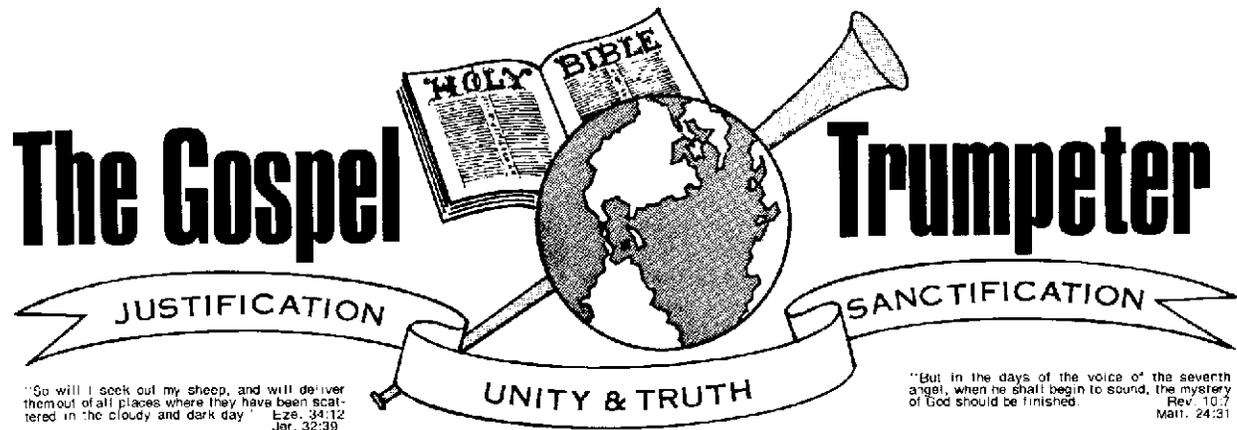


The Gospel Trumpeter



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. 32:39

"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 Matt. 24:31

SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

Vol. 44 October 2014 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."*

Psalms 122:1

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

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

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

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

Brother Roger L. Decker Editor
Workers Too Numerous to Mention

THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

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

**SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS
PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH**

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

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Vol. 44 October 2014 No. 10

Fall 2014 Camp Meeting Report

Showers of Blessings

"And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing."

Ezekiel 34:26

Another camp meeting season has closed at the old campground in Newark, Ohio. The dear brothers and sisters who visited the meeting have now returned to their respective fields of labor. Upon pondering the meeting, we can all agree that our souls have been greatly enriched. We have received many blessings during this enjoyable time together. The rich treasures and the precious memories of our fellowship with God's people will linger on.

What a beautiful time it was to be with the saints for eight days during the Fall Camp Meeting! It was such a wonderful atmosphere to be in. To see and share God's presence together with other children of God is beyond explanation. Our hearts were made to rejoice over and over as we heard the beautiful songs of Zion. The choir and the special singers always add much to the success of the meeting. We surely want to offer up much praise and thanksgiving to the Lord for the powerful way He worked and blessed in each service. His presence caused many of the saints to joyfully glorify the Lord. There were those who jumped and shouted; others walked the aisles expressing praise to God, while many rejoiced by just shedding tears. Isaiah said in 25:1, "O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth."

One of the most outstanding parts of the meeting was that of the unadulterated preaching of God's Word. It is through the heralding of the Truth that men and women are introduced to salvation. Also, as the Word was pro-

claimed, honest hearts were called out of Babylon into the true Church of God. In addition to that, saints were brought to a greater state of spiritual maturity. Moses, in Deuteronomy 32:2, said, "My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass." During this meeting, the brethren expounded many of the doctrines in a much clearer manner.

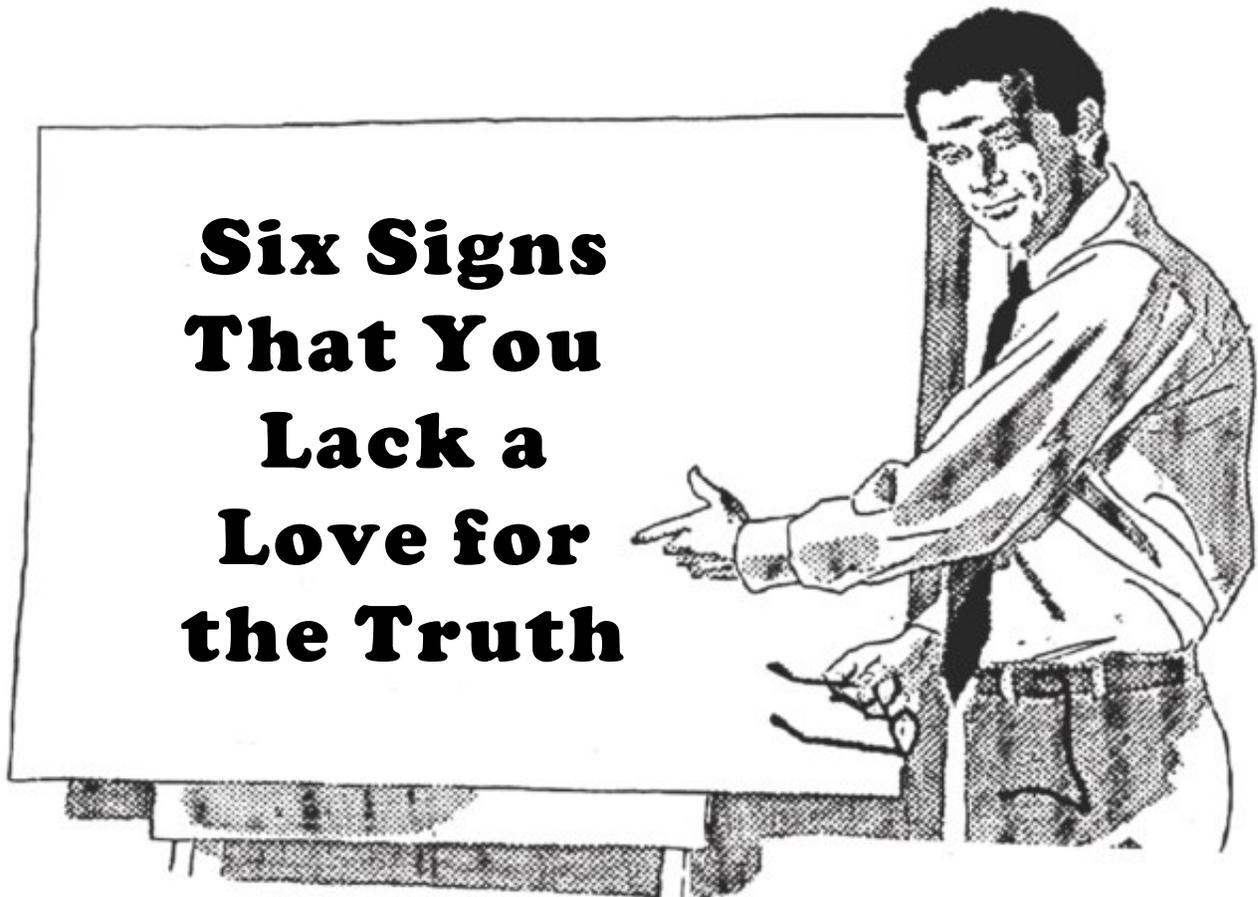
Pastor Roger L. Decker preached several times during this meeting. His sermons covered the subjects of sanctification, tribulation, Israel, and the peaceful kingdom. His messages brought a greater understanding and enlightenment to our hearts and minds. Other ministers who spoke were Brothers James Presley, Adam Wolf, Calvin Foster, Larry Dishman, and Richard Talbot. The messages these brothers preached were texts that dug around the hearts of the saved and the unsaved alike. Brother David Stegmeier taught on the theme of soul winning each afternoon. We certainly praise God for all the good that was done and for the souls that received help. It is always a blessing to see souls gain help around the altar of prayer.

We heartily agree with the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 1:3, where he penned the words, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." This was surely a tremendous camp meeting season! All praise, honor, and glory is to be given to the One who bestows such manifold blessings upon us again and again.

If you were unable to attend the camp meeting, we recommend that you order the CD's or DVD's. You can secure copies of the messages by writing to: Church of God, CD Ministry, 675 North Cedar Street, Newark, Ohio 43055, or by calling 740-345-1312.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.



Brother Roger L. Decker

The Seriousness of Life

The Christian — although he may be saved, sanctified, and walking in the light — is subject to temptations and persecutions. A Christian can get caught up in vices or snares laid out by Satan, and he can find himself a captive, struggling to get free. Matthew 7:21-23 reads: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then

will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

The word *many* that Jesus used in verse 22 is the same word used in verse 13 when Jesus said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat." Jesus was talking about those who walked the broad way and entered the wide gate. Since Jesus used the word "many," that has increased astronomically. Souls are leaving this world at a very rapid rate daily, and the majority of those souls leaving are lost. A Christian can get so tied up in everyday living that he hardly

even notices that souls are just slipping away around him. Some leave this world expecting to leave because of their condition, but others leave unexpectedly. Therefore, it behooves every one of us to be ready.

One thing is sure, we are going to leave this world somehow, either in death or by living at the time of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Either way, we all have to appear before the judgment seat to give an account of the deeds done in this body, whether good or evil. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body,

according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

Another translation says, "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad." While in this body, we are making or marring our destiny. We are either winning or losing a crown. This life is a testing ground for eternity. I cannot make the message serious enough.

These Scriptures line up with the words of Solomon found in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14: "Let us hear the conclusion [the ending] of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. [Why?] For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." There is only one way men and women want to appear before the throne of God, and that is saved.

Beware of Deception

I wrote down some things that men and women do not want to get caught up in, because when people get caught up in these things, they have a very slim chance of recovering. You do not want to get caught up in anything that puts your soul in jeopardy of being lost forever. There is quite a list of things that you can get caught up in. Some things are easier to get free from when one truly wants out. I want to make it clear before I get into this message that you are either saved or lost, but there are some things that you can get caught up in that, if you are not careful, you will never recover from.

First, you do not want to become deceived. Second, you do not want to be guilty of hypocrisy. Third, you do not want to fall into a backslidden state. Fourth, you do not want to reject any part of the Word of God. Fifth, you do not want to become neglectful of your salvation. Sixth, you do not want to get under the

power and influence of this world. To be found in any one of these conditions is a place where there is extreme danger in losing your soul.

I want to deal with these conditions. First, I want to deal with deception. Jesus said, many will boast of their good works, saying: "I've done this and I've done that. I have been faithful. I have been here, and I have been there." They are going to boast of their good works before the Lord, but when people place good works above living right, they are deceived. Every child of God is called first to holiness; that is your calling. Before you were saved, you knew that you were not fit for the Kingdom of God. Why? Because you were not living holy. You knew there were things in your life that, if God would have brought you into judgment, you would have been lost. You cannot put good works above living right. To be deceived means "to wander" or "to be led astray."

Now I want to name a few deceptions recorded in the Word of God. In 1 Corinthians 15:33 Paul stated, "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." What was he talking about? You have to be careful of the company you keep. The child of God cannot keep company with every sinful person there is. Communication means "the imparting of thoughts, opinions, and information." The one who is a child of God should not run around with children of the devil. They have no respect and no use for God or His Word. What do they say? "Your standards are too high." They mock and make fun of the Christian.

Many people do not appreciate a child of God. They do not want to live right. Often they want to corrupt good character and good morals. You are deceived if you think you can associate with bad company and still maintain an experience with God. Whether you are a young person or an adult, you cannot go against the Scriptures without being deceived.

The Mystery of Iniquity

What is another deception? It is found in Paul's letter to the Corinthians. First Corinthians 6:9 reads, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind." You are deceived if you are involved in any one of these sins and still think you are going to Heaven. What did he say? "Be not deceived. . . ." Do not be led astray by any of these things.

What is another deception? Galatians 6:7 tells us, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." You have strayed and wandered away from the Word of God if you do not think that you will reap what you sow, whether you are a Christian or not. That is the law that was set up from the beginning. It is a law that is set up in every avenue of your life. If you eat the wrong things, you are going to get sick. That is a law of reaping what you sow. If you go out and do wrong in business, eventually you are going to get caught. This is the law of reaping what you sow. It is not just a Scripture to put on the sinner; it is a Scripture for every one of us in every walk of our lives and in every avenue of our lives. We are going to reap what we sow.

Second Thessalonians 2:7-12 states: "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders. And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, [Who is going to

send it? God is.] that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

What is another word for the word *delusion* in that verse? It has some synonyms. It means "working in error, misleading influence, and deceit." God will actually send you deceit if you do not love the Truth and you would rather believe a lie. Let us not get caught up in disagreement or disarray with those who have turned away from Truth. If you cannot see through division, you are blind. Division is still sin. It has never changed since the beginning. It will always be sin, no matter how much people pat it on the back, so to speak, it is still wrong.

Sin is sin, no matter where it is located or what the reason is behind it. The main cause behind sin is a spirit, a spirit that defects from the truth. Many people want their own way. They do not want to be pastored. They want to be able to do as they please. They do not want to have to settle down and truly serve God. Time is soon passing away. The Apostle Paul said to take heed to yourselves. To whom was he speaking? He was speaking to the elders of the church, not the congregation. Some people want to be free to run here or there and pick up a little gossip here and there and share that gossip.

In 2 Thessalonians 2:7 Paul said, "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work." People have gone into error before, and by the help of the Lord, they have been able to get free from it. However, the mystery of iniquity that Paul was talking about is speaking of someone who lacks having a love of the Truth. It is not that he simply falls into something, it is the fact that he does not love the Truth. Some people despise the Truth when others live it. It is the Truth that sets you free. It is not the man who preaches the message of Truth that sets you free.

You have to love the truth. If you do not love the Bible standard,

then you are going to struggle with it. If you do not love to dress right, then you are going to have trouble dressing right, and you are going to make every excuse possible to get out of adhering to the Bible standard of modesty. This is caused by a person's own lack of love.

A delusion is something that is sent by God. If God sends a delusion to you, you are in trouble. No one can break it. You can sit under all kinds of messages and listen to every preacher there is, but no one can break that delusion when God sends it. What is it? It is deceit, or a misleading error, and you will believe a lie. What will you believe? You will believe that you are right when you are wrong. God is a God of truth. He does not deal in lies, and when one wants to believe a lie rather than the truth, God will help him to accomplish it. If you want to believe lies about your pastor or someone else, God will help you to believe them, especially when you are looking for something.

Turning to Your Own Ways

You are in grave danger of being lost forever if you play the role of a hypocrite. Do you know what a hypocrite is? He is a pretender, and some people are very good at it. What do the Scriptures say about a hypocrite? Job said in Job 20:5, "That the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy [the happiness, the rejoicing] of the hypocrite but for a moment?" Their rejoicing is short-lived. He said in Job 27:8, "For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?" The hypocrite is going to be without two things: he is going to be without real joy and without hope. As long as he stays in that condition, he stays under the influence of hypocrisy. There is no hope for him until he comes clean.

Look at the end of some people who were caught up in hypocrisy. Judas pretended to be a follower of Jesus. He was a great actor in that day. We read in Luke 22:47-48: "And

while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?" Judas was one of the twelve disciples, yet he became a betrayer, one who merely pretended to love Jesus.

Ananias and Sapphira became full-fledged hypocrites. They thought they could fool the Apostles. The Scripture says they sold a certain possession and kept back part of the price. They lied to the Holy Ghost. They left this world under the hand of divine judgment. That is a very dangerous state to be found in.

To be backslidden is time wasted in life, but it can happen. The backslider is one who feels that serving the Lord is as good as serving the god of this world. He is one who has violated his own vows to the Lord. You see, often when a person comes to the Lord, he prays, "Lord, I'll serve You and live for You forever." A backslider violates the vow that he made. Proverbs 14:14 states, "The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself." The wise man said, "The backslider in heart. . . ." The heart is the place where salvation starts, and it is the same place where backsliding starts.

What does the Scripture say about one who has turned away from the counsel of the Lord? Proverbs 1:31 tells us, "Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices." The backslider also has to deal with his conscience that remembers all the good times he had in serving the Lord. You see, once you taste the good things of God and turn away, it takes much to satisfy you. Moreover, you will never be satisfied in the world once you have tasted the good things of God. You may get into drugs, alcohol, or womanizing, but nothing will satisfy you. That is the reason

you go deeper and deeper. You will never find the satisfaction in sin like there is in serving God. The word *backslider* means "one who retreats or goes back."

Becoming Careless and Neglectful

What does the Bible say about the blasphemer, the atheist, and the rejecter of the Word of God? Jeremiah 8:9 says, "The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?" To reject something is to cast it away, to refuse it, or to abhor it.

First Chronicles 28:9 reads, "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever." These words were addressed to Solomon, but they are good for you and me. It is dangerous to reject the Word of God.

Those who neglect their salvation take in a large group. They might have many good ways about them, but they are neglectful. Why do people neglect their salvation? In the Galatian letter, Paul warned the Galatians in Galatians 6:9, "And let us be not weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." In other words, do not get weary with living right. Do not let doing well become a boredom to you. Do not let it come to the place where you seek something else.

Hebrews 2:3 reads, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him." Those who are neglectful know they should do that which is good. They know they should not be giving vent to the enemy as they are, yet they do it anyway. You can

try to turn over a new leaf, so to speak, and there is nothing wrong with setting goals in your life; however, if you do not get the thing truly settled with God, it is not going to be long until you are back in the same old rut that you were in before you made the vow.

We read in James 4:17, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." To neglect something is to ignore it and to be careless. To neglect something is to disregard it. Some people are careless about their prayer lives. They either do not talk to God or they say a quick formal prayer. Others neglect their church attendance. If you start missing the church services, in time it will become easy to stay home.

Since I got saved, I have always had a desire to be in the house of God. Something is wrong when people who profess to be children of God cannot get to the house of God. Something is wrong in their experience, but they would never admit it. They have all kinds of excuses. We need to be in the house of God. Again, James 4:17 says, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

Have you ever wondered why you cannot get anywhere in your experience? Could it be that you have a bad attitude? Are you careless about the way you dress? First Thessalonians 5:3 states, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."

The Influence of the World

Last, I want to deal with coming under the power and the influence of the world. Child of God, do not think that you can go out in the world and play around and test the waters, so to speak, and then come back to God. There is a power and an influence that is greater than you are. Remember, it is the world that

Jesus came to save, but that same world put Him on the Cross. The world is enmity against God.

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

One commentator said, "The heart of man is narrow and cannot contain both loves." The world draws the heart away from God; therefore, the more the love of the world prevails, the more the love of God dwindles and decays. What did John mean when he instructed, "Love not the world"? The world is God's creation. The stars, the planets, the trees, and the flowers are beautiful.

The Bible says in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world. . . ." It is the part of the world that has forsaken God and turned away from Him. God does not want you to join ranks with it; He wants you to stay aloft from it. John was saying, "Do not get caught up in the world." Just because many people do, that does not change the right and the wrong of it.

In closing, we can see that by all means, the child of God ought to stay aloft from the categories that I mentioned. All these different categories are on the broad way and lead to hell. There is help for those who see their need. Although you might be getting caught up in one of these things, there is help if you are willing to turn back to the strait and narrow way. God wants to help you, and He is ready to help you. No one is so super spiritual that he cannot get caught up in one of these things. By the grace of God (and that is what it is going to take to get you through), you can make it if you adhere to His Word.

(Compact Disc TR-1111M)

John 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

39 (But this spake he of the Spirit,

which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

When Do We Receive the Holy Spirit?



Brother Larry Dishman

Truth Will Stand the Investigation

I want to say that I am not contentious about this subject. I have good fellowship with brethren who disagree with me concerning this. I do not believe that we should use this doctrine as a test of fellowship. I do not think we ought to cut people off because they disagree with us on this subject.

Some brethren have made it clear that to have fellowship with them, people must absolutely agree with them regarding this subject. I have been to some of those places,

and I know of many good brethren who disagree with me. On the other hand, I have been to some places where I felt some of the meanest spirits that I have ever felt in my life. We do not have a right to have a mean spirit about anything. God's people are not mean spirited. Whatever we preach, we must preach in love and kindness.

It is not my intention to hurt or to wound anyone, but rather to bring forth God's Word in a clear manner. If you never agree with me on this subject, I will still love you and treat you as a brother or a sister in Christ. I do not claim to know it

all, and I do not claim to have all the answers. I would like to share with you some Bible facts that I do know. If you have the truth, it will stand the investigation. If you do not have the truth, as an honest individual, you should desire the truth.

The Apostles lived before Christ came, while He walked on earth, and after He left. Therefore, the experience that matches ours is not so much that of the Apostles, who believed on Jesus before the Holy Ghost was given, according to our Scripture text. Indeed, the Scriptures distinctly say that the Apostles were believers before the Day of Pente-

cost, but they did not and could not receive the Holy Spirit until the Day of Pentecost was fully come.

The Bible tells us in John 7:39, "But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive [they had not received Him yet]; for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified." This Scripture answers the question of why they did not receive the Holy Spirit at the time they believed, because Jesus was not yet glorified. The giving and the receiving of the Holy Spirit was a feature of the Holy Spirit's coming, of which Christ spoke when He said, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever" (John 14:16). I want you to notice that He said: ". . . and he shall give you another Comforter," which is future tense. They did not have the Comforter at that time. The only legitimate conclusion from these words of Christ is that it was on the Day of Pentecost that they actually received the Holy Spirit Himself as an ever-present, indwelling power. However, it is not so with us in our believing or receiving of the Holy Spirit.

Receiving the Gift of the Holy Spirit

It is an impossibility for anyone to believe in this present time without receiving the Holy Spirit. Everybody who believes on the Lord, repents of his sins and gets saved in this dispensation; he receives the Holy Spirit at that very moment in time. The Bible states in Romans 8:9, "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Paul proclaimed that those who are in Christ have the Spirit of God in them.

The Holy Spirit dwells in every believer during this dispensation. There is no such thing as a believer who has not received the Holy Spirit in this dispensation. Therefore, to argue that the experience of the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost

should be the normal experience for believers of this present age is false. In other words, we cannot take the experience of the Apostles as a guide in determining what the baptism of the Holy Spirit is for us. We can and we should take the experience of their converts for a determining factor as well as a direct apostolic instruction on this point.

On the very first day of the church's life, the cry of the convicted multitude was, "What shall we do?" That was what the men said that crucified the Son of God when Peter stood up under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and preached that message. He told the people there that they were the ones who were guilty. He said they took their wicked hands and crucified the Son of God. Friend, Peter was not preaching to men with wicked hands who had just crucified the Son of God. Something happened to Peter on the Day of Pentecost. He had a power in his life that he did not have before. Just a few days previously, when it came down to the test, he denied Christ. In essence, he said, "I do not know Him," and then he cursed and swore. However, when the Holy Ghost came upon him, he witnessed a power that he did not have previously, and he was able to stand before thousands of people and point to them and say, "You are the ones who are guilty."

We read in Acts 2:38-39: "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

When Peter said they had to repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins, he was talking to sinners. Without question the repentance and the faith, which the Apostle demanded of the Jerusalem multitude, are the conditions to salvation; that is to a man being

born unto eternal life. So we come at once to the conclusion that the baptism of the Holy Spirit, or receiving the Holy Spirit, is the operation of the Holy Spirit, which results in regeneration. Acts 2:38-39 teaches that when you repent, you receive remission of sins and you receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Bible Examples of Conversion

Some folks would tell you that Saul was converted on the road to Damascus and got sanctified when he got in touch with Ananias, but Acts 9:3-6 says: "And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: and he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do." He did not know what to do yet. He was not a saved man yet. He was still a blind man.

Acts 9:17-18 says: "And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized." However, some people say that he got sanctified. No, there is absolutely nothing in this passage of Scripture that proves or even suggests that Paul was saved on the road to Damascus and later was sanctified when he met Ananias.

Second Peter 1:9 says, "But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from

his old sins." A blind man always represents someone who is not saved. When Ananias prayed, then Paul received his sight, was filled with the Holy Ghost, and was baptized, all at the same time. It happened after he met Ananias.

The conclusion is confirmed when we look at the conversion of Cornelius and his household. We read in Acts 10:44-48: "While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days."

What happened to Cornelius? The Holy Ghost fell upon him; he received the Holy Ghost. Once again, people say Cornelius was a saved man and he was getting sanctified. It distinctly said that he received the Holy Spirit. In reporting what took place at Caesarea, the Apostle Peter said in Acts 11:15-16: "And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost."

In Acts 11:1 we read, "And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God." Peter was going back and reporting exactly what took place at Cornelius' house. Verse 4 says, "But Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them, saying [unto them]." He started all the way back in Acts, Chapter 10, and brought them up through and let them know exactly

what happened.

Acts 11:13-18 says: "And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter; Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved [he did not get sanctified; Cornelius and his house got saved]. And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them [when a person gets saved, the Holy Ghost comes upon him], as on us at the beginning."

"Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life."

When Does a Person Receive Life?

I want you to notice that Cornelius received life. When a person is born again, or when he is saved, he receives life when he receives forgiveness of sins. He receives remission of sins, and thank God, he receives the gift of the Holy Ghost. When did the Holy Ghost fall on them? Was it a week later? Was it a month later? Was it six months later? No, at the very time of their conversion, the Holy Ghost fell upon them. How was it described? Just after the Apostle made the above quotation from the saying of the Lord regarding the baptism of the Spirit, he said in verse 17: "Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?"

Friend, you need to study the Bible. In this dispensation the Holy Spirit is always received at regener-

ation. It may be that the fullness of the Spirit may not be attained at that time, but one receives the Spirit at conversion. Of the thousands of conversions that you read about in the Bible, not one time in the whole Bible can you read that someone received the Holy Spirit and it was called being sanctified or receiving two works of grace. It was never once referred to in that manner in the Bible. When Cornelius' household received the Holy Spirit, that experience was called being saved by the man of God. They received the Spirit upon believing.

Acts 15:7-9 reads: "And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. [He was referring to Cornelius' house. What happened? They heard the Word of the Gospel and believed.] And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." Cornelius' heart was purified; he and his household got saved.

A New Dispensation

Now, there is a very sufficient question in Acts 19:2, which asks, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" This is a dispensational question. The real question is, Why did they not receive the Holy Spirit when they believed? That is the real question, because the answer to that question is in our Scripture text. The Holy Ghost had not yet been given because Jesus was not yet glorified (verse 39). They could not receive the Holy Spirit. That is not a question for us because we are past that time. We are in another dispensation. The Holy Spirit has come and Jesus has been glorified. If any man has not the Holy Spirit in this dispensation, he is none of His.

Many years ago I was holding a revival, and we drove a white van that said "Church of God" and parked it at a restaurant. When we pulled in, there was another white van there, and it said "Grand Avenue Church of God." When we returned to the van, they had put a note on our window that said, "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?" We have the Holy Spirit; we received it when we first believed.

In 1979 I got a job in a big packing house in Anderson, Indiana. They killed twelve hundred hogs five days a week and a hundred seventy-eight beef five days a week. When I was hired there, they had a union. The union had a contract with the company about our vacations, our insurance, and our dental care. Everything was in the contract, and when I was hired, I received the benefits of the same contract that men who had been there for thirty years had.

Before I was hired there, they had another contract, and it was altogether different. The pay was different and the benefits were different, but when I was hired, they did not make me live under the old contract for a few years. I came in under the new contract that was in force at the time, and that is the way it is in this dispensation. We cannot go back to the old covenant and live under that for a while and then come under the new covenant. Thank God, when you are saved in this dispensation, you get the blessings and the promises of the covenant that is in force at this time.

We read in John 14:17, "Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." Again, this is a dispensational statement. The Spirit was dwelling *with* them because Jesus had not yet been glorified. However, in this dispensation, thank God, He does not just come along *with* you; He comes *inside* at

conversion. No statement like this was ever made after the Book of Acts.

Beginning in the Book of Romans, through the Book of 1 Corinthians, and throughout the rest of the Bible, there are no Scriptures that ask, "Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?" He is with you and shall be in you because Romans 8:9 says, "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Jesus does not start the work that He does on the outside; He starts the work on the inside. He goes to the very root of the problem.

A Full and Complete Work

Matthew 23:26 says, "Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also." God does cleanse the outside, but He starts on the inside, thank God. I thank God for the Holy Spirit. The cleansing that He does is full and complete; it is not a partial cleansing. It works a perfect cure.

First Corinthians 12:13 says, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." In this verse the Apostle Paul said those Corinthians were all baptized into one body, but the verse says further that it was the baptism that brought these Corinthians into the body, or into the church. The baptism of the Holy Spirit then can be nothing else but the new birth.

Jesus said in John 3:3, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." This is the one and only entrance into the company of believers. The Apostle used the past tense to tell of the baptism in the Spirit of those Corinthians. If a person can be saved in this dispensation and still not receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit for weeks or months, we have a serious problem, because we would have people

saved but not in the body, or not in the church. Then what would happen if Jesus were to return or if they were to die in that condition? According to that teaching, they would not be in the body of Christ, or in the church, so would they go to Heaven? Jesus is coming after His body, the bride, the church.

John 3:5 says, "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." When a person is born of the Spirit, he is born again. Nowhere do the Epistles teach that the baptism of the Spirit is a blessing that a believer may obtain subsequent to his conversion. You can be sure of this, dear one, that the Word of God does not warn any believer to tarry and seek and pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit because every believer already has the Holy Spirit. If you have Jesus, you have the Father and the Holy Spirit. If you have the Father, you have Jesus and the Holy Spirit. If you have the Holy Spirit, you have Jesus and the Father.

First John 5:7-8 tells us: "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one." You cannot separate the Godhead. You cannot say, "I have Jesus, but I do not have the Holy Spirit," because these three are one. If you get one, you get all three.

The Bible says in Colossians 2:9-10: "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power." Do you know what I like about this? God does not do a halfway job. You never read where Jesus came along and said, "Come here and let me open up one eye, and come back two weeks later and I will open the other one." You will never read in the Bible where Jesus said, "Let Me touch one of your legs, and come back in a couple of weeks and I will

touch the other one." No, He does it all at one time. You never read that Jesus opened one ear on the deaf man and said, "Come back later and I will do the other one." You will never read that Jesus cast out most of the demons but left one. No, when He cast them out, He cast out all the demons. He does not do a halfway job. He does not cleanse you from every sin but one; thank God, He cleanses you from *all* sin.

If one cannot receive the Holy Spirit at conversion, my question is, How long does a person have to wait? Must a person wait a year, six months, one month, one week? Does a person have to wait a day, six hours, one hour, or thirty minutes? If it is impossible to receive the Holy Spirit when you ask for forgiveness of your sins, then why could not a person repent, believe, and immediately ask God for the Holy Spirit? Let me tell you something: if we could not receive the Holy Spirit at conversion, the Bible would have plainly told us how long we would have to wait. The reason He did not tell us how long we have to wait is that we do not have to wait, thank God. I am glad that we do not have to wait.

Ministries of the Holy Spirit

Luke 11:13 says, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" I thank God that I received the Holy Spirit the night that I got saved, because I do not think I could have made it without the Holy Spirit. I do not believe I would have been able to live a Christian life without the Holy Spirit. Thank God, when you get saved, you take the greater One home with you. You do not have to come back and wait for another week or two. You can take the Holy Spirit home with you and live a different life.

The Holy Spirit serves an important purpose in the lives of believers. There is a long list of min-

istries that the Holy Spirit performs in our lives. If a person cannot receive the Holy Spirit at conversion, then he is without these ministries of the Holy Spirit. I would like to mention a few of them and let you study and see if a person could make it without the Holy Spirit.

It is the Holy Spirit that convicts us to begin with. John 16:8-11 says: "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged." It is the Holy Spirit that regenerates us. According to the Word of God, Titus 3:5 states, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost."

The Holy Spirit dwells within every believer. We read in 1 Corinthians 6:19, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" First Corinthians 3:16 says, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

The Holy Spirit strengthens us after we are saved. Ephesians 3:16 states, "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man." The Spirit is what strengthens us. It is the Holy Spirit that intercedes for us. Romans 8:26 says, "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." It is the Spirit that makes "groanings."

We cannot even pray without the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is our guide according to John 16:13, which reads, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not

speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."

The Holy Spirit teaches us. First John 2:27 tells us, "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."

The Spirit assures us of our salvation. Romans 8:16 reads, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." The Spirit gives us the liberty that we have. Romans 8:2 states, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." The list goes on and on; there is no end to all that the Holy Spirit does for us.

Cleansed From All Unrighteousness

We cannot produce the fruit of the Spirit without the Spirit. The Bible tells us in Galatians 5:22-23: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." The Holy Spirit sheds the love of God in our hearts. If you do not have the Holy Spirit, then you cannot have the love of God. Romans 5:5 says, "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." I thank God, friend, that we have the greater One on the inside. I thank God for the night that I got up from the altar with the greater One on the inside. I thank God that some minister did not come and say: "Brother Dishman, you are saved now, but you still do not have the Holy Spirit. You will have to wait and get the greater One a little later." I would have been lost right there. I needed the Holy Spirit, and you need Him too.

Some people say that the reason you cannot receive the Holy Spirit at

conversion is that, even though God saved you, you still have inherited sin, or inbred sin. Therefore, you have to come back and get that cleansed because the Holy Spirit will not come in as long as you have sin in the heart. When I thought about that, I thought about a little three-year-old boy who wanted a drink one time when I was preaching. The church had a water fountain with funnel cups. He filled the cup with water and got himself a drink, but he did not want the whole thing, so he tried to set it down on the carpet. Every time he tried to turn it loose, it would start to fall over. He worked with it for a minute or two, trying to prop it up. He finally let loose of it, and the water spilled. That is the way false doctrine is. You can try your best to prop it up, but God's Word just knocks it down. The Truth does not have to be propped up; it stands on its own.

Whenever I was told that when you are saved, you have this inbred sin, one sin that does not get cleansed, my mind went to 1 John 1:9, which says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." You may ask, "Does that include inbred sin?" If you have it, it will take care of that too. It cleanses you from *all* sin, not all sin but one. Thank God, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses you from all sin. Every sin is washed away at conversion.

Micah 7:19 tells us, "He will turn again, he will have compassion on us: he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." That includes inbred sin, or inherited sin; it will go into the depths of the sea at the moment of your conversion. Psalm 103:3 says, "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases."

"The Spirit Itself Beareth Witness"

If you say you are saved but you still have sin in your heart, then you

have another serious problem. If you were cleansed from all sin but one, you would not be in the body because you would not have the Holy Ghost baptism. What if you were to die in that condition? Could you go to Heaven with sin? I have always been taught this:

*Heaven is a holy place,
Filled with glory and with grace –
Sin can never enter there;
All within its gates are pure,
From defilement kept secure –
Sin can never enter there.*

*If you hope to dwell at last,
When your life on earth is past,
In that home so bright and fair,
You must here be cleansed from sin,
Have the life of Christ within –
Sin can never enter there.*

Thank God, at conversion God takes care of all the sin.

I would hate to tell an individual who came to the altar: "Listen, you got saved tonight, but you still have sin in your heart. So drive carefully on the way home, because if you have an accident, I am not sure you will go to Heaven, because you cannot go to Heaven with sin." When you get off on one point in the Word of God, you will err somewhere else. The Word of God is like a puzzle, and by the help of God, if you rightly divide it, every piece will be in place, and you do not have to force it. It will just fit perfectly. However, if you get one piece wrong, that naturally is going to cause another piece to be wrong. That is what is wrong with the religious world. They have some pieces out of place, and they are trying to force it in here and there, but if you rightly divide the Word of God, it is a beautiful picture.

What is the witness? The Bible says in Romans 8:16, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our Spirit, that we are the children of God." Some folks tell you, "You do not get the Spirit at the time of conversion," but the Bible says in 1 John 5:10, "He that believeth on the Son of God

hath the witness in himself." When do you receive the witness? When you believe on the Son of God, you get the Holy Spirit, and you receive the witness at that very point in time.

A little girl confused and confounded her pastor when he preached the message on salvation. The little girl went to the altar, and the pastor went down to pray with her. He said, "Honey, do you want to be saved?"

She said, "Yes," with little tears coming down her face.

He said: "That is good. Do you know what you need to do to get saved?"

"No, I don't know."

He said, "You need to ask Jesus to forgive your sins, and ask Him to come into your heart."

She did. She cried, "Lord, forgive me for all my sins and come into my heart." Her face lit up, she got up, she believed, and she was saved. There was no doubt that she was saved. A couple of weeks later, the preacher got up and said: "Now, after you get saved, you still need to come back and get sanctified, because you do not have the Holy Spirit yet. You need the Holy Spirit." He gave an invitation and encouraged all the new converts to come forward. Here came that little girl. She wanted whatever God wanted for her, as all of God's people do. He went down and said, "Honey, do you want to be sanctified?"

She said, "Yes."

"Do you know what you need to do to get sanctified?"

She said, "No."

He said, "You need to ask the Lord to come into your heart."

She said: "I already did that. That is what you told me to do the last time."

That is what happens when you get saved, the Lord comes into your heart by the Holy Spirit. I am glad He came into my heart one night when I was so lost and so undone.

If you are not saved, that is what you need. You need the Holy Spirit. You cannot make it without Him.

Many people say, "I cannot live it," and that is right. You cannot live it on your own. If you ever get the greater One on the inside, by the grace and help of God, you can live it. You can be saved by the grace of God. You can go home with the greater One on the inside, a new creature in Christ Jesus.

Now, let us not confuse this. I believe Romans 12:1-2 should not be confused with this subject. That is for believers. Romans 12:1-2 reads: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what

is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

When I got saved, I did not know to do that. I do not want us to get this confused with being filled with the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 5:18 says, "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit."

You may say, "The way you teach it, you teach one work." No, I do not. I believe we should always strive for deeper depths and higher heights. We should always strive, church. Having the truth on this message does not mean that we just sit down and say, "I have it now." No, because we need to be filled with the Holy Ghost. There are times when we need refreshing; we need the renewing of the Holy

Ghost.

While we are on this subject, how long has it been since you humbled yourself at an altar of prayer and said, "Lord, empty me of all the unworthy things in my life and fill me afresh with your Holy Spirit?" Let us not lose that message. Let us not get away from that truth. Let us continue to seek God for more of Him. It is like this, friend, I am not looking for anything new, I just want more of what I already have. I like what God gave me, and I just want more of it. How about you? Do you want more of what God has already given you? You can come to God and have more of it. God has more of what you already have.

(Compact Disc TR-1358)

A WASTED LIFE

"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

James 4:14

It is indeed a sad and deplorable fact that multitudes of people waste their lives. They aim at nothing good, great, sublime, and worthwhile. They merely exist but do not truly live. God and the Christian life have no place in their lives. They have no goal for which they are striving, and no purpose for which they are living. They mark time, but do not use it to any great purpose. The precious moments, hours, days, weeks, months, and years pass by and they make no preparation to meet God; neither do they help their fellow man live for God and Heaven.

About all that can be said of countless millions of people is that they were born at a certain time and died at a certain time. Indeed, they wield an influence, but it is not for the good of others, nor for the glory of God. They could have been saints, but they were not. They could have blessed their homes, their country, their nation, and maybe the world, but they did not. They could have been soul winners, but they were not.

However, they might have caused many people to be lost forever, thus failing to enter into the Kingdom of God themselves and keeping others out. No doubt, many of them could

truthfully say in the language of the poet when too late to redeem their lives, their golden opportunities, their time, and souls: "Of all sad words of tongue and pen, The saddest are these, It might have been!"

The wasted life—think of it! One may waste his health and regain it. One may waste a fortune and gain another. One may throw away an opportunity, and another may present itself. However, no one ever wasted his life and redeemed it, or obtained another life in its place. There is no road to yesterday. There is no road back to the yesteryears.

This one life and then the results—the record to face for eternity. It will be Heaven or hell.

A wasted life—that's more than wasted gold, diamonds, pearls, rubies, crowns, kingdoms, and vast domains! No reward is offered for a wasted life. One may repent and be saved at the last moments, but he can't live his life again.

One songwriter penned:

*Only one life, so soon it will pass
Only what's done for Christ will last
Only one chance to do His will
So give to Jesus all your days
It's the only life that pays
When you recall, you have but one life.*

Selected



"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" (James 4:7-8). This text gives perfect instructions, and one who will follow them will always succeed in getting rid of Satan.

Notice the order of action. First, resist the devil, and he will flee; secondly, draw nigh to God. Some people spend all their time resisting the devil, and consequently, have no time to draw nigh to God. Satan does not care how much you resist in your own strength; but when you begin to draw nigh to God, then Satan trembles and flees. He is willing to fight with you for a lifetime, if he can thereby hinder you from drawing nigh to God. When Satan is resisted steadfastly in the faith and the soul draws nigh to God, there is no longer hope for Satan, and the only alternative left him is to flee. As long as you show a weak faith and listen to the suggestions of the enemy, he is well pleased. Sometimes Satan must be ignored. It is not always necessary to get on your knees in order to resist the devil. I have known persons to spend hours, and even days, almost constantly on their knees and yet come out in the end defeated, not because they did not pray, but because they did not ignore the devil, resist him, and then draw nigh to God.

Some people pray because

Satan tells them to do so. He will accuse them of having done wrong and suggest that they had better go and pray awhile. They will then go and spend an hour or two, perhaps half a day, on their knees, not praying, but listening to the suggestions of the devil and trying to get rid of him in their own strength. You should never go and pray because you are accused. When you go to pray, always pray to the Lord, who is ever willing to hear you and to grant all your needs. You need to ask Him in faith and confidence for the needed strength and grace, never forgetting to thank Him for what He has done. I have often found that the best way to get rid of Satan is to quit thinking of his suggestions – to utterly ignore him and to interest myself in something beneficial. If you have work to do, set about it, singing some encouraging song as you work, or take a Bible to praise the Lord for past benefits and rejoice in expectations of future blessings. The more you thank and praise the Lord, the less you will feel disposed to doubt or to give up.

The only reliable standard of right and wrong is the Bible. You must acquaint yourself thoroughly with the practical precepts of the New Testament. You will then be well armed and able to decide whether an impression is from the Lord or from the devil, and when you know it is the devil, you will

surely not spend time parleying with him. Some people, however, get in such a habit of listening to Satan that you will hear them say, "The devil has been after me for two or three days." The devil has been after you? Then, you really knew that it was the devil, yet you have allowed him to trouble you for two or three days. Do you not know that the New Testament says, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Again, someone will say, "The devil is trying to make me believe that I have sinned" or "The devil has been trying to make me believe this or that." Who was talking to you? If you knew it was the devil, why did you not resist him? If you resisted him, why did you not then draw nigh to God? As God would have drawn near to you, Satan would have fled. You should not spend two or three days listening to what you know is the suggestion of the devil and spend hours on your knees wrestling in your own strength against what you know is the suggestion of the evil one. If Satan tells you a lie and you know it to be Satan and know it to be a lie, you are to blame if you believe it. If you disbelieve it, you should act accordingly. Do not be afraid to let Satan know that you believe him to be a liar. You may tell him in a trembling way, as many times as you please that he is a liar, that you do not believe him, and that you believe the Lord; but little does he care what

you tell him as long as you continue to worry about what he has told you.

Now, in conclusion, let me give you a perfect plan to get rid of the devil at any time and under any circumstance. First, as I have said, you must be acquainted with the practical precepts of the New Testament, so that you may detect the difference between the voice of Satan and the voice of God. Then in your action against the devil, you

must follow carefully this order of attack. First, resist the devil steadfastly in the faith. Secondly, do not linger to see whether he will go or not, but draw nigh to God with all your heart. When Satan sees you start toward the Lord, he will become frightened and flee away. By following this order of attack, you will see that you have only a small part to perform in getting rid of the devil, and you will find it an easy task, for as Satan departs, God

draws nigh. You have but one-third of the distance to go, for as you draw nigh to God, He draws nigh to you, and Satan flees at the same rate of speed. So then, when you have drawn nigh to the Lord, you will be twice as far from Satan as the distance you have come, for as you draw nigh to God, He draws nigh to you and Satan flees away.

D. O. Teasley

2015 Camp Meeting Dates

*June 21-28 August 2-9
December 27-30*

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



Luke 2:40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.

44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's

journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.

45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions:

47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with

us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Waxing Strong in the Spirit



Brother Paul Prinkey

The Instruction of Children

I want to deal with a few thoughts concerning Jesus' childhood. The Bible tells us that Jesus is our example. Jesus grew and waxed strong in Spirit. He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him. I have four children of

my own, and when children are born into a family, there is a lot of joy. There are many things that we can receive joy from in our children's lives. As parents, we raise our children by teaching them right from wrong and taking them to church. We help them to get the instructions they need. Whenever

they have questions, we do our best to answer those questions. However, something takes place while children are growing. Sometimes it is unseen and almost goes unnoticed. They have a spirit, and as they grow older, that spirit begins to wax strong.

When my children were young

toddlers, I told them what to do, and I fully expected obedience the first time, not the fifteenth time. My father always taught me that to get a child's attention, you need to make sure that child is looking right in your eyes. Sometimes a child does not like to look you in the eye, so you must make the child have eye contact with you. Also, you must make sure a child hears and understands what you said to do. Then if a child does not do what you told him to do, you can correct him. The next time, the child will remember a little better to do what you told him to do the first time. That is the way I raised my children.

As children get older, something begins to happen that you may not notice so much at first. They begin to form their own characteristics and personalities, and their spirit begins to grow stronger. As a result, they start thinking and speaking for themselves. As a parent, you may think to yourself: "I spent four years teaching my child how to talk, and now I wish he would keep his mouth shut. He talks too much."

As children begin to build character and personalities, their spirit grows stronger. As they get into their early teenage years, they begin to form their own opinions. When they are younger, between four and ten years of age, they simply repeat what their mother and father say. As they get older, they begin to form their own opinions. As parents, the important thing that we want them to do is form good opinions, righteous opinions, and opinions that compliment God. We want them to show respect to God, to their elders, to their own parents, and to compliment their families. Then when you are with the children in public, you can be proud to say, "This is my son" or "This is my daughter." This is something we should desire for our children.

As children grow, they begin to get strong in spirit. Our Scripture text tells us that Jesus, at twelve years of age, was waxing strong in spirit and beginning to think for

Himself. Sometimes we do not always see what our children do when they are away from us, but we hope they are doing the right thing. We trust that the training we have given them and the prayers that we have prayed for them are helping them to be faithful to do what is right.

Obedience to Parents

We find in our Scripture text that Jesus had childlike tendencies. His parents did not know where He was. He did something on His own. They left Jerusalem, but they did not have Him in their company. They just took it for granted that He was with the group they were traveling with. Have you ever left a child behind? They did. It was Jesus' responsibility to make sure that He was with His parents. By the time He turned twelve years of age, they did not need to continually remind Him about what He ought to do.

Jesus tarried behind, and when His parents figured out that He was missing, they returned to search for Him. After three days, they found Him in the temple. The Bible tells us in Luke 2:47, "And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers." Verse 46 says, "And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions." A twelve-year-old boy was talking to adults. He was talking to the doctors who were forty years of age and older. Those people were the teachers of the students, and He was talking with them, asking them questions and answering their questions. They were astonished because of this gifted child and the understanding that He had.

When His parents caught up with Him, they had a hard question for Him: "Why did you treat us this way?" When your children have not done what they should have done, and you catch them or you catch up to them, should you do as Mary did

to Jesus? They walked in and said, in essence, "Where have you been all this time?" In essence, Jesus said, "Well, I was here with all these teachers, talking and answering their questions." What did Mary say? She did not care how gifted He was, how great an understanding He had, or how good His intellect was. He needed to obey His parents. This is the foundation for my message.

Young person, though you have gained lots of understanding, lots of teaching, and lots of book learning, you still need to obey your parents, even though you have just graduated from high school. No matter how much book learning you have, no matter how gifted you are, I believe it is important for children to continue to obey their parents as long as they still live at home. You need to remember what your parents have instilled in you from childhood up.

I have a sister who was very gifted and intelligent in school. When she finished the eleventh grade, she already had all the credits she needed to graduate. It just seemed to come naturally to her. My father would sometimes compliment her, but then he would add something right at the end of it. He told her, "You are as sharp as a tack, but you are twice as flat-headed." She had all kinds of book learning.

Sometimes people in business seem to have all kinds of education, but they might have very little common sense. Some may say, "They have all college and no knowledge." Sometimes that is what can happen, but you do not want that to happen to you. You want to keep those things that your parents have instilled in you from your childhood. You want to hold on to those things. There are some things that my parents taught me that I have never forgotten.

A Moral and Ethical Foundation

One time my rifle instructor (at a local gun club where I am a mem-

ber) and I were instructing some youth between the ages of eleven and eighteen. Some of the parents were sitting there while I was instructing. One of the young boys in the group made a very rude and ignorant comment. I said, "You did not learn to talk like that in Sunday school." Young person, you have some things that you need to learn. Just because you are in school and you are learning does not mean that you have fulfilled your debt to society. You owe a moral and ethical debt to other people. You are not going to get that type of learning in school. You are going to get that by going to church and being taught right.

Schools are very good for teaching children when it comes to worldly things. However, when it comes to moral and ethical living, that foundation can only be laid by our families, by the church, and by the pastor where we attend church. If you are not getting that kind of instruction, you are not getting the moral and ethical foundation built under you that you ought to have. You can get all the understanding that you want from schools, but you can still miss the most important things.

Jesus had lots of understanding and knowledge, but when it came right down to it, at twelve years of age, He still owed His parents obedience. As He grew, the Bible tells us that He obeyed His parents. Verse 51 of our Scripture text says, "And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart." Something was taking place in His life that caused a little excitement in her. There are some things that I was taught as a child growing up that my parents instilled in me through church life and through home rearing that I have never forgotten. There are some patterns of behavior that were fully expected of me as a child that I retained as I grew from childhood into adulthood.

The Apostle Paul said in

1 Corinthians 13:11, "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. " He did not put away his training or his good upbringing, but he put away the childish things. This is something that I believe is important.

Young person, you are to look forward to more of your life. You are just beginning the rest of your life. You are going to face lots of things in the future. You are going to have to make many decisions, and you are going to base those decisions on your upbringing. Sometimes you are going to make spur-of-the-moment decisions that will be based on your upbringing. This is the reason it is so important as you grow up to allow good things to be instilled in you so that they become a part of your life.

Gaining Experience

When the time came that I graduated from school and began to look for employment, I leaned on my parents for guidance and direction in my life. Sometimes I would feel intimidated because I was young and right out of school. It is easier for older people who have more experience. They have more knowledge of the ins and outs of business. When you go to a job interview, sometimes it seems as though they can be rough on you.

I can recall my father encouraging me when I was a young man looking for a job. One fellow that interviewed me seemed rough. I walked away from that interview a little beat down. My father told me not to worry about it. He said, "He puts his pants on the same way you do, one leg at a time." Do you know what that did? That gave me encouragement, and the next time I went in for a job interview, I walked in with a little more confidence. I did not feel so backward or bashful. You have to learn to stand up for yourself. Before you always had your mother and father to stand up for

you. However, there comes a time when the props are taken away, so to speak, and you have to learn to stand up for yourself.

Many times I have seen something that happens every spring. The birds are having their young at that time of the year. Have you ever seen a bird just fluttering across the ground? It cannot fly yet, but it is out of the nest. Have you ever wondered how it did that? Oftentimes the young bird does not last long because there are either too many cats in the neighborhood or something else at night gets it. When that happens, it brings to my mind how sometimes people do the same thing.

As young people grow up, sometimes they think they have the world by the tail, so to speak. They just jump out of the nest and take off as if they have everything in the bag, so to speak. However, the world often gobbles them up and spits them back out. This reminds me of what Mark Twain had to say about his father. He said: "When I was eighteen, I thought my dad was the dumbest man on the face of the earth. By the time I turned twenty-one, I was amazed at how much he had learned in three years." It was not his father who had learned; it was Mark Twain.

Many times when you are young, you feel as though you have all the answers. You think you have everything figured out. For a few years you think, "What those old people are telling me is nothing." A few years later, you begin to realize they were telling you things that you should have paid closer attention to. It could have helped you in your life. You could have made it a little further along had you listened to what they said.

Keeping Good Company

There are some items that I want to discuss about what we learn growing up. We need to retain a few things that we learn as we go through life. First of all, we need to

pay attention to the company that we keep. When I was a child, my parents did not let me keep company with just anybody that I wanted to hang out with. They were old enough to see the direction that a young person's life was going and the things that they were involved in. They knew I did not have any business hanging around them, because I would turn out to be just as they were after a while.

My mother always quoted 1 Corinthians 15:33 to me, which says, "Evil communications corrupt good manners." She made it clear that if I were to keep bad company, that is how I was going to turn out. As I got older and began to branch out on my own, I remembered that teaching and watched the kind of people with whom I kept company. I tried to make sure that they were clean living individuals. You cannot always control the people that you work with, but you can control who you keep company with. You cannot control what students you are around in the classroom, but you can control who you hang around in between class periods and before and after school. I believe it is important that we remember to choose good company.

I have told people this before: you take one good child and put him with a group of ten misbehaving children, and that one good child will not change the behavior of those ten misbehaving children, just as putting your well child in with ten sick children will not make the sick children well. Do not expect your well child to make them all better. Most likely, those children will infect your child.

As a child, sometimes I resented the fact that my parents would not let me keep company with my own two brothers, but my parents knew how they were behaving. I would ask, "Why can't I go with them?" It was because they knew what my brothers were doing. They did not tell me all the ins and outs of it, but they said no, and that is all that I needed to know. After a while, I

learned why they would not let me keep company with my two brothers. Now they are good company, thank the Lord, but they were not always that way. Sometimes you may resent some things that your parents tell you to do or not to do. Whenever it comes to keeping good company, that is something that you need to practice all your life. It will be a benefit to you.

Being Faithful

How about keeping your word? My mother and father always stressed how important it is to be a man of your word. When you tell somebody something, you need to be sure to follow through with it. You should not make promises and then fail to follow through. If you do, you will tear down people's confidence in you. Nobody will trust you, nobody will believe you, and nobody will count on you. Why? You cannot be counted on to keep your word. When you tell someone something, you need to be sure it is something that you can do.

If for some unseen reason you are not able to keep your word, you ought to be sure to let them know. In this day and age, almost everybody carries a cell phone with them. There is no reason that you cannot either send a text message or make a phone call to let people know that you are not going to meet them as you promised or you are going to be late or whatever the case might be. Be a person of your word. When you make a promise, you should follow through with it. You need to be someone that people can count on. You need to make sure the pastor can count on you. The Bible talks about not forsaking the assembling of yourselves.

Another thing that you need to carry with you from your childhood is the way you dress, the way you keep yourself, your cleanliness, and your outward appearance. First impressions are very important. There is going to come a time when you are going to want a job. The first

impression is really important. You are going to be interested in a young lady or a young man. The training and upbringing that you had as a child in learning how to dress is important. My mother always taught me to keep my shirt tucked in and to look neat. You might not have the best of clothes, but you can at least look neat and clean.

Last of all, you need to be faithful to church. The church is counting on you. You may say: "I just graduated, and now I am going to go out and look for a job. I just cannot commit myself to as much as I used to for the church." In some ways that might be true, but the church still needs you. This world is going to come and go, but what we do for God is what matters. This is the reason Jesus said in Matthew 6:19, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal."

You may say, "I need to get another job so that I can get a nice house and find a wife." You might have some justification for what you are doing, but you need to maintain your commitment to God as you grow older. Your responsibilities are not going to grow less as you get older. They are going to become greater. You thought it was hard in school whenever you were studying for your final exams. You thought it was tough when your teacher made it hard on you and sent you home with lots of homework, but it is going to get worse than that. It is not going to get easier. I am not a doomsday preacher. I am just telling you the way life is. Life is going to get tougher.

Keeping God First

The time is coming when you are going to seek a companion to marry, and then your responsibility is going to grow even greater. You need to remember your faithfulness to the church. You must keep God first. We each have a list of priorities. We might not have them writ-

ten down somewhere, but we have them. We have a list of the things that we want to do. However, there is something that we always need to remember, and that is to keep God first. You must make it a practice to put God first in your finances, in your home life, and in your church life, and God will bless you for it.

In the Bible we read how God has made us promises over and over again. If you will bring what you have into God's storehouse, God will give you everything that you need. He will give you more than you can comprehend, more than you can understand. In Luke 6:38 Jesus said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over." God will give you all that you need.

After my wife and I were first married, we made it a priority to tithe on the gross income of every paycheck. We did that all the time, and God always supplied our needs. We put Him first, and God made sure that we had everything that we needed. He has never failed us, not one time. He has never been late. We got anxious a few times, but it was all for nothing, because God took care of it.

God is still doing the same thing today. He is just as faithful today as He was when I first got saved. He is just as faithful today as He was down through the ages. He is just as He was in the Bible times. God will be faithful to you if you will keep Him first.

Living for God is a lifelong endeavor. God will help you to put everything in your life together where it belongs. He will never let the burden get too heavy. Things may seem to get so complicated that you cannot keep Him first and take care of everything that you are responsible for. However, God wants you to enjoy life. He wants you to have fullness of life. The Apostle Paul told Timothy that God gives us richly all things to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17). That is something that we can count on from God. If we will put

God first, love Him first, and keep Him first in our lives, He will supply everything we need.

A childhood upbringing is important. There are things that you will learn from your parents that you will never forget. If there are things that you resent your parents saying, then give it a few years, and you will be repeating the same things to your own children. I find myself saying to my children the things I could not stand to hear my mother say. Those things bothered me because I knew that as soon as things did not go my way, she would preach the same message to me that she had all my life. Now I find myself using those same words on my children because they are true. There are things that my mother and father taught me when I was growing up that I have never forgotten. I find it true to life, the longer I live. This is the way it works.

Showing Respect for Others

When the time came for me to seek a companion, I wanted my parents' approval. I wanted to know what they thought about the girl that I liked. I sat down and talked with my parents about it. I could make up my own mind, but I just wanted to hear what they thought about it too. I told them who I was interested in, and my father said: "She is a good girl. She is a good Christian young lady. I do not think you could do any better than choosing her." That meant much to me. It gave me a little more encouragement.

I called her father first and asked him if it would be all right if I dated his daughter. I had not asked her yet. She did not know anything about it. I wanted to clear it with her father first. I am not saying this is the way you have to do it, but this is the way I chose to do it. I felt it was right. I got his permission, and then I called and asked her if it would be all right if I came to see her. She gave me permission to date her.

There were just some things

that I was taught that were old-fashioned, and I felt they were right. When I put them into practice in my life, they worked. I was told they were right, and then I proved them, and now I know they are right.

I have a list of things that you ought to practice in your life. First of all, you should always tell the truth. If you tell a lie, you will feel that you have to tell another one to cover it. Then you will never remember all the lies that you have told. It is important to tell the truth. Second, you should treat others with respect. Respect is something that many people are a little shy on in this day and age. You need to treat your fellow man with respect. Third, you should not argue with your parents. You ought to do what your parents tell you to do the first time. What your mother and father say is final. I tell my children that what I say is not open for debate. Your mother did not say what she said so that you could discuss it with her. She told you, and it is your job to listen. It is not your job to question or to argue with her about it. It is your job to do it.

Fourth, you ought to respect the property of others. There are some things that ought to be off limits to you. You should not invade somebody else's personal space. You need to keep a respectable distance. Fifth, if you get something out, then you need to put it back. If you drop something, then you need to pick it up.

I trust you get something out of these thoughts and that they might be a benefit to you in the days to come. I trust that the Lord will bless you.

(Compact Disc TR-1167E)

**When the OUTLOOK
is bad, try the
UPLOOK!**

Psalm 89:15 Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance.

16 In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted.

17 For thou art the glory of their

strength: and in thy favour our horn shall be exalted.

18 For the LORD is our defence; and the Holy One of Israel is our king.

The Joy of the Lord



Brother Richard Talbot

An Important Ingredient in the Life of a Christian

I thank the Lord for these verses of Scripture. Psalm 89 is a beautiful chapter to read concerning the mercies of the Lord and how He poured out His favor on the children of Israel. Verse 15 is what I want to focus on in our Scripture text: "Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance." I am glad for the knowledge of the joyful sound, and I am thankful that we

can know the joyful sound.

I like to be joyful, do you? I would much rather be happy than to be sad. I would much rather be happy in my soul than to carry a heavy weight of burdens and troubles. There is joy in the Lord, and joy can be had even in the midst of trouble. This joy that I am talking about is not just a feeling. It is not something that you can experience in a physical manner. This joy is not from getting something that you have wanted for years and you finally have it, so you are happy

about it. That kind of happiness only lasts for a little while, but the joy that I am talking about far exceeds anything that you can ever experience in this temporal, physical world. I am talking about a joy that comes from Heaven, a joy that comes from knowing Christ. This joy settles down deep in the soul of mankind. It lifts him and strengthens him in the midst of his affliction and in the midst of trouble. When your heart is breaking, when there is sadness all around you, you can have a joy that the world knows

nothing about.

Joy is an important ingredient in the life of a Christian. First of all, you will never know what it is to really be saved until you know that joyful sound. Joy is important. In Isaiah 12:3 the Prophet Isaiah said, "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." Joy becomes a dipper, or a means of supply. He said "out of the wells." The word *wells* is plural. This implies that many, many times, God is going to deliver you out of problems and trials. He will bring salvation and victory to you in every battle. In every situation of life, you can draw water, the Holy Spirit, the supplier of the power of God, right from the wells of deliverance that God brings to your soul. The child of God is not left alone.

Again, in verse 3 Isaiah said, "Therefore with joy. . . ." Let us look back at verses 1-3 to find out why he said, "Therefore." The Prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 12:1, "And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me." God was angry with me one day, and He helped my mother to be angry with me. God and my mother kind of ganged up on me; that was double trouble. God was angry with my rebellion, my stubbornness, my hardheadedness, and my aggravating ways. God was angry with me because I would not submit myself entirely to Him. One day God won. He conquered that evil power working within me.

Dear parent, you should never grow tired of correcting, disciplining, and holding the line. I am convinced in my own experience that is one of the only things that helped me to surrender to God. There came a time when I realized I was fighting against the Lord and destroying myself. God was angry with me, but that anger was turned into love, mercy, and comfort. God took me into His arms just as a parent does his child after he has been punished and has suffered for a while. As a

parent, you should not baby a child after you have disciplined him. You should let him endure his pain for a while, and then you can go back and show him some love and kindness.

I have a little grandson who has learned the nature of grandpas. I heard his mother tell him the other day, "Now, don't you go crying to Papaw." As soon as she corrects him, he runs over to Papaw, because he knows Papaw does not know that he got corrected. So I pick him up and hug him and say: "What's the matter?" He likes the comfort of Papaw's arms, and I like to give it, but it is not always good for him. If I know he has been corrected, I do not do that. I say, "Go and talk to your mother about it." Sometimes I do not know that he just got punished. I think maybe he got his feelings hurt somewhere along the way. They know what Papaws are for, do they not?

Spiritual Development

Isaiah 12:2-3 reads: "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation."

First Peter 1:8 says, "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory." Do you know the joy that is unspeakable? You cannot really explain it, but you know it is there. You cannot tell just exactly how it is, but you know it is in your soul, and it is joy unspeakable and full of glory.

Nehemiah 8:10 says, "The joy of the LORD is your strength." I thank God that in this passage of Scripture we learn of people who were blessed in the Lord due to their expression of the deepest kind of appreciation that could ever be felt. This appreciation is expressed with joy and gladness. When someone does something special for you, you do not just thank him one time, at

least I do not. I tell that person thanks just about every time I see him for a long while: "Thank you. I remember what you did for me, and I appreciate that." We thank people for things that are done. Oh, how much we ought to be thankful to our great God for His great deliverance! Who could be saved today if it had not been for God's intervention in our souls? He stopped us in our tracks and called us when we were in sin. He could reach the lowest of us and bring us up to the highest plain of holiness and righteousness with Him. We ought to be a people settled in that great joy.

I have never wanted to live a mediocre life. I like excitement, challenges, and adventure, as long as it is not too much. I like to face the enemy, as long as it is not too severe. There have been times that I have gotten more than I wanted, but I enjoy living for God. I do not want to be a Christian hidden away that blends in with the world so that no one can tell that I am a Christian. I want to be a Christian that the world can see is different. I want to be somebody the world can look at and say, "Now, there goes a man who is living a godly life." Too many people are content to blend in with the crowd so they are not really on display. Do you know why? They do not get persecuted as much.

I remember when I was a boy in school. We were always taught to ask the blessing over our lunch. Our mother would tell us before we left for school, "Don't forget to pray over your lunch." To me, that was hard to do, sitting in the cafeteria with all the rough and rowdy children all around me. I looked around, and everybody else was gobbling down their food, and I sat there, not having taken a bite yet. I was fighting the thought of having to pray. I did what I could to hide it because I was embarrassed, but I got tired of that.

One day I made up my mind that I was going to get victory over that, and I bowed my head publicly, closed my eyes, and asked the Lord to bless my food. When I got done,

people looked at me as if to say, "Why are you doing that?" They ridiculed me and laughed at me, but after a while, they got over it and I was able to do it comfortably. You have to break the ice, so to speak. The point I am making is that this is all a part of spiritual development, or a part of growing in the things of God and becoming spiritually strong.

The Gospel's Joyful Sound

I can remember the first time I said amen aloud in church. I was in my early teens, and many of us boys always sat in the front. I prayed and prayed about saying amen aloud, and one Sunday morning I made up my mind before I left the house, "Lord, if You will help me, I am going to say it this morning." Some time during Brother Barber's message, I said amen. I glanced around to see if anyone heard me, and nobody seemed to pay any attention. When I got home, I asked my mother if she heard me, and she said no, she did not hear a thing. I thought it was loud, but it must not have been very loud. It was an effort that helped me to start saying amen to the messages as they went forth. I thank God that if you have the desire, God will make a way.

I enjoy serving the Lord. There is a joy in salvation that has satisfied my soul. I am happy in the Lord! Now, I have had sad days, and I have had days of real trouble. We have had lots of problems down through life, and there have been days when I got out of bed without a feeling of emotional joy. However, I had something down deep inside that satisfied, comforted, and kept me on the strait and narrow way and let me know that God was still with me in the midst of my dark night. God was still there, and this is the joy that I am talking about. The devil cannot touch this joy. The trials cannot affect this joy. The darkest night cannot rob you of this joy. God said He would give you a song in the night and joy in the morning.

There is a real experience with God.

The Old Testament is full of joyous occasions. They had times appointed for joy, and we are appointed salvation in our day for the joy of our souls. I remember reading in the Old Testament of the joy they had as a result of hearing the trumpet sounding in that forty-ninth year of the setting apart of the fiftieth year as the Year of Jubilee.

The trumpet in the Year of Jubilee announced that all captives and slaves were to be set at liberty. That is just the way the Gospel's joyful sound sounds. It is a universal proclamation of liberty to the captives, but to what description of captives? It is to all sinners, to all who are lost, and to all who are bound in the chains of evil habits, sinful habits, sinful behavior, wickedness, and ungodliness. If you are a captive, you can be set free. There is joy in the Lord!

The debtors heard the sound of joy, the cheering sound of the jubilee trumpet. They, too, were set free from all their debts, and they were at liberty. Every fiftieth year, what a victory! If they could only make it to that fiftieth year, they would be free from their debts. Looking at it in a spiritual sense, each of us was a debtor. We owed a debt that we could not pay. We were in debt beyond any human explanation.

There was no way our debt could ever be satisfied by our doing anything. Jesus came, took my sins, my wickedness, my evil, my ungodliness, and nailed them with Him to the Cross of Calvary. Through His blood, my debt was released. When I believed in Him, He set me free and said: "Son, I paid it all for you. You do not owe anything now. You have a clean slate." Oh! With joy we draw water out of the wells of our salvation.

Knowing the Joyful Sound

The Jubilee also announced that all who had forfeited or mortgaged their possessions were to be restored

in their full right to them again. What a time of rejoicing! It appears that the only ones blessed were those whose hearts and minds were turned and fixed on the Lord. I want you to think about this in the Scripture reading, which says, "Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound."

Psalm 44:3 states, "For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favour unto them." God takes pleasure in being able to favor His people. I feel special because God favors me. He looks on His children with special favor and blessings that no one else can even come close to enjoying.

God blesses the saints right in the midst of wickedness and ungodliness as our nation is being sucked down the drain, so to speak. Morally and righteously, our nation is crumbling more and more every day. However, in the midst of all the ungodliness and all the wickedness, God is favoring, blessing, strengthening, and encouraging His people. Saints, we are a blessed people, favored of God.

As we bring these things into our time, we must consider ourselves in the light of the Scripture to the sound of the jubilee trumpet, a joyful sound. It brought release to servants, to debtors, and to those whom it proclaimed free. The Gospel message is intended to be a joyful sound, a sound of victory and of liberty. The trumpet is like the sound of the abundance of rain. Blessed are the people that hear it and know it and bid it welcome.

I want you to notice the meaning implied in our Scripture text, which says, "Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound." He did *not* say, "Blessed are the people that *hear* the joyful sound" or "Blessed are the people that *feel* the joyful sound," but he said, "Blessed is the people that *know* the joyful sound." They have an intimate relationship with

that joyful sound. You can have this joyful sound if you cannot hear anything at all. You can have this joyful sound without feeling. Without any temporal, earthly reason for having joy, you can know that you have the joy of salvation in your soul. Hearing alone is very cheap. Many people hear the Gospel message. Thousands of people hear it, but sometimes not even ten in a thousand come to know the joyful sound. It is more than feeling or hearing; I am glad that I came to know it.

There was a time when King David and Israel brought up the ark of the Lord to Zion. We read in 2 Samuel 6:15 that it was brought up "with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet." Suppose that we have the understanding of the sense and the substance of the thought and feeling conveyed. This must be the meaning of the words of Jesus when he said in John 10:3-5: ". . . the sheep hear his voice. . . . and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow . . . for they know not the voice of strangers."

This joyful sound has a special tone to it. You have heard about dog whistles and the little gadgets that you can put on the bumpers of your car that are supposed to scare deer out of the way. They are supposed to give off a sound that animals can hear. I do not know how you would know if a dog whistle is working or not because experts say that humans cannot hear it. If you were to blow on one and a dog would still come at you, you would wonder if the dog could hear it. It is supposed to be a sound that only the dogs can hear. God has a sound that only His saints can hear.

The Shadow of the Almighty

Sometimes God whispers. In the Old Testament you can read of a sound one day that went through the mulberry trees, and the people took courage and went to battle. God knows how to speak to our

souls; He knows how to speak and communicate that joyful sound.

The Gospel is a joyful sound because it is a proclamation of mercy and forgiveness to the guilty and the rebellious. It proclaims liberty to the enslaved. It produces peace to those who are in trouble, and they become blessed in their lives. Oh, what invaluable privileges are contained in this blessedness! We are blessed even in death.

Our blessing carries us even beyond the grave. We are never without that joyful sound. While the body is being viewed in a casket, that soul is enjoying the joyful deliverance. The final trumpet of jubilee is sounding for that soul crossing over to the other side. You should never lose this joy, child of God. This is a joy that can be eternal; it will go with you all the way.

While there is rejoicing in your soul, that same joy is coming back to the family members as they are gathered around the casket of that loved one. There is a deep joy that comes into the souls of those believing loved ones. They know that God is there to comfort and strengthen them. When my father and my mother passed away, I had a deep joy in my soul that held me and comforted me in those days. I thank God for something that is real. I thought as they were passing on into that glorious eternal abode with the Lord, the same joy that carried them over was sustaining me, holding me true and faithful to the cause.

Consider what blessings the Lord poured out upon those of old. There was a man by the name of Luther Bridges who wrote the song entitled "There Is Within My Heart a Melody." The story regarding that song says he was a young evangelist who was going to hold a meeting in Kentucky. He took his wife and three small children (all boys), to his mother-in-law's home, and they stayed there while he went to a revival meeting in a distant town in 1910. While he was in this revival meeting, near the end of the meeting, he received a late night tele-

phone call. It was news that his wife and three children had been burned to death in a fire that destroyed his mother-in-law's home.

The news so affected him as he grieved for his wife and children that he asked himself, "How could this happen to me while I was doing God's will?" That was a natural feeling. Have you ever had that thought? I have never had to go through what he went through, but there are lesser things that I have had, and I said: "Why me? I am Your child, Lord? Why is this happening to me?" At such times, God will talk to you and deal with your soul and remind you that He is still in control. This so affected Luther Bridges that he was stunned and became inactive for some time. The Lord later spoke to him about continuing his evangelism, and he began to prepare himself in prayer and study, and he stopped asking God why. He said one day the Lord spoke to him through His Word and told him, "The LORD is my portion, sayeth my soul" (Lamentations 3:24). "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty" (Psalm 91:1). He thought to himself, "The secret place . . . the shadow of the Almighty—I can trust that; I can count on that." Through those two verses, he realized the God of all the earth would not fail him nor forsake him, and it inspired him to pen the following words:

*There's within my heart a melody
Jesus whispers sweet and low,
Fear not, I am with thee, peace, be still,
In all of life's ebb and flow.*

*All my life was wrecked by sin and
strife,
Discord filled my heart with pain,
Jesus swept across the broken strings,
Stirred the slumbering chords again.*

*Feasting on the riches of his grace,
Resting beneath his sheltering wing,
Always looking on his smiling face,
That is why I shout and sing.*

*Though sometimes he leads through
waters deep,
Trials fall across the way.
Though sometimes the path seems
rough and steep,
See His footprints all the way.*

*Soon he's coming back to welcome me,
Far beyond the starry sky;
I shall wing my flight to worlds
unknown;
I shall reign with him on high.*

*Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,
Sweetest Name I know,
Fills my every longing,
Keeps me singing as I go.*

Most of the songs that we sing in the Church of God hymnals are songs that were inspired through adversity. Others were inspired through joyous times, but the majority of them came to us from people who were experiencing severe difficulties, tragedies, or hardships. Yes, blessed are the people who *know* the joyful sound. They are blessed, and they walk in the light of God's countenance. They have reason to rejoice all the day. They are exalted in righteousness. Their God is the God of glory. He is the glory of their strength, and they have favor with Him. They are strengthened and exalted; they have the Lord God for their defense. Their king is the Holy One of Israel. Let us not forget these blessings and favors fall only upon those who know the joyful sound.

Knowing God Is a Reality

You must consider yourself. Have you lost the joy, that really deep joy that accompanies salvation? Is there a void or an emptiness in your heart to the degree that you do not feel anything at all? Perhaps you do not really feel saved or unsaved, but you feel empty. That is a dangerous place to be and to stay. Do you find yourself thinking often about how wonderful it was to know that you were free from your sins?

Once I preached a message on

spiritual zombies. The word *zombie* is used to describe a person considered to lack energy, enthusiasm, or life. Everything can be happening around them, and they are not aware of anything. Some people sit in church services with the joy of God splashing all around them, yet they sit there unmoved. They do not feel a thing. They are not moved or excited about anything. Then there are those who have lost all appreciation for the fact that their sins have been forgiven. Some people seldom give any really consecrated thoughts toward the things that concern their soul's salvation.

I ask you to think of how blessed it is to really know that you are saved. I want to know that I am saved and that my salvation is up to date. I want to know that I am right with God and that God's favor is upon my life. I want to feel the deep reality of a living Christ in my being. I do not want mere words or a feeling, but I want to know that it is real in my soul. I want to know that all my sins are forgiven and under the blood, that through Christ I have truly been made a new creature, and that through His power I have victory over sin, Satan, and self; then I no longer have to fear dying, death, or hell. By keeping myself in God's love, I can be kept by His power.

I think of the songs that we sing many times, such as "Joy Unspeakable," "There Is Joy in the Lord," "Joy in the Service of the Master," "Happy in the Savior," "I'm Glad I Counted the Cost," "There's Music in My Soul," "The River of Pleasure," "I'm Happy, Redeemed, and Free," "Everlasting Joy," and "Blessed Quietness."

Joy is something far deeper than the happiness of the flesh. There is a reality in serving the Lord. Life is only on the human scale. People live to their own expectations or the expectations of others. A school used a test and divided children into three groups. The children in the groups were equally average students. None of the children was special or outstanding in any way.

They were ordinary students. However, those who were in charge of the study placed these three groups under three different teachers and told each teacher the different status of the students. One teacher was told that her group consisted of exceptional students. The second teacher was told that her class had only average students. The third teacher received a class with students that were classified below average. Then they left them there for an entire school year.

These three teachers subconsciously treated their students just as they had been classified. At the end of the year, the group of students that had been classified as being exceptional students tested far above average. The second teacher's students who were rated as average scored merely in the middle, and they did nothing spectacular. The third group of students who were classified below average ended up with below average grades, because the teacher did not expect much. She had the below average children, so she lowered her teaching to their supposed level. The one that had the above average children said: "These are smart children! I really have to tone up my lessons here and teach higher." Each group performed in accordance with how they were expected to perform.

Believe and Receive

A lot of times that same concept comes into the Christian life. Many people live less, have less excitement, less joy, and less vibrant lives for Christ because they do not expect to ever do much for God. God is no respecter of persons. An old saying is this: "If you bring God a thimble, He will fill it. If you bring Him a five gallon bucket, He will fill it. If you bring Him a fifty-five-gallon barrel, He will fill that too." Let us dump the thimbles and the buckets and bring some barrels. Let us expect great things from God. He desires to pour His favor out upon us.

If you are in a lost condition, you do not know the joyful sound. The Spirit of God is ready to sound the trumpet of jubilee for your benefit. You can know that it is time to throw out the old life and receive the joy of salvation. You can be delivered; you can be set free. Every habit of life can be broken by the power of God. You can be released from every habit of life by the power of God. You do not have to be bound by any sin. As the trumpet sounds, victory in Jesus is yours if you will just believe and receive. You need to yield to the Spirit of God. Will you let God have His way

in your life? Will you recognize the reality of your own condition? Will you be honest with yourself and be true to your soul?

In the New Testament you can read that God had sent His angel down and broke Paul and Silas loose and opened the doors of the prison. That jailer came in ready to commit suicide. He thought all his charges had broken loose, and the message came forth from Paul, in so many words: "Do thyself no harm. We are still here." The jailer put his sword away and called for a light, and that light brought him to salvation. You do not have to harm your-

self. There is a light shining. God's light of deliverance is ready to set you free.

If you are a professing Christian but you have lost that vital life existence with Christ, why not come back and repent? You need to ask for God's forgiveness. God can rekindle the fire in your soul. He can blow upon those burning embers and make you alive again. You just need to yield to the Spirit of God and listen to what God is saying to you.

(Compact Disc TR-1227M)

Meeting Announcements

Summersville, WV
October 20-26

REVIVAL: The Church of God, 74 Armstrong Road, Summersville, WV 26651
Evangelist: Brother E. David Stegmeier, Canby, Oregon
Service times: Monday-Friday 7:00 p.m.; Saturday 6:00 p.m. and Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
For further information contact: Pastor Earl R. Borders
Telephone: 304-872-4047
Visit our website at: www.ChurchofGodSummersvilleWV.com

Canby, OR
November 25-30

FELLOWSHIP MEETING & REVIVAL: The Church of God, 522 NW 2nd Ave., Canby, OR 97013
Evening Evangelist: Brother Richard Talbot, Ovapa, West Virginia
Service times: Tuesday & Wednesday 7:00 p.m. and Thursday - Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
For further information contact: Pastor E. David Stegmeier, 552 NW 2nd Ave. Canby, OR 97013
Telephone: 503-266-9297

Newark, OH
December 28-31

WINTER CAMP MEETING: The Church of God, 675 N. Cedar Street, Newark, OH 43055
Service times: Sunday - Wednesday 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Afternoon teaching service: Monday - Wednesday 3:00 p.m. Heated dormitories. Three meals served daily in dining hall, plus the snack stand is open in the dining hall after the evening services. Bedding is supplied; please bring your own towels.
For lodging reservations contact Brother Dave or Sister Ruby Bush, 725 N. Cedar Street, Newark, OH 43055, or call 740-345-1213. Please make reservations in advance, if possible.
For further information contact: Pastor Roger L. Decker, 87 Decrow Ave. Newark, Ohio
Telephone: 740-344-2543

FALL 2014 CAMP MEETING RECORDINGS

Recrd. No.	Date	Message Title	Minister
TR-1384	8-03-2014	A True Concept of Life	Bro. David Stegmeier
TR-1385		The Change That Took Place When Jesus Came	Bro. Roger L. Decker
TR-1386	8-04-2014	The Spirit of Compromise	Bro. James Presley
TR-1387		Winning Souls Series: Bible Definitions to Winning Souls (Bad Recording)	Bro. David Stegmeier
TR-1388		What Goes Around Comes Around	Bro. Larry Dishman
TR-1389	8-05-2014	The True Israel	Bro. Roger L. Decker
TR-1390		Winning Souls Series: Our Vision and Burden (No Recording)	Bro. David Stegmeier
TR-1391		People Looking for a Church	Bro. Calvin Foster
TR-1392	8-06-2014	The Great Tribulation	Bro. Roger L. Decker
TR-1393		Winning Souls Series: Qualifications	Bro. David Stegmeier
TR-1394		How to Treat Your Pastor	Bro. Larry Dishman
TR-1395	8-07-2014	Sanctification	Bro. Roger L. Decker
TR-1396		Winning Souls Series: Tools	Bro. David Stegmeier
TR-1397		Influence	Bro. Calvin Foster
TR-1398	8-08-2014	The Great Mystery of Christ and the Church	Bro. Adam Wolf
TR-1399		Winning Souls Series: Rewards	Bro. David Stegmeier
TR-1400		The Peaceful Dwelling Together	Bro. Calvin Foster
TR-1401	8-09-2014	The Witness of God Is Greater	Bro. Allen Polston
TR-1402		Blessed Are the Merciful	Bro. Larry Dishman
TR-1403	8-10-2014	The Anchor of the Soul	Bro. Richard Talbot
TR-1404		What Lies Beyond Death's Door?	Bro. Larry Dishman
TM-339	2014	Fall Camp Meeting Songs #1	
TM-340		Fall Camp Meeting Songs #2	
TM-341		Fall Camp Meeting Songs #3	
TM-342		Fall Camp Meeting Songs #4	
TM-343		Fall Camp Meeting Songs #5	
TM-344		Fall Camp Meeting Songs #6	
	2014	Fall Camp Meeting Choir Songs # 1	
		Fall Camp Meeting Choir Songs # 2	
	2014	All Morning Messages in MP3 Format (1 CD)	
		All Evening Messages in MP3 Format (1 CD)	
		All Songs for the Fall Camp Meeting in MP3 Format (1 CD)	

All messages and music recordings are available only on regular CD's or MP3 format. DVD's are available for most services, but not the afternoon teaching services. The suggested donation for regular CD's is \$3.00 each and for DVD's is \$5.00 each. The suggested donation for MP3's is \$10.00 each. The postage is \$3.00 for one CD or MP3 and \$0 .35 for each additional. Recordings may be ordered by writing The Gospel Trumpeter, CD Ministry, 675 N. Cedar St., Newark, Ohio 43055, or by calling (740) 345-1312, the Print Shop. Make check or money order in U.S. funds payable to The Gospel Trumpeter.

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