

"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

In Ecclesiastes 11:1 Solomon penned, "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." The work of this holiness journal, *The Gospel Trumpeter*, is indeed a fulfilment of this proverb. Sending forth the Gospel in the form of the printed page is not a ministry that garners immediate results or spontaneous fruit. The wise man said that the results are seen "after many days." The many dedicated and faithful laborers who make this monthly periodical possible endeavor to see that the "living bread which came down from heaven" (John 6:51) is cast forth through the publication of this magazine to where "the waters" or "peoples, and multitudes and nations and tongues" (Revelation 17:15) are presented with the Gospel of Christ and the message of Truth.

*The Gospel Trumpeter* is now in its thirty-fourth year of production. We currently mail thousands of issues per month to a worldwide subscription list. This magazine and its articles are used many times in remote places as training material as the bread cast on the waters. The current may carry it out of view, but it continues to accomplish that which it is sent forth to accomplish. Most of us will never have the opportunity to travel to the inner regions of the third world countries into which this journal is mailed, but we each can have a hand in casting this bread forth to a hungry mankind. As you will note from the figures below, to convey this truth in this form is a very costly venture. Since its inception, *The Gospel Trumpeter* has not had any affixed subscription rate. This has always been intentional, as our burden is to place the Truth in as many hands as possible. You will notice that the cost of postage alone is a tremendous cost. If you should desire to be a part of casting this bread forth, we would encourage you to send a donation to help defray the expenses of publishing these great truths. If you desire to send a check or a money order, please make it payable to: *The Gospel Trumpeter* and mail it to *The Gospel Trumpeter Ministry*, 675 North Cedar Street, Newark, Ohio 43055.

I am also pleased to inform you that *The Gospel Trumpeter* has an address on the world wide web and may be accessed at [www.gospeltrumpeter.com](http://www.gospeltrumpeter.com). All the many saints who are involved in this tremendous outreach covet your prayers. Only the Lord has the record of the many dedicated workers who have donated numerous hours of tireless efforts to assure that this magazine is published and sent forth in a timely manner. Please remember these saints of God in your prayers.

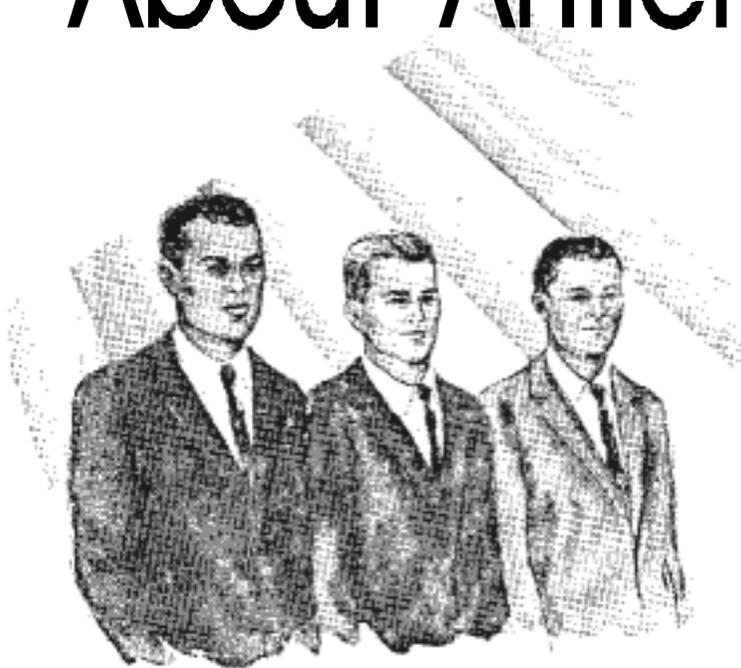
We trust that *The Gospel Trumpeter* will continue to be a blessing to you and an enhancement to your spiritual growth. Please share it with every honest heart possible, and it will produce "after many days."

## Statement of Condition for 12 months ending January 31, 2003

	Income	Expenses
Supplies		\$ 21,802.20
Utilities		4,453.61
Labor/Payroll Taxes		22,102.00
Donations/Offerings	\$19,283.97	
Equipment		1,669.00
Postage		57,232.00
Maintenance & Repairs		<u>7,809.59</u>
Subtotals	\$19,283.97	\$115,068.40

Balance paid out of the general fund of the  
Church of God congregation at Newark, OH \$95,784.43

# What Does God Have to Say About Antichrist?



*Brother Roger L. Decker*

## **How Can You Know the Truth?**

There are many misconceptions when it comes to the doctrines that have been set forth in the New Testament, and especially those teachings concerning the Kingdom of God. There are false teachings of millenniums, raptures, antichrist, purgatory, eternal security, and the list goes on. The truth concerning these doctrines becomes offensive to some people, but if the truth is offensive, it is because one is in error.

You may ask, "How can I know when someone is speaking the truth?" Well, there are a couple of ways that you can know. It would help you to follow in your Bible, and as you follow in your Bible, you need to ask God to reveal the truth to you and give you understanding.

There is another way that you can know the truth. The Bible lets you know in 1 John 2:20, "But ye

have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things." The word *unction* simply means "anointing." In other words, you have an anointing from the Holy One. First John 2:27 says, "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."

That Scripture is in no way doing away with pastors, evangelists, teachers, or any other functions of the ministry. What was John saying? He was saying that you do not need any man to teach you what you have heard from the beginning. John wrote in 1 John 2:24, "Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall

continue in the Son, and in the Father." That expression was used by John nine different times. He used that expression in 1 John and in 2 John. What did they hear from the beginning? They heard the message of the death, burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. What they heard was not tradition, or hearsay; it was factual. What they heard from the beginning was Truth.

From the beginning they heard that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. John wrote in 1 John 1:5-6: "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth." In verse 7 he brought up the basis for fellowship: "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and

the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." The basis for fellowship is light. It is not how much light you have, but that you are walking in all the light that you know.

Jesus said in John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free [that is, if you obey it]." First John 2:27 states, "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."

### **"Now Are There Many Antichrists"**

I want to speak to you concerning antichrist. What does the word *antichrist* mean? It means "an opponent of the Messiah." Many teach that antichrist will be a world leader and that he will force the Jews to stop their sacrifices in a rebuilt temple. Also, they teach that he will set up an idol of himself called the "Abomination" and that it will be in the temple to be worshiped as God until he is destroyed at the end of the seven years when Jesus returns. To those who know the Truth, this teaching sounds far-fetched. It seems absurd that anyone could teach and actually believe such a doctrine as erroneous as this, but error has been sown alongside bits of truth; that is the deceptive part. The deception comes when bits of truth are mixed with error.

We want to look closely at this subject because it concerns us as the church. John wrote in 1 John 2:18, "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time." I want you to read that Scripture carefully. Looking at that Scripture, notice that John said even then there were many antichrists. John said that they had heard that antichrist

would come. This is the first time the word *antichrist* was used in the Bible. The only one who even spoke about antichrist was John. Paul, James, and Peter did not use that word. You do not find it mentioned in the Bible until you come to 1 John.

Jesus used the same Greek word, which was translated "false Christs" or "false prophets." You read in Matthew 24:24, "For there shall arise false Christs [that comes from the same word as *antichrist*], and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Again, John said, ". . . ye have heard that antichrist shall come." The word *antichrists* is mentioned four times in the Bible, and *antichrist* is mentioned only one time.

Many names have been attached to the long list of supposed antichrists, and all but one of these men have come and gone. There were Hitler, Stalin, Khrushchev, Mussolini, and Castro. They were not the antichrists that John was talking about. In John's day he said there were already many antichrists, and the aforementioned people were not even in the world then. Antichrists are not world leaders or political leaders, and they are not atheists or communists, according to the Word of God. Now, I am not saying in any way that those men were not used of the spirit that opposes Christ, but they are not the antichrists that John was talking about.

Who are the antichrists that John was speaking of? They are apostates. By the Word of God, we will prove it to you. They are those who have defected from the Truth, or those who have fallen away. John let us know that antichrists were present in his day, even before those world leaders that I mentioned were born. John was not talking about King Herod or an Egyptian pharaoh or Nero. He let us know whom he was talking about. Again, John wrote in 1 John 2:18, "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have

heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time."

### **Receiving Not the Love of the Truth**

Jesus said that false christs and false prophets would arise. You need to understand that 1, 2, and 3 John were written at a time when ones were defecting from the Truth; it was at a time of apostasy. John wrote those three epistles after he had written the Revelation, when he was told that he must prophesy before multitudes of people. John wrote really plain because of the time of apostasy. He let the people know who was a child of God and who was not. Apostasy was taking place. Those who had fallen away from the Truth had already affected the church of the morning time. When that spirit hit, many were touched by the long tentacles of Satan. Their spiritual strength slowly drained until they were confused, misled, and ensnared in the devil's grasp.

Who are the antichrists? They are comfortable, professed Christians who are neither hot nor cold, but lukewarm. They no longer love the Truth; they have changed their minds about it. Dear one, if you do not have a love for the Truth, you need to get it now. It is the only way that you will finish your course successfully.

Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonika in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10: "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be

revealed in his time.

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."

Those verses of Scripture do not say that they did not have the Truth or that they did not know the Truth. They do not say that they could not even speak *some* truth. However, it *does* say "they received not the love of the truth." Because they received not the love of the Truth, they preferred a system of error and delusion rather than the simple and pure Gospel by which men might be saved. When people want to fuss over things in religion or the standard, God will let them fuss. The reason we see such a let down of the standard is that people do not love the Truth. It is not because they did not hear the Truth or do not know the Truth. In many instances, at one time they spoke the Truth, but now they love themselves more than they love the Truth.

### **Where Do Antichrists Come From?**

Many try to use the Bible to worm their way out of this and that and say, "I have more understanding on that Scripture," when all the while they are moving further and further away from the image of Christ. The true child of God is striving to be more like Christ. Friend, when you play around with God, you are playing around with the Truth, and you are throwing yourself open to deception. People want to fuss and say, "Well, I don't feel that is right."

You did not get saved on feelings, and you are not kept by feelings. You should not use feelings as a guide. You got saved by believing the Word of God, and the only way you can stay saved is by adhering to the Word of God. Your feelings are not going to judge you, but the Word of God is.

Today we are in the great day of God Almighty, but some other things are being manifested. Some people have become restless, discontented, and fidgety. What is wrong with being contented and being an old-time Christian? What is wrong with living a simple life of holiness?

Some sisters have a difficult time with the Bible standard for the hair. God could cause them not to have that problem. They could go bald, and then they would not even have to worry about it. God knows more about how you should look than you do. He knew what color your hair and your eyes should be. He gave you a hair color to match your face. Some have blond hair, some have black hair, and some have brown hair. When you become old and wrinkled, He gives you gray hair; it is a wonderful match. When people become discontented, they try another color for a while. God gave the sisters long hair, and He instructed the brethren to have short hair.

The devil wants to get you to look to the future for an antichrist while that spirit works among the people of God. John said that "even now [in A. D. 96] are there many antichrists." I made the statement that antichrists are apostates, and I want to back it up by the Bible. I want you to understand where antichrists come from. I want you to read 1 John 2:18 again: "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time." Where do antichrists come from? Verse 19 tells us, "They went out from us, but they were not of us [John included

himself in the word 'us'; he was the one who was writing]; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, [Why did they go out?] that they might be made manifest [or made known] that they were not all of us."

Where did the antichrists come from? John said "they went out from us." Why did they leave? He said it was "that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us." They wanted everyone to know that they were not a part of them. Those who went out from them were not atheists, world leaders, or political leaders. They were professing to be children of God. Another translation says, "they left us." John said they no doubt would have stayed had they been a part of them.

### **"Let No Man Deceive You"**

What are antichrists? They cause division, and they are separators from the body of Christ. Division affected the church of the morning time just as it does in the evening time. Why are apostates and those who cause division antichrists? (Remember, the word *antichrist* means an opposer of Christ.) How are apostates antichrists? How are those who leave in division antichrists? They portray a divided Christ, and Christ is not divided. That is against the unity of the church.

Saint, your anchor is secure only as long as it is in Jesus. The devil is powerless as long as you stay with the Truth. John wrote in 1 John 2:21-22: "I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son." Antichrists deny the Father and the Son by not abiding in that which they heard from the beginning.

John was not talking about infidels or atheists in that chapter.

Atheists deny the existence of the Father and of the Son. Again, he was talking about people who did not abide in that which they heard from the beginning. He was speaking of those who talk the talk but do not walk the walk. Their works betray their walk, and they crucify the Son of God afresh. You cannot know the Father and the Son and be in disobedience. You can talk about Christianity all you want, but if you do not obey the Truth, it is nothing but hot air. You cannot practice sin and still know Jesus Christ.

John wrote in 1 John 3:4-9: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested 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. 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 [you do not need a doctorate degree to understand that]; 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. [What are the works of the devil? Sin.] 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."

When you are born of God, you turn away from sin. If you have been delivered from sin, you want nothing to do with sin. When you are born of God, you have an unction (or anointing) from the Holy One. God's Holy Spirit will lead you into Truth, and He will reprimand, reprove, and rebuke. If you should commit sin, God will show you what to do about it to straighten it out.

### **Beware of Seducing Spirits**

How does one deny the Father and the Son? You deny the Lord by

denying His Word. Antichrists are religious people who will not line up with the Truth. Many of them will not be pastored; they will not accept a pastor. Christian friend, you need to be on your guard or you could be deceived or seduced. Antichrists are apostates, according to the Bible.

The Apostle John lived a holy life; he was a righteous man. He was one of those whom the apostates left. Today people say, "Well, when people leave, it is the pastor's fault." Was it the Apostle John's fault that some people left in his day? Would you say that John did not pastor right? Was John a deceiver? No! You have full confidence in the writings of John, yet he could not hold all the people together.

There are pastors throughout the land who always want to point a finger when a congregation loses people, except when *they* lose people. When they lose people, it is the people's fault. No one knows the sheep as well as the Shepherd and the under shepherd.

The antichrists did not stop in A. D. 96. No, that is a spirit of antichrist. Your own family could be antichrist. How can you stay close to God? You must love the Truth. In the Holy Spirit we have an unction (anointing) from the Holy One. God will lead us into all truth, but we must love the Truth and embrace it. When you love the Truth, what goes along with it? Freedom.

John said in 1 John 2:26, "These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you." What does that tell you? A deception was taking place back then. In 3 John you can read that Diotrephes got so bold that he stood up against John. He even kicked out those who had anything to do with John. What was working? The spirit of antichrist was working. Jesus called them false prophets and false christs.

Again, John wrote in 1 John 2:26, "These things have I written

unto you concerning them that seduce you [or lead you astray]." These spirits are out there today. You need to be careful of a "comfortable" religion. Be careful of churches where you can go and do as you please. Remember, God gave pastors, teachers, and evangelists for the perfecting of the saints. You may be perfect now, but God wants to perfect you even more. You need to be careful when people take you the other direction, or from perfection backwards. Today some people are dressing the same way they dressed before they ever started going to church, only now they are doing it under the cloak of religion.

John was writing those things about individuals who try to lead people astray. Why are these spirits so deceptive? They dress up in sheep's clothing, but they are not sheep. How can you know? You must watch their tracks. Sheep do not make wolf tracks. Church of God, you must love the Truth. It is not enough only to hear it or to quote it. If you love the Truth, you will not be deceived or seduced.

The spirit of antichrist will work on you if you get lean in your soul. That spirit is prevalent today. If you allow it, that spirit will seduce you, deceive you, and even make you think that you are right and doing better than you have ever done in your life; then you will believe a lie and be damned. That spirit will knock at your door. John said you have an unction, or anointing, from the Holy One. If you keep that unction, it will be your protection against deception.

*(Cassette C-4867E)*

### **Consolation**

He knows, He loves, He cares;  
Nothing this truth can dim.  
He gives the very best to those  
Who leave the choice with  
him.

*Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

*15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

*21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of*

*the children of God.*

*25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.*

*27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

*28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love*

*God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

*29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

*31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*



# Who Can Stand Against the Saints?

*Brother C. H. Dickerson*

## **Divine Assurance**

God has always had one thing in mind for His children, and that is to see them grow. For children to grow physically, it takes food, sleep, and exercise. For God's children to grow spiritually, it takes trials, temptations, and spiritual food. These are necessary elements that cause us to grow; however, instead of our looking at them as a part of the growing process, sometimes we have a tendency to look at them as something depressing.

When the disciples saw Jesus led away to die on the Cross of Calvary, they became despondent; they thought their hope was gone. They said, "Let's go fishing," and they did. Certainly, Jesus told them beforehand that He would send them another Comforter and that

He would lead and guide them into all Truth; nevertheless, the disciples were discouraged. When Jesus was here on the earth in a fleshly body, He could only be in one place at a time.

Sometimes God sends stepping stones so that we might grow, but the devil tries to twist them around, and then we see them as stones of defeat. As saints of God, we need encouragement and assurance from the Word of God. In Hebrews 10:25 the writer told us, "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." We need to exhort one another, or encourage one another. The Word of God lets us know that as saints of God, we are going to have battles.

Saint, I want you to realize that

we are in one of the greatest battles that the church has ever gone through. I am not saying this to discourage you, but sometimes the battle is long and looks as though there is just no end to it. Because of this, we need encouragement. Well, God has encouragement for us, and that is what we want to consider in this message. The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans, Chapter 8, to give us the assurance that God is with us. Friend, if you will serve God and do what He tells you to do, He will deliver you and help you through every temptation and every trial. He will be right there to give you what you need.

Our text of Scripture asks the question, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" As Christians, we are on the battlefield. Many people have given up the battle and have gone back into sin, but those who

are still on the battlefield are alive in Christ.

We have a promise in this text of Scripture that we need to get hold of and grasp firmly: Paul said "If God be for us. . . ." We need to see by the Word of God whom God is for and against. Hebrews 8:10-12 tells us whom He is for: "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel [when the Bible mentions the house of Israel, it is speaking of God's people] after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."

God is for every man, woman, boy, and girl who will serve Him and be in the center of His will. Our encouragement can come from God and from the Word of God, because He has promised us that He will never forsake us and that He will be right there to help us in the times of trial.

### **Uprightness of Heart**

Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, "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." These are encouraging words that God has given us. When He spoke of the church, He was not referring to a building somewhere, but He was talking about the people of God. The saints of God are the church. God can give you an experience of salvation that all the devils in hell cannot upset, if you will live for Him. He will be with you and take you through all the trials and tribulations. If God is for you, no one can be against you.

All kinds of discouragement

will come your way, no matter who you are or how long you have been saved. Discouraging times will shipwreck you unless your soul is anchored firmly in Christ. God has given you the promise that you can anchor your soul on these promises that He has given, if you will be what He would have you to be and live for Him. Perilous times are going to come, but Jesus said the gates of hell shall not overcome the church. My friend, no matter what the temptation, you can be stronger than the temptation and overcome it and have victory.

Psalms 119:7 reads, "I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments." I want you to take a look at that verse for just a minute. The Psalmist said, "I will praise thee with uprightness of heart." Notice that this does not say with words. Praising God with words is easy, but He wants us to have "uprightness of heart." In other words, God wants you to live for Him and manifest His Spirit, to show the world what He has done and how He has changed your life completely. That is how God wants you to give Him praise. It must come from your heart because of what God has done for you.

Religious men are trying to tell people that one of these days an antichrist is coming as a man. On the contrary, we are living in a day of many antichrist spirits. The Word of God lets us know that they are real and that they are here today. Every spirit that is against God's Truth, the church, and men of God is antichrist, no matter what they call themselves, even if they call themselves saints. The Apostle John talked about this very thing.

When John was on the Isle of Patmos, God gave him a message for the church. Some might have felt sorry for John, but he was there because God placed him there. John taught in 1 John 4:6, "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth,

and the spirit of error."

John wrote in 2 John 1:7, "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist." When John mentioned those who confess not that Christ is come in the flesh, he was not talking about confessing it with the tongue, but he was simply stating that whenever people do not live lives that measure to the Word of God, yet they still claim to be God's people, they are deceivers and they have a spirit of antichrist.

Friend, when God moves into your heart, you become a new creation. He changes you from the top of your head to the soles of your feet. You will not have to tell people that you have been changed. People can look at your life and see that you have been changed. My friend, you will not have to hold up a sign that reads, "I am a saint of God, and I go to the Church of God." When God moves into your heart, you will have a different attitude and a different spirit. You will back up the saints of God and encourage them in every way. When one has an old devilish spirit that wants to work against the people of God, that is an antichrist spirit, even if that person calls himself a preacher. John let us know that many antichrists were in the world even in his day.

We need to hear and to heed what the Word of God says on this subject. We need to be concerned about what the Scriptures say, not what people say. Our Scripture text assures us, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:32 says, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

If you are a child of God, I want you to realize that God will *freely* give you everything it takes to be a child of God and to be an example to this lost and dying world. He will supply everything you stand in need of so that Christ can radiate through your life to this lost and

dying world. Since God spared not His own Son to give us salvation and delivered Him up for us all, He will give us everything we need to be witnesses so that He can make a difference in people's lives.

### **"We Glory in Tribulations"**

This divine assurance that Paul spoke of is confined by three vital considerations. He said in Romans 8:33-35: "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"

In verse 33 Paul talked about God's elect. Christ died for our sins, and He makes intercession for us before the throne of God in Heaven. Paul asked the question, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" because it is Christ who justifies us. Friend, if you live for God, somewhere along the line, you will face false accusations, but Christ will make intercession for you. He promised that nothing can separate you from the love of God, if you will live for Him.

The Apostle Paul named seven sufferings that the saints of God might go through, but God will deliver us from them. He talked about tribulations; in other words, things that cause unhappiness, disappointment, oppression, or deep sorrow. He spoke of distress and persecutions that we might go through; in other words, things that cause suffering, pain, and trouble. You may suffer harassment because of salvation. Also, you might have to go through famines, nakedness, destitution, perils, dangers, or even threats. Nevertheless, God has given divine assurance that nothing can separate you from His love.

Tribulations are necessary.

Troublesome times are going to come your way, but God has one thing in mind: He wants to see you grow spiritually. Tribulations are stepping stones in your Christian experience.

Paul stated in Romans 5:3-4: "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope." He said "we glory in tribulations," not because of the tribulations, but because of the results. Undoubtedly, you have a hope of making Heaven your home, but you are not going to make Heaven your home unless you have an up-to-date experience of salvation. Patience is worked through tribulation.

Paul said that he gloried in tribulations. I do not believe that he delighted in taking the stripes on his back, but he gloried because he knew of the results. God allows us to go through these times because He wants us to grow, but these things are not pleasant. No one wants to go through them, yet they are necessary. Jesus gloried in the Cross because of what lay ahead: through His death, burial, and Resurrection, He could see people saved and brought back to the Father. He did not glory in the Cross because it was a pleasant experience, but because of the results that it would bring. That is what God wants you to understand.

### **Christ Is Still the Answer**

When God saves you, He puts the Spirit of God in you. He will give you an experience that the very gates of hell cannot prevail against; it cannot be overcome. Then God wants you to portray a picture to this lost and dying world that will make them hunger for the things of God.

The world is in such a bad condition that some people have turned to drugs and alcohol, and others have committed suicide. Many young people turn to drugs

or commit suicide because they cannot face the situations of life. They do not have Christ in their hearts and lives. Saint, God saved you, and then He takes you through tribulations to show others that if they will turn to Christ, He has the answers for them. He will deliver them from sin and give them something to live for, and they will be happy. However, you must go through tribulations and face them in a way to show them that there is something real to this experience of salvation.

God wants to see the world saved; He does not want to see anyone lost. Multitudes struggle to face the day's happenings, and as a result, they turn to drugs or commit suicide. Christ is still the answer yet today. Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 3:3, "That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto."

Job said in Job 23:14, "For he performeth the thing that is appointed for me" when he was going through his trials. When afflictions come our way, we should not be discouraged, cast down, and give up, because these afflictions are appointed thereunto. God promised that He would take care of us and keep us through these places. They have already been appointed to us, and when they come, we should not be moved by them. We must realize that it is what God wants. He does it for one reason, and that is to show this lost and dying world exactly what God can do for us.

When trials come, the devil tries to make the stepping stones look like stones of defeat. Many people look at situations from that standpoint, but that is not what God has in mind. God wants each of us to stay true and serve Him.

Can you imagine how the disciples must have felt when Jesus was crucified on the Cross of Calvary? They had quit their occupations to follow this Man who was supposed to be the Savior, the Messiah, but a group of soldiers

took Him away and hung Him on the Cross. It seemed as if all their hope was gone; that is the way they looked at it. Those disciples who had been fishermen went back to fishing, until Christ appeared to them again after His Resurrection.

When we go through tests and trials, sometimes it may appear that "This is the end. What is the use of going any further?" This is when many people give up and quit, but God wants to lift us higher and to show this lost and dying world what He can do. The world can smile when things are going well. They cannot see what God can do when everything is going well in our lives, but when things are going bad, that is when the message gets out to them.

### **More Than a Conqueror**

The Psalmist was talking about persecutions in Psalm 119:85-88 when he said: "The proud have digged pits for me, which are not after thy law. All thy commandments are faithful: they persecute me wrongfully; help thou me. They had almost consumed me upon earth; but I forsook not thy precepts. Quicken me after thy loving-kindness; so shall I keep the testimony of thy mouth." He said those people who had not followed after God's law had dug pits for him. Why did they do that? They wanted to defeat him; they wanted to see him go down. However, he had kept God's law and His precepts, and God took care of him and brought him through.

Paul said in Romans 8:36-37: "As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long [What did he mean? We are killed to our will, to our flesh, and to our wants all day long]; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." He said we are more than conquerors. We do not have to get down to the place where we are ready to give up. Many times

people do, but God can give them strength to go a little further, so that they are more than conquerors.

Paul told how you can be more than a conqueror. It is not in yourself, but through Him. God gives you the power. He said He would never let you go beyond what you are able to bear. He will never let you be tempted greater than what you can take. He said He would give you the grace and the power to overcome that temptation. When you go through trials, you can still have a song of joy, a song of praise to God, because He brought you through them. He is not going to take the trials away from you, but He said you would be more than a conqueror through Him, not through yourself.

Consider Job. God took him through severe trials. Nearly everything he had was gone—his children and most of his possessions. After he went through it all, God made Job more than a conqueror because He gave him twice as much as he had before. Christian friend, that is exactly what God will do for you. He will take you through the trials. When you go through trials that are hard, He will make you more than a conqueror. When you get on the other side of the trial, you can praise God because He took you through and made you more than a conqueror.

### **A Sure Word of Promise**

In Romans 8:38-39 Paul said: "For I am persuaded, [Paul went through much; he was beaten, imprisoned, stoned, shipwrecked, and more. You can read in the Corinthian letter what all he went through, yet God made him more than a conqueror. After he went through all these things, read what he said.] that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love

of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

In essence, Paul was saying, "I went through all those things, and I am more than a conqueror, because I am persuaded that nothing can separate us from God, except ourselves." According to the Word of God, everything that God sends our way is to cause us to grow and to encourage us in the things of God. He does not want us to become discouraged.

In John 10:27-29 Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." God is trying His best to show you that if you get a good, solid experience with Him, you will go through trials. You will grow in the things of God when you are out in the world and suffer a little, if you will hold steady and let God have His way.

Jesus said His sheep hear His voice, and they follow Him right on through the hard places. Then He said that *no man* can pluck them out of His Father's hand. In the past God's people were tortured and many died, yet they would not recant. No man could pluck them out of the Father's hand no matter what they did to them, because this experience of salvation is so great and they had much power with God. God was living on the inside, and regardless of what they suffered, they would not recant, though it cost them their lives. No man could separate them from Christ.

Someone may say, "Well, that's for the strong ones." Even for a weak saint, there is a sure Word of promise. You can find it in Romans 14:4. Paul let us know that even if one is weak, God can enable him to stand. He wrote, "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or

falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand."

### **Walking in His Paths**

God, through the Prophet Ezekiel, said that He would take out the old stony heart and put in a heart of flesh. After He puts a new spirit within you, then He puts His Spirit in you and causes you to keep His statutes and judgments. He will give you the power to keep His statutes and judgments, regardless of what comes your way. Ezekiel 36:26-27 states: "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."

My friend, the sign that you have the Spirit of God is that you live for God and keep His commandments. In other words, you have power to do what He tells you to do according to His Word. If you do not keep His Word, then you do not have the Spirit of God.

Jesus said in Luke 12:31-32: "But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." In the next verse He said to sell what you have. If you want God to come into your heart to set up His kingdom and give you the power to reign over sin and endure trials and tribulations, first you must sell what you have.

Jesus was not talking about selling your house or your car, but getting rid of the thought that you know so much. My friend, if you ever get into the Kingdom of God, you must get to the place where you realize that you do not know anything. Second, you must give praise, glory, and tithes. Jesus said in verses 33-34: "Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves

bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

When you sum up all of this, Jesus was simply telling you to keep an up-to-date experience of salvation. How can you do that? You must put God first. Friend, God wants to see everyone saved and come to a knowledge of the Truth; that is what He planned for us. That is the reason Christ died on the Cross of Calvary, that is the reason God calls a ministry and teachers, that is the reason we have the Church of God. The Word of God says we will go to the house of God, and there He will teach us His ways.

Micah 4:2 reads, "And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem." Isaiah 2:3 states, "And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem." Again, Jesus said in Luke 12:34, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

### **A Strong Consolation**

Saint, I want you to see that in the spiritual sense, you are assured that no weapon that is formed against you can prosper. Isaiah 54:17 says, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD." James let us know that the

tongue is one of the most deadly weapons, but even that weapon cannot prosper against the child of God. All the weapons that people try to use are nothing more than stepping stones to raise us higher.

We have a strong consolation. Hebrews 6:17-20 states: "Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel [in other words, His counsel is not going to change], confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

The Hebrew writer talked about this consolation, or this encouragement, that comes from God, and it is God's promise. People under the Old Testament could run to a city of refuge when an enemy was after them, and the enemy could not touch them. Saint of God, we have a city that we can get to where the old devil cannot touch you unless God gives him permission to touch you.

We do not go through trials and tests all alone. The only reason the devil is permitted to try you and me is that God has faith in us to know that we are strong enough to go through the tests. God allows the devil to try us, just as he tried Job. God is still in control, friend. The promises of God are *not* going to fail, regardless of how dark or how bad things look. Throughout the ages, men have tried to halt the Gospel; nevertheless, no weapon can defeat it.

In the Old Testament you can read about how the devil tried to defeat Joseph by working through Potiphar's wife, but instead of Joseph being defeated, eventually he was promoted. Moses was

falsely accused, and God brought leprosy upon the accusers. You can also read of Daniel, of the three Hebrew children, and of others whom the devil tried to defeat, but they were more than conquerors.

In the New Testament you can read of Jesus, the carpenter's son, and how men tried to destroy Him, but God raised Him up to the place where His name is above every name. Not only is His name above every name, but every knee is going to bow to Him. Those who persecuted Him, those who crucified Him, and the people who refuse Him today will bow down to Him. God is doing His best to get people saved today, to get people to bow down and accept Christ now. If they refuse, He said the day will come when *every* knee shall bow; then they will acknowledge Him.

### **Gird Up the Loins of Your Mind and Be Sober**

After Jesus died, was resurrected, and ascended to be with the Father, then men tried to stop the disciples. They boiled John in oil to try to kill him, but God had other plans for him. When they could not kill him that way, they banished him to the Isle of Patmos, and there God gave him the Revelation of Jesus Christ. John told how he received that revelation in Revelation 1:1, which reads, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John."

In Revelation 1:9 John tells us exactly why he was there: "I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ." John was placed there for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. After John returned

from the Isle of Patmos, he laid out the Word strongly, and he said this was the way it was in the beginning. My friend, this is the way it has to be in the evening time, just as it was in the morning time.

Today people are foolish enough to try to bring reproach upon the body of Christ, and they are in trouble. I want you to see that God has set a standard for people to live by. Whenever people are foolish enough to think they are going to bring a reproach on the body of Christ, they are heading for trouble. That reproach can come by worldly dress. God gave a standard for the way we are to dress. We are living in a time when people do whatever they want to do instead of following God's standard. God's standard never fluctuates; it is always the same, but many people follow the world's standard.

When people backslide and then come to the house of God dressed like Jezebel, they are foolish, because God is going to deal with situations like that. Whenever people think they can bring reproach upon God by their dress or by running their mouths against the pastor or the saints, they are exposing themselves. They think they are getting by with it every time they run their mouths against the pastor, the church, or the standard, but all they are doing is exposing themselves. They are not going to hurt the Gospel; their actions against the saints are going to promote it. Many people have heard others say things to try to tear down the church, and eventually they have had enough and have said, "Let's go see." When they went to see, they found that what they had heard was entirely wrong, and as a result, it brought them into the fold of God.

Paul said in 2 Corinthians 13:7-8: "Now I pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates. For we can do nothing against the truth, but for

the truth." Peter said in 1 Peter 1:13, "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." Peter said to be sober. In other words, you must practice self-control for the grace that God has given.

### **Take Courage**

God has promised that if you will hold steady, He will see you through. You are going to go through trials, and sometimes situations may look hopeless. That is the way it is in a literal war. When I was in the military and fought in the war, it seemed as if it was never going to come to an end, day after day, week after week, and month after month; but eventually the day came when it was all over. Saint, you need to take courage.

I want you to realize that the battle is going to end. You might be going through a hard place, but it will only go so far. If you live for God and do what He tells you to do, no man can pluck you from the Father's hand. We know where the battle line is drawn and how far the devil can go, and God lets us know there is victory for us. My friend, if you hold fast to your profession to the end, you can have eternal victory, so you need to press on. Let the devil roar, because he cannot hurt the body of Christ.

Many people have gotten discouraged and have given up because of circumstances. If you have become discouraged and feel let down and have thought, "What's the use?" you need to repent and ask God to open your eyes, and then you need to press on. In the final battle at the end of time, if you will stay true to God, you will hear Him say, "Well done." God wants His people strengthened. Every day the battle is getting stronger. The devil is working harder to defeat you, and he is throwing everything he has at you. If you would be honest, I believe that you would say

that you have never been through some of the trials and the tribulations that you have been through lately.

The devil is doing his best to upset the saints of God, but God wants His people to be strengthened and to settle down. He wants you to be faithful in the things of God. God has promised that the devil cannot defeat you if you stay true to God. He will take you through the trials and tribulations, and when they are all over, you can still have the victory in your soul if you will live for God.

If trials and battles have gotten you down to the place where you are discouraged and the devil is saying, "You might as well quit,

because you will never come out of this," the devil is a liar. If you ask God, He will give you the power and the strength to go through the battles so that you can come out victoriously. Jesus said He would give you an experience that the very powers of hell cannot prevail against. He did not say you would not go through trials, but He did say that He would give you power so that they do not overcome you.

Friend, if you have gotten down until you are discouraged and you are ready to give up, if you go to God, He will reinstate you with an experience that will take you through and last throughout the endless age of eternity. You cannot work for God in a discouraged

way. When the devil works to discourage you, and you accept that discouragement, he will push you down further and further until you are unable to work. Then when you are unable to work for God, there is no blessing in it, and the next step is to give up. Friend, you can reverse that. You must take hold of the promise that God has given you, and then you can have victory. If you have given up or if you have never been saved, you need to repent and ask God to help you to get victory. We are coming down to the end of time, and we need God in a greater way than ever before.

*(Cassette C-4701M)*

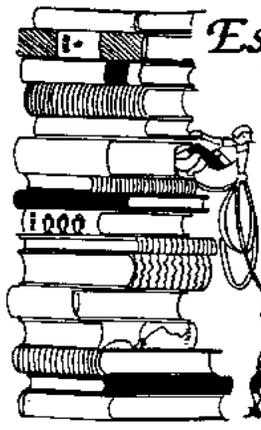
For prayer without the heart,  
the Lord will never hear;  
Nor will He to those lips attend  
whose prayers are not sincere.

# *Radio Log*



LOCATION	STATION	DAY	TIME
Wellston, Ohio	WAJB-FM 92.5	Thursday	8:05 a.m.-8:35 a.m.
North Little Rock, Arkansas	KMTL-AM 760	Saturday	2:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
Newark, Ohio	WCLT-AM 1430	Sunday	7:15 a.m.-8:00 a.m.
Anderson, Indiana	WQME-FM 98.7	Sunday	8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.

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*Especially for Young People*

## Lily the Easter Child



There were ten children in the Miller family. The father, a poor laboring man, toiled ceaselessly year in and year out to rear his family, and if possible he wanted to give them the advantages of an education.

Each child had been prayed for before it had even made its advent into this world. It was the desire of the parents' hearts to bring up their children in the love of God.

Each Sunday the entire family regularly made their way to the little white church at the crossroads. How the nine boys hated church going! They felt that Sunday school was only for sissies, but Mr. Miller was firm. While they ate and slept under his roof, they would attend the place of worship. Nine stalwart boys knew their father's word was law.

Mrs. Miller was a quiet little woman, always with a tired look on her face. She had left the discipline of her boys almost entirely to the father. Yes, she was loved by her sons and respected too, but they knew she could not manage them.

The youngest was so different, and perhaps my story would never have been written had it not been for Lily, the youngest, and the only girl of the large family.

Lily was an Easter child, and like the Easter lily from which she was named, she was a delicate, fragile child. The two slender crutches that she had always used were never out of her reach. She used them wherever she went, except the times when one of the boys was trusted to

carry her up high on his shoulders. How she adored her big brothers!

Lily lived very close to Heaven all the time. She loved to talk with people about heavenly things, and her knowledge of God left me wondering. One could tell by looking into the little face that she suffered greatly, although I never heard her murmur or complain.

She planned someday to be a great missionary and go to Africa to tell the heathen about Christ. She often pictured to herself what she would do and say when she became a missionary, and it never entered her mind that she might not be strong enough to go on her crutches. Yes, she would tell the story of a resurrected Christ. Perhaps it was because I was a missionary that she told me so many secrets of her heart, secrets that I do not think ever reached the ears of her mother.

I had been on sick leave for several months and expected to continue in the little cottage on the lake for another year at least. I bought my milk, butter, and eggs at the Miller farm. That is how I came to see her through the window late that first afternoon. How she loved to listen to me tell stories of real adventure that I had encountered in foreign lands! Yet there was so much I needed that Lily had to give. A beautiful faith, a trust that withstood all doubts, and patience that passed all understanding were hers.

John was the oldest and the most wayward of the family. Lily never knew of the hours he spent with evil

companions, for he loved his little sister with a beautiful love. His was the first name on her prayer list. How she prayed that he might become like the beloved disciple and learn to lean on Jesus' breast!

I had grave doubts of this, especially after I saw him late one night driving a car with a group of wild young people. I knew he had been drinking from the reckless look on his face as I caught a glimpse of him when they dashed by me at a terrific rate of speed. Then came the day when he announced to the family that he was leaving the farm for the city. He said he would have enough saved by fall to go to college, where he would study to be an electrical engineer. Perhaps it was well that he did not see the pained look on his little sister's face. I knew, though, that Lily would continue to pray that God would make him a great and mighty minister of the Gospel, but it seemed to me there was so little promise of this.

John was really going to the city. He seemed to want no help from his father, though I knew Mr. Miller would have given much to keep John with him for another year at least, when he would have been twenty years of age. Everyone felt bad the day he left. Dear, quiet Mrs. Miller went about her tasks as usual, trying to be brave, but hurriedly wiping the tears from her eyes with a corner of her apron when she thought no one was looking. John was the first one of her brood to leave her, and he was going from the

quiet farm to the evil and hurry of a large city. Oh, she must commit him to the Lord. Where was her faith? If only he would have been contented at home for another year!

Lily had taken her pennies that she was saving for the missionaries to buy John a Testament. She had carefully marked in red ink the more blessed parts. She had coaxed and pleaded with John for a promise that he would read in it every night before going to bed. The promise was hard to obtain until John saw the little lips quiver and the big blue eyes fill up with tears and then brim over. He promised, and because Lily was so precious, he told himself he would keep his promise.

John had been gone a month. He did not write as often as they would have liked, and when he did write, there was never a word about what he was doing.

Lily, it seemed to me, was more quiet than usual and spent a great deal of time sitting in her window looking off at distant things she could not fathom.

It was necessary for me to go to the city for several days, and I had promised Lily faithfully that I would visit John and take him the cookies she had so carefully packed for him. It was while I was in the city that the near accident happened. Mrs. Miller related the facts to me when I returned to the farm. Little Lily was still in bed unable to be up.

It was on a Monday when all the other children were in school. Keith, who was thirteen, had not been feeling well for several days. Mother Miller was anxious but not alarmed. However, he seemed to grow worse so quickly on Monday. There was no one to send for help except Lily, and Mrs. Miller's heart beat fast when she thought of Lily going by herself the mile to the nearest neighbors. There was no telephone at the Miller farm. There were too many mouths to feed to have very many conveniences, and a doctor was needed at once, for Keith was a very sick boy indeed.

Lily was not afraid to go. She

was not even afraid of crossing the creek whose waters were swollen and angry. Jesus would help her, she knew, even if the bridge was washed out and she had to cross on a large plank, like daddy was telling about only last night. The men probably would not be there fixing it so soon, either. She could hardly wait for her mother to help her on with her coat, and with a prayer in her heart for strength to get to the neighbors, Lily started on her slender crutches. Oh! If she could only hurry faster, if only she were not lame—but please Jesus, forgive her, she did not mean to complain; it was only that she was in a terrible hurry. By the time she had reached the creek she was wet with perspiration and her breath seemed to catch in her throat. There was a terrible pain near her heart because she had hurried so, and yet she was not going fast—not like anyone that could run.

The bridge was washed out with the spring flood, just as daddy had said. The plank was too narrow for her to walk across on her crutches. It did not take Lily long to decide. Putting her arms through the crutches, she began to creep on her hands and knees, dragging them with her. She could not shut her eyes because she must watch where she was going. But oh, it was frightening to such a little frail girl. Logs and debris were coming down the stream, and the water was so black and deep. Her head was so dizzy. It seemed at any moment she would fall from the plank. She could not go on. She was trembling so. Then, in the midst of her despair, it seemed as though a voice very sweet and gentle was saying, "I am with thee withersoever thou goest." It was enough. Christ had spoken, and the little child's heart took courage. The end of the plank was reached at last. Getting up on her crutches again, she hurried on. What if, when she got to the neighbors, they were away? Would she have strength to go on? She finally arrived at the neighbor's house. Oh, that she would be in time, but where was her

breath? Why couldn't she tell Mrs. Brooks they must have a doctor at once?

Mrs. Brooks knew as she looked into the twisted face of her little visitor that something was terribly wrong at the Miller home. How had Lily come so far by herself, and across the flooded creek too? "Is it a doctor you need at home, child?" Lily could only nod with the tears falling down her cheeks. She got it out at last. "It's Keith, Mrs. Brooks." Mrs. Brooks hurried to make the phone call from the next room. Later she returned to find Lily unconscious on the floor. They carried her home, but Lily was too weary to sit up again that day.

John was having a gay life in the city, all thought of college forgotten. Yes, and his promise to his little lame sister was forgotten too. The little Testament that she had given him lay hidden away among some of his belongings. Every penny he was earning was spent in riotous living. Would he some day come to his senses, as did the prodigal son, and return to his father's house?

"I will arise and go to my father." These words kept ringing in John's ears one evening. He tried to get rid of them by entering into the gaiety around him, but his heart was like lead in his breast. He was not in the right mood tonight for a party, he told himself. His lady companion was finding him very dull company indeed. He wondered what could be the matter. Was he getting homesick?

His friends were ridiculing him for being so serious. "Getting old before your time, old fellow," but he did not seem to care what they said. He wanted only to get away from them all, to return home and hear his father pray again.

He could stand his worldly friends no longer. Slipping out unnoticed by others, he made his way to his lonely room. He determined to hurriedly pack his clothing and start that night for home.

"But when he was yet a great  
*[continued on page 27]*

*John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:*

*15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

*16 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.*

*17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

# FORGIVENESS



***Brother Charles Ferguson***

## **Do You Have a Forgiving Spirit?**

As I have served the Lord down through the years, I have seen many cases of unforgiveness. I have seen sons and daughters unable to forgive their mothers and fathers, and I have seen it the other way around. I have seen unforgiveness among brethren. Unforgiveness is something that is easily acquired, but it is very difficult to get rid of.

John 3:16 reads, "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." Jesus came to bring life. God gave us His Son to deliver us from all sin, sin of every kind. Unforgiveness is sin. You must have a tender heart

toward God and toward mankind, but the devil does not want you to be tenderhearted; he wants you to be hardhearted. I was a very hardhearted man when I was a sinner. Hardheartedness will keep you from Heaven if you persist along that route. Regardless of whom you are or what you have been, God can set you free and cause you to triumph. He can help you in a special way.

Oftentimes people forget what God has done for them. In 2 Peter 3:1-2 Peter wrote: "This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets,

and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour." Peter wrote this portion of the Scripture to stir us up so that we might remember what God has done for us. We, as humans, are prone to forget what God has done.

When I came to Christ, though my sins were many, He forgave them all. He cast them into the sea of forgetfulness, never to be remembered against me. I do not suppose any of us would want to have our past sins posted on a billboard for all to see. I am glad that my sins were hidden from many people's view even when I was a sinner, and I am especially glad that they are now under the blood of Jesus Christ.

When it comes to forgiving

others, sometimes people's forgiveness does not go very far. You may say, "Well, Brother So-and-So has done me wrong." Mark it down, dear one, you do not really have the right attitude about forgiveness. I am just as vulnerable to unforgiveness as anyone else. I believe that as the people of God, we need to really put effort into seeing that we each have a forgiving spirit. May God help us. Let us not forget what God has done for us.

### **Be Not a Forgetful Hearer**

In Genesis, Chapter 37, you can read about a young man named Joseph, whose brothers threw him into a pit and intended to kill him. One of his brothers planned to pull him out and set him free, but before he could do that, Joseph's other brothers sold him, and he was carried down to Egypt and sold into slavery. To cover up what they had done, they dipped Joseph's coat in an animal's blood and told their father that a wild beast had killed him. The time came when Joseph was thrown into prison due to a false accusation, and he had to remain there for many years.

Genesis, Chapter 40, tells about when Joseph was in prison. While there, two men in the prison, who had been the king's baker and the king's butler, each dreamed a dream, and each man was troubled about his dream. When Joseph asked them why their countenances were sad, they told him about their dreams, and Joseph interpreted them. He told the butler that in three days he would be restored to his previous position. Next, Joseph told the baker that in three days the king was going to have him hanged. Then Joseph told the butler, in essence, "I have been in this prison for a long time, because I was falsely accused. When you are restored to your position before the king, I want you to speak to the king concerning me so that I might be able to get out of this place." The

butler was really glad for the good report concerning his dream and for being restored to his former position, but he forgot all about Joseph's request. At times that is the way we do: we simply forget. Some want to gloss over a matter or just halfway do the job. May we each remember what God has done for us and extend His goodness to others.

In James 1:25 James said, "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." Let us not be hearers only, but doers.

You know, sometimes one may pray for this or that and have the attitude, "Well, I am going to stand back and wait until God just drops it into my hands." James taught in the Book of James that we ought not to be hearers only, but doers; in other words, we must get at it. May God help us in a special way.

We read in Matthew 6:9-15: "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

I am so glad that God's love and forgiveness wipes away all sin and sets the soul free, but too many people do not take into consideration that what Jesus has done for them, they need to do for their fellowman. If you do not forgive others as freely as Christ forgave you, you cannot be forgiven. Many years ago I knew of a man who seemingly had a good testimony and a good experience,

but he had something in his heart against his own father that he would not forgive. He could not get over that hump, and eventually he lost out with God and lost his soul. His life became an absolute wreck. His health became broken, and he had several failed marriages. He had money in times past, but he lost it all. Unforgiveness is deep rooted and ruinous.

### **"Keep the Door of My Lips"**

Surely we need God's help in many things. I do not want to be a partaker of the spirit of unforgiveness or hardness of heart. Many people have hard thoughts and wrong attitudes toward others. I want my heart to be tender, and I want to love my brothers and sisters. Too many times people pick up attitudes from what others say or by the way they say it. For example, someone may say to you, "Did you hear what Brother So-and-So did?" Just the intonation of that person's voice, the tilt of his head, or the manner in which he speaks can affect you. Although the words may not be so derogatory, it is how one speaks that puts forth a certain message that can mar another man's character.

One time I went to a man and said, "Brother, I want to apologize for what I said to you."

He said, "Well, you don't owe me any apology. I felt that the words you spoke were true."

I said, "I'm not apologizing for the true words that I spoke, but I'm apologizing for telling you."

You see, it was none of his business how I felt. I should have gone to the person of whom I was speaking and told that person how I felt, not someone else; because in doing so, I harmed that man's character, even though what I said was true.

Some things are better left unspoken and kept between ourselves and God. If you have a strong concern, you should pray about going to that person and

speaking to him or her. If you have feelings against a brother or a sister, perhaps you should go tell that person, not someone else. David said in Psalm 141:3, "Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips." The words of your mouth can kill.

My wife's father passed a little saying on to her, and she often repeated it to me: "A thief can take only the material possessions that you have, but a liar can destroy your reputation." A liar can destroy a man. If someone steals your reputation, he is destroying a part of you. I asked God to set a watch at the door of my mouth in a great way. Many problems have been caused because individuals have refused to let God set a watch at the door to their mouths. We should speak words that build up and establish, not words that tear down. May God help us.

Dear one, when it comes to forgiveness, you can have all you want from God. Saint, it did not matter to God what all you did when you were a sinner. When you went to Him and repented, He wiped out the record of your sins. You might have committed the most horrible sins and had many bad attitudes, yet God just blotted them out.

### **"Love Your Enemies"**

There is no law against forgiveness. Galatians 5:19-25 reads: "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are

Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Dear one, you can have all the forgiveness that you want.

Flavius Josephus, a first century historian, wrote of how Titus and his army surrounded Jerusalem and sealed it off in A. D. 70. Jesus foretold of a scene that was yet to come, when thousands of pilgrims would gather into Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. Even before Titus moved his army into place, inside Jerusalem there were three factions, or divisions, and they were killing thousands of people. Finally, they wound up with just two divisions, John and Simon. Even before Titus took the city of Jerusalem, more than eight hundred thousand people had perished because of sedition. Robbery and murder prevailed within the city's walls.

Josephus wrote that Titus did not destroy Jerusalem. He stated that what destroyed Jerusalem was the sedition within. The two factions of Simon and John killed the people and each other. Hatred, animosity, and ill will killed thousands of people. They destroyed Jerusalem. Titus destroyed the division.

Division is what tears down the church. We can destroy one another, and then the devil will come along and destroy us all. May God help us to set a watch at the door of our mouths and to watch the attitudes of our hearts. The devil is working overtime to destroy God's people.

Jesus said in Luke 6:27, "But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you." Notice that in the beginning of verse 27 that Jesus said, "But I say unto you which hear. . . ." Not everyone is willing to "hear." You may listen as the message goes forth, but do you really hear? In other words, do you really take it into your heart and *do* it? Dear one, we each need to have ears to hear and hearts to get the job done.

### **Pray for Those Who Despitefully Use You**

Jesus said in Luke 6:28, "Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." Nothing stirs the human emotions any deeper than being despitefully used. Someone may do many things to you, but if that person despitefully uses you, it stirs something within the heart as nothing else does.

When I was a young man about sixteen or seventeen years of age, I worked evenings at a service station. The man who worked in the daytime was approximately thirty years of age, and he said that I had stolen about fifty cents or a dollar. It was a small amount, but that crushed me, and I was very angry.

I started from my home to that service station, and I do not know what I would have done to that man had I gotten to the service station in the mood that I was in when I left my home. My friend was working at the same service station and saw me coming a long way off. He had never come to meet me before, but there must have been a black cloud hanging over my head, so to speak. My indignation was stirred, so when my friend saw me, he met me and began to talk to me. He talked me out of my intentions, and I am glad that he did, because I was stirred to my very core. That man had despitefully used me and defamed me when I was innocent, and I was deeply hurt.

Let us relate that to the church. There are no deeper feelings than those that can be stirred by a religious controversy. It can stir feelings far greater than what I had. It pertains to a man's salvation, his very soul, and that can stir one so deeply. One can have such deep feelings about such a matter that he can hardly get rid of them. Thousands upon thousands of souls have perished because of religious animosity and unforgiveness. One group of people kills another group of people, and they supposedly do

it in the name of God. Dear one, if you have feelings of animosity, you really need to let the Savior wash away those feelings. You can lose your hurt, your anger, and your unforgiveness if you will only put in for it, but it will not come without effort. We must put forth effort to get anything in this world that is good.

### **The Key to Victory**

Jesus said in Luke 6:31-32: "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them." It is easy to love those who love you. You do not have to put forth much effort to do that. On the other hand, it is not so easy to love those who despitely use you, defame you, wrong you, and hurt you, but you can do it. Dear one, you not only *can* do it, but you *must* do it. This is not an option that I am telling you about. This is something that you must work on and obtain and keep working on.

Jesus said in John 3:7, "Ye must be born again." That is not an option. He was not saying that you can do it if you want to. Likewise, He was saying that you must love your enemies.

Jesus continued to say in Luke 6:33,35-36: "And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. . . . But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful." I am glad that I do not have to partake of other men's sins. Because I forgive them and show kindness to them does not mean that I am putting my approval on their wrongdoing. I am doing what God wants me to do.

In the Old Testament when the Israelites were battling the

Philistines in a field, Jonathan, King Saul's son, and his armor bearer went to a little stream and decided to go across. In essence, he said, "Let's go across and see what God will do," so they did. Jonathan did not pull out his sword and start fighting, but he got down on his hands and knees and began to crawl through his enemies. The whole field was full of enemies, but there were only two of them. His armor bearer was right ahead of him.

Jonathan fought on his knees, and we must fight on our knees if we are to get the job done. When we humble ourselves on our knees, the Armor Bearer will go before us. As the Scripture says, we must pray for those who despitely use us and who speak evil against us. The victory is won on our knees; we cannot win it any other way.

If a brother or a sister in Christ does despite to someone, one may be intolerant. On the other hand, if it is one's own flesh and blood, one can suffer with that person for forty

years and still reach out to him or her. Can we not suffer with the church? One should not have the attitude, "I will cut him off! I have talked to him fifteen times, but to no avail." Perhaps you have talked to your loved one for forty years. Should you cut off your brother after two or three years? How can that be? That would not be right.

If you go that far with your flesh and blood, you ought to go further with your spiritual family. If you cannot, somewhere along the line you have lost something vital to your Christian life. May God help. I do not know about you, dear one, but I am going to do the very best that God will help me to do. What is your attitude?

Over the years I have seen unforgiveness and wrong attitudes. How do you treat your brother or your sister in Christ? What kind of respect do you show? Do you show the same kind of forgiveness that God has shown you?

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When God does not immediately respond to the cries of His children, it is because He wants to accomplish some gracious purpose in their lives. If you are waiting for an answer of some heartfelt petition, don't become impatient. Commit the matter into the hands of your loving Heavenly Father and trust His wisdom.

*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 he*

*we should not serve sin.*

*7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

*8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*

*9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.*

# "Shall We Continue in Sin?"



**Brother Allen Polston**

## **Living Free From Sin**

The world is working to turn us away from living for God. The devil is using everything he can to work against our minds, using various situations and circumstances to war against us and to attack our faith. Romans 10:17 says that "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Through the Word of God, our faith can be inspired, and then the enemy cannot accomplish what he is trying to accomplish.

We are living in a day and time when it seems that just about every religious faction is embracing the false doctrine that you cannot live free from sin. Everywhere you turn, people are denying the Scriptures. They say that it is impossible for anyone to live a godly life and to be

perfect as the Bible says to be. God has a different message than the religious world does. The Bible teaches that we must live holy lives. Friend, you *can* live without doing things that are wrong.

When I talk about being perfect, I am speaking of the perfection where there is no moral wrong in one's life; in other words, there is no sin or ungodliness in one's life. Now, we all can make mistakes now and then. For example, you may take the wrong exit when you are traveling or something of that nature. That is not the kind of perfection that God was dealing with in the Bible. Matthew 5:48 says, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." This is a requirement for God's people. We must be perfect as our Father in Heaven is perfect. He

was referring to a perfection where no wrongdoing is allowed to exist, nothing displeasing in the sight of God that you are aware of.

As you journey through life and continue in this Christian race, when you come to the realization that something in your life is displeasing in the sight of God, you should get rid of it or stop doing it, by the help and grace of God. You should not override it.

In our Scripture text we find that the Apostle Paul posed the questions, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" Now, most Christian people understand that we each stand in need of grace. We cannot save ourselves. Being saved is not just a matter of rearranging some things in your life or trying to do a little better here and there. Being

saved is experiencing the new birth, when the grace of God does a work in your heart and life.

### **The Grace of God**

In Ephesians 2:8-10 Paul wrote: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." It is by the grace of God that we are saved. God did something for us that we really did not deserve and did not earn, but because we chose to believe and put our faith in Him, His grace came down and did a work in our lives.

As a child of God, the grace of God gives you power so that you can be a witness in the world. Being a witness is more than saying, "I am a Christian." To be a witness takes grace from God so that you can stand for what is right, do what is right, and be what God intends you to be.

Becoming a Christian brings about a dramatic change in one's life. It is very unfortunate that many religious people do not understand what it means to be born again. Once I was working for a dear lady who had been a member of a denominational church for approximately forty to fifty years. She was well up in age. After several visits to her home, we began to talk about the things of God and being born again. She said, "You know, I don't really know that I have ever been born again." I said, "Well, you need to be born again." That is what God requires.

Being saved is a work of the grace of God. As saints, we do not dress as Christians to be saved; we dress as Christians because we are saved. We do not talk right to try to be saved; we talk right because we are saved. If you are unsaved, you can be saved. The devil may try to confuse your mind; nevertheless,

you can have your faith inspired and become a genuine Christian. There is a definite need for grace. Grace is what saves us, according to Paul's epistle to the Ephesians.

Paul wrote in Titus 2:11-12: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." Grace brings about a work of salvation in those who will believe, but grace also goes on to be a teacher. The grace of God teaches us and helps us to learn. The Prophet Isaiah said in Isaiah 1:17, "Learn to do well." The grace of God is our teacher and helps us to learn to do well. We learn how to live pleasing and acceptable in the sight of God.

The Bible makes it clear that we definitely need God's wonderful grace. The grace of God is very important. We must have the grace of God in order to make Heaven our home. Paul asked the question in our Scripture text, "Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" Grace needs to abound in the life of the Christian each day. I would feel completely powerless without the grace of God. I would feel as if my understanding had been taken away without God's grace.

### **The Need for Grace to Abound**

God's grace can enable you to be an overcomer. Romans 5:1-2 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." This grace enables us to stand for what is right and to stand against those things that are wrong. Without the grace of God we would be unable to stand for what is right. Without the grace of God we would be unable to continue and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Verses 3-5 read: "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."

What a work the grace of God enables us to do! It enables us to rejoice, not only in the good times but also in the trying times of life. One songwriter penned, "*There is not a friend like Jesus in the trying scenes of life.*" We are going to have trying times in this life. We are going to have some times when we do not know why things are happening as they are, times when things transpire differently than what we desire them to, times of tribulation.

Friend, we can rejoice in our hearts and lives because of the grace of God, even during hardships that we go through. Because you are going through a difficult place does not mean that God has forsaken you. No, He is allowing you to go through situations. It is one thing to tell people something, but it is another thing to live it and then tell it. Friend, when you have been in tribulation and endured hard places, the grace of God can bring joy that is unsurpassed and inward blessing that nothing else can compare to.

There is a need for grace to abound in each of our lives. We need God's grace for many reasons. Knowing that we need the grace of God to abound, or continue, how can we get that to occur? The Apostle Paul wrote, "Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" He answered with the words, "God forbid."

God's Word makes it very clear that God has made a way so that we do not have to continue in sin. We need God's grace. Without it we cannot make it. It is through the grace of God that we are saved, and it is His grace that empowers us to live free from sin. Friend, you cannot continue to do things that

you know are not right and expect God to continue to pour out His grace upon you. When you realize that something is out of order, or that something is not what God would have it to be, then you must seek God's help in taking care of that situation.

Now, it is possible that people can do things and honestly not realize that what they are doing is unacceptable with God. It is possible even for people who have been around the Truth to get caught up in something and for a while not realize that it is something they should lay aside. Nevertheless, God is faithful, and in time He will make it known. I say again, when you realize that something is not right, you should not continue in it.

### **"Choose You This Day"**

God is merciful, and I am glad for that. He is a wonderful God! Saint, you ought to praise Him for the love and mercy that He has bestowed upon you. Had it not been for the grace of God, you would be lost and without hope, but God had mercy. He is worthy of much praise, much thanksgiving, and much gratitude. God will not allow people to continue in wrongdoing ignorantly. He will reveal to them the needs in their lives, and then He will allow them a space to repent. God gives each of us an eternal choice. You may travel for a while not knowing what to do, but when God begins to shine His light on your pathway, He will make His way known; then you must make a choice. That is when the devil will come around to tempt you.

The devil shows you all the potential glamor that he, through sin, could provide. He lies to try to deceive and entice you to yield to a way that is unlike God. He tries to make it look as though it will be rewarding, but an old expression says, "Everything that glitters isn't gold." Friend, the devil offers some very alluring things and makes

them seem as though you would really benefit by going in that direction; nevertheless, the Bible says that he is a liar and a murderer. He only comes to steal, to destroy, and to kill.

In the Old Testament you can read that Joshua knew he was near death. He knew that his time of leading the people of God, Old Testament Israel, was just about over, and he was getting ready to leave this world. Therefore, he called all the leaders and elders together and recited to them how wonderful and how good God had been; then he said, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve . . . as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15). Friend, you will have to make that choice from time to time throughout the course of your life. As you travel along life's journey, you may be unsure about what to do concerning some things. However, the day will come when God will make known the way that you need to walk. When that time arrives, you need to remember Scriptures such as the one that Paul addressed to the Romans in verses 1-2 of our Scripture text: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

Jesus said in John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." The Apostle Paul went on to write in verse 3, "Know ye not [in other words, 'Don't you realize'] that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" There are some things that people do not know, and that is what our job is as God's church. In Matthew 5:14 Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."

Church, we have a very awesome responsibility upon us, a very important task. As we live our lives, we must let people know what God can do for them, not always by telling them with our

lips, but by showing them through the lives we live. We need to let people know that God has ordained a way for them to live free from sin.

### **"Grace to Help in Time of Need"**

In 1 John 2:1-2 John wrote: "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." In 1 John 3:8 he stated, "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."

Jesus was born into this world and carried out His ministry so that He might destroy the works of the devil in your life and in my life. He suffered immensely for this purpose. The devil will take any opportunity he can to work in your life. He will use habits of life and illicit sins to put you in bondage. He will take something that someone tried to do in the right way and try to use it to destroy you and make havoc of your life.

Again, 1 John 3:8b says, "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." Friend, you do not have to let the devil work in your life any longer. If you sit back and do nothing, he will destroy you. You may think, "Well, I'd never go to that extreme." I have seen so many people say they would never yield themselves to certain things only to end up doing them. The devil is out to destroy you. He wants to ruin you completely. That is the reason Paul wrote to the Roman people and said, "Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid."

You must not continue to do those things that you know are wrong. God has help for you. The

precious, only begotten Son of God has been given so that He might destroy the works of the devil in your life. If you are a Christian and the devil has begun to work on you in some way, I want you to know there is help for you. You can pray through and get help from God. One has been manifested to destroy the works of the devil.

The Hebrew writer said in Hebrews 4:16, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Friend, you can come boldly to Jesus Christ. John 1:17 says that "grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." Friend, when you become aware of something that the devil is trying to do, some way that he is trying to work on you after you have enjoyed many years of Christian living, you need to come boldly to the throne of grace so that you can find mercy and help in the time of need.

Do you know what the devil will do? He will get you to say, "I can handle this. I can work it out." Friend, when you have a need, you need to admit it and let God help you with that need. God does not say, "Well, you can come, but you are going to get a beating over it." He said to come boldly to the throne of grace.

The Heavenly Father does not want you to continue in sin. He does not want you to continue in something that is wrong, because you will lose the grace of God. When you come boldly to the throne of grace, you can get help from God. Jesus Christ was manifested to destroy the works of the devil. If you do not let Christ destroy the works of the devil, the devil will destroy you.

### **"He That Hath Suffered in the Flesh Hath Ceased From Sin"**

Why is it that more people are not living free from sin? The Bible tells us that some suffering comes with living a godly life. Second

Timothy 3:12 says, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." The more godly you live, the more persecution you will receive. The more labor you put forth for God, the more persecution you are going to suffer.

First Peter 4:1 reads, "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin." There is some suffering in the flesh to be able to cease from sin. Someone may say, "Well, that is talking about Jesus." No, it is not. Jesus never began to sin, so He did not have to cease from sin. On the other hand, at some point in your life and my life, we did commit sin. If you are willing to suffer in the flesh as our Savior Jesus Christ did, you can cease from sin by the grace of God.

Friend, you can stop the sin business. Those things that you have lived to regret, those things that bring you guilt and condemnation and remorse, because you know they are not right, can all come to an end. All of that can cease if you are willing to suffer in the flesh. Sometimes the suffering is just making a move for God. Sometimes suffering a little in the flesh is standing for what is right while those around you are yielding to the wrong. It is worth it to be able to stop the sin business. You can stop sinning by the grace of God. First John 3:9 states, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin." Again, 1 John 3:6 reads, "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not."

In Matthew, Chapter 28, you can read that shortly after Jesus' crucifixion, as He was getting ready to go away and be with the Father, He said to His disciples in verses 18-20: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the

Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." This passage of Scripture can help you to understand how you can live a holy life, a life free from sin.

When Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth," He let us know that He has more ability, more strength, and more enabling power than anything else in Heaven or in earth. Because Christ has all power, He connects it to you and me. He said to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations," no matter who they are, no matter where they are, and no matter what they are bound by. He let us know that He is the supreme power of the universe.

People often quote verse 18, but they should not end there. Jesus said: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Jesus was telling the disciples to go forth and do the work of God and to teach the people to observe all the things that He has commanded.

What kind of teachers would people be if they went forth and told people what they ought to do, and yet they were doing the opposite? What kind of teachers would they be if they taught people about loving one another, loving their neighbors, being modest, living holy, being Christlike, and all the things that we find recorded in the Scriptures, yet they did not live that way. They would not be good teachers, would they? You would not want to sit under their teachings for very long, would you?

Those verses tell us that Jesus not only was telling the disciples that He had all power, but also that He was going to administer it to them so they could go forth and teach, both by word and by deed. A good teacher is someone who teaches the Word and lives it. To be

effective in the work of God, one must teach it with his mouth and reveal it by the life he lives. You may ask, "How can that be done?" Jesus included that in His text too, because He went on to say, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Jesus let us know that His presence would always be with us. He has all power in Heaven and in earth. When He is with us, then we have One with us who has *all* power.

### **Christ Is With Us Today**

When someone strong and powerful is alongside you, it gives you confidence that you might not otherwise have. So Jesus said, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Friend, you can live free from sin; you can refuse the evil and choose the good because you have One with you who is all powerful. He has all power in Heaven and in earth.

Nothing is stronger or mightier than Christ is. Oh, yes, the devil has some things that He uses against people and that he uses to get hold of people. Nevertheless, Christ is more powerful than the devil. He is mightier than Satan, thank God. John wrote in 1 John 4:4, "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." Jesus is supreme; He is to be exalted and lifted up.

Someone may ask the question, "How is it possible for Jesus to always be with us when He has returned to Heaven to be with the Father? Jesus said in John 14:15-18: "If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."

Jesus was preparing the disciples for His departure. They

had been with Him for a period of time and had witnessed many good things that he had done. He let them know that He was not going to leave them comfortless. He said, "I will come to you." Now, we know He is coming one of these days in what we commonly refer to as the Second Coming. However, after He left physically, He came again by way of the Spirit of God, or the Holy Ghost.

In John 16:12-14 Jesus said: "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you." Notice that He said, "I have yet many things to say unto you." Jesus had many things that He still wanted to say and was going to say. How could He speak to them later? He spoke to them by the Holy Spirit. Jesus speaks to us yet today through the Spirit of God. The building does not have to be full for God to speak. We have witnessed the verse that says, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). We have seen God come down when there were only two or three. Where the Spirit of God is, much can be accomplished.

In Matthew 16:28 Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom." Now, I dare say that none of those people who were standing there that day are still around; they all have passed on. Yet He said some of them standing there would see the Son of Man (Jesus) coming in His kingdom. How did they see Jesus coming in His kingdom? They were there on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out, and they saw Jesus coming in His

kingdom.

Christ is with us today by the Spirit of God. Remember, He said, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Saints, by the Spirit of God, Jesus Christ is in the midst. Others may say that He has departed, but He is in the midst. He is ready to help you if you have needs in your life. God can help you to get your problems resolved and destroy the works of the devil.

Friend, God has grace, strength, and mighty power to administer to every need that you have in life. Again, Paul wrote in verse 1 of our Scripture text, "Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid." If something is out of order in your life, if something has begun to take hold of you, do not continue in that direction. You can come boldly to the throne of grace. Won't you let God help you? Jesus is waiting. May God bless you.

*(Cassette C-4963M)*

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### ***Is Anything Too Hard for Me?***

*Just last week as I was praying  
I opened up God's Word  
And saw the biggest question there  
That I had ever heard.  
For right in my opened Bible  
In letters black and bold  
I read the greatest challenge that  
A Christian heart could hold!  
"Is there any thing too hard for me?"  
That's what my Bible said,  
And now ever since I read it  
It's been going thro' my head.  
"Is anything too difficult  
Or is it too severe  
That I, the Lord, can't work it out  
If you will persevere?"  
And now, no matter what comes up,  
I can't get on my knees  
And say, "Dear Lord, this is too hard.  
Will You excuse me, please?"  
For there hasn't been a need,  
That wasn't fully answered as  
My faith took hold indeed!*

*Selected*

# One Nation Under God

Historical revisionists have for a long time tried to deny or obscure the fact that our nation was founded upon belief in God. These quotations are proof that our forefathers, including the framers of the Constitution, never intended a separation of God and State.

## 1620—THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT

"In the name of God, Amen, Having undertaken for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith . . . lo . . . solemnly and mutually in the presence of God covenant and combine ourselves together. . . ."

## 1643—CONSTITUTION OF THE NEW ENGLAND CONFEDERATION

"Whereas we all come into these parts of America with one and the same end and aim, namely to advance the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ and to enjoy the liberties of the Gospel in purity with peace."

## 1681—WILLIAM PENN

"If you are not governed by God, you will be ruled by tyrants."

## 1752—LIBERTY BELL

"Leviticus 25:10—'Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.'"

## 1772—SAMUEL ADAMS

"The rights of the Colonists as Christians . . . may be best understood by reading and carefully studying the institution of the great Law Giver and Head of the Christian church, which are to be found clearly written and promulgated in the New Testament."

## 1776—DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

". . . the laws of Nature and of Nature's God.

". . . that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights.

". . . Appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions.

". . . with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence."

## 1787—BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

"Here is my creed. I believe in one God, the Creator of the Universe. That he governs it by his Providence. That he ought to be worshipped."

At the Constitutional Convention: "I have lived,

Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth . . . that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without this aid?"

## 1787—ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Soon after the Constitutional Convention: "For my own part, I sincerely esteem it a system which, without the finger of God, never could have been suggested and agreed upon by such a diversity of interests."

## 1789—GEORGE WASHINGTON

Thanksgiving Day proclamation: "Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection, aid and favors. . . . Now, therefore, do I assign and recommend Thursday, the 26th day of November next . . . that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country, and for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us."

## 1820—DANIEL WEBSTER

In Plymouth, Massachusetts, stated: ". . . more than all, a government and a country were to commence, with the very first foundations laid under the divine light of the Christian religion . . . Who would wish that his country's existence had otherwise begun? Let us not forget the religious character of our origin."

## July 4, 1821—JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

"From the day of the Declaration . . . They (the American people) were bound by the laws of God, which they all, and by the laws of the Gospel, which they nearly all, acknowledged as the rules of their conduct."

## 1861—ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Farewell words in Springfield, Illinois on February 11: "Unless the great God who assisted him (Washington) shall be with me and aid me, I must fail; but if the same omniscient mind and mighty arm that directed and protected him shall guide and support me, I shall not fail—I shall succeed. Let us all pray that the God of our fathers may not forsake us now."

1861—ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Gettysburg Address: ". . . that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

1892—U. S. SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court Justice Brewer, delivering the opinion of the Court (143 V.S. 457) stated: "These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declaration to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation."

July 4, 1913—WOODROW WILSON

"Here is the nation God has builded by our hands."

March 3, 1931—NATIONAL ANTHEM

Adopted by Congress—*The Star Spangled Banner* closes: "Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation. Then conquer we must, when our case it is just. And this be our motto—'In God is our Trust.'"

June 14, 1954—PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Words "under God" adopted by Congress: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands—one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Adopted as national motto of the United States by a joint resolution of Congress on July 20, 1956.

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# Thank God for the Thorns



How graciously a gift of flowers is received. But with what spirit do we receive gifts of thorns? The Apostle Paul said, "There was given to me a thorn" (2 Corinthians 12:7). He prayed to be rid of it, but the thorn remained as it was given to him for gain! It came to fill its God-planned place. It was God's grace thorn, and as we follow the life of Paul, are we not glad that God's grace was sufficient to take him through—even unto martyrdom? God did not take away Paul's thorn; He mastered that thorn and made it Paul's servant. The ministry of thorns has often been a greater ministry to man than the ministry of thrones.

George Matheson, the well-known blind preacher of Scotland, said: "My God, I have never thanked Thee for my thorn; I have thanked Thee a thousand times

for my rose, but not once for my thorn. I have been looking forward to a world where I will get compensation for my cross, but I have never thought of my cross itself as a present glory. Teach me the value of my thorn. Show me that I have climbed to Thee by the path of pain; show me that my tears have made my rainbows."

What relation have thorns to the fulfillment of the great commission: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"? They have a very great part in this glorious, yet unfinished task. We are summoned to "fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ" (Colossians 1:24). As Calvary preceded the resurrection morning, so does the thorn crown precede the unfading crown of glory. Crowns are costly! They

cost one's lifeblood. Are you ready to pay the price? Does it appear to be too costly? You that have been purchased by the blood of the slain Lamb of God are summoned to the coronation ceremony to witness Him being crowned the King of kings and Lord of lords! "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him" (2 Timothy 2:12). "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).

Today let each of us receive from His pierced hand our own peculiar thorn and place it within our hearts. Until that glorious day when we see Him face to face and crown Him Lord of all, may we wear it as a flower. "In acceptance lieth peace."

Selected

[Esp. for Young People—contin. from pg. 15]

way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him" (Luke 15:20). What rejoicing there was in the Miller home that beautiful Easter day! For it was Easter Sunday when John returned, and Lily's birthday.

The little church at the crossroads was decorated for the Easter services. Beautiful white Easter lilies bowed their waxen heads from the rostrum. Lily was there too. She had been carried in by big brother John.

The minister read his text: "He is not here, but is risen." As he told the story of the Resurrection of our blessed Savior, John's heart ached with the glory of it. This glorious Gospel a thing for sissies? No, it was for real men. With the help of the Father and His Son, John would fit himself for the humble service of the

Man of Galilee.

As the invitation was given to sinners to come to Christ, a young man, tall, broad-shouldered, brown curly hair on a head that was uplifted, made his way to the altar and knelt and gave his life, his all, to Christ. Buried with Christ, yes, but raised again in newness of life, John Miller was born again.

I cannot describe to you the joy that swept over frail little Lily. I can only tell you that she seemed to be carried away to another world.

John entered a Christian college in the fall, and we all looked forward to the time when he would be out spreading the Gospel. What a power for God he would be!

One day in the late fall, little Lily slipped away to be with her Lord. No, we did not grieve for her. We were lonely, it is true, but we knew she was where there was no pain

and suffering, and we were thankful. Her childish prayers of simple faith, I believe, led her brother to Christ. She would never have been able to go to the mission fields, but John could and would. Then I, too, was to return to my field of labor.

My health had improved wonderfully, and spiritually I was stronger. I was anxious to be in service again for Jesus.

There was one thing I was taking with me that some people thought I was foolish to bother with. This was a pair of little slender crutches—Lily's crutches, yet I could not give them up. I wanted them so much, for amid the trials and disappointments that would come to me, I knew they would speak to me clearly of the brave little soldier who had fought so gallantly and so well.

Selected

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# Announcement

Forrest City, AR  
April 8-11

**REVIVAL:** The Church of God, 201 North Division, Forrest City, AR  
Evangelist: Brother Earl R. Borders, Heath, OH. Revelation meeting.  
Service times: Thurs. & Fri. 7:00 p.m.; Sat. 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.; Sun. 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.  
For further information contact: Pastor Timothy Forrest.  
Telephone: (Home) 870-633-4867 or (Church) 870-633-1245

*We cannot always see the way  
Where Thou, our gracious Lord, dost move;  
But we can always surely say,  
That God is love.  
When clouds hang o'er our darkened path,  
We'll check our dread, each doubt reprove;  
For here each saint sweet comfort hath,  
That God is love.*