

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

THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER
USPS #871620

Periodicals postage paid at the post office in Newark,
Ohio 43055.

POSTMAN, send form 3579 to the printer:

THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER
675 N. Cedar Street
Newark, Ohio 43055

This periodical carries no subscription price;
however, it is partially maintained through the gifts
and offerings of its readers, with the balance of the
expenses being paid by the local congregation.

PRAYER: If you need prayer, please phone or write:

Roger Decker, Pastor
83 Decrow Ave.
Newark, OH 43055

Email: pastor@church-of-god-online.com
Phone: 740-344-2543 or 1-888-730-0461
Fax: 740-344-4737
Print Shop Phone: 740-345-1312

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.

CONTENTS

Babylon	3
The Prevailing Practice of Playing Religion	9
Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation	13
The Secret of Power	14
You Can Be Spiritually Successful	23
Announcements	27

Website: www.godsacres.org

Vol. 35 November 2005 No. 11

Guest Editorial

*Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come
even to his seat!*

Job 23:3

Discouragement

Trials, misfortune, hard places, and even the death of a loved one come to all at one time or another. It is difficult to endure these things, and we wonder why they have fallen on our pathway. In the above Scripture, we can see that the great Patriarch Job was burdened with deep heartache. He had suddenly lost his livestock and his property, and even his children had been taken from him through death; he was also sorely afflicted in his body. Remember that Job was a righteous man in God's sight. He walked in a pleasing way before God day after day. In his hour of desperation, his trial had become very heavy and burdensome. From the human standpoint, it looked as though God had forsaken him. Feeling all alone and pressed down, he seemingly was unable to gain God's attention. Job cried out from the depths of his soul, "Oh that I knew where I might find him!"

Farther in this chapter he related what he would do if he could find God and the way he felt that God would react to his situation. Read his words in Job 23:4-6: "I would order my cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments. I would know the words which he would answer me, and understand what he would say unto me. Will he plead against me with his great power? No; but he would put strength in me."

Although Job was sorely oppressed and knew not which way to turn at that time, he had faith and knew that God was able

to help him and come to his rescue. Job was unable to feel God's presence, yet he kept his faith and trust fixed in God's ability to deliver. In addition to losing his family, possessions, and health, he also had to contend with some so-called friends who accused him of wrongdoing and sinful deeds. It seemed that trouble was coming from every side. The pressure and the burden that had fallen on Job seemed to be more than he could bear, yet he refused to abandon his integrity. Surely the consistent, godly life of this faithful patriarch has been an encouragement, a strength, and a comfort to millions throughout the ages as they, too, have faced deep trials.

When we think of the many who are loaded down with adversity, trials, and afflictions of various types, we understand their feeling of discouragement. Discouragement can come upon anyone; however, it is something that each individual must overcome. If not dealt with quickly and properly, discouragement can lead to murmuring, complaining, and finally, sin and separation from God. Trials are not sent to the Christian to turn him away from God, but to strengthen his faith and build him up spiritually so that he may be drawn closer to Him. During times of trials and afflictions, one may become weary because of the lingering circumstances that have befallen him or her. If a person is not careful, it can lead the individual to give up in the battle.

[continued on page 8]

Revelation 18:1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed

fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double accord-

ing to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

Babylon



Brother Roger L. Decker

Walk in the Light

The Scripture text says there was a cry made by another angel. This is dealing with the sixth-seal angel. The cry was to come out of Babylon. This angel was pouring out wrath, or judgment, saying, "Babylon . . . is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean

and hateful bird" (verse 2). When the Scripture says that Babylon "is become the habitation of devils," that means it is a dwelling place of demons. "The hold of every foul spirit" is a watch post for unclean spirits. Babylon is a cage, or a prison, for uncleanness and hatred; it is a place where these spirits can dwell in peace and safety. It is the refuge to which they flee, where they are undisturbed.

The Scripture says, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become. . . ." This implies that it was not always in that condition. This is talking about spiritual Babylon. God used Babylonian reformers and some Babylonian people with the light they had in that day to reach out to the lost and to stand against the wrong. There were great reformers who had the power of God. They stood against

wrong and declared what truth they knew in that day. Babylon has become a system where the enemy of souls can find refuge.

Failing to walk in the light will do a really damaging work on your spirit, your mind, your knowledge, and your understanding. If you fail to walk in the light, you will go into confusion. The Scripture says Babylon is a dwelling place of devils and uncleanness, and it is a cage, or a refuge.

Isaiah 2:5 reads, "O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD." Psalm 119:105 says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." It is dangerous to walk against light. If you are saved, you need to walk in every bit of light, knowledge, and understanding you receive. God will be fair, and He will be patient with you. God is long suffering, but you should not reject light.

How Is Your Vision?

I want you to read the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:22-23: "The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" The teaching in those two verses is very simple. He said the light of the body is the eye.

When the natural eye is directed steadily toward an object and the eye is normal, everything is clear and in focus. If that eye should wander from one object to another and is not fixed on anything in particular, or if that eye is diseased, then nothing is seen clearly. Everything becomes dim, and it brings confusion. The man, therefore, will be unsteady. The eye regulates the motions of the body, and to have an object distinctly in view is necessary to correct and regulate actions.

I know exactly what I am talking about, because with my natural eyes I battle double vision, but thank God, my spiritual eyesight is single. Jesus let us know this: in order that the

conduct may be right, one must have the eye of faith single, steady, and unwavering; then the conduct will be without reproach. If the eye is single, steady, and directed at one object, then the man is not confused, as the person is whose eyes see double.

Jesus said if your eye is single, your body will be full of light. What was He saying? When your eye is single, your conduct will be regular and steady. All that is needful to direct the body is that the eye be fixed right. No other light is required, so all that is needful to direct a soul in the conduct is that the eye of faith be fixed on Heaven and the affections be there also. Then you will be able to walk straight.

Again, Jesus said in verse 23, "If therefore the light that is in thee [the word *light* in this verse signifies the mind or the principles of the soul] be darkness, how great is that darkness!" The meaning of this passage is, the light of the body is a guide, and the director is the eye. Anyone who has eye trouble knows that when light is irregularly distinguished, or when the eye is diseased or lost, things become confusing. The same is true with the light in you that directs your soul. When that light is not single, you get confusion of mind. If the soul is desecrated by tending only to earthly objects, if it is diseased and not fixed on Heaven, how much darker and how much more dreadful will the darkness be than any darkness of the natural eye! Jesus was teaching that the darkness that comes upon the soul is much greater than the darkness that is in the natural eye. There are things that darken the mind, obscure the view, and bring a dreadful, gloomy night over all its faculties. That is the reason it is necessary to keep the eye single; in other words, it is necessary to keep your spiritual eyes focused on Jesus and to keep your affection on things above.

A State of Confusion

Babylon failed to walk in the light of its day. Instead of Babylon going forward as they received more light

and Truth, it stalemated. I want you to know that behind every Babylonian system is a spirit that motivates it and keeps it alive. Many people have testified as strongly as anyone ever has, but where are they today? They are in false religion. If you do not see anything wrong with that, then I doubt you have any vision at all, spiritually speaking.

If you commit spiritual fornication, your eye is no longer single; your vision becomes double, just as Jesus was saying. You may be Church of God one day and then be in Babylon the next. As long as the eye is focused right, one has single vision, and it motivates the body right. The actions will be right. Contrariwise, if the vision becomes double and one does not know which direction to go, one will go into confusion. Babylon is in mass confusion. Babylon failed to walk in the light of its day. They had some Truth, but instead of obeying the two witnesses (the Word and the Spirit), they killed them.

John wrote in Revelation 11:1-11: "And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

"And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth

out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

"And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them."

Toward the end of this chapter we see that Protestantism made war against the two witnesses and overcame them and killed them. Now, this is a spiritual Book. You need to understand that. We know that the Word and the Spirit cannot be killed, literally; they are divine. What was Jesus talking about? He was not talking about literal death, but He was saying that they were inoperative in Protestantism. In other words, they were not allowed to have their right of way in Protestantism. The Word and the Spirit are not allowed to operate in many places yet today. What did it kill? It killed their influence. Therefore, they killed the two witnesses. Protestantism is an enemy of God. When I talk about Protestantism, I must remind you that I am talking about false systems of religion.

Babylon is not a geographical location; it is a spiritual condition. Protestantism came up from the pit. Revelation 13:11 says, "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon." The words *earth* and *pit* could be used interchangeably, they mean the same thing here. In other words, the beast that came up out of the earth had no Bible foundation, but it had bits of Truth.

"Come Out of Her, My People"

Reformers gained an understanding of certain Scriptures and stepped out on the Word, and God used them. They rallied people, and people were being born again. However, they did not lay down their man-made doctrines or their carnality. They went right out on the battlefield. The Roman Catholics and the Protestants battle yet today. Protestantism's mother is Roman Catholicism. You can trace its lineage right back to Roman Catholicism, and it makes war with the Word and the Spirit. It was not Roman Catholicism that killed the Word and the Spirit. No, the Word and the Spirit prophesied during the Dark Ages clothed in sackcloth. Roman Catholicism did not have any Truth. Protestantism has bits of Truth mixed with man-made doctrines and creeds, with human headquarters and boards, and they vote in pastors.

The Word of God says that the Holy Ghost made overseers to feed the Church of God. You do not read where the Holy Ghost made overseers to feed the Baptist Church. It is not mentioned in the Bible. Someone may say, "Well, I know good men in the Baptist Church." Do not misunderstand the message. They are good people if they are walking in all the light that they know, but I am talking about false systems of worship that turn away from light and understanding.

When did the angel cry out, "Babylon the great is fallen"? It was right during the sixth-seal age, in the evening light of time. The message was one church, one body, one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. They were getting right back to the message of the morning time. Revelation 11:8 says, "And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified." You can read in the Old Testament about Sodom and Egypt. Sodom was wicked, and Egypt held the children of God in Egyptian bondage, which is a type of sinful bondage. This is a perfect picture of Babylon.

Babylon is a "sin-more-or-less" system. The people are in bondage and cannot die out to sin. There are good people in Babylon, but God is calling the good people out. That is who God wants—the good people. He does not want some Babylonian who is not interested in walking in the light. He wants the child of God who desires to please God in all things. God is calling His people out of Babylon.

Are You Living the Bible Standard?

The spirits of Babylon and spirits of rebellion get in when one does not walk in the light and the understanding that God has shown that person. Many people today have laid aside the standard. The Church of God has a Bible-based standard, and it is beautiful. The standard is not going to change because you are upset about it. The same is true concerning the woman having long hair. The message is not going to change just because you get upset about it. The Church of God still stands against public bathing. We are going to do what is right and pleasing in the sight of God.

Some people get upset about the wedding band. When I was out in the world, I fell in love with my wife long before I gave her a ring. You can go down to the bars and find people sitting there flirting around with wedding bands and engagement rings on. Marriage is not secure because of a wedding band. You do not have to wear a wedding band to prove that you are married. If you are married, then you need to act as though you are married, talk as though you are married, walk as though you are married, and dress as though you are married.

When I received light and understanding about the wedding band, I went out in the back yard and threw it down over the bank. I never had a desire to put one back on. It will not keep a person in love. It takes God to keep you in love with your companion. The people in Hollywood

have expensive rings that cost thousands of dollars. Do they stay together? They often separate, and then fight over the million-dollar rings.

Too many preachers do not have enough backbone to stand for the right. They give in to the voices of the people and marry people with rings. They changed their mind about the message. When God changes your mind about something, you will become more like Christ, not more like the world.

Babylon is a false system of worship where the preacher says, "I sin, you sin, we all sin." If that is the condition of the people in that place, then they need to meet Jesus Christ, because He came to save sinners, to deliver sinners from their sins. If you have a religious profession and you are still living in sin, then Jesus died in vain as far as you are concerned. You might as well go back and offer the blood of bulls and goats, but that could never take away sin. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin. How are you redeemed? You are redeemed by walking in the light. It is exciting to live for God!

The Redeemed Shall Return to Zion

The two witnesses were to lie dead in the street for three and one-half days, according to the Scripture. Around 1880 men were called of God and given a true vision of God's church; that was the start of the evening light. They stood clear from all man-made organizations.

If you subtract 1530 from 1880, you arrive at the number 350. Revelation 11:9 lets you know the bodies of the two witnesses would be seen lying in the street for three and a half days, which are prophetic years, or three and a half centuries. For 1260 years Roman Catholicism kept the Word and the Spirit in sackcloth, or in mourning. There were individuals who stood for Truth in those days, and they loved not their lives unto death. They chose to burn at the stake rather than to denounce the Lord. Rome did not have the power to kill

the Word and the Spirit, but Roman Catholicism does not have light; it is total darkness. To kill the influence of the Word and the Spirit, one has to mix Truth and error.

For the next 350 years Protestantism killed the influence of the Word and the Spirit by mixing Truth with man-made doctrines. It caused the saints to be scattered on the hills of Babylon. There was no visible Church of God in the Dark Ages, or the dark and cloudy day. You do not see a visible Church of God until the evening time. In Revelation, Chapter 14, when the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, there God was gathering His people, the first fruits, out of Babylon. They were taking a stand, and there became a visible Church of God.

Let us look at some prophecy. We read in Jeremiah 23:1-4: "Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD. Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD. And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD."

Where would they be gathered? Isaiah 52:7-8 tells us: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion."

Isaiah 51:9-11 states: "Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded

the dragon? Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over? Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away."

The Way of Holiness

Let us go back to Isaiah, Chapter 35, a very twisted chapter for millennialists. Some talk about the Sahara Desert blossoming as a rose. God is not interested in the Sahara Desert blossoming as a rose. The Scripture is talking about that desert condition in your soul, and you will blossom as a rose — not as roses, but as a rose — the Rose of Sharon, Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 35:8-10 reads: "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; [You get on this highway when you become holy. The only way you stay on this highway is to live holy, or to live right.] the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

God has no mercy on that which houses spirits of devils. You should not look for God to have mercy on Protestantism. You need to keep in mind that when I talk about God not having mercy, I am speaking of that false system of worship. God is not using Babylon anymore, but rather He is plaguing her and pouring out vials of judgment upon her. That which God used to make up the church is not in Babylon any longer. Revelation 18:20 states, "Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy

apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her." There is no sense in hanging your head and crying when someone preaches against Babylon. The Scripture says to "rejoice over her." That means to rejoice over her judgment, or the vials of wrath being poured out on her.

In verses 20-24 God said: "Rejoice over her . . . ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her. And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

"And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth."

In those few Scriptures God's people are told to rejoice that these false systems have been made manifest and their Babylonian doctrines have been cast down. God has emptied Babylon of all her spiritual gifts.

The Vials of Judgment

Revelation 18:11-13 says: "And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and

wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men."

Notice that mentioned last were the souls of men. What came ahead of that? All these things of merchandise, monetary things, and last they mentioned the souls of men. Now God has emptied Babylon. Verse 11 lets us know that once you hear the Truth, you will not buy Babylon's doctrine anymore. You will shut it off, because you no longer believe her false doctrine of "sin-you-will and sin-you-must." Proverbs 23:23 says, "Buy the truth, and sell it not."

When the vials of judgment were poured out on Babylon, some things took place. The Scripture says Babylon was thrown down and found no more. No longer is there any spiritual thing found in her. We must believe what the Scripture says, not what you think or what I think. It says there were no more harpers, musicians, pipers, or trumpeters. When the pure Word of God goes forth, it stops all their joy.

Do you think those singspirations would go on with all the hoopla if someone were to get up and preach the pure Word of God? If someone were to get up and denounce sin, what do you think would happen to those quartets? Most of them would scatter like a bunch of rats. They would rather go someplace where they just allow anything and everything. They tell the people, "You do not have to line up with any commandments. We will just preach Jesus and sing and have a good time." The true singers are in Zion. When the singers are in Zion, they also have trumpeters, and they sound the alarm in God's holy mountain.

John went on to say there will be no craftsmen there. What was he talking about? He was saying there were no spiritual gifts. They stopped because the working of the Spirit had stopped. The millstone is not heard anymore. In other words, the grinding of the meal to bake the bread, or the pure doctrine, has ceased. In most of these movements, because of the pressure of the people, they are

ordaining homosexuals. The reason is not scriptural. You may say, "There has to be a place for them." Well, there is a place for them, and it is the same place there is for any other sinner: right at the feet of Jesus Christ.

The Scripture says in Revelation 18:23 that "the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee." The light of a candle is symbolic of men and women receiving a real experience of salvation. Often there is not enough Truth preached in Babylon for one to truly die out to sin. That is the reason the message changed to "sin-you-will and sin-you-must." There is not enough Truth there that men and women can truly live holy, righteously, and godly in this present world.

An Enemy to God's People

The voice of the Bridegroom has ceased in Babylon. Of course, the Bridegroom is Christ. In John 3:29 John the Baptist said, "He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled."

The voice of the bride is no longer heard there because the Bridegroom left Babylon, so what happened? The bride went to be with the Bridegroom. If the Bridegroom went out of Babylon, so did the bride. The bride wants to be with the Bridegroom. There is a marriage between the church and Christ, and the church desires to be with Christ, just as the literal bride desires to be with her husband. The Bridegroom calls His bride out of Babylon to be with Him. He does not want the bride down in Babylon committing spiritual fornication. He is calling her out to come and be with the Bridegroom. Child of God, you must stand aloof from all the Babylonian spirits. Let the two witnesses stand on their feet and proclaim the oneness of God's people.

There was something found in Babylon. I told you of some things that are not found in Babylon, but

there was some things found there. Revelation 18:24 reads, "And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth." Babylon is an enemy to God's people. It was an enemy in the Old Testament, and it is an enemy to God's people in the New Testament. Yes, God used the reformers when they were rising up against the falsity of that day. God used the reformers, but mixed in with Truth were man-made doctrines, and man-made doctrines kept the Truth from shining forth as it should have been.

In Babylon is a mixture of Truth and error together. Therefore, God has moved out, and all those who hear the Bridegroom's voice are going

to move with Him. They are not going to be someplace that the Bridegroom is plaguing and not feeding. Again, the bride wants to be with the Bridegroom. The church wants to stand on Mount Zion with the Bridegroom. Revelation 18:4 says, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

God is calling His people out of Babylon today. He wants a separate people, a people fully consecrated to His will. God is calling people who will serve Him with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. They will be ready at His slightest command to follow Him.

As I leave the message with you,

I want to caution you to be careful of the spirit of Babylon. Remember, it is not a geographical location, but rather a spiritual condition. Behind every false system of worship is a spirit that keeps it alive and motivates it. There is a gathering of spirits going on, and it is the eighth beast. It is a gathering of all the different denominations, and it is even reaching out its tentacles and grabbing a part of that which calls itself the Church of God.

God's people stand aloof from all man-made organizations; they stand aloof from a "sin-you-will and sin-you-must" religion. We stand with the Bridegroom on Mount Zion.

(Cassette C-5411E)

[Guest Editorial—continued from page 2]

Discouragement is neither an uncommon nor abnormal situation, and it is not a sign of failure. Many have fallen prey to discouragement through no fault of their own. Circumstances will arise, and there will appear to be no way out. For your consolation, dear reader, allow this writer to remind you that the Lord is a mighty way maker. When there is seemingly no way out, if you will only trust God, He will create a way. Remember, the children of Israel, when fleeing Egypt, stood helplessly at the Red Sea with nowhere to turn. Every possible avenue of escape was gone, and their doom appeared to be sealed. In that hour of desperation, God instructed them to "stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD" (Exodus 14:13). By faith they obeyed, and God made a way just in time. He will do the same for us! Our part is to simply stand still and keep our faith fixed in Him. God will not fail a trusting soul!

Satan so often blinds the minds of individuals, telling them that their situation is unique. He tries to convince them that no one else has ever had to go through what they are going through. Dear one, this is a lie and a trick of Satan to cause you to become discouraged. He will try to defeat you and rob you of your salvation. If you continue to entertain his charming but deceitful ways, you could

begin to accuse God of not loving and caring for you. Various Scriptures in the Word of God tell of people who have had to suffer greatly, often being isolated from family and brethren. A few examples of faithful ones who have trod the way before us include Joseph, Daniel, Jeremiah, and Paul.

Let us consider the Prophet Elijah, as recorded in 1 Kings, Chapter 19. This man of God was faithful and obedient to perform a great task on Mount Carmel. He prayed fire down from heaven to consume the sacrifice he placed on the altar and then killed the false prophets of Baal. After doing the will of the Lord, he became discouraged because of Jezebel (King Ahab's wife), who threatened his life. We find him running to hide in the wilderness because of fear. Trying to get away from the danger he faced, he went and sat under a juniper tree. He was very discouraged, and he felt that he was the only one who was truly serving God. He asked God to take his life and free him from his situation. God did not grant Elijah's request, but instead He nourished him and urged him to go on. Later, God gloriously took him up to Heaven in a whirlwind of victory.

John the Baptist was put into prison to be beheaded for reproving Herod of his sins. While awaiting his execution, John became discouraged. During this period

of time, his heart and mind became clouded to the reality of Christ's true mission and purpose. John asked the question in Matthew 11:3, "Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?" Jesus replied in verse 4, "Go and show John again those things which ye do hear and see." Sometimes in the darkness of a trial, one can lose sight of reality. Past blessings, miracles, and answers to prayer can temporarily slip from one's mind and need to be reaffirmed.

Dear one, if you are going through deep waters of adversity, trials, or afflictions, I want to encourage you to take a moment to lift up your head and look to God. You need to endeavor to look above the discouraging circumstance facing you; then you will see Jesus ready, willing, and able to help you. There is no situation known to man that is too great for Him to handle. I challenge you to put your faith, your trust, and your hope in the One who can bring you through with great victory. There is no reason for a saint of God to remain in a discouraged condition indefinitely. Ponder the words of the Psalmist as he spoke so profoundly in Psalm 42:5, saying, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance."

Selected

The Prevailing Practice of Playing Religion



Brother E. David Stegmeier

Are You Looking for Something Real?

I want you to read part of an article written on the religious page in a leading newspaper in Oregon. The title is "Give Me That New-Time Religion," and it reads: "Many young adults are moving away from their parents' example, but not toward a more secular life, as was the case for so many baby boomers in the sixties and the seventies. Instead they are carving out their own faith, which is often more devout or more active than that of their parents. [Young people are looking for something real. I am glad that we have found something real. Young people do not want to play religion. Many of them want something that satisfies the soul. They often want a clear-cut idea of moral right and wrong. They seek absolutes that were not that important to their counter culture era

and their parents. Thank God, as the Church of God, we stand for and believe in absolutes.]

"There is a turning away from an increasingly technological, anything goes, consumer-driven society." Praise God! There are still some honest hearts in false religion who are seeking Truth. Revelation 18:4 says, "Come out of her, my people." Some sectarian churches used to have some fire, and they once held high standards, but no longer. Babylon has fallen. Today many young people want something that is alive. I do not go to honky-tonks, movie theaters, or any of those places, because they hold no attraction for me. My excitement is in going to the Church of God. We have a wonderful time!

The article continues, "They [referring to the young people of our day] come looking for people of integrity." Many phonies are out there. I refuse to be a phony. Young people

are looking for people with integrity, people who are honest and upright. They are looking for men who are true to their wives, who pay their bills, who love their children, who are faithful to the house of worship, and who stand with the man of God and do not backbite him. They want to see women who love and honor their husbands, who love to keep house, who love their children, who pray, and who dress modestly, as saints should.

My wife is a grandmother, and she loves it. Many women who are fifty, sixty, or seventy years of age want to look like the teenagers. They dye their hair and wear false eyelashes. When I was a boy, grandmothers fixed their hair in a bun, had gray hair, and dressed modestly. They looked the part. You may wonder if I believe that women should wear their hair in a bun. No, not necessarily, but grandmothers should

look and act like grandmothers. Mothers, fathers, grandmothers, and grandfathers should each look the part.

The article goes on to explain that this change in the young people has to do with their growing up in affluence and riches, yet still feeling empty. The best that secular life has to offer comes short of satisfying the soul. Nothing out in the world appeals to me. I enjoy the house of God. I would rather be there more than any place else in the world. I love God's people. God brings us into contact with the finest people on the earth. I have seen the best that secular life has to offer, and it is inferior to Christianity.

Some have been raised without religious training, living in a party lifestyle, and they realize that something is missing. Many of them have already done quite well in their careers, and they have more money than their parents had, so their question is, "Now what?" Thank God, the Church of God has what satisfies the soul!

Christ—Our Supreme Example

The article continues, "This generation wants an integrated Christian faith. They detest compartmentalization. They say, 'I do not want my faith to be something I do on Sunday only.'" Many religious people put on their "glad rags" and go to church as if they really enjoy it, but after they are there just a few minutes, they are shaking their watches and looking at the clock, wondering, "When is this going to be over so we can go and have some fun?" I have heard people say, "Well, that sounds like fun!" Today people want to make religion fun.

Our high school hired a very precious young man who used to be a student there. He is a Lutheran minister's son. He became a teacher, and we talk occasionally. One day I asked him, "What is going on over at the Lutheran church?" He said, "Well, Mr. Stegmeier, we are building a big gymnasium because we are losing our

young people, just as all other religions are."

I said, "Not so! We are not losing our young people."

The church does not have to turn to amusements to keep the young people. I often heard the old-time Church of God preachers say, "If we have the real thing, young people will realize they must have this to really enjoy life." Jesus said in John 10:10, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." First Timothy 5:6 says, "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." One song says, "I love the thrill that I feel when I get together with God's wonderful people." I do not want dead religion. If you have dead religion, you are missing real joy and blessing.

The article continues, "If it [speaking of this generation's faith] is not something that impacts every part of my life—my schoolwork, my job, whom I date, how I vote, and transforms my life, then it is not worth much."

My subject is, "The Prevailing Practice of Playing Religion." The word *prevailing* means "to become common or widespread; to be or continue in use or fashion." Playing religion is widespread. Many so-called churches are just having fun when they gather together at church.

The church services should be a place where you think and reflect and work out your salvation. It takes work to be a real Christian. When you go to church, you should not sleep. You should listen and weigh what you hear. You need to ask yourself, "Am I what the man of God is speaking? Do I measure to the Word? Am I measuring to Christ?"

If you are a minister, you should not compare yourself to any other minister. You are to measure yourself to Jesus Christ. He is our supreme example. I do not look to other ministers to see where I should stand. We should not confer with other ministers concerning where to stand on certain issues. The church's headquarters is in Heaven. If each man of God would get his message of direction

from Headquarters, there would be no confusion. Many times down through my life, God very definitely spoke and told me to do this or that. God is still on His throne! We each need to stand for what is right and be an example of what the Church of God truly is.

"Their Heart Goeth After Covetousness"

The definition of the word *play* is "to do something for amusement." How much time do you spend watching videos or other types of entertainment? I don't want to be entertained. My life may come to an end soon. The majority of my time ought to be in the Book or on my knees praying. Life is serious. There are many people out in the world who need to know what we know. We have the Truth, and God wants us to spread it abroad to others.

Many references in the Bible warn of the dangers of playing religion. Ezekiel wrote in Ezekiel 33:31, "And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people. . . ." In other words, they come in a sanctimonious manner and assemble themselves, and then they just sit there. Many people attend places of worship and sit down and listen to a little of the Word of God, but not too much. They do not want to be disturbed with anything they do not want to obey.

A few years ago I was talking to a Methodist minister about different things in the Word and about practices and ordinances that we observe. I talked to him about feet washing. He said, "Do you still observe that antiquated practice?" I said, "Absolutely! It is still in the Bible." Sometime later he told me they were going to have what they call "a hanging of the greens." I had never heard of that, and you cannot even find it in the Bible. He made fun of our service of feet washing, which is biblical, yet he lays aside the Word of God to observe the traditions of men.

Again, Ezekiel 33:31 reads, "And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as

my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them. . . ." There is a fear in my soul to ever override anything in the Word of God and disobey it. James 2:10 states, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." Christians are to obey the entire Word of God. Brother D. S. Warner said, "Every word Thy mouth hast spoken is essential to our lives." When a woman bakes a cake and it fails to rise, she knows she forgot to add the baking powder. All the ingredients are quite essential.

Ezekiel 33:31 continues, ". . . For with their mouth they show much love, [In Mark 7:6 Jesus said, 'This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.'] but their heart goeth after their covetousness." God told Ezekiel in verse 32, "And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not."

Pretty melodies and instrumental playing are nice, but these are secondary to the message of the song. Any godly choir director will tell you that it is very difficult to find a good song with a healthy Church of God message. The words are the most important part of a song. Consider which is more important, the vehicle in which you ride or you? The answer, of course, is that you are most important. It is the same with music. The music is the vehicle in which the words ride. The words are far more important than the accompaniment. The Church of God has been blessed above all people with spiritual hymns and songs.

Are You a Pretender?

The people about whom Ezekiel wrote were very showy in their religious practices. Today television ministers and others on television provide a big show. The lighting, the costuming, the gestures, and the jewelry are showy. The people in Ezekiel's day were playing religion. Their hearts were not in serving God, and they

mocked the prophet of God as well as the Word.

I was taught from a very young age that you should not talk about the man of God. If people in my presence want to say something against a man of God, I say, "No, not in my presence. I do not want to hear it." The Bible says that we should not receive an accusation against an elder. When I was a child, my mother showed great respect in the presence of the minister, and I also learned to respect the man of God. When you respect him, in essence, you are respecting God. Jesus said in Matthew 25:40, ". . . Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Those Israelites were pretenders, and they spoke disrespectfully of Ezekiel behind his back. They received a certain amount of pleasure in hearing the Word of God, yet they refused to obey it. People today get a certain amount of pleasure in going to church and seeing their friends, but they have little regard for God's Word. Often people go to church for social reasons. Some people in a community want to go to a church where the business people attend. They plan to set up a business, so they want to become acquainted with people who have money. They want to attend where they can receive clientele that will support them. Friend, you should go to church to gain an experience with God. You need to have a love for the Truth; then no matter what happens, you will be there. Can the pastor count on you and know that no matter what happens, you will be there?

Some people use foolish excuses for not attending the church services. Someone may say, "So-and-so did not shake my hand, so I am thinking about quitting." Our young people's choir sings a song that says, "Excuses, excuses, we hear them every day, the devil will provide them, if from church you'll stay away." What are some other excuses that people use? "The choir sings too loud" or "The seats are too hard" or "The services are too long."

Second Timothy 3:1-5 reads: "This know also, that in the last days perilous [or dangerous] times shall come. [The reason these times are so dangerous is that many problems arise from within. Jesus said in Mark 3:25, 'And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.'] For men shall be lovers of their own selves, [In other words, they do not care how it affects the body of Christ. They are concerned only about themselves. Christian friend, every move you make should show concern for your brothers, your sisters, your husband or wife, and your children.] covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, "Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers [from within], incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." The Israelites had an outward form of godliness, but they had no power to live godly.

A Pleasure-Seeking Society

I thank God for the Church of God message. If obeyed, it keeps the home healthy and wholesome. If a husband and a wife obey the Church of God message, it will keep their home together. Christian homes should be solid. Children need a stable home so that we can build a solid society.

One would have to be blind not to notice that pleasure seeking is skyrocketing today. The cry of the first century was "Give us bread and a circus." They wanted a full stomach and entertainment. Sad to say, the situation has not changed. The Church of God is a wonderful place to raise your children in the Truth. If you do not have a solid home, stay in there, because God will reward your efforts. My mother stood alone for more than twenty years before her husband was saved. God honored her steadfastness. Dear one, God will honor your steadfastness.

God's Word is becoming more powerless all the time in the lives of many professing Christians. The Word of God should give you power over the devil, the flesh, and the world. There is power in the Word of God. Christians are solid, dependable people. The Apostle Paul said 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."

Today most churches teach that you have to sin more or less every day, and it is usually more than less. That probably is the doctrine that most people in false religion have a real problem with. They wonder, "How can Church of God people live without sin?" There is power in the Word of God! God's Word is being laid aside in our nation. You know that is true. Not long ago, a school teacher was reprimanded for bringing God into the classroom. Excluding any reference to God is happening in many places. Not long ago our high school choir teacher was called before the school board because most of the songs he uses in concert are religious. He called in a group of people, and he asked me to be at the meeting, so I went. In answer to their objections, he said that the best choral literature is Bible oriented, and I agreed with him 100 percent. The best musical literature has its text based on the Word of God. Therefore, they permitted him to continue to use them.

Often people portray the idea that religion is all right if it does not take too much of their time or their money. Serving God impacts every area of my life. I do not know about you, but I really enjoy giving to the work of God.

Some people have the attitude, "You cannot expect me to go to church all the time." Well, what are we going to do in Heaven? Are we going to go bowling or golfing? No. Are we going to play basketball, football, or tennis? No. Are you going to go fishing or hunting there? Of course not! Now, there is nothing wrong

with any of these activities. I loved to fish and hunt when I was a youth. You know, when people go fishing and hunting, often they stand for a long time, even if they are not catching anything, yet they have a big time, right? However, when they are in church for thirty minutes or so, they have a real problem doing that.

Have You Become Self-Centered?

Not many want to give their time to the serious side of life. People have become self-centered and selfish. When a nation forgets God, what does the Bible say? Psalm 9:17 states, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." Many adverse conditions are existing in our society today that are akin to hell.

In the most trying time of Jesus' life, He took His disciples to the garden to pray. Some people seem to feel that should read "p-l-a-y" instead of "p-r-a-y." When the disciples fell asleep, what did Jesus say? He said in Matthew 26:40, "What, could ye not watch with me one hour?" People can play for hours, but they struggle to spend just a few minutes in prayer. Likewise with the services, they want the preacher to make the message short. Many people are more inclined to spend their time playing than they are praying.

When our children were little, they loved to play church. Sometimes our oldest daughter pretended to be the preacher. One day she was telling the "church" that they were going to have a revival and that she loved to sing in church, but she had gotten a cold and she knew she just could not sing. So she asked the pastor to come over, anoint her, and pray for her, and he did, but she did not improve.

"Saints," she said, "I did not improve, so I had to call the pastor again, and he came over again." She said she still did not get any better. "Well, finally," she said, "the pastor said, 'Sister you had better start digging in your life to see what the hindrance is.' So I started digging, and sure enough, I found the hindrance. I

had stayed home on Wednesday night because I had company, and I visited with my company and I should not have done it. So I forgave myself, and the Lord healed me!"

You may ask, Why did you say all of this? Well, I think playing religion is cute for children, but when we get to be adults, it is disgusting.

The prodigal son became so intoxicated with the desire for pleasure that he left the best part at home. He began to loathe the real blessings of life. However, after spending time in a hogpen feeding swine and being hungry, the Bible says he came to himself. I like to enjoy myself and have fun, but my greatest enjoyment is in the house of worship. The trend of our day is toward ease and pleasure, but God's people are different.

Wholehearted Service

As I was studying, I thought of Jonah and the Ninevites. When Jonah finally got the nerve to preach God's Word to them, what was the response of the Ninevites? Jonah 3:5-9 tells us: "So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes [it is extremely dangerous to go to church and ignore the message; we are to believe God's Word and respond to it].

"And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of

Ezekiel 1:1 Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

2 In the fifth day of the month,

which was the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity,

3 The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him.

4 And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire.

The Secret of Power



Brother Adam Wolf

Keep a Fresh Vision

If there was ever a time when the power of God needed to be revealed, it is in the day in which we are living. I appreciate the godly ministers who have gone before us. Each one has sounded the trumpet with a certain sound that enabled many people to have a vision of the Church of God. I praise God for real salvation! It still works, and it will keep you in the storms of life.

I want you to study some things that will help us through the battles that we are facing today. We are living in a specious apostasy, where men are lovers of self more than lovers of God. They preach Christ for their own gain and not for the edification of Christ and the body of Christ.

Ezekiel was facing a hard battle

and, in essence, God said to him, "Don't worry, Ezekiel, I will make your forehead harder than their foreheads." He was dealing with some people who acted like goats, and there was a lot of butting going on.

The Book of Ezekiel portrays a vision that God was giving them about some things that were to take place in the lives of the Israelites. They refused to believe that God would allow anything bad to happen to them. They were the Israel of God, or the people of God, so they thought nothing could hinder them or take advantage of them. Ezekiel had prophesied to them that because of their much disobedience, God was going to send an enemy to carry them away into Babylonian captivity. Ezekiel did not preach a message that they liked to hear, and because of

that, the ancients and the nobles did not allow him the respect that was due him. Nevertheless, God still got hold of Ezekiel when He needed him and gave him a vision.

When we receive visions and dreams from God, they will be anchored in the Word of God. The late Brother E. A. Wilson, as he gave an altar call one time, spoke of a young man who came and knelt down at one end of the altar. An older gentleman knelt at the other end. They were father and son, both having different needs. Brother Wilson asked the elder man, "What's your burden?" He said, "I have a dream that keeps coming to me. I believe God might be calling my son to become a missionary."

Brother Wilson said, "Well, let's pray about that so the will of God may be done." After they prayed

about it, Brother Wilson went to the other end of the altar and knelt by the man's son. He said, "Son, what's your burden?"

He replied, "I've had a vision that God is calling me to be a missionary." That is an example of an old man dreaming dreams and a young man seeing visions. I thank God for old saints who still dream of seeing the work of God go forward, and I thank God for young ministers who have a vision and come together to build Zion (the church). God is still calling people and equipping them to be assets to the Church of the Living God.

The vision that God gave to Ezekiel informs us of particular dates: the year, the month, and the day in which it was given. This was an actual happening in that day. Today the enemy is trying to do everything he can to destroy the vision that God has given to the people of God. I thank God that we can look into the Word of God and get a vision. God is still speaking the message of Truth to the church. Each of us can be found in His service doing His will.

Proverbs 29:18 states, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." How does that happen? People begin to cast off the divine restraints that God ordained to harness them into the divine provisions of His providential care. That is a serious situation, just as it was in the days of Samuel. First Samuel 3:1 tells us that "there was no open vision." The light in the temple had almost gone out. What light was that? The perpetual light representing God's divine Truth and the holy ordinances that He had established was being neglected by a priesthood that sought after their own ways and not the things of God. God awakened young Samuel in the night and called him to do a great work for Him. Thank God, Samuel heard His voice and got a vision when there was no open vision.

We are living in a time when people are failing to see the great open vision that the saints once saw. Today most people are unfamiliar with the Revelation chart, the sound-

ing of the trumpets, and the pouring out of the vials. They have involved themselves in coalitions mandated by men and have cut off people by a work of concision that God will not bless.

A Purging Work

In Philippians 3:2 the Apostle Paul said, "Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision." What was he talking about? He was speaking of a cutoff spirit. The pious Jews who rejected the Gospel began to cut off those who accepted it. When that happened, Paul instructed the church to beware of them. Why? Isaiah 56:10-11 says: ". . . they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark . . . they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain. . . ." Their works do not edify the church.

Verse 4 of our Scripture lesson reads, "And I looked, and, behold a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire." Ezekiel saw a great cloud with fire in it, showing us a revelation from God.

The Hebrew writer stated in Hebrews 12:29 that "our God is a consuming fire." When God wanted to get Moses' attention, He used a burning bush. Today when He wants our attention, He sends His messenger to speak the Word of God to burn within the soul as a fire. He knows how to warm the heart that has grown cold in the battle. Friend, if you are not careful, the lukewarmness of this Laodicean age will overtake you.

Though God chastened the Israelites for disobedience, He did not cast them off forever. Friend, you may be under the chastening rod of God, but do you know what He is doing? He is bringing a third part right through the fire to be purified, just as He said He would. The saints can

withstand the evil and be everything that God has ordained them to be.

The fire is also an illuminating fire. It is a revelation of knowledge and understanding. The fire that Ezekiel saw was a vision of God doing a purging work throughout Israel by allowing them to be taken down to Babylon to be refined. The amber in Ezekiel's vision was a type of polished brass. God was going to refine His people with a fuller's fire and bring out those who were tried, proven, and faithful. That polished brass was the same thing John saw in Revelation 1:13-15 when he turned and saw Jesus standing in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks. John saw Christ, who stood there with eyes "as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace" (Revelation 1:14-15). Ezekiel saw a similar vision. He saw Christ working among the church. God will never forsake His people. He is with us when we pray. Sometimes He will take away the storm, but if He does not take it away, He will still be with us.

The Four Living Creatures

Ezekiel 1:5 continues, "Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man." Notice that those were four living creatures. There were four different ages, or dispensations, in the Old Testament: the antediluvian age, the patriarchal age, the Mosaic age, and the prophetic age. The New Testament also has four different dispensations: the morning time, the Dark Ages, the cloudy day, and the evening time, which is our day. Those four living creatures in Ezekiel represent the redeemed of all the ages. Those living creatures were coming out of the fire.

The divine fire of God came down on those living creatures, and they were given a revelation that enabled the ministry to preach the things that would move the church forward. Those four creatures had the likeness of a man. Ezekiel saw a

vision of the true Church of God. He saw us in our day as well as the people of his day.

Ezekiel warned the Israelites that unless they became serious about living for God, they would be carried into Babylonian captivity. They did not want to hear that, but it came to pass. Ezekiel prophesied to them that God was going to chasten them by taking them through the fire for seventy years, and then He would bring them forth as vessels fit for the Master's use. Thank God, He is faithful to do that for His people yet today.

The Apostle Paul stated in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." One who has spiritual life is a living creature. Whenever the Spirit of God meets the soul of man, this always produces life. God created man from the dust of the ground, but man did not become a living soul until God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Man was created with a body, a soul, and a spirit. His body is his world consciousness, his soul is his self-consciousness, and his spirit is his God consciousness. Friend, you are the one who chooses which door you will open in your life for the spirit to be exercised. A person who lives in sin is dead while he lives. When the prodigal son left his father's house, he ended up dead in trespasses and sins, but when he returned and repented, the father rejoiced because his son who was dead was made alive.

Conformed to the Image of Christ

We first see those four living creatures being spared as in the days of Noah when God brought Noah and his family into the ark. I want you to notice that those living creatures have the likeness of men. Everyone who is born again is in the image of Christ.

Those four living creatures were chosen from the four greatest categories of life: man (because of his intellectual ability), a lion (the king of the beasts), an ox (the chief among cattle), and an eagle (the chief among birds). The four living

creatures represent the people of God who come from the four corners of the world. No matter what nation, tongue, or tribe of people you may come from, as God sounds the trumpet and the Gospel goes forth, if you repent, you will be made into the image of God's own dear Son. All saints of God, no matter where they come from, are brought into the unity of the Spirit and in the bonds of love and perfectness by faith in Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:29 tells us that we are to "be conformed to the image of his Son." When we are born into this world, we were born in our earthly father's likeness. However, when we are born again, we are born in our Heavenly Father's likeness. Our physical characteristics are from our earthly fathers, but the godly attributes come from our Heavenly Father.

First Corinthians 15:49 states, "And as we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." Colossians 3:10 reads, "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him." That new man is Jesus Christ. Everything foretold in the Old Testament prefigured the finished work of Jesus Christ. In fact, the Old Testament tabernacle was in the shape of a cross. It prefigured the sacrificial work that Jesus Christ was going to do. This teaches you that everything the Old Testament promised is provided in the New Testament through Jesus Christ.

When the twelve spies checked out the promised land, they came back carrying a huge cluster of grapes. They carried them on a pole between two men. That is a type of the revelation of Jesus Christ and the gift of the Spirit that He gives to us. The man walking ahead represented those in the Old Testament and the one following represents those in the New Testament, both carrying the same Gospel. Those in the Old Testament went before us bearing the witness of Jesus, and all who follow carry the same "cluster of grapes," which represents the fruit of the Spir-

it. The message that they gave them about the promised land was the same as the Gospel, but they did not receive it because they fell into carnality.

Make Straight Paths for Your Feet

Ezekiel 1:6-9 reads: "And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings. And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass. And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings. Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward."

Those living creatures represent the redeemed of all the ages, showing us the walk that we have with God. When we go through trials and tribulations, let us not forget that this is still the persecuted way. We are told in 2 Timothy 3:12, "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." Without sacrifice and suffering, there can be no true worship. The four living creatures went straight forward, and their feet were like calves' feet, showing you that they had clean feet. They were doing a clean work for God. Psalm 24:3 asks, "Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD?" Verse 4 answers, "He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart."

God's children still walk straight with feet that appear as burnished brass. This is a walk after the Spirit. John the Baptist came preaching and said to make straight paths for your feet. Jesus said that there are two gates: the broad way and the strait gate. One brother often said, "It isn't how high you jump or how loud you shout, but it is how straight you walk when your feet hit the ground." Those living creatures walked straight forward. They did not turn to the right or to the left.

As Joshua was preparing to lead the children of Israel, God gave him commandments to obey, and they were not to turn to the right hand or

to the left. They were to go straight into the promised land, but because of their unbelief, they were turned out of the way. Our walk is to be in the Spirit. We are not to become carnal.

Brother D. S. Warner, after he was whipped for preaching Church of God doctrine, wrote the song entitled "Who Will Suffer With Jesus." It reads, "*Who will suffer with the Savior, Take the little that remains Of the cup of tribulation Jesus drank in dying pains?*"

The Spirit is warning us to take heed how we walk in these days. There is no glory in being buffeted for your own faults. Today there are many things as the church that we wish we did not have to face; nevertheless, we can go straight forward and hold onto what we know to be true. Dear one, God has promised that if you stay on this highway of holiness, treat others as you would want to be treated, love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and keep your way clean, then God will bring you through the fire just as He promised. While you pass through it, He will give you some landmarks.

When the three Hebrew boys were thrown into the fiery furnace, the Lord did not forsake them, and He will be with you. If you look around, you will find Him somewhere. Also, you can find Him in the lives of other faithful saints.

The Message of Unity

Ezekiel said those living creatures had wings, and they had hands under their wings. Remember, the Christian life is a walk in the Spirit. We are walking on an elevated plane. Saints, Jesus has no hands and feet but ours. Ezekiel's vision lets you know that if you want God's will to be done and you want to receive God's blessing, you had better make sure that your hands are clean. If you put your hands to do His work and His will, then God will bring you through victoriously. He will bring you through the fire, not with a pout but with a shout. Ezekiel reminded the people that God had a plan, but

they had a hand in fulfilling it. The same is true today. God will not do your part, and you cannot do His part.

The wings of those creatures were connected to one another, which is a message of unity. No matter how high one flies, he cannot succeed alone. Everything God does for one member of the body of Christ, He does for the whole body's sake. Someone may say, "Well, it does not really matter what they do over there. It just matters what we do here." No, that is not the evangelistic heart that Jesus had. What matters is that in every location, the people do everything that God tells them to do; then there will not be any trouble with each one flying in the will of God. Just as the creatures' wings were joined together, showing unity, God's people are to mount up together in the will of God, and He will bless us for it. Though we are united together in one faith, each congregation is individual, not for the purpose of doing its own thing, but to do the will of God.

The four living creatures did not turn to the right or to the left, but they went straight forward. Friend, if you have stopped going forward in your Christian experience, what caused your feet to turn? Did you listen to the counsel of men? Did you lay on your bed at night and commune with the wrong spirit? You need to be aware of things that the devil might use to turn you away. Some precious souls have given heed to the wrong spirit and, in so doing, wrecked their experience. Some people have worked to destroy unity among God's people, and God is going to bring judgment upon such actions. As God's people, we cannot do whatever we please. Strife and contention are an evil work. This Christian life is not about lifting up self; it is all about Jesus Christ.

Exemplify the Characteristics of Christ

Again, those four living creatures had faces on them: the face of a man, the face of a lion, the face

of an ox, and the face of an eagle. They also had four stretched out wings, and the wings of each creature joined one another, and the wings covered their bodies. In considering the faces of those creatures, Ezekiel was going back to how Israel camped around the tabernacle while in the wilderness.

The tabernacle was in the middle of the camp, and the twelve tribes camped in groups of three on each side of it. Numbers 2:2 tells us that they "shall pitch by his own standard, with the ensign of their father's house." They each had their own banner and insignia. One was the face of a man, one was the face of an ox, one was the face of an eagle, and one was the face of a lion. They were not permitted to move the camp until the pillar of fire or the cloud over the tabernacle moved. They camped in the wilderness with the Levites in the midst of the camp and around the outside were the twelve tribes.

Ezekiel 1:12-14 reads: "And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went. As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning."

I thank God for the older saints. Why? When the church is going through troublesome times, like those four living creatures, they do not let the little ones get carried away with confusion. They stand and testify of the glory and the greatness of God and relate experiences from their past. Like flashes of lightning, they give others a revelation on how to hold steady and be true. Their hearts burn with love toward God, and their testimonies help the congregation to go forward for God. The glory of God shines in their faces and the love of God overflows in their hearts, showing others the characteristics of Christ.

The four living creatures

exemplify the characteristics of Christ. The righteous are as bold as a lion, they have humility, and they are willing to be sacrificed as an ox. They have God's divine image as a man, and they possess the ability through the Spirit to soar as an eagle above all the storms of this world. God's people are marked in their foreheads, in their hands, in their ears, and in their feet. They are marked in their foreheads with the knowledge of the Word of God. Deuteronomy 6:8 reads, "And thou shalt bind them [God's commandments] for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes."

Throughout this New Testament age, the church has faced the images of men. People are being marked in the head and the hand through the ecumenical movement. Unless you realize how much you need God and the saints of God, you can be swept away by this evening-time apostasy, especially if you hold on to your own ideas and walk your own way.

Remain Faithful

Notice again in Ezekiel 1:13 that their appearance was like "burning coals of fire." I thank God for the Holy Ghost in men's and women's lives. Those creatures had coals of fire burning among them, signifying the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and as lamps, they were shining forth God's salvation and the way of Truth.

People were confused in Ezekiel's day. The people of God wondered, "Why is this happening to us?" Ezekiel told them to hold to the promise. When we face troublesome times today, that is when we need to stand. If there was ever a time to awaken the mighty men and to sound the alarm, it is today. The saints of God need to arise, hold to the promises of God, put their gifts to use, and let people see Christ. God will bring us through. I want to remind you that I am preaching on the secret of power. Friend, if you walk your own way, you are cutting off the power source. You need to let God have His way as you go through the fiery furnace. That

fourth Man in the fire will be with you just as He was with the three Hebrew boys. No matter what experiences you go through, the Spirit of God will be right there to instruct you, guide you, and help you so that you can remain faithful.

Those living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning. We need more of that, where people get excited about the things of God and shout over redemption, rejoice over the Lamb, sing the song of Moses (the song of victory), and stand on the sea of glass with harps in their hands that are tuned. Those four living creatures were as a flash of lightning.

Many times I have gone through a trial and someone stood up and gave a testimony and the flashes of lightning came into my storm and lit the path whereon I was walking. At times, my feet were nearly slipping when I went to the house of the Lord, but thank God, I saw the lightning and heard the thunder, and I was renewed and strengthened.

I thank God for Holy Ghost inspiration. When we have had enough, we can turn and speak to the mountain of difficulty. That is what David did when Goliath mocked the Israelite army. He turned and spoke to that giant, and God gave him the victory. It matters what we speak to these mountains of difficulty that we face as the Church of God today.

A High Calling

Ezekiel 1:15-19 reads: "Now as I beheld the living creatures, behold one wheel upon the earth by the living creatures, with his four faces. The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the colour of a beryl: and they four had one likeness [the likeness of Christ]: and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel. When they went, they went upon their four sides: and they turned not when they went [they were in unity, portraying the church following the voice of Christ, walking in the light of God, and standing on the

revelation of past Truth].

"As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; [This wheel is so high and so dreadful because it is the wheel of God. We have been called to walk on the highway of holiness. We have been called with a high calling.] And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them: [God does not move unless we move. He already moved at Calvary. When we are inspired and do the things God told us to do, the church moves forward.] and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up." Sometimes you will get discouraged, saint, but when the Holy Spirit comes and lifts you up, the church gets lifted up. God can move on a brother or a sister to testify to the glory of God, and the whole congregation will be lifted. The Spirit of God is in the wheels.

Verses 20-23 read: "Whithersoever the spirit was to go, they went, thither was their spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels [God still waits for you to take hold of His promise].

"When those went, these went; And when those stood, these stood; [They could not move unless the Spirit moved. Ezekiel told the Israelites that God was moving them to Babylon, and they were to stay there and not move. They needed to bring their will into subjection to the will of God. They needed to realize God was chastising them. He was not forsaking them, but He was going to do a greater work than they could ever imagine. God is still that wonderful today.] and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

"And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature was as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above. And under the firmament were their wings straight, the one toward the other: every one had two, which covered

on this side, and every one had two, which covered on that side, their bodies."

Hear What the Holy Spirit Is Saying

In Isaiah 6:2-3 you can read that Isaiah saw these seraphims singing: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts." Each one had six wings: two with which they each flew, two that covered each one's face (portraying humility), and two that covered each one's feet (showing a walk with the Holy Spirit). The two wings they each flew with depict moving forward. As the Spirit of God inspires us and we take a stand on the promise, we can move forward.

Ezekiel 1:24-25 reads: "And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty [the Holy Spirit speaks and confirms the Gospel], the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings. [Whenever the Spirit of God speaks, it is time to stand still and listen quietly to what He is saying. We need to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.] And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings."

How many times have you tried to solve your own problems? Then you went to the house of God and the pastor started preaching, and God said, "You need to stop trying to figure out this problem on your own." As the voice of the Lord goes forth from the pulpit and that certain sound of the trumpet is being sounded, strength is renewed and you will mount up with wings as an eagle, and you can run and not be weary, and walk and not faint, as it states in Isaiah 40:31. I thank God for old-time Holy Ghost salvation! God will never let us down. He promised to bring the church through the fire, through the water, and through the flood, and He will do it all through the blood.

The vision continues in Ezekiel

1:26-28: "And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it [Christ's throne is not vacant, and the church's Head is not dead].

"And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake."

Reverence the Voice of God

John saw the same thing in Revelation 4:3-10, which states: "And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

"And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: [We need not only literal eyes but also spiritual eyes. In Matthew 13:16-17

Jesus said: 'Blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. . . . many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see. . . .'] and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

"And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, [A minister's job is not complete until the church is rejoicing in the Truth. In 3 John, verse 4, John said, 'I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.' The church was rejoicing around the throne. The Scripture says that the twenty-four elders bowed down before the throne.] and cast their crowns before the throne."

They knew it was not due to their own abilities, but Jesus had done it, and He will do the same for us today. No man could arise and fix the situation. If anything gets fixed, it will be because Jesus Christ is in our midst with His power. Christ gives the power and the victory. I believe that the reason there is such a shortness of power today is that many people are not truly selling out to God. They preach for entertainment, they sing for entertainment, and they play church. God help us to be fearful of doing such in Zion. We need to reverence the voice of God.

John took the types from Ezekiel of those twenty-four elders and from Isaiah and, in essence, said, "This is just as it was back then." The Spirit of God was among His people back there, and He is among us today. As John considered the twelve patriarchs and the twelve Apostles, he realized this was a type of the ministry that served God throughout the ages.

Willingly Bow to the Providence of God

Now I want to deal with this "wheel in the middle of a wheel" that

Ezekiel saw in his vision. He envisioned the ministration of God through the Old Testament church and its work according to the providence of God. They had a light, and they had a ministration that they were to fulfill, just as we have light to walk in and the ministration of the New Testament to obey. Ezekiel saw those living creatures, and he said in Ezekiel 1:16 that "their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel." That "wheel in the middle of a wheel" is a type for us to consider as we look at the New Testament church age. During the morning time, the saints had to stand as bold as a lion. Millions were sacrificially killed during the Dark Ages. They faced the images of men, yet they still upheld Christ.

From the Apostles' day down to our day, the people of God were made a mockery. They were called "Christians" first at Antioch out of mockery. Before that, they were called "the way" or "that way." Isaiah said it is the "way of holiness" (Isaiah 35:8). Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way." I want you to see that the "wheel in the middle of a wheel" lets us know that each of us must be willing to bow to the providence of God no matter what we may face. Today there is too much backsliding and rededication without real victory. There must be a deeper work than rededication to have the glory in your midst. The older brethren said that when trains were the main means of transportation, at every stop a watchman would go over to the train wheels with a lantern, and he would take a hammer and hit the wheels. If a wheel had a crack in it, the hammer would crack it more, and they would go no farther on their journey. However, if when he hit those wheels they had a clear ring to them, it was deemed safe.

Friend, do you have that clear ring down in your soul? You can have it if you will give your all to God. When the hammer of Truth goes forth, you can say amen. Some do not shout the hallelujahs as they once did. Why is that? Their eyes have a

different vision, and that ring is no longer in their souls. The cracks of halfheartedness are there, and it detects selfishness.

The late Brother E. A. Wilson used to say, "A Ph.D. looks really nice at the end of a name. It is like the curl of a pig's tail; it looks good, but it does not give you any more pork." People may like fancy titles, but it is carnality and selfishness. Some are determined to have their own way no matter what effect it has on the church. That is a wrong spirit, friend. The way to get through your trial is through wholehearted service.

Yield to the Will of God

Truth must become a practical reality. You cannot preach unity and practice division. You cannot preach love and practice hatred and unforgiveness. The Bible says that if you love God, you are to love your brother, even though he does you wrong. Separation and division, for any reason, come about when people lose their vision of what is required to be the people of God. When you come in repentance to God, seeking forgiveness of your sins, you must forsake all sin.

Wholehearted repentance is turning back to God, but consecration takes that which belongs to God and gives it back to Him. The message of sanctification is not something we ought to take lightly. Many people have lost true humility and humbleness of mind. They have allowed carnality to come in, and they are consecrated to their own cause, not God's.

Consecration is giving God back everything that belongs to Him. Repentance is fleeing from the wrath of God and making straight paths for your feet. Consecration is endeavoring to be more Christlike. In other words, you want to be conformed to the image of God in a greater way. True consecration will cause you to turn your life over to God completely so that you might be able to have a better experience of living for Christ and to be everything that the Lord

wants you to be.

The outward standards will not be a hangup if you are truly willing to be whatever God wants you to be. Forsaking the things of the world is not hard if you are willing to be everything God has called you to be. This is part of your consecration, saint. Consecration is an act of your devotion, and it will not conflict with the Word of God or the will of God.

You need to be what He has called you to be, and you need to do what He has called you to do. If God calls you to preach, then you need to follow that calling. If He calls you to become a missionary, you ought to follow that calling. If God puts a burden on you to be a Sunday school teacher, an evangelist, or whatever God is calling you to do, you need to pray for strength so you can do what God has asked you to do. You should not let anything detour you from that.

You cannot expect God to bless what you refuse to dedicate. Consecration is an offering to God that you cannot give while you are a sinner. The Apostle Paul talked about giving God a holy offering. In Romans, Chapter 12, Paul was not talking about coming and getting saved, but he was saying that after one is saved and called to holiness and his life is acceptable in God's sight, he ought to give God the service that is due Him. You must yield yourself to His will to do that. It is not always easy to yield to the things of God, but you have to yield to the will of God to make Heaven your home. That is the "wheel in the middle of a wheel."

When Jesus was in the garden of Gethsemane, He said in Luke 22:42, "Father, . . . not my will, but thine, be done." We each face our garden of Gethsemane, and we may feel like running, as Jonah did, but consecration is about submitting and walking as God directs. We need to yield to the Spirit freely; that brings death to self.

Continual Growth

When you got saved, you brought your sinful self to God. Now that you

are saved, what are you going to do with the new life? You need to bring that life to God and let Him sanctify it and conform it into His own image. This takes more than just one trip to an altar of prayer, but each time you hear the Truth and it uncovers what that new man should be, if you are going to get the humility of Christ, you have to come and be sanctified to that.

If you want the love of Christ, you have to get the sanctification of the spirit. You are not going to get it on your own. You cannot grow into holiness. Holiness is a rest. Sanctification is a continual growth. As you continually walk in obedience to the light God has shown you, He sanctifies you through the Holy Ghost, again and again and again. This is where the lack of the power of God is today: people expect God to do for them what they have not consecrated to do.

There are many works of God's grace in your life. There will be many times when you will have to go to an altar of prayer and die out to your own will. Yielding to the Lord is a work of sanctification. It is a turning from self and consecrating to all that Christ wants you to be; then you will be more Christ centered and less self-centered. Then you will say as John the Baptist said in John 3:30, "He must increase, but I must decrease."

Sanctification enables you to endure the suffering that you may be called upon to bear. Suffering will come to all who live for Christ. Setting yourself apart from the world will bring adversity. Sometimes you might have to fast and pray and even deprive yourself of sleep. You might have to make something right with someone you have wronged or make restitution.

Dear one, let me encourage you to remain faithful through adversity and suffering so that you can attain your heavenly reward. Romans 8:17 states, "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

Have a Lamb-Like Spirit

Friend, can you see the great strength of being led as a lamb to the slaughter? Christ could have called ten thousand angels to rescue Him, but He chose to be sacrificed for our sins. People may kill your good reputation and misuse you, but to suffer for the cause of Christ builds strength. Paul said in Philippians 3:8, "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." God is doing a far greater work than we can even imagine through the trials that the church is passing through.

Revelation 14:1 portrays the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him the remnant. They were following the Lamb whithersoever He went. We each need to have a Lamb-like Spirit. Sanctification causes one to consider not his own life, but to labor for the cause of Christ. If others want to do you wrong, remember, God will have the final say. Do not let the enemy short out your power line as you pass through trials and suffering. You need to continue to be what God has called you to be, and be gentle toward those who do you wrong. You do not have to pat them on the back and pretend that nothing is wrong, but you can treat them with brotherly kindness and love their souls. That is the Lamb Spirit.

It was told once about a man who killed a lamb. He took a knife and slit its throat, and as the blood ran down on the man's hand, the lamb leaned over and licked it off his hand. Sanctification helps you to endure the trial, and thereby you can become a better person for God. As Christ suffered, so we also shall suffer, and if we suffer with Him, we will also reign with Him. If you are going through a battle and the enemy is trying to take away your joy because of your suffering, you can find consolation in the wounds of Christ.

Count Zinzendorf, from the province of Moravia, walked into a

church once where he saw a picture of the crucified Christ. At the bottom of the picture was the caption, "All this I have done for thee. What hast thou done for Me?" God lit a fire in his heart, and he vowed, "Lord, I'll do anything You ask me to do." He dedicated himself to God and became the leader of the Moravians, a group of followers founded by the disciples of John Huss, who was martyred for the cause of Christ. They had a glorious revival for more than one hundred years.

That Lamb Spirit is essential to have if we are going to stand in the gap and be what God has called us to be. We must be bold as a lion toward sin, but have the Spirit of the Lamb toward the sinner. If you, as a lamb, stand innocent, harmless, meek, patient, clean, and contented, God will begin to work in your life, and you will shine forth the light to those in trouble. I am so thankful for those who have stood the test.

When I was going through a deep trial, a brother who knew I had been wounded sent me the following poem, and it rallied my strength. It is entitled "Are You a Soldier?" It reads:

*Are you a soldier?
Maybe you're suffering today
For some battles and some scars.
Are you a soldier?*

*I'm a soldier, a prayer warrior
In the army of my God.
The Lord Jesus Christ is my
commanding officer.
The Holy Bible is my code of conduct.
Faith, prayer, and the Word are my
weapons of warfare.
I've been taught by the Holy Spirit,
Trained by experience, tried by adversity,
and tested by fire.*

*I'm a volunteer in this army, and
I've enlisted for eternity.
I'll either retire in this army at the
Second Coming of Christ,
Or I'll die in this army.
But I will not get out, sell out, or be
talked out.
I'm faithful, capable, and dependable.
If my God needs me, I'm there.*

*I'm a soldier, a prayer warrior,
I'm not a baby; I do not need to be
pampered,
Petted, primed up, picked up, or
pepped up.
I'm a soldier, a prayer warrior.
No one has to call me, remind me,
Write me, visit me, entice me,
or lure me.*

*I'm a soldier, a prayer warrior,
I'm not a wimp; I'm in place,
Saluting my King,
Obeying His orders,
Praising His name,
And building His kingdom.*

*I'm a soldier, a prayer warrior.
No one has to send me flowers,
Gifts, food, cards, candy,
Or give me handouts.
I don't have to be cuddled,
Cradled, cared for, or catered to.*

*I'm committed;
I cannot have my feelings hurt badly
enough to turn me around.
I cannot be discouraged enough
To be turned aside.
I cannot lose enough
To cause me to quit.*

*When Jesus called me to this army,
I had nothing.
If I end with nothing, I will still come
out even; I will win.
My God will supply all my needs.
I'm more than a conqueror, and
I will always triumph
Because I can do all things
Through Christ who gives me strength.*

*I'm a soldier, a prayer warrior.
Devils cannot defeat me,
People cannot disillusion me,
Weather cannot weary me,
Sickness cannot stop me,
Battles cannot beat me,
Money cannot buy me,
Governments cannot silence me,
And hell cannot handle me.*

*I'm a soldier, a prayer warrior.
Even death cannot destroy me.
For when my Commander calls me
from this battlefield,
I'm a soldier,*

*A prayer warrior in the army,
And I'm marching, claiming victory.
I will not give up; I will not turn around.*

*I'm a soldier, a prayer warrior,
Marching Heaven-bound.
Here I stand.
Will you stand with me?*

Are You Committed to Christ?

The following article was written by an African pastor whose papers were found in Zimbabwe after he was martyred.

"I'm a part of the fellowship of the unchained. The die has been cast; I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of His, and I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future's secure. I'm done and finished with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarf goals.

"I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, products, or popularity. I don't need to be first or tops or recognized or praised or rewarded. I live by faith. I lean on His presence, I walk by patience, I lift by prayer, and I labor by the Holy Spirit's power. My faith is set, my gait is fast, my goal is Heaven.

"My road may be narrow and my

way rough, my companions may be few, but my Guide is reliable and my mission is clear. I will not be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, diluted, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, or hesitate in the presence of the adversary. I will not negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity. I won't give up, shut up, let up until I've stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and preached up for the cause of Christ.

"I am a disciple of Jesus. I must give until I drop, preach until all know, work until He comes. And when He does come for His own, He'll have no problem recognizing me, for my colors will be clear."

Dear one, it is not always easy to suffer for the cause of Christ. You might have loved ones who say, "I'm not going that way any more." You might have to make a decision to walk alone for Jesus. There may be times when good friends and preachers decide to make certain moves, and they want you to go with them. You need to take a stand and be determined that you are only going to do what God shows you to do. There is peace and comfort in knowing you are doing the will of God. How is it with your life? Are you going through a battle? You need to pray and let God have His way.

(Cassette C-5328M)

"O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness."

Psalms 95:1-8

Psalm 113:4 The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.

Psalm 148:13 Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.



YOU Can Be Spiritually Successful

Brother Irwin Sesher

Continually Develop Your Skills

No matter what endeavor you undertake to succeed in life, you must work at it. For instance, to be a good mechanic you must have knowledge of the automobile and engines. To be a good athlete you cannot just sit back and say, "I'm just as good as any athlete out there on the field." You have to be in top condition and practice continually to develop your skills.

Being a child of God is no different. You have to work to develop your godly skills each day to be spiritually successful. You have to stay close to God; that must be a top priority. You must have your ear in tune to the things of God. Too many people want to tune God out instead of tuning Him in. They are tuning in to things that have nothing to do with

the Word of God or with what God expects of their lives.

Friend, if you are anything in this old world, you owe it all to God. No matter what you get involved with, you need to stay close to God. He is the One you need to praise and give honor and glory to.

Friend, life is fragile and uncertain. Sometimes you may not know how you are going to make it, but you can be spiritually successful if you set your mind and heart to it. You may be having some difficulties in living the Christian life, but you can be successful. If you do not claim to be a child of God, there is no reason that you cannot live for Him. You *can* be a child of God. You should not let the enemy get you to the place where you start to believe him rather than God. Too many have done that.

Friend, the devil is a liar. He wants you to succumb to his ways and to be ensnared by sinful habits. He wants you to fail. I do not think anyone wants to fail in any endeavor. A person does not go out and see how much of a failure he can be in life. We all want to be successful in life, and so much more as Christians.

The enemy of your soul does not want you to see anything good about being in the house of God. He would rather see you stay home, but thank the Lord you can have a deep desire to be in the house of God and to be around God's people. I want to be where God is. Many people do not want to attend church because God's presence is not there. I thank the Lord for a church where God's presence can be felt and where the Truth is still preached.

Do Not Compromise Truth

The devil does not want you to get along with your brothers or sisters in Christ, and he does not want to see you succeed. The enemy wants to destroy anything that is good. He does not want to see you prosper spiritually. He wants you to blend in with the sectarian crowd. As a child of God, you ought to be an example to others. Many people are sick of religion today. They want to see a difference, and the only way they can see it is in those who are living right.

The enemy will try to get you to question God's man and to question the Truth. Satan does not have much time. That is the reason he is working against Truth, and it is also the reason we are seeing things today that we did not see ten or twenty years ago. Since the enemy knows he has little time, he is working overtime to try to get the Christian to fail.

The devil would like you to start questioning the standard of God's Word. Friend, that is a dangerous thing to do. When the Truth is preached, the devil will say, "That's just his opinion" or "That's what he thinks. I can't find that in the Bible." There are some things you will not find in the Bible, but the Spirit of God will show you what you need to do. That is part of being spiritually successful.

Saint of God, you cannot compromise with the devil. You should not even try. You are not wiser than he is. He has been doing his deceptive work longer than you have been around. He has worked on people in ways that you cannot imagine. He is sly and cunning. If you try to deal with him on his terms, you will lose every time. You cannot compromise with the enemy and come out ahead.

Remember, to be spiritually successful you must trust the Lord and rely on Him. God never fails. It has been proven that man can fail, but God never fails. Psalm 71:5 tells us, "For thou art my hope, O Lord GOD: thou art my trust from my youth."

Young person, in your youth is

the best time to start serving the Lord. It can be difficult to get settled in the things of God when you get older. It is better for you to get things straightened out when you are young. I am amazed that so many people would rather put their trust and confidence in earthly things than in God.

Financial institutions, major corporations, and stocks and bonds can fail, but God never fails. He never goes out of business. God is still in control, and He wants you to be spiritually successful. When you call a business establishment, it is quite common to be put on hold, but you will not be put on hold with God. Now, you may not receive the answer you want right away, but He always has time to listen.

The Lord knows what is best for you. Not too many people out in the world want to listen to others, but God will listen. You can talk to One who not only listens but also knows your needs. He knows what is best for you before you even ask. You need to be in the center of God's will. He will make His will plain to you. That is part of being spiritually successful. Do you want to be successful in serving God? Do you want to be right where God wants you to be?

Avoid the Web of Destruction

Too many people are getting more involved with the things of this old world, and that is sad. I heard a report on the news of teenagers getting involved with binge drinking. Friend, there is something better than that. The habits of this old world can never satisfy. Getting involved in the things of God is the best thing that you can get involved in. Drugs, alcohol, and tobacco of any kind cannot satisfy. These vices will lead you to an early grave. You may say, "Well, I don't smoke tobacco; I just chew it." Chewing tobacco will kill you faster than smoking. Friend, if you are using any kind of tobacco, you need to stop using it. You need to ask the Lord to help you. There is a power in these things, and the enemy will use them to bring you down.

More and more young people are getting involved in the things of this old world. They turn to this and that, and then the enemy throws them a false lifeline. What does it do? It crumbles. They reach out and get into relationships with others whom they think will bring them out of that horrible pit, but because of their involvement, they sometimes end up with a disease that they cannot get rid of. While they are in despair, the enemy stands back and laughs. He points his finger and taunts as they regrettably say, "Oh, if only I had not done this" or "If only I would have listened."

Friend, do not get caught in the web of destruction. So many are caught in the clutches of sin, but they do not have to be there. Some who once attended a Church of God congregation said to themselves, "I'll never get involved with that." Well, they got involved with it, and now they wish they had never gotten involved. Friend, the devil is real, and if you start flirting with him, you cannot be spiritually successful.

How can you be successful? You must stay close to God and be obedient to His Word. Friend, it will work! Many people now living successful Christian lives were involved in this habit and that habit, but the Lord cleaned up their lives and gave them something worth living for. You do not have to be involved in those things anymore. That is something to shout about! Many saints of God have tested His Word and proven that if you stay close to God, you can be spiritually successful. You cannot observe the will of God in your life from far off. You must stay close to Him.

Become a New Creature

Too many try to use the "old man" to be spiritually successful, without a change in their lives. They try to just cover up the old man. Friend, that does not work. You cannot cover up something old and yet have something new shine forth. Shaking a preacher's hand, joining a church, or signing a membership card

will not make you spiritually successful. Those things cannot change the heart. You must get rid of the old stony heart and get a new heart of flesh to become spiritually successful.

Second Corinthians 5:17 states, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature [in other words, you do not do those old things anymore; new creatures do new things]: old things are passed away [you do not want to do them anymore; you do not want to do anything that would hurt God]; behold, all things are become new." Why? A new heart brings about new eyes, a new talk, and a new walk. When God does something, He does not do it only part way. He does it completely. Your tongue does not utter filthy language as it once did. Your mind does not dwell on the "garbage" it used to; your mind has been cleaned up.

Friend, if you claim to be a child of God and you are still doing the old things you did when you were in sin, your heart has not been changed. If you are still doing the old things out in the world, you have not hit the Rock. If you had, you would not have a desire to do those old things anymore. Friend, when you get saved, you will know it, and you will remember the day you got saved. You will not have to go around asking people, "Did I get it? Do you think I'm saved?" You will experience a change in your life. The burden of sin will be lifted.

The first step toward becoming spiritually successful is to get rid of the burden of sin, and then you must walk daily with Jesus. When things look their darkest, hold onto Christ, be patient, and be content. The world can be very bleak at times, but you just need to get a tighter grip on Jesus, tighter than you ever have. You need to look to Him for your strength, guidance, and help.

Everyone wants to be successful in life: however, it is much more important to be spiritually successful, to know you are His child, doing what pleases Him. Ephesians 2:10 reads, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good

works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

Never Give Up!

Friend, do not let discouragement come into your life and block you from being spiritually successful. We all face times of discouragement, but we cannot allow it to get us down to the place where we give up on God. You should never entertain the thought that it would be better out in this old world. That is the enemy working on you. The world has nothing better to offer you than what Christ can give you. Discouragement is a terrible spirit that can come into the mind of a child of God. If you let it take root, it could take you down further than you realize. You can overcome that with the help of the Lord.

Psalm 25:15-16 reads: "Mine eyes are ever toward the LORD; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net. Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted." Saint of God, you can be uplifted if you put your faith and trust in the Lord. The devil would love to have discouragement come in and rob you of your peace. Every saint of God has faced times of discouragement, but you must not let the enemy use that as a tool to persuade you to give up on God.

The enemy has various tricks that he uses to try to knock every Christian out of this race, and discouragement is one of them. You see, things may go along well, and then something could happen and cause you to become discouraged. You need to remember that the Lord was helping you before discouragement came, and He will help you during times of discouragement. He will replace that discouragement with joy in your heart. I know some things are hard to bear, but if you have the Holy Spirit down in your heart, He is going to radiate to the outward man.

When the Lord brought you from that horrible pit of sin, you were so thankful for what He did for you. When He answered those prayers,

you were so glad He was right there to hear your prayers and you thanked the Lord for all He had done. He will not forsake you now. He will be right there to help you through every situation. Let me ask you a question. Do you want to be spiritually successful? Do you want to walk all the way with the Lord? You cannot go all the way with the Lord if you only go part way. That is the key. Too many want to walk with the Lord on their own terms. You cannot do that. You have to go the way He wants you to go. Your will has to be surrendered to God.

Fortify Yourself

You will not be able to overcome the enemy if you are always entertaining him. You need to flee the enemy's wicked ways as fast as you can. First Thessalonians 5:22 admonishes, "Abstain from all appearance of evil."

You may say, "I have a real problem with being around things that tempt me." Well, you need to be around things that do not tempt you. When you are not where you need to be in the things of God, your desire tends to be for worldly things.

Another thing that will help you to be successful is to treat your brothers and sisters right. You should treat them the way you want to be treated. You ought to treat them the right way when you see them, when you talk to them, and especially if you have any business dealings with them. No child of God should ever pull shady business transactions. The thought should never come into your mind, "I got them on that one!" Romans 12:10-11 tells us: "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord."

If you are doing business and you know that your vehicle has something wrong with it, you need to let the potential buyer know about it before you sell it. The enemy will suggest to you, "You don't have to tell people it has a bad transmission" or "You don't really need to tell people that the

brakes are shot. You can get more for it if you don't tell them." If you are truly a child of God, you will be honest with people. You would really feel bad if the brakes went out and a person had a serious accident in the vehicle that you sold because you failed to tell them about the brakes. Remember, what goes around comes around. Some people wonder why they are not spiritually successful, yet they pull shady business transactions. They will not get anywhere with God when they are being dishonest. If a vehicle is shot, you should not sell it. You should turn it in to the junkyard.

Another way you can be spiritually successful is to keep company with others who are spiritual. It is wonderful to go to church and be around those who are spiritual. We need each other. Spiritually-minded people want to talk about spiritual things. They want to share with one another how the Lord brought them through their trials and richly blessed them during times of persecution. Others may be facing the same obstacles that you are.

Do you know what happens when you are around those who are not spiritual? They want to talk about other things rather than spiritual things. If you are going through a depressed state or a real battle, you need to fortify yourself by being around spiritual people. That is how you can be strengthened in your walk with God.

You cannot be spiritually uplifted if people around you are talking about negative things. They say things such as: "The service was too long" and "The singing was too loud." Others may say, "I don't know why he had him preach. I don't know what's going on there. If I were in charge, I know what I'd do." Well, thank the Lord, they are not in charge; God is. With that attitude I would not want to be in a place where they were in charge. Friend, those things that I just mentioned, speaking evil toward others, and spreading anything that is not uplifting will *not* make you spiritually successful.

Stand for What Is Right

Sowing discord will hinder you from being spiritually successful. That is dangerous. Proverbs 6:14-15 says: "Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord. Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy."

Other hindrances to spiritual successfulness are complaining about God's Word, God's man, and the Bible standard. The standard is there for our protection. God had our protection in mind when He constituted it. It is not the world's way; it is God's way. It is His standard. Complaining will prevent you in taking a stand for what is right. Instead of standing for the right, you will start to look at things and wonder if the Lord really means what He says. Friend, if the Lord says something is wrong, then it is wrong. You cannot change the Lord's mind.

Some people want God's thoughts to be the same as their thoughts. If they think a certain way, they just assume that the Lord is thinking that way too. Well, that is not the way God works. If something was wrong ten years ago, it is still wrong today. You need to be careful of thinking that you can go another way rather than doing what God wants you to do. If you do that, you will not have spiritual success. You need to be careful. You need to stand for Truth. You need to stand for what is right.

Do you have any idea what the saints of old went through for the blessed Truth? Only God knows how many prayers and tears were shed for this precious Truth. You need to appreciate it so much more, and do not let go of it. You should not exchange it for anything in this world. There is nothing out there that you could exchange for Truth that would be on the same level as Truth. Proverbs 23:23 says, "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding."

Friend, to have spiritual success you need to be rooted and grounded in the Truth. You should not allow

your Christian experience to become shallow. If your experience is shallow, the winds of the times will topple your experience. To be spiritually successful, you must be deeply rooted in the things of God, and you need to be around the saints of God. You must get in every service that you can, including the prayer services. Young person, you need to be in the young people's services and go on visitation. All these things will help to make you spiritually successful.

Seek the Lord Wholeheartedly

How is your spirituality? Are you exactly where you ought to be? Is there any place in your life where you can move a little higher on the spiritual ladder? As a saint of God, you should want to move a little closer to the Lord because you love Him. He loves you. It is a mutual love. Peter told us why we should love Christ in 1 Peter 2:9-10: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy." That is one reason you should want to have spiritual success.

Do you love Jesus Christ? Are you doing all you know to do to be in the center of His will? Are you trying to rub shoulders with the world and yet trying to hold on to the Lord at the same time? Friend, that will never work. Trying to hold on to worldly friends and worldly ideas and yet trying to hold on to God will hinder your spiritual success. The Lord knows exactly which way is the right way. You need to take the Lord's way. Recently I saw a sign that read, "Life has many choices, but eternity has just two. Which is yours?" That is a sobering thought. You are given so many choices in this life, but when it comes to where you will spend eternity, the choices narrow down quickly.

Dear one, make sure you do not wait until it is too late to make that all-important decision concerning where you will spend eternity. Do not let the enemy trick you into thinking that you have plenty of time. You have no guarantee that you will live another day. You do not know how much time you have left on this earth, but God does. God knows just how much longer you have to live. Death is quick, and it is sure. We each have

an appointment with death that is set, and we cannot change it. We can change other appointments, but the appointment of death is out of our hands. Hebrews 9:27 says, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

Friend, you will not have to face an angry God if you know that on this earth you did all you could do to satisfy Him. You can know that all you were able to do for God made

you spiritually successful in this life. If you have a need in your heart, you need to pray. If you are unsaved, you need to come to God. He will be right there with you to help you take that first step. It will be the best move that you could ever make on this side of eternity. If you have a need in your heart, you need to seek the Lord wholeheartedly.

(Cassette C-4816M)

Announcements

KENSETT, AR
Nov. 3-7

REVIVAL: Kensett Church of God, 409 Southeast 2nd Street, Kensett, Arkansas 72082
Evangelist: Brother Roger L. Decker, Newark, Ohio
Service times: Thurs. - Sat. 7:00 p.m.; Sun. 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.; Mon. 7:00 p.m.
For further information contact: Pastor Calvin L. Foster
Telephone: (Home) 501-742-3961 or (Church) 501-281-5072

NEWTON, KS
Nov. 11-14

REVIVAL: Community Church of God, Newton, Kansas
Evangelist: Brother Roger L. Decker, Newark, Ohio
Service times: 7:00 p.m. nightly; Sunday 10:45 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
For further information contact: Pastor Sandy Killfoil
Telephone: 316-282-0104

SUMMERSVILLE, WV
November 20-27

REVIVAL: The Church of God, 74 Armstrong Road, Summersville, WV 26651
Preaching nightly from the Book of Revelation
Service times: Mon. - Fri. 7:00 p.m.; Sat. 6:00 p.m. and Sun. 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
For further information contact: Pastor Earl R. Borders
Telephone: 304-872-4047

2006 Camp Meeting Dates

June 18-25

August 6-13

December 27-31

We hope you will plan your vacation time so that you can join us in these old-fashioned camp meetings.

