

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

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

Brother Roger L. Decker Editor
Workers Too Numerous to Mention

THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

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

**SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS
PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH**

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

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

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Editorial

Dear Reader,

March of 1991 marks the twentieth anniversary of *The Gospel Trumpeter*. It is with joyful hearts that the congregation at God's Acres, Newark, Ohio, can proclaim to you, the reader, that the truth is still marching on. God has and is still blessing the printed page. Jeremiah 5:3 says, "O Lord, are not thine eyes upon the truth?" Also, in Psalm 100:5, the Psalmist declared, "For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endureth to all generations." Jeremiah said that the Lord's eyes are upon the truth, and the Psalmist let us know that the truth endureth to all generations.

The Gospel Trumpeter was started in March of 1971 with the burden to proclaim the truth to the souls of mankind, and it is still published with that same vision. It is a well-established fact in the Word of God and in the realm of religion today that God will bless the truth.

The Psalmist said that truth endureth to all generations, or in other words, it is the same in all generations, for all nations and all people. God is true to all of His promises, and He Himself loves truth. The Scripture says in Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." We could not serve a God who was the friend of truth in one generation and, in the next, a patron of falsehood.

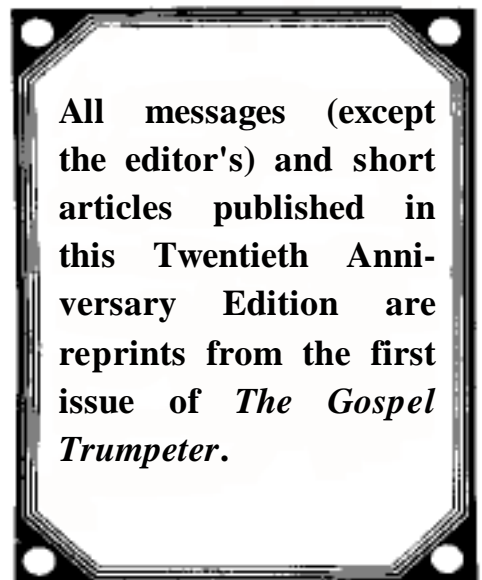
Today many have laid aside simple, basic Bible truths in search of a better way, and the results have been disastrous. We cannot prosper individually, collectively, or universally and lay aside the truth. The truth is still going forth,

whether it is through the written page or the spoken word as it is preached—it still marches on. Whether you and I march with it is up to us, for it will continue on with or without us.

Many are not with us, but they have gone on to their eternal reward. We who are still on this side of eternity have a big job on our hands, one that takes in every born-again Christian, and that is to stand for truth. Jeremiah said, "O Lord, are not thine eyes upon the truth?" If Jesus tarries and time continues, we want His eyes upon us as we walk in the truth.

In closing, I wish to thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon the Newark congregation in every phase of the work; I would also like to thank every brother and sister who, in the past twenty years, has helped make it possible. We also wish to thank each one for their support in finance and in prayer. Our commitment is to do our best by the grace of God to publish a paper that will reach out and strengthen the people of God and bring them to a closer walk with Him. Thank God, His truth marches on!

Brother Roger Decker



Jeremiah 6:16 Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Harken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken.

18 Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them.

19 Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.

Ask for the Old Paths



Brother Roger Decker

"Stand Ye in the Ways, and See"

I want you to focus your attention on verse 16 of our Scripture text. The Prophet Jeremiah was telling the people, "It is time to do some considering. Let us not continue on our journey without direction. Ask for the ways of godliness and righteousness that are prescribed to us in God's Word. Ask for the way the patriarchs before us traveled. It is the good way, the

way of holiness."

Titus 2:11-12 tells us: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." The old ways, or the old paths, are the ways of godliness, holiness, and righteousness. Right in this present world, with sin all around us, there are still paths. They may be hard to see at times, but God still has paths, and He said

to ask for those paths. They are the good ways. I thank God for the way of holiness. You do not have to sin any more if you do not want to. Praise God for His goodness!

Why should we deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world? Because this world is not our home. We are just passing through; we are citizens of another world. The old paths, are the ways the saints before us walked.

The Prophet said after you stand in the ways and see, then ask for the old paths and walk therein. First John 2:6 says, "He that with he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."

The Prophet said you would find rest for your soul when you walk therein. The rest always comes after walking in the good way. Why did the Prophet say, "Stand ye in the ways"? Because you cannot walk sitting down. First you must get up.

Why did the Prophet make mention of the old paths? Because the new paths will not work. You can build them up all you want, but they are not going to work. Why? Because the old paths are God given. The new paths are man-made. They will not keep you on the old paths, and the glory of God is not in the midst. Taking the old paths is the only way to find rest for your soul.

Laying Aside the Old Paths

Today people are laying aside the old paths and turning to other means of operation in the church. Instead of the Holy Ghost putting in preachers, some congregations vote them in. That is a new path, and it will not work. The old paths are the ways God prescribes. In the old paths, the Holy Ghost makes a man of God an overseer. Why do you need the Holy Ghost to make a man of God an overseer? Then he will not run off the first time there is trouble. The Holy Ghost is the means of operation in the church of the living God. He gives gifts and places the members in the body, and He places a pastor over the flock. The Holy Ghost is the One who calls teachers and evangelists. Also, He gives the gifts of healing and discernment. The Holy Ghost leads the way in the old paths, wherein is the good way. We need the Holy Spirit more than anything else.

After the Prophet spoke of the old paths, he said, "But they said, We will not walk therein." People

are saying that yet today. Nevertheless, you cannot lay aside holiness of heart and life and have rest for your soul

Jeremiah 4:21 says, "How long shall I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet?" What is the answer to that question? You will see the standard as long as you hear the sound of trumpet; they go together. But when the trumpet ceases to sound, the people will not keep the standard. Then you will hear cries from preachers such as, "I preach it, but the people will not live it." Compromise starts in the pulpit: like preacher, like people. How long shall you see the standard and hear the sound of the trumpet? As long as you hear the sound of the trumpet, you will see the standard.

Why is there such letting down of the standard today? First Corinthians 14:8 tells us, "For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?" Too many trumpeters today are giving an uncertain sound; there are no absolutes anymore. They say, "Maybe this is all right. I don't know about that." That is an uncertain sound, and when the people hear an uncertain sound, they cannot prepare themselves for the battle.

Today many people are drifting away from the old paths. Jeremiah said, "Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." We need to see that our own way will not work.

"Believe Not Every Spirit"

Some are drifting from the old paths of being good Christian fathers and mothers. Too many Christian parents are losing their children to the world, so there has to be something wrong. It is time that we look at it by the Word of God. Have you deviated from the old paths? Have you left the way? The modern way of children does not work.

Let us read Revelation 16:13-14:

"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 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."

Here John saw three unclean spirits. We live in a spiritual realm, and we are dealing with spirits. Spirits get hold of people and cause them to act the way they do. John said he saw three unclean spirits come out of the mouth of the dragon (paganism), out of the mouth of the beast (Roman Catholicism), out of the mouth of the false prophet (Protestantism). He said they are the spirits of devils.

First John 4:1 says, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." John let us know there are many false prophets and many spirits. Oftentimes, these spirits come out of the mouth of influential people. They always have a way to do things better than what the Word of God says to do; they go against the Word of God. Moreover, they will try to cause you to walk contrary to God's Word. They will try to cause you let down and compromise just a little bit; then the Word of God will not have any effect in your life. There is not a day that goes by that these unclean spirits are not working through some avenue.

Parental Influence

There is a real need for parents to take their God-given authority and exercise it in a godly manner. Young people are being swept away by the wiles of the devil. The trouble is, it is right while they are under the greatest influence ever given a child-parental influence. There is no use for parents to cry out for help when they, knowingly have allowed themselves to compromise

and have allowed compromise to enter their home. What form of compromise am I speaking of? Shirking your duty as a parent. There, are more ways to compromise than just letting down on the standard of the church. Furthermore, none of us has it down pat on raising a family, but God does. He has it fixed and settled.

It's right to be contented with what you have but never with what you are.

When it comes to raising children, we receive most of our knowledge from the way we were raised. Also, there are many books written on the subject. There are some dos and don'ts. Some experiences have been successful and some have been failures, but we want to look into the Bible for our source of help. Let us look to the old paths, wherein is the good way. Every one of us can use some instruction on the home and how to be the parent, the husband or wife, or the father or mother on whom God can place His approval. How serious is this? It is very serious, and the need is urgent. Do you realize that our young people, if Jesus tarries, are the future church? Think about that.

You can stand back and blame the church, the pastor, the Sunday school teacher, or the young people's leader for your child's condition; but remember that none of them has been around your child as much as you have. You should keep that in your mind. Nobody has more influence over your child than you do; so before you criticize someone in any of these positions, make sure that your skirts are clean. You will find that those who have the children seven days a week have the greatest influence over them. This is a serious thing. May God help us to be serious about it.

People are making moves today that are going to affect their chil-

dren, their grandchildren, and following generations. They are going to reap a terrible harvest one of these days, and there is going to be crying and lamenting. Some have made moves and have done things that their children will never get out of their minds. They have done things that have broken their children's confidence in the church, the pastor, or the young people's leader.

You need to always keep this in mind: if you have trouble with someone in any of these positions, you are duty-bound to pray, not talk. God is keeping a record, and while you run your mouth about someone, God is taking note of it. If you have a disagreement with someone in one of those positions, you ought to pray to God and ask Him to take care of it. He has ways of taking care of situations. However, you need to make sure that you are not the cause of the problem, or God may take care of it another way.

If there is a problem with anyone in a position, do not get in little cliques and talk about it. That is judging your brother, and if you judge your brother, the same judgment you put out will come right back to you. Whenever you start criticizing others and gathering into little groups to start talking about others, the enemy always makes sure that the word gets back to them and crushes their heart. Jeremiah said to seek the old paths and walk therein.

A Lesson From Eli's Failure

In I Samuel, Chapter 2, the picture changed from that of the first chapter. The first chapter (the first eleven verses) deals with the birth of the Prophet Samuel. Samuel's parents were humble, happy, and united, and they were devout Christians. However, the scene changed all of a sudden from good to bad.

Let us read Chapter 2:12-17: "Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the Lord. And the priest's custom with the people

was, that, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand; and he struck it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh unto all the Israelites that came thither.

"Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw. And if any man said unto him, Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and then take as much as thy soul desireth; then he would answer him, Nay; but thou shalt give it me now: and if not, I will take it by force. Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the Lord: for men abhorred the offering of the Lord [or hated to even give an offering to God]."

The sons of Eli were disobedient, not only to their father but also to God. They were objects of public scandal. The Bible says they were sons of Belial, which means they were lawless and worthless. They had no respect for God or the commandments of God. These practices that they were guilty of brought shame to the house of Eli. They did not know the Lord, they were filled with greed, and they were guilty of immorality. All the while, they were taking part in the high office of the priest.

The sons of Eli played the role of hypocrites. All they had was a head knowledge of the Lord. They had a form of godliness, but they merely went through the duties of a priest. Although Eli's sons were priests by birth, the Bible says they knew not the Lord. Their hearts were not right with God. They were not performing the duties of the priesthood out of allegiance and loyalty, but they were lawless and worthless. They profaned the offerings and used them as gain for themselves. They took the best of the sacrifices for themselves by choosing ahead of

time the choice pieces of meat. Meat was a luxury item back then, especially in their present economy.

Again, verse 17 says, "Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the Lord: for men abhorred the offering of the Lord." Their sin was great, and God was looking down on them while they were carrying out the office of the priesthood.

Verse 22 says, "Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation." It would have been bad enough had Eli's sons gone to prostitutes or pagan, lewd women; but they boldly used their priesthood to take advantage of humble, devout women by luring them into sexual immorality right at the door of the tabernacle. It was a great sin before God, and God was stirred. The sin caused a scandal among the people. Not only was Eli a priest, but he was also a judge; however, he could not control his children.

The Sad Consequences

Since Eli was very old, no doubt, he could not get around as he once did, and he could not go down to the tabernacle to watch them when they offered the sacrifices. Because of this, he had to trust that his children were doing right. Verse 23 says that Eli heard about his sons' great sin from the people. Even so, Eli's words were not a sharp rebuke. The Bible does not say that he got angry or stirred within his soul. When he spoke to them, it was more of a plea to straighten up and do right, and it had no effect on them whatsoever.

This situation caused a leadership crisis in Israel. Eli was no longer physically fit to judge Israel, and he could not carry on the duties of a priest. In addition, his sons were not morally capable; they were committing adultery at the door of the tabernacle. God was stirred, and His anger was kindled

against them.

While all of this corruption was going on, verse 18 says, "But Samuel ministered before the Lord, being a child, girded with a linen ephod! Then verse 26 says, "And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the Lord, and also with men." Chapter 3, verse 1, says, "And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli." While Hophni and Phinehas were on their way down, Samuel was on his way up. It was just a matter of time until God was going to send forth judgment upon the sons of Eli.

God was not pleased with Eli's rebuke. He did not accept what Eli told them. What should Eli have done? He should have thrown them out, but he did not. So God sent a prophet to speak to Eli. Chapter 2, verse 27, tells us, "And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house?" This verse lets us know that Eli came from a noble ancestry. His family had been in the priesthood, and they had been honored; but now they were headed for a downfall. The family was filled with greed and self-gratification. They were ruining themselves, and they were affecting the people of God. Therefore, judgment was pronounced: Eli's two sons were to die, and the priesthood was to be given to one who honored God.

We read in verse 30, "Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the Lord saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed."

Parcel Accountability Before God

We have read a lot of history. Now let us bring the lesson up to date. It is a great job to be a mother or a father. We are accountable to

God as to how we teach, train, discipline, rebuke, and persuade our children. God will not let us get by doing it haphazardly. Just taking our children to church is not going to keep them, no more than it kept Eli's children. In fact, his sons were in the priesthood, but that did not keep them.

Being a Christian mother or father is a full-time job. As a parent, it is your job to teach and train your children. There is no use trying to get out of it. It takes time and effort, and there is a lot of heartache. There will be many hard places to go through, you will shed many tears, and you will have to keep a lot of late hours. Nevertheless, it is your duty, and God holds you responsible.

In the eyes of your children, you take the place of God. When they are younger, they do not know God, and they are not capable of making the decision to serve God. So to your children, you are in the place of God. That is the reason why one of the commandments says to honor your mother and father. A child that will not honor his mother and father will not honor God.

Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." This training applies to more than you may think. According to *Webster's Dictionary*, one meaning of the word *train* is "something that follows behind like a train, a long line of vehicles or cars." In a sense, that applies to us. Our children are traveling right behind us; so we fit that kind of train. But it is a little more involved than that. Another meaning is "to shape, to direct, to take a desired course, to maneuver, to manipulate."

You cannot teach your children to live a consistent life for God if you are not living consistently. Eli had trouble rebuking his children. The truth of the matter is, Eli himself had backed off. He did not speak to his children about their conduct until after the heat came upon him.

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

If you are inconsistent in living for God, your children will follow the same way right behind you. If you use the least little excuses to get out of attending the worship services, they will do the same. They will be a Xerox copy of you. The Proverb writer said to train up a child. In other words, you are to mold and shape the mind, the spirit, and the character of the child. That is a great responsibility. You should not push that responsibility off on someone else or turn that responsibility over to your older children. It is your job.

Parental Restraints

Eli allowed sin to go on in the priesthood; thus, he thought more of his children than he did the service of God. He had let down on honoring God. That is why God said, "Them that honour me I will honour." This was a very serious thing, and it got Eli into trouble. First Samuel 3:11-13 reads: "And the Lord said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle. In that day, I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end. For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not."

There was the verdict. Since Eli would not restrain them, God was going to take care of them. Did this come to pass? First Samuel 4:17 tells us, "And the messenger answered and said, Israel is fled before the Philistines, and there hath been also a great slaughter among the people, and thy two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God is taken."

Proverbs 22:16 says, "Foolishness [or folly] is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." This is not taken from some book written by a well-known author. This is what God said. Proverbs 29:17 says, "Correct [or discipline] thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul." You may have the sweetest little angel, but he or she still needs to be disciplined. I am not speaking of child abuse, but discipline. Child abuse is uncalled for. Discipline is one thing, and child abuse is another: one is the correct way; the other is sin.

You ought to train your children and teach them how to conduct themselves on a date. Even though they may be spiritual, they can be tempted when they go out with the opposite sex. Teach them that when they go out on a date they ought to keep their hands to themselves. They should not rub their hands all over each other. God is not pleased with such conduct. Do not trust your children when they go out on a date just because they are spiritual. You should tell your daughter to slap a boy if he puts his hands in the wrong place.

What am I talking about? The old paths, wherein is the good way. You ought to sit down and talk with your child when he or she is ready to go on a date and say, "There are

some things you might run into. There are some things you need to know, and one is, do not get alone." Do you have young children, twelve or thirteen years old, wanting to date? If you do, you should not sit back and think it is cute. You will not think it is so cute if they get into trouble.

I am seriously concerned about the young people being true Christians for God. I would rather a young person be a child of God than to be lettered in a sport. I do not know of one child who is heavily involved in sports that is spiritual. There might have been a day when they could have, but not today. Why? Because sports are corrupt. Playing in sports is demanding. It demands a great deal of time, and they go home with their minds full of making a good play or not striking out. It becomes a god to them. Oftentimes, right at a time when they need to draw close to God, they get involved in sports, and Mom and Dad push them. What are the parents doing? They are pushing them out of the Kingdom of God.

Stand in the Old Paths

We need help from God to seek out the old paths. We need to stand in the old paths and look at them, and then walk therein. Time is too short to play around with things. Somebody may say, "Yo should not be too strict." Well, is your way working? You may lose a child to the world even though you walk in the old paths, but when you get down before God, you have a conscience void of offense. Then you can pray, "I did my best, Father. Show me what else I can do. I have tried to be obedient to You, and I have tried to live right." God will hear your cry. You ought to give your children every opportunity you can to have a real experience

with God. I repeat, God is going to hold you accountable just as He did Eli. You may pass it off, but you will not get by with God. Instead of people walking in the old paths, they have taken a more modern way, but it is not working.

God let Eli know that he had committed a great sin because he would not restrain his sons. It was so great a sin that God moved on the scene. The Lord let Eli know that judgment was coming. Eli did not turn around and plead for mercy one time. Why? He knew that it would not do any good to cry out to Him because his sons were not going to straighten up.

In training your children, when it is time to get ready for Sunday school, make them get up out of the bed in time and get dressed. You need to get them to the house of God. Do not give them a choice as to whether or not they want to go. You do not give them a choice as to whether or not they want to go to school. Somebody may say, "It is against the law not to send them." It is against the law of God to keep them out of Sunday school, and God's law is higher than man's law.

You must shape your child's spirit and mind. You are the parent. They should not tell you what they want to do; you ought to tell them what to do. God will uphold you, because these are the old paths. It is God's way, and He will help you. Do not give them a choice.

Oftentimes, a lack of spirituality on the part of a young person is blamed on everyone but the one who is really to blame. Do not blame your children for not being spiritual when they only go to Sunday school for one hour a week. Remember, you have them the rest of the week.

The Lord first gave Eli a chance to take control of his sons, but he failed. Likewise, God will give you, as a parent, the opportunity to take control of sinful situations first; however, if you will not, God has a

way, but it will not always be the way that you would choose. Eli got into trouble and lost favor with God and with Israel. Because of his failure, he lost the priesthood and he lost his sons.

Parenthood is a very responsible job. It is a serious thing to train up your children, and God is holding you responsible. If you let down and try an easier route, you will have to suffer for doing so.

Let us read verse 16 of the Scripture text again. "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein." May God help you never to let the thought enter your mind that you will not walk therein. You may make the choice to do it your way, but remember, if you do, you are going to have a houseful of unsaved children.

Parenting is a full-time job. None of us has it down pat. I am trying my best to listen to God. One thing we have tried to do is keep our family in the house of God every single service possible. We have tried to tell our children that it is a joy to go to the house of God, and now they also have a desire to go. You cannot turn your job of parenting over to somebody else, such as a day care center. No, it is your job. It is rewarding when you can see your children stand and live for God and give God praise for all that He has done. Stand in the ways, seek out the old paths, and walk therein, and you will find rest for your soul.

(Cassette C-125E)

**The pleasures of sin
are for a season; but
its wages are eternal.**

Diamonds in the Rough

*Ah, many hearts are aching,
We find them ev'rywhere,
Whose cups are filled with sorrow,
Whose homes are filled with care:
Misfortune overtakes them,
The world gives them a cuff,
Or sends them to perdition,
Those diamonds in the rough.*

*The day will soon be over,
In which to work and win,
Many a gem lies hidden,
Beneath the dross of sin,
O let us dig and find them,
God's power is enough,
To polish into beauty,
Those diamonds in the rough.*

*One day, my precious comrade,
You, too, were lost in sin,
But others sought your rescue,
And Jesus took you in;
So, when you're tried and tempted,
By the scoffer's keen rebuff,
Don't turn away in anger,
He's a diamond in the rough.*

*So let us keep it burning,
The lamp of holy love,
To ev'ry persecutor,
Point out the way above;
The precious blood of Jesus
Was shed for that poor tough,
O let us tell him of it,
That diamond in the rough.*

G. W. Pendleton



Thank God for Bible Truth

I thank God for Bible truth,
Oh, yes, I love it well,
It tells us how to live for God
And shun a devil's hell

Help me, dear Lord, in all I do
To live this truth each day,
And be a true example, Lord,
In everything I say.

Help me to fear Thy truth, my Lord,
Regardless what folks say,
Or how they twist Thy truth about,
I know strait is the way!

Only pure truth will stand at last
When God is on His throne
So why slack up, or compromise?
God's Word lives on and on.

Selected



Brother Emerson A. Wilson

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

Those verses are backed with truths, definite truths. Truths that need to be considered in this day and time in which we are living. As bad as I hate to

say it, in almost every verse down through there, false religion has gotten some kind of false teaching going regarding them. Every one of us, I'm sure, realize that when the Master opened His mouth and began to speak, He spoke words of truth, deep truths that had an everlasting meaning. Thank God, that when we possess the Holy Spirit, we are able to lay hold of truth that will guide us right through the most trying and most troublesome times. Oh, how many hearts are confused and some even fretting and fearing about some conditions that might exist out ahead of us in the thought of God's plan for mankind. But brother and sister, we are glad that we can come right back to the truth and nail some things down in a definite manner, and let our hearts be at peace about what lies in store for us. In verses 34 and 35, I want you to look with me for just a little bit. "The children of this world marry and are given in marriage: (35) But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection of the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage."

I'd like to say first of all that the Gospel just comes out flatfooted and talks about three worlds. Let me tell you, you talk about something

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

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

everything of course because we couldn't comprehend it, or we couldn't hold on to it. However, He gives us enough, thank God, that we can understand some things.

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

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

habitation of this world. Beginning on the Day of Pentecost, the Scripture talks about being in the end of the world. Hebrews 9:26 says, "Christ, once in the end of the world, offered Himself as a sacrifice for sin." His very crucifixion ordered in the last dispensation of time, the Holy Ghost dispensation. First Corinthians 10:10-11 says those things that happened back there, happened for our admonition on whom the end of world is come. We have been living in the end of the world since A.D. 33. Christ in His lesson speaks of this world, and that world that is to come.

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

Luke 20:35-36: "But they which

shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: (36) Neither can they die anymore: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection." This does away with the need of marriage altogether, at a time when men do not die anymore. Hebrews 1:5, "For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?" God did not say to the angels; "Thou art My Son"; but He will say unto you, "You are My son. The angels are My babysitters." The angels are sent to take care of those that are the heirs of God. We can look into things the prophets couldn't look into. The angels desired to look, but God wouldn't let them. I not only can look into it, I've got into it. We will be like the angels in one way; we won't marry, nor be given in marriage. How come? Because when we get to that world, no man or woman ever dies. The only reason for marriage is to replenish the earth.

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

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

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

People hope that something will happen to cause God to change His mind, or that at death's door they will be changed. Jesus' Word still rings down through the corridors of, time. The only ones that are going to enjoy that world are the ones that get ready here, in this time world, before they die. Some of the false teachings tell people that they will be born again when they get their new body if they make a profession of Christ here. We must be worthy here before death comes.

In Matthew 10:7-8 we read: "And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give." We can only operate in that power, under the authority that God gives us. In 1 Corinthians 12 the Holy Ghost gives out gifts according to His own will. We need to keep the channel between us and God clean. Go as He sends you. First Corinthians, the 12th chapter, gives us more understanding about the working of God's Spirit through these vessels, than Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John ever knew anything about. Jesus said in the disciples, "I have many things I'd like to say unto

you, but you can't bare them now." What were these things Jesus spoke of? The things of the Spirit, how He would work through the individual life. Paul got the understanding of it, and he wrote it in 1 Corinthians, the 12th chapter. What do you tell the devil when he tells you at a funeral that you should raise the dead? Tell him that you can't raise the dead but you can raise the devil. Now get out of here! God gives every Christian power over the devil.

The Word of God is the discernor of the heart. The Word of God is the test to show whether or not we are worthy. Matthew 10:9-10: "Provide neither gold nor silver, nor brass in your purses, Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes . . ." Now, if that applies to me, I'm going to have to take my shoes off and go barefooted too if I'm going to be a preacher of the kingdom. This Scripture was given to a particular people. Back now to Matthew 10, last part of verse 10 through verse 15: ". . . nor yet staves, for the workman is worthy of his meat. And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. And when ye come into an house, salute it. And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for that city."

What makes us worthy? Brother, it is our attitude toward the preached Word. Matthew 22:2-8: "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my

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

Paul told the Jews that they judged themselves unworthy. I'm going to prove to you that you judge yourself by your attitude toward the Gospel. Acts 13:42-46: "And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. (43) Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. (44) And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. (45) But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. (46) Then Paul and

Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles." In the 42nd verse, we see the Jews leaving; they didn't care for that kind of preaching. The Gentiles asked if the message could be preached to them the next sabbath. Self-righteousness hindered the Jews. Luke 15:7, "Ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." The reason they needed no repentance is because they were self-righteous.

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

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

the channel through which the power of God reaches your soul and brings deliverance to you.

We must have faith in the power and the authority of God. We must have faith in the one that spoke the Word, not just the Word itself. Read Luke 7:8. He was liking Jesus to a man set, under Ephesians 1:22, tells us very plainly that God has put all things, under His feet. The basic falseness of the millennial stand is the teaching that Jesus is coming back to take over the kingdom of the world. The Bible proves that God has never lost His hold on the kingdom of the world. The whole world is under God's moral law. The kingdom that Jesus came to set up is a new kingdom. There is a domain that God never has had control over completely. What is it? That domain of your soul; that portion where He gave you the right of choice. God has taken national leaders off of the stage of action because they were moving too fast, I believe. Read Mark 10:23-30. We need to trust in the power of God and give up all. Luke 20:38. "Neither can they die anymore: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God." We become the children of God by becoming the children of the resurrection. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the life." And we are children of the resurrection. We are actually children; of God. God is a spirit. If we are born of God, we are born of the spirit of God. Ephesians 2:1-2: "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; (2) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." You can't walk to the course of this world and be worthy of that world. First Peter 1:14,

"As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance."

To the Sadducees Jesus said: "You fellows are worrying about a dead man's seed and who's going to be carried?" But there's only one name. The family of God. Amen. No Wilsons just the family of God. Brother, you have to lose your identity. Ephesians 3:14-15: (14) "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, (15) Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." God's family is being made right here on earth. Ephesians 3:21, "Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." In John 17 Jesus prayed, "Father I want you to glorify Me with the glory I had with You before the world was; I want you to give them the glory that Thou hast given Me, that they may be one even as We are." Paul prayed about the church also. He said, "Let there be glory in the church throughout all ages world without end." Second Corinthians 5:14-16a, (14) "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: (15) And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. (16a) Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh" Will we know people after the flesh over in eternity? When God gets the church where He wants her, she will not know anyone after the flesh right now. This is what makes a division. Second Corinthians 5:16b, ". . . Yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more." We won't even know Christ after the flesh. Second Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man

be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away" Someone says, "It's going to be different out there." Dear one, it's different now, right here. What are we going to be like over in Heaven? Just like the church is here, brothers and sisters. Revelation 3:4, "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy." Luke 21:34-36: (34) "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. (35) For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. (36) Watch ye, therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

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

Every 2,000 years something happens. At the end of the first 2,000 years, the earth was destroyed. At the end of the second 2,000 years, Jesus was born. When that work was completed, God told us where His time clock stood. From the very minute Christ went to the Cross, we stepped into the end of this world. Now we have been in the end of this world over 1900 years. Before the 2000th year comes around, there is going to be some outstanding event.

If you ever truly see Heaven, you will never again feel at home in this world. Note the words of the song writer: *"Once Heaven seemed a far off place, Till Jesus showed His smiling face. Now it's begun within my soul, Twill last while endless ages roll."*

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



Prayer

Prayer is the sincere pouring out of the soul to God through Christ in the strength and assistance of the Holy Spirit for such things as God has promised. Our thoughts may be prayers. There are moments when, whatever the attitude of the body, the soul is on its knees. Every good, holy desire, though it lacks the form of prayer, has itself the substance and force of a prayer with God who regards the very moanings and groanings of the heart.

Prayer is not eloquence, but earnestness, not figures of speech, but earnestness of soul. Prayer is that heavenly communion when the soul revels in the glory of God and drinks in the strength and courage it needs to face life's battles and to glorify God.

Humble, believing, earnest, persevering prayer is never lost. Prayer brings God down to earth and links His power with our efforts. Yes, prayer is a wonderful thing, the soul's communing with God. Prayer should open and conclude every day. One's first act in early morning should be to kneel in prayer and take a full draught at the heavenly fountain. Doing so will sweeten the whole day. A few moments alone with God at the calm and tranquil time are of more

value than gold. And if you tarry at the throne of God, you will come out of the secret place as the high priest of Israel came from the ministry at the altar of incense—suffused all over with the heavenly fragrance of that sweet communion.

Nothing can so calm the spirit as prayer. Nothing else can so encourage the soul, sweeten the disposition, and give good health.

T. Brooks said, "God looks not at the oratory of your prayers, how elegant they may be; nor at the geometry of your prayers, how long they may be; nor at the arithmetic of your prayers, how many they may be; nor at the logic of your prayers, how methodical they may be; but He looks at the sincerity of them." So let us be sincere in our prayers. A few tears mixed with our sincere supplications to God will bring rich rewards to the soul.

If we would have God hear us when we pray, we must hear Him when He speaks. He stops His ears against those who stop their ears against His Word.

We can form a habit of prayer. The more we pray, the more we will desire to pray. There is little danger of too much time being spent in prayer. David said, "Evening and morning and at noon will I pray and cry aloud; and He shall hear my voice." If our hearts are filled with love, forgiveness, humility, and a great desire to be more like Christ, our prayers will be answered. "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (Matthew 21:22).

Prayer is not always desire; it is sincere praise to God for His many blessings to us. Let us ever give thanks to God for His unspeakable gift.

We must not wait until we feel like praying but pray anyhow, and prayer will become like a well of water springing up within our souls and running over to others to encourage and help. This closeness to God is a wonderful experience. Prayer is the sword with which we fight everything that would hinder our walk with God, and much more.

Mattie Forbush Wilson



POSSESSING YOUR VESSEL!

The Word of God lets us know that man was created an earthen vessel for the distinct purpose of honoring his Creator. Revelation 4:11 reads, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." Man was made a free moral agent that he might serve God through choice with a heart of love. What choice have you made?

There are two types of vessels spoken of in the Bible: vessels of honor and dishonor. The Apostle Paul exhorted the Thessalonians to walk worthy of God, who had called them unto His kingdom and glory. First Thessalonians 4:1-4 says: "Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor."

When we are saved and sanctified unto God, our body belongs to God to be used for His

glory. Our part is to serve as a steward over our vessel, abiding by the laws which God has given for a sanctified life. God receives honor from our life only when it is lived in perfect obedience unto Him. Second Corinthians 4:7 says, "But we have this treasure [salvation] in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." It is our duty to protect this treasure, lest we lose it.

Old Israel is an example of those who disobeyed God's law for possessing the land which God had given them, where they could be free from Egyptian bondage, the type of sin. A land where there was abundance for all their physical needs. God only asked one thing of them: that they serve Him faithfully as their only God. But they disobeyed and built an idol. This provoked Him to jealousy, and He tells us in Hosea 8:8, "Israel is swallowed up: now shall they be among the Gentiles as a vessel wherein is no pleasure." This lesson applies to our individual lives. God will have first place or none at all.

People in this United States are worshipping idols whether they realize it or not. You may ask, "What is an idol?" It is anything that comes between you and God. Anything that holds your affection more than God. The Christian must

be careful, lest something slip in almost unaware. The enemy can't get you to do anything big but will work in a deceiving manner. Never get to the place where you think that something small cannot steal your affections. First Corinthians 10:12-14 states: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it. Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry."

Here is an example of my own experience, and it may sound foolish, but I trust it may be of benefit to someone. There was a time in my life when I would not miss a single thrilling episode in the life of Mary Worth in the local newspaper. I would pick that thing up and read it even if I was hurrying to get to church on time. I did not realize it had such a hold on me until God condemned me for it and brought me to the realization that I would rather read that than the Bible, so I quit reading it completely. My, what a blessing God gives us just for laying aside such a small thing. It is just such little things that can sap a person's

spirituality if they are not careful.

What small thing could there be in your life that could be taking up too much time? sports? automobiles? the pizza shop? magazine stories? antiques? These are just a few examples, of which none are sin as long as they do not take up unnecessary time. If you are uncertain as to whether God would be pleased with your going to a certain place or doing a certain thing, ask yourself a few questions first. Can God use me there? How would my actions reflect on God's church, of which I am a part? What would the sinner think of me? If I should happen to die there, would I be ashamed to stand before the Judge of all men? Remember that after our death, a once merciful Savior becomes a very just Judge! Last of all, What would Jesus do? Clean recreation is good for all, but over indulgence is dangerous to the sanctified vessel. Colossians 3:1-3 tells us: "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

Romans 8:12-14 reads: "Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die [spiritually]: but if ye through the spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (And the Spirit of God will not lead to sin.)

First John 2:15-17: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." We know that these thugs: the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and

pride of life are not carnal but human desires. Adam and Eve could not have been tempted on these three points if they were only carnal, because they had no carnal nature until they fell from their position with God. But when carnality is in a person, these things cannot be overcome. Sports, for instance, have become a god to millions of people because of carnality, a natural desire to live after the flesh. As Christians, we do not have to be tied to such things. Of course, we can be tempted, but God always gives victory over the flesh

It is such a precious privilege to have real salvation that we must protect it lest it slip away from us. We are each building a life, and it is a wonderful thing to have it started in a Christian home. Just being raised by Christian parents will not make you a Christian, but it teaches you how to obey God when you do get saved. Do not ever let the enemy tell you that you have missed something good because you have been raised in a Christian home and have not been allowed to go out into the world and "sow your wild oats." Remember that what you do not sow, you will not have to reap, and your parents are just helping you build a clean life that will not bring sadness in the end. Proverbs 22:1 reads, "A good name [report] is rather to be chosen than great riches."

Ephesians 6:1-21 lets us know how we should live if we expect to be a vessel of honor unto God. We did not save ourselves, and we cannot keep ourselves, but we certainly play a part in both. There must first be a desire, then God does His part by fulfilling it. The best way to protect our salvation is to study God's Word and apply it to our individual lives and have communion with God faithfully.

Another point: As long as we are human, we are going to have feelings that can be hurt, but it will happen less often if we do not have them sting out. The devil loves for

you to get your feelings hurt so he can come around and nurse them. Not only will he nurse your wounds, but he also will show you every old scar and remind you of how it got there. People have lost their experience over this very thing. God receives no honor from us as long as we are giving place to the devil (Ephesians 4:27). A truly sanctified person should have his sights set too high to be deceived in this way.

A good way to keep from having trouble with self is to be doing something for God. This will cause the things of the flesh to seem so dim and unimportant. Fast occasionally or lay aside some of your own plans to be of benefit to some soul God will really send a blessing. There is a song that says, (Chorus) What are you doing, doing, doing, doing for the Lord? Are you feasting every day upon His Word? Are you spending time in prayer, or do you really care? What are you doing, doing, doing for the Lord? (Verse 1) Just look all around, there's work to do; Can the Master of the harvest depend on you? Are you living every day that you could hear Him say, "There is a special work I have for you to do?" (Verse 2) The end of all time is drawing nigh, Do you use every chance to testify? Can you tell your fellow man of salvation's wondrous plan? What are you doing, doing, doing for the Lord?

How do you possess your vessel for the Lord? Is there room for improvement?

Iris Moran

**Never throw mud.
You may not hit your
mark,
but you will have
dirty hands.**



Guaranteed Healing on a Conditional Warranty

Brother Cleve Green

Believe—Do Not Doubt

Ezekiel 38:36, "Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the Lord build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the Lord have spoken it, and I will do it." This promise, like all the rest of God's many promises, is on a conditional basis. With every promise God says, "You do, and then I will do." Divine Healing is no exception to the rule. If we meet the conditions He requires in His Word, then we can expect our healing. In Exodus 15:26, we have a wonderful promise; but here again it is on condition. Here we read, ". . . if thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians; for I am the Lord that healeth thee." God has promised us healing in this Scripture, but we must hearken diligently to His Word. In Romans 10:17 we read, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and

hearing by the word of God." Paul here is not talking about ordinary listening to the Word. If that were true then everyone could have faith, that hears the Word preached. When Paul spoke, "Faith cometh by hearing," he meant faith cometh through spiritual hearing or simply believing the word. We know that Paul doesn't mean that just an ordinary listening to the word will bring faith. If this were true, many people would have faith. This is the same kind of hearing that Moses spoke about in Exodus 15:26, "If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God." Down further in the same verse, he says that we ought to "give ear to his commandments." This is just another way of saying you've got to believe the promises that he has made. In Mark 9:23, we have these words, "IF THOU CANST BELIEVE, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO HIM THAT BELIEVETH." Please notice that this is another conditional promise.

I can remember a few years ago when a sister in Virginia came one night to be prayed for. She had a weak condition in her body. She came back

the next night praising God that He had given her a blood transfusion. She simply took God at His Word and stood upon the promises. It was a marvelous healing. The Scripture said, "IF THOU CANST BELIEVE, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO HIM THAT BELIEVETH." The word *believeth* means a continuation of faith. This doesn't mean doubt awhile and believe awhile. Too many times when the symptoms hang on for awhile, they dull our faith. This is when faith should be the strongest. In verse 24 of this ninth chapter of Mark the man with the demon-possessed son cried out, "HELP THOU MINE UNBELIEF." It will be good to get all the unbelief, doubts, and fears rebuked; and then take a stand on the promise. Doubt is one thing that seems to break the warranty of this guarantee on healing. In Matthew 21:21 Jesus said, "IF YE HAVE FAITH AND DOUBT NOT, YE SHALL SAY UNTO THIS MOUNTAIN, BE THOU REMOVED, AND BE THOU CAST IN THE SEA; IT SHALL BE DONE." Now the mountain that Jesus was talking about was not a literal mountain.

These are mountains of fear, doubt, confusion, sickness, and disease, and if you have faith and doubt not, it shall be done. In Mark 11:24, "THEREFORE I SAY UNTO YOU, WHAT THINGS SOEVER YE DESIRE, WHEN YE PRAY, BELIEVE THAT YE RECEIVE THEM! AND YE SHALL HAVE THEM." Here again the promise is on condition. First we have to pray and then believe just like it had already happened and then you shall receive. If you believe that you receive what you pray for, you ought to be praising Him for it before you actually see it come to pass.

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

circumstances. Then the pay off is coming.

Sometime back when we were in Essex, Maryland, for a revival meeting, a brother who had arthritis so bad that he had to walk on crutches came to the altar. He started to the altar without his crutches; but couldn't make it, so he literally crawled to the altar. While he was at the altar, his faith was inspired; and we prayed for him and God gloriously touched him. He walked out of the building without his crutches. Praise God! When the conditions are met God comes through with healing.

Strong Love Casts Out Fear

In the last clause of verse 6 in chapter five of Galatians, Paul made this statement: "BUT FAITH WORKETH BY LOVE." Now, you can weigh your faith by your love. If you have strong love for God; then, your faith ought to be strong. People that you dearly love, you can really trust. Take, for example, your companion. You are not afraid to crawl in bed with them and go to sleep, if you really love them. If you love them, and they love you; it never enters your mind that they might kill you while you are asleep. You see then that you can easily trust someone that you really love. Then, why is it so hard to trust God? You had better examine your love for "FAITH WORKETH BY LOVE." I read of a young man who took his young wife on an ocean voyage and a terrible storm came up. The young man was very calm as he watched the angry billows roll; but his wife was upset and went below to her room. Sometime later her husband came into the room with an ugly dagger drawn back like he was going to stab her. He tried to look mean; but he didn't scare her at all. She said, "I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU BECAUSE I KNOW YOU LOVE ME." He put the dagger down and smiled and said, "That is just the way I felt a little while ago when we were on deck and watching the angry waves roll. I knew

my Heavenly Father wouldn't let any harm befall me because He loves me." Isn't this so true? Where there is pure love there is no fear. In 1 John 4:18, "THERE IS NO FEAR IN LOVE; BUT PERFECT LOVE CASTETH OUT FEAR: FOR HE THAT FEARETH IS NOT MADE PERFECT IN LOVE." God grant unto us more saints with that perfect love. Fear is one thing that will surely break the warranty on God's guarantee on healing for us. In II Timothy 1:7, "FOR GOD HATH NOT GIVEN US THE SPIRIT OF FEAR; BUT OF POWER, AND OF LOVE, AND OF A SOUND MIND." If God has not given us the spirit of fear; we know, then, it must come from the devil. In Proverbs 29:25, "THE FEAR OF MAN BRINGETH A SNARE: BUT WHOSO PUTTETH HIS TRUST IN THE LORD SHALL BE SAFE." Isaiah 12:2, ". . . I'll trust, and not be afraid. . . "

A child of God
should be serious
without being sour,
and happy
without being foolish.

Even though every promise is conditional, I'm glad that it will take in every situation and every person. God so fixed the promises that if you will believe them) He will keep His Word whether you are in a large congregation, or maybe you don't even have a pastor. In Matthew 18:19, "AGAIN I SAY UNTO YOU, THAT IF TWO OF YOU SHALL AGREE ON EARTH AS TOUCHING ANY THING THAT THEY SHALL ASK, IT SHALL BE DONE FOR THEM OF MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN." Praise God, if just you and your companion agree, it shall be done. Then someone will say, "Preacher, I don't even have a saved companion." Well, you still have a promise. Look at John 15:7, "IF YE

ABIDE IN ME, AND MY WORDS ABIDE IN. YOU, YE SHALL ASK WHAT YE WILL, AND IT SHALL BE DONE UNTO YOU." Notice here again; this promise is conditional. He said, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you then ye shall be able to receive my promise."

Walk by Faith, Not by Feeling

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

determination to get this healing at times. Jude verse 3 says, "YE SHOULD EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH WHICH WAS ONCE DELIVERED UNTO THE SAINTS."

Follow God's Prescription

I am reminded of the time that wife had what seemed to be a heart attack back in 1968. She had been playing the piano for a couple to sing when she lost circulation half way to her elbows, and had the sharp pains in her chest with the difficult breathing. We prayed a couple of times and then it seemed that the Lord was impressing me to call up some of the saints and a couple of preachers to agree with us. Then when we prayed again, God completely healed wife of this trouble. You know every physician fills out a prescription when you go and are examined. He wants you to be sure and get the prescription filled and use it. Well, Jesus has filled out a prescription in James 5:13-15: "IS ANY AMONG YOU AFFLICTED? LET HIM PRAY IS ANY MERRY? LET HIM SING PSALMS. IS ANY SICK AMONG YOU? LET HIM CALL FOR THE ELDERS OF THE CHURCH; AND LET THEM PRAY OVER HIM ANOINTING HIM WITH OIL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD: AND THE PRAYER OF FAITH SHALL SAVE THE SICK, AND THE LORD SHALL RAISE HIM UP; AND IF HE HAVE COMMITTED SINS, THEY SHALL BE FORGIVEN HIM." Aren't you glad that you can read this prescription and understand what it means? That prescription you might get from an earthly physician I doubt you can read it. It might not help you, and it could hinder you; but thank God, this prescription when obeyed will heal the sick. Many people have taken many prescriptions prescribed by men and they have done them no good, and many times it did them harm.

The little frail woman in Mark, the

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

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



SAWDUST OR BREAD

If you go out to your garden and throw down some sawdust, the birds will not take any notice; but if you throw down some crumbs, you will find they will soon sweep down and pick them up.

The true child of God can tell the difference, so to speak, between sawdust and bread. Many so-called Christians are living on the world's sawdust, instead of being nourished by the Bread that cometh down from Heaven. Nothing can satisfy the longings of the soul but the Word of the living God.

D. L. Moody

The Importance of PRAYER



Brother W. R. Ogden

"Pray Without Ceasing"

Many ministers, Sunday school teachers, and individuals ask themselves, "Why is it that I seem to have so little power with God and why do I see so little fruit from my labors?" Congregations likewise ask, "Why is it the church is making so little progress and headway against unbelief, error, and worldliness?" The answer to these questions can be found in one simple statement, and that is because of the individual's or the congregation's neglect of earnest prayer. Or as the writer James so factually states it in the fourth chapter and the second verse of his epistle: "Ye have not because ye ASK NOT."

Prayer is God's appointed way for obtaining things. The great secret of all success or failure in our experiences in life can be traced directly to prayer or the neglect of it. All great men of God who ever accomplished much in their lives, whether in or out of the Bible, were men of consistent and earnest prayer.

Jesus, our perfect example, was also given to much prayer. We see prayer occupied a very important and prominent place in the brief

earthly ministry of our Lord. In Mark 1:35, we find the Lord was very accustomed to rising early in the morning before daylight to go out into a solitary place and there commune with the Father. Not only did He rise early, but we also find from the recording of Luke 6:12 that on occasion He spent the entire night in earnest prayer. The words *pray* and *prayer* are used at least twenty-five times in connection with our Lord in the brief record of His life in the four Gospels. The Hebrew writer said, "He ever liveth to make intercession" for us when we pray. Jesus Himself told us in Matthew 7:7, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." The disciples were instructed to "watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation" (Matthew 26:41). In Luke 18:1 Jesus spoke these words: "Men ought always to pray and not to faint." In the Ephesian letter, we note that in addition to putting on the whole armor of God, it is necessary "to pray always with all prayer and supplication" (Ephesians 6:18). Also, 1 Thessalonians 5:17 urges us to "pray without ceasing," or in other words not to go for any extended

intervals without communion with God. Though we have quoted all New Testament Scriptures, the Old Testament people were also instructed to pray, for we find in 2 Chronicles 7:14 God said, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and PRAY, and seek my face, . . . then will I . . . forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

The early-morning church, with their multiplying responsibilities crowding in about them, found that prayer and fasting were very necessary to meet their needs. Acts 6:2-4 gives us the account where the disciples instructed the church to seek out seven men full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom to wait on tables and tend to the church business that the disciples themselves might give themselves to prayer and ministering the Word of God. It was this same early church who through earnest prayer caused God to send the Holy Ghost in such power that it shook the building where they were praying (Acts 4:31). Then we read in Acts 12:5 that Peter was miraculously delivered from prison when prayer was made, without ceasing, on the part of the church unto God for him. This is what the Church of

God needs today, earnest prayer and prevailing prayer that we might see the signs and wonders that will convince the unbelieving world.

The Throne of Grace

Mercy and grace come through prayer and communion with God. One of the simplest and sweetest verses in the Bible regarding prayer is Hebrews 4:16, which says, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." This is how God has ordained that the child of God find both mercy and grace in time of need. The throne of grace is the "mercy seat" of the New Testament where we meet with the presence of God, where our sympathizing High Priest, Jesus Christ, has entered in our behalf and is making intercession for us night and day to the Father. The more time we spend in prayer, the more grace that is at our disposal for the asking. The measure of our faith and grace is determined by the measure of our prayers.

Praying also brings JOY, for Jesus said in John 16:24, "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." The Psalmist declared in Psalm 16:11, "In thy presence is fullness of JOY." Oh! the joy unspeakable and full of glory in those moments when, in our prayers, we really press into the presence of God. Earnest prayer also overcomes anxiety, for Philippians 4:6-7 encourages us to "Be careful for nothing, but in every thing, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Yes, one night spent in prayer would often save us many nights of insomnia, for when any trouble or vexation comes, great or small, just keep in touch with God. Speak

unto Him about it and let your needs and requests be made known unto Him and the result will be that peace of God which passeth all understanding.

Modes or postures of the man of God, while praying, vary somewhat according to biblical accounts. But all carry the thought of humility. In Daniel 6:10 we see Daniel kneeling as did Jesus (in the garden) when He prayed (Luke 22:41). Moses and Aaron fell on their faces as we see in the account found in Numbers 20:6. This denotes the most humble posture possible. Elijah cast himself down to the earth and put his face between his knees. (See 1 Kings 18:42.) Jesus also said in Mark 11:25, "When ye STAND praying, forgive," and we are all familiar with the custom of the Pharisees who would pray while standing on the street corner to be seen of men. Therefore it would seem from all these accounts that the position of the body, while praying, is not so important as long as the soul is on its knees (humble). Yet, many churches (having grown spiritually cold) have become formal in their standing or sitting with bowed heads. I personally believe it a good practice to kneel for prayer, which denotes humility and is more pleasing unto the Lord.

How to Pray Effectively

Praying must be in the Spirit. There is too much prayer, both public and private, that is not unto God. We must be sure that we first get an audience with Him and have a vivid realization that God is bending over and listening to us as we pray. It may be very proper when we come to pray to direct our attention to the Holy Ghost, in Jesus' name, to bring us to a definite consciousness that we are talking to God and invite the Spirit to guide us in the, things we have need to pray for. Romans 8:26-27 tells us that the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit itself maketh

intercession for us with groanings, which cannot be uttered. The Spirit knows our minds and our needs even better than we know ourselves and makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God that we might not ask for something amiss or selfishly. Yes, to be really successful in prayer, we must be in the Spirit!

Feelings in prayer, as in salvation, are of no great importance. It is when you feel least like praying that you need to pray most. When you come before the Lord to pray and feel it hard to get through, don't give Satan the victory and give up. Acknowledge before God your cold spiritual condition and confess to the Lord how prayerless and cold your heart is. Look to Him and trust Him to send the Spirit to help warm your heart; then it will not be long before He will set your heart aglow with His presence and you will begin to pray with freedom, directness, and power. Many tell us that some of the most blessed seasons of prayer often started with a feeling of utter deadness and prayerlessness. I have found it equally effective when I come before the Lord in prayer and find it hard to pray to start out by praising both the Spirit and Jesus and telling Them how very much I love and desire Their presence with me. After naming over just a few of the many, many blessings that the Lord has given me and giving Him thanks for them, I find that it is not long until God assures me and any hindrance from Satan will have fled. The giving of thanks for what the Lord has already done is a marvelous way to enter into prayer, for as Philippians 4:6 states, it is with "thanksgiving" that our requests should be made known.

Fasting with prayer is sometimes required if prayer is to be effective. Jesus told His disciples that they were unable to deal with Satan in one instance (Matthew 17:20) because of unbelief. He said howbeit some kinds of devil possession cannot be cast out except by fasting.

and prayer. If we would pray with power, we should pray with fasting. I do not mean to say we need to fast every time we pray, but there are times of emergency or special crisis in our lives, or in the work of God when fasting and prayer are needed to bring us right down to the earnestness which moves God on His throne. It was this kind of earnest prayer with humility that Nineveh's king used to change God's mind, and Nineveh was saved from destruction.

Unity in numbers seems to bring more power in prayer also, for Jesus said in Matthew 18:19-20: "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." This shows the importance of that Scripture which states that we should not forsake the assembling of ourselves together. It has been my desire and purpose through this article to impress upon your mind the great importance of prayer and to point you to that information that may possibly help you to have more success in your prayer life. Consistent prayer and the reading of God's Word is just as vital to the spiritual man as food and water are vital to the survival of the physical

Hindrances to Prayer

We have gone very carefully into the positive conditions of prevailing prayer, but let us now take a few moments to examine some of the conditions which may be hindering our prayers.

Let us first examine ourselves to see whether or not we are in the faith, and that we are doing nothing that would displease the Lord. It is only when our hearts condemn us not that we can have the confidence in God that He will both hear and answer our prayers. Just as David did, we need to ask the Lord, "Search me, O God, and know my

heart: try me, and know my thoughts." Then if the Lord is not hearing our prayers because of something in the way between Him and us, we may rest assured that He will show us when we ask Him to reveal it to us. God would not chasten us, except that He showed us why, any more than we would chasten our children and not tell them for what they were being punished.

If after having asked the Lord to reveal to us anything that might be hindering our communion with Him and there seems to be no apparent reason, let us recognize the fact that Satan is merely trying to harass us as we seek an audience with God. However, if our prayerlessness is persistent, perhaps we had better consider some of the following reasons that prayer is often hindered to see if they might fit our particular situations.

Iniquity in the heart will hinder our contact with God in prayer. David declared in Psalm 66:18, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." So long as we hold on to any sin or have any controversy with God, we cannot expect Him to heed our prayers. Congregations, as well as individuals, are often cut off from contact with the Lord because of iniquities they are guilty of. Isaiah 59:2 states, "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." Sin, therefore, will hinder prayer. It may be a sin that is past, and you have not confessed and forsaken it. It may be something in the present that is cherished and is not looked upon as sin. If sin is hidden away somewhere in the heart or in the life, God will not hear. It may be necessary for us to search our hearts most diligently and see if there is anything that is constantly coming up in our minds during our close communion with God. If there is, that is the thing that hinders prayer. Put it away!

Selfishness hinders prayer. James

says in his epistle (4:3), "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may spend it in your pleasures" (R.V.). Any selfish prayer robs us of power in prayer. It may seem the prayer request itself is very proper to ask, but the motive of the prayer may be entirely wrong. The true purpose in prayer should always be that God may be glorified in the answer to the prayer. If we ask of God merely to receive something to use in our pleasures or in our own gratification in one way or another, we "ask amiss" and need not expect to receive what we ask. This explains why many prayers remain unanswered. Many are asking for the salvation of their loved ones or mates because it would be so much more pleasant for them to have a saved mate. Instead they should want God to be glorified and the Kingdom of God advanced with another laborer for the vineyard. Thus, the prayer is purely selfish, and therefore, the petition is unanswered.

The lack of faith hinders prayer. Mark 11:24 tells us that Jesus said, "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, BELIEVE that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." It was so often that the Lord, during His earthly ministry, left the responsibility for answered requests solely upon the faith of the asker with His statement, "According to your faith be it unto you" (Matthew 9:29). James 1:6-7 also tells us: "Let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord." This may seem a little harsh at first, but not so much when we realize that the Hebrew writer said in Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please him [God]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Could it be that your hindrance in prayer is due to your not believing that God is hearing

your prayer or answering your petition?

Lack of obedience also hinders our prayer life. It is most necessary that we do what the Bible commands us to do if we are to expect our requests to be heard. First John 3:22 plainly tells us, "Whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." He who expects God to do what he asks must do that which is his part in whatever God asks. If we give a listening ear to all of God's commandments to us, He will give a listening ear to all of our petitions to Him. On the other hand, if we turn a deaf ear to His precepts, He will be likely to turn a deaf ear to our prayers also. Here we find the secret to many unanswered prayers. Jesus said in John 15:7, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." To abide in Christ is to bear the same relationship to Him that the branches bear to the vine. The branches constantly receive the sap of life of the vine. As the branches depend upon the vine for life, we are to be completely submissive to His will.

Lack of Bible reading affects our prayer life. In the above Scripture, we see that Jesus said, "AND MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU." The Word of Christ must abide in us. The words that He spoke unto us, they are spirit and they are life (recorded in John 6:63). Prevailing prayer is almost impossible where there is neglect of the study of the Word of God. The lack of regular church attendance, when we are able to be in the services, will also hinder our prayer life. For the Word says for us "not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together." Prayer and the reading of God's Word are to the spiritual man what food and water are to the physical man. Both are necessary for life!

Idols hinder prayer. God spoke through His Prophet, Ezekiel (14:3), "Son of man, these men have set up

their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face." Idols in the hearts of men cause God to refuse to listen to their prayers. An idol is anything that is the supreme object of your affections; therefore it takes first place in your heart before God. Idols can often be your children, money, or possessions such as the home or car, and in many cases, even your mate could become an idol to you. A man cannot love his wife any too much, but he can put her in the wrong place. Too often our stomach takes first place in our lives, and thus becomes our personal idol. God may often refuse to hear our prayers in order to call attention to the fact that we do have an idol. By so doing, He leads us to inquire as to why our prayers are not answered. When we discover what the idol is and put it away, God will hear our prayers.

What you possess in this world will go to someone when you die, but what you are will be yours forever.

Stinginess will hinder prayer. Proverbs 21:13 proclaims, "Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard." It is the one who gives generously to others who receives generously from God. "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38). The generous man is the mighty man of prayer.

Wrong home relationship often is that which hinders our praying. The wrong relationship between husband and wife is more often the cause of hindered prayer than we realize. God has a definite plan and

government for and in the home. In 1 Peter, the third chapter, we are given a clear understanding, of what this plan and requirement in the home is. When each stay in the place God has ordained, then and only then do we have that perfect harmony in the home and in prayer before God. First Peter 3:6-7 advises us: "Even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord," the wives should be in subjection unto their husbands, and "Likewise ye husbands, dwell with them [wife] according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life: THAT YOUR PRAYERS BE NOT HINDERED

Half-heartedness may also be that which is not making your prayer life effective as it might be. God told the people of the old dispensation by the mouth of Jeremiah 29:13: "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your hearts." In Hebrews 11:6 the Hebrew writer says, "He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them THAT DILIGENTLY seek him." Since this is a declaration in both dispensations, we must realize that God is not pleased with a half-hearted approach to the throne of grace.

Unforgiveness in the heart hinders prayer. Perhaps there is not any singular block between us and the mercy seat of Christ more impregnable than unforgiveness or an unforgiving spirit. With unforgiveness in the heart, it is even impossible to pray to the Lord for salvation or to be forgiven of sin. Jesus said in Matthew 6:15, "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Again, He said in Mark 11:25-26: "When ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any . . . But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." Anyone who is nursing a grudge against another or harbor-

ing ill will against those who have wronged them has fast closed the ear of God against his own petition. Many are allowing themselves or their loved ones to go down to a devil's hell for the miserable gratification of hating somebody. The Word most definitely tells us "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar" (1 John 4:20). If we are to be forgiven or have God hear our prayers, we must clear all unforgiveness from our hearts and minds even if it is necessary to have the hands of the ministry laid upon us to cast out an unforgiving spirit. If after having examined ourselves and found that none of these hindrances apply to us, then let us recognize Satan's interference and take a stand against him and as the Apostle Paul admonished us, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).



Prayer Burdens

NORTH CAROLINA: Please remember our family in earnest prayer. The prayer requests we read in *The Trumpeter* are remembered when we pray, and I am glad to help carry the load of other people's burdens.

INDIANA: Our family needs your prayers. God is dealing with us, and we are trying to pull our family back together again. Our son tried to commit suicide last month. He is in a rehabilitation program, and his alcoholic father is also beginning to go to meetings.

I also have another son and daughter who are heavy drinkers. I feel we need the prayers of the saints. We must live one day at a time and pray that God will guide us.

KENTUCKY: Pray for me.

MICHIGAN: Please remember me for complete healing.

OHIO: Please pray for me that I will do only God's perfect will. Also, pray for me as I have not been well. I think a lot of it is stress. I have money problems and my children need prayer.

OHIO: Please keep me and my family on the prayer list. God is moving on many situations here.

NIGERIA: Please pray for my sister.

OHIO: Please pray for me and my family.

MICHIGAN: Please pray for us and our family that the Lord will work in their home.

OHIO: Please keep me and my family on your prayer list. I am having a battle with Satan and with my throat, and I see greater needs in my family every day.

NIGERIA: Pray for me, my family, my pastor, and the local congregation.

WEST VIRGINIA: I have some urgent prayer requests. My sisters in the flesh are suffering much pain. My son is a diabetic and is not able to get around very well. Also, remember our boys overseas, and I have an unsaved husband and he is in a terrible spiritual condition.

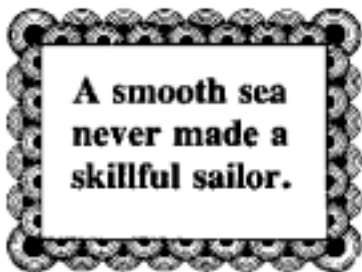
FLORIDA: I would like to request prayer for myself as I am facing major surgery on my hip.

NIGERIA: I need prayer. I have chest pain. I have faith that if this request reaches you people, I shall be healed.

OHIO: Please keep me and my family on the prayer list. I am having a bad time with my throat muscle. I now have to take my meals through a stomach tube. Also, my niece needs prayer. She has been critically injured in a car accident.

NORTH CAROLINA: Please pray for me as I am a child of God. My back is giving me a lot of trouble. I also have a breaking out. Also, I have other burdens over neighbors and property.

NORTH CAROLINA: Keep us on your prayer list. Also, pray that the truth will be preached here.



THE SNAKE THAT POISONS EVERYBODY

It topples governments, wrecks marriages, ruins careers, busts reputations, causes heartaches, nightmares, indigestion, spawns suspicion, generates grief, dispatches innocent people to cry in their pillows. Even its name hisses.

It's called gossip. Office gossip. Shop gossip. Party gossip. It makes headlines and heartaches. Before you repeat a story, ask yourself:

Is it true?

Is it fair?

Is it necessary?

If not, SHUT UP!

Holiness Is Taught in the Bible



As Christians, we all accept the Bible as a rule of faith, but while this is true, very many, either through thoughtlessness or imperfect teaching, come short of that holiness taught in the Word of God. If this is not taught in the Bible, then it cannot be found there. What can be the true meaning of such words and phrases as the following if they do not teach a pure, holy life and freedom from a life of sin? Please note carefully these expressions: "Blessed are the pure in heart," "Purifying their hearts by faith," "upright," "perfect man," "whiter than snow," "clean," "washed," "cleansed," "from all your filthiness," "from all your idols," "from all sin," "from all unrighteousness," "a clean heart," "a right spirit," "pure in heart," "purity," "dead indeed to sin," "free indeed," "free from the law of sin and death," "sanctified," "the very God of peace sanctify you holy," "not having spot or wrinkle," "perfect and entire wanting nothing," "perfect holiness," "perfect in love," "we have the mind of Christ," "partakers of the divine nature." And to put the question beyond all dispute, God said, "Be ye

holy; for I am holy." Jesus once said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect," showing that it is the same kind of holiness which God Himself possesses.

Is not the holiness of angels and was not the holiness of man when he was created like the holiness of God? The record tells us that man was made in the image of God. The Apostle wrote of those who had "put off the old man," "and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him." What a sublime and glorious thought that we may be like God Himself!

Holiness Not a New Discovery

Holiness is the grand central truth of the Christian system, and it flashes in every consecrated life, and it is written in every revelation from God. Holiness is breathed in the prophecies, thundered in the law, murmured in narrative, whispered in the promises, and supplicated in prayers. Holiness is needed, required, offered, and obtainable; holiness is a duty; it is a present privilege and a present enjoyment.

What Salvation Is Not

Many have made the mistake of assuming that holiness frees them from all temptation to sin. No state of grace is intended as a substitute for common sense or prudence. We must never lose sight of the fact that this life is a probation, and therefore, tests are put to us to develop the soul life. It necessarily follows, then, that heart purity is not a state of grace in which we are removed from those conditions intended to develop the perfect life.

Salvation does not upset the plan of nature by removing the natural passions and appetites, but it does give a mollifying power which enables its possessor to bring them more fully into subjection when tempted. It gives power to overcome all temptations, whether from within or from without.

The history of the world, the lives of men eminent for intellect and iniquity, and our own experience sadly prove that the wickedness and the wretchedness of humanity is the result of swaying reason and disregarding conscience.

Salvation, however, is not self-destruction, nor the eradication of

some annoying passion, nor the brutal humiliation of the body as sometimes practiced by monks in bygone days, but it is rather the subordination of them to common sense and law. All the appetites of the body, all the passions of the mind have their origin in the order and constitution of nature and are designed for the happiness of man and maintenance of the home and state. A mastering propensity is a perversion. That which is innocent in the limitations of law is vicious when the gratification is unlawful. Gluttony is the excess of temperance; revenge, of anger; adultery, of the lawful rights of marriage, etc. The perfect man in Christ is he whose physical, mental, and moral powers are in full force, but subject to law. In this complete restoration about which we are writing, nothing but sin in practice is destroyed. The whole natural body with its appetites and passions is recognized, regulated, purified, and exalted. To the saved person, God reappears in the fellowship of His presence, conscience is strengthened, and its dictates are obeyed; the affections are cleansed, the will emancipated, and all the passions find their contentment in normal indulgence. All temptations are met with instant recoil, and thus the soul's equipoise is restored. Love, then, is supreme, rest is perfect, and Christ is all in all.

Salvation Qualifies for Service

It makes for efficiency, for it is the spirit of devotedness and is carried into all the relations and concerns of life. It is self-abnegation, which seeks no other reward than the consciousness of duty well done. It makes for calmness amid turbulence, meekness amid provocation, humility amid the pride and fashion of this or any age. It is a reign of love amid a world of anarchy and hate. It is brotherly kindness which worketh no ill to man, and the charity which thinketh no evil. It is benevolence incarnated.

It is the horizon which takes in all of each passing day, and to the soul that possesses it, there is a Sabbath of perpetual rest.

The Holy Ghost cannot *lead* where He has never gone, and ministers and Gospel workers should always keep this thought in mind. The Holy Ghost does His work well. He tears away all cloaks that naked deformity may be seen. He hastens where He is given right to rule. The positive strength of any man is that of the Holy Spirit's power, for He warns men of sin, intemperance, and of an impending doom. He brings Scripture to our minds with proper interpretations, and He always leads in ways of truth and toward home. To trifle with such a person as the Holy Ghost, or with such a needful doctrine and experience, is to make a mistake which may rob one of work, life, soul, and eternity with God.

J. Grant Anderson

ARE WE EXCUSED?

Can we whose lives are richly blest
With Gospel light and Heaven's best,
With education's strength and lift,
If we withhold the Christian's gift.
Can we be blameless in our greed
If we share not with souls in need?
When others hunger in dark lands,
Dare we hold tight within our hands?

Our money and our means, not share
When we have much, oh, much to spare
Will God excuse our self-set gains
While sad hearts die in sinful chains?
Is there not danger we may hear
The words that fell on the rich man's ear
When he had died and felt too late
The pangs of Lazarus at his gate?

He begged his brethren might be told
To share their gifts of love and gold.
Christ brought His message to all men;
This life is short, and, oh, what then?
When we must give account to God
For paths our earthly feet have trod;
The rich man would have given all
If life on earth he might recall.

Too late, too late, his warning cry
Sounds through the earth, all men must die;
With death our chance forever ends,
None o'er returns to make amends.
O Christian, rouse, awake, and give
Of love, of means while yet you live.

Lucena C. Byrum

The Secret Closet

*There is a place the saints
may go,
Where the vulture's
eye will never know,
And where the healing
cleansing flow
Will wash one white as
driven snow.*

*From secret closet with
strength anew,
The blessed will of God
to do;
And the greatest battle
one must win,
Is victory over self
and sin.*

Tom Lane

The Little Boy and the Big Book

I like to think of Christ as a burden bearer.
A minister was one day moving his library upstairs. As he was going up with a load of books, his little boy came in and was very anxious to help his father. So his father just told him to go and get an armful and bring them upstairs. When the father came back, he met the little fellow about half-way up, tugging away at the biggest book in the library. He couldn't manage to carry it up. It was too big. So he sat down and cried. His father found him and just took him in his arms, book and all, and carried him upstairs. So Christ will carry you and all your burdens, if you will but let Him.

D. L. Moody



BE NOT DECEIVED !

"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand." This command we find in Joel 2:1. Although it was uttered eight hundred years before the coming of our Savior, yet it is for you and me to obey in this present day and age of the world. Therefore, although this warning has appeared to the children of God many times before, yet I feel that it is a subject that cannot be too freely dealt with from the Word of truth. We see brethren who were once filled with the Spirit of God falling away, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, teaching things that are not found in the Word of God. Therefore let the same warning go forth from the pulpit and press that our Savior gave unto His disciples in Matthew 24:4, "Take heed that no man deceive you."

Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 3:13 that "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." At no time before in this last dispensation of time can we see that this Scripture has been so literally fulfilled as in our present day, when we behold

the multitude of doctrines and deceptions sown broadcast over our land by men who have turned away unto fables. Wherefore keep on the whole armor of God; "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" (Ephesians 6:12). We also see in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 the same warning given unto the brethren of that place to, "let no man deceive you by any means." If it was necessary for the overseers of the houses of God to warn the brethren in the morning of time against deceptive spirits and doctrines of devils, is it not necessary also for them in the evening of time to sound forth the same warning? I say yea, and so much the more when we see the day approaching of the appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ; for Satan realizes that his time is short to work here on earth. So he is putting forth all his cunning plans to deceive the souls of men and get them rocked to sleep in the age-to come theory or some other damnable heresy until the Savior shall appear to finally judge both the quick and the dead. Then he

(Satan) will know that he has completed his plan, and that there is now no longer any place for preliminary judgment or repentance when the seventh and last trumpet has sounded forth its final declaration; but all will be faced with final judgment. Wherefore, "Let God be true, but every man a liar" (Romans 3:4).

Let every one that has been made a new creature in Christ follow the precepts of God and be led by the Spirit that harmonizes with the Word of God, and none else; for many have fallen under delusions by following what they call the Spirit of God, and yet when it is measured by the Word, it is found to be a spirit of deception, which originates from the bottomless pit. Paul said in Galatians 6:7-8: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Seeing the promises of reward set forth in this Scripture of truth, I thank God that the real seed of truth is being scattered abroad over the land, and that the standard of

salvation and the Gospel of the Prince of Peace is reaching its primitive purity once more, insomuch that the hailstones of God's eternal truth are sweeping away the refuge of lies and showing forth the one body, the church of the living God, and all the faithful of God who are tied up in spiritual Babylon where there is no freedom are obeying the voice that says, "Come out of her, my people" (Revelation 18:4).

We will now notice one more Scripture found in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, which reads as follows: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." If therefore we reach perfection by obeying the Word of God, can we attain to a higher state of purity in this life by following the erroneous teaching of some who say there are deeper things to be found in God than are set forth in His Word? I tell you nay, but let God be true, as I have said before, and every man a liar. Jesus tells us in His prayer to the Father for His followers that the Word of God is truth (John 17:17).

Now some may want to know how we know that the Word is of God. We will resort to the testimony of our Savior found in John 12:49-50: "For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak." This clearly shows that Jesus came not to do His own will but His that sent Him, and now by adding Paul's testimony also, which is recorded in Hebrews 1:1-2, there will be sufficient proof to every reader that the New Testament is the Word of God. It is as follows: "God, who at sundry times, and in divers manners spake in time past

unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son." Praise God for the Word! By obeying it we receive the Spirit of truth in the first place, and then by keeping His commandments we retain the same Spirit, which Christ promised would lead us into all truth (not error) (John 16:15). Wherefore seeing we have this promise and many others, "let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1-2).

P. T. Everton



HEALED OF DROPSY

To the dear afflicted ones I would say, take courage. There is still plenty of balm in Gilead for your weary soul and afflicted body, together with a whole throne of grace from which you can obtain grace to help in time of need. The Lord's hand is not shortened that He cannot heal, for I have tested and tried Him and found Him abundantly able, all glory to His dear, sweet name.

Up until two years ago I was interested in a general blacksmithing business at Stamford, Nebraska. I was alone, and the next door neighbor, not seeing a light in my room and knowing I was sick, telephoned my son that he had better come and see what the trouble was. In a few minutes he

came and took me home with him, and he then called a physician to examine me to see what the trouble was. He said that my heart was completely worn out.

Being a large man, I had overtaxed the heart to keep up such a large body, and I began to pray to God for healing, but it did not come. I could not sleep for seven nights. This time was spent mostly in prayer, and as the days weeks, and months went by, I still was not healed. And then I would reason with the dear Lord like this: "Lord, if anyone brings a piece a machinery to me to be repaired and I find a necessary part worn out, I replace it with a new one. So I know if my heart is worn out, You are able to put a new one in its place."

Many ministers visited me. Some had prayer with me, but it seemed they could not pray the prayer of faith. One dear minister came and was so good to me, and always prayed with me. And the last time he came he talked with me about dying, and I told him was ready to go. The physician came and examined me again, and said, "You have the disease now it its last stages" (dropsy). I was so swollen my son had to cut off my clothing with the shears.

Finally, I talked to the Lord like this: "Lord, I have been praying for You to heal me all summer, and You have not done it. Now, Lord, I am ready to go. Here I am, Lord. This is me. If it's not Your will to heal me, come and get me. I am ready to go with You." The doctor went up the street and told those inquiring about me, "He can live but just a day or two at most. It's just impossible for him to get well."

After that prayer I just looked for Him to take me home. But instead He came and in three hours there was not a bit of dropsy to be found about me. Hallelujah! I am healed. I know God spared me for a purpose, and I have consecrated myself anew in His service.

J. M. Nickerson



NORTH CAROLINA: My sister gave me two copies of *The Trumpeter*, and I enjoy them so much.

PERU: I enjoy *The Trumpeter*. It always comes when I am in great need of a helping hand spiritually.

LOUISIANA: Just a note to say thanks for *The Trumpeter*. We look forward to receiving each issue.

NIGERIA: I want to thank God that your magazine teaches many things I need to know at this end of time. Please keep sending it to me.

FLORIDA: I am so thankful to our dear God for His goodness to me. And I am thankful to all of you for sending *The Trumpeter* our way. Keep up the good work. I am praying for you.

WISCONSIN: I just want to say thank you for *The Gospel Trumpeter*. I like to read it

NORTH CAROLINA: *The Gospel Trumpeter* is a blessing to me. I read each issue over and over and let others read mine too. May God bless you all.

NIGERIA: Thanks very much for *The Gospel Trumpeter*. It is so precious to me, and it helps me lead a good life. Through this magazine, two friends have started attending church.

MARYLAND: God bless each and every one at *The Gospel Trumpeter*. I enjoy reading it.

MISSOURI: Just a word of encouragement for you saints who work to get this little magazine out. They are so good. I have received so much strength and encouragement from each one. I have never met any of you, but I love you dearly. I pray God's blessings upon each and every one of you.

ALABAMA: We enjoy the paper here.

KANSAS: Just a little note to tell you I am still enjoying *The Trumpeter*. The messages are so inspiring, and I appreciate you dear ones who work so faithfully so that I can enjoy them. May God richly bless each one. I am sure your reward will be great

WEST VIRGINIA: Through the last twenty years, I have either been given copies of *The Gospel Trumpeter* or picked up copies at the detention center where I have served the Lord. I have enjoyed the articles, poems, and your biblical stand on timely issues. Keep up the good work.

WEST VIRGINIA: We appreciate receiving *The Gospel Trumpeter*.

NIGERIA: I want to use this opportunity to thank you for *The Gospel Trumpeter* which has been coming my way these past years. I also thank God for all of you dear people who work so hard to get *The Trumpeter* out; with Bible doctrines and wonderful messages. May God richly bless and supply all the needs to keep it out to the lost world for the salvation of souls.

It has been a blessing to me. Since there is no Church of God in my area, it has been the only food for my soul. I look forward to its coming.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHIPPENSBURG PA
March 4-10

REVIVAL: The Church of God of Cumberland Valley, 611 Shippensburg Rd. (4 1/2 miles North), Shippensburg, PA 17257. Evangelist: Bro. Henry Marquiss.
Service times: 7:30 each evening. For information contact Pastor Stanley J. Rexroth.
Telephone: (117) 423-6389.

GRANITE FALLS, NC
March 13-17

REVIVAL: Grace Chapel Church of God, Granite Falls, NC.
Evangelist: Bro. Roger Cummings, Ravenswood, WV.
Service times: Wed.-Sat. 7 p.m., Sun. 10:30 am. & 6 p.m.
For information contact Pastor Mark Hartsell, Rt. 3, Box 228-C, Granite Falls, NC 26630.
Telephone: (704) 396-2662.

ALMA, MI
March 25-31

REVIVAL: The Church of God, 8837 N. Winans Rd., Alma, MI.
Evangelist: Bro. Roger Cummings, Ravenswood, WV.
Service times: Mon.-Fri. 7 p.m., Sat. 6 p.m., Sun. 10:30 am. & 6 p.m.
For information contact Pastor Earl R. Borders, 507 N. Woodworth Ave., Alma, MI 48801.
Telephone: (517) 463-2472.