

"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. 47 June 2017 No. 6



Church of God Tabernacle in Newark, Ohio

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

Psalm 122:1

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

Guest Editorial

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

Brother Roger L. Decker Editor
Workers Too Numerous to Mention

THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

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

SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS

PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH

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

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CAMP MEETING TIME IS NEAR

Another camp meeting season at God's Acres is near. June 18, 2017, we will gather on the old campground to worship with the saints of God. It is always a special time to enjoy the godly atmosphere. This is a time when we can get away from the hassles of life and have our souls refreshed. What a wonderful opportunity to feast on heavenly manna and the good things that God has for us! God is preparing things for us that will encourage, strengthen, and lift hearts. He is so gracious to enrich us with greater wisdom and understanding. The Lord wants to challenge His saints to keep pressing toward the goal.

The Psalmist David penned the words, "I was glad. . . ." What was he glad of? He was glad to get to go to the house of worship where he would be fed heavenly manna. He knew the importance of going to God's house. It was there that he could receive help and instruction for spiritual needs. He also looked forward to joining with others and enjoying fellowship with his brethren.

It is always a busy time around God's Acres in the weeks before the meeting. Much work must be done to clean up after the winter months. All things are being made ready for your arrival. Great labor has been put forth to get the campground and the facilities ready for your stay. The appearance of God's Acres is certainly important, but that is not our highest priority. Having a spir-

itual atmosphere for people to come into is our greatest desire and purpose. Our burden and prayer is for the Holy Spirit to be free to work and to do as He pleases in the services. When He is in the midst and having His way, needy souls are able to find help and hope. Camp meeting is not only for the lost and down-trodden but also for the saints to have their strength renewed and their souls encouraged.

We are living in troublesome times, and the forces of evil have been turned loose against the people of God. These Satanic forces are determined to destroy our faith and defeat us, if possible. His purpose is to turn all true Christians away from the path of holiness and righteousness. Dear one, we need all the godly instructions and directions that we can receive from the Lord. Learning about the old paths and understanding those things that please God are more needful today than ever before.

In Hebrews 10:25 the Hebrew writer told us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. It is through hearing, believing, and obeying the Word of God that brings victory to the soul. James also proclaimed good admonition when he said to "be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22). This is no time to relax our efforts or become indifferent. Paul instructed in Philippians 3:14 to "press toward

[continued on page 7]

Matthew 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35 For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his

angels:

42 For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

How Much Is a Soul Worth to You?



Brother Roger L. Decker

Having a Burden for the Lost

Some Christians are losing sight of what the true mission of the saint of God is and the reason Jesus left us here. He did not save us just to take us to Heaven, but He left us here so that we could be witnesses for Him. He also gave us His Holy Spirit. I do not believe that we have

even touched the tip of the iceberg, so to speak, of all that Jesus can do for us.

It has been estimated that 95 percent of all church members have never led a single soul to Christ. Now, I realize that some are more gifted than others along the line of soul winning, but this is a startling report of all the people who profess

to be Christians. God is going to hold us accountable for the time that He has allotted each of us in this life. Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

God is not going to judge you according to your knowledge, your fame, or your fortune, but according to your obedience and the help you

give to others. You do not need to have a special calling to do something for God. Our Scripture text mentions things that pertain to everyday life. Those are needs that are all around us: some are hungry and thirsty, some need clothes, some are in prison and need visitation. To give help to others in need is to give it to Jesus; to withhold it is to withhold it from Jesus.

The burden on my heart is that God will show His people the true value of a soul. How much is a soul really worth to you? Church, we should not become satisfied with the progress in winning the lost. Surely God has blessed us with the Truth and with natural blessings, but it is only as we walk in the light and understanding that He gives us that He will bless us. I am concerned that many times people lose sight of what the real need is.

When was the last time you talked to a soul? When was the last time you won a soul to Christ? The earmark of a child of God is not how well he can sing or preach or testify, or how skillful he is with words. The main earmark of a child of God that amplifies that a change has taken place and remains in his life is having a burden for the lost.

When I got saved, I wanted to convert everybody around me. I did not have much knowledge of the Bible or much wisdom, but I had zeal. I wanted others to have exactly what I had. I wanted my family and friends to be converted right away.

Evaluate Your Soul Burden

When a child of God really gets hold of salvation, he receives a missionary spirit and a zeal to win the lost. He wants to spread the good news of the Gospel. When I got converted, I was excited to go to my family and tell them the good news. I thought surely they would want to get saved right away. I had a lot of zeal. What zeal comes with salvation!

Living the Bible standard is necessary, being zealous for the

Truth is necessary, and standing for Truth is also necessary. However, winning the lost ought to be a top priority in your life. There is a difference between the spiritual Christian and those who act like babies. The spiritual people in a congregation have a burden for the lost. Those who act like babies in a congregation are burdened for their own problems, their own hurts, and their own motives. They live a life of self-pity, because they are still in the baby stage. God wants them to branch out and get beyond their own motives and their own problems and see the lost, dying souls on their way to hell.

The spiritual Christian can give others the key to unlock the prison doors of sin and set them free. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 13:5a, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." The Amplified version says, "Examine and test and evaluate your own selves to see whether you are holding to your faith and showing the proper fruits of it." Every Christian needs to do this. You need to truly evaluate your soul burden.

First of all, you need to look in the Word of God and evaluate the value of a soul. How much is your soul worth? Jesus said in Mark 8:36-37: "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" If you could gain the whole world, your soul would tip the balance. There is no comparison.

First John 2:16 reads, "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." Let us say that you do have everything that your soul could crave and all that your eyes desire, but you lose your soul. What would you have gained? What would you have accomplished?

The world and everything in it is temporal, but your soul is eternal. What shall a man give in exchange for his soul? What do you have that is worth as much as your soul? What

is it that you are clinging to that you think is worth as much as your soul is worth? Child of God, when you look at a person and converse with him, you need to remember that a part of him is eternal and will live somewhere forever, in Heaven or in hell. How much is a soul worth? Jesus let us know that even if you gain the whole world but die lost, you are still a loser.

Everyone is eternity bound. I know people like to push the thought of eternity out of their minds, but that does not change the fact that we all are eternity bound. Some may be a lot closer to eternity than they realize. Each of us has an appointment with death. You did not get to set it up. God set it up. Hebrews 9:27 states, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

You have something inside you that is worth more than the best this old world could offer, and that is your soul. Many people are careless with their soul. They will protect their new cars when they buy one. They will park far away from others in the parking lot. Some even park at an angle so no one will get close to them, yet they will contaminate their souls with the filth of this old world. They have their values mixed up.

How you act spiritually is a tell-tale sign of how you value a soul. Sometimes you may be watched by someone who is weak, and the way you act may affect that person's soul. Are you a soul winner? You are going to give an account for the deeds that you have done in your body. How many souls are slipping daily that you could reach out to? They have needs. Could you reach out to them in some way to help them?

Are you among the 95 percent of church members who have never led a soul to Christ? Certainly God gives room for new converts. Perhaps you have been working with someone for a long time and that person has not given his heart to the Lord. God gives room for that. I am talking about those who never do

any personal evangelism. If you say that serving God is the number one priority in your life, surely you would want to share it with others. You should want others to enjoy the same thing.

Sometimes young people do not have a real soul burden. Often they have the same burden they see their parents have. When children see their parents wrapped up in the cares of life, many times they do the same thing. Often when they see their parents wrapped up in sports, they get wrapped up in sports, and then it is difficult to get them straightened out and into the Kingdom of God. Why? Often there is some pride that goes along with that.

If children see parents with a real soul burden, working to win the lost, they stand a good chance of doing the same. We have a job on our hands as parents to teach our children that the most costly and the most precious possession a person owns is his or her soul.

We have great needs before us. In the midst of trials, adversity, and persecution, we can still be soul winners. In Acts, Chapter 12, we read that Peter was cast into prison. James, the brother of John, was killed with a sword, but verse 24 says, "But the word of God grew and multiplied." When you receive the Holy Spirit into your heart, you will have a natural burden for the lost that comes with the gift of the Spirit.

Obeying the Call of God

The Prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 6:1-8: "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him

that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

"Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." After the sin had been removed, what was the next step? The Prophet Isaiah said, "Here am I; send me."

Ezekiel 2:1-5 states: "And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee. And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me. And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day. For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD. And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them."

The Prophet Nehemiah received news about what was going on in his homeland. We read in Nehemiah 1:1-6: "The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace, That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province

are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.

"And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven, And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments: Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned."

We could take a lesson from these Old Testament prophets. God used them mightily. Everyone gets encouraged when they read the Book of Nehemiah. What a job God laid upon his heart! He rebuilt the walls through much adversity. Look at the burden these Old Testament brethren had. Ezekiel was told to go and preach. He had to preach to the stiff-necked and the rebellious, but he obeyed the call of God.

Having a Missionary Spirit

Speaking of Jesus, John 4:4 tells us, "And he must needs go through Samaria." Why did Jesus want to go there? A woman was there, and she went to Jacob's well to draw water. After a conversation with the woman, Jesus revealed that He was the Christ, and He gave her a drink of Living Water. The Bible says she left her water pot, because she had something better. John 4:28-29 reads: "The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" A missionary spirit touched her soul.

You can read of Paul's burden in Romans 10:1. He said, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God

for Israel is, that they might be saved." Romans 9:1-3 reads, "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh."

What was Paul saying? He let us know that he would be content to be cut off from the land of the living. They hated him and were thirsting for his blood, and they persecuted his name; therefore, he had sorrow of heart. The zeal for their salvation overruled all the evil they could do to him. He would have been content to be excommunicated from the land of the living, from the society of the faithful, and not be remembered among the saints if it would have done those who persecuted him any good and would have brought them salvation. No wonder God used Paul so mightily!

Paul had such a great burden. He took stripes across his body, he was shipwrecked, he was thrown out of a city and stoned. No one could have endured all of that unless he had a real burden for the lost. May God help us. You can read of the great perils that he went through—perils of the deep, perils in journeying, and perils among false brethren. He stood mightily, as a pillar in the Church of God.

Today some people are ready to quit God when they encounter the slightest little problem or offense. Something is wrong when people are ready to quit serving God so easily. Look at Paul's burden. He said he would have had all his happiness in Christ cut off if it would have done those people any good. He said he had great heaviness and continual sorrow in his heart.

John Wesley rode the length and breadth of England on horseback, burdened for the sin-hardened countrymen that he knew. Other well-known evangelists include Jonathan Edwards and Charles Finney. Charles Finney's revivals

sometimes lasted for months at a time. In one revival in Rochester, New York, he preached a revival for six months. Six days wear some people out today. An estimated five hundred thousand souls were converted under his ministry.

Other great evangelists were Dwight L. Moody, Billy Sunday, Charles Sturgeon, and D. S. Warner. These are some of the great giants of God. Coming right on up to our day, we had Brother Emerson A. Wilson. Winning souls to Christ was a top priority in the lives of all these men. God wants you to have that same soul burden. This does not stop with an individual. God's Holy Spirit is not all tied up in a select few individuals. God wants all of us to reach out in a greater way, but it takes keeping the flesh under.

What made these men so great? Why did these men stand out? Is God a respecter of persons? No, God is not a respecter of persons. He does not reach down and grab one individual and shove others back. He uses those who take hold of His promises and put Him as the top priority in their lives. Those are the ones whom God uses in a mighty way. These men put themselves out for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God.

A Lack of Consecrated Service

Why is it that today many people lack zeal and lack a great soul burden? Once in a while, the pastor has to stir up people's burden for souls. What is a revival for? Revival starts with the church. When the church gets stirred up, the sinners will come in. There is no lack on God's part. God is always ready and willing, and we know He is able. There is no question about that, but can He find people who will look past their own problems and see the lost? Can He find such an individual in you? Will you look past your own wants and your own problems and see a struggling soul going under?

We have access to the same Holy Spirit that set the church

ablaze on the Day of Pentecost, but what is the problem today? On the Day of Pentecost, we read that one hundred twenty were gathered in the Upper Room. The Bible says they turned the then-known world upside down. The Holy Spirit has never lost any power. The Holy Spirit is the same through all ages.

It takes time to win the lost, and it is difficult for the Lord to find anyone who has time to be used of God. It takes time to be used of God. It takes time to work with a soul. When I thought of this, I thought of the many times the saints worked with me when I was lost. They visited me many times. Brethren spoke to me, sometimes through a telephone call. Too many people do not have that kind of time; they are too busy.

First Chronicles 29:5b asks the question, "And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD?" Today many people have gotten themselves so involved with the cares of life that they do not even give God time so He can lay a soul upon their hearts. Do you pray and ask God to lay a soul upon your heart? God is not going to lay someone upon your heart if you do not have time to follow up. It is more than just going to an altar and saying, "Lord, lay a soul upon my heart." You might need to deal with somebody for a month or six months or longer. It is hard for God to find anyone who is willing to take that kind of time.

Some people profess to be spiritual when, in reality, they lack the Holy Spirit. Often they are active with church activities. What is a tell-tale sign that something is wrong in your soul? A burden for the lost is not there anymore. It becomes merely a duty to attend church twice on Sunday and on Wednesday night. The real burden and zeal for the lost is not there as it once was.

Some people are willing to wear themselves out going to revivals, traveling here and there, visiting other congregations, but they will not go next door to the neighbors

and tell them about Jesus Christ. They will talk about anything and everything but what God wants them to talk about. Friend, if you do not have a soul burden as you once had and with the zeal that you once had, you need to make sure that sin is not lying at the door and crowding it out.

Are You Willing to Work With Souls?

Your soul is worth more than this whole world. If you are lost, every true Christian wants to see you saved and living victoriously for God. The price has been paid; the sacrifice has been given. The good news is, you do not have to be lost. You do not have to live any longer in sin. You need to obey the Gospel and forsake sin. God will save you, and then you can have eternal life.

Saint, how much is a soul worth to you? People all around us are in trouble. If you seek God's face and ask God to lead you to a soul, and mean that from your heart, He will lead you to a soul that needs help.

In Acts, Chapter 8, you can read

that Philip was in a great revival down in Samaria. The Gospel was preached and a revival had broken out. Devils were cast out and bodies were healed. Salvation was certainly on display. That good man of God, Philip, who was so busy, said an angel of the Lord spoke to him and told him to leave that revival and go to a desert area. That is the value of a soul to God. There in the desert was a man who wanted to be saved. For one soul, God took a great man of God like Philip out of Samaria and sent him out into the desert.

Why did the Lord choose Philip? He picks those who are busy for God because He knows they will take the time and follow His instructions. He is not going to pick someone who is not doing anything for Him, because He knows they would not go anyway. He chose one who really had a soul burden. Has the Holy Spirit spoken to you? What if He told you to go and speak to a neighbor? What if He told you to go to a nursing home or a hospital to visit someone? What if God told you to speak to a friend about his soul? Would you do it? Has it been so

long since you have heard from God that you cannot even discern His voice?

What is the true value of a soul? Do you really want God to lay a soul burden upon your heart? Do you want to see the work of God increase or are you satisfied with the way you are? I am not satisfied. God has greater heights and deeper depths for His people. Are you willing to consecrate your service to the Lord? Not everyone is willing. Many people are willing to sing or testify, but not everyone is willing to get involved in personal evangelism.

Some are under an old spirit of remorse, and that spirit will drain every bit of spiritual strength out of you. It is time for the church to rise. Let God know that you are willing and ready to do more for Him. He will give you direction. He knows where needy souls are, whether they are at work, in the grocery store, or wherever they may be. Are you ready to be used of God to win others to Christ?

(No recording is available)

[Guest Editorial—continued from page 2]
the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." If we ever expect to make it through with victory, we are going to have to press firmly against the odds.

Camp meetings are designed with people's spiritual welfare in mind. Our deepest desire is to provide a spiritual atmosphere for those who come to God's Acres. We

encourage you to come to camp meeting and be spiritually renewed and refreshed. We trust that the Lord will make a way for you to be here. Every effort and sacrifice put forth will surely be amply repaid.

Brother Roger Decker extends a special invitation for each of you to join us here at God's Acres for the camp meetings this year. Last, but not least, if you have not begun to

pray for the camp meeting, we earnestly ask you to do so. God's direction and presence are most certainly needed in every service. Please pray for God to send the messages that we need to hear. Having Him in our midst as the honored guest is of utmost importance. He is our only hope of ever making it through to Heaven.

The believer's talents are not to be laid up for self but laid out in service.

Psalm 127:1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

2 It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

4 As arrows are in the hand of a

mighty man; so are children of the youth.

5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

Psalm 128:1 Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways.

2 For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.

3 Thy wife shall be as a fruitful

vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.

4 Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD.

5 The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life.

6 Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.



How to Have a Happy Home

Brother Reggie Stegmeier

God Has a Plan for the Home

Everyone the world over is on a quest for happiness. That is the underlying pursuit of all people. The institution above all other institutions that God ordained is the grounds for producing happiness in our lives, and that is the God-ordained institution of marriage. Sad to say, however, because of sin and the work of the devil, many marriages have become battlegrounds. Much hardship and many heartaches have come as a result of tumultuous homes.

The good news is, God has a plan for every one of our homes,

and it is found in His written Word. People need to go back to the blueprint, and that is God's Word. Every home can and should be a safe haven, a barrack for producing spiritual offspring and a place where happiness, love, and peace abound.

Many homes are like war zones. I work personally with hundreds of young people, and it does not take much time working with a young person to know that he or she has come from a divorced home, a separated home, a foster home, an adoptive home, or is being raised by a person other than the parents. I know because of the behaviors, the attitudes, and the actions of that

child.

I want to draw your attention to two verses in this Scripture passage. Psalm 127:5 reads, "Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them [the antecedent for that pronoun is children]: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate." Psalm 128:2 says, "For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee."

I want to direct your attention to the home, the most basic and the oldest social institution in society. No other single force is causing as much measurable hardship in this country as the collapse of marriage.

Too often what should be a place of happiness is a place of much unrest because of sin. Social media posts present many homes as something they are not. Remember, what you see in an online post does not always present the true picture of that relationship or home. Many homes only look as though they are running smoothly. They are beautiful pictures of unity according to what is said or what is posted. However, too many times the condition of some homes is just the opposite of what is portrayed.

Countless homes are in turmoil. There is fussing, arguing, and fighting, and innocent children are left wondering if this is the way life is supposed to be. Your home does not have to be turbulent. Your home does not have to be a place where there is fussing, fighting, and bickering all the time.

Sometimes the first couple years of marriage can be rough. If you have been married for a while, you might have forgotten how rough it was. When two people who have never lived together, sometimes from many miles apart and from two different worlds, are joined together, it may take some time to get used to each other. The relationship may not always go smoothly and be beautiful and happy and loving and a perfect picture of happiness. Sometimes a couple must work through situations, and God wants them to do that. He does have a blueprint for having a happy home.

The church is no greater than the families that assemble there. The worship of God starts in the home. The oldest institution for raising spiritual children for serving God is the home. A father and mother should love each other and love the children. The parents should express that love to the children in a genuine way at home with their kind words and actions. I have often said that children give a true picture of the condition of a home. Many times parents go to church and have a happy look on their faces and express how wonder-

ful everything is, but the children tell the true picture of that home. Sometimes they portray a much different picture than what is presented by the parents.

The Quality of Homes

Someone once said that the strength of any nation is in the quality of its homes. Charles Dickens, the nineteenth century writer, said, "In love of home, the love of country has its rise." The Apostle Paul, in speaking about the responsibilities of a widow, wrote in 1 Timothy 5:4, "But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety [or holiness] at home [one translation says their first responsibility is to show godliness at home] and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God."

The admonition here is good, not only for widows but also for parents. The first place to show piety, or godliness, is at home. As a parent, your responsibility is to express the life of Christ by your actions, your dress, and your words, at home first, and then at work and in the community.

There is an expression that says, "A devil at home, a saint abroad." It describes the horrible tendency to be gracious and outgoing to those in the outside world but harsh and unkind at home. When you are around people all the time, there is a tendency to become harsh and careless with your words. What is the warning? Your experience with God is no greater than it is in the home. You have no more power with God, with your fellow man, or in your community than you have in your own home.

If a person is acting like a devil at home and a saint abroad, God's approval is not going to be on his life, and his influence is not going to be good. Sooner or later, what is on the inside is going to come out. There is a failing that is not confined to any particular class of people. Young people have to guard against

it. It is easy to be friendly with your peers and yet be a terror to your parents.

A husband may maintain a charming front with business associates and then when he comes home, he turns off the charm and becomes his normal, irritable self. A wife may appear sweet and submissive to the public and yet boss around her husband at home. It is often the case that individuals are meanest to those who are the closest to them, who do the most for them, and who, deep down, they love the most. We need to be careful of how we treat those closest to us.

If you want to have a happy home, home should be the "holy of holies" in a person's life, a place where ultimate love and acceptance are found between parents and their children. The real test of a parent's spirituality is in the home. After Jesus cast the devils out of the demoniac man, the man had a noble request. He said, "Lord, I want to go with You." Although that was a noble request, Jesus told him to go home.

Your greatest influence and your greatest responsibility is at home. That is where God is calling every parent. How are things in your home with your husband or wife and with your children? The number one problem that children face today is not a lack of nutritious food, a lack of technology in the world, or a lack of other earthly resources. The biggest challenge children are confronted with today is trouble at home between the husband and the wife.

It is not so much poverty, unemployment, or a lack of this world's goods troubling the minds of youth, but it is conflict and tension in the home. This is destroying the minds and the lives of precious young people. You show me a man or a woman unfit for society and I will show you a home where the rod was spared, where praise was seldom heard, and where parents invested little time and interest in the lives of their children.

"Except the Lord Build the House"

One songwriter said that parents' faces tell of worried minds, while children search but cannot seem to find. I want you to consider four points in our Scripture reading that, if heeded, will make your home a happy place.

In God's Eternal Word, you will find His blueprint, or pattern, for the home. He instituted the home thousands of years ago as the first institution. He knows how a home is supposed to be run. I am talking about the home of one who is truly saved. Jesus said the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon the house, and it fell not. Why? It was built upon a rock, or as the Greek says, "the rock." First Corinthians 10:4 tells us "that Rock was Christ." This is the type of home I am preaching about.

Let us look at the tools that are available to us. If you will meet the conditions, I guarantee you on the authority of God's Eternal Word, you will have a happy home. I think you can see by the world around us there is a need for happy homes founded upon the Word of God, where the mother and the father take the things of God seriously, study God's Word, apply God's Word to their lives, and live the message.

How can you have a happy home? How can you improve the quality of your home? We find in our Scripture reading in Psalm 127:1, "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." The word *vain* is a Latin word that means "empty, or without substance." Your life and your home is empty, or vain, if you are not building on the Word of God. We find that the first point in making your home a happy place is, the Lord must build the home.

To build a home without the Lord as the center of all that takes place in the home is futile; it is useless, ineffective, and unsuccessful.

God must be involved in the courting process before a home is even formed. God must build the foundation for a home long before marriage. After you are married, you want to be able to look back and say, "God, You brought us together, and You can keep us together." How was your home formed?

A successful marriage is always a triangle: it is a man, a woman, and God. However, in many marriages God has been left completely out of the picture, and then people wonder why married life is such a struggle when they have neglected the things of God. Marriage can be a struggle, and it will be a struggle without God. Marriage is supposed to bring happiness, not heartaches.

Proverbs 18:22 states, "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD." Brother, if you have a Christian wife, she is a good thing. She is a blessing, not a curse or extra baggage that you have to tote around. She is your helper. One rendering says, "The one who finds the wife, finds what is enjoyable and receives a pleasurable gift from the LORD." Do you think the wife should bring happiness to the husband? Absolutely! The husband should do the same for the wife.

Genesis 2:18 reads, "And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; [If you are a married man, it is not good that you should be alone either, because a host of temptations will work on you. You need to be with your wife, and the wife needs to be with her husband as much as possible. If you need to be out of the home for work, when work is over, you need to get home as soon as you can.] I will make him an help meet for him."

If you have endeavored to do some task, how welcoming and wonderful it is to have someone come along and help you lift part of that load. That is the way it is with your spouse. She is supposed to be a helper and a welcome presence in your midst. She should be enjoyable to be around. If you will start treat-

ing your companion as a good thing, as an enjoyable and pleasurable gift, you will find more happiness in your relationship.

God's purpose for creating basic family unity in the home was to express Christ's union and relationship with the spiritual body, the Church of God, and to produce spiritual offspring. Just as we cannot have a church without God at the center, you cannot have a home with love between the husband and wife for the Lord first, and then for each other and for the children.

Controlling Your Tongue

Again, our Scripture text in Psalm 127:1 says, "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it." God very plainly tells how to have a happy home, and it starts with how you build it. Young person, if the companion you are pursuing is not saved and is not the one to whom God has definitely led you, you are setting yourself up for a lot of trouble in the days to come. I am talking about how to have a happy home. It starts with how you build it. That should be your top priority. As you read in the Scripture passage, the Lord must build the home.

We find that much turmoil and distress in the home comes as a result of unrestrained tongues—from degrading, demeaning, and negative speech.

If you have children, you have to build up their confidence so they can do bigger things. Some parents do not do that. Some parents say things such as, "That is stupid" or "Get away from me" or "I've already heard that." The children's poor little egos are crushed in such a home.

I teach an elective, and the students are in class because they want to be there. I am going to tell you how to have success with children. You need to build them up, not tear them down. Certainly, there are times when you have to correct them, but you should always try to follow that up with some kind words

of admonition. This is how you have success with your children. You need to show kindness in how you speak and in your language.

Many parents just need to control their tongues, not only in speaking to their children but also in speaking to their spouse. Your speech to your spouse should be good and uplifting. Some men are terrors. They run down the wife and act as though she can never do anything right. The food is never cooked right and never tastes right. Is that how you act? The second point is, if you want to have a happy home, you must control your tongue.

First Peter 3:10 reads, "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile." This is how to have a happy home. Too many homes are in turmoil because one or both spouses either say too much or say the wrong things. They do not say that which edifies or builds up. They nag, belittle, or say negative things all the time.

As a parent, you need to be so careful with the words you speak to your children. They are little. King Solomon spoke about our vines having tender grapes. Jesus talked about the weak little ones. They have tender consciences that can be crushed and hardened so easily. Parents need to be careful of their speech. I wonder how many little children are in homes where Daddy and Mommy argue, scream, fight, and become impatient with them? How many speak harsh, abusive words or become harsh and abusive in their handling of them? Parents must remind themselves daily that their children are still learning, and before they react to what the children have done, they need to take a deep breath and relax and get the whole story.

Some people are too quick to respond, and they do so in an abrasive, harsh manner, and then they live to regret it. I have learned just to step back and relax and think it through for a moment before I

react. Sometimes children want their mother's and father's attention, and they should have their attention. I have had to learn these things. I am still learning, and I will have more to learn.

Be Encouraging and Optimistic

David prayed a beautiful prayer in Psalm 141:3 when he said, "Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips." In other words, David was asking the Lord to watch what goes out of his mouth. You need to remember that it takes two to have an argument. An argument cannot go very far when one side gets quiet. The quickest way to shut down an argument is to seal your lips.

In a home where there is an unsaved companion or when a problem arises (Jesus said the floods and winds would come), you can still find happiness and retain your godly example, or witness, if you will learn to hold your tongue. Ephesians 4:29 says, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." It takes great wisdom to know how to speak, when to speak, and in what tone of voice to speak. Children know when you are angry by the tone of voice you use.

The Amplified version says in Ephesians 4:29, "Let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word nor unwholesome or worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth, but only such [speech] as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace (God's favor) to those who hear it." Kindness and forgiveness should fill your home. When you teach children how to always be kind and how to forgive quickly, you set them up for success in life. Many dangers and pitfalls lurk for the child who has not learned to show kindness and forgiveness quickly.

Happiness within the confines of the home must continue in our treatment of one another. Our talk and speech to one another plays a large role in how we feel about one another and ourselves. Husband, once in a while, your wife probably wants to hear that she is pretty and beautiful and that God gave her to you.

Wife, your husband would like to hear you say nice things as well, but probably not quite as much. Husbands probably want to hear, "You fixed that car nicely." Husband and wife, it is good to express your appreciation of each other.

You do *not* want to build a home on negativity and pessimism. You should be encouraging and optimistic. When you work with souls, you have to be optimistic, because you might work with many, many souls and only win one. Also, you must work with optimism with your children. Children should not have to grow up in a home where nothing is ever good enough. It is okay to give compliments. Some people have such a hard time giving a little compliment. It is good for you, and it is good for the hearer. You should encourage your children and your spouse that what they are doing is great and appreciated.

Children Are a Blessing

The third point to make your home a happy place is, children are essential to happiness in the home. The Apostle Paul had some admonition for Timothy in 1 Timothy 5:14. He wrote, "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully." An old minister of God said that a home is incomplete without children. Think of the excitement and the joy children bring to the home. Psalm 127:5 says, "Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them [speaking of children]: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate." If God does not

give you children, He may give you some other children who do not have parents to care for them, or He may get you busy in the work of God where there are children.

Children bring great joy and happiness. They are not a burden; they are a blessing. I have yet to read that children are a burden when they are raised in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Children are a blessing, and saints of God should view children as a blessing.

In the Bible you can read that Jesus used a child to illustrate some aspect of His kingdom during His earthly ministry. Now, He could have chosen anyone, but He chose children for a reason. By listening to and interacting with children, you can gain much truth and learn many lessons. A true saint of God likes children.

God thinks much of children. They came from God. They have been given to parents to be raised and nurtured in the admonition of the Lord. What a blessing children are! Think about the lessons of forgiveness, the lessons of humility, and other lessons that they teach us constantly. Children forget bad situations very quickly. Sometimes they can have a scuffle or a problem, and it will be over in mere minutes, while some adults tend to hold grudges for years.

In our Scripture reading we find that happiness in the home comes from all members of the household laboring to fulfill their God-ordained responsibilities at home. Happiness comes into the home when the father, the mother, and the children are rightfully fulfilling their place in that home. If anyone gets out of order in the home, such as a mother trying to usurp her authority, the husband becoming too severe, or the children disobeying their parents, that home is out of order with God and there is conflict.

Fulfilling Your Responsibilities

The fourth point that I want to make concerning having a happy

home is that every member of the household must fulfill his or her God-ordained responsibilities. When the father, the mother, or a child fails to take the rightful place in the home, or is absent altogether, the other members of the family unit suffer as a result. It affects the overall tenor of the home. Those who hope for a happy marriage will do well to remember that in the word wedding, the letters "we" come before the letter "I." Success in a marriage is more a matter of *being* the right person.

Homes where both the father and the mother reside in harmony with each other and with their children are becoming increasingly rare. Consequently, the ruin of this most basic unit has created and produced an abnormal society. The real breakdown in society starts in the home. Social media outlets and newspaper outlets do not foster happy homes.

The entertainment industry and the social culture in which we live does not promote one man and one woman for life; in fact, it preys upon and highlights extramarital affairs and sending children off to babysitters all day. That is not a God-ordained home. What does the Bible say about the places a father, a mother, and children should have in their homes? How can you have a happy home?

In Genesis, Chapter 35, we find that Jacob and his family had transgressed. They were commanded to go back to Bethel, where they had gotten off track, and make things right. The Bible says God talked to Jacob first. Why? Jacob was the head of that home. God said to Jacob in Genesis 35:1, "Arise, go up to Beth-el, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God." Fathers ought to take charge in worship. They must see that the family is at church when the doors are open. That is a godly father's responsibility. If the family is not there, it falls on his back. If you are in a situation with an unsaved companion, things might have to be

handled a little differently. Paul gave instructions concerning that. You can win your spouse by your godly conduct. I am talking about a God-instituted, God-ordained home that is happy.

In order to find happiness in the home, a father must take the lead. We find in verse 1 that Jacob took his family to church. In verse 2 we find that before they went to church, Jacob cleaned house: "Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him. . . ." Jacob told everyone in his house to get rid of idols and all their idol worship, and he told his children that what they had on was not godly and to change their garments. How many fathers do that today? How many fathers look at the household before they leave home? How many check the mother and the children? Once everyone is dressed godly, then they should go to church or out into the community.

Jacob was a real example in Genesis, Chapter 35. In verse 3 we find that he restored the family altar, or family worship. As a father, your responsibility is to take the spiritual leadership in the home. In verse 4 we find that Jacob's family obeyed him and buried their past. Some homes would do well to bury their past and move forward with God. Do you need to bury your past as Jacob and his household did? They buried it where they had transgressed at Shechem and moved forward with God. You will never get anywhere by constantly bringing up the things you need to leave behind you.

In verse 5 we find that Jacob journeyed with his family, and they served the Lord together. When they did that, the Bible says the terror of God was upon their enemies. In other words, God protected their family from their enemies. Husband, if you will take the leadership in your home and clean house from time to time as God directs you, God's blessing will be upon your home and He will protect you from the enemy.

Living a Disciplined Life

How about a godly mother? No doubt, you have heard the saying, "If momma ain't happy, ain't nobody happy." Is this true? Is this God's Word? Is there happiness found in getting your own way? The Bible lets us know that in God's eyes a godly mother is a virtuous woman, one who is selfless and not selfish. She is one who sacrifices her needs for the needs of her family. She is more concerned about making her husband and children happy than fulfilling her own desires.

Psalm 113:9 reads, "He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the LORD." I have yet to see a mother that God has blessed with many children be unhappy if they are serving God.

When Jacob cleaned house, sought God's face, and returned to Bethel (a type of the New Testament Church of God), the Bible says the terror of God was upon Jacob's enemies. God protected Jacob and his family. A godly mother uses great wisdom when she speaks, and she is kind with her words. She is busy with housework, and she refuses to be lazy.

What is the role of a godly mother? Proverbs 31:26-27 says: "She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness." I repeat, a godly mother uses great wisdom and kindness when she speaks to her household, and she is not lazy. You will not find her laying around all day. Keeping house is a lot of work. Looking after the affairs of the household, washing clothes, cleaning the floors, and preparing meals keep a wife and mother busy.

We find that children are instructed in God's Word to obey their parents in the Lord, for this is right. The Bible lets us know that it is good. Lamentations 3:27 states, "It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth." In other words, it

is good and it is the time. Youth is the time to discipline, and children must learn to live a disciplined life.

Most individuals who are hard to work with were raised in dysfunctional homes. Many of them were raised without a father present. They did not learn to keep themselves restrained or to live a disciplined life. Often they fly off the handle, so to speak.

As a parent, it is your responsibility to discipline your children. This requires much effort and is often difficult to do. Certainly, a parent should not take joy in administering discipline, but it is necessary, and God holds parents responsible. God has give the blueprint for a happy home in His Word.

Improving the Quality of Your Home

I ask you to consider some ways that you could improve the quality of your home. As a parent, you need to take inventory. Do you need to clean house? Does God really have His rightful place as the foundation and center of your home? Do your children see Christ in your life at home? Does Jesus feel welcome and comfortable in your home? Would your pastor or another brother or sister feel comfortable coming into your house? Someone may say, "Well, only at certain times of the day when we are not fussing, fighting, and bickering" or "Only when we are doing this activity." The Apostle Paul lets us know that piety begins at home.

Here are the four points to building and maintaining a happy home: First, the Lord must build your home. Second, you must control your tongue and only say that which edifies and builds up. Third, children are an important part of happiness in a home. Children are a blessing and not a burden. Fourth, happiness comes from the father, the mother, and the children fulfilling their rightful places and responsibilities in the home.

In closing, our Scripture text

says in Psalm 127:5, "Happy is the man that has his quiver full of them." Then Psalm 128:2 says, "For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be." Even when a marriage is "made in heaven," so to speak, maintenance work has to be done. Your home might have started with God. You might have had a spiritual, fervent, loving atmosphere in your home, but perhaps you became careless in your living and backed off in your experience with God. Maybe you ceased to feast on God's Word and failed to be in church at every opportunity you possibly could. Have you become lackadaisical? Has your home become like a war zone?

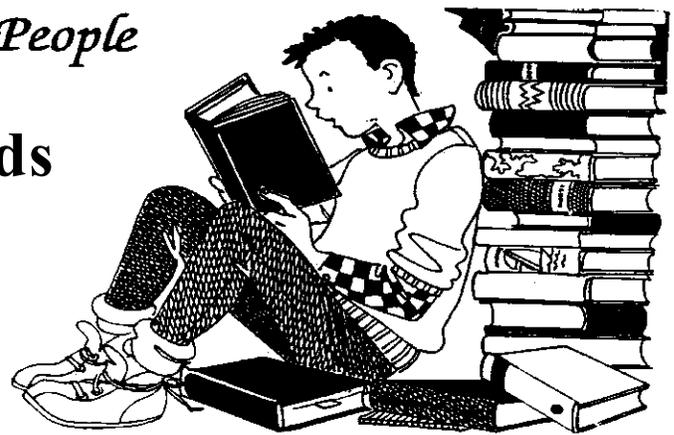
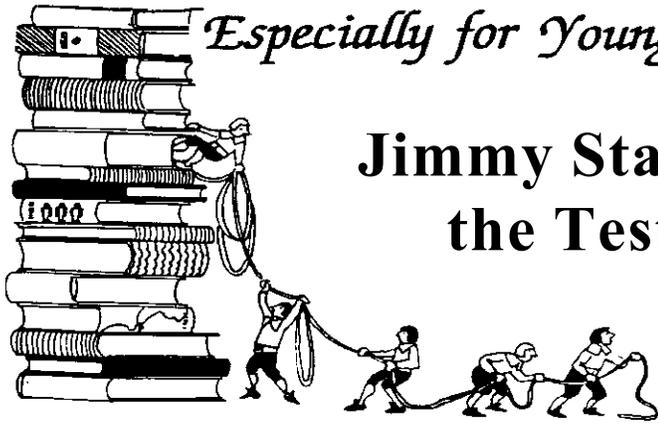
One wise man said that the beauty of the home is order, the blessing of the home is contentment, the glory of the home is hospitality, and the crown of the home is godliness. Is your home a haven on earth or like a battlefield? As a parent, do you feel that you could use a little more patience and grace when handling discipline and working with your children? How about in the evening when you are tired?

The Bible says in James 4:6 that He gives more grace. God holds you responsible for how you treat the priceless, precious, immortal souls that He has entrusted to you. How is it in your home? Is it a happy home where love abounds, where Truth is lived? Is respect for God's man and the ministry on the lips of those in the midst? Are your children taught respect for authority? As a parent, if you do not respect the pastor, if you do not respect God and His Word, what are you saying to your children in a subtle manner? You are telling your children that authority does not mean anything and that they do not have to submit to authority. If you do not listen to God, your children will live unrestrained lives, as Eli's sons did. It will bring you to a terrible end some day. How is your home? Is it a happy home?

(Compact Disc TR-1737)

Especially for Young People

Jimmy Stands the Test



Two big tears rolled out of Jimmy's bright, blue eyes and splashed down his little freckled face. He could not hold them back. His heart was aching very much. A whole lot more than the whipping had hurt. That had soon stopped, but his heart kept right on aching. He had not been saved very long, and he could not understand why God had let this thing happen to him. He had tried to do what he felt was right, but maybe he should not have told on Martha. Sometimes it is awfully hard for little boys to know what to do.

When he thought of his big sister, Martha, the tears fell faster and faster. He wiped his eyes with his shirt sleeve. Martha had been the best friend he had. When the others laughed and teased him about his "religion" and called him "little preacher," Martha always stood up for him. Now she was angry.

He sure did not see how Martha could have a boyfriend like Frank Belvins. Frank was a big show-off in front of the high school girls. He drove a shining red car and liked to scare the girls with his reckless driving. He smoked, and some of the older boys said that he even used dope, but Jimmy was not sure about that. Mom and Dad had plainly told Martha that she could not go anywhere with Frank. The other night when the folks went out to dinner, Martha slipped off and went with Frank anyway. Martha had denied it and had told them that Jimmy had lied because she had made him do

the dishes. Martha had never lied to them before and Jimmy had, back before he was saved. He had asked them to forgive him but they still remembered. So his dad had given him a whipping for lying and had laughed and said that Jimmy must have backslid. That is what made his heart ache, not the whipping. He had tried so hard to get his parents to go to church, but now they did not even think he was saved.

A little voice whispered in Jimmy's ear: "Oh, but Martha does! She knows that you didn't lie. Maybe if you will take the blame and not say anything, she will know that you still love Jesus."

The next morning Jimmy got up and put on his church clothes. Oh, how glad he was that he could go to Sunday school! Today he would get his Bible for perfect attendance. He wanted a Bible of his very own so much. Martha was not in the kitchen when he went downstairs. That was funny, she almost always got his breakfast and combed his hair. He guessed she was still angry with him. He heard his parents in the front room. That was unusual also. They always slept until noon on Sunday. He was just pouring himself a glass of orange juice when his father called to him. He set the juice down and went into the front room.

"We have decided," his father said, "that you are not to go to Sunday school anymore until you are old enough to know what it means."

"B-B-But, Dad," he stammered, "I was going to get my Bible today."

"I'm sorry, son," his dad said, "but lying is a terrible thing, and we don't want you to think that you can do that and still be a Christian."

Jimmy slowly turned and went back upstairs to his room. He did not feel like eating any breakfast. He threw himself across the bed and cried himself to sleep.

About the middle of the morning, Martha got up, dressed and went downstairs. She had had a very hard night. She had not gone to sleep until the early hours of the morning. She entered the kitchen where her mother was preparing Sunday dinner. She looked around and said "Isn't it about time for Jimmy to come home from Sunday school?"

"Jimmy didn't go to Sunday school this morning," her mother replied. Martha's troubled heart beat a little faster. What was wrong with Jimmy? He would not miss Sunday school for anything unless he was very sick.

"Is he sick?" she asked fearfully.

"No, we wouldn't let him go this morning."

"But Mom, he was to get his Bible today. That's all he has talked about for two weeks." She left the room and went upstairs to Jimmy's door. She did not hear him, so she softly opened the door and peeped in. Jimmy was sleeping, his hand tucked under his tear-stained cheek. He moved in his sleep and uttered a long sob. It was too much for Martha to take. She rushed across the room and gathered the little fellow

up in her arms.

"Jimmy," she cried. "Please forgive me! I am so sorry for what I've done to you. I love you more than a dozen Frank Blevins."

Jimmy, fully awake now but not knowing exactly what was happening, felt the hurt ease in his heart. He hugged Martha tight.

"Jimmy," his sister continued, "I'll go to Sunday school with you every time from now on. I have been wanting to, but I was afraid that

Mom and Dad would laugh at me too. I will save my allowance and get you the nicest Bible that I can find anywhere." She put Jimmy down on his feet. "Come on, let's go tell them the truth about the whole thing."

It was a happy boy that walked to church with his big sister the next Sunday. He carried the loveliest Bible that he had ever seen. On the cover, in gold letters, plain enough for anyone to read was printed,

"James Robert." His Mom and Dad had gotten it for him. They wanted him to know how sorry they were for what had happened.

Jimmy marched proudly into the church house and straight to his classroom. He said to his Sunday school teacher, "I want you to meet Martha, the best sister in the whole world."

Selected

The Father's Help

Have you ever heard somebody say: "I've tried and done the best I could, but it is hopeless. I give up." Too bad, for actually there's a victory secret. A lad was tugging at a large rock, grunting and pushing, but he could not move it. His father came up and asked if he was having trouble. "Yes, Dad, I'm trying hard, but I can't move this rock."

His father asked, "Son, are you using all available energy?"

"Yes, Dad, I think I am," and he manfully struggled harder.

His father looked at him, saying quietly, "No, son, I don't think you are, because my energy is available for you, and you didn't ask for my help."

Beloved, too often that is the difficulty. You have not earnestly sought your Father's help.



Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Old School



Brother Calvin Foster

How to Keep Your Soul From Trouble

In these last days of time, some people are questioning some of the time-honored standards of the Bible. Many people have the attitude that these ancient standards should be set aside, but the truth is, the principles in the Bible are timeless, though written ages ago. A school is an institution for instruction, education, and training. The old school that I

came up under taught me morality. It taught me what is right and what is wrong. It taught me in conduct and behavior. I thank God for the old school.

In the good old days, people were different from what they are today. People said what they meant and meant what they said. In the old school, many parents were lights, and through them their children could see what was right. In the old days, boys grew up to become gen-

tleman and girls grew up to become ladies.

In Matthew 13:52 Jesus said, "Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old." A scribe uses new and old things, yet some people in the religious world today think that we do not need the Old Testament. They want to lay it aside.

Let us take a look at the old school and its teachings. It teaches us to be faithful. What is faithfulness? Faithfulness denotes being trustworthy, dependable, and sure. A faithful person is someone who fears God and dreads the thought of disappointing Him.

Proverbs 28:20 reads, "A faithful man shall abound with blessings; but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent." First Corinthians 4:1-2 states: "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." The old school taught me to be faithful. A faithful man will abound with blessings. The Scripture says God would open the windows of Heaven and pour out blessings on the faithful.

The old school taught using your tongue wisely. Proverbs 15:1-4 says: "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness. The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good. A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit."

You have to be careful of what you say and of how you say it. Your tongue can get you into trouble. First Peter 4:14-15 tells us: "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters."

Your tongue could cause you to become a busybody. A busybody is a person who meddles in the affairs of others. Proverbs 21:23 says, "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles." The old school teaches you to keep your conscience clear. Conscience is a knowledge or a sense of right and wrong with a

driving force to do right. If you violate your conscience, it leads to feelings of guilt.

Acts 24:16 says, "And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men." When you have a good, clean conscience, you will sleep better, and your life is better. You can lie down to rest and say: "I do not have anything against God, and God does not have anything against me. I do not have anything against my fellow man, and others do not have anything against me. I have a clear conscience."

When the scribes and the Pharisees brought an adulterous woman to Jesus, He said in John 8:7, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." The Bible says that they were convicted by their own conscience, and they walked away one by one.

Adhering to the Bible Standard

The old school teaches you how to raise children. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:15 reads, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." Some people do not seem to have any patience with children. Children are going to be children, but parents need to train them in the way they should go so they do not get into trouble.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 6:1-4: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." The nurture and admonition of the Lord means to discipline, educate, train, and instruct them.

The old school teaches you how to dress modestly. First Timothy

2:9-10 says: "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." You can read in the Old Testament that when Jezebel wanted to seduce a man, she painted her face.

First John 2:15-16 instructs: "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."

Modesty is beautiful and timeless. Romans 12:1-2 states: "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." I thank God that we can still live by these ancient standards. They are timeless, and they show forth the beauty of God.

Follow the Old Paths

The old school teaches honesty. Not many people know this, but in the early 1990's a man named M. Hirsh Goldberg established National Honesty Day as a way to honor the honorable and to encourage honesty. He said he chose April 30 because April begins with a day dedicated to lying (April Fool's Day). He said that since people want to begin April with lying, why not end it on a positive note?

John 8:44 lets us know that Satan is the originator of lies. You may say, "Well, he was once an angel in Heaven." No, the devil was never an angel in Heaven. He originated lying. That old story saying the devil was in Heaven until God

got angry and kicked him out is not in the Bible. Jesus said in John 8:44, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

Colossians 3:9 tells us that lying is a part of the old man, before one gets saved. The verse reads, "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds." After a person gets saved, he puts off that old lying man. Some people can look you right in the eye and tell you the biggest lie.

Some people are hypocrites and lie. It is a wonder that God does not strike them dead for coming to the house of God and lying. You can read about that happening in the New Testament to Ananias and Sapphira. First Corinthians 13:6 says, "Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth."

The old school taught me to be thankful. Second Timothy 3:1-2 reads: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy."

Sometimes a tornado or a flood may come, and God blesses you, and you do not even get touched. Are you thankful? Do you have a job? So many people today do not have a job. Are you thankful? If your employer gives you a little bonus and he did not have to give you that bonus, are you thankful? I have seen some men look at their bonus check and say, "They could have done better than that." How about being thankful for what you did receive?

First Thessalonians 5:16-18 reads: "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." Ephesians 5:19-20 admonishes: "Speaking to yourselves in psalms

and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." It is right to thank God for the big things as well as the little things. God is good, and He deserves your praise.

Jeremiah 6:16 says, "Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein." God said to stand in the ways and see and to ask for the old paths. Do not be affected by others who are not standing and who are not asking for the old paths.

Stand on the Principles Set Forth in God's Word

We are living in a time when God is depending on His people to stand for what is right, regardless of who stands with us. Sometimes you might have to stand alone or with just a few, but stand for what is right. There is a great need in the world for people to stand for what is right. You need to know where the old paths are. What paths did Jesus and the saints of old get on? In Isaiah 35:8 we find that they got on "The way of holiness." Without holiness no man shall see the Lord.

Some people fight against holiness. The battle is against holiness. Most people do not want to live holy, dress right, act right, or think right. Without holiness no man can see the Lord. The Prophet Jeremiah called the old paths the good way. Why is the way of holiness good? It makes people good. My momma always wanted me to be a good boy, but I did not listen to her. When she passed away, I could say at her funeral: "I thank God for my momma. Momma, I'm a good boy now." The old paths made me a good boy.

The old school songs that we sing are rich and timeless. I like the songbooks with a subject index. One

subject is "Assurance." One song under that heading says, "*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!*" Another song under that heading says: "*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.*" We can sing songs about the blood of Jesus. There is power in the blood of Jesus!

There are songs under the subject of "Exhortation," such as, "Stand Up for Jesus" and "Be Strong and True." Then there are songs under the subject of "Experience," such as "His Yoke Is Easy" and "A Child of God." Praise the Lord! I am no longer a child of the devil; I am a child of God. Another category in the index is "Joy." One song there is entitled "Joy Unspeakable." A song under the category of "Prayer" is, "I Must Tell Jesus." These old school songs teach us something. In the midst of a battle at work or wherever I am, I can sing an old song deep in my heart. I may not have my Bible with me, but I can sing, "*Praise the Lord! my heart with his love is beaming, I am a child of God.*"

I am old school, and according to the principles set forth in God's Word, a Christian should not smoke cigarettes or drink alcohol. A Christian should neither lie nor steal. A couple should marry, and then start a family. Also, they should stay together and live the vows that they made to each other. Nowadays many people get divorced, but they should work through the problems and stay together.

Certain decisions in life are very serious, such as getting married, buying a home, and buying a car; but the most important decision is getting saved. When a person makes the serious decision of getting saved, he should count the cost, and then once he gets saved, he should stay saved, no matter what others say or think. It is one thing to get saved, but it is another thing to stay saved.

Ephesians 6:13-14 reads: "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able

to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having our loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness." Many people are standing for nothing and falling for everything. Where are the old paths? Where is the good way? You need to stand in the ways, ask for the old paths, and walk in the good way.

In this new school religion, which I call "the church of what is happening now," they go along with everything. When you have found the good way, you have found rest for your soul; then all your wandering will stop.

In Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus said: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Some people are wandering from barroom to barroom, from night club to night club, from man to man, from woman to woman. Others are wandering from church to church. If you find Christ, your wandering will stop.

James 4:8 says, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded." The Scripture says the double-minded man is unstable in all his ways. I thank God that He put on my heart and mind the value of souls.

Luke 15:4-7 states: "What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

You may not think you are much in the eyes of God, but your soul is worth more than all the money in the world. You are valuable to God. He does not want to see anyone lost. Christ, speaking to the Pharisees in

John 8:21, said, "I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come."

Whether you are young or old, if you do not have Christ in your life, you could die in your sins. Jesus said if you die in your sins, where He went, you cannot go. You should not play around with sin. Sin will take you further than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Do you count yourself unworthy of everlasting life? God made it possible for you to have everlasting life if you want it. You do not want to go to hell. Hell is a terrible place. Won't you pray and ask God to forgive you for your sins, come into your heart, and help you to be the person that He wants you to be?

(Compact Disc TR-821M)

THE WORD OF GOD

For feelings come and feelings go,
And feelings are deceiving;
My warrant is the Word of God
Nought else is worth believing.
I'll trust in God's unchanging Word
Till soul and body sever:
For though all things shall pass away,
His Word shall stand forever.

Camp Meeting

July 10-16

The Ninth Street Church of God
of New Castle, Indiana, invites you to attend
an old-fashioned Camp Meeting at Central
Friends' Campground

5601 E County Road 650 S, Muncie, Indiana 47302

Two services daily: Tues.-Sat. 9:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m. & Sun. 9:00 a.m.

(The first service begins Monday evening at 7:30 p.m.)

Three meals served daily, including continental breakfast.
Snack stand will be open after the evening services.

Air-conditioned dining hall. Age appropriate
activities during non-service times.

Campers & Tents are welcome.
Please do not forget to bring your own bedding & towels.

We welcome everyone!

For reservations contact: Sister Michelle Gingerich @ 765-808-8705

For further information contact:
Pastor Allen Polston
2020 Ralph Street, New Castle, Indiana 47362
Telephone: 765-521-8284

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Mastering the Skills to Resist the Devil



Brother Karl Wilson

Resisting the Adversary

Every born-again Christian must master the skills of resisting the devil in order to be successful in this life. More born-again Christians would be successful in their Christian lives and would not lose their birthright, or lose out with God, if they understood how to fight the good fight of faith, how to hold their faith, and how to recognize the devil. We each must resist the devil in order to be successful and to hear the Lord our God say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

I want to always remember all that God is and that the devil is the opposite of the characteristics of God. First Peter 5:8-9 says: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he

may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith."

Every individual who gets saved by God's grace must come to realize that the devil will never appear as he really is. He is a master at disguising himself. We must realize that nothing ever seems like it really is when the devil is involved. He makes things appear to be what they are not and what is not as though it is.

Our Scripture text says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." You have to become skillful at understanding how to resist the devil and how to recognize him, because you can resist what you can recognize. When you do not recognize something, you cannot resist it, because it does not seem to be what it is. The devil is directly responsible for all and any discouragements,

however they come. If something is discouraging you and you are walking with God, the devil is behind it and orchestrating that discouragement. You have to realize that.

If you see that a situation is pressing you down and discouraging you, you have to start resisting it. You need to look at it and understand that the devil is behind it. He is manipulating whatever you are feeling, so you have to resist. You have to understand what the fight is all about. You have to fight to maintain joy, faith, courageousness, zeal, and rejoicing. You have to maintain your happiness in the Lord.

The devil is directly responsible for all bitterness of heart, bitterness of spirit, and bitterness of soul that comes from your interaction with other people. When I understand what the devil is trying to over-

whelm me with, I start resisting. I have to step back and look, and then I call on the Father. I do not receive anything that is pressing me down. In Christ there is nothing but a lifting up. Praise our God!

The first thing you need to know about the devil is that he is directly responsible for everything wicked, unholy, unrighteous, and evil. The devil is directly responsible for every sin that a person commits against another person, against God, or against himself.

It is the devil that manipulates people and causes them to be unkind, uncaring, self-centered, self-willed, hostile, or mean. Sometimes people may think they are trying to do you a favor, but they do not understand that they have been captivated by the enemy. They do not know how to resist, and maybe they have just given over to it. The enemy is involved any time a person is going after something that is selfish in their motivation.

Sometimes people do not understand how or why they are motivated to do some things. Some people are influenced or affected by something or have a persuasion, but they do not want to be of the wrong persuasion. When it is causing stress, separation, and strife, they need to back off of that because it is not helping the situation.

What Are You Up Against?

The devil is directly responsible for any and all oppression, abuse, or hateful, injurious deeds done against anyone. I want you to understand something very essential. The devil wants to get you in a huff so that you cannot make Heaven your eternal abode. Certain characteristics cannot abide in Heaven. The enemy wants to fool you, beguile you, and cause you to get into some malicious way of viewing things. You cannot fool with that, because Heaven cannot receive it.

I want you to understand how you need to move through this life. If you are a Christian, I am sure you

would not take anything for your journey now, but you have to know how to journey. I want you to know how to walk, how to talk, how to behave yourself, and how to conduct your conversations in life. The Bible says in Ephesians 6:12, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." That is where our fight is.

The devil wants us to be downcast, discouraged, bewildered, unhappy, of a sad countenance, and sad in heart. We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against demons, imps, and evil angels. Dear one, the man who breaks into someone's car does not know the owner of the car, but the devil knows us.

If you are living for God, the devil wants you to be unhappy. He wants your head to hang down, he wants your knees to be weak, and he wants you in derision about this life. This is the reason you have to be a master of understanding. The devil is trying to cause you to become weary, tired, and confused about your journey, especially when you have pledged your faith to the Lord. When you have given God your heart and life and you are willing to live for Him with all that you have, the enemy wants to take the joy and the enthusiasm out of it. You have to watch him and understand him.

You are not up against flesh and blood. You may think you are, but you are not. The Bible does let you know what you are up against, or fighting. You have to understand this fight, because some wrong feeling or something that Heaven cannot receive could overtake you, and you cannot afford that. You want Him to say, "Well done." At the end you want to be able to say, "I have fought a good fight." You are fighting against the rulers of the darkness of this world.

Dear one, the devil will try to manipulate and control conversations. If you have pledged your life to live for God, the devil does not

want you to be happy in your Savior. He does not want you to be joyful in your decision. He does not want you to live a life of tranquility, peace, and serenity. The devil wants the Christian life to be one of turmoil and agony of mind, body, soul, and spirit. In order to master resisting the devil, there are some things you have to learn that you cannot accept. Sometimes you have to say, "I am not going to accept this feeling," because if it is pressing you down, the devil is behind it.

At times, you have to step back and skillfully understand what you are up against. You have to understand what to do. Sometimes you have to put a watch at your mouth, because the devil wants to use your words. He wants something to become a personal vendetta. In my profession I have learned to say to people, "Do not take that personally."

The devil wants you to give up. He wants to get you to feel that it is useless to try to carry on and that you should give up. He wants you to feel that you have no strength to fight and that you are no help in the battle. He wants the saints to turn on one another. You have to understand what this war is all about. We are Christian soldiers. You have to understand who the enemy really is, because you do not want to beat at the air or attack the wrong thing in the wrong way.

In order to hear the Lord say, "Come, ye blessed, well done," you are going to have to understand that you must resist any enemy that is trying to get you to take on a spirit of indifference against the holy way. I want to be an inspiration and a blessing. I want to brighten the corner where I reside. I want to be uplifting, encouraging, and a strength to others.

I am on a mission to spread the love of Christ. I want souls to understand that we are up against a cruel enemy. He has caused much havoc over the years, but thank God, we can do something about it. We have a legacy to leave. God has left us in

the battle, so we have to look ahead and ask, "What can I do?" I want the body of Christ to be strengthened; therefore, I have to be strengthened. The enemy does not want you to get to that place, but that is where you belong. You have to say, "That's where I belong." We want to strengthen the body; that is what we are supposed to do. Therefore, we have to understand what it takes to master these skills.

Stand Against the Wiles of the Devil

I want to have the heart of the wise and the tongue of the learned. I want to be able to say at the end of the way, "I have fought a good fight, and I have kept the faith." If you have that same desire, you must not allow yourself to be ignorant of Satan's devices. You must become wise, skillful, and learned, so you can help others who may find themselves being impacted by what the devil is doing.

The Bible lets us know that we each have things that affect us, but it is bad to be affected in a negative way. The Bible says it is good to be affected in a good way. I want to have a good effect on others. I want to know how to turn things into a good effect rather than a bad effect. It takes wisdom and skill to know how to turn something so that it is strengthening instead of weakening us.

Dear one, the enemy wants every Christian's life in a turmoil to try to cause that person to give up and become something other than a Christian, all the while calling himself a Christian. The enemy wants to wear the Christian down so that he will become mean spirited or paranoid. The Christian should be the helper of someone's joy, not the test of someone's joy.

The devil will use whoever he can that is unaware of his devices. You must never allow yourself to be ignorant of Satan's devices. In Ephesians 6:11 the Bible says, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye

may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

I try to see something good in all situations, because one thing I realize is that, even in this world, God is ultimately in charge. The enemy does not want you to see God. He wants you to see the evil things going on, but God is looking for His servants to give Him major victory.

We want to embrace the inspiration that was passed on to us and multiply it and magnify it and enlarge upon what we have been given. We do not want to see anything left smaller. My purpose in life is to increase the things that pertain to the Lord.

If a situation is causing you to go into a feeling of spiritual despair, the devil is directly involved. Do not doubt for one minute that he is involved. He manipulates the way words sound or maybe how you hear them. Sometimes you have to evaluate how you hear things. You might have to change it so that you can be above it if it is trying to cause you to be depressed.

The enemy is directly involved in the way words sound when you are going into spiritual despair. The enemy manipulates the way actions appear and what things mean. Often I have to step back and take a look so I can understand how to position myself, because I want to be inspired, uplifted, and encouraged.

The Scripture says in 2 Corinthians 2:10, "To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ." Let us stand in His stead, because that is what God has told us to do. He has left us here, and He wants to use us. God's people will stand in His stead until He comes. The devil wants to keep a person going the wrong way and use him.

Be Not Ignorant of Satan's Devices

The Scripture says in 2 Corinthians 2:11, "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not

ignorant of his devices." We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, or any person. Every injurious, harmful, or damaging thing is caused by the devil. You may think it is caused by some person, or by flesh and blood, but the real battle is all about Satan's devices. Every damaging thing is caused by the devil. The devil is a manipulator of wrong, misery, insult, adversity, anxiety, catastrophes, misfortunes, strains, and calamities. Once you have said, "I'm going to follow Jesus," Satan is going to start working to defeat you.

When you sing and you put your whole heart in it, "I'll follow Jesus here. I'll never, never fear," the devil will say, "I'm going to see about that!" He will try to bring you something that you cannot recognize. If you do not know what to recognize, and you just got through singing this song, "I'll Follow Jesus," you had better start looking. He will try to bring something upon you that looks like it is not what it really is. Satan will bring something disguised not to look like him when it is the devil all along. It is grand and glorious to be a child of God. What a wonderful body this is, but do not be ignorant of Satan's devices!

As God's people, we must find a way to be uplifting in every situation, and we must lift Christ up in every situation. Thank God, the Bible says if we have love one to another, everyone will know that we are Christ's disciples. We are up against the same adversary, or the same enemy. Whatever is binding, harsh, mean, selfish, unkind, hateful, uncaring, or malicious—whatever it is and however it comes—the enemy is using it. When does the enemy take control of a person? When pride is his main objective, or when a person becomes filled with pride. When a person becomes prideful and wants to be preeminent, you had better understand that is really the enemy using a person who has become selfishly motivated.

I want you to understand that we each have a will, and we can allow ourselves to become motivated by

the wrong things. I can allow myself to be motivated by a wrong endeavor. Therefore, in my mastering the will and mastering the skill of resisting the enemy, I have to understand my motivation—where it is coming from and what it is all about—because it affects the way I hear things, the way I see things, and the way I receive things. I want to receive things in an eloquent, intelligent manner.

Have you ever heard the idea that a person can be right, but he can go about it the wrong way? Another way of saying it would be to say that a person can have a wonderful point but a wrong way of delivering it. As a Christian, you need wisdom, but you do not need earthly wisdom, or man's wisdom; you need God's wisdom. The Bible lets you know how you can know that you are receiving the right wisdom. It says it is first peaceable, so that you might understand about looking around and looking over things, trying to see how the enemy is trying to use this or that.

Being a Servant of the Lord

The Bible says in 2 Timothy 2:24, "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men." Do you count yourself a servant of the Lord? Do you count yourself as being least important? Have you pledged your faithfulness to Christ? Do you count yourself a vessel to be used of God? Have you said in your mind at some point, "Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace?" Well then, you have taken up the occupation of a servant of the Lord.

I think one day you want to hear the Lord say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." I want to ask you, Who can give his life to Christ and yet say, "I have given my life to Him, but I am not His servant" or say, "I have given my life to Him, but I am not His vessel"? You must be His faithful servant to hear Him say, "Well done." Therefore, I want to count myself as the Lord's

servant.

If you want to be a beloved servant, you must be a faithful servant; you want to be an essential servant. A servant of the Lord must not strive, but he must be gentle to all, because he understands who he is really wrestling against. The Christian is in the occupation of helping Christ break the chains where Satan has bound others and taken them because they were unaware.

Again, 2 Timothy 2:24-25 says: "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves." You can be instrumental in helping others to know the Lord and get a star in your own crown of glory when God says, "I want you to shine for that one." Helping souls is a major accomplishment.

Have you ever felt that someone has helped you along the way? I believe we all have been helped along the way and have been shown how to see and how to understand. Every individual, whether he is well to do, poor, or of moderate means, is being influenced by an ideology, a philosophy, a religion, or an ambition in a world of powers. The only thing a person really has power over is what he allows to influence him. We each are going to be influenced. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians

5:11, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." I am glad to have good persuasion, good influence, and a good effect.

As a child of God, you must be careful of what you allow to drive your motivation. You have to be careful, because you need to be skillful in resisting the devil's wiles. You have to be very conscientious about what drives your motivation. If you are not motivated by the law of Christ, the Golden Rule, you are under the wrong motivation (Matthew 7:12). Someone might have to help you to see that. If you have a closed mind and a closed heart, you have to see what is driving that motivation and why that motivation is being driven. You need to understand why your mind is moving in that fashion. If you are not being moved by the spirit of charity among all men, you need to realize that your motivation is wrong and you will end up unsuccessful.

Dear one, the only safety for the chosen of the Lord, God's church, is to strive together with the same premise for the same cause. Whom do you want to be lifted up? Each one is very special and has something unique to offer in the body of Christ. Christ is who we want to lift up, magnify, and glorify. He is the One we must honor and esteem. May God bless your heart.

(Compact Disc TR-1721)

*Study the Bible to be wise;
Believe it to be safe;
Practice it to be holy.*

Old-Fashioned Camp Meeting *Canby, Oregon* July 10-16

FIRST SERVICE MONDAY AT 7:00 P.M.

Two Services Daily
10:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.



We Welcome Everyone

*We extend a cordial invitation
for you to come and worship
the Lord with us!*

For reservations contact:
Pastor E. David Stegmeier
552 NW 2nd Ave., Canby, OR 97013
Telephone (503) 266-9297

*(Please make reservations
in advance, if possible)*





You're Cordially Invited...

to attend the
Spring Camp Meeting
June 18-25

Three Services Daily
10:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.

*Holy Ghost Preaching * Inspirational Singing*
*Children's Services * Divine Healing*

Come and worship the Lord with us!

MEALS reasonably priced (full-time evangelists and pastors [with spouses] half-price). LODGING free-will offering basis. Heated dormitories available. Bring your own bedding, if possible. No pets.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Date Needed _____

____ Number in family
____ Number of rooms needed
____ Number of beds needed

____ Number for boys' dorm
____ Number for women's dorm
____ Number for girls' dorm

Send Reservations to: David L. Bush
725 N. Cedar St.
Newark, OH 43055

Call (740) 345-1213
for reservations

GOD'S ACRES * NEWARK, OHIO



MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newark, OH
June 18-25

Camp Meeting: Church of God, God's Acres, 675 N. Cedar Street, Newark, OH 43055
For more details see page 26 in this issue.
For more information contact: Pastor Roger L. Decker. Telephone: 740-344-2543

Canby, OR
July 10-16

Camp Meeting: Church of God Camp Meeting, 522 NW 2nd Ave., Canby, OR 97013
The first service begins Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. Two services daily: 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. A complimentary breakfast is available each morning at the motel. A meal will be served after each morning service. Also, a snack stand will be open after the evening services. Please make reservations in advance, if possible.
For more information contact: Pastor David Stegmeier
Telephone: 503-266-9297

Muncie, IN
July 10-16

Camp Meeting: Ninth Street Church of God, 125 S 9th Street, New Castle, IN 47362
Meeting will be held at the Central Friends' Campground, 5601 E County Road 650 S, Muncie, Indiana. Service times: The first service begins Monday evening at 7:30 p.m.; Tuesday - Saturday 9:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 9:00 a.m. The meeting ends after the Sunday morning service on the 16th, but dinner will be served. Three meals served daily, including a continental breakfast. Air-conditioned dining hall. Snack stand will be open after the evening services. Age appropriate activities during non-service times. Campers & tents are welcome. *PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO BRING YOUR OWN BEDDING AND TOWELS.* For lodging/camping reservations, please contact Sis. Michelle Gingerich @ 765-808-8705. For more information contact: Pastor Allen Polston
Telephone: 765-521-8284

Newark, OH
July 30-August 6

Camp Meeting: Church of God, God's Acres, 675 N. Cedar Street, Newark, OH 43055
Additional information will be in the next issue.
For more information contact: Pastor Roger L. Decker
Telephone: 740-344-2543

Medina, OH
Sept. 5-10

Revival: Church of God, 6745 Wooster Pike, Medina, Ohio 44256
Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, Mississippi
Service times: Tuesday - Friday 7:00 p.m., Saturday 6:00 p.m., and Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. For more information call 330-725-5993 or 330-421-0187

Chicago, IL
Sept. 17-24

Revival: Harding Street Church of God, 3924 W 14th Street, Chicago, IL 60623
Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, Mississippi
For more information contact: Brother Aurelius Raines.
Telephone: 708-751-1725 or 708-747-1534

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