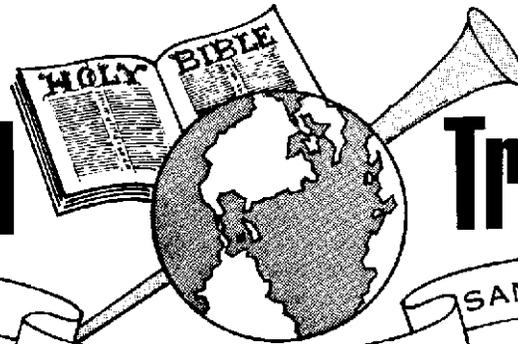


# The Gospel



# Trumpeter

JUSTIFICATION

SANCTIFICATION

UNITY & TRUTH

"So will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day." Eze. 34:12 Jer. 32:38

"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished." Rev. 10:7 Mal. 2:13

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SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

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Vol. 39 October 2009 No. 10



Church of God Tabernacle in Newark, Ohio

*"I was glad when they said unto me,  
Let us go into the house of the Lord."*

*Psalm 122:1*

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

# Fall Camp Meeting Report

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

Brother Roger L. Decker ..... Editor  
Workers Too Numerous to Mention

### THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

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

### SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS

#### PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH

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

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

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**Vol. 39 October 2009 No. 10**

And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Micah 4:2

### Time Well Spent

It is difficult to believe that another camp meeting season has come to a close so soon. Time has so swiftly passed and the summer has ended. The Fall Camp Meeting ended with victory and many blessings, no doubt because many saints sought the Lord in prayer and fasting prior to the meeting. It was a joyous time to gather together with the people of God, enjoying the fellowship, and hearing the Word of God proclaimed. What benefit! What joy sitting in heavenly places amid the blessings of the Spirit of God! It is no wonder that the Prophet Micah instructed the people to go up to the Lord's house. It is there that the soul can be refreshed and strengthened.

Being taught the way of God is so vital to all of God's people throughout the world. Without the sounding of the Gospel all would err and fall into sinful ways. The law comes out of Zion, the church, the place designed by God where we can hear sound teaching from the Holy Bible. We must do as Paul instructed in Hebrews 10:25 when he said, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

As usual, we find it challenging to describe in words all the good things we have witnessed and experienced during the camp meeting. Summing it up, we can truly say that it was time well

spent. The Lord always spreads a table with plenty of good things to nourish the soul. He supplies spiritual milk for the new convert, honey to sweeten the bitter trials, and an ample supply of spiritual meat to bring strength and health to the mature Christian's life. Our God provides for our necessities through the preaching of the Gospel. The moving of His Spirit, the beautiful singing, and the good testimonies were surely wonderful.

What an encouragement it was and time well spent to be present as God filled the house with His glory! Pondering on how the Spirit of God manifests Himself in such a sweet way draws our minds to the words of the Prophet Joel, as he said, "I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh" (Joel 2:28). It is poured out with blessing, instruction, enlightenment, and conviction. When the Spirit of God moves, it is like the wind that blows: you cannot see it with the natural eye, but you can surely see and feel the effects. God richly supplied every need to all who sought His help. Any soul who refused to yield to Him surely must have found it difficult to resist.

The close of any meeting always brings sadness to the heart. The reason is, knowing that some walked away without having their needs met. Hopefully, they will find a secret place to pray and receive the help that God desires

*[continued on page 11]*

Ezekiel 11:1 Moreover the spirit lifted me up, and brought me unto the east gate of the LORD'S house, which looketh eastward: and he hold at the door of the gate five and twenty men; among whom I saw Jaazaniah the son of Azur, and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, princes of the people.

2 Then said he unto me, Son of man, these are the men that devise

mischief, and give wicked counsel in this city:

3 Which say, It is not near; let us build houses: this city is the caldron, and we be the flesh.

Ezekiel 12:22 Son of man, what is that proverb that ye have in the land of Israel, saying, The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth?

27 Son of man, behold, they of the

house of Israel say, The vision that he seeth is for many days to come, and he prophesieth of the times that are far off.

28 Therefore say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; There shall none of my words be prolonged any more, but the word which I have spoken shall be done, saith the Lord GOD.

# The Procrastinator



*Brother Roger L. Decker*

## **Scoffers Walking After Their Own Lusts**

As we look at these verses of Scripture, especially those in Chapter 11, we find that a very dangerous saying was being spread in the land of Israel. The proverb being told around the nation of Israel was that the days go by, yet every vision and every prophecy comes to nothing and that things would remain as they were. In other words, the people were saying there was no future judgment. Verse 3 states, "Which

say, It is not near; let us build houses: [As if to say, 'Let us go on with our lives. Let us not be concerned with these visions.'] this city is the caldron, and we be the flesh."

There were men in that city who had devised mischief and had given wicked counsel by telling the Israelites to pay no attention to the vision. Those wicked men proclaimed, "Time will go on. Let us build houses and go on with everyday life. Things are not going to change." The same wicked spirit that worked in the days of the Israelites works yet

today, telling people: "You have plenty of time. Don't worry about the Second Coming of Christ. People have been saying that Jesus is coming for years." Even the Apostle Paul said that in his first letter to the Thessalonians. He was expecting Jesus to return at any time. Then in the second letter he had to clarify that the man of sin had to be revealed first. All through the church ages, men have been saying that Jesus is going to return.

In 2 Peter 3:3-4 Peter said: "Knowing this first, that there shall

come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." This spirit is still alive, and it is working a terrible condition of procrastination on sinners, and even on the people of God.

The procrastinator is one who keeps putting off getting the needs of his soul met, the one who says within himself: "Tomorrow's sun is going to rise. Things will go on as before. There's no need to make haste concerning salvation. There's plenty of time." Dear one, that spirit is dangerous. It is deceiving individuals into thinking that the Word of God does not mean what it says. That deceptive spirit causes one to think: "The days keep rolling by and nothing happens. I have plenty of time. I'm a young person, and I'm in good health."

It may look as if you are getting along fine and that you have plenty of time, but all you have to do is read the obituary columns and you will find that people of all ages die and go into eternity every day. Naturally, you find elderly people who pass away, but on that same page of obituaries you can also read of young individuals who died. No doubt, they thought they had plenty of time. Ecclesiastes 8:11 says, "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."

### **Beware of Evil Counselors**

In Ezekiel 11:2 we read that Israel had been listening to evil counselors. Today it seems that people will lend their ears to evil counselors before they will lend their ears to the Word of God. It is not an easy job for a man who is called of God to get up and tell people of chastisement and judgment to come; nevertheless, it is the duty of every faithful messenger of God. Often the message and the

message bearer are treated with contempt.

Second Chronicles 36:14-16 reads: "Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy."

The people mocked, despised, and misused the messengers of God. They despised their words and rebelled against all means of deliverance "till there was no remedy"; therefore, there was no healing. Sinners know they do not have salvation, yet they procrastinate. They put it off repeatedly. When a person gets in that condition, there is no remedy.

You want to be wary of the counselor who gives you advice that leaves your soul at ease and justifies you when you are wrong. Peter said there were ones who scoffed at the promise of Christ's coming, saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?" Today people say, "Things are not any different now from what they have always been. Things go along day by day, and there is no change." Friend, with that attitude comes a carelessness that will send your soul to a lost eternity.

Jesus said He would come again. Paul said that Jesus would come again. Where is the God of judgment? Some think it must be that the fathers looked in vain for His coming. They feel that nature will continue as usual. This spirit is a terrible spirit to deal with.

Do you remember how this nation was shook up after 9-11? People were turning to God, supposedly. Where are those same people today? Then Asia suffered a

tremendous earthquake and tidal wave that hit many nations and killed more than 150,000 people. It was such a horrible tragedy, but time goes on.

Someone may say, "Do you believe that God is in these things?" Things do not happen unnoticed by God. He is God, and He knows all things. God will use catastrophes to turn people to Him, to awaken them in their souls. Sad to say, often that awakening does not last long.

What gets hold of people? It is unbelief. Most people will acknowledge that God is their Creator. They will acknowledge the fact that He called into action the forces that are working in the universe. However, now that He leaves all those forces to govern and leaves all the rule to law, and because God does not interfere in the affairs of men, people feel that we go on subject to nature and the things that befall us. They feel that God is not concerned. The teaching of the Word of God is opposed to that type of thinking.

### **God Controls the Powers of Nature**

Jesus said in John 5:17, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work." Paul said in Acts 17:28, "For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring." It is God who sustains this universe day by day and hour by hour. Without His support this world would collapse, and the order of society would fall. The laws of nature have no life or power within themselves. They are expressions of His divine will. God set up and put the forces of nature into motion. It is God who has control of all the powers of nature. He can either change those laws at any time or suspend their operation at His command.

We read in Mark 4:35-41: "And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was

in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

I repeat, God can suspend the operation of the laws of nature at His Word. God set up the works of nature, and God is a God of uniformity. The scoffers cry was, "Everything is as it was," but that was not entirely true. The Flood was the divine judgment of God. By God's Word the heavens and earth were made, and by God's Word they are maintained. Second Peter 3:6-7 says: "Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

God is not a God of days, months, and years. He inhabits eternity; He is an eternal God. The time that we each are allotted is for you and me. We have only so much time to make the decision to serve God. We are faced with a choice in life, whether to serve God. Each of our lives is on God's great calendar when it comes to the time of death.

### **A Great Peril**

There is a great peril in procrastination. Your soul is precious, and you need to let the Lord save you. The people in Ezekiel's day so stirred God that He said this proverb was going to cease. The

days are at hand, and the effect of division is here. Faith will make the distant near, but unbelief will put the near at a distance. One has said, and it is a good saying, "Unbelief looks in the wrong end of a telescope." A man once said, "Where Satan cannot persuade men to look upon the judgment to come, it is doubtful and uncertain; yet he gains his point by persuading them to look at it as a thing at a distance so that it loses its force."

To a real messenger of God, eternity is always near. The most important thing about you is your soul. To procrastinate is a great peril. As long as things go well and ones prosper, vain proverbs will continue. However, when real trouble comes, then the Word of God becomes a reality to the soul.

The Bible says that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. As long as things are going well, people feel that they have no need of serving God, but how quickly things can change. It does not take weeks or months or years for things to change. Things can change in an instant. Circumstances can turn, and you will find that the smooth sailing can turn into rough seas.

The procrastinator does not plan to be lost. He feels that someday, somewhere, sometime he will make his peace with God. Dear one, hell is full of people who thought the same thing. This message is serious! You need to be concerned about your soul. You only go through this life one time. What you do with it is going to determine where you will spend eternity.

Putting off your salvation is telling God that you love something else much more than you love Him. It is sending a message to God: "I don't have time for You right now, God." The Bible says in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Many in the Word of God put off their souls' welfare until it was too late. The people in Noah's

day were busy living from day to day, but they ran out of time, and the door to the ark was shut. Those who were close to the ark perished as well as those who were miles away.

When Jesus comes again, those who are close to the kingdom are going to be just as lost as the heathen. Luke 17:26-27 says: "And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all." They ate, they drank, they married wives, and they were given in marriage. There is nothing wrong with any of those things. What does that tell you? They were living their everyday lives with no concern for eternity and no concern for the preaching of Noah. Nevertheless, the prophecy came to pass; it happened just as God said it would happen.

### **What Will You Do With Jesus?**

Many people failed to heed the teaching of Jesus concerning the literal destruction of Jerusalem. Luke 21:20-22 tells us: "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled." You can read in *Josephus* about the literal destruction of Jerusalem. Those who heeded the words of Jesus Christ were spared, just as Jesus said they would be.

In the Bible you can also read that Felix procrastinated. He had a personal invitation to accept salvation from the Apostle Paul. We read in Acts 24:25, "And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for

this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." That is the response of many people yet today. They say, "When I am ready, I'll let you know." If you ever get saved, you must get saved when God calls you, not when you find it convenient.

The Lord could be asking you to go to someone and ask for that person's forgiveness. It could be that you owe money to someone and have not paid your debt. It could be that the Lord has shown you that you must make a restitution, and you have failed to do so. Friend, do not let time run out, because in eternity it will be too late.

I have another incident that I want you to read about concerning Mr. Dwight L. Moody. No doubt, you have heard of the great Chicago fire. It nearly destroyed the entire city of Chicago on October 8, 1871. Mr. Moody stated that he made one of his greatest mistakes as an evangelist at that time. He was preaching a revival, and he addressed one of the largest crowds of his career. His message was about the Lord's trial and was based on Pilate's question to the people, found in Matthew 27:22: "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" As Mr. Moody brought the message to a close, he said this: "I wish you would seriously consider this subject, for next Sunday we will speak about the Cross, and at that time I will inquire, 'What will you do with Jesus?'"

R. S. Sankey, who was a very close friend of Mr. Moody's, then sang the closing hymn, which included the lines: "*Today the Saviour calls, for refuge fly, The storm of Justice falls, and death is nigh.*" The hymn was never finished, for as Mr. Sankey was singing, there was the rush and roar of fire engines on the street outside. That night the great Chicago fire almost destroyed the whole city. Before the next day, Chicago lay in ashes. "I have never since dared," said Mr. Moody, "give an audience a week to think about their salvation."

## Today Is the Day of Salvation

Dear one, please do not wait until Satan has scarred your life. Do not wait until Satan has nearly destroyed every ounce of decency that you have in your life. Do not wait until emotional scars, physical scars, mental scars, or other scars come upon you that you will have to bear for the rest of your life. Jesus Christ can save and deliver you from them. You need to come to Jesus Christ while you can. Do not put off salvation a moment longer. You should not wait until you are upside down in a vehicle somewhere to call out to Him. Do not wait until something drastic happens to call upon His name. You need to call upon His name when there are words of exhortation to draw your soul to Him.

Jesus Christ can save you. It makes no difference what you have done or how deep in sin you have gone, Jesus Christ can save you. He can deliver you, make you a new person, and erase those past sins. He can clean up your conscience if you will turn to Him before it is too late. Putting off repentance is dangerous, especially when your next step could be eternity.

The Lord will help you. He knows what you have done. He knows about all the sins in your life. God will be a real Father to you, and He will help you. When I came to Jesus Christ, I could not remember every sin. There were some things that stood out in my memory. When I came to Him, I gave them all to Him at one time — those that I could remember and those that I could not remember. Jesus Christ washed me and made me clean, sanctified me, and set me apart from the sins of the past.

When describing what happens in salvation, I like to illustrate it this way. No doubt, you are familiar with the chalkboards at school, especially in the earlier years of school. I went to a country school, and we had a big chalkboard at the front of the classroom. At the end of

the day, the teacher asked for volunteers to clean the chalkboard and the erasers. When you come to Jesus Christ, it is like that chalkboard is full of all your sins, and when you repent, God takes His big eraser and cleans up the whole chalkboard, and then you are free to go and sin no more.

You may say, "I can't live right." You cannot do it on your own, but you can with the power of God! The same God who saves you will go with you, keep you, guide you, direct you, be your Comforter, and help you. Do not procrastinate any longer.

I read a couple of excerpts from D. L. Moody's testimony that were sad. No doubt, if he could have done that night of the revival over, he would have. Do not put your soul's salvation off a moment longer. You do not know a thing about what is going to happen tomorrow; you only know about today. Today is the day of salvation. When you hear His voice, that is the time to turn to Him. Do not let the devil talk you out of it. The devil will tell you, "I know you want to get saved, but just put it off another day." Friend, you need to remember that when you put off salvation, a hardening process is continually going on. The longer you put it off, the harder your heart will get.

If the voice of God is talking to you and drawing you, you need to heed His voice and follow His Spirit. God's Spirit will bring you to an altar of prayer. You can confess your sins and forsake them, and you will be made a new creature and walk in newness of life. You can serve Him all the days of your life in holiness and righteousness.

(Cassette C-5356M)

It is better to look ahead and prepare than to look back and regret.

*John 5:1 After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.*

*2 Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.*

*3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.*

*4 For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of*

*whatsoever disease he had.*

*5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.*

*6 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?*

*7 The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.*

*8 Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.*

# A New Beginning



*Brother Leamon Whitehead*

## **Hold on Till the Answer Comes**

There are many things on which the Word of God does not elaborate, so sometimes I like to use my imagination. I can imagine what went on when Jesus changed the impotent man's life. I try to imagine what it would have been like to have suffered for thirty-eight years, and then to have been healed instantly, not gradually. All at once, the Lord loosed him from that infirmity. I like to think that a lot of shouting and praising God went on. I do not be-

lieve that his jaws locked on him, because something wonderful happened to him! In reality, Jesus had given that man a new beginning, a new life, literally speaking.

Year after year, time after time, he went to that pool and sat there and waited for the troubling of the water. Over and over, when he saw the water troubled, he was unable to get in first. However, that day was different. He did not know that Jesus was going to be there. He did not know that Jesus was going to come over to him and ask him a

question. He just went there faithfully, hoping to get into the water so that he might be made whole.

Verses 5-6 of our Scripture text read: "And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?" Can you imagine the thought that went through that man's mind? Like blind Bartimaeus, who sat by the wayside begging (Mark, Chapter 10), he heard the commotion, and he

wondered what would happen. People told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. When he found out that Jesus was passing by, he cried out. They wanted him to be quiet, but he kept crying out. He did not whisper, but he cried out loudly.

Saints, before we got saved, when we came to an altar of prayer, burdened and troubled, with our lives in a wreck, we cried out to God and came clean before Him. Then Jesus came through the power of God and worked a transformation in our lives. We rose to walk in newness of life. He changed us and set us free. He broke every shackle and lifted every burden. He rolled away the burden of sin and gave each of us a new beginning. Thank God, He started us on a new road of life.

In Mark 10:47 the blind man cried out, "Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me." He got Jesus' attention. In verse 51 Jesus said, in so many words, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said, "Lord, that I might receive my sight." Jesus healed him and made him whole.

The man in our Scripture text was just an ordinary fellow. He had carried that affliction all those years and had not received any help. He was just as human as we are. No doubt, discouragement worked on him. He went down the last time and nothing happened, because before he could get in the pool, someone else stepped in. However, something caused him to make the trip again and go down and sit by the pool.

You need to see yourself in that condition. When you are troubled and carrying a heavy burden that has you weighed down, and you have been crying out to God and praying and seeking His face day after day, you need to pray until the answer comes. Just keep holding on. Whatever it takes, keep praying before God. He might not have answered yesterday, but bring it before Him again today. If He does not answer today, bring it before Him tomorrow. That is what the man in

our Scripture text did. Time after time, he went to the pool, but nothing ever happened. He might have said: "Well, it is probably no use. I have been trying for so long; but I do not have anything else to do, so I'm going to go down again."

### **Jesus Makes the Difference**

When Jesus passes by, things happen. That is what happened to everyone who is saved. One day Jesus passed by. That is what made the change. We had to invite Him, we had to repent, and we had to come clean; then we were changed because Jesus passed by. We each received a new beginning, a new chance in life. The debt of sin that was piled up was more than you or I could pay, but when we gave our hearts and lives to God, He said, "Paid in full by the blood of the Lamb." Glory to God! He washed away all our sins. The debt of sin was paid in full. Ever since that day, our lives have been different, because of what He has done for us. No wonder the songwriter wrote, "I'll never go back, I'll never go back again." I praise God for what He has done for us!

There might have been times when our loved ones gave up on us. They might have thought there was no help for us, but Jesus specializes in hard cases. He makes the difference; He changes lives. I can just imagine the man in our Scripture text. Thirty-eight years is a long time.

Some people may carry a burden for a little while, maybe a week or two, and tell the Lord: "I have been carrying this burden for so long. Oh, I'm getting tired, Lord. I'm getting weary." However, look at the man in our Scripture text. I just want you to get the picture. Everyone who knew him could see that he was down and out. For thirty-eight years, he had been in that condition. He was not much good to his family. The Bible does not tell us, but he might have had a family, a wife, and maybe children.

Normally a man wants to care for his family and get a job. He lived back in the day when they did not have food stamps, welfare, or other government programs for the disabled. However, there he was, he had done all that he could. He knew about that pool, so he had someone take him there, because if he could have made it from home to there, he would have been able to get into the pool, but he could not.

There are many good thoughts here. When it comes to salvation, you cannot save yourself or make yourself clean. That is where the man in our Scripture text was. He was so close to the pool, but he was unable to get in. This lets us know that it takes Jesus, whether you are bound by one sin or a multitude of sins. It takes Jesus to do the work, and He will do the work if you will let Him. He can make you whole.

### **"Wilt Thou Be Made Whole?"**

In verse 6 of our Scripture text Jesus asked that man, "Wilt thou be made whole?" He did not tell him that He had a few pills or some exercises that He wanted him to try. Jesus said, "Wilt thou be made whole?" The word *whole* here means "restored." At times the pills that you get at the doctor's office make you feel better, but sometimes they will make you feel worse. When they make you feel better, you hope that you can get better. In essence, Jesus said: "Would you like for Me to make you whole? Would you like for Me to restore your health?"

As that man sat there and Jesus asked him that question, verse 7 says, "The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man. . . ." In other words, he had done all that he could do. He had someone to take him down there. I can imagine his saying, "The last time you brought me down, I did not get close enough. I believe if you get me a little closer, I can get healed." This man had suffered for thirty-eight years. If it had been you or me, we would have tried everything humanly possible

to be healed. No doubt, he had moved from place to place around the pool, thinking there would be an opportunity to get in, but he was unable to do so. It took Jesus to change his life and to give him a new beginning. Jesus did not ask him, "Would you like Me to make you better?" Jesus said, "Wilt thou be made whole?" Oh, how those words must have rung in his ears.

In verse 7 he said, "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me." In verse 8 Jesus said, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." That man was unable to carry himself, but Jesus told him to take up his bed and walk. That infuriated the Jews. It is sad that when people get healed, other people get upset. The upset Jews probably said: "Could You not have done this during the week? Why did You have to wait until the Sabbath day? You are not supposed to do any work on the Sabbath." They tried every way they could to find fault with Jesus. Now, what fault could anyone find in a crippled person getting healed? The crippled man was made whole, yet they found fault with Jesus.

We can only imagine what went on in that man's life before this day, with all the struggles he might have had with his family. He was doing everything he could to get help. He knew if he could get into the pool when the waters were troubled, he would be made whole. No doubt, he had watched many people who were crippled, blind, or afflicted in some way be made whole. Think about it. He had seen many others who had gotten into the pool first be made whole and go home. That was what he desired. Jesus knew his heart, and He knew the condition that he was in. I am glad that Jesus knew just where to find me when I was on the road of sin, heading toward hell. He knew where I was and what I needed. Jesus came to him and said, "Wilt thou be made whole?" Jesus gave him a new beginning that day.

## Telling Others What God Has Done

The Bible tells us that some met him and asked him who had done this. They only wanted to know who it was so they could ridicule Jesus. The man did not know who healed him. Here was a man whom everyone around there knew. A little while later, Jesus met him and let him know that He had healed him. Jesus said in verse 14, "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee."

I like to imagine what it would have been like for that man's wife, if he had one. Maybe he left in the morning and went to the pool, but he came back walking and carrying his bed. I believe there would have been some rejoicing going on. Maybe God left room in some of these Scriptures so that we could use our imagination.

Some Scriptures let us know what happened. The man whom Jesus healed, in Mark, Chapter 5, wanted to go with Him. He wanted to be Jesus' disciple, but Jesus told him no. In Mark 5:19 Jesus said, in so many words, "You need to go back home and tell your family and your friends what great things I have done for you." I do not believe he was quiet about it. I believe he went back home and told everyone he saw what Jesus had done for him.

Can you imagine how it would be at your place? Maybe you have a husband who is rarely sober. Maybe you have been praying and praying for him. What if he came home some night and said: "Honey, there will be no more of that; I got saved. Jesus changed my life!" I do not think you would just have some quiet time, do you?

I had one grandfather who was a preacher, but my other grandfather was a drunkard and hard to get along with. I do not remember this because I was too young, but my family told me how he came home sometimes. They just lived on meager fare. They did not have modern cabinets like we have today to put the dishes in. They just had

the clean dishes sitting on the table. If Grandpa came home drunk, and things did not suit him, he would upset the table and break the dishes. If a man like that came home saved and sober, I believe there would be some rejoicing. Sometimes we are too quiet about what God has done. For thirty-eight years, the man in our Scripture text was in that condition; then he was able to get up and carry his bed. Praise God! He did not have to be carried, and he did not need to have help. He was able to walk and carry his bed. Glory to God! No doubt, people asked him, "What happened to you?" He told them, in so many words: "Jesus of Nazareth made me whole. He told me to take up my bed and walk, so I got up and started walking." Praise God! He became a disciple of the Lord.

When Jesus came, His mission was to restore. He came to seek and to save that which was lost. I know that each time an angel came down and troubled the water, the one who stepped into the pool first received healing of his physical condition; but Zechariah, Chapter 13, also tells us about a fountain. Zechariah 13:1 says, "In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness." I thank God for that fountain! You can plunge in and be made whiter than snow. Your life can be changed completely!

## A Time of Restoration

Leviticus, Chapter 25, speaks of the year of Jubilee. The Lord gives us hope. Many things can befall people in time. They can get down and out and maybe lose their jobs or work at jobs that do not pay much. They can get in hard times, and that was what the year of Jubilee was for. God told them to number seven Sabbath years, which was forty-nine years. The fiftieth year was the year of Jubilee. It was a time of restoration. Those who had fallen upon hard times, those who were down

and out, and those who had lost their possessions had a time of restoration. What a time the year of Jubilee was to look forward to!

I have been in hard times, and maybe you have too. I have thought, "If we can just make it through this month and have enough money to make this payment, we will be all right." We were looking for brighter days and better times, when things would be different. That hope is what keeps us pressing on. We do not want to go into despair, but we are just hoping that somehow things will turn around. In our early years we had quite a struggle, but God brought us through. We were always hoping that things would get better.

Can you imagine the Israelites who fell into hard times down through those years? They knew about the year of Jubilee. They knew that when it came, all would be restored back to them and their debts would be forgiven. They were waiting for that day. I am talking about a new beginning.

One song reads, "Wilt thou be made whole?" In one part it says, "Do you want a new life?" That is what Jesus came to bring. He did not come to overhaul the old, but He came to bring new life. Friend, Jesus can make you a new creature in Christ Jesus. This is what it takes to change men and women's lives.

Isaiah 1:16-18 reads: "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." This is what the Lord wants to do for those who are burdened and troubled with the life of sin. My friend, He wants to wash away your sin and make you as white as snow.

Consider what the real problem is in the lives of those who are

unsaved. Isaiah 53:6 states, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." That is what happened to every one of us.

### **Forsaking Your Way for God's Way**

Sometimes people confuse the issue. The enemy will do that and cause you to think that it is this sin or that sin, but the real sin is when you turned to your own ways. All the vices and habits are all inclusive in the choice that you made when you turned away from God. Lying, stealing, drinking, smoking, using drugs, adultery, and many other things are all wrong, but these are the fruits of the life you chose to live when you turned to your own ways. You do not find those things on God's way. His way is the strait way, the narrow way, the good way, and the clean way. When you made the choice to turn to your own ways, you fell into all those things. You can read about them in the Book of Galatians, Chapter 5. They are called the works of the flesh.

The Apostle Paul said in Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." That is the only way to escape those things. As long as you stay on the downward road, more and more habits will take hold of you. The enemy will bind you more and more and only Jesus can set you free from those things.

Isaiah 55:7 reads, "Let the wicked forsake his way. . . ." That is what has to happen. Everyone has turned to his own way, and that is what got each of us into trouble. That is what happened to Adam and Eve when there was only one commandment, but the serpent kept talking and caused Eve to be curious enough to partake of the fruit of that tree; then she gave it to her husband. Sin tarnished all of us. You can train a child the best you know how to do,

but it will only be by the grace of God that he makes the right choice when he comes to the age of accountability.

Isaiah 55:7-8 states: "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD." We got into trouble when we turned to our own ways. Our lives will become a product of our own choosing.

God let us know that our thoughts are not His thoughts and our ways are not His ways. What did Jesus come to tell us? He came to tell us about the Father's ways. He brought to us things from Heaven's shore. In essence, He said, "You speak those things that you heard from your father; I speak those things that I heard from My Father." Jesus came to restore our fellowship with God. Isaiah 55:9 reads, "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

If you are away from God, your only hope is to return to Him. You need to get off the downward path, because it only leads to greater destruction. The longer you stay in that way, the harder your heart will become, the more your conscience will be seared, and the more you will try to justify your life away from God. Will you give up your way and turn to the Lord? That is what you must do. It is not enough to kneel at an altar of prayer and tell God that you want to repent of the deeds that you have done. If you do not turn from your ways and turn to God's way, even if He forgives you of your sins, in time you will commit more sin. You have to turn from your own way and go God's way.

When we come to Jesus, we do not need a few adjustments. After you take your car to the shop and ask what is wrong with it, the

mechanic may say: "I had to adjust the carburetor a little. It will run much smoother now." It takes more than that for you and me. We were total wrecks. God does not just do a few adjustments on us and change us a little. He makes us new creatures.

Do you want a new life? Do you want a new beginning? If you know your heart is not right with God, Jesus is asking, "Wilt thou be made whole?" Would you let Him change

you and put new life within you? David said God did such a work on him that the things he once loved, he hated; and the things he once hated, he loved. This is what God can do. God's way is the only way to peace and happiness.

We could spend much time talking about the man whom Jesus healed, but you can get a good idea of how things changed when you think of your own life. Saint, how has it been around your home since

you were saved? Perhaps you can get some idea of what went on the day that man went home and in the weeks and months that followed after Jesus had so changed his life and gave him a new beginning.

Jesus asked, "Wilt thou be made whole?" No matter what you have done or how dark it may look in your life, if you will bring it to Jesus, He can change it.

*(Compact Disc TR-359E)*

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*[Camp Meeting Report – continued from p. 2]*  
to bestow upon them.

The sweet fellowship with God's people causes us to want to stay together and never have to part. These times of refreshing bring strength, encouragement, and nourishment to us. However, it is necessary for us to go back to our different stations of life. There is still

a world that needs help from the Savior. Remember, child of God, each of us is to be a light for Christ in this sin-darkened world. You may be the only one who can reach that hungry soul for Christ. Therefore, you need to be faithful and stand firmly at your post of duty. Your labor of love and sacrifice will not be in vain.

Eventually there will come a time when we will never need to part again, a day when we all will be gathered together. It certainly ought to behoove each of us to stay true to Him at all cost. The trials, the disappointments, and the heartaches of this life will seem as nothing when we get a glimpse of His dear face.

## *What a Horrible Dream!*

I dreamed that the Lord took my weekly contribution to the church, multiplied it by ten, and turned this amount into my weekly income. In no time I lost all my furniture and had to give up my automobile. Why, I couldn't even make a house payment! What can a person do on ten dollars a week?

Suppose the Lord were to take your offering and multiply it by ten and made that your weekly income. How much would you earn? This question might give you some fresh insights into the stewardship needs of the church.

# Hindrances to Faith

"For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him" (Matthew 21:32).

Some people who have not repented try to believe, so that they might believe. Such is impossible, and those who are thus striving to believe God can never succeed. There are others who have repented many times and are still repenting, and yet do not—I shall not say cannot—believe. When you have repented of all wrong, forgiven all who have done aught against you, made restitution to all men to the extent of your ability, confessed that you are a sinner, and asked God's forgiveness, you are then on believing ground. You have a right to believe, you can believe, and nothing can hinder you from believing if you will. Repenting over and over again for the same offense will weaken your faith rather than strengthen it. Repent full and heartily, once for all; then believe God, live for Him, and doubt no more.

"How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?" (John 5:44). Those who seek honor from men, pray, sing, or preach to be heard of men cannot exercise faith in God, for God is the Object of our faith, and faith seeks only that honor which comes from Him.

The habit of doubting is a hindrance to faith. Those who have been in bondage to doubts and accusations often have a hard struggle to exercise faith for permanent victory; but by taking a stand on the Word of God against doubts and accusations, such persons may be overcomers. Even the mental habit of doubting

can, through faith in God, be completely erased, and the soul once weak and faltering can be made strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Trusting in emotions will cause one to lose sight of God's Word and fail to trust in God's promise, the only foundation for living faith. The glad emotions of a Christian's heart are truly sweet; but in order of time, faith comes before joy, for the joy of the Lord is the joy of faith, and God gives us joy and peace in believing. "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost" (Romans 15:13). Right belief produces right feeling, and wrong belief produces wrong feeling; for we feel according to what we believe, whether what we believe is true or false. A man who believes that he is right has good feelings even though his belief is a deception. This point is beautifully illustrated by an incident that I once read. The only son of a sick mother was lost in a forest. Sympathetic neighbors and friends volunteered to search for the lost child. The night was chilly and cold, and the mother thought only of the welfare of her child. As time after time the news came that the search was fruitless, the mother's pulse grew fainter and all could see that her end was drawing near. Hour after hour, the weary night dragged by, and shorter and shorter grew the breath of the dying mother as she worried about her lost son. Finally, just before her end came the report, "The boy is found and is safe and well in the strong arms of a friend." At this joyful news the mother's aching heart was gladdened, and with a smile on her face she exclaimed, "My own dear boy is found," and smiling, breathed her last. She died

happy in the belief that her boy had been found; but the report was a false one, for several days afterward the boy was found dead.

To further illustrate this point, let me call your attention to the sorrow of Jacob. This hoary headed father, grief stricken, was brought almost to the grave in the firm belief that Joseph was dead, and yet he was alive and the chief steward of Pharaoh's house. Why did Jacob grieve? Because he believed the report of Joseph's envious brethren and saw the coat of many colors, dyed, as he believed, with the life blood of his child. How deceiving then, are the circumstances of life, and how dangerous to risk the salvation of our souls on anything but the immutable Word of God!

We should not believe that we are right because we feel the weight of trials. Feeling right will make nobody right; but getting right, staying right, and believing that you are right will make you feel right.

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." There can be no victory without battle, so those who wish to have spiritual victory must fight the good fight of faith. Sometimes the siege may seem hard and long, but the greater the battle, the greater the victory.

Many have made shipwreck by trusting in their emotions to the exclusion of God's Word. The testimony of His Word is the strongest and surest evidence to your soul. Why, then, should you seek to found your experience on the emotions of the human heart? Our feelings are, so to speak, a harp with many strings, on which every circumstance of life may play a tune. Like the tide ever rising and falling, they rise under the influence of joy and prosperity, and fall before the winds of disappointment and adversity.

The Christian's heart is not altogether void of human emotions, yet his sadness is sweetened and his rejoicing tempered by the balm of faith. Your emotions may run as high as they will, only be careful to

keep them in the bounds of reason, but when disappointments come and feelings fall, take care lest you fall below the line of faith, for faith it is that helps us to say, "Thy will be done."

The Bible is like a great cable let down from God to man, one end of which is welded to Heaven's throne. If by faith you lay hold and keep hold of the cable, one of three things must be done: God's throne must be moved, the cable of His Word must break, or your soul must receive the good that it seeks. If you have not yet learned how to anchor your soul to the Word of God, you should at once tie your spiritual bark to the imperishable rock of Truth by the eternal cable of faith. Then, like a ship tied to an immovable rock, your soul may rise on the wave crests of emotions, high in the atmosphere of ecstatic joy, or sink to the deepest depths of human despair, where angry billows threaten sudden destruction or lingering woe; yet through all, your anchor is sure, bound by the cable of faith to the solid rock of Truth.

Walking by sight, or seeking signs, is a hindrance to faith and endangers the soul to the deceptions of the devil. The Jews sought for a sign, but Jesus told them that no sign should be given them except the sign of Jonah the prophet. It is dishonoring to God and slanderous to His character to seek a sign when we have His promise. Suppose you

were to give me a promise and I were to say to you, "I should like to have some sign, some miracle performed, a dream, some extraordinary impression or feeling of some kind before I believe you." If you are a truthful person, would you not feel that I was doing you an injustice thus to question your truthfulness? How, then, must He who cannot lie regard it when you seek for some impression or ask to see some sign before you will believe His Word?

You possibly do not like to be called doubting Thomas, yet Thomas wished only to see the prints in Jesus' hands and to feel the wound in His side before believing. If you ask for some special emotion or to see some sign before you believe that God's Word is true, are you any better than doubting Thomas? Salvation has its joys, but it takes faith to receive and keep salvation. So if you wish joy, you must have faith.

Completely trusting and obeying God's Word is the only source of true and lasting joy. If then, you refuse to take the first step toward the Christian's joy, how can you expect to reach the goal? Do you expect an effect without a cause? Do you expect wages without labor? Do you expect favor from one whose word you will not credit?

Tradition and superstition are enemies to faith. Many of us who have been taught all our lives to trust in doctors and medicine find such teaching a stubborn barrier to

our faith when we first begin to trust the Lord for healing of our bodies. In many other ways the wrong teaching of our youth serves to weaken and hinder our faith unless we take a firm stand on the revealed Word of God. There is just one escape from the strong hand of tradition, and that is to believe that the New Testament is in verity the Word of God. "Religion [Christianity] is placed between two great rocks that are equally dangerous to man and injurious to the Deity. I mean impiety and superstition. The one, from an affection of free thinking, believes nothing; and the other, from a blind weakness, believes all things" — Plutarch.

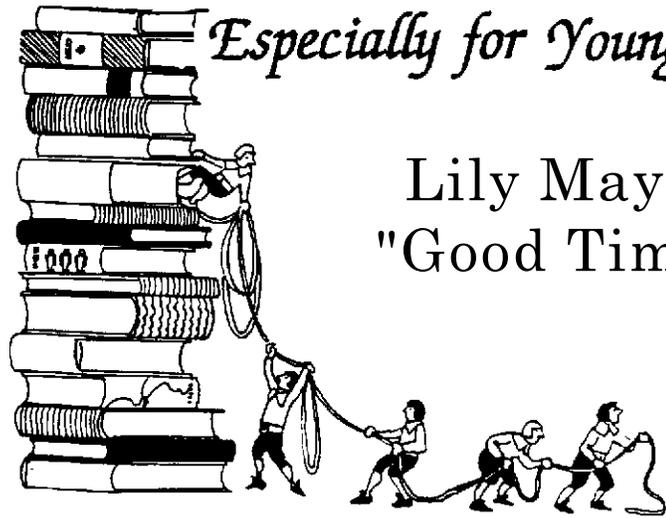
True Christian faith believes in God and His Word; but, unlike superstition and ignorance, it does not believe all things. It believes in the true and unchanging Word of God, but has no faith in the performance of evil spirits, old wives' fables, conjuring, pang, Christian science, and such like.

"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts" (James 4:3). People sometimes ask and receive not because they ask for a selfish purpose. Selfishness and lust are inconsistent with the principles of Christian faith and piety, and only the unselfish and pure can exercise faith in God.

D. O. Teasley

**Life is like a grindstone, and whether  
it grinds a man down or polishes him  
depends on the stuff he is made of.**

*Especially for Young People*



## Lily May's "Good Time"



"Oh, dear! I wish I didn't have to mind Mother. When I grow up and have a little girl, I will let her do as she pleases. If she wants to go out to play after school, I won't make her come straight home."

So said Lily May as she walked slowly toward school, feeling much abused because Mother thought it was not safe for a child who had just recovered from a fever to play in the brook that afternoon.

At home, Mother said to herself: "I wonder if it would be safe for Lily May to play in the water. I was sorry to disappoint her, but I was afraid she would get cold. I think that tomorrow I shall give her permission to do as she pleases. That will let her see if she is as happy as she thinks she will be."

That night Lily May came home and began to fret. "I know I would not have caught cold playing in the brook," she whined.

"Tomorrow you may do as you please in everything, Lily May," said Mother.

"Do you mean it?" exclaimed the girl joyfully.

"Certainly, my dear."

"Oh, won't I have a wonderful time! How I wish it were tomorrow now!"

The next morning after breakfast, Lily May said, "Now, Mamma, I don't believe I will go to school today."

"Do as you please, my dear,"

said Mother.

The girl went outdoors, and presently Mother saw her swinging under the tree. In about half an hour she reappeared, saying, "Mother, will you please give me something to eat?"

"Take anything you please," replied her mother. Lily May helped herself to a generous slice of fruit cake.

The morning hours dragged heavily for the girl. She tried one pastime after another, but found that play alone was not desirable. In fact, she would have been glad if her Mother had given her some work; but she was too proud to acknowledge herself wrong and ask for some task.

After dinner, she said, "I believe I will go to school this afternoon, but don't be worried if I don't get home until suppertime."

"Very well," said her mother, smiling quietly.

After school, some of Lily May's friends said, "Come with us, Lily May, and wade in the brook; you don't know what fun we have."

The girl hesitated. Something within her told her that she ought not to go, but stifling the little voice, she hurried after the girls. Somehow she did not enjoy the wading as much as she had expected. The girls splattered water over her; and at last, one of the larger girls, for the fun of it, pushed her down in the

water. Then she began to cry, and her classmates called her a crybaby and told her to run home to her mother. This she did willingly, and just before dark her mother saw a forlorn-looking little girl, her wet clothes hanging closely about her, coming in the front door.

What do you suppose her mother did then? Did she refuse to help her? Did she say that Lily May had done as she pleased all day and might do as she pleased about getting warm and dry? No, indeed. She helped the girl change her wet clothes for dry ones and gave her a hot supper. Then she wrapped her up warm and cozy in her bed. As Mother was bending over her for a goodnight kiss, Lily May threw her arms around her neck and said, "I think it was good of God to give little girls mothers to take care of them, for they know so much more than children."

**Home is the  
place where one  
is treated best  
but often  
grumbles most.**

# Do Christians Sin? Let the Scriptures Speak

Jesus Christ is a mighty Savior, and His Gospel is both glorious and powerful. A truly repentant soul will find in salvation not only forgiveness but also deliverance from all sin. Yes, a Christian does live free from sin!

Sadly, most of what is being passed off as the Gospel today is no gospel at all. It keeps the people in their sins, and they expect that they cannot be free from them till after they die. This is "another gospel" and "another Jesus," and it is foreign to scriptural salvation. Any person who teaches that one can sin and still be a Christian is not of God. These have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof. From such turn away!

Dear one, you need to examine your experience in the light of the Scriptures regarding this all-important issue. Your eternal destiny depends upon it.

"He that committeth sin is of the devil. . . . For this purpose

the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin. . . . In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil . . ." (1 John 3:8-10).

First of all, I want to tell you that the purpose of Jesus' coming was to redeem us from all iniquity. Matthew 1:21 reads, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

Luke 1:68-75 states: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people . . . that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life."

The Apostle Paul wrote in Titus 2:14, "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good

works."

First John 3:8 tells us, "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."

Second, those who have been saved from their sins need not continue to sin. Luke 15:7 says, "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." In John 5:14 Jesus said, "Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee." Romans 6:1-2 says: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid."

Third, a child of God can overcome temptation. The Apostle Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

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## Meeting Announcements

### **SUMMERSVILLE, WV**

October 11-18

**REVIVAL:** Church of God, 74 Armstrong Road, Summersville, WV 26651

Evangelist: Brother Irwin Seshier, Heath, Ohio. Service times: Monday-Friday 7:00 p.m.; Saturday 6:00 p.m.; Sundays 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

For further information contact: Pastor Earl R. Borders at 304-872-4047

Visit our website at [www.ChurchofGodSummersvilleWV.com](http://www.ChurchofGodSummersvilleWV.com)

### **NEW FLORENCE, PA**

October 14-18

**REVIVAL:** The Church of God, 732 Mountain View Road, New Florence, PA 15944

Evangelist: Bro. Larry Dishman, Moss Point, Mississippi

Service times: Wednesday-Saturday 7:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

For further information contact: Pastor Adam Wolf @ 724-235-9384 (Church)

### **MEDINA, OH**

October 19-25

**REVIVAL:** The Church of God, 6745 Wooster Pike, Medina, OH 44256

Evangelist: Bro. Allen Polston, New Castle, Indiana

Service times: Monday-Saturday 7:00 p.m. & Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

For further information contact: Pastor Daniel Webster, 92 W. Main St. Seville, OH 44273  
Telephone: (Home) 330-435-6490 or (Church) 330-725-5993

*Psalm 119:121 I have done judgment and justice: leave me not to mine oppressors.*

*122 Be surety for thy servant for good: let not the proud oppress me.*

*123 Mine eyes fail for thy salvation, and for the word of thy righteousness.*

*124 Deal with thy servant according unto thy mercy, and teach me thy statutes.*

*125 I am thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies.*

*126 It is time for thee, LORD, to*

*work: for they have made void thy law.*

*127 Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.*

*128 Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.*

## There's Wonderful Power in Prayer



*Brother E. David Stegmeier*

### **God's Law Is Still in Force**

If we ever needed the power of God to be manifested in our midst, it is in the day and age in which we live. We need His power, His strength, His grace, His wisdom, and His divine direction as never before. We face many very complex problems, so we need God's help. In John 15:5 Jesus said, "For without me ye can do nothing." That is so true!

The Psalmist said in Psalm 63:1-2: "O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: [Young person, you ought to seek God early in your life and the first thing in the morning. Without a doubt serving God is the best life. I began serving God when I was a very small boy, and I have never been sorry, and I have never left the church. I am

convinced that the Church of God has the ultimate Truth. She is the epitome and the embodiment of Truth.] my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary."

Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." Anything He did in yesterday, He can do today. I am serving that kind of God. His power is not abated, He is the same today as He was in the past.

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible. The major topic of this Book is the Word of God. In every verse in that entire chapter but three, the Word of God is mentioned. The topic of that chapter is the Word of God; it is the authority. There is no higher authority in the

universe than God's eternal Word!

I prefer the King James Version of the Bible, but let us read our Scripture text from another translation. Psalm 119:121 begins, "Do not leave me to the mercy of mine enemies, for I have done just and right." We have many enemies today, but the greatest enemy that you and I face is the spirit of unbelief. Many people fail to receive the promises in the Word of God that could be appropriate for them because they fail to believe them. You may say, "Oh, it's in the Word of God, but it's not for me." If it is there and you are His child, it is for you. God has greater things in store for every one of us.

Verses 122-123 from another translation read: "Please guarantee me a blessing; don't let those who are arrogant oppress me. [Many

people are very arrogant today. God is looking for humble people.] My eyes strain to see your deliverance, to see the truth of your promise fulfilled." I like this chorus: "Every promise in the Book is mine; Every chapter, every verse, every line. All the blessings of his love divine. Every promise in the Book is mine." There are many promises in the Bible. They are numberless, and they are ours for the asking. There is wonderful power in prayer!

Verse 124 reads, "I am Your servant; deal with me in unfailing love and teach me Your principles." There are principles and rules to follow in praying. Not every one who says he is praying is being heard of God. God only hears certain prayers.

Verses 125-126 from the same translation state: "Give discernment to me Your servant; then I will understand Your decrees. O Lord, it is time for You to act, for these evil people have broken Your law." God wants to act, but it is up to you and me to get in a place where He can act. That is what I am laboring to do. I want to see God do greater things, don't you? I am not satisfied. Brother Emerson Wilson used to say that if we are what we ought to be, we are never content with where we are; we are always striving to be a little closer to God.

Verses 127-128 continue: "Truly I love Your commands more than gold, even the finest gold. Truly each of Your commandments is right. That is the reason I hate every false way." God's Word is the greatest of all treasures.

Again, verse 126 says, "It is time for thee, LORD, to work: for they have made void thy law." God's law is still in force; it has not been made null and void. Every promise in the Book is mine. I believe God is waiting for people to get into a position where He can work in a greater way. God's Word is still valid, and it is up to date. It will accomplish that which God has intended it to do. It is the greatest power that has ever been unleashed in the world.

## To Whom Are You Looking?

Psalms 119:1 states, "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD." I am not looking in my wallet for blessings. I am looking in the Word of God. I am continually studying, reading, applying, and obeying God's Word and meditating upon it. The more I understand and obey His Word, the more blessed my life will be; that is a divine principle.

Prayer is part of the armor of God. Ephesians 6:16-18 reads: "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." We need the whole armor of God.

God's Word is alive. It is not out of date; it is genuine and in force. Speaking of Abraham, Romans 4:20-21 states: "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded, that what he had promised, he was able also to perform." The Word of God was inspired by the Holy Ghost. I do not encourage anyone to read anything but the Word of God. Every word is fitly placed and means so much. You can be fully persuaded that God means for you to step out on His promise and claim the blessing.

There is wonderful power in prayer. In the Old Testament little is said about prayer. There are principles, or rules, that we have to follow. We do not merely say words. When Asa, king of Judah, hired a foreign king (a Syrian king) to assist him in his battle against Baasha, the king of Israel, the Prophet Hanani came down and rebuked him. In 2 Chronicles 16:7-8 Hanani said: "Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the LORD thy God, therefore is the host of the

king of Syria escaped out of thine hand. Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the LORD, he delivered them into thine hand." To whom are you looking? You need to be careful of where you look for help.

Verse 9a reads, "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." There is no problem with God; therefore, the problem must be a lack of having perfect hearts. Many people fuss about Christian perfection and holy, sinless living, but it is in the Book. God has a perfect cure. He makes those who are born again perfect. His work is perfect.

There are divine principles in this passage of Scripture. God wants you to look to Him for your needs. You need to trust Him in a greater way. If you are not getting answers to your prayers, God is not the one who is coming short. You should turn the spotlight on your own heart to find the hindrance. I remember when our oldest daughter was little and used to love to preach. She was preaching a sermon one day, so Mom placed a microphone and a tape recorder in the room where she was preaching.

She said: "Saints, we are going to have a camp meeting. I love to sing in camp meeting, but I have a horrible cold, and I won't be able to sing in camp meeting. So I called the pastor and asked him to come and pray for me. He came and laid his hands on me and prayed, but I didn't get any better. So I called on him again and said, 'Pastor, there is only one day until camp meeting, and I can't sing, and you know how I love to sing.' So the pastor came and said, 'Sister, maybe you ought to check your heart.' So I began to search my heart. Sure enough, last Wednesday night we had company, and I stayed home instead of going to church. Do you know what? I forgave myself, and God healed me,

and now I am ready to sing."

You should look into your heart to see where the problem is. You cannot point your finger at anyone else. I have a real problem with people pointing their finger at someone else. You need to look inwardly. God is no respecter of persons. You can get the blessing if you will perfect your heart.

### **Prayer Can Thwart the Hand of the Enemy**

Regarding King Asa, there was another tragedy. He is an example of a person who started well. Sometimes people start well, but they do not stay true to God. Young person, you need to stay in there. Proverbs 4:23 tells us, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." You must work hard to be faithful to God, and then He will bless your life tremendously. It is one thing to start, and it is another thing to remain faithful. Saul, Asa, and many others started well but ended in very sad, deplorable situations.

Asa obeyed God for thirty-six years, and then he began to trust his own resources. The prophet came and told him that he did not do right. Rather than to humble himself and say, "Hanani, you are right," he raised up and put Hanani in prison. In the beginning he relied upon God and was obedient to Him, but he ended up in a lost condition. When he looked to God, he enjoyed great victories.

God answers prayer. There is wonderful power in prayer! In 2 Chronicles 15:4 Azariah said to Asa, "But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them." That is a divine principle, a promise that is applicable to our day. Another promise that is applicable to our day and to our country is 2 Chronicles 7:14, which states, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I

hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

You may say, "I am not doing anything wicked." Well, you need to really look at your life. Is there a lack of prayer or a lack in your church attendance? I was brought up the old-fashioned way, and we did not miss church for anything. My mother served God, but my father did not make it easy for her.

I believe that the reason America has been so blessed in the past is that our forefathers sought God. They did not come here for gold or to get rich. They came here to seek a place to worship God. I have traveled through Europe a number of times, and I have met foreign exchange students from other countries. Europe once had the Truth, but the people became so liberal and so ungodly. America is heading in that direction.

Prayer is a vital ministry of the church. First Timothy 2:1-2 says: "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings [or presidents], and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." I try to pray for our leaders every single day. The Bible says we are to do so. I want to live a good, peaceable life. Our leaders need God. Especially at this time, we need to pray for our country. We need God's help.

Prayer moves the hand that controls the world. According to Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, *prayer* is "a solemn, serious, humble approach to divinity in word or thought, usually involving beseeching petition, confession, praise, or thanksgiving." This is all in the will of God. Prayer should be made for our lost loved ones; that is in the will of God. We must pray for the lost, pray for the healing of our bodies, and pray for the strength and the grace to be overcomers. Also, we must pray to thwart the hand of the enemy, pray to preserve a peaceful government, and pray to find the will of God.

### **Our Greatest Need**

Matthew 5:44 says, "But I say unto you, Love your enemies [that could be the hold up in appropriating the help you need], bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Jesus set the right example before us. If our Savior, the Son of God, saw the need for prayer, certainly we ought to see it.

Luke 5:15-16 reads: "But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him [speaking of Jesus]: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities. And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed." Sometime during the day, each of us needs to get alone with God in solitude and quietness, someplace where you can be uninterrupted. Undoubtedly Jesus saw the need of prayer more than He saw the need for food, clothing, and even rest. Prayer is our greatest need. I do not mean just saying words, but earnestly seeking God from the bottom of our hearts.

Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." You must put the spiritual part of your life first in everything, even in the morning. I prayed with my children before they left the home. I like to pray before I go to work. You should go to prayer the first thing in the morning, even before you have a cup of coffee.

You need to pray effectively. God will take care of your needs, your physical and material needs, if you put first things first. Prayer should be first. Just as sunshine is important to plants, rain is important to crops, fresh air is important to a mortal being, and a balanced diet is important to our health, *prayer is essential to your spiritual well being*. You will never be a strong Christian or an overcoming Christian unless you make prayer an integral part of your day. Could

plants live without sunshine? Can you live without air? Then, how could you think that you can live spiritually without prayer? The more you pray, the stronger you will be. You need to be spiritually strong.

Luke 11:1 says, "And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." Brother Emerson Wilson once said, "They didn't say, 'Teach us to preach'; they said, 'Teach us to pray.'" A minister has nothing to say unless he has first prayed.

### **How to Pray**

The conscientious Christian wants to know how to pray. If Jesus and His disciples felt the need of prayer, surely we must realize it. Prayer should be simple, direct, and humbly spoken. It should not be spoken with flowery words that appeal to men. Matthew 6:5-6 states: "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." This is a divine principle. You should not pray to be seen of men. Some people think that we should not pray publicly, but that would abrogate and disqualify other Scriptures that tell us how to pray in public.

Jesus was saying that when you pray publicly, you ought to pray humbly and directly. You should not use a lot of words. You need to say what you want God to do, and then sit down. In verse 7 Jesus went on to say, "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking." You

do not have to say ten Hail Mary's and twenty-five Our Father's. If you mean what you say, saying something once will do. Do not use vain repetitions. Again, your prayers should be simple, direct, and humbly spoken.

Prayer should be made with the right motive. James 4:1-3 says: "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss [you miss in your asking], that ye may consume it upon your lusts." If you ask for the glory of God and the furtherance of His cause, God will grant that. You should pray for God's glory and for the furtherance of His cause, and pray to help others, not for selfish ends.

### **Praying With Confidence in Our Heavenly Father**

Another divine principle is this: prayer should be given with importunity. You should not give up. My mother prayed for twenty years for my father. He was saved at God's Acres in the old barn in 1967 in the August Camp Meeting. When he got saved, for days my mother was as quiet as she could be. I asked her what was wrong. She said, "I can hardly take it in." She finally did though. Do not give up!

Luke 18:1-5 says: "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me." If the unjust judge could take care of the widow's

needs, how much more confident should we be in a loving Heavenly Father?

You must be persistent in your prayer life. Your children are watching you. They are learning to pray. Sometimes we marvel at how they learn these things. While my children were growing up, if they had a problem, they would say, "Ask Dad to pray" or "Ask Mom to pray."

When I was a little boy, about eight years of age, I had appendicitis. I was very sick with it. One day my mother and father said to me, "We are going to take you to the county hospital." I said, "Take me to Brother Watson." Brother C. N. Watson prayed, and I have never had a problem with it since. There is power in prayer!

I like what the Bible says concerning when Peter was in prison. The Word of God is so powerful. Acts 12:5 says, "Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him."

When you pray, you must have the right attitude toward your brother and sister and toward the pastor. Do you remember the parable of the publican and the Pharisee in Luke, Chapter 18? When they went to pray, the Pharisee did not have a very good attitude. The publican had a humble attitude, and he was the one who went home with an accommodation from God. Bad attitudes and fault finding will hinder the effectiveness of your prayer.

Prayer must be sprinkled with faith. You must believe when you pray. Hebrews 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." That is a good Scripture; it is awesome. John 14:13-14 says this: "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." Every one of us goes through difficult places.

When I went through a very

difficult place, I was seeking God. During that time I remembered a song that I heard when I was about twenty. It was sung by a quartet called the Keller-York Quartet. This song is entitled "I Know He Heard My Prayer." It reads:

*The clouds have passed away,  
I see the light of day;  
The sun is shining thru,  
Dispelling gloom with  
hallelujahs.  
I know that this is real,  
For in my heart I feel,  
That my Savior heard my  
earnest prayer.*

*I know He heard my prayer,  
He knows my ev'ry care,  
He gives to me the blest victory.  
Oh, yes, I feel Him now,  
My loyalty I vow;  
I know the Savior heard my plea.*

*The enemy has said to me,  
Satan said my faith was dead,  
If the way was filled with care,  
That the Savior did not care.  
Thank God it is not true,  
He thrills me thru and thru;  
I know He heard my prayer,  
earnest prayer.*

*The Lord has heard my prayer,  
Great joy is now my share.  
Sweet heaven fills my soul,  
Now I can go rejoicing on;  
O my friend, there's not a doubt,  
Thank God, they're driven out;  
For He heard my prayer, my  
earnest prayer.*

*When in the future days,  
The fiery trials blaze.  
When Satan comes to me  
To take away my victory,  
I can point him to the time  
When heaven's light did shine,  
I can say He heard my  
earnest prayer!*

I know He heard my prayer, and He will hear your prayer too! There is power in prayer. God is still the same today.

## Standing in the Gap

Probably the greatest principle rule of all concerning prayer is that your heart must be free of sin. John 9:31 says, "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth." This is another divine principle. I am very careful about whom I ask to pray for me. God does not hear every prayer. The only prayer He hears of people in sin are prayers that will lead to their conversion. God works for those whose hearts are right with Him. Psalm 66:18 says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."

There are great possibilities in your life if you will pray, but you must get yourself in a place where you can pray earnestly. Perhaps you can stand in the gap for someone who is far away from God. Ezekiel 22:30 says, "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none." No doubt, there are some people whom God is going to deal with in judgment, but if you will stand in the gap, that judgment may be averted. I often think of Job, in the Book of Job, Chapter 1, where we can read of his doing some extra things for the sake of his children. Are you willing to stand in the gap? Are you willing to pray for someone and be the one who averts the judgment of God? I am concerned about my loved ones. If I can do a little extra, I want to do it so that I can keep the impending judgment from falling on them. I want them to return to God.

Verse 31 reads: "Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD." I believe that the reason America has enjoyed the tremendous history that we have enjoyed is that many have stood in the gap.

Church of God people are so

blessed with wonderful hymns. One song entitled "Wonderful Power in Prayer" reads:

*No matter how hard goes the  
battle of life,  
God's children need never de-  
spair;  
His conquering grace giveth peace  
amid the strife,  
There is wonderful power in  
prayer.*

*We know that the roses will not  
always bloom;  
The sky will not always be fair;  
But go to the Father to brighten  
your gloom,  
There is wonderful power in  
prayer.*

*Perhaps you are seeking a soul far  
astray,  
That name to the mercy seat bear,  
The Shepherd himself will go with  
you today;  
There is wonderful power in  
prayer.*

*Through all the swift changes that  
come to us here,  
Till white robes of glory we wear,  
We look up to Jesus for comfort  
and cheer,  
There is a wonderful power in  
prayer.*

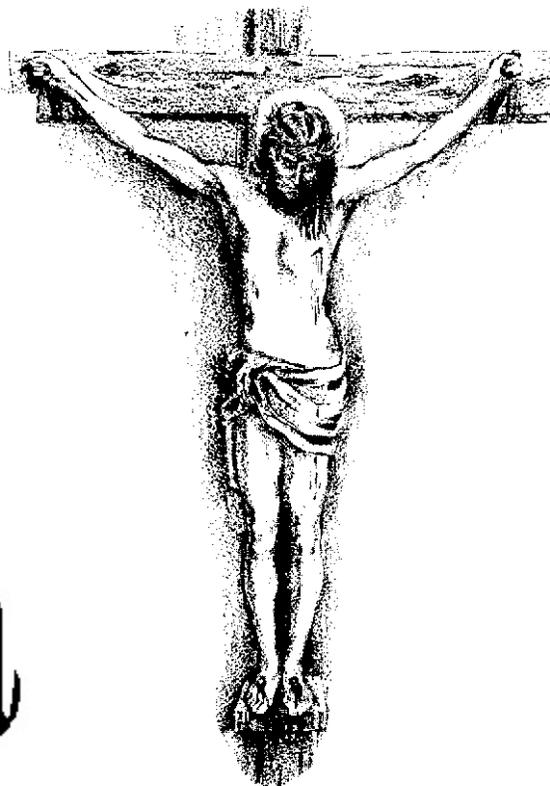
*Wonderful power, wonderful  
power in prayer,  
For it moveth the arm that moveth  
the world,  
There is wonderful power in  
prayer.*

What is your need? There is power in prayer! Your prayers will be bottled up in Heaven as a memorial. God is answering prayer, and He is working out His purpose. You must importune, be persistent, and stay in there. I have never been disappointed in serving the Lord.

*(Compact Disc TR-188E)*

*Zechariah 13:1 In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.*

# There Is a Fountain



*Brother Larry Dishman*

## **The All-Cleansing Fountain**

The blood of Jesus is described as a fountain opened for sin and uncleanness. In this message I am going to be referring to an old song entitled "There Is a Fountain" in the Evening Light Hymnal. It reads:

*There is a fountain filled with blood,  
Drawn from Immanuel's veins,  
And sinners plunged beneath that  
flood  
Lose all their guilty stains.*

*The dying thief rejoiced to see  
That fountain in his day;  
And there have I, tho' vile as he,  
Washed all my sins away.*

*Dear dying Lamb, thy precious blood  
Shall never lose its pow'r,  
Till all the ransomed church of God  
Are safe, to sin no more.*

*E'er since by faith I saw the stream  
Thy flowing wounds supply  
Redeeming love has been my theme,  
And shall be till I die.*

*Then in a nobler, sweeter song,  
I'll sing thy pow'r to save,  
When this poor lisping, stamm'ring  
tongue  
Lies silent in the grave.*

Thank God, the Scripture says,  
"There shall be a fountain opened."

He did not say there *was* a fountain or there *used to be* a fountain. I thank God for that fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins. Sinners who plunge beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.

Another song in our Evening Light Hymnal entitled "The All-Cleansing Fountain" reads:

*There's a fountain opened in the  
house of God,  
Where the vilest of sinners may go,  
And all test the power of the crimson  
flood,  
Of the blood that makes whiter than  
snow.*

*When that fount was opened in the  
Savior's side,  
How the thief did rejoice in that day!  
And when dying, "Lord, remember  
me," he cried.  
Oh, the blood washed his sins all away.*

*"Will you come and reason," saith the  
Lord, "with me,  
Tho' your sins red like crimson do glow,  
And if dyed with scarlet stains your  
heart may be,  
I will make it as white as the snow."*

*Yes, a broken spirit and a contrite heart  
Thou wilt never despise, O my God!  
But wilt fully cleanse it now in ev'ry  
part,  
Till I'm whiter than snow by the blood.*

*I have overcome now by the blood of the  
Lamb,  
And I'm clothed in my raiment so  
white;  
And I'm on my journey to that glorious  
land,  
Where forever I'll dwell in the light.*

*What are these in spotless robes and  
whence came they,  
As they're singing with palms in their  
hands?  
These thro' tribulation gained the  
victory,  
Having washed in the blood of the  
Lamb.*

*Praise the Lord, I am washed  
In the all-cleansing blood of the Lamb,  
And my robes are whiter than the  
driven snow,  
I am washed in the blood of the Lamb.*

You may ask, "What is in this fountain?" It is filled with blood that saves from sin. It is the blood that redeems and brings remission of sins. It is the blood that pardons, cleanses, covers, justifies, sanctifies, glorifies, and gives life. It is the blood that gives victory over sin and brings union with God. It is the blood that gives reconciliation. I thank God for that blood. "There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins."

## The Blood of Christ

First Peter 1:18-19 states: "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." Do you realize that the blood is the center of the Gospel? That leads us to the question, "Where does this blood come from?" The song says it comes from Immanuel's veins.

There is a fountain, and there is blood in that fountain. It comes from Immanuel's veins, and Immanuel's blood is not the blood of a fallen race, or a poisoned fallen race. Thank God, it is the blood of Christ. It is pure blood; it is spotless, crimeless, harmless, and sinless blood. The blood of Christ has absolutely no insufficiencies in it whatsoever, and it has no inefficiencies in it. I thank God for the blood of Jesus Christ.

I like what the song says, "And there have I, tho' vile as he, Washed all my sins away." The "he" refers to the thief on the cross. He rejoiced to see that fountain in his day. Friend, that is the way every sinner needs to see himself: "vile as he." Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

You may say, "I have never lived a life like that thief on the cross." Friend, you still stand in need of a Savior, just as he did. You need this blood applied to your heart's door. The Scripture said that He did not "come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Matthew 9:13). "They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick" (verse 12). Therefore, we all could say before we got saved, or if you are not saved, "Tho' vile as he." Friend, once we all were lost and on our way to a devil's hell. None of us deserves the mercy of God and the grace of God, but thank God for the blood.

In verse 4 of this song, we find that there is power in His blood.

This blood has power to make the vilest sinner clean. Friend, it makes no difference how deep in sin you may be and how far you have gone down the road that leads to destruction. His blood goes deeper than the stain of sin has gone. Another songwriter wrote:

*Dark the stain that soiled man's nature,  
Long the distance that he fell,  
Far removed from hope and heaven,  
Into deep despair and hell.  
But there was a fountain opened,  
And the blood of God's own Son,  
Purifies the soul and reaches  
Deeper than the stain has gone!*

*Conscious of that deep pollution,  
Sinners wander in the night.  
Tho' they hear the Shepard calling,  
They still fear to face the light.  
This the blessed consolation,  
That can melt the heart of stone,  
That sweet Balm of Gilead reaches  
Deeper than the stain has gone!*

*All unworthy we who've wandered,  
And our eyes are wet with tears;  
As we think of love that sought us  
Through the weary wasted years.  
Yet we walk the holy highway,  
Walking by God's grace alone  
Knowing Calv'ry's fountain reaches  
Deeper than the stain has gone!*

*When with the holy choirs we're  
standing  
In the presence of the King,  
And our souls are lost in wonder,  
While the white robed choirs sing;  
Then we'll praise the name of Jesus,  
With the millions round the throne;  
Praise Him for the pow'r that reaches,  
Deeper than the stain has gone!*

*Praise the Lord for full salvation,  
God still reigns upon His throne.  
And I know the blood still reaches  
Deeper than the stain has gone.*

I thank God for the love of God, and I thank God for the blood of Jesus Christ that still cleanses from all sin. Sinners know there is a dark stain, but thank God, the blood goes deeper than the stain of sin has

gone. Friend, the blood of Christ is a life not only given *for* men but also given *to* men. The life of the flesh is in the blood, and Jesus gave His life's blood so that we could be redeemed. The blood has marvelous power in removing sin and opening Heaven for the one whom it cleanses and sanctifies and makes fit for Heaven. The blood of Christ has Almighty power over the kingdom of darkness and even hell beneath. Since the blood avails so powerfully with God and over Satan, does it not avail even more powerfully with men for whose sake it was actually shed? We can be sure of that.

### **Christ Ever Lives to Make Intercession**

The Bible says in Hebrews 7:24-25: "But this man [talking about Jesus Christ], because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." Thank God, there is power in His blood.

Friend, there are people today who are bound by drugs, alcohol, and the habits of life. There are programs that they can go through, and I am not saying that some programs do not educate and give some help along the way; but they cannot compare to what the blood of Jesus can do. There is power in the blood!

You may say, "I'd get saved, but I just don't think I can give up my tobacco." I want you to know there is power in the blood of Jesus, not only to save you and give you forgiveness but also to give you power in your life to overcome.

Someone may say, "Well, I'd get saved, but I just can't quit the bottle. I'm bound by alcohol." Friend, God has the power to set you free from it. There is power in the blood of Jesus Christ!

Another may say, "I can't get saved because I am bound by drugs. You don't understand if you've never been there. I *can't* quit." There

is power in the blood of Jesus Christ. A fountain has been opened for sin and uncleanness. I like what the song says: "*And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.*" There is power in the blood of Jesus.

I am able to preach the Gospel today because there is power in the blood of Jesus Christ. B. E. Warren penned this song:

*There's power in the blood to save from sin,  
To bring the peace of God where guilt hath been;  
A new and happy life then will begin,  
There's power in the blood of Jesus.*

*There's power in the blood today, I see,  
As when He set the palsied sinner free;  
And now his saving grace extends to me,  
There's power in the blood of Jesus.*

*No righteousness of ours can e'er avail,  
But through the Lamb of God we shall prevail;  
There's power in the blood, all else will fail,  
There's power in the blood of Jesus.*

*There's power in the blood for our release,  
There's power in the blood to bring soul-peace;  
The merits of His blood will not decrease,  
There's power in the blood of Jesus.*

There is a fountain opened, thank God, and this blood comes from Immanuel's veins. Again, the song says in verse 3, "*Dear dying Lamb, thy precious blood shall never lose its power.*" This blood will never, ever lose its power! It has been two thousand years since the thief on the cross plunged beneath that flood and lost all his guilty stains, and it is just as powerful today as it was back then. If time were to last another two thousand years (I do not think it is going to), it would be just as powerful. The blood will *never* lose its power!

### **The Perfect Cure**

Hebrews 9:12 states, "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." Christ only had to enter one time. He does not have to go back year after year. There is no more remembrance of sin because His blood works a perfect cure.

I thought of the Scripture in Revelation 13:8, which reads, "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." I want you to notice something, friend, the Cross was rooted in the heart of God before it was set up on the hill called Golgotha, way back in eternity past. The Cross was rooted in the heart of God before it was erected by the hands of men on Mount Calvary. The Cross was erected by the hands of God on the hills of eternal Glory, and the Son of God was the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world. Revelation 13:8 says, "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him." I am glad that I am worshiping the true and living God whose blood has made me whiter than snow.

This leads us to the question, What happens when a sinner plunges beneath this flood? Verse 1 says they "*lose all their guilty stains.*" Verse 2 says that He "*washed all my sins away.*" This is good news to the sinner. Think about it, friend, He washes all our sins away. We lose *all* our guilty stains, not just some of them.

If you are not saved, friend, if you will plunge beneath this flood, Christ can wash away all your sins. You can lose all your guilty stains. I remember before I got saved the things of my past that haunted me. Oh, how the devil would remind me! I felt great condemnation because of the things that I had done and the things that I was doing. Thank God, one night I made my

way to an altar of prayer and plunged beneath that cleansing flood, and guess what happened? I lost all my guilty stains. He washed away all my sins! Friend, it is wonderful to have all your sins washed away! It is wonderful to lose all your guilty stains!

The Lord does not save you from some sins; He saves you from *all* sins. The latter part of Isaiah 38:17 says, "Thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back." Thank God, they are gone! My sins are not there anymore! Psalm 103:12 says, "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." Praise God!

### **Redeeming Love**

I also like verse 4 of the song. It reads, "*Redeeming love has been my theme and shall be till I die.*" Thank God, for more than thirty years, "redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die." What is your theme? You do not have to be around people very long until you find out what their theme is.

I think about the love of God and how much God loved us. God was willing to give His only begotten Son. Friend, He gave His Son! Moreover, His Son was willing to go to the Cross and pay the sin debt, that His blood might flow freely so that you and I could have life, and have it more abundantly. Friend, we owe a great debt to Him. He loved us so!

As I think about the love of God, I would like to picture it like this: More than two thousand years ago, one morning God looked down upon this sin-sick world, and He saw how sick this old world was (and it is still sick). He looked at sin-sick souls, and He went to His rose garden and picked a beautiful bouquet. This bouquet was made up of the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley, and He wrapped it in the soft tissue of Heaven and sent it down to this earth. Before He sent it down to this earth, He pinned a card on it, and the card simply said, "God

so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). I thank God for the love of God. It has been my theme, and it shall be till I die.

Christ did not have to go through that ordeal. He could have called for legions of angels, and the whole world could have been plunged into hell. However, because God loved you and me, He was willing to give His Son, and His Son was willing to die so that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. That is divine love!

I thought of an old preacher by the name of Bernard. Many years ago he was many miles away from home holding a revival. While he was away, he received word that his little daughter, his only daughter, was at the point of death. He prayed through the night as he drove to the hospital. By the time he got to her bedside, his little baby girl was just barely hanging on. When he walked into the room, he spoke to her, and she realized that Daddy was there. She was trying to say something, but he could not understand her. So Bernard said that he got down and put his ear right up to her little mouth, and he heard the faint whisper, "Daddy, can't you help me? Daddy, can't you help me?" and that is the way she died.

Oh, that preacher told how that broke his heart. He said, "If there was anything I could have done, anything whatsoever, to save my daughter, I would have done it. There would have been no price that would have been too high. I would have done anything in my power."

In the light of that, I think about our Savior hanging on the Cross. In Mark 15:34 you can read that He cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" God could have helped His Son. He could have come to His rescue, but because He loved mankind, He let His Son hang there and bleed and die. One songwriter wrote:

*The love of God is greater far  
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;  
It goes beyond the highest star,  
And it reaches to the lowest hell;  
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,  
God gave His Son to win;  
His erring child He reconciled,  
And pardoned from his sin.*

*When hoary time shall pass away,  
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,  
When men who here refuse to pray,  
On rocks and hills and mountains call,  
God's love so sure, shall still endure,  
All measureless and strong;  
Redeeming grace to Adam's race –  
The saints' and angels' song.*

*Could we with ink the ocean fill,  
And were the skies of parchment made,  
Were every stalk on earth a quill,  
And every man a scribe by trade,  
To write the love of God above  
Would drain the ocean dry,  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,  
Though stretched from sky to sky.*

The songwriter said, "*Could we with ink the ocean fill.*" Think about that! How much ink would it take to fill the ocean? That is love! There would not be enough ink in the ocean to describe the love of God. There would not be enough room in the sky, though the scroll were stretched from sky to sky. That is how much God loves you, and that is how much God cares. I agree with the other songwriter: "*Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.*"

### **Taking Heed**

Who did Christ purchase with His blood? I will tell you what the song says, and I believe the song is right: "Till all the ransomed church of God are safe, to sin no more." That is who He purchased. He did not purchase Babylon; He did not purchase false religion. He ransomed the Church of God. Acts 20:28 reads, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the

church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

The song mentioned being "*safe, to sin no more.*" Right now, none of us can absolutely say that we are safe to sin no more. There is still a possibility that you or I could commit sin. No matter how long you have been saved, you will be tempted. Temptation involves the actual possibility, but one of these days you will be safe to sin no more. When you draw your last breath as a child of God, you will be safe to sin no more. When the trumpet sounds and the dead in Christ shall rise, and we who are alive shall also rise to meet Him in the air, then we will be safe to sin no more. That is going to be wonderful!

C. W. Naylor wrote a song entitled "Sin Can Never Enter There." It reads: "*Heaven is a holy place filled with glory and with grace; Sin can never enter there; . . . It will stop you at the door, Bar you out forevermore. Sin can never enter there.*"

When your poor lisping, stammering tongue lies silent in the grave, what are you going to do then? In verse 3 of "There Is a Fountain," the songwriter wrote: "*Then in a nobler, sweeter song, I'll sing thy pow'r to save, When this poor lisping, stamm'ring tongue, Lies silent in the grave.*"

While I am lying in the grave, I will be singing a sweeter song, one that the angels cannot sing. In verse 2 he said, "*The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day.*" Praise God, he is actually in Paradise now! He rejoiced to see the fountain in his day. Friend, this thief was a man who was well known by the name "the dying thief." I want to tell you a little about him. He was steeped in crime. He belonged to the criminal class. He said in Luke 23:41, "We receive the due reward of our deeds." He recognized that he and the other thief were justly under condemnation. Behind him was a wicked, ruined, lost life.

This thief on the cross needed a Savior. Though a criminal, he was not an atheist. He believed in the

true and living God. According to Luke 23:40, he believed in a future life of reward and punishment, because he said to the other thief, "Dost not thou fear God?" He feared God.

The problem with many today is that they do not fear God. That is the reason some people leave the church without getting the needs met in their lives. I believe the thief noticed that strange and calm dignity and the heavenly look of his fellow prisoner. The thief heard the crowd say, "He saved others." He also heard Jesus calmly praying, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). I wonder what divine love and what compassion breathed forth in that petition.

I believe that thief on the cross saw Christ as the holy, sinless One who had done nothing amiss. He confessed that Jesus knew no sin. He acknowledged and addressed Him as Lord. He believed that the Lord had a kingdom, and at His disposal. He believed that Jesus had the power to help him and that His power extended beyond the grave. He believed that the King not only could but also was willing to save him.

I want you to think about this man. He did not believe amid such scenes as the feeding of the five thousand. He did not believe when Christ walked on the sea. He did not believe when He stilled the storm in the midnight hour on the sea of Galilee. He did not believe when Christ came riding into Jerusalem on a colt. He did not believe when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. He did believe in Jesus when the confidence of many of His disciples was shaken. One disciple betrayed Him and committed suicide. The leader of the group had denied Him and cursed and swore. In this trying hour they all forsook Him and fled, but the thief on the cross believed.

### **Exercising Faith in the Blood**

Friend, if you are interested in salvation, it is not complicated. This

thief simply said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom" (Luke 23:42). That was not complicated. It was a short, to the point, humble prayer. He did not feel worthy, but his prayer was in earnest, and it was in the right spirit. Standing on the brink of eternity, with death staring him in the face, he said, "Lord, remember me. . . ." If Christ heard and answered this sinner's cry while in the agonies of death, I believe He will hear yours if you will call upon Him.

In all the discomfort and agony of the Cross, Christ won one more soul. I ask you, friend, do you have the sure hope of the dying thief? The cry of the thief brought the immediate answer of our Savior, "Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). Jesus did not say that he would be with Him in some distant future, but that very day he was with Him in Paradise!

This leads us to the question: How is it that a sinner, an unworthy sinner, though vile as he, could plunge beneath the flood? How can it all happen? It happens through repentance and believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said in Luke 13:3, "I tell you Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

If you do not repent, you are going to be lost, lost eternally. "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death" (2 Corinthians 7:10). God can and will only forgive to the extent of your repentance. Repentance is more than a change of mind or a change of heart; it is a change of action.

How can a lost sinner on his way to hell plunge beneath the flood and lose all his guilty stains by believing? The song says, "*E'er since by faith I saw the stream.*" That is how it happens. We read in Romans 3:24-25: "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through

faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." It is not as if we, through our faith, give the blood its effectiveness. The blood always retains its power and its effectiveness. Unbelief closes the hearts and hinders its operation. Faith is simply the removal of that hindrance and the opening of an individual's heart for the divine power by which the living Lord will bestow His blood.

Do you really know of the life-giving, energizing power of the blood? Do you know about that power? Are you experiencing its overcoming potency? There is overcoming potency in the blood. If you desire to be delivered from sin's power, from sin's bondage, you must repent and exercise faith in the blood.

If you will come as a guilty sinner, longing for pardon, you can rest assured that the blood, which

has already been made a perfect reconciliation, will immediately cover you and restore you to the favor and the love of God. Would you bow in prayer and tell God that you believe in the power of the blood for your own soul? Won't you come to the Lord and allow His blood to cleanse your heart and make you whole?

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- ▶ *The Book of Revelation Explained: Volume 2 (Chapters 4 - 8:2)* by Earl R. Borders
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# Fall Camp Meeting Recording List

Recrd. No.	Date	Message Title	Minister
TR-468M	8-02-09	What the Lost Take to Hell With Them	Bro. Roger L. Decker
TR-469E		What Happens When God Turns His Back on a People?	Bro. E. David Stegmeier
TR-470M	8-03-09	The Progression of Light	Bro. Daniel Webster
TR-471A		The Devil	Bro. Roger L. Decker
TR-472E		True Repentance	Bro. E. David Stegmeier
TR-473M	8-04-09	The Agony of a Dying Soul	Bro. Richard Talbot
TR-474E		Having Genuine Faith	Bro. E David Stegmeier
TR-475M	8-05-09	Reasons Why Christians Should Not Consume Alcohol	Bro. Allen Polston
TR-476E		These Lewd Fellows	Bro. Calvin Foster
TR-477M	8-06-09	Be Sure Your Sins Will Find You Out	Bro. Leamon Whitehead
TR-478A		The Antichrist	Bro. Roger L. Decker
TR-479E		The Danger of Darkness That Hides in Light	Bro. Calvin Foster
TR-480M	8-07-09	After the Tenor of These Words	Bro. Richard Talbot
TR-481A		Tongues	Bro. Roger L. Decker
TR-482E		Have You Been Losing Ground?	Bro. Larry Dishman
TR-483A	8-08-09	The Interpretation of Tongues	Bro. Roger L. Decker
TR-484E		The Workers' Enduement	Bro. Larry Dishman
TR-485E	8-09-09	The Two Ways Leading to Eternity	Bro. Larry Dishman
TM-177	2009	Fall Camp Meeting Songs #1	
TM-178	2009	Fall Camp Meeting Songs #2	
TM-179	2009	Fall Camp Meeting Songs #3	
TM-180	2009	Fall Camp Meeting Songs #4	
TM-181	2009	Fall Camp Meeting Songs #5	
TM-182	2009	Fall Camp Meeting Songs #6 (Children's Program)	
TM-183	2009	Fall Camp Meeting Songs #7	
	2009	Fall Camp Meeting Choir Songs	
	2009	All Morning Fall Camp Meeting Messages in MP3 Format (1 CD)	
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