tabernacle Choir

sang "When I Wake Up in Glory." They followed this song with "Oh How Sweet to Rest in the Arms of Jesus." Several saints were shouting and praising God.

Brother E. Dieudonne (Haitian Mission Pastor) then spoke regarding the Haitian people and their love and appreciation for Brother Wilson. He referred to Brother Wilson as a great spiritual giant. Brother Esaie told what a great work dear Brother Wilson had done in the mission field and how the Church of God abroad would truly miss him. He asked for our continued prayers and support, but confessed that he was fearful of the future for the mission fields without this man whom they all termed as their Pastor. He said, "I don't know about you, but I will see him again someday in Heaven."

The Romines and Congers sang a hymn entitled "I Wouldn't Miss Heaven for the World." They followed it up with "I Wouldn't Miss It Would You?"

The Decker trio sang a favorite of Brother Wilson's: "For He Is God." Much rejoicing went forth as God blessed his people during the songs.

Brother Alvin Wilson preached about Brother E. A. Wilson's love. He said Brother Wilson had a heart full of love. Also, he had a peculiar and special gift in preaching God's Word. He said Brother Wilson was a leader of men and truly a prophet of our day. He said his motive was always to help and to be an uplift. In closing, he said he had the respect of the ministerial brethren and was personally a great help to himself. He was sure of Brother Wilson's stand and believed he fought like Paul—a good fight.

The Mangus and Decker quartet then sang, "I'll Lay Down and Leave It." Brother Harold Kelly then took

the pulpit. He spoke on the subject of "The Love of God." After dealing with God's love for us, he went to our love for truth, our love for Christ, and our love for the brethren. Oftentimes Brother Kelly referred to Brother Wilson as an example of a true Pastor and for his firm stand, yet in divine love. He spoke about his God-given ability to comfort and to encourage the hearts of the ministry and God's people. Brother Kelly encouraged the church to be led on by God. He said, "Surely we have lost a great leader and soldier," but he encouraged the local congregation to press on to gain the prize that Paul spoke about and to greet Brother Wilson again in Heaven. The saints rejoiced as he unburdened his heart.

Brother Fogle sang another favorite of Brother Wilson's: "Heaven Sounding Sweeter all the Time."

Brother Larry Dishman stated, after reading some Scripture, that "The greatest man of our day has died! He cannot come to us, but we can go be with him if we live pleasing to God." He encouraged everyone and challenged us to live in such a manner that we can see Emerson A. Wilson again. He quoted this poem:

"Weep not for me when I am gone,  
Cause I'm just going home.

Back to the bosom from which we came,  
With a body that's new and free.

No more suffering or pain for me,  
I'm going home to God.

If you must weep let your tears be sweet,  
Filled with love and hope.

Gratitude for what we've shared,  
And what we'll share again,

One day when we meet again,  
In the arms of God.

(Continued on page 26)



# The Home-going Of

## BROTHER E. A. WILSON

Services for Brother Emerson A. Wilson, 67, of 865 Cedar Run Road were held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 15, at the Church of God, God's Acres with Brother Harold Kelly officiating. Burial was in Wilson Cemetery.

Brother Wilson died Saturday evening, April 11, at home. He was born Feb. 26, 1920, in Licking County to the late William A. and Elizabeth (Davis) Wilson.

He was the pastor of the Church of God, God's Acres for 32 years; was active in the mission field of Philippines and Haiti; and an Army veteran of World War II.



**Bro. Roger Decker**  
"The greatest gift he left us was a godly heritage."



**Bro. Esaie Dieudonne**  
Brought heartfelt regards from the Church of God in Haiti.



**Bro. Alvin Wilson**  
11 Timothy 4:6-8, "I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith."



**Bro. Emerson Wilson**



**Bro. Harold Kelly**  
Psalm 46, "God is our refuge and comfort."



**Bro. Larry Dishman**  
Closing in prayer



**Decker trio singing,**  
"For He is God."



**Some of the ministers who came up under Bro. Wilson's ministry.**





## STATE OF OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

IN MEMORY OF PASTOR E. A. WILSON

On behalf of the members of the House of Representatives of the 117th General Assembly of Ohio, I offer heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Pastor E. A. Wilson at the death of this outstanding human being.

His personal sacrifices of time and energy to family, friends, and community will certainly live on in the memories of all those who knew and loved him. His eagerness for life and quiet self-confidence radiated joy and happiness to everyone who was associated with him.

The warmth and understanding which he always extended to others will stand as a tribute to a truly fine person. In his numerous roles as husband, father, and community leader, he led an exemplary life manifesting those virtues which we all seek to emulate.

Thus, I offer this token of profound sympathy to his family and friends.

Marc D. Guthrie  
Representative  
House District #67



In June 1955, God's Acres was set apart and dedicated to God.



Bro. Wilson helping construct a new bridge on God's Acres.



Preaching in Haiti, his burden for foreign missions reached out all over the world in Cuba, Cayman Islands, Philippines, Africa and India.

### AN ODE TO OUR PASTOR

Our Pastor was a shepherd,  
Who watched o'er his sheep;  
Though many times they wandered,  
And caused his heart to grieve.

He led beside still waters,  
And when the waves rolled high;  
With sin and Satan lurking,  
He kept a watchful eye.

He thundered out quite mightily,  
The precious Word of God;  
And sought the high and lowly,  
To win them back to God.

The sick, he ministered unto,  
And prayed the prayer of faith;  
That God might be exalted,  
By sending healing's grace.

The road has been rough and stormy,  
Time rushes by so fast;  
His desire was to build a building,  
That evermore will last.

Not of stained glass windows,  
Brick, stone, wood or steel;  
But one that's fitly framed together  
By the Holy Spirit's seal.

Sometimes he was embarrassed,  
By praise that came his way;  
And slipped around it gently,  
By saying, "It's time to sing today."

There is more that might be said,  
Of this Pastor, tried and true;  
His wife and children a blessing are,  
And shared this appreciation too.

But Heaven will mete out proper praise,  
To God's own chosen ones;  
Who faithfully the way have trod,  
And life on earth is done.



**Bro. & Sis. Emerson Wilson**  
**Pastor 1954-1987**  
**Over 32 years of faithful service**



Tapes of Pastor E. A. Wilson's funeral  
may be obtained by writing to:  
Stanley Wolfe  
318 Wayne Avenue  
Newark, Ohio 43055



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Thursday  
April 16<sup>th</sup>

Dear Mrs. Wilson,

Have been out of town and hence  
the reason you have not heard from me sooner.

The community has lost a great leader  
You can take solace in the fact that  
Pastor Wilson's work will have a long  
lasting effect in our town. He served  
as an inspiration to many of us. Few  
people are able to show such an impact!

My thoughts naturally go to you  
and your family. I can well imagine  
the myriad of thoughts you are experiencing

See joins me in expressing  
our heartfelt sympathy to you and your  
family

Wet Sincerely  
Bill Moore



**The bus and a large procession of cars  
leave the church for the cemetery**



**Bro. Harry Craig reading  
Scripture at the grave site**



**Sis. Wilson watches as her sons, son-in-laws, nephew, and  
grandson carry the casket to its final resting place**



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# MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

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## Prayer Burdens

We have great memories and appreciation for our late Pastor, Brother E. A. Wilson, who was always encouraging to my family and me over the last thirty-three years, especially during the many times when we needed counsel and prayer.

He and the congregation were very supportive during my recent illness. I had an incurable disease for six years. The doctors diagnosed it as Scleroderma, for which there was no known cure. I was nearly bedfast, preventing me from doing housework and other family duties. Along with pain and misery came hopelessness, which led into depression.

Brother and Sister Wilson came many times and prayed for me in our home. Brother Wilson would remind me of the woman in the Bible with the issue of blood for twelve years and that the Lord healed her and He could do the same for me.

There were many discouraging times when it looked very dark and lonely to me. I am so thankful for the Church of God congregation and a true pastor, who was very faithful to each and everyone. He always took the time if you were in need, day or night. He would be right there to help you in anyway.

I could not understand why I had to go through this illness. Brother Wilson would quote the Scriptures, telling me, "All things work together for the good to them that love the Lord" and "He would not put more on us than we could bare."

Two years ago the Lord came to my rescue and healed me of a disease that doctors reported as being incurable. Brother Wilson would remind me many times, "All things are possible with God" and that "our problem is that we limit Him."

While I was sick, my faith was strengthened when my mother be-

came ill with a cancerous tumor on the lung. One morning the doctors called our family in, describing her condition to us. They said she just had a short time to live. Brother Wilson came and prayed for Mother. On his way home, the Lord told him to go back and pray again. He always listened to God and did what he was told. Thank the Lord that he obeyed, and Mother was healed. She lived to tell others and was an example of what God can do.

We remember also over the years as my husband and I were raising our children, we had many questions that needed answered. We would discuss and pray about them during the week. To our surprise, on the following Sunday, Brother Wilson would bring the message that provided the answers. We thank God for divine leadership.

I am always glad to witness of what the Lord has done for us. Brother Wilson always told us you can't have mountains without the valleys. Having faith is the result of having many hardships in life, then through prayer, receiving deliverance.

I really do appreciate our faithful pastor, his wife, the congregation, my husband, and family who helped me through the trying times.

We thank God for the precious heritage of a true man of God that was our faithful Pastor, teacher, and spiritual leader for the past thirty-three years.

— Sister Roseanna Fox

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"The Church of God in Haiti has lost their father in faith— Brother Emerson Wilson."

— Esaie Dieudonne

**TENNESSEE:** Please remember my husband in prayer. He has a bad nervous sickness.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Please pray for our children to see the light.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Please pray for my husband to be saved.

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Please pray for my brother and nephew.

**PHILLIPPINES:** Please remember us in prayer.

**KENTUCKY:** Please remember my lost companion and my children.

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(Funeral-Continued from page 19)

Brother Dishman prayed the closing prayer and the musicians played the beautiful song, "All the Praises Should Be Given to My Jesus, for He's the One That Made Me What I am Today."

After the full house had emptied, the body was taken to Wilson Cemetery and committed back to the earth. Brother Harry Craig handled grave side services.

Brother Sherm Romine dismissed the grave side service with this song: "What a Lovely Name."

A sincere thank you to all from the Wilson family and congregation for every expression of love shown to us. May God richly bless you each one is our prayer.

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"I had complete confidence in Brother Emerson Wilson. I had absolute trust in him."

— Harold Kelly

*Exodus 33:15 And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence.*

*Zechariah 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying,*

*Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.*

# "My Presence Will Go With Thee"

*Brother E. A. Wilson*

## **God Is Jealous**

The surrounding context of our first Scripture, Exodus 33:15, tells of Moses coming down from the mountain, where he had just received the Ten Commandments. Because of the pitiful conditions into which the people had fallen, he broke the tables of stone.

The point we want to consider is this: that golden calf and those people worshiping it had broken a bond between God and Israel. God had told them over and over that there was no other God. He had told them to not worship any graven image or bow before anyone else.

God is a jealous God. In so many words He kept telling them, "I'm jealous! I'm jealous over you." In fact, in Exodus 34:14 He said, ". . . the Lord, whose name is jealous, is a jealous God." When they worshiped the calf, they broke the bond between themselves and God. God let them know that instead of His presence, He would send His Angel to guide them (Exodus 32:34). The reason being, if His presence came, He would kill every one of them.

His Angel was Christ. Who led Israel all the way through? Who was the One who appeared to Joshua and said, ". . . as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come" (Joshua 5:14)? Christ was the One who led them all the way to the Promised Land. Why did God send His Angel? There are types here, but Christ came, even in our day, to stand between us and a God who is angry with all wickedness. He has a way whereby God's presence, thank God, through His

Son, can be felt in our midst. We can have the sweetness and blessedness of having the grace of God, the wisdom of God, and the leadership of God without the very wrath of God being poured out on us.

God was dealing with a stiff-necked people. He brought them completely under the yoke of His Law and the bond of His covenant, but they had stiff necks. They were too stiff to bow. Yet today, God judges men by the temper of their minds. We know a man by what he does. God knows a man by what he is, and he does what he does because he is what he is.

Jesus came teaching in plain New Testament truth. He just took two trees, a good one and a bad one, and the good one can't bear bad fruit and the evil one can't bear good fruit. We do what we do because we are what we are. I know we are in a time of great hypocrisy, but people act the way they do because of what they are. We govern men by what they do, but Jesus knows them for what they are. We know what proceeds from man, but Jesus knows what is in man.

All you have to do is follow through the Scriptures, and you will see there is nothing more displeasing to God than to have His people stiffen their necks against Him. You can read of it from Genesis on over into the New Testament. God's people have the same disease today. There are countless millions who are strewn along the way of God, who could have been successful in their Christian experience, but they became stiff-necked.

## **The Value of God's Presence**

Let's consider the other Scripture text, found in Zechariah 4:6: "Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." It was needful for the prophet to be reminded of the source of his strength. The walls were being rebuilt in troublesome times, and it was needful that God remind the prophet. I believe He is turning our minds to it, also, to remind us that the work of God is not carried on by might or power, but by His Spirit.

My heart is stirred when I look upon the programs being carried on to try to get the work of God done. I'm not against programs and I'm not here to fuss over methods, but I am here to say that all is vain without the Spirit of God.

In Exodus 33:1, just after three thousand idolaters had been slain, God told Moses, "Depart, and go up hence . . ." In other words, "Get moving. We can't let this hinder progress." Then in verse 15 Moses said, "If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence." To Moses, it was better to die in the wilderness than to try to go on to Canaan without the presence of God. The very presence of God was held in a high, valuable position within the life of Moses.

If we are going to be victorious, if we are going to reach our destination with victory, then we must value God's presence in our lives, individually and collectively. Those who know how to value God's presence are those who will receive it. The reason God

isn't manifesting Himself in a greater way in many lives and in many assemblies is because His presence is not valued highly enough.

People need help, and it's going to take a mighty moving of God's power to help them. God is able to move in a mighty way, and He will when we put enough value on His Spirit. When the saints take hold and really pray, and the preacher preaches under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, heavenly manna will fall. Too many, however, want privileges without any prayer and blessings without any burden. All is vain unless the Spirit anoints and blesses. We need the Holy Spirit above everything else.

In Exodus 33:14 God told Moses, "My presence shall go with thee . . ." The treasures of earth and ocean may be exhausted, but all the demands and needs of redeeming humanity will never in time or eternity diminish the riches that are contained in that statement: "My presence will go with thee." God's presence is the highest blessing possible.

You don't read of the children of Israel mourning after three thousand had been slain, but they mourned (Exodus 33:4) when God said to them, ". . . I will not go up in the midst of thee . . ." (verse 3). The presence of God meant more to them than their slain kinsmen. If you are up to date with God, a real Christian, the presence of God does mean more to you than anything else.

The Psalmist said in Psalm 73:25-26: "Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever." The blessing of God's presence enriches all other blessings. It makes earth's blessings truly worth having, and earth's blessings are not the same without the presence of God.

We read in Psalm 16:11, "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." I repeat, all is vain unless the Spirit moves upon us.

## Our Source of Power

The plight of far too many churches today can be summed up in the words spoken to Jesus by the father who brought his demonized son to the disciples at the foot of the Mount of Transfiguration. His words were, ". . . I besought thy disciples to cast him out; and they could not" (Luke 9:40). Jesus then told them the reason they could not heal him was because of their unbelief.

I want you to see our position today. Without the Spirit we are powerless before a demonized world. Whether you want to believe it or not, the big end of the people we are meeting with and dealing with have the devil in them. You are just wasting your time when you think you can intellectually argue and reason them into serving God.

Church, we are dealing with devils, and without the mighty power of God moving in our lives, we are powerless in a demonized world. It was through the Holy Spirit that Jesus gave His disciples power over every power of the enemy. There is only one power that gives you power over every power of the enemy: He that is within you is greater than he that is within the world.

We can go along professing as the nominal religious world does, but when we have a real need, we don't have enough faith to have that need supplied. Friend, I don't find where God sent any source out to help and deliver the world, except the church. He did not commission psychiatrists, doctors, or educators. He commissioned the church, His followers, to go into a demonized world.

Men and women are following the course of this world because the devil has hold of them. Every worldly person has an unclean spirit; that's why they can't live holy. A lot of preachers have unclean spirits; that's why they fight holiness and righteousness. Brother, they don't need to gather around the table somewhere and reason something out; they need to be delivered from the power of the prince of the air. It's only the seed of

the woman, the church, that bruises the serpent's head.

We need to stop today and take a new look at our position. We are in a heated battle. We are in the battle of Armageddon, one of the worst battles that has ever been fought. There has been greater slaughter in this battle than any battle that was ever fought on the face of the globe. It is a battle of right against wrong, truth against error. The powers of evil are warring against the power of God. The Bible lets us know that we can be more than conquerors through Him that loves us. Jesus is winning, but He wants to win in a greater way.

The devil is working today to get us busy working by might, by power, and by strength. All he doesn't want you to do is lay hold of the Holy Ghost. If the Holy Ghost gets hold of your life, you can turn the world upside down, and there is nothing he can do about it. The devil is a believer. He has real faith; he puts works with it.

Never has the Church of God had more and done less than right now. Some of the reformers, who had much less understanding of truth, reached the world. They captivated souls in a greater way than we are seeing done today. What was their secret? They might not have had understanding of all truth, but they took hold of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit took hold of them.

A missionary once told about the chimpanzees. When they were in that country working, and they would walk from one missionary station to another, a lot of chimpanzees would follow along. When the missionaries would stop to gather sticks to build a fire, the chimpanzees would go gather sticks and lay them up. When the missionary would light the fire, however, the chimpanzee would only turn his head and look. He didn't know how to start the fire. Today, we have a lot of imitators; there are a lot of sticks being gathered, but too many don't know how to start the fire.

The devil has moved too many people from experience to performance. When Moses pled, "I won't go

up unless Your presence goes with me," he had a reason to say that. He had a reason for wanting God's presence, and the need is just as real yet today.

### Rest in a Troubled World

Why did Moses want God's presence with him? Exodus 33:16a tells us, "For wherein shall it be known here that I and the people have found grace in thy sight?" The only way to prove to the world that we have found grace in God's sight is by God's presence. The eternal security doctrine teaches "once in grace, always in grace," regardless of how you live. There is only one way, however, to show that you have the grace of God working in your life: God's presence.

When God's presence is there, you have power. Without God's presence, how are the people ever going to know that we have received grace? Grace is divine strength. Grace is militant glory, and glory is grace victorious. Wherever you see grace, you will see glory. You will see people who, by the grace of God, have been able to live victoriously.

If they have been able to live victoriously throughout the week, when Sunday comes, there is going to be some glory in the congregation. My friend, glory is grace victorious. His grace was sufficient to bring us through each day with victory. We did not have to yield to sin. We were able, by God's grace, to say "No" to the devil. When that happens, God is glorified in the midst. The world can even recognize the presence of God, and you are just wasting your time putting on.

The second reason Moses wanted God's presence with him is found in verse 14: "My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest." How I do thank God for that rest in the troubled world in which we are living. How the devil would like to cause us to try to work out our own problems by might and power. We chew our fingernails and wonder, "How am I going to do this?" All at once, the sweet Holy Spirit comes around and

says, "Don't you know, you are supposed to cast all your care on God?"

God has promised to fight our battles. Oh, the blessings that come in the presence of God. When God said that He would give us rest, He means that every inch of the way, in every circumstance of life, we can rest with the Lord.

Moses said in verse 16, "For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated . . . from all the people that are upon the face of the earth." The presence of God is what separates us from everything else.

Paul called it the unity of the Spirit. In New Testament language, it's the unity of the Spirit, and if you possess the Spirit of God, the very presence of God is living in your life. If the very presence of God is having His way in our congregations, it makes us separate.

I know it separates us from sin, from the world, and from false religion, but it is all because of the presence of God. Are you satisfied with the present manifestation of God's presence? I believe He is ready to do a greater work than we are seeing accomplished.

### Dependence on the Spirit

In 2 Kings, Chapter 4, we read of Elisha and the Shunammite woman. Because of the woman's kindness to

him, Elisha told her that she would have a son. Well, she did have the son, but after a few years, the boy died. Elisha sent Gehazi, his servant, to heal the boy.

Gehazi took his staff and laid it on the child, but the Bible tells us, ". . . there was neither voice, nor hearing . . ." (verse 31). The lesson is, the prophet's staff is no good without the Spirit and power of the prophet. We have too many Gehazis running around today: they have the staff, but they have no power.

When Elisha came, however, and prayed, the boy came back to life. Why couldn't Gehazi do it? Because he was an unfinished hypocrite. His heart was not right. Let's jump two miracles ahead – when Naaman was healed, Gehazi's hypocrisy and greed were exposed.

Friend, there is a God in Heaven who knows us today. Gehazis go about today, carrying Elisha's staff and going through the prescribed motions, but the dead don't come to life and the demons don't leave.

It is sad, but true, that many people fail to realize that they do not have the Spirit and power. The Spirit of God can cease His work, and they never know the difference. You can get carried away in your own spirit. The flesh can begin to take such a predominate place in your life that you can lose the Spirit of God and keep right on working. You feel that you are just as spiritual as you ever were until a test comes.

## REVIVAL

### REVIVAL:

The Church of God  
808 N. Trimble Rd.  
Mansfield, OH

Evangelist: *Bro. Tois Seay*  
Newport, TN

Service Time: 7:00 p.m. nightly  
6:00 p.m. Sunday

For information contact: Pastor Mike Rogers  
808 N. Trimble Road  
Mansfield, OH 44906

Telephone: (419) 747-5169

## Prove God True

Samson did not realize that the Lord had departed from him. Because he didn't know, he thought he could face his enemies as he always had done, but the Spirit of the Lord had departed from him.

Some feel that you can't lose out with God and not know it, but consider the churches in Asia. Ephesus was loveless and didn't know it. Sardis was lifeless and didn't know it. God help us to depend on the Spirit of God. Let's depend on Him in a greater way and not mix our own in with it until we get so wrapped up in our own that we grieve away the Spirit of God.

Samson did not know that the Spirit had left him, but there was a time when he knew that God's Spirit was present. When he met and slew the lion, the Scripture tells us, "And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he rent him [the lion] . . . and he had nothing in his hand" (Judges 14:6).

Many times the Spirit desires to come on us mightily, but we have too many things in our hand. There are no doubt many times when the Spirit wants to move in a mighty way, but we have carnal weapons of our own choosing. We are filled up with them. Did you ever stop to think that God Himself can't fill what is already full? Before many people get a real infilling of the Spirit of God, it is going to take some old-time repentance and emptying out of themselves.

The same was true in the case of Gideon. Their cry was, "The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon" (Judges 7:20). What is the sword of the Lord? In New Testament language, it is the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. God wants us empty-handed when we go out so we can be full-handed when we come in.

The Spirit comes mightily upon those who have nothing in their hand. Their complete trust is in God and in the Holy Spirit. We are in serious danger today of forgetting that it is not by might or power, but by the Spirit of God. Church, we can't meet the Goliath of this age in Saul's armor, and we are certainly facing a Goliath.

The Bible is one long record of men and women who dared to be utterly ridiculous in order to prove God true. As far as the world around them looked on, they were utterly ridiculous. They went off the deep end, putting it in modern terms. We are in a dry tree today. The time is dry, and if you really let the Spirit of God take hold of you and if you live as God wants you to, you must not get excited when they say you are utterly ridiculous. The things of the Spirit are foolishness to the natural man. Oh, how we need to be reminded of that. People don't even believe the miracles of the Old Testament; it is no wonder they don't believe they can happen yet today.

God has never changed. He is the same God who was the God of the morning church. They had so much power because, according to Acts 2:1, "They were all with one accord in one place." There were many things about which they didn't have understanding, but they were in one accord in one place.

What were they in one accord on? Jesus had instructed them in Luke 24:49, "Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." In Acts 1:8 He said, "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." They were in one accord on that. Brother, they all agreed that they couldn't do anything without the Holy Ghost. Because they were in one accord, they were in one place. When the Day of Pentecost was fully come, there was a rushing mighty wind that filled the house and then filled every one of them. They were in one accord on the fact that they could do nothing without the Spirit of God. Jesus' words still are, "Without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).

Consider the martyrs who allowed their hands to be tied, knowing what they were facing. They trusted the very Spirit of God to bring the grace and strength that was needed. How else could men, with their hands burnt off, lift up the stub and praise

and glorify God in the flames? The Holy Spirit made this world. He set up the forces of it, and He can handle every bit of it. A Holy Ghost who could calm the sea can calm your passions, or whatever needs to be calmed, if you'll turn it over to Him.

Someone may say, "Those people who dared to be utterly ridiculous would have been laughingstocks if it hadn't worked." Yes, they would have been, but the truth of the matter is, it did work. It works every time, and instead of being laughingstocks, they are blessings. They have been blessing and strength to people down through the ages of time. Too many are fearful about proving God true.

## Is Your Sufficiency in Him?

Today, we are being tempted to borrow the world's program, pep, paraphernalia, and personnel to build the Church of God. In any case, we cannot borrow the power that works the work of God. The world doesn't have it. They can't receive it; they don't even know Him.

There is no use looking into the world's catalog to get power to work the works of God. How are you going to work the works of God? Well, the Jews asked that, didn't they? We read in John 6:28 to get hold of that which we stand in need.

We have to come to the place where we know there is nothing good in us except God. According to the Bible, it is coming to the place where there is a death to self. It is coming to the place where no flesh whatsoever is able to glory in His Presence. It is then that God will move. Too many people don't know what a death to self is. I am here to tell you, it is needful for a revival.

Revival also demands an earnest, insatiable state of hunger for God Himself. This is one reason we don't see greater manifestations of God: we don't hunger for it in a great enough way. If we ever see God move, we have to hunger and thirst for it. I must hunger and thirst after His righteousness. Seemingly, it doesn't take too much righteousness to satisfy some

people.

Jesus promised in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God [God's will being done in my life, doing all to the glory of God], and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." One reason we don't see more of God is because there is not enough hungering for God. Too many are just satisfied to be saved, just to know God. That will never bring a revival.

### Love's Constraining Force

In Philippians 3:7-8 Paul talked about his experience: "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things [whether it is a good job, a fine home, or anything else, it is no gain to you if it hurts your knowledge of Christ, if it hurts your experience with God] but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ."

We only have as much of Christ as we win. There are lots of homes where there is no real love between husband and wife. Why? Because they don't work to win it. Some of you men would never have won your wife by treating her as you do now. You put forth great effort to win her love, and if she wanted you, she put forth great effort too. Then after you get her, you relax. There are homes where there is no love. They live together because they are respectable. They don't believe in divorce, and they want to keep a home for the children, but there is no real love there. The reason there is no real love in many marriages is because they don't put forth the effort to win it.

Now the same thing is true with Christ. Paul suffered the loss of all things and counted them as dung so that he could win Christ. What did Paul want to know about Christ? Verse 10 tells us, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings . . . ." Too many people don't

want to know anything about Christ's sufferings, but you will if you fall in love with Him. You will want to know the power of Christ's resurrection in your life.

When you get the power of Christ working in your life, it will call for some suffering. Why? People are not going to understand you a bit more than they understood Christ. Jesus' own people didn't understand Him. The love of Christ within Paul's heart constrained him to the degree that he went beyond that which the world could understand, and the same thing will be true in your and my life.

There was a constraining force within Paul that took him beyond anything that man could do. When that constraining force works in our hearts and lives as God wants it to work, we will automatically be a city set on a hill. You will live a higher standard than the world can reach. They will not confuse the Church of God with something else.

Paul went right on in verse 10, saying that he wanted to be made conformable unto Christ's death.

Christ's death was a death to sin. When Christ died, He paid the wages of sin for every man. This death must begin, be continued, and be completed, a death unto sin. Too many people today suffer on account of sin, but suffering on account of sin is very different from being dead to sin.

How can I know when I am dead to sin? Certainly, we will be tempted; we will never get beyond temptation, but if I am dead to sin, temptation will not have the effect on me that it does when I am not truly dead to sin. Being dead to sin brings a deep indifference to sin and the solicitations of Satan and a deadness to the world and worldly ambitions.

It is when we seek Him with all our heart that we find Him. Right behind that, I want to say that God will not be rushed. Over and over in the Scriptures, we are told to wait on the Lord. We are also told how to wait on the Lord: in supplication, devotion, praise and fellowship. Then He rains down His good

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## in memory of: PASTOR E. A. WILSON

". . . The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). On Saturday, April 11, 1987, Pastor Emerson A. Wilson, the shepherd of the flock of God, which meets at the Church of God, God's Acres, Newark, Ohio, stepped from this life of toil and cares and seized the everlasting prize.

Certainly it can well be expressed of our faithful shepherd that indeed he gave "his life for the sheep." We, the members of the Newark congregation, wish to express our thanks and gratitude unto God for the privilege of being allowed to sit at the feet of this

great, but humble man of God. We offer a special heartfelt thank-you to his dear companion, Sister Opal Wilson, and his precious children for their unselfish giving of their husband and father to us. Anyone who knew Brother Wilson knows he sacrificed personal aspirations, family life, as well as many other things, to minister to the needs of those around him.

Surely his life exemplified the words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Thessalonians 2:10 where he recorded: "Ye are witnesses, and

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*Psalm 85:6 Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?*

*Habakkuk 3:2 O Lord, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the*

*years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.*

# Revive Us Again

*Brother E. A. Wilson*

## **Cause and Effect**

Both these Scripture texts let us know that it is necessary to be revived. A revival of God's work down in the hearts of men and women is necessary. I believe in preaching a full Gospel, not only telling people what Christ did for us by His death, resurrection, and ascension, but also what He is doing in us. This is the part that is being left out today. Because of it, many people are not living the victorious life that God would have them to live. Sometimes all it takes is a little time for you to cool off spiritually. Time will do it? Unless we are very careful and lift up a standard, all it will take is just time for people to cool off and need to be revived.

Talk is very cheap, but the question is, Do we really want revival? Do we really want revival fires to burn in our hearts, in our lives, and in our congregations? Or do we want our services to be just an ecclesiastical gathering together? We know that revival comes about by a special moving of God's mighty power, but we have to understand that it is not entirely on God's part; there is cause and effect.

There is no farmer who ever goes out and stands in a barren field and expects a fine crop. He knows he has to plow, break up the ground, sow the seed, cultivate, and then pray for God to water and bring the increase. The same is true in revival. For every true revival, there is cause and effect, and if we don't meet the conditions of the cause, we will never see the effect.

There are conditions we must meet. There are some requirements for revival. First of all, revival is revealing. The beginning of every revival is a true revealing of ourselves, revealing our failures, our shortcomings, and maybe even our sins. Many times revival is stopped before it is started because people will not hold still for the revealing of God's Word, moving upon them and opening up their hearts to themselves. There is too much today that folks don't want revealed. There are too many things down in the heart that men and women don't want anyone else to know about, but if we ever have a revival, one of the requirements is for God's people to open their hearts completely.

David prayed: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me" (Psalm 139:23-24).

Friend, we can have a revival. It is not too late for revival; things are not in too bad a shape for revival. All God is calling for is for us to meet the conditions, and when we meet the conditions, the effect will follow. Too many people, however, will not hold still for the first move toward revival, the revealing of ourselves to ourselves. Psalm 85:6 says, "Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?" In many cases, the real rejoicing has been lost. The reason it has been lost is because of things which have been covered up; you overstepped here; you did wrong there; you just walked over it and went ahead. Let me tell you something, friend, you

cannot cover wrongdoing in your life and truly rejoice. Oh, you can make noise, you can put on an act, but you cannot truly rejoice from the depths of your heart when there is something covered.

## **Repentance and Confession**

Not only is revival revealing, but revival demands repentance. Over and over in the letters in the Revelation, Christ told some of those churches to "Repent, or else!" There are two kinds of repentance taught in the Bible. When repentance was first taught by John the Baptist and Jesus, it was "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand." On the other hand, after we have known the way and walked with God, then leave that first love, the message is "Repent, or else!"

Friend, we have to become guilty before God. Guilty for what? For the things we have covered up, for the sins we prefer. In many cases, what we call mistakes, poor judgment, human feelings, imperfections, inhibitions, complexes, human weaknesses, we should call sin. There are many people who will never see a revival in their experience because they will not be honest in their hearts before God.

God will not forgive and cleanse you from excuses. He will forgive and cleanse you from sin, and that is all. We live in a day and time when there is not much real repentance going on. Too many are not ready to own those failures in their life as sin. The reason too many don't get help, the reason we have many people run

back and forth to the altar, hinges right on this condition.

John said in 1 John 2:1b-2: "And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father [or a lawyer to plead our case], Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." When you come to God with excuses, you are pleading your own case. You are your own advocate. As long as you plead excuses, you won't get a bit of help, but when you own it, "Lord, I sinned. I did wrong, and I want You to help me," you will have an advocate. You will find forgiveness.

When you get beyond pleading your own case and open up before God, call sin sin and repent, God is still ready to help you. We have to be willing to call sin by its rightful name, and in order to call it by its rightful name, we have to deeply sense the guilt of it. We have to acknowledge it without reservation and turn from it.

So a revival calls for a revealing, revival calls for repentance, and revival calls for confession and restitution. There are many places where revival could really break out, but people won't straighten up their lives. The thing that brings revival is confessing and forsaking and making restitution. It is only the pure in heart who see God. We must come to the place of heart purity. That is exactly what revival is for; it is to clean up the church.

Jesus taught it in simple terms in John, Chapter 15. He said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches . . ." (verse 5). In verse 2 He said, ". . . every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." In other words, He helps get the thing out of their lives that is hindering the work of God.

All the devils in hell could not keep us from having revival if we would meet the terms of revival. On the other hand, if we won't meet the terms, we can have all-night prayer meetings, get the best preachers in the country, make all the moves we

want to make, but we will not see revival until we meet the conditions of revival.

You don't read anywhere about anybody in a real revival carrying placards, marching in the streets, trying to stop evil. Did you ever read about the revival in Wales? They had a real one. It started with just a few people who really came clean at a cottage prayer meeting. They really came clean. The mines closed down, the barrooms and saloons closed, and they did not have to march in the streets. It went on for months. Many times nobody could preach. The preacher would get up to preach, but such conviction would fall that people would just fall on their faces, crying out for God to save them.

I am talking about revival, and God is just the same today; the difference is in us. When we are ready to meet the conditions and strive to reach that position of real cause, we will see the effects. So revival will not only call for repentance, but it also causes us to confess to God and, when necessary, confess to people, making restitution to the very extent that we possibly can.

### **Prevailing Prayer**

Not only does revival call for repentance, confession, and restitution, but revival demands earnest, time-consuming, soul-rending, selfless, God-honoring, prevailing prayer? I ask you, with the busy program that is going on, do you really want revival? I am here to tell you, my friend, in many cases we do not want revival. In too many cases, we are not willing to meet the conditions.

How little we know about prevailing prayer. I say it with kindness, but most of the time, we just verbalize our grocery list of wants to God. The big end of the time, God has closed His ears before we ever start praying. Why? Because He looks in our hearts and sees that we are not willing to submit it all to

His will. We have not come before Him with real worship, honor, and praise.

When Jesus gave us the form of prayer in the sixth chapter of Matthew, He told us to say, ". . . Hallowed be thy name" (verse 9). The word *hallowed* means to honor, worship, extol, and praise God. Then He told us to end the prayer with all the honor and the glory going to God alone. It is well to study that prayer once in a while. He does not intend for us to repeat that prayer, but it is a guide to real praying.

Jesus was a man of prayer. He had to pray all night sometimes. We read about how He fed the multitudes and how He walked on water, but too many times we don't read about His praying. It was necessary for Him to draw on God in a special way to be able to work the works that were needed the next day.

I am still preaching on real revival and what it costs to have it. We are going to have to learn to pray in the way God has ordained for us to pray. James said in James 4:2, ". . . ye have not, because ye ask not." That is the first reason we don't have more, and second, we have not because we ask amiss. Most of our praying is just for our own lusts, our own needs, our own supply. In this condition, we can't pray a prevailing prayer for revival. Do you really want revival? Friend, we are just kidding ourselves if we think we can bring revival around any other way.

Revival demands humility. God does not show Himself strong and high until we get down low. Revival demands humility of mind and spirit. How can I solely, completely, and absolutely depend on God for His divine intervention while I am quite content to depend on my own abilities and resources? This is one reason we do not see revival today; we have so many resources

Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?" They thought there was some other righteous work that

they could in self-righteousness work, but Jesus just closed them off by saying, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent" (verse 29). It is all worked through Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the work of God, that we believe on Him whom God hath sent. Our efficiency turns out to be deficiency without His sufficiency.

I say, the great need is getting on our knees and staying on our knees. If we have power with God, we're going to receive it just as other people received it. Until we are, first, really convicted of our need; second, humble enough to acknowledge it; third, desperate

enough to lay hold on God, we'll continue just as old Gehazi, going through the motions, but there won't be voice or hearing, no power of God manifested. When we are convicted, humble, and desperate, we'll get through to God.

You can get books on the most beautiful prayers in the world and learn them by heart, but you still won't be praying. The only way to learn to pray is to pray. The man or woman who really hungers and thirsts for God's presence in his or her life won't need any steps to satisfy his soul. God's Word still says, ". . . thou shalt find him [God], if thou seek him with all thy heart

and with all thy soul" (Deuteronomy 4:29).

No matter where we go from this point, if God's presence does not go with us, we'd better not go. People are getting in trouble today because they are void of the presence of God. Without God's presence, we're powerless against the enemy of our soul. There are spirits of every kind working out here, working on you and on me. We are in a time of deception, when, if possible, the very elect will be deceived. We need the presence of God, an up-to-date experience of the presence of God in our life. Is God's presence real in your life today?

# ANNOUNCEMENT

*1987 Camp Meeting*

**June 21 - 28**

**GOD'S ACRES \* NEWARK, OHIO \* HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

*Welcome*

DORMITORIES CABINS LODGE  
TRAILER-TENT SITES SNACK BAR  
DINING ROOM LAUNDRY FACILITY

August 22-30

The Church of God  
7501 Knight's Bridge Road  
Canby, Oregon

CANBY GROVE CONFERENCE CENTER  
CANBY, OREGON

Bro. Emerson Wilson wasn't an ordinary preacher. He had a special gift in preaching God's Word.

— Alvin Wilson

All-Day Meeting  
Labor Day September 7  
Church of God  
6745 Wooster Pike  
Medina, OH

Service Times: 10 am & 2 pm  
For information, contact:  
Pastor C. H. Dickerson  
(216) 725-6853

Meals served on grounds by the  
sisters of the congregation

ness upon us.

Far too many equate a dip of the Spirit to Spirit fullness. Paul said, ". . . be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18). That means to stay filled, or have fresh infillings. You cannot be filled with an initial experience. "Be filled" means to be filled now, be filled tomorrow, be filled tomorrow night. How are you going to do that? Only by daily, and sometimes hourly, communion with God where we draw from Him and are filled with His presence.

### **Do You Desire Revival?**

Every real revival brings holiness. I know we live in a time when anti-holiness spirits are working against the cleanness and uprightness of holiness. I say again, every true revival brings holiness. It will produce holiness in the hearts and lives of God's people. God does not force feed His children. If we want holiness, we have to seek after it. If we do not seek after it and put forth the effort that is needed, we can talk about how we want it, but we will never see it.

Revival brings separation and suffering. Other members in the congregation may refuse to be revived, but you are going to have to fix and settle it to stand alone, if necessary. Thank God for corporate unity, but God still deals with individuals. He does not always revive whole congregations. He does not always revive whole families, because they all may not meet the conditions. They all may not be willing to pay the price. Revival is an individual call. You have to forsake the thought of what husband or wife does or what the children do. You must individually determine to meet the conditions and be revived.

Revival costs. It is an expensive item. We are living in a society which is accustomed to having things come easy. We are protected by insurance. If you lose your job, you know that there is a government handout. All of that works on us. It will work on us as Christians if we are not careful, and the idea of really paying a price for something will seem unreasonable. If

God calls a preacher, he is expected to give up everything and dedicate his life. A missionary is expected to give up everything to give his life in service for the Lord. Well, you may never preach or be a missionary, but your dedication has to be 100 percent, the same as theirs. My friend, we cannot call ourselves anything more than hypocrites when we claim to want a revival, but will not even pay the price of being a Christian. The price to be a Christian, a disciple, a follower of Christ, is to give up all. We must come to the place that we hate our own life and turn to God with our whole heart. We need to quit pretending.

If we are in this condition, the first thing necessary is to be honest. Tell God exactly how you feel in the light of this message. Tell the Lord, "Lord, I have not really wanted revival because of the conditions of my life, but I really want to want one." I ask you, would you really like to have a desire to have revival? If you are willing to be made willing, God is able to make you willing, but you must do something about it. God will never make you willing if you do nothing at all about it. There is something you must do.

Once again, you have to own the things that God has shown you, over and over, that you need to get rid of. If it is enough for God to trouble you about, it is enough for you to do something about. God does not accuse. He just puts His finger on what is wrong, and when He shows you what is wrong, it is clear and understandable.

If there is something in your life that needs to be changed, but you put it off, you will become confused as to whether it was God wanting you to do it or whether the devil was accusing you. The Bible says, ". . . Walk while ye have the light . . ." (John 12:35).

We must own the things that are revealed. We must repent, confess, and make restitution. We must meet the demands of time-consuming, God-honoring, prevailing prayer. We must humble ourselves and get rid of pride by owning our need. We need to start seeking God with real hunger

and let God know that we want revival at any cost. If we seek after holiness, separate ourselves, and pay the full price, we will have revival. I ask you, do you really want revival?

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### **(Memory-continued from page 31)**

God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you . . ." Brother Wilson was assuredly among those which was spoken of in 1 Timothy 5:17, "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine."

Throughout the annals of human history, God's people have faced waters that had been unchartered and in those hours divine leadership has been sorely needed. As the Church of God has marched down through the corridors of time, God, in His faithfulness, has raised up men of sterling character, undaunted by the task to face the challenge of the times and to forge a pathway of victory through the unchartered waters. So it was, as the church entered this seventh seal period of time. God needed a MIGHTY ANGEL to cry "mightily with a strong voice" (Revelation 18:2) and lead the people of God into depths of truth and revelation unparalleled throughout the history of the church. Such a man was Brother Emerson A. Wilson. Surely the words of the Prophet were realized in him, the words of Amos in Chapter 3, verse 7: "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." Most decidedly, Brother Wilson was a prophet in our day. The words of prophetic utterance of Brother Andrew Byers, when Brother Wilson was but days old, were fulfilled in the life and ministry of our dear beloved brother. Those words were to this effect: "God shall raise this child up to be a prophet right in this country." And certainly we could well say, as is penned in 2 Corinthians 12:12, "Truly the signs . . . were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds."

**(continued on page 39)**

## INDIA REPORT

The purpose of this trip was to extend the hand of fellowship to Brother K. H. Paul in his own land. Also to verify that the work being done in India was truly a work worthy of our prayer and support. I count myself highly privileged to join this trip with Brother Whitehead, as he and Brother Harold Kelly were first planning to go. This trip was made possible by several different congregations and by a special offering taken during the Winter Camp Meeting at Newark. Brother Whitehead and I extend our thanks and deep appreciation to the confidence placed in us by the Church of God to undertake this trip.

Leaving Monday, January 19, from Dulles International Airport at 3:20 PM, we flew to J.F.K. International Airport to await our departure time of 9:20 p.m. This was the flight that took us across the Atlantic. We experienced sunrise at 2:30 a.m. and the sunset at 12:30 p.m. Our days and nights were mixed up from the start! We had a very interesting trip over, landing in London first, next an eight hour flight to Delhi, India, and then on to Bombay and finally into the city of Madras. This city on the southeastern side of India is where we were to meet Brother Paul. It was now Wednesday, January 21. After gathering our luggage and clearing customs, we finally met the face we had been looking for, that of dear Brother Paul! He was all smiles and brother, so were we! We left by train for Brother Paul's hometown of Tanuku, about 7 p.m. After a fifteen-hour train ride, which was nothing like America's "AMTRAC," we arrived in Tanuku, and there waiting on us was another brother by the name of K. S. Sundarsingh. He turned out to be the man responsible for the work of God with which Brother Paul is connected with. Brother Sundarsingh is the hub around which all the work in this part of India surrounds. We will tell you about him.

Brother Sundarsingh has never married and has given himself entirely to the work of God. He owns nothing, sleeps in a borrowed room at one of the church compounds. He is

constantly on the go and always in demand. He began this work in the mid 40's and has been at it for over forty years now. He is responsible for forty-three congregations, and a number of new works in various villages, all within about a fifty-mile radius of Tanuku. To us this doesn't seem practical, but if one can just experience travel in a backward, primitive country, you would soon understand the need for a number of works close to the multitudes of people that they are to serve. We visited nineteen villages and preached in sixteen of them. (*Brother Paul joined him in the late 1950's and has since been used to begin new works in villages where the truth has never been preached.*)

Brother Emerson Wilson, thoughtfully sent with us a check of extra funds for our travel expenses while in India, and for the work there to use in sponsoring these extensive meetings. With this money, a van, along with a driver and his helper was hired. Otherwise, much time would have been wasted traveling by bus or taxi. This van was just a normal seven-passenger van, in which was crowded as much human life as possible and still keep everyone breathing. Seventeen of us rode that van at a time. Road conditions are very bad and travel is extremely slow, taking two hours to travel forty to fifty miles.

The majority of all the people live in mud and cow-dung huts with thatched roofs, but they most all have a light bulb in them. No refrigeration at all, and the cook stove is simply a fire on the floor. No such thing as running water, and the good, old American bathroom is unheard of over there!

Practically all the believers are converts from the Hindu religion, which is the national religion of India. Christianity is considered an American religion, and therefore frowned upon. Hindus are highly favored when it comes to jobs. Becoming a convert to Jesus Christ can mean your loss of employment. Their services are unlike ours in many ways. Some things that were very outstanding to me were, first of all: THE DISCIPLINE OF THE CHILDREN. Many of their services

were long, and everyone sat on straw mats on the floors. There was no running in and out, no squirming around, no whispering and talking, no writing paper, no pencils, or crayons. These children had nothing to do at all but sit and listen. (Some did go to sleep.) The children are well-behaved and very respectful. Secondly, they are never in a hurry. Even though many have to get up early (4-5 a.m.), work long hours in the hot sun, they never rush their evening services, which sometimes went till after 11 p.m.

We held two services daily, with the exception of three on one day, Brother Whitehead and I taking turns preaching, one in the morning and the other in the evening. It worked out that Brother Whitehead got to preach twice on that three-service day! With the exception of two times, Brother Paul served as our translator, working twice as much as we were, and he hasn't been very well, but God gave him strength, day by day.

Altar services were different than we were used to. During the invitation song, Brother Sundarsingh asked all those who desired to become believers to stand. In every service there was anywhere from five on up to twenty or so stand, desiring to become believers in Jesus Christ. Brother Sundarsingh would then pray a prayer for all of them together. Later, the local pastor would make personal calls on these people, giving them instruction and understanding, leading them from Hinduism to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The works vary in size from fifteen on up into the fifties and eighties. The main work (congregation) at Tanuku numbers over 300 faithful worshippers each Sunday. Each work is taught to be self-sufficient, to take care of its own pastor and buildings. The pastors are referred to as "Servants of God." They feel that when they receive this call, it is a call to stop all secular work and just simply give themselves to the people they are called to serve. In the evening, at the villages where we preached, their method is to gather all the young men and boys together, ladies following, they march through all the streets of their village, preaching, testifying, singing, and telling everyone about

the service that is about to begin. This usually takes about an hour. Once they even had a portable loudspeaker mounted on the handlebars of a bicycle. Even the most remote villages had PA systems. One speaker was mounted in the top of a coconut tree, another on the rooftop of some house. These are items that are highly cherished and well taken care of. Their services were, to us anyway, very emotional. But Brother Paul and Brother Sundarsingh seemed very pleased with the messages and the response of the people. Most of the time we couldn't tell too much, as to how things were going. One must remember that these people are totally untouched by any American influence, with the exception of Brother Paul being over here. Many of these people had never seen an American before. Needless to say, we were much stared at and spied upon!

We were waited upon as if we were gods of some sort. That is how much they insisted on helping us. To refuse this was to highly insult them. Brother Whitehead and I got into trouble for washing out a shirt apiece. They wanted to do everything for us, insisting on being the one to pour the water over our hands to rinse them after we had washed them. We gave up and simply enjoyed it! After coming home, I washed up and asked my wife to come and rinse my hands for me—well, I found out I was back home for sure!

In their worship places, they always enter in only after removing their shoes (sandals mostly). Brother Paul explained that this was because they sat on the floor and tried to keep it as clean as possible. We, after a time or two, decided to join them. It sure was hard to get used to preaching in stocking feet.

There was much sickness and disease in evidence in India, everywhere we went. We personally saw two cases of leprosy, along with much blindness and deformities.

The work that Brother Sundarsingh has accomplished is highly envied by other religious denominations. Some have tried their best to get him to join them or to even take over what he has done. He has successfully warded off every attempt and holds his work entirely for God.

He stands for a one church and ONE NAME, CHURCH OF GOD. After being raised a Lutheran up until age nineteen or twenty, not finding satisfaction in their teachings, he backslid. He was in this condition for two years, and was saved again, and began to earnestly study the Bible and testifies that God began to show him the truth that He (God) was not in these denominations, that God had only ONE CHURCH. He was feeling the call to preach about this time, and began his ministry. In the beginning, he established his work by name of the Christian Church. He has since learned the truth of the name for the church and desired to change it, but is forbidden by law to do so. But during one of the services we heard him exhorting the people during the altar call and we asked Brother Paul what he was saying. He explained that he was telling the people that the only name there is for the church is THE CHURCH OF GOD, and that all God's people are to be one, under that name. How wonderful to hear that in that far away land of India! It is a great and beautiful thing that God can reveal such glorious truth to one like that, without ever hearing a message on the subject, and then to have some brethren right here in America having a difficult time preaching and standing for a one visible Church of God. Needless to say, our hearts were thrilled when we heard this.

All in all, we found the work to be well-grounded in basic truths and the congregations well-organized and led by brethren who really seemed to live holy lives free from sin, and who loved the Lord above even their own comforts. Brother Sundarsingh and Brother Paul both are very frugal and cautious with all support sent to them. This money is used to purchase land and building supplies, and also to assist the Servants of God who may need help from time to time. This help is mostly in the form of bus fare to and from various meetings. Brother Whitehead and I were both very much encouraged and impressed with the work in the way of its organization. These people are taught to sacrifice and bring their tithes and offerings to the Lord on the first of the week. Each congregation is thus

supported.

It was interesting to learn that there are the same kind of pastoral problems there as there are here in America. Seems that people are much the same the world over. Brother Sundarsingh holds a tight hold on the other servants of God, and there are a few who resent his authority. Sounds like home? This authority is much in necessity in that land, and in the situations that are there. One must experience the conditions and ability of the to understand the need for this to be. Brother Sundarsingh travels from time to time to all of the congregations and instructs the various Servants of God in the things of God, and encourages the congregations in their work.

When we first arrived, Brother Sundarsingh was much reserved and a little chilly toward us. He told us later that the reason was that he was not sure just why we were there. But after he gained confidence in us that we were not there to take over the work, or to hinder him in any way, but only to extend the hand of love and fellowship, he warmed up immensely. He was surely a joy and blessing to be with. We also found Brother Paul's wife to be a faithful and devoted worker in the things of God. Brother Paul's family took care of all our needs and washed our clothes and had them pressed and folded for us. Also, they took care of our meals and fixed many exciting things to eat! We were surely treated with the greatest of hospitality and love that could be bestowed upon anyone. Brother Paul was constantly concerned for our health, but the Lord kept us both well in body for which we were very thankful.

Brother Whitehead and I trust that this report will help others to know a little better some of the conditions of the work of God in India.

Although Brother Paul has never asked for any support, we know he needs this extra coming in to help establish works in villages not yet awakened to the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the message of the church, the Lamb's wife. We encourage all who are presently supporting Brother Paul to continue to do so.

Our prayer is that God will richly

bless Brother Paul and Brother Sundarsingh with good health and years of labor in the harvest fields so white in the land of India.

Sent to all the Church of God congregations with our deep thanks and appreciation for making this trip possible.

Brother Leamon Whitehead  
Brother Richard Talbot



# LETTERS TO OUR READERS

from near and afar



**SWEDEN:** Just want you all to know how much I like your magazine. I appreciate the truth that you people preach. My wish is that God will bless you all in U.S.A.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** I truly enjoy *THE TRUMPETER* and I have never enjoyed another book (besides my Bible) as much as I do it.

**MARYLAND:** We appreciate your faithfulness in spending many hours of labor to spread the Gospel in this manner. We enjoy reading it and would not want to be without it.

**FLORIDA:** I thank you so much for the paper. It is a great help in lighting the pathway to Heaven. God bless you all.

**NIGERIA:** I am very happy to inform you that I carefully went through the copy of *THE TRUMPETER*, which was sent to me and found it to be a guiding light for all weary souls and a great benefit to the Church of God on earth.

**GHANA:** My main aim in sending you this letter is to thank you dearly for sending me *THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER* regularly.

**NIGERIA:** Thanking your ministry for the love of God they show me by sending me the book of Gospel.

**KENTUCKY:** Just want to take time to express my appreciation to the saints for their love and devotion to the Work of God.

**ILLINOIS:** Thank you for sending *THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER* to us.

**MISSISSIPPI:** I just want to thank you for sending *THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER* to us. This is the only true Word we get except the tapes.

**OHIO:** This is a love donation for *THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER* you send to us.

**FLORIDA:** God bless each and every one for your faithfulness to help spread His precious Word.

**FLORIDA:** Truly thankful to all of you who get the truth out to us.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** I still love to read your *TRUMPETER*. It makes me feel so good.

**OHIO:** May God bless all involved with the publishing of *THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER*.

**OHIO:** I enjoy *THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER* very much and wish to continue receiving it.

**MICHIGAN:** We always appreciated all of the work that is done there for the Lord.

**OKLAHOMA:** Keep up the good work.

**NIGERIA:** Thanks very much for your *GOSPEL TRUMPETER* you have been sending me.

**MICHIGAN:** Just want to say that I've been truly blessed with *THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER*, and it has helped me in my daily walk with the Lord.

**INDIANA:** I enjoy *THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER* and know it is a great responsibility getting it out each month.

**OHIO:** We surely enjoy the *GOSPEL TRUMPETER* very much, and it is food for our souls.

**OHIO:** I read it from cover to cover. Please keep it coming.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- BELLVILLE, OH  
July 10-11  
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP: Bellville Church of God, 751 Mill Rd., Bellville, OH. Doyle Martin, Pastor  
Evangelist: Bro. Bill Weaver. First Service at 7:00 p.m. Registration at 5:30 p.m.  
For information contact Bro. Bill Courser, P. O. Box 613, Bellville, OH 44813  
Telephone: (419) 886-2095
- MANSFIELD, OH  
July 13-19  
REVIVAL: The Church of God, 808 N. Trimble Rd., Mansfield, OH  
Evangelist: Bro. Tois Seay, Newport, TN. Service time: 7:00 p.m. nightly, Sunday 6:00  
For information contact Pastor Michael Rogers, 808 N. Trimble Rd., Mansfield, OH 44906  
Telephone: (419) 747-5169
- CANBY, OR  
Aug. 22-30  
CAMP MEETING: The Church of God, Canby Grove Conference Center, Canby, OR  
Services daily: 10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Buildings on the grounds include  
dormitories, cabins, lodge, trailer-tent sites, dining room, snack bar, and laundry facilities. All  
the buildings are equipped with heat, including the tabernacle. The grounds are located in a  
beautifully wooded secluded area. For reservations contact Pastor E. David Stegmeier,  
103 Main St., Barlow; Canby, OR 97013.  
Telephone: (503) 266-9297. Services begin Saturday, August 22 at 7 p.m.
- MEDINA, OH  
Aug. 31-  
Sept 7  
ALL-DAY MEETING: Labor Day, September 7. Service time: 10:00 & 2:00 p.m.  
Meals served on grounds by the sisters of the congregation.  
REVIVAL: Church of God, 6745 Wooster Pike, Medina, OH  
Evangelist: Bro. Harold Kelly, West Bend, KY. Service time: M-F 7:30; Sat. 7:00; Sun. 6:00;  
For information contact Pastor C. H. Dickerson (216) 725-6853

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## (Memory-continued from page 35)

Perhaps the most outstanding attribute of this verse shown forth in Brother Wilson is the phrase, "in all patience." The Scripture speaks of "the patience of Job" in James 5:10. Job 40:4 said ". . . I will lay mine hand upon my mouth." What can be said of man who didn't need to? His supreme trust in God and personal knowledge of God's workings caused him to patiently persevere without uttering words of complaint or question.

Brother Wilson carried a heavy burden for souls and for the propagation of the Gospel. His was a selfless life and his continued thought was of others. His heart burned with fervor. A fervor for God, a fervor for truth, and a fervor for souls. God used this fervor to open many doors to proclaim the Gospel at home and abroad. He has strengthened many pastors and congregations here and in the foreign mission fields as well. Probably the greatest asset which Brother Wilson leaves behind is the congregation he pastored for thirty-two and one-half years. Brother

Wilson's burden and labor of love has spilled over onto the congregation. One proof of that is the financial support of foreign missions as well as the magazine you are now reading, as a result of a burden to spread the Gospel by printed page. His fervor so saturated his being he could not rest while souls about were perishing. He could cry, as the Apostle in 2 Corinthians 12:15, "I will very gladly spend and be spent for you." And spend himself he did, until there was nothing left to spend: May God help each of us to emulate this selfless example.

His heart was as large as the world, and he took the whole world upon it. He never lost sight that the field was the world. May God help us to keep that vision fresh. He was mission minded and was the missionaries' best friend. Our loss is great because God has given us so much through Brother Wilson. He is sorely missed by his dear family, his friends, and most certainly by his dear flock as well as a host of others.

Certainly, he could cry as taking

his flight from this veil of flesh, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). Our brother's labors are over, but his works live on and shall work "a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Corinthians 4:17). Surely we are the richer for having known this great man of God and the responsibility lies heavy upon us to close in tighter ranks and shoulder a heavier burden to see the continued advance of truth.

Yes, Brother Emerson A. Wilson will be greatly missed by we who remain, but we take great comfort in the knowledge that God will raise up amongst us another man of God after God's own heart, who will be blessed with many of the same traits and continue the work of God, both here in Newark and abroad. "God hasten the hour" is our prayer.

Lovingly,  
The Newark Congregation