

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

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

Brother Roger L. Decker Editor
Workers Too Numerous to Mention

THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

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

**SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS
PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH**

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

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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Annual Financial Report

The Psalmist David penned in Psalm 26:7, "That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works." This has been the burden of this publication, *The Gospel Trumpeter*, for the thirty-two years that we have been heralding the message of precious Truth in the printed form. We consider ourselves extremely blessed "to be put in trust with the gospel" (1 Thessalonians 2:4), and we certainly lift the voice of thanksgiving for this stewardship with which we have been entrusted. It is the earnest desire and burden of all of us at *The Gospel Trumpeter* to portray His wondrous works through the written page so that all men may behold His wonderful works to the children of men. It is our belief that when honest hearts behold the goodness of God that it will lead them to repentance. Our burden in the printing of this journal is twofold: that all men might be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth. To this end many saints work tirelessly to present you with this magazine every month. Only eternity will reveal the many hours expended and the benefits gained by this periodical.

Needless to say, the publication of this holiness journal is a large and expensive undertaking. As you can see from the financial statement below, *The Gospel Trumpeter* is not self-supporting. Rarely is any ministry self-sufficient. Therefore, that affords an opportunity for everyone to be a participant in the spreading of the Gospel. Though you may not have a call to preach or teach or compose an article, you may fill a very valuable role in the furtherance of the Gospel through the printed page through giving. If Jesus will reward a cup of water given in His name, how much more will He reward you if you provide funds for the distribution of His Gospel. We have never affixed a subscription price to this publication. It has always been our desire to place this magazine in every home possible, regardless of the subscriber's financial means. Nevertheless, the costs of supplies and postage continues to escalate. If you desire to make a donation to help defray these expenses, you may send a check or money order to *The Gospel Trumpeter*, 675 N. Cedar Street, Newark, Ohio 43055.

We trust that this periodical will continue to be a blessing to you and an enhancement to your spiritual growth as well as the means of salvation to many lost souls.

Statement of Condition for 12 months ending January 31, 2001



	Income	Expenses
Supplies		\$37,706.77
Utilities		4,118.00
Labor/Payroll Taxes		8,983.64
Donations/Offerings	\$12,985.90	
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Postage		46,887.17
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Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his

resurrection:

6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Are You Sinning Over Top of the Grace of God?



Brother Roger L. Decker

When Does the Life of Sin End?

The thoughts surrounding our Scripture text come from Romans 5:20, where it says, "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." Because the Books of the Bible are broken down into chapters and verses, if we are not careful, we will not get the thought that the writer was bringing forth. What was the Apostle Paul saying? The Law entered not to make man a sinner, but to show that he was already a sinner. Paul said, ". . . where sin abounded, [Where did it abound? It abounded in the heart.] grace did much more abound."

Now that we have grace, should we continue in sin? Should we sin over top of the grace of God? The

Apostle Paul said, "God forbid." God did not give His grace to have us continue in sin, but He gave us His grace so that we would not have to sin. I thank God for the blood of Jesus Christ. Certainly there is power in the blood to remove every trace of sin, but the blood of Jesus Christ is not what gives you power over sin; it is the grace of God. Once you are cleansed from every sin, if you are going to continue with victory in your soul, it takes the grace of God. The grace of God is wrapped up in the Holy Spirit.

The life of sin ends when one receives salvation. You cannot be a righteous individual and a sinner at the same time. Sin and righteousness do not mix. Sin was the reason Jesus went to the Cross; it was sin that put Him on the Cross.

It was your sins and my sins that caused Jesus to die such a horrible death. Sin must be removed before righteousness can come in. Saint, the old life that you once lived came to an end when you were saved. You did not get saved and then two or three months down the road quit sin. No, sin comes to an end when the old man dies. You may ask, "What old man are you talking about?" The sinful man that you were before you were converted. The old man dies in old-time salvation. That does away with the modern theology.

When does one stop serving sin? Romans 6:6 says, "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." The word *henceforth* means "from this point on." In other words, no more will

you serve sin when the old man is crucified. The old man is crucified and you stop serving sin when you are saved, or born again. That is when the old life of sin is brought to an end. This is not a mere suppression of all evil desires or lusts, but it is a complete cutting off; it is a deliverance and a cleansing by divine power. All God asks you to do is believe in that power. You must believe that He has the power to do it. When your belief touches the throne of grace, you are going to find the power of God loosed in your life. You will be cleansed not only from sin but also from the power of sin.

The Standard of Holiness

Those who are saved have been liberated from their sins, and it is the grace of God that keeps them. God's people do not commit sin. If all ministers would herald that truth from the pulpits throughout our land, our nation would no longer be in its present condition. How can we live free from sin? It is only by the grace of God. Now, I did not say that religious people, hypocrites, or those involved in religious works do not commit sin. Nevertheless, God's people do not commit sin.

The standard of holiness is too high for the natural man, the religious hypocrite, and Babylon, but it is not too high for God's people. If God's people had to live in sin, then Jesus would have died in vain. Why did we not continue with the old Law? Why did Jesus come? Jesus came, not to kill the sinner, but to destroy sin, to take sin out of the heart so that man could become a new creature in Christ Jesus.

First John 3:1-4 states: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall

be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."

John wrote this passage of Scripture when he came off the Isle of Patmos. He wrote it at a time when apostasy was already in motion. That is the reason John used such plainness of speech. People had lost their spiritual insight. Many people had lost their vision of what a child of God ought to be, so John used words that the people understood clearly.

John said in verses 4-9: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested [or made known] to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him [sinning preachers have no business in the pulpit]. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

First John 5:18 reads, "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not." John said "he keepeth himself." What does he keep himself in? Jude, verse 21, tells us, "Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." Verse 24 says, "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with

exceeding joy." God's people have exceeding joy. When the power of sin has been broken, the sinner can go free, and he does not have to sin anymore.

Friend, you do not have to be a sinner one moment longer. You no longer have to say yes to the devil and no to God; it is all because of Jesus Christ! If you claim to be a Christian, you have no excuse to sin, and you have no excuse for not praying or reading your Bible. You may say, "Well, I am busy." So was Jesus busy. I doubt that you are as busy as Jesus was. Sometimes He had to steal away to pray. He was the Son of God, and He deemed it necessary to pray. When He prayed, that put Him in condition to go before the people.

The Life of the Christian

Christians have no excuse for not assembling themselves at the house of God. Something is wrong when a pastor has to pull to get people to go to the house of God. When God saves you, He gives you the desire to go to the house of God. You should not have to be reminded. It is a sin if you do not go to church. If it is in the Word of God and you disobey it, it is sin. Hebrews 10:25 states, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

The child of God has a zeal in his life to go to the house of God and to be on time. When it comes time for the worship services, you should be in the seat. Also, you should be prayed up for the service. If it is something the flesh wants to do, you are there in plenty of time. If you have begun to get lax about these things, you need to go right back to the throne of grace and ask God to help you. Have you cooled off in your soul so much that you feel you do not need the grace of God? If you have, the devil has deceived you. You need to be honest

enough to repent and take care of it.

We read in Revelation 3:14-19: "And unto the angel [or the pastor] of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."

The power of sin has been broken for the believer. The Christian does not have to lie anymore. His life is as an open book. He does not have to cheat, curse, or use profanity of any kind. He does not even think of it. He does not have to keep catching his words. Such words cannot come out if they are not in the heart. He does not have to lust after the opposite sex. Salvation removes the guilt, the sting, the stain, and the penalty of sin.

There is no excuse for sin in the life of a Christian. You cannot blame your sinful condition on your father or your mother, you cannot blame it on Adam, and you cannot blame it on the environment or circumstances. Adam and Eve had the best. An abundance of grace comes with salvation. God has made it possible that every one of us can live holy. A person cannot be alive to sin and to God at the same time. Romans 6:2 says, "God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" Literally, when a person passes away, he is dead to

his surroundings: he cannot communicate or hear. This is exactly how the Christian is when it comes to sin. Christian friend, when the enemy of your soul comes around and whispers in your ear, you should not listen to that enemy any more than a dead person listens and responds. You are dead to sin.

Those who are dead to sin have no desire to return to it. They have no affection for it; they hate sin and have no desire to try it again. They are sick of it, and they are tired of the way sin held them in captivity, deceived them, embarrassed them, and took them further and further away from that which was right.

The Bond of Iniquity

In the Old Testament you can read of how sin took a well respected, righteous king and turned him into an adulterer. Sin, through lust, took Samson and caused him to disobey, to become a slave, and to grind in a prison house. In the New Testament you can read of how sin took a disciple and, through covetousness, turned him into a traitor. Sin has capsized many souls, but if you stay dead to sin, grace will abound in your soul.

Too many do not see the evil in sin. All they see are the pleasures, the thrills, and the excitement. They do not see the broken hearts, the mental anguish, the destructive spirit, or the bondage that lurks behind disobedience. A blindness is attached to sin, and people lose their sense of judgment. When individuals go into sin, they lose their discernment of right and wrong. They commit wrong as if it were right.

The Prophet said in Isaiah 5:20, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" In other words, the Prophet was saying, "Woe to those who pervert and confound that which is right." He said they put darkness for light. Darkness is symbolic of

ignorance, error, false doctrine, and crimes. Light is the opposite of darkness: light denotes truth and knowledge. He also said they put bitter for sweet. Saint of God, you need to be on your guard against bitterness; it is a destroying sin.

What does the Bible say about bitterness? In Acts 8:23 Peter, speaking of Simon, said, "For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity [or the bond of lawlessness]." Ephesians 4:31 says, "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice." It is deception when ones call sin sweet and holiness bitter.

Friend, are you sinning over top of abounding grace? Do not say that you cannot live for God because your circumstance is different. God has saved people in about every circumstance that could exist. Your situation is not too difficult or too perplexing for God's grace to reach way down and bring deliverance.

Someone may say, "I would get saved, but things in my life are just a mess. I would have to straighten some things out first." Friend, you will have to straighten things out, but it is better to straighten them out when you have the grace of God to help you. If you put off salvation, you will have to face those things at the Judgment. I would rather straighten things out when the grace of God is available to help me. Sinner friend, have you not had your fill of sin? The grace of God can keep you from sin. When one is truly saved, he has no desire to go back to the old life, or to go back into bondage where he cannot be free. Today, some leave congregations and say they want their freedom. However, when their supposed freedom gives them more room for the flesh, that is bondage.

Walking in Newness of Life

The old man must be dead and buried. It is not water baptism that

buries the old man, but it is spiritual baptism. Romans 6:4 says, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

In Ephesians 1:18-23 Paul was praying: "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."

Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:1-6: "And you hath he quickened [or made alive], who were dead in trespasses and sins: 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: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

How was Christ raised from the dead? He was raised from the dead the same way you were: by the

power of God. It is right in the Scripture. The baptism that we are buried with Christ in is a spiritual baptism. First Corinthians 12:13 says, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." The old man dies when we are saved, for that is when we walk in newness of life.

To be dead to sin is to be alive unto God. You are alive unto His Word, you are alive unto His holiness, you are alive unto His Spirit, you are alive unto His fellowship, and you are alive to His presence. A new life of righteousness begins immediately when the old man dies. You do not continue in sin any longer; you do not sin over top of the grace of God. Grace is not a robe or a covering to commit sin. The Christian is not as a leper living inside the camp or as a whited sepulcher. Jesus said in Matthew 23:27, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness." The Christian has quit the business of sinning every day. He is a new man. He has been resurrected in newness of life. He has been cleansed and made whole, and now he lives soberly, righteously, and godly right here in this present world.

Fruits of Righteousness

When one is a new man, or a new woman, he or she will have fruits of righteousness in his or her life. First of all, one will give up the old, worldly crowd. That person will not have to worry about telling them about how he or she is going to give them up. All that person has to do is act right, and the crowd will go away. Second, the Christian will dress right. A child of God does not want to dress in a way to make someone think that he or she is

lukewarm or not a Christian. The Christian does not want to try to go as close to the edge as possible. He or she stays away from the edge and wears clothes that fit right. The sisters do not wear tight skirts, tight blouses, or tight dresses. Their clothes are loose enough that they fit the Bible standard of modest apparel.

Third, the Christian does not hang onto jewelry and stuff it away in a drawer just in case he or she backslides. Should one have that thought in mind, that person has already backslidden in heart. The earrings come off, and the finger rings come off. The Christian has been beautified with salvation. He or she does not need the cheap ornaments of this world to beautify. God beautifies the meek with salvation.

Fourth, when one is saved, that individual wants to take an active part in the work of God and do what the Lord would have him or her to do. The Christian talks to the Lord, and the Lord will give him or her the portion needed to do the work of God. Christian friend, the Lord may want you to be a singer, a preacher, or a teacher. Some individuals only want to be a preacher. The Lord may want you to start by visiting rest homes or cleaning restrooms in the church. Young men whom God has called into the ministry need to stay humble, and they also need to be careful of putting out their opinions. Should a young preacher in a congregation start putting forth his opinions, he will cause a schism in the congregation.

As a young minister, you need to keep quiet and do what God has called you to do. He has called you to be a helper, not a troublemaker. When people start putting out their opinions all the time, they think too highly of themselves. If any opinions are brought forth in a congregation, they should be brought by the pastor. Now, that is not to say that you cannot have an opinion, but when you become

opinionated and start drawing away disciples with your opinions, that is wrong. The next thing you know, they will be cut off from the pastor and they will swear an allegiance to you. Your opinion might not be right, because you may not know all the facts; then you will have trouble on your hands.

Often when people start putting out their opinions, it is people of renown, or those who have positions in a congregation and who are well liked. For example, they may disagree with the pastor and start putting that out verbally. As I said, having an opinion is fine, but you must be careful, especially when you know it is against what comes across the pulpit.

When individuals first get saved, they should want to take an active part in the work of God. They do not necessarily know what God wants them to do, but they should seek God's face and ask Him to show them what they can do. Some may not be able to do much, but God knows that, so He will give them something they can do, and He will give them the grace to do it. Whatever they do, they should do it for the Lord and for the glory of God.

God has an abundance of grace, but are you sinning over top of it, doing your own thing? The grace of God was not given to continue in sin, but it was given so that you would not have to sin. If you have a need in your soul, won't you own your condition and seek God for help? You need to tell Him that you have not been what you ought to be and that you are tired of living under condemnation. God will not cast you off. He will be right there to give you grace, but you have to ask Him for it. Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace."

(Cassette C-4700E)

The Church of God

The Church of God is the only institution on earth that is of heavenly origin. It is the only institution on the shores of time that will continue to exist in eternity. All else will pass away with the closing of time. The glory of empires, the magnificence of civilization, the grandeur of monarchies of time will have no reflection amid the glories of Heaven. The splendor of earth's fortunes, the pomp and show of earth's glories, the renown of eloquence and oratory, the fame of schools of learning, the enchantments of beautiful forms and ceremonies of creeds will find no imprint, will have no representation in that land beyond the grave. Only the Church of God will shine there. It came down from Heaven and will return to Heaven.

The Church of God is God's body, not only on earth but also through all eternity, the Church of God's habitation now and forever. God will dwell in His people and His people in Him while the cycles of eternity roll on unending. The Church of God on earth is God's incarnation among men. As men read the history of the true church, they will read the biography of God. The life of the church is His life. The world is God's creation as a Creator, the church is His creation as a Life Giver. It is His own life. It lives in Him and He in it. The church is not a mere creative act, but came about by being born of God. The church is born of God in Christ and is the offspring of God. God loves the world as His creation. He loves the church as the life of His life.

The Church of God on earth contains heavenly elements and nothing that is not heavenly. The church bears God's image. God views His own likeness in His church. The church is a mirror which reflects all the Divine perfections. The Church of God is a living body. It lives upon the life of God. God's life flows through its veins. The life of Christ circulates freely through His church, as freely as the blood circulates through the human body—the church is His body. It feeds on heavenly food. It breathes the atmosphere of Heaven.

God and man united in Christ is the church. In the Church of God is the uniting of all saints with God and with each other. The manifold wisdom of God, the mysteries of God, the character of God is revealed through His church. God in His beauty shines out of the church. She is all fair; there is no spot in her. God made the sun, the moon, and all the shining stars, but He does not make them His dwelling place. When He built His church, He said, "This is My rest; here I will dwell and multiply Myself; here I have found such beauty and worth as to call out the fullest capacity of My love; here I find the fullest complacency of My being; here I see of the travail of My soul and I am satisfied."

The Church of God is attended by the ministry of angels. It is the only institution on earth that angels desire to look into. They pass every other thing by, but stop at the church to admire her beauty and to bestow their ministry. It is the only institution on earth that affords joy to the angels. It is the only institution over which they sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." All of the conquests of the church on earth bring joy to the angels.

The Church of God is the only institution on earth that can worship God. God, to be worshiped, must be worshiped in Spirit and in Truth, and nothing but the church has the Spirit and Truth. The church is full of heavenly instincts. God gives instinct to the bird and this instinct teaches it to do things. Heavenly instincts fill the church, teaching it to do heavenly things. Its life is heavenly life. It lives by heavenly things, and divine things are wrought out by her activities. The church is Holy Spirit filled and Holy Spirit governed. The church is in the world, but the world is not in the church. It is filled with divine things. The fish is in the salty ocean, but the fish is not salty. If you die in the church, you cannot go out of it; if you die out of it, you can never get in it. There is no sin in the church. Her law is the law of holiness. All honor in the church is given to the Trinity. Some day the Church of God is going to be caught up to Heaven and receive a faultless presentation into the immediate presence of God's glory and the joys of Heaven will be full and complete and be undiminished while eternity rolls on forever.

Charles E. Orr

The Dangers of Returning to a Life of Sin



Brother Irwin Seshier

Sin Is a Deceiver

Child of God, God has done so much for you. He has worked out many problems, brought you through many trials, and removed many obstacles. What a blessing to be His child! What a blessing to be saved from a life of sin and living in the center of His will! Why do people who have experienced all of this return to the life of sin? Why do people bear that terrible burden again? By disobeying the Word of God and failing to keep His commandments in the forefront and by not staying close to the Lord, some people slip back into the things from which the Lord delivered them. Saint, if you do not stay in the center of the Lord's will, it could happen to you.

Playing with high voltage wires

would be better for you than entertaining the thought of going back into sin. You might think that is foolish, but there is great danger in going back to those old, sinful ways. Some individuals feel they can dabble in the things of sin and still be called saints of God. Friend, sin separates you from God, and it will cheat you out of your spiritual life. We read in Proverbs 14:34, "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." Sin is a deceiver. It will make the flesh feel comfortable. However, God's Word lets you know that you must bring under the flesh on a daily basis. If you do not, sin will overtake you and lead you to a long, dark pathway. There is no light at the end of the tunnel of sin; it is bleak. Sin will take you further than you want to go, and it will

keep you longer than you want to stay. There is no future in sin.

You will have to pay for everything you do in your body. Do not think that you can sin and get by. A reaping time will come. In the end, sin is not pleasant. The billboards on the highways do not show the cancer wards behind the cigarette advertisements or people suffering from cirrhosis of the liver behind the alcohol advertisements. The billboards do not show the financial ruin that will come if you continue with ungodly habits. If you could see the end of those things, you might think twice about doing them. The devil wants you to indulge in sin. The cry of the world is, "If it feels good, do it."

Sin will keep you from serving God, and the outcome is terrible. I cannot paint a black enough picture

of sin. Nothing is white or clean about sin; it is a stench to the Lord. Friend, you should not indulge in things that are a stench in the nostrils of the Lord. If you are living in sin, that is what you are doing, and your life is displeasing to God. Are you entertaining thoughts of going back into sin? If you are, that would be the most terrible decision that you could ever make. If you are tempted to return to sin, you should not even entertain the thought. Saint of God, you should put the thought of returning to sin out of your mind quickly. You should not dwell on that thought and start to reason with things. There is too much of that going on. Too many people want to weigh their options when trying to deal with sin. You cannot bargain with sin, because sin is wrong. When people entertain the thought of going back into sin, that is where their problems lie. You should never consider the thought of returning to the pit that the Lord brought you out of.

Some have said, "I would not even consider the thought of going back into sin," but where are they today? What has happened to their lives? Their time has been taken up with other things, and they have no time for God. The spirit of this old world has overtaken them. You may think, "That will never happen to me." If you do not keep God first in your life, you will be in the same condition. You are not so spiritual that you can fail to keep God first and get by. Too many people hold onto the things of the world and think they will get by. You cannot get by without God being the center of your life.

Facing Spiritual Battles

The world does not understand the things of God. If Jesus were to return today, He would be criticized and attacked by the same spirits that put Him on the Cross many years ago. The same spirit is still around today, but it has gotten worse. John 15:18 says, "If the world

hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you." The world does not understand why God's people go to church so often. First, it is a place where we can go to hear God's Word and give true worship to God. We all need the Word of God. It took the Word to lift us out of the pit of sin, and it takes the Word to keep us out.

Another reason for going to church is that we can see and talk to saints who face the same types of spiritual battles. If you are not in a battle, you need to check your life. If you make it into the portals of Glory, you will have many spiritual battles. Those battles can come from many different sources such as coworkers, classmates, people you meet daily, and even your own family. The church is a wonderful place to go for encouragement. It is also a place where you can hear the songs of Zion and hear the saints give praise to the Lord for all the great things He has done. That is the reason we have camp meetings and revivals.

One reason that people return to sinful things after living for the Lord is that they do not hold the things that the Lord has done for them in the right perspective. The enemy will try his best to get you to think of only yourself. Sad to say, the attitude of the world is to look out for number one. However, God's people are not here to look out for number one. We are to help others, serve the Lord, and allow Him to direct us.

The enemy will tell you to think of all the good things you are missing by living the Christian life. Those things are only temporary. When it comes to the goodness of God, we are talking about eternal realities, and there is no comparison. The world puts more emphasis on temporal things than eternal things. Friend, you need to think more on heavenly things rather than earthly things. Eternal realities are the only things that will last.

The enemy is a liar. There is no truth in what he tells you. He will

deceive you and lie to you to cause you not to live the Christian life. You do not have to give in to the enemy, friend. When he bombards you with thoughts, you can say, "Lord, I'm going all the way with You." Psalm 41:11 tells us, "By this I know that thou favourest me, because mine enemy doth not triumph over me." There is nothing to go back to in the world of sin.

When I got saved, I made a clean break with sin. I did not want to sin anymore; I was sick of it. I did not want to turn around and go back across that bridge to sin. I burned all the bridges to sin when I got saved. Today nothing has changed. Friend, to get help in your soul, first you must be sick of sin. Too many people go to an altar of prayer and ask the Lord to help them, but they are not truly sick of sin. You cannot hold onto the world and hold onto Jesus at the same time. You must make a clean break. How can we tell when people are not sick enough of sin? In a short time they get involved in the same sinful things. Friend, you need to hit the Rock if you expect to get help in your soul.

Child of God, do you remember the day you became sick of sin? Do you remember when you said, "Lord, I don't want to do those sinful things anymore. Please help me to get out of this pit. I can't get out myself. If You get me out of this mess, I will serve You." You did not make that commitment on a temporary basis; you meant it for good. You were truly sorry that you had sinned against God. When you called for help, God threw out the lifeline. All you had to do was reach out and grab hold of it.

After you committed your life to Christ, you knew without a doubt that the Lord had saved you from all sin, not part of it. You became a new creature; old things passed away, and all things became new. You knew that the Lord saved you from hell, and that should have been enough for your commitment to Christ.

Rejection of God Brings Destruction

Why do people go back into the sinful things that the Lord saved them from? Genesis 19:15-26 states: "And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city. And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

"And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord: Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast showed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die: Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live. And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken.

"Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar. The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar. Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."

Verse 25 says, "And he overthrew those cities, and all the

plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground." Nothing was left; it was total destruction. Those people had their chance, but their rejection of God turned into destruction. Friend, there is nothing to go back to in sin. Consider what happened to Lot's wife. Looking back brought her destruction. Friend, are you looking back? If you are, what do you hope to gain by looking back? There is nothing in sin but heartache, troubles, and financial, physical, and mental ruin. What does sin have that is greater than Jesus Christ? The answer is nothing.

The Awfulness of Sin

Sin does not get better. It is much worse today than it was two years ago. You do not have to go far (just turn on the radio or pick up a newspaper) to see how bad sin is. Those who are living in sin are so bold today. People are openly doing things that they used to do in secret. Many people say, "Well, why not? Everybody is doing it." No, everyone is not doing it. The children of God are not doing it. Saint, it is time to stand for what is right. Sometimes people tend to think, "Well, it would be better not to say anything. I don't want to ruffle anyone's feathers." On the contrary, we need to ruffle some feathers. People in sin do not care about ruffling ours. We need to stand for the Lord. He has done so many good things for us.

Sin is getting much worse. Socially, it trickles from the top all the way down to the bottom. In the last few years, many government leaders have been involved in scandals. This has caused some people to lower their standards and say, "I don't think there is anything wrong with that, because a high official did it." No matter who does it, we need to call sin what it is. Sin is sin. We cannot paint a picture bad enough when it comes to the awfulness of sin.

Friend, nothing in sin warrants

your return. Sad to say, too many have returned to the sinful life that God brought them out of. Just like the children of Israel, they became disgruntled and unhappy, so they wanted to go back into bondage. You do not wake up one morning and decide that you want to return to sin. That is not how the devil works. If he were to work that way, you might be able to recognize what he was doing and do something about it. Things begin to happen before that point. The enemy is patient in his work to cause a person to go back into sin. He knows that he is running out of time to work on men's and women's souls, so he is speeding up the process and making things fall into place much faster than he used to. Certain words are coming out of people's mouths that they never used to say. Quick decisions are being made that people once would have taken the time to pray about and consider the long term consequences of such moves.

Child of God, the enemy is doing all he can to get you to become lukewarm. You have to watch that cooling-off spirit. It is prevalent today. You need to stay hot for the Lord. After a camp meeting or a revival, people have a tendency to cool off a little. Friend, has your experience started to cool off? Remember that one does not go back into sin overnight. Certain things happen for one to consider going back into sin. If you cool off in your experience with God, you may begin to question things and become critical of others. You have to be careful of that spirit. If that spirit begins to work on you, that is not the time to run to the telephone to call someone to see if someone else feels the same way; instead it is the time to go to the throne of God.

You need to ask the Lord to guide you into all Truth and understanding. In the Old Testament the same spirit that Moses and Aaron had to deal with is working against true Church of God pastors today. Saint, you need

to be careful of spirits that work to cool you off in your soul. You need to stay hot for God, stay in the work of God, live consistently for God, and do what He wants you to do. We do not have much time. Are you doing all that you can for the Lord?

The Spirit of Rebellion

We read in Numbers 16:1-4: "Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men: And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown: And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD? And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face."

Often when someone has a problem with a man of God, that individual seeks others who are disgruntled. They never seek those who are spiritual. We need to allow the Spirit of God to direct the man of God. Who are we to make decisions for God? There is a spirit behind always questioning things. That type of spirit came against Moses.

Numbers 16:4 tells us, "And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face." Any true man of God would do the same. Moses did not say, "Well, that is just his opinion." He fell upon his face and, in essence, said, "Lord, is there anything in my life that I have not done for Thee? If so, point it out to me. I am not going to take another step until You direct me and show me where I have made a mistake." Too many take the attitude, "Well, that's just his opinion. If he doesn't like it, let him leave." I do not read that Moses took

that attitude.

A true man of God wants to know if anything stands between him and God. He also wants to know when the spirit of rebellion is working in the congregation. That is the time for the pastor to get out the spiritual fire extinguisher and douse it before it becomes a raging fire within the congregation. Friend, you had better watch what you say about a man of God. If you speak against the pastor, you are treading on dangerous ground.

Another thing you need to watch is eavesdropping. If you walk by someone in a conversation and hear the word *pastor*, do not automatically assume that they are speaking talking against the pastor. It may be that when you find out what the real conversation was, you will have some backing up to do.

You need to be careful of what you say to others about the man of God. When you speak against the man of God to others, they could develop an attitude or let a spirit get hold of them. It could creep in and become almost impossible for them to get the help they need from God. Then you would be responsible. People are too affected by what they hear, not seeing for themselves, but just listening to what others tell them. Many people are going to have to answer for saying things they should not say to others. Too many just go on what they hear. Friend, you need to let the Lord lead you. Too many people are running around and telling others how they feel. It is not what you feel but what you possess that makes the difference. Too many possess an old, hateful, jealous attitude, and they try to draw others into the same pit they are in.

Seeking to Satisfy the Flesh

Friend, there is a danger in being around people who are against Truth. Sad to say, although this Truth has been preached, some people continue with Babylon. Again, I say, there is danger in

being around people who are against Truth and against the saints of God. Many have felt that they could handle it, but today they have left the true Church of God.

When you return to the life of sin or walk against light, your soul is in great danger. The Lord was faithful to your soul the first time He saved you. When you return to the things of this old world, you are throwing yourself wide open to the wiles of the devil because you rejected this great plan of salvation. You once had the Lord to fight your battles, but you have deserted Him. You once had the Holy Spirit to lead your life, but now you are drifting further and further away from God.

If you backslide, you will indulge in bad habits again. The enemy will let you go even further into those habits than what you did before. You may think, "Cigarettes are not all that great anymore, so I'll try some marijuana." Once you become accustomed to that, you may try stronger drugs such as crack or cocaine. You may find that beer is not satisfying to you anymore, so you begin drinking hard liquor. There is always something deeper to go into. The pit of sin does not become more shallow, but it gets deeper and deeper. All the while, you are getting further away from God.

Friend, the enemy will tell you, "You are big and tough; you can handle it. Don't worry about it. You might be a little down on your luck, but as soon as you win the lottery, you will be out of financial ruin." Playing the lottery is another one of Satan's vices. God's people should not play the lottery; that is gambling. The enemy will also get you to think that you can make your own decisions without God. However, with that attitude comes a hardening process, and you become hardened to the things of God. You will go deeper and deeper into the things of this old world, seeking to satisfy the flesh. If you backslide, you will not want to be around anything that has to do with

God or God's people. However, that is where your help comes from. The enemy can get you so wrapped up in yourself that you will not see that, and he will cause you to go deeper and deeper into the horrors of sin. For the backslider, the downward spiral is quicker than the first time, because you have to satisfy the flesh continually. The enemy will tell you that he has to make up for lost time. Also, a sense of self-sufficiency comes over the backslider, an attitude of, "I'm doing fine on my own." On the contrary, that one is not doing fine at all. First John 1:8 tells us, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." Many people today think that true happiness is found in the pleasures of this old world. They plan to do this worldly thing or to go to a party. They are continually on the go. Friend, the enemy would love for you to wear yourself out running around trying to satisfy that longing down in your soul.

The richest man in the world is the poorest individual in this old world, spiritually speaking, if he does not have Jesus Christ. Without Christ he has nothing to show for his life. Friend, if you are in sin and have never experienced this great plan of salvation, now is the time. Second Corinthians 6:2 states, "(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)" The enemy wants you to put off salvation. If you listen to the enemy, there will never be a convenient time for you to get saved. The enemy does not want you to have any time for salvation. Now is the day of salvation, not tomorrow, next week, or next month. You do not know what is in store for you tomorrow. Many kinds of accidents could happen. You do not always have to be on the highway for an accident to happen. You could be sitting in your home. The question is, would you be ready?

Are You Starting to Drift?

Things on the highway of life are distracting too many people. Many worldly things get their attention too easily. The enemy has control of their lives. He uses worldly habits, cigarettes, and pride. Child of God, Satan will try to get your eyes off Jesus Christ, but you need to put blinders on and look straight ahead. When people get their eyes off the mark, they start to drift. Do you want it to be said of your life that you drifted away from the Christian pathway? Saint, you must be careful of what the world has to offer. The world cannot come close to what the Lord has in store for His people. Many people have given up on God and returned to the things of this old world. That is sad. I do not want to give up on God, do you? When you look at where He has brought you from, what He is keeping you from, and what He has in store for you, why would you want to consider returning to the life of sin?

We read in James 4:4, "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." Returning to the life of sin is dangerous. With the Lord's help, I never intend to go back. He means too much to me to give up on Him. Sin is not painted as black as it should be in the pulpits. In too many places, sin has become glossed over. Sin is not called sin anymore, but it is polished up.

Many men and women do not want to own their true condition. Instead, some want to blame the pastor. Some say, "He is not doing his job. He is not being true to my soul" or "He is not acting the way he should, so I can't live this Christian life." Everyone needs to take responsibility for his or her own actions. Jesus is our example when it comes to living the Christian life. However, if you are not careful, you will blame this situation, that

circumstance, or this brother or sister for the condition of your soul. You must take responsibility for your own soul.

One day you are going to be judged by the deeds you have done in your body. Hebrews 9:27 tells us, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." You only have one life to live. Doesn't it make sense to go God's way? Too many want to go a different way, but there is only one true way. There is no such thing as going to the church of your choice. The choice has been made for you. The Lord made that plain and simple in His Word. When the Lord gives directions, they are clear. There is no confusion.

Matthew 16:18 says, "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." People feel that they have so many choices when it comes to finding a church. However, God's people have but one choice. There is only one true church: the Church of God. We live in a time when there is a smorgasbord of religion. That is a concept from the pits of hell. Church joining is sending more people to hell than drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes combined. God has only one church. I am so glad that the Lord is in control of this and not man.

Where Will You Spend Eternity?

It used to be when people asked you where you went to church, you said, "The Church of God," and they automatically knew where that was. Now, the next question is, "Which one?" That is confusion. God only has one Church of God congregation in a city or a town.

Child of God, you should never consider going back on God. You should not entertain the thought of going back into this old world of sin. It starts with a little letting down. You need to stay on fire for God, work for the Lord, and get

involved with the things of God. He has a job for you to do. I have a poem I want you to read entitled "Down Life's Path."

*Many go down life's path with lofty plans,
To amass a great fortune of houses and lands,
To live a life of pleasure and ease,
Thinking happiness can be found in these.*

*Others pursue power and worldwide fame,
To be known by all and win their acclaim;
But those without Christ who attain these goals
Soon find emptiness remains in their souls.*

*They could not find true happiness
Because life's void cannot be filled with this.
If only they realized this will not last,
For life is fleeting, it will soon be past.*

*Wealth, worldly pleasure, fame, and power
Will all be gone at death's dark hour;
And beyond the grave when eternity begins,
Those unsaved will be judged for their sins.*

*If only they would believe in God's Son
And repent of the sinful deeds they have done;
Then they could go down life's path
Not needing to worry about God's wrath.*

*They would have the joy they long for,
Inner peace, contentment, and much more;
For when their lives come to an end,
An eternity in Heaven they would spend.*

Eternity will be spent either in Heaven's bliss or in the torments of everlasting fire. It is your choice. If you are enjoying the benefits of the Christian life, you have everything

being offered to you from God. Do not throw it away by thinking that it is better in sin. If that thought comes to your mind, you need to pray that the Lord will strengthen you and remove those thoughts.

You should not even consider it. If you have a need in your heart and life, I trust you will pray earnestly.

(Cassette C-4674A)

Old Man Kline Found the Lord

"Old Man Kline" was a wicked old fellow who had hatred buried in his heart. The worst of it was he was going to let that hatred out and murder another man! So one night he hid along the highway behind some tall bushes; and as he crouched in the darkness he held a loaded revolver in one hand, cocked all ready for action.

We do not know how long he remained in the darkness, when all of a sudden "Old Man Kline" heard some singing. A group of children were coming from Sunday night young people's meeting, and they were singing some of the good Gospel choruses while walking along the dark road. The old man crouched lower into the darkness of the night and waited quietly. "What were those children singing?" he wondered.

*"Jesus died for 'Old Man Kline,'
And Jesus died for me."*

So! Jesus died for "Old Man Kline!" Well, he had not thought of that before, and he was so scared that he dropped his pistol and ran with all his might! He did not stop until he had reached his home, all out of breath. Jesus died for "Old Man Kline," did He? Well, this man was going to find out! So, when the next Gospel service was held in the little church in town, "Old Man Kline" attended, and there he found out that Jesus did die for him. He confessed he was a sinner, and he received Jesus as his Savior. He was born again. As he testified, he told of the children's singing the chorus that got his attention:

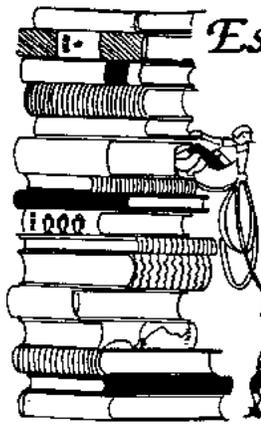
*"Jesus died for 'Old Man Kline,'
And Jesus died for me."*

Great was his amazement when he found out the chorus they sang really was:

*"Jesus died for all mankind,
And Jesus died for me!"*

God used the young people's singing, although misunderstood, to get the attention of "Old Man Kline." However it happened, the old gentleman was glad the Lord allowed him to become frightened instead of allowing him to go ahead and commit an awful murder that night.

Selected



Especially for Young People

The Case of the She-Devil



"I will drive you to every home in the community except the 'she-devil's!" the farmer told Brother Devine when he began evangelistic meetings one winter some years ago in northern Michigan.

"But, I promised the Lord to visit every home here!" Brother Devine protested.

"The 'she-devil' chased the last preacher off her place with a poker," the farmer warned him. "And she's got a dog as mean and ornery as herself."

Finally, after stopping at other homes, the farmer agreed to drive Brother Devine to the gate of the woman known as the she-devil. He went in alone to the house. No one answered his knock. A big dog raced to him from the barn, and growling, sniffed at his heels. Then a big man came out of the barn, and with a curse, demanded to know his business.

When Brother Devine explained that he was a preacher, the big farmer exploded. "I won't go to no church, and I don't have no use for preachers neither!" he swore. But he consented to the evangelist's reading the Bible and praying with him. Then to Brother Devine's query as to his wife's whereabouts, he said, "She's up at our daughter's place. But I warn you, you had better not go there."

Unafraid, the evangelist went up the road to her house. Brother Devine stated his errand to the son-in-law who met him in the yard. "You'll get nowhere," the son-in-law muttered ominously. "She drove the last preacher off her place with a poker! You had better not go in to see her!"

Brother Devine went to the door and knocked. The daughter answered the door, and at his query whispered in

dismay, "You had better not come in to see her!"

"It's cold out here, and I would like to warm by your fire, please!" Brother Devine pleaded, and won a grudging admittance. The 'she-devil' came in from the back room, and when she learned who her caller was, swore furiously and declared that if it were her own home, she would have driven him off.

"How many children have you?" Brother Devine asked her.

"Fifteen," was the reply, "and they're all going to hell as fast as they can!"

Just then Brother Devine saw a fine baby boy on the sofa. He asked to pick him up, and then muttered loud enough for both of them to hear: "Isn't it a pity that he will grow up just to go to hell?"

"No, no, he ain't goin' to be bad!" the 'she-devil' cried out anxiously, and there were tears in her eyes, as she gazed lovingly at her grandson.

"Why won't he go to hell?" Brother Devine challenged her, "Aren't all your own children going to hell? Did you ever try to stop them from going there?"

The 'she-devil' stood silent, rebuked. When Brother Devine read the Bible and prayed, he specially remembered the baby in prayer. When he finished the women's eyes were wet with tears. He had pierced their armor through the baby boy! They promised to come to his meeting that evening. He left them, wondering if they would keep their promise.

There was a subdued stir in the tabernacle that evening when the 'she-devil' and her daughter appeared. When the service was over and Brother Devine gave the altar call, the

'she-devil' and her daughter both went to the front and were saved! That was Friday night. They promised to come back Sunday for the next service as well.

The little town was aglow with excitement that Sunday morning, for not only the 'she-devil' and her daughter went to the meeting, but she had brought along her foul-mouthed husband as well! The service was only half through when suddenly the husband got up and strode up to the evangelist.

"I want to join the church!" he declared.

"Joining the church won't save you!" Brother Devine replied in the startled silence.

"You tell me from that Book what I must do," the big man ordered him, "and I'll do it. I want to get saved!"

That was the end of the evangelist's message. Right there the two knelt and wept before the throne of Mercy, and another person was born into the Kingdom of God as he asked Christ to cleanse him of sin. There was a rustle of their side, and Brother Devine looked up to see that the man's wife, the one-time 'she-devil,' and their daughter had come to pray with them too. The wife's testimony had born fruit and her own kin had been won to the Lord! Sweeping conviction moved that congregation as they realized afresh that "the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." No one is too bad or too hard for the Lord to save!

Selected

1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of

his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

The Blessed Assurance of the Christian



Brother Esau Brooks

What Manner of Love

It may appear to the masses of people on the earth that there is nothing to Christianity or serving God. Yet some have discovered that there is something. Fannie J. Crosby found something. She wrote a song entitled *Blessed Assurance*. A portion of it reads:

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his
blood.*

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

Although this song was written many years ago, it is as real now as

it was then. That is the reason John could say in verse 19, "And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him." In other words, John was saying that we shall "make sure in our hearts before Him." In verse 21 he said, "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God." I want to focus on verse 24 of the Scripture which reads, "And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. [This is the blessed assurance of the Christian. If he keeps God's commandments, he dwells in God, and God dwells in him.] And hereby we know [or have the assurance] that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us." Surely this is indeed a blessed assurance!

Let us consider what John was writing about. First, he was writing

with great admiration of the favors that God has bestowed upon the children of men. First John 3:1 reads, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. . . ." The word *behold* lets us know that we should take note of, or consider, what manner of love! It is not an ordinary or a common love, but it was an extraordinary love that the Father has bestowed upon us. Who are we to receive such love? It is no wonder that the Psalmist said in Psalm 8:4, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" One songwriter wrote, "Who am I that a King would bleed and die for?" Who am I that He would leave His throne in Glory and come down and shed His life's blood for? What manner of love! No wonder the Scripture in John 3:16 stands in such great amazement to the eyes of the

world: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

In this modern age, one problem is that people have too many other things on their minds and not enough time is spent thinking about God's love. That is the reason, in most cases, they are coming short in showing appreciation to God for His love. Too often when people are in a service to worship God, they are constantly checking their watches to see how fast the time is going.

Again, 1 John 3:1 states, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. . . ." What makes this so admirable is the fact that many of us had drifted so low in sin, wickedness, and wretchedness. We were unworthy of even His notice, yet He loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son so that we would not have to perish. We were already perishing, but to save us from perishing eternally, He gave His only begotten Son. It is no wonder that Jesus said in John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Therefore, it is no marvel that we love God.

Paul said that it is not so great that we love Him, but that He should love us. He did not wait until we became worthy of His love, but while we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly. Glory be to God! Dear one, I want to challenge you to reach beyond the ordinary when it comes to serving God. The latter part of 1 John 3:1 tells us that "the world knoweth us not." The world will never know us. They are not capable of comprehending what it is to be sons of God and what it means to have the great God of the universe dwelling in our hearts. Another songwriter wrote, "He's big enough to rule this mighty universe, yet small enough to live within my

heart." I thank God that He can live within my heart!

Being a child of God is wonderful. Friend, instead of sinking into lethargy when it comes to serving God, you should be up and alive, ready to go forth. Serving God deserves your all. We sing the song, "It will be worth it all." It is worth it all now, no matter what you have to sacrifice or give up.

The Responsibility of Purifying Yourself

In our Scripture text I want you to notice some things that John was pointing out. When we become children of God, this experience brings responsibility. It is not merely a matter of going to church, hearing the preacher preach, and singing a few songs. What is the responsibility? First John 3:2-3 tells us: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." The responsibility comes in purifying ourselves. John was not speaking of what God does for us, but what we can do for Him.

One ex-President of the United States said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country." I would like to paraphrase that quote: "Ask not what God can do for you, but ask what you can do for God." Too many take for granted what the Lord has done and is doing for them. Most rejoicing is restricted to the area of what God has done for us. We ought to glorify God for what He has enabled us to do for Him. If there is any lack along this line, it is with mankind falling short of doing for Him.

John said that we are sons of God. The world cannot even realize what a great work has been done in us. We have the assurance that we shall see Him, and when we do, we shall be like Him. That is something

thrilling, marvelous, moving, inspiring, and even shocking! I have heard people say, "If I were God, I would . . ." Well, friend, you can be like Him. Everyone who has been born again has this hope and also has the responsibility of purifying himself to reach the place of being like Him. We must be pure "even as he is pure."

You may ask, "Do you think we will ever reach that degree of purity?" Surely we can, but we must work on it. Jesus told us in Matthew 5:8, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." He was not speaking of casually seeing God, but of exclusively seeing Him. We can see God in everything. We see Him in the bad and the good. We can see Him in the hard times and the good times. We can see Him when people love us and when people seem to hate us. We can see Him when people want to shake hands and when people avoid us. We can see Him when they smile with us and when they frown.

The Responsibility to Abstain From Sin

Regarding sin, John wrote, "Everyone that hath this hope in him purifieth himself. . . ." I would like to paraphrase this statement and use a more modern expression to clarify the point: "Every man that hath this hope in him, divorceth himself from sin." In other words, you must leave sin out of your life. You practice righteousness and forget that there was even such a thing as sin. God has enabled me to look a little deeper than taking a casual look at this thing. Child of God, it is about time to see all the potential there is in the experience of salvation.

You cannot tell me that God is not great enough to furnish us with grace to divorce ourselves from sin. The Apostle John made it plain in verse 24 of our Scripture text: "And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him [God], and he [God] in him." You may say, "That is of

the past. I used to believe that and preach that, but I have learned better." Friend, nothing is better than that. In this sinful world, you must be pure, even as God is pure. You can be in God, and God can be in you. You do not have to merely believe it, but you can experience it. The church is a heaven to go to Heaven in. There has been too much trying to water down the Gospel to the extent that people are making excuses and provisions for about everything except the most heinous crimes.

You may feel that holding a grudge in one's heart against a brother or the pastor is not so bad. On the contrary, there is something heinous about that. You may say, "Yes, but you don't know what he did to me." I do not have to know. Too many times people want to transfer the responsibility to someone else. What about you? "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth *himself*" (1 John 3:3). In other words, you have to roll up your sleeves and go to work to purify yourself.

First John 3:4 tells us, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law." That verse could be turned around to say, "Whosoever transgresseth the law committeth sin." It is just as broad as it is long. The law is to love one another, Jesus said, as He has given you commandment. If I were to walk around with a grudge in my heart, I would transgress that law and commit sin. Therefore, I would have to work on myself to get to the place where I stopped transgressing the law. Too many people today preach out one side of their mouths, "Let there be no divisions among you"; then out the other side of their mouths, they preach division. They tell you with one side of their mouths to "love one another," but out the other side they say, "Have nothing to do with him."

First John 3:4 tells us that "sin is the transgression of the law." Many religious people will tell you that you cannot live without sin. They

say that because they want to accommodate sinful things in their lives and yet claim to be Christians. Salvation puts you beyond the reach of sin: it brings deliverance. Child of God, you have a responsibility to abstain from sin.

Our Responsibility Toward One Another

As Christians, we each have a responsibility toward one another. Verse 10 states, "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother." It is the duty of every Christian in a congregation to get along with one another; then we can reach out to others. Too many people try to reach for fellowship in other places when they do not have fellowship within their own congregation. Others want the pastor down the street to pastor them instead of the pastor in their own congregation. Friend, God does not work that way.

Church of God, you have no business seeking counsel from any other source or from any other person than from those whom God has set over you. That is the reason God said in Jeremiah 3:15, "And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." When you have knowledge and understanding, you will submit yourself. Too many read the Scripture, "Obey them that have the rule over you," and drop it there. However, the verse goes on to say, "and submit yourselves." If you are guilty of any of that, you need to cut out that practice. If you allow that to go on in your life, it will rob you of power with God and the glory of God.

First John 3:10 speaks of the children of God and the children of the devil. These are two different groups of people: one consists of the family of God and the other consists of the family of the devil. Although

sometimes some of God's children get mixed up and stray from where they belong, God's children need to be together. It is time to tear down all the walls that people are building to separate from one another. God's people should be allowed to fellowship as God intended. The songwriter wrote, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine." You see, some of the blessedness comes in because you can love me in spite of me, not because of something about me. That is so with everyone. There is something about everyone that you can love, but then some things are difficult to love. That is where the grace of God comes in.

Again, the later part of 1 John 3:10 states, "Whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God [you have to do what is right to be of God; you cannot do what is wrong], neither he that loveth not his brother." Not loving your brother is wrong. That is the reason people wander away from Church of God congregations. Had they been doing well spiritually, they would have stayed with the body. You may ask, "What is our duty to them once they have departed?" You ought to love them, but do not follow them.

Verse 11 states, "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." Love is not like a spigot that you can turn on and off as you please. Love is divine. If God were to deal with you as you deal with others, how would you be treated? Now, there is a limit to how far you can go with someone who is wrong. If you see there is a chance of winning a person back to the fold, you can try. However, if you see that one is determined to stay away and fight, oppose, and rebel, then you should leave that person alone. Hosea 4:17 states, "Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone."

Once Jesus was preaching and the Pharisees became miffed over what He said. The disciples asked Him, in so many words, "Lord, did You know that the Pharisees were

offended at what You said?" His reply was to leave them alone. Why? If you go beyond your limitations, they will win you.

There is too much two-timing going on. Friend, you cannot twotime God and get by. He knows you well. You may ask, "What do you mean by two-timing?" I am speaking of flirting with the devil but claiming to be a saint. There is nothing lovely about the devil. Why would you want to flirt with him?

"Hereby We Know That He Abideth in Us"

First John 3:11-12 reads: "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain [loved Abel], who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous." Cain felt bad because his offering was not acceptable to God and Abel's was. The Bible says that God had respect unto Abel and to his offering, but He did not have respect for Cain's. Therefore, Cain became jealous of his brother Abel. Sometimes that happens with people, and they think, "The pastor calls on everyone to dismiss in prayer but me" or "The pastor lets everyone else sing but me." Friend, if that is your attitude, you are unfit to pray or sing.

Verse 24 of our Scripture text says, "And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby [or by this] we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us." Anytime people get another spirit, they are flirting with the devil. Child of God, nothing is wrong with taking a stand against their flirtation. Sometimes to wake them up, you have to take a stand against them. Standing against them may mean staying away from them. In this verse John was dealing with the one way that we can be sure of our experience with God—by the Spirit. Whenever we have the

same Spirit, we are going to keep fellowship in the bond of peace.

Every Christian knows that he is a child of God in this one unique way—by the Spirit that God has given him. If you have His Spirit, you will love the saints. You may say, "Do you mean to tell me that we ought to get along with one another all the time?" There will be times when problems surface, and there may even be times when some fall out with each other. Do you remember the account of Paul and Barnabas? Paul and Barnabas were planning to go on another journey together. Barnabas wanted to take John Mark with them, but Paul did not feel that they should. The contention was so sharp between them that they parted from each other. (See Acts 15:36-40.) Later Paul wrote to Timothy and said, "Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry" (2 Timothy 4:11).

We can have strong disagreements, but we do not have to pick up all our toys and go somewhere else and build another playhouse, so to speak. Should a disagreement arise, we should work on it until we get the problem

worked out. If we each have the Spirit of God, though contentions arise, we should work on them until we get them worked out. This business of packing up and leaving because you cannot get along with this one or that one ought to be reexamined. If you cannot get along with your pastor, that does not mean that the pastor is wrong. It could be you! Why is it that the pastor is always looked on as the one in the wrong? Most often he is right, and should he be wrong, a man of God is willing to do whatever God shows him to do. Some, however, are quick to leave, and then they say, "Let him come and search me out and bring me back." No, friend, you did not have to leave in the first place.

Jesus said in John 5:39, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life. . . ." The Word sets us absolutely free. How is it with you? Do you have the blessed assurance of the Christian? Do not wait until you die to find out that you have fallen short of God's requirements.

(Cassette C-4725M)

Begin the Day With God

Every morning lean thine arms awhile
Upon the windowsill of Heaven
And gaze upon thy Lord,
Then, with the vision in thy heart,
Turn strong to meet thy day.

Selected

How I Came to Give Up My Business



I had never lost sight of Jesus Christ since the first day I met Him in the store at Boston, but for years I really believed that I could not work for God—no one had ever asked me to do anything. I invited folks to church, but never spoke to them about their souls—that was the work of the elders, I thought.

I moved to Chicago and started a mission Sunday school. I thought numbers were everything, so I worked for numbers. When the attendance was below one thousand, it troubled me; when it was fifteen hundred, I was elated. Still no one was converted, there was no harvest. Then God opened my eyes!

There was a class of young girls in the Sunday school who were the most frivolous set of girls I ever met. One Sunday morning the teacher was ill and I took the class. They laughed in my face, and I felt like telling them to get out and never come back.

That week the teacher of the class came into the store where I worked, looking pale and very ill. He said to me, "The doctor says I cannot live near Lake Michigan, so I am going to New York state. I suppose I am going home to die.

You know, Mr. Moody, I have never led any of my class to Christ. I really believe I have done the girls more harm than good." It set me thinking.

I said to him, "Suppose you go and tell them how you feel. I will go with you if you want me to." He consented, and we started out together.

At the first house, he talked to the girl about her soul—and there was no laughing then! Tears stood in her eyes before long. After explaining the way of salvation, he asked me to pray. I had never done such a thing in my life as to pray God to convert a young lady there and then. But we prayed, and God answered our prayer.

We went to the other houses. He would go up the stairs and be all out of breath, and he would tell the girls what he had come for. It wasn't long before they broke down and sought salvation.

When his strength gave out, I took him back to his room, and the next day we went out again. At the end of ten days, he came to the store with his face literally shining. "Mr. Moody," he said, "the last one of my class has yielded herself to Christ." Such a time of rejoicing.

He was to leave the next night,

so I called his class together that night for a prayer meeting, and there God kindled a fire in my soul that has never gone out. The height of my ambition had been to be a successful merchant, and if I had known that meeting was going to take away that ambition, I might not have gone. The dying teacher sat in the midst of his class and talked with them and read the fourteenth chapter of John. We sang, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds," and then knelt to pray. Before we closed, the whole class had prayed. As I went out, I said, "O God, let me die rather than lose the blessing I have received tonight!"

I was disqualified for business; it had become distasteful to me. I had gotten a taste of another world and cared no more for making money. For some days after, the greatest struggle of my life took place. "Should I give up business and give myself to Christian work or should I not?" I have never regretted my choice. Oh, the luxury of leading someone out of the darkness of this world into the glorious light and liberty of the Gospel!

D. L. Moody

1 John 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we

ought also to love one another.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Love



Brother Calvin Foster

Keeping God's Commandments

Love is a deep, tender feeling of affection, an attraction or a devotion to a person or persons, or a feeling of brotherhood and good will toward others. The word *love* comes from the Greek word *agapeo*. The corresponding noun is *agape*, which means, "unmerited, or undeserved love." Love can only be known from the actions it prompts. We see God's love in the gift of His son. Christ died for us.

I thank God for His love. We did not deserve it, and we cannot earn it. Sinner, God loves you. He has commended His love toward us, even when we were living in sin, working evil and doing wrong; yet He loved us. His love is love without a direct cause. The divine nature of God is that He did not need a reason to love us, but it is His nature to love us.

You prove that you love God by keeping His commandments. I often

tell people who are seeking salvation: "Ask God to forgive you for your sins. You must really mean it when you ask Him. Then when you get up off your knees, go out and prove to God that you meant what you said." John 14:21-24 says: "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me." People do not love God when they disobey Him.

Jesus said in John 15:12-14: "This

is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." Jesus was speaking to His disciples here, and He is speaking to us, telling us to love one another as Christ has loved us. God commands us to love one another. Jesus laid down His life for His disciples, for the world, and for us. He did not have to do it. He could have called ten thousand angels to stop it. However, He did not do that because He loved us.

Again, Jesus said, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." One proof of loving God is having love for His children. First John 4:17-21 states: "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He

that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also."

Christian friend, love starts with your loving God. When you were out in sin, you were hateful and you hated God; but when you got saved, you turned around, and now you love God. Love flows from God to you. You love God's people because God is in you. Again, love is a deep feeling of affection, a feeling of brotherhood and good will toward others.

First John 5:1-3 reads: "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

God's commandments are not hard. His commandments make you happy and bless you. Also, they keep you out of trouble and keep you healthy. Keeping God's commandments is very profitable. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 4:8, "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."

Eternity is in sight, friend, whether Jesus comes back and splits the sky or you die. Are you getting ready for eternity? As fast as the wheels of time are turning, we all are heading for eternity.

Again, 1 John 5:3 reads, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." Some feel that serving God is grievous. They say, "Lord, do I have to do that? Oh, I don't want to."

One who truly loves God says, "Lord, show me what You want me to do." Then when he is doing it, it makes him happy. There is great joy and great reward in serving the Lord.

Having Love One to Another

First Peter 2:17-18 says: "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king. Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward." On the job some foremen and co-workers may be nice to you, and loving those who are nice is easy. Other times you will work with the froward, but you must love them too. Peter said to "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God." I love the brotherhood of the saints. If you love the saints, you will not go around badmouthing them. I love to fellowship with the saints, sing the songs of Zion, pray together, listen to the Word of God, and work together. Paul said in Galatians 6:10, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." We need each other, brethren.

Love toward one another is evidence that we are the children of God. In John 13:33-35 Jesus said: "Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you. A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

What happens when hatred and strife get in? This shows that some do not love one another as they should. Then the Holy Spirit will say, "You do not love the brotherhood." I am not going to allow anything to separate me from the saints. Do you love the brotherhood?

A false prophet is not always

someone who teaches a false doctrine. Some have taught things that were wrong until God straightened them out. However, that does not mean they were false prophets because they dropped the wrong and embraced the right. A false prophet is a person who will not drop the wrong. He keeps the wrong, and he has a false spirit. One is not a false prophet just because he does not understand something clearly. A false prophet has a self-motivating spirit. He does not labor for the good of the body of Christ.

We read in John 13:36-38: "Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards. Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake. Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice." Jesus knew what was in Peter. You should not be guilty of giving God "lip service" as Peter did. Peter said, "I will lay down my life for thy sake." However, Peter did exactly what Jesus said he would do: he denied the Lord three times. If you love the saints, God knows it. When you say, "I love the people of God," you should mean it from the depths of your heart. If a little problem arises, you should not run off. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

First John 3:14-18 states: "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and

seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." In other words, how can you see that your brother or your sister needs help, yet deny him or her the help that you could give and think that you have the love of God in your heart?

Have you ever noticed how far a giraffe's mouth is from his heart? That is how some people are: their mouths are a long way from their hearts. They say one thing with their mouths, but they do not really mean it from the heart. First John 3:18 instructs, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

Loving Your Enemies

Matthew 5:43-47 reads: "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?"

You may ask, "Do I really have to love my enemies?" Yes, you must love your enemies. Loving those who love you is easy. Jesus said in so many words, "Do the publicans not do the same thing?" As a Christian, you must love your enemies, those who do not like you, those who hate you, those who persecute you, those who talk behind your back, and those who speak against you falsely. If you are a child of the Father, you can do

that by His grace.

Romans 12:17-21 says: "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." God has the right to test you along this line. The Word of God is sharper than a two-edged sword, and it swings out among the people, and swings right back to the preachers.

You might have some wayward relatives or you may live around some wayward neighbors. Again, the Scripture tells us, "As much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Do not avenge yourself. Some people, by their actions, say, "You did that to me, so I am going to get you back." The Lord's eye is watching. His eye is everywhere. He sees everything you do, He hears everything you say, and He knows every place you go. He hears what you whisper, and He knows what is under the covers, so to speak. The Lord says, "Do not worry about it. Vengeance is mine; I will repay. Just put it in My hands and leave it to Me; I will take care of it."

God's desire is that you not be overcome of evil, but that you overcome evil with good. Dear one, do not let this wicked world overcome you, but overcome the world with good. All kinds of evil and hateful spirits are in people who are coming against the church. I thank God that the gates of hell cannot prevail against the church. God gave us a church, and He put us together in one body. He did not want to leave us alone. That is the reason you should love the brotherhood and appreciate the fellowship of the saints. We need

one another.

As a Christian, some people may hate you for no reason, but thank God the saints love one another. We can go to the house of God and get our wounds healed right in the midst of the battle. We sing old-fashioned Gospel songs and enjoy one another's presence. The church can be likened to a filling station. We go to the house of God and get filled up so that we can face the world for Christ. When they look at us and the life we live and the love we have, they will say, "What manner of man is this? I can't even make him angry or upset. He is a man with Jesus in his heart."

Love Without Hypocrisy

Your love should be without hypocrisy. If you say, "I love the brethren," you ought to show that you love them. Your love should be true and genuine. More people are going to church today than ever in the history of man. Nevertheless, they need to see love coming from the real child of God. Today many claim to have some kind of Christian experience, but the love of God outshines them all. You can be around people a little while, and they can tell what kind of spirit you have. They can tell whether you have the love of God. We are living in a time when people do not want to be reproved. We read in 2 Thessalonians 3:13-15: "But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother." Love is not always mushy. Love does not mean that you have to go along with someone's wrong. For example, you have to correct a child when he does wrong or he will put his mother to shame. Someone may say, "I don't spank Johnny; he is such a sweet little boy." If you do not correct little Johnny, after a while he is going to be correcting you. You may say,

"But I love little Johnny." That is the reason you should correct your child. God put padding on his backside, and that is the place to administer the rod of correction, but you must do it in love. Then when little Johnny grows up, he will be grateful to you.

Sometimes a pastor has to reprove or rebuke people sharply. Let us see what the Bible says about it. Titus 1:7-13 reads: "For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith."

What is the problem with some people who are rebuked sharply? When the pastor corrects some individuals, they say, "I am leaving the church," instead of taking it like a soldier of the Cross and saying, "You are right, pastor." If your pastor has to correct you and you have the right attitude, you will grow in the Lord. If you do not want to grow, you are not a Christian. Growth comes when you go through tests and trials and when you withstand temptation.

"Being Rooted and Grounded in Love"

In 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Paul talked about love. He said: "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a

tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

"Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

I am going to stay with the saints for life. We are going to Heaven together. In the Church of God, you will hear straight preaching, and men of God will teach you how to be a real man or woman for God, how to be a real mother or father, how to pay your bills, how to keep your word, and how to stand for God.

Ephesians 3:17-21 states: "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth,

and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

The love of Christ passes knowledge and is stronger than knowledge. We all are not on the same level of understanding, but if you have the Spirit of Christ, you are my brother in Christ, and I need you. The hand cannot say to the foot, I have no need of you. I need the body of Christ. I, alone, do not make up the Church of God; I am just one member, and I need to be connected to the body.

The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23 says: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." If it were not for the Spirit of God, we could not get along. We would have lion and bear spirits, or devouring spirits, without Christ. Thank God, with the Spirit of God we can dwell together peacefully. It is all because of the love of God.

Where can you get this love? Romans 5:1-5 states: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

The Holy Ghost put the love of Christ in my heart, and now I love the saints and the sinners. Nothing can come out but love, because the

Holy Ghost put it in my heart. Reading the Bible and singing Gospel songs did not put the love of God there; the Holy Ghost put it there. He intends for me to do what it takes to keep it there. The Holy Ghost sheds the love of God abroad in our hearts. You cannot get it by joining a church or by shaking a preacher's hand. You can join every church in your neighborhood, but that will not put the love of God in your heart. Again, I want to emphasize that the Holy Ghost has to put it there, and it is wonderful!

The Holy Ghost is real. There is no church without the Holy Ghost. I

thank God for His love, that undeserved love that He had for the world when He gave His Son. Had it not been for Christ, I believe the world would have been gone long ago. Christ is the propitiation for sin; He is our lawyer, our advocate. I thank God for Jesus Christ. Christian friend, you need to stay with Jesus Christ. You should not let anything separate you from Jesus Christ. You need to get closer to Him and stay with the saints. Church of God, you should follow your pastor as he follows Jesus Christ.

Division burdens my heart. I

heard a man on the radio, speaking of denominationalism, say that they have their problems, so they split up all over the world. Remember the words of Jesus in John 13:35: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." The love of God is the glue that keeps the saints of God together and helps us to overcome problems. The devil will try to get in to destroy that love. When people allow that to happen, they always go down. Won't you stay with Christ?

(Cassette C-4705A)

Only One Way

A tourist asked at a service station the way to a certain town. The directions were carefully given. The tourist said, "You think this is the best way, do you?"

The service man replied, "It is not only the best way but the only way."

The Bible is the only way to Heaven. Do you live to all it teaches every day? Read the sixth chapter of Matthew very carefully. Stop at verses 6, 20, 22, 28, and 33.

Radio Log



LOCATION	STATION	DAY	TIME
Newark, Ohio	WCLT-AM 1430	Sunday	8:15 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
Anderson, Indiana	WQME-FM 98.7	Sunday	8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.
Gaffney, South Carolina	WAGI-FM 105.3	Monday	8:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Tune in to the radio station nearest you to hear an inspiring message from the Word of God. If you enjoy the broadcast, let us hear from you!

Tarry Ye



For all of God's ministers and prophets of all ages, there have been times of tarrying before God. Just before Christ left the disciples to return to the Father, He instructed them to tarry at Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. Accordingly they tarried and were abundantly rewarded for the time spent in waiting upon God. (See Acts 2:1-4; 4:31.)

Though the Apostles were perhaps the only ones that heard the words, "Tarry ye," spoken audibly from the lips of Jesus, God is ever, by circumstances, or by the Holy Spirit, calling some of His children aside to tarry with Him for qualifications for greater usefulness for God.

Joseph was called upon to tarry, not at the city of Jerusalem, but behind the prison bars in Egypt. Moses was called upon to tarry with God for forty years in the land of Midian, preparatory to the great work God purposed to do through him. Moses had been educated in Egypt. Acts 7:22 says that he "was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians." He felt called to deliver the children of Israel from bondage; but more than earthly wisdom and the call was needed. Though he saw the oppression of his brethren, pitied them, and would have delivered them at once (Acts 7:23-25), God had planned for him forty long years of waiting in a strange country before his great work should begin.

Though Jesus' work was great,

His time on earth short, and His moments valuable, yet after His baptism, He had to spend more than a month in apparent idleness in the wilderness before beginning His work. Then often after that time, He would seek seasons in which to be alone with God.

If we would be of much use to God, we must find time to be alone with God, where He can give us such wisdom as can be obtained from no other source. Many times when we will not let the Spirit of God lead us from our work to a solitary place to tarry in prayer before God, He permits some mistake, failure, or disappointment, accident, loss of some loved one, or sometimes a long-lasting affliction that we may thereby be caused to tarry before God, to inquire of Him. Thus we are drawn nearer to Him and often prepared for some work to which the Lord is about to send us.

For some reason very hard to be understood by the human mind, God often works very slowly. To work with God, we must learn to wait upon Him. Moses was ready to begin his life's work before God was ready. He began and succeeded in killing an Egyptian; but God said, "Wait," and Moses had to go to Midian and wait.

The disciples were often ready to go on ahead of Christ. At one time James and John wanted to call fire down from Heaven to consume their enemies, but their impatience brought forth Christ's rebuke, "The Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them" (Luke 9:56). At another time Peter hastily drew his sword and cut off the ear of the high priest's servant, and again Christ rebuked him. This poor impatient disciple probably thought, "Now, He's just going to surrender and let the whole work of

God fail!" God worked so slowly that this ambitious disciple could hold out no longer; he became downhearted, discouraged, and denied Christ.

We can learn much by considering the failures of the Israelites, as God was leading them out of Egypt to Canaan. It seems that their greatest failures were caused by their hastiness. God had His plans for delivering them, but they simply could not wait patiently for God's time to act. When God began to work to deliver them, the devil, of course, began to fight harder than ever, and the Israelites could not understand God's slow way, so the murmurings began. We hear them murmuring in Goshen, we hear them murmuring at Meribah, and at many other places on different occasions. At Mount Sinai they forsook God altogether and turned to worship a golden calf, because they thought God was too slow and kept Moses up in the Mount too long.

Oh, how much we in this day ought to learn from our brethren who have lived on the earth before us. Saint, in these times of peril, let us acknowledge and wait on God to work and give the deliverance we need, in His own dear way. When we see our brethren needing deliverance from bondage, if, as did Moses, we undertake to deliver them by our own might, we may slay a man or two; but we will not see our brethren delivered until we prevail with God and He stretches forth His hand.

When you do not know what to do, ask the Lord to lead you.

When the way for you to serve God is closed, ask God to open it for you.

When your prayers are not answered, continue to pray until they are.

When God does not deliver you from trial, ask Him for grace to enable you to endure it and glory in it.

When your faith cannot claim deliverance from the furnace, ask God to protect you in it and to give you grace to stand.

When you cannot defeat Satan by faith, try decision. Job said, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him"; and thus Satan was defeated.

When you cannot do great things for God, ask Him to bless the little you can do to the good of many. He can take your "little lunch" and feed a multitude.

When you cannot go forward, stand still. When Satan would

persuade you to turn back, resist him. When while standing still your soul begins to grow lean, this is often an evidence that God wishes you to press forward and gain new ground.

It is moving in God's time and at His Word that really counts rather than the multiplicity of our efforts and activities. Peter fished hard all night and caught nothing, but when Jesus came near and said, "Let down your net," and the net was let down at Christ's Word, a multitude of fishes were taken. Also, Peter took money from a fish's mouth and walked on water, simply because he acted in God's time and at His Word.

When the multitudes in Christ's

day needed temporal food and He commanded the disciples, saying, "Give ye them to eat," all went well; for the lad, the only one with anything to give, gave his few loaves and fishes, and the disciples, acting upon faith, did according to Jesus' bidding. In like manner, thank God, the Gospel can be preached in "all the world" today. If we are the lad, we must sacrifice our lunch when Christ calls for it; and if we are His disciples, we must "launch out," trusting Him who has given the seemingly impossible command, to supply the needed increase.

Selected

The Welcome Guest

There was once a widow and two children who lived in humble surroundings. The mother was sickly and could not make a living for the children.

Every night she knelt by the rough frame of a bed, covered with thin sheets and handstitched quilts, and prayed a simple prayer: "Lord, please provide enough for my children to eat."

Every morning the mother would make her way down the dark hall to the meager kitchen. She would get the burners lit and place the pans on the stove, though she knew she had nothing in the cupboard to fix for her children.

Then she would look out the front door, all the while a prayer in her heart, and just as she expected, there were the day's provisions over in the right corner of the rickety porch.

She would joyfully make her way to the "treasure-filled" sack and find there just enough food for the day. Back into the kitchen she would go, her steps a little

higher and a new lift in her voice as she called to the children, "Rise and shine, children. Time for school. Breakfast will soon be ready."

The days passed in procession, each bringing with it a "treasure-filled" sack to the humble surroundings of the widow and her growing children. As the needs of the children increased with age, so the provisions equally increased.

Then, one day the little widow began to ponder in her heart. "Who brings those groceries? I never hear anything. The sack is always there. Maybe some morning, I could arise a little early and see."

So, the next morning she got up a little earlier than usual. She made her way quietly to the front door and stood peeking through the window, watching the right corner of the front porch. Time came to get up, and still there was no sign of the Welcome Guest. Then came the time to light the fires and get the pans ready-still



no one came. The clock on the mantle continued its steady ticking. It was now time for the children to get ready for school, yet she continued her vigil. Yet, a fruitless one it appeared to be, because no guest came that dew-lit morning.

The little widow turned sadly from the doorway, a heart-felt lesson resounding in her being. "My job," she thought, "is to pray. His is to answer. How He wants to do it is His decision."

Selected