

SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

Vol. 47 October 2017 No. 10



Church of God Tabernacle in Newark, Ohio

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

Psalm 122:1

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

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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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CONTENTS

The Standard for the Inner Man,
Part 2 of 2..... 3
Rich, But Living Like a Pauper..... 8
Especially for Young People. 14
Don't Lose Hope..... 15
Faith Is Powerful..... 20
2018 Camp Meeting Dates. 25
Fall Camp Mtg. Recordings..... 26
Announcements..... 27

Vol. 47 October 2017 No.10

Fall 2017 Camp Meeting Report

What a Camp Meeting!

Once again we enjoyed a time of refreshing as the saints gathered in from far and near for the camp meeting. It was another opportunity to fellowship with God's people and to feast on the good things of God's Word. Oh, what a delight it was during that week to sit in the presence of God! Our hearts drank in the wonderful Truths as the brethren expounded the Holy Scriptures. Men of God brought messages that gave comfort, strength, and enlightenment to our hearts.

The camp meeting began Sunday morning, July 30, 2017, at 10 o'clock as the host pastor, Brother Roger Decker, greeted and welcomed everyone to God's Acres. Brother Decker then introduced Brother Johnson and Sister Judy Njeru from Kenya, Africa, to the congregation. He went on to encourage each of us to enter into worship, reminding us that the meeting would be over before we realized it. It was a time to gain help and strength for the soul and become better equipped to fight the good fight of faith. There are many turbulent situations existing in our world today, and God's people need to have their souls more securely anchored in Christ. It is through the sounding forth of the Truth that men and women are exposed to greater light and understanding of God's requirements.

Brother David Stegmeier delivered the first message

entitled "God's Chosen People." He impressed on our hearts that every true Christian is a chosen vessel to God. Our lives are to be lived so that we rightly represent God in this world. Sunday evening Brother Larry Dishman brought a sobering message entitled "It Is Not a Matter of If, But When." He reminded us that every knee shall bow before God. Pride and stubbornness cause many to feel they will never bow or acknowledge God, but it is only a matter of time until they will.

Monday morning Pastor Roger Decker began a study on some important issues that face God's people. Several mornings he taught on subjects such as "The Gift of Languages, Parts 1 & 2, and "Is It Possible to Live a Holy Life?" These subjects were brought forth to shed light on some of the erroneous teachings that false religions propagate. Babylonian institutions have confused the minds of many people through their false ideas and false doctrines. The Truth exposes falsity and allows God's people to walk pleasing to Him.

As the meeting continued, other ministers brought rich, soul-searching sermons that rendered much help to saints and sinners alike. Monday evening Brother Larry Dishman brought an eye-opening message dealing with "Errors of the TULIP Doctrine." Tuesday evening he

[continued on page 12]

1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of

our Lord Jesus Christ.

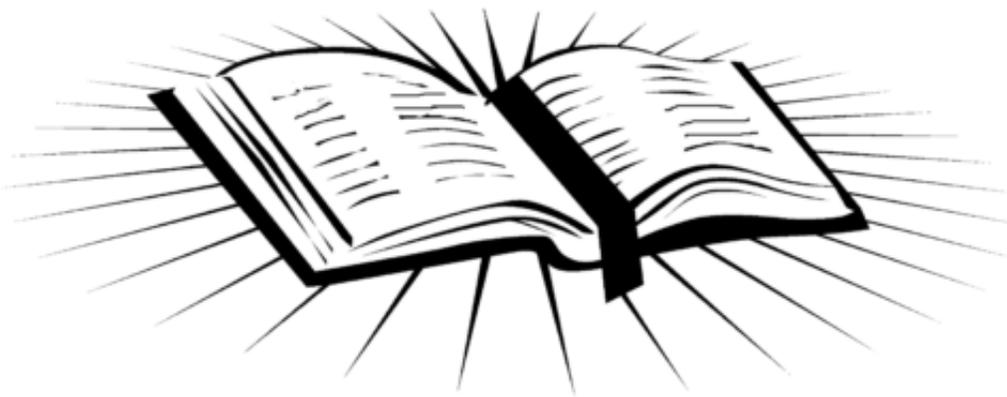
Matthew 23:25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within

they are full of extortion and excess.

26 Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

The Standard for the Inner Man

Part 2 of 2



Brother Roger L. Decker

Cleansed Within and Without

The spirit is the life of the soul, and the soul is the life of the body. Man is a threefold being, and the soul of man, or his spirit, needs to be changed before he starts changing in his outward appearance. There has to be a change inwardly before he starts on the highway of holiness. Jesus taught in Matthew, Chapter 3, that the inside needs to be cleaned up first, and then the cleansing comes to the outside.

The Prophet Jeremiah said in Jeremiah 4:21, "How long shall I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet?" I want you to notice what the Prophet Jeremiah said. We

are living in the midst of an apostasy. Some teach that the outside does not matter, but again, the prophet used the words "see the standard." In other words, the standard is something that you can see.

Many teach that God sees the heart, and He does, but let us not forget that 1 Samuel 16:7 states, "But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."

Man is unable to see the heart as God sees it. Man can only see the outward appearance. I know that

Scripture is used against judging, but it should not be. When someone is drawn to Christ, it is not because he sees somebody's heart, but because he sees the outward manifestations of the heart. He observes someone's actions and talk. These are as much a part of the standard as the dress, which is also important. He observes holiness about someone. It is on the inside and on the outside.

The outside is what a man sees first, but God sees the intent of the actions that motivate a man. We read in 1 Samuel 2:3 (this is part of Hannah's prayer), "Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogance come out of your mouth: for the

LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed."

There is a standard in all phases of the Christian's life. I want to say something about the standard of the home. In some homes there is utter chaos. The wife and the husband do not get along and the children take sides whenever they can to get the most freedom to do what they want. They play one parent against the other. Things that are strange to Christianity are taking place in many homes.

Today some couples separate, yet they both claim to be saved. This is confusing to the children, because Christian homes ought to be the best homes on the face of the earth. If sin is gone in both individuals and they both claim to be holy, why do they have fights and arguments? Parent, is your home a role model for your children? Do your children say, "I would like to grow up to be like Mom and Dad"? You need to think about that.

Married couples should have respect for each other. The husband ought to respect his wife, and the wife ought to respect the husband. She should respect his authority, and he should respect her submission. In some homes the children disrespect their parents. Children should never call their father "the old man" or call their mother "the old lady." Also, children should not call their parents by their first names. That is disrespectful. Moreover, parents should not allow their children to address them in these ways.

Lifting Up a Standard of Modesty

The Church of God has a beautiful, godly standard of dress that makes men and women look nice. When you dress according to the Bible standard, you are going to look nice. In the Word of God you can read what the Lord thinks about how we ought to dress.

We read in Romans 12:2, "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." Another translation of Romans 12:2 says: "Do not copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

As you drive down the streets, you can see some of the standards that the schools are allowing today. I think it is disgusting that American parents allow their children to dress so immodestly and so sloppily. It affects those who claim to be Christians more than you might think. May God help every Christian to lift up a standard of modesty.

To "be not conformed to this world" means not to be fashioned or shaped like it. In other words, you should not be shaped or fashioned like the world in dress or in conduct. Many times the problem lies with parents. Where are parents today? They ought to be there to help their children along the lines of dressing right. It is the parents' job to enforce modest apparel. The world has a spirit, and it is against the things of God, and the spirit of the world is strong. It is a strong spirit that comes against a child of God.

James stated in James 4:4, "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." What was James talking about? The world is an enemy to the will of God. Jesus taught so plainly in Matthew 6:24, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Satan is attacking the holiness of the church. Church, the enemy of souls would love to bring you down and cause you to look worldly. The devil does not care how much you go to church as long as you do not look the way a saint of God should

look. Do you struggle over modesty? Some never seem to really get it settled in their hearts.

I believe God wants us to feel good about ourselves in the way we look. However, He does not want any of His children to look immodest or unkempt. God wants His children to look nice and to be modest. Today modesty is sneered at, made fun of, belittled, and scorned, not only by the world but also by some who profess to be saved.

Marks of a Godly Woman

The Apostle Paul wrote in Titus 2:1-6: "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded."

Paul said the aged men and women are to be teachers of good things. The older women are to teach the younger women to be sober, or serious minded, to love their husbands, and to love their children. The best way to do that is by showing your children how much you love your husband. There is no better place than the Christian home to be lived than in the home.

Mothers should teach their daughters how to manage a home and how to clean. She should not clean their rooms for them all the time. She should make them clean it if they are old enough. Otherwise, how are they going to be prepared for marriage?

A mother should teach the children to pick up after themselves. She should teach them how to do spring housecleaning, how to make their beds, how to wash clothes, and

how to plan and prepare meals. They should be taught modesty so that they can instill it in their children when they grow up and have a family. If a woman has children, they are her little congregation.

As a mother, God gave your children to you as a responsibility. You ought to teach your children not to lie and not to steal. Also, you should teach them to tithe at a young age. The Bible lets you know you should give 10 percent to the Lord. It will help them in their lives. It is very important for mothers and fathers to teach the children about the things of God in the home. It is important for a mother to be at home to put her children to bed and to hear them say their prayers.

God wants His children to look different from the world. God gave distinguishing marks of a godly woman. Deuteronomy 22:5 says, "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God." God's moral law was never done away with, only the ceremonial law was. This verse pertains to God's moral law. It is not against us, but it is for us.

This verse contains two very distinguishing characteristics. It brings up the woman and the man: the woman is not to dress manly, and the man is not to dress in a feminine way. The man is to dress as a man should dress, and the woman is to dress as a woman should dress. The attire of both sexes is covered in that one verse.

Worldly Trends

Someone may say: "That is the Old Testament, and times are different now. Many women are career women and need to dress in pants." Does God care about what we wear or even if we wear clothes? Some people are so far removed from what the Bible says that they sometimes choose not to wear any clothes. The need for clothing goes all the way

back to the Book of Genesis in the Bible. It had its origin in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve experienced shame and nakedness in the garden.

Genesis 3:7-11a reads: "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked?" God's provision for His people is reflected in the animal skins, garments given in response to their needs. Genesis 3:21 tells us, "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them."

How is modesty defined from one time period to another? What is considered modest today would have been very immodest a hundred years ago. *Modest attire in any age is clothing that does not draw attention to a person's body.*

When did it become acceptable in society for women to wear pants, or trousers? Some people say that an actress, Katharine Hepburn, first brought the concept of women wearing trousers to the silver screen, or the movies. She was divorced and had no children. The trend of long dresses lasted until the "liberated" 1920s, but Paris dress designers have long influenced women's fashion. Paris originated and managed tailored suits for women in the 1800s, but it never really struck the United States until around the 1920s, and it came out of Hollywood first. Teenagers are affected by Hollywood and magazines such as *Seventeen*, which is full of the latest fashion trends from Hollywood.

Why is it so important concern-

ing how God feels about dressing modestly? One reason is, we need to be able to teach it to our children. Will your children be able to make moral choices when facing something new or will their argument merely be, "That is the way we have always done it"? Another reason is, so that we can share it with the world.

One woman said this: "My answer as to why I wear dresses has changed over time. At first, I answered, 'Because that is modest,' but here are the reasons that God has placed in my heart: I have found that the way I dress directly affects my spirit. It is so much easier to have a quiet, meek spirit when I am wearing a skirt or a dress, and also because it is feminine. God created me as a young woman, and it should be something to be excited about. When I am wearing a skirt or a dress, I truly feel like a lady." She went on to say: "I do believe that it is the most modest way for me to dress. A friend of mine told me that when she is deciding over her clothes, she asks herself, 'Will this cause my brothers in Christ to fall or to be tempted?'" That is a wonderful way to look at it!

Dressing as Women Professing Godliness

Will dressing modestly make you look different? Yes, when you dress modestly, you are going against the tide of the world, so to speak. However, this is a privilege, not a curse. You can be one of the few who make a difference in the world. Children should be taught from a young age that being different is what separates the Christian from the masses. A person who is different can really shine for Christ in his or her life; others will take notice.

Some people may ridicule you for dressing modestly. Others will listen and respect your opinions, because they see you as a strong person who stands for what is right no matter what the cost. Young per-

son, during your teenage years, it might get tough, but as an adult, you will have the power of persuasion for those people who ridiculed you in your younger years when they see how God has blessed you in your life and how you stood true under persecution.

Some say times have changed. Then why have they not changed for the man? Why is the Scripture supposedly changed for only the woman? When God created the first couple, that man and woman were different from each other. They looked differently, they acted differently, and they talked differently. A man has a gruffer voice than a woman, but a woman is soft and feminine.

The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 2:9-10: "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." Here we see a carryover from the Old Testament. God wanted the sexes to dress differently. The New Testament calls it "modest." In these verses of Scripture the Apostle Paul said the woman should be adorned in "modest apparel."

The Apostle Paul used the words "modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array." I looked up these words in *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary*, which is one of the best that I have found to use. He gave an explanation of these New Testament words, and I found his definitions to be accurate. His definition of "modest apparel" is, "orderly, well-arranged, decent, and modest." He went on to say this is pertaining not only to dress but also to the life and how it expresses itself in outward conduct. The word "shamefacedness" means, "Modesty that is rooted and character having regard for others; ones who actually feel awkward when they are not dressed right around others." In other words, one

is able to blush when not dressed properly. The word *sobriety* means, "sound judgment that reins in or keeps in check the passions and desires that would overcome one in temptation."

Then W. E. Vine mentioned "broided hair," which is the intertwining of ornaments and the weaving of gold through the hair. You can read about this in 1 Peter 3:3, which says, "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel."

Why is it necessary to dress modestly? Reading it from a woman's viewpoint, one woman said that the main thing is, she feels feminine and ladylike. When a woman puts on a man's garment, she puts on the symbol of authority. Where do you see the symbol of authority? You see it in feminism and career women. Undoubtedly, you have heard the saying, "She wears the pants in that family." That is a shame, but many women do. The woman who dresses modestly will not wear low necklines, tight sweaters or blouses, shirts that show her midriff, or short skirts.

Again, Paul said in 1 Timothy 2:9, "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." I want you to notice that Paul let us know that godly women should not adorn themselves with jewelry. Today some men have joined the women with wearing belly rings, tongue rings, earrings, nose rings, lip rings, or anything else that has a worldly ring to it.

Is Your Life Glorifying God?

The Bible says in Leviticus 19:28, "Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD." Does a tattoo glorify God? I want you to read what the Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: "What? know ye not that your body

is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

Tattoos used to be worn mainly by men in the military. That is where I used to see them as a young person, but now even worldly women are getting them. I realize that some people do not know any better, but I am preaching to the Church of God. I am not saying that everyone who has a tattoo is hell bound, but I am saying that according to the Scripture, I do not feel that God wants His people putting marks all over the body. Some people are so covered with tattoos that it makes them look very unattractive and very unpleasant to look at.

Another reason for modesty is, teaching your children. Will your children make good, moral choices when faced with something new? In Hosea 4:6 God complained to His priest, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Parents have a great opportunity to teach their children the right way to dress.

I read of an individual who wrote down five questions you need to ask yourself when it comes to choosing clothing. First, you need to ask yourself the question, Is it worn by the opposite sex? Second, What do I look like at a distance? and Can others distinguish whether I am a woman or a man? Third, if you are a woman, What kind of woman dresses this way? Fourth, Can I use the argument of the world to justify it? Fifth, Will it cause another to stumble?

Now, regarding adornment, the Christian should not get a "holier than thou" attitude against those who do not adhere to the message or against those who are struggling. You cannot help others by conveying that kind of attitude or by comparing your children to theirs. You will find that if you keep your own back porch swept and clean, you have a full-time job doing it. Maybe your child has done everything right

concerning the outward standard, but your child could be struggling along other lines.

The Bible does speak out about the length of hair. First Corinthians 11:14-16 says: "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering. But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God." The contention was not over the hair, but the contention was over whether or not the woman should wear a veil.

A woman's hair is her covering. How did she get long hair? Paul said, "Her hair is given her for a covering." Long hair makes a wo-

man look very feminine. Again, How did she get long hair? It was given her for a covering. When did she get it? She got it when she was made from the rib of Adam.

The Apostle Paul said, "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?" Men should not let their hair grow long. Why? Long hair makes a man look effeminate and weak. When my boys were in the home, I did not want them to look like girls, and I did not want my girls to look like boys. Also, I wanted my daughters to marry Christian young men, and I wanted my sons to marry Christian young ladies. That is still the Bible standard.

The man should be of modest behavior to his wife. He should not

abuse her, yell at her, or threaten her. A man should really love his wife. Also, a godly man will dress modestly. He should not go shirtless or wear a tank top, unless he is going to wear it to bed. Shorts and saggy pants are not modest. Some people let their pants ride down so far that they actually show their undergarments. Why would anybody want to copy that? The Lord wants His people to live God-fearing lives. God has a standard, and it is a beautiful standard. As a Christian, will you be the example of what God likes in one's daily walk with Him?

(Compact Disc TR-1047E)

Prayer

Prayer is the greatest force we can wield. It is the greatest talent God has granted us. He has given it to every Christian. There is a democracy in this matter. We may differ as to wealth, social position, education, abilities, and inherent characteristics; but in the matter of exercising the greatest force that is at work today, we are on the same footing. Therefore, no man is excusable if he commits the great sin of omitting to pray. What right have we to leave unappropriated, or unapplied, the greatest force which God has ordained for the salvation of souls and for the energizing of Christian life?

Selected

2 *Corinthians 8:1* Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;

4 Praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and

take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

6 Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

7 Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence,

and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

8 I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.

9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Rich, But Living Like a Pauper



Brother E. David Stegmeier

Living Beneath One's Privileges

In this setting the Apostle Paul was trying to encourage the Corinthian church to come forward with a generous gift. The Macedonian congregation was very generous in their giving to the poor saints in Jerusalem and Judea. Those saints were wonderful examples. The Apostle Paul was encouraging the church at Corinth to do likewise.

The saints in Macedonia gave themselves to God. That was the reason for their liberality in giving. Their giving was beyond what was expected of them. By faith, they were trusting God to supply what they needed in the future. All giving and charity should begin with giving yourself wholly to God. Yielding yourself and your possessions should be the starting point. If God is controlling you, He has your all,

and this certainly should include your pocketbook.

Saints of God look for opportunities to give for the furtherance of God's cause. They do not try to make excuses for not giving. Paul commended the congregation at Corinth for their faith, their knowledge, their diligence, and their love. They were blessed in many ways, but the Apostle Paul wanted them to abound in the grace of liberal giving.

Another strong example is that of Christ. He was the most generous Man who ever lived on this earth, and in the end He gave His life. Our Scripture text says in verse 9, "Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

In the history of our country, there have been many eccentric individuals. One was Henrietta Green, who was born in 1834 and died in 1916. She was an American businesswoman investor known as the richest woman in America during the Gilded Age, in the days that followed the Civil War. Henrietta Green was known both for her wealth and for her miserliness. She was the lone woman to amass a fortune when other major investors were men. Henrietta was born into the richest whaling family in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Her family members were Quakers who owned a large whaling fleet and also profited from trade with China. At the age of six, she was reading financial papers to her father. When she was thirteen, she became the family bookkeeper, and at the age of sixteen, she enrolled as a student at the Eliza Wing School until the age of nineteen.

As different members of her family died, they left her with a great inheritance. Her mother left her \$8,000 (equivalent to \$213,000 in today's value). Her aunt willed her \$20,000 (equivalent to \$533,000 today). When her father, Edward, died, he left her \$5 million (equivalent to \$78,228,000 today). Hetty, as she was called, invested much of her money in Civil War war bonds. Later another aunt passed away, leaving her \$600,000 (equivalent to \$11,364,000 today). Her husband also came from a very wealthy family. Hetty Green's stinginess was legendary. She was said never to turn on the heat in the house or to use hot water. She wore one black dress that she replaced only after it wore out. She did not wash her hands, and she rode in an old carriage.

Hetty ate mostly pies that cost her fifteen cents each. One tale claims that Hetty spent half a night searching her carriage for a lost postage stamp worth only two cents. Another asserts that she instructed her laundress to wash only the dirtiest parts of her dresses (the hems) to save money on soap. It was told that Hetty ate only oatmeal for breakfast, heated on the office radiator. Hetty Green conducted much of her business at the office of the Seaboard National Bank in New York, surrounded by trunks and suitcases full of her papers because she did not want to pay rent for her own office. Possibly because of the stiff competition of the mostly male business environment and partly because of her unusual dress through her frugality, but perhaps partly because of her Quaker upbringing, she was given the nickname of the "Witch of Wall Street."

Hetty was a successful businesswoman who dealt mainly in real estate, invested in railroads and mines, and lent money while acquiring numerous mortgages. The city of New York came to Hetty for loans to keep the city afloat on several occasions, particularly during the Panic of 1907. She wrote a check for \$1.1 million and took her payments in short-term revenue bonds. Keenly detail-oriented, she would travel thousands of miles alone—in an era when few women would dare to travel unescorted—to collect a debt of a few hundred dollars.

Hetty's frugality extended even to her family life. When her son Ned broke his leg as a child, Hetty tried to have him admitted to a free clinic for the poor. When she was recognized, she went storming out the door. Her son's leg did not heal properly, and after years of treatment, it had to be amputated. Such was the life of Henrietta Green.

Estimates of Hetty's net worth range from \$100 million to \$200 million, yet she chose to live as a pauper. No doubt, Henrietta Green lived somewhat as many Christians

do today. Even though the Lord has bequeathed, or blessed, them with many riches, spiritually speaking, many people who call themselves Christians live as spiritual paupers. Saints have access to the storehouse of Heaven if they will just avail themselves of those blessings. At their disposal is limitless wealth, yet they choose to live as paupers.

For Our Sake He Became Poor

Again, our Scripture text in verse 9 reads, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." Are you rich but living as a pauper? In the New Living Translation, the Scripture is translated, "You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, though he was rich, yet for your sakes, he became poor so that by his poverty he could make you rich."

Just think of the riches that Christ had in Heaven. He shared equally in power and glory with His Heavenly Father. His riches were beyond verbal expression; they were exhaustless. He was dwelling in an absolutely perfect environment with everything in limitless supply.

One songwriter expressed so well how Christ descended from His riches, His royal estate, and His glory and power to come to this world for you and me in the song entitled "Down From His Glory." It reads:

*Down from His glory,
Ever living story,
My God and Savior came,
And Jesus was His name.
Born in a manger
To His own a stranger,
A man of sorrows, tears and agony.*

*What condescension,
Bringing us redemption;
That in the dead of night,
Not one faint hope in sight,
God, gracious, tender,
Laid aside His splendor,*

*Stooping to woo, to win, to save
my soul.*

*Without reluctance,
Flesh and blood His substance,
He took the form of man,
Revealed the hidden plan,
O glorious mystery
Sacrifice of Calvary,
And now I know Thou art the
great "I Am."*

*O how I love Him!
How I adore Him!
My breath, my sunshine, my all
in all.
The great Creator became my
Savior,
And all God's fullness dwelleth
in Him.*

Our Scripture text lets us know that by the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, though He was rich, for our sake He became poor so that by His poverty He could make us rich. The Bible says Christ took upon Himself human nature with its weaknesses and its imperfections, but not its sin. He came not as a Lord, but He came as a servant. He is our example. He was reproached, He was shamed, and eventually He was crucified. His life on earth was the opposite of what He had in the portals of Glory.

Christ was exposed to poverty, born of poor earthly parents, had no higher education, was involved in a common occupation, and relied on others who administered to His needs. He had no home to call His own. At His death, He had nothing to offer to His mother. Those to whom He came were common people like you and me. Some were deep in sin, others were poor, and some were beggars.

Boundless Riches

God's people should be the happiest and the most content people in the world, because we are the richest, yet too many live like paupers. You may not know where your next dollar is going to come from or

you may need a pair of new shoes. Perhaps you need a wife or a husband. Do you think God can supply those needs? Absolutely! Spiritually speaking, we are the richest people in the world.

By Christ's obedience, suffering, and death, He paid a debt for us that we could not pay. He paid sin's debts that we accrued. He paid our debts so that we could be free. We are kings and priests. Brother D. S. Warner said we are kings anointed too. Those who are saved are kings reigning over sin, self, and the devil, wearing robes of righteousness decked with jewels. We are adorned with the graces of the Spirit, which are compared to gold and silver and precious stones.

Philippians 4:18-19 reads: "But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Someone once said that verse is a promissory note drawn upon the "Bank of Faith." First of all, God is the Banker. The verse does not say that He might supply, but rather He "shall supply." That is a promise to pay. What is God going to supply? He shall supply "all your need," which is the value of the note, "according to His riches in glory," which is the address of the bank, "by Christ Jesus," which is His signature at the bottom of the note. Without His signature the note would be worthless. We ought to praise God when we ponder these wonderful thoughts!

We are a rich people, so let us walk like rich people. I do not mean arrogantly, but confidently. We have a Father who is rich. I am not going to live like Hetty Green, so to speak. God supplies our needs. This could apply to God giving us our daily material needs as well as giving us divine direction in our lives. God can direct us even in the smallest decisions. I often ask God where He

wants me to go and what He wants me to say or do. God will supply our daily needs and give us divine direction if we ask Him. God will help us in time of temptation so we do not have to yield. He will give us the zeal we need to further the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God. He will supply all that we need.

I am concerned about young people choosing the right companion. God can lead you to the right companion. Young person, you should not worry so much about looks when choosing a companion, but you should be more concerned about character.

God can open the door to the right job. Do not move away from a congregation to secure a job that gives you more money. You may lose your soul. There is a chance of that happening.

God can heal your body. He can supply all our needs "according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." God gives to His children according to His riches. You do not know how rich you are, and I do not know for sure how rich I am, but I am thankful for it.

Someone wrote this: "Boundless riches, riches of compassion." Was Christ not compassionate with us? Should we not be the most compassionate people? God gave us riches of love. He treats all of us with love, mercy, and kindness. There is a bond of love among God's people that you will not feel out in the world.

Unsearchable Riches

The Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 3:7-8: "Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ."

Fanny Crosby wrote a song entitled "Unsearchable Riches." It reads:

*Oh, the unsearchable riches
of Christ,
Wealth that can never be told!
Riches exhaustless of mercy
and grace,
Precious, more precious than gold!*

*Oh, the unsearchable riches
of Christ!
Who shall their greatness declare?
Jewels whose luster our lives may
adorn,
Pearls that the poorest may wear!*

*Oh, the unsearchable riches
of Christ!
Freely, how freely they flow,
Making the souls of the faithful
and true
Happy wherever they go!*

*Oh, the unsearchable riches
of Christ!
Who would not gladly endure
Trials, afflictions, and crosses
on earth,
Riches like these to secure!*

*Precious, more precious,
Wealth that can never be told!
Oh, the unsearchable riches
of Christ!
Precious, more precious than gold.*

Nothing is more beautiful than to see modestly dressed saints of God who manifest the graces of God. They need to be commended, and I have found beautiful opportunities to witness for the Lord.

Quite often I read the articles that Joni Eareckson Tada has written. She is the lady who is in a wheelchair. Many years ago, she dove into the Chesapeake Bay, misjudging the shallowness of the water, and broke her spine. She was paralyzed from the shoulders down. I read where she said on the day that she leaves this world, she is going to give her wheelchair to Christ and say it was her cross. She said if she did not have that in her life, no doubt she would never have invited Christ into her home.

Again, Fanny Crosby wrote, "*Oh, the unsearchable riches of*

Christ! Who would not gladly endure, Trials, afflictions, and crosses on earth, Riches like these to secure." There are many riches that God has blessed us with, such as grace, blessings, mercy, just to name a few. God has blessed us with so many that there are too many to innumerate, but let me mention a few more. First of all, you can have the peace of God. It is nice to lay down at night knowing that all is well in your soul. Second, He can give you the love of God shed abroad in your heart. You can love everybody, even those who mistreat you.

The Supplier of Every Need

Third, God will supply you with the grace of God. When you need more grace for a situation, He will give you that grace. Fourth, you can receive the mercy of God. Have you ever made a mistake? God is good and plenteous in mercy.

In Him you can have the glory of God and the hope of eternal life in Heaven. The Scripture lets us know that God owns the cattle on a thousand hills. He owns the wealth in every mine, He owns the rivers, the rocks, the mountains, the sun, the moon, and the stars. He owns wonderful riches—more than the tongue can tell. He is our Father, so all of these are ours as well. Because He owns the cattle on a thousand hills, I know that He will care for us.

We read in Psalm 50:10-12: "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof." Haggai 2:8 states, "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts."

The Lord can supply whatever you need. As I said earlier, God's people are the richest people in the world. In fact, we have been born into the richest family in the history of humanity. We are not paupers.

Brother D. S. Warner said we are kings, and we are anointed too. We are royalty.

Second Peter 1:1-4 reads: "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." One sister used to say: "If you have a need, look in the Bible. There is a promise somewhere that will apply to that need."

God has everything that we need to enjoy life and to live godly. He has blessed my life in a wonderful way. You must go to His storehouse and appropriate from Him what you need. His resources are limitless.

If you put God first in your life, He will never disappoint you. Whether you need grace, compassion, a little more love, a little more kindness, or healing for your body, God has it. His storehouse is full, if you will appropriate it.

Colossians 1:25-27 says: "Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery [the Gospel, or the plan of salvation] among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." It is up to you and me to tell the world what they are missing. We are a part of the royal family of God.

(Compact Disc TR-1511)

[Camp Mtg. Report—continued from p. 2]

preached on the topic of "Step Up to the Plate." Wednesday through Friday evenings Brother Calvin Foster preached. His sermons covered the subjects of "If God Be For Us, Who Can Be Against Us?" "Am I My Brother's Keeper?" and "Basic Truths of Jesus Christ."

Thursday morning of the meeting Brother Paul Prinkey delivered a message asking the question, "Will There be a Millenium?" Friday morning Brother Abraham Burton preached on the subject of "We Preach Christ." Saturday morning Brother Leamon Whitehead's message brought us light on Satan's devices in a message entitled "Be Strong in the Lord." Sunday morning Brother Richard Talbot brought a sermon on "The Substance of Our Faith."

Each morning Sister Karen Wilks and her helpers held services for the young children in the old barn. There the children sang spiritual songs, learned Scriptures, heard a story, and had time to play outside. On Saturday morning the children gathered into the tabernacle to bless our hearts with singing and reciting Scriptures that they had learned. What a blessing these little hearts gave to the saints! Another outstanding highlight of the meeting was Thursday evening when Sister Rachel Fowler conducted the orchestra made up of stringed instruments playing "Amazing Grace."

Brother David Stegmeier compiled a group of Bible studies centering on the theme entitled "Symbols of the Church," which he brought forth every afternoon at three o'clock. His informative lessons included "The Bride," "The Mother," "The Body of Christ," "The Church of God," "The City of God," and "An Army." These edu-

cational topics gave greater understanding of the works of God's church and family to the listeners.

God's presence filled the atmosphere of each service in a very sweet way. Each service proved to be rewarding and spiritually uplifting and beneficial to all. Time after time, our hearts were blessed as the Lord refreshed us in an overwhelming manner. The singing of the congregational songs and various groups was also a great blessing to our hearts. As the songs of Zion were sung, it brought forth much shouting and praise to God in the camp. Some clapped their hands as the beautiful melodies echoed throughout the tabernacle.

During the week, there were those who bowed at the altars to seek salvation, help, and strength from the Lord. However, Saturday night the Holy Ghost changed the order of the service. The Young Men's Quartet began to sing, and the altars began to fill with penitent souls seeking their way to the heart of God. It was the Spirit of God breathing on the hearts of those who were lost. His overwhelming presence melted hardened hearts with deep conviction. What a beautiful sight it was to see precious souls pleading for God's forgiveness and pardon for sin! It was a glorious sight to see souls who were loaded down with sin translated from the power of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son.

Brother Decker read the Scripture in Acts 2:2, which says, "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting." God's Spirit simply moved in and took control, calling souls to leave the ways of sin and disgrace. One brother counted sixty souls that moved to

the altar seeking salvation and deliverance.

Then Sunday evening Brother Dishman delivered a very solemn message entitled "Beyond Redemption's Point." This message was reaching out to those who were yet rejecting God's call to be saved. Thank God, there were others who heeded the warning and moved; however, there were those who withstood the wooing of the Holy Spirit's voice.

The close of a camp meeting always brings sadness to our hearts. First, because we have to part from saints whom we love. Much time and many miles separate us until we can once again be united together for worship. Then there is the sadness that comes in knowing some will leave the meeting without having their spiritual needs met. One never knows when his or her last opportunity to find the Lord will be. It is so important to surrender to God when He is ready to work with your heart.

Finally, if you were unable to be in the camp meeting, we would encourage you to order the recordings of each service. I am sure you will be thoroughly satisfied when you hear all the good things that were brought forth.

**The BIBLE
will not be a
dry book if
you know
the Author.**

Put Jesus First

God has a plan and a purpose for each life. No immortal soul ever came into this world by accident, and none ever came without a mission. We ought to think about this. Sometimes people suppose that such men as Moses and John the Baptist and the Apostle Paul were exceptions. They had their own specific mission, God sent them on very definite errands, but surely common people are not sent from God in the same sense.

God is looking for men and women who will be a perfect channel for Him. Jesus was such a channel. Before Jesus was born, the devil could say that not one person upon earth was wholly and completely

given over to doing the will of God. Christ's will was to do the will of the Father. In Jesus there lived upon earth One man whom the devil could not influence or control. He was born to die for you, and you were born to be born again and to do the will of the Father.

Think of the way many folks live. Many men, instead of putting Jesus first, put the family first. They love their families and provide well for them, but Jesus is never considered. Consequently, all too often they do not have a home, only four walls and a roof. Because Jesus is not first in their individual lives, many a home is broken. Others put business first. They live to make

money. It is the only god they know. How empty is life that is lived for money! What is more pitiful than an old man or an old woman dried up in body and shriveled in soul, going out to meet God with nothing but a wasted life! Jesus is coming soon! Are you right with God?

Others put pleasure first. They live to gratify the desires of the body. To follow the program of their individual lives, you would think all they had was a body. What an empty life to live!

Are you putting Jesus first? If you are, you will be blessed. If you put Jesus first, you will grow in grace (2 Peter 3:18). Your life will become productive in the Kingdom of God. You will experience victory, liberty, and peace! May God help you to put Jesus first.

Selected

TIME BANK

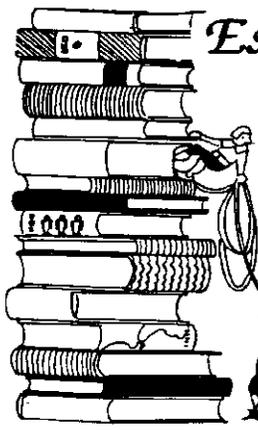
Let's suppose that you had a bank that each morning credited your account with \$1440, with one condition:

Whatever part you had failed to use during the day is to be erased from your account—no balance is to be carried over.

What would you do?

You'd draw out every cent every day and use it to the best advantage.

Well, you do have such a bank, and its name is TIME. Every morning it credits you with 1440 minutes. It rules off as forever lost whatever portion of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. Nor is there any drawing against tomorrow.



Especially for Young People

Watch the Little Leaks!



Did you ever pour water or some other kind of fluid into a vessel and find that it had a little leak? No doubt you have. Perhaps the leak was so small that it only lost a drop occasionally. However, in a few days or weeks the fluid leaked out or would have leaked out had you not stopped it.

Thus it is with one's Christian experience, or with some good trait and characteristic of life. There springs a tiny leak in the prayer life, and one gradually loses his frequency to the place where he prays as well as his fervency in prayer. Other things crowd in and take a few minutes of his time each day that he should spend alone with God in communion and fellowship through prayer and quiet meditation. He becomes a little more hurried when he prays and does not go to the place of prayer as often as he used to, consequently there is a losing out in the prayer life. If this is kept up, one may gradually cease to pray, and just as gradual, he weakens spiritually until he is lean in his heart and soul and realizes that he is backslidden to the bottom. Watch the leakage in prayer. You need to turn back to God and the place of prayer, ask God's forgiveness, and then renew your prayer life. If you fail to do so, the eternal consequences may be dreadful. Remember, "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1).

There may spring a little leak in one's Bible reading and Bible study, which may not seem to amount to anything much; but little by little, one may neglect his Bible and spend more

and more time reading something that is lacking in merit and soul food. Cheap and worthless literature may become enticing and as one gradually loses out with God's Word, such worthless literature may become paramount in his life. Watch this leak, or it may empty your mind, your heart, and your soul of God's grace. Nothing should take the place of the blessed old Bible in your reading.

A little leak in Sunday school and church attendance empties many people of their Christian experience, along with the gradual absence of the mid-week prayer service. Radio and television may keep one away from church now and then—just occasionally at first, but it gradually becomes more frequent until, after a while, the church may be entirely forsaken. This is a solemn and deplorable fact with many people, or becomes a fact through some other cause. You had better watch this leak, dear young person, or you may become a spiritual pauper. "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as we see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Let me call your attention to the leakage of giving to God's cause and kingdom. To prevent this leakage, one should be a conscientious and faithful tither. This is God's plan and way of rightly and bountifully supporting the Gospel, along with offerings from our remaining nine-tenths (read Malachi, Chapter 3). Too many professed Chris-

tians do not tithe their income or give offerings. One may even be a tither and gradually quit. Then one may give rather liberally who is not a tither, but a little leakage comes into his giving. Maybe withholding a nickel, or dime, or even a dollar now and then, until he finally uses all his income for something else. Watch your leakage in giving! You had better stop that little leak today. It would be much better to increase your giving rather than decrease it. "The liberal soul shall be made fat" (Proverbs 11:25), not the selfish, stingy soul. In fact, there are no selfish, stingy Christians.

Many little leaks can eventually empty the soul of its grace and blessed experience, but in closing, let me mention the leakage of love. Whatever gradually causes one to lose his love for God and his fellowman is a leakage that can become serious and even tragic. We are taught in the Bible, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matthew 22:37-39). Paul said, "Let brotherly love continue" (Hebrews 13:1). There is no justifiable cause before God for one's love to leak out. It is to continue as long as we live on earth, and then when we go out to meet God, it will last forever.

Selected

Psalm 42:5 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.

Psalm 130:1 Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O LORD.

2 Lord, hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my

supplications.

3 If thou, LORD, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

4 But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.

5 I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

6 My soul waiteth for the Lord

more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.

7 Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.

8 And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Don't Lose Hope



Brother Larry Dishman

Facing Uncertainty

As I travel from place to place, I find that many people are losing hope. One definition for the word hope is, "confident expectation and a desire for something good in the future." Hope has been defined as a look forward with confidence and expectation. Apart from God, this old world in which we live is a hopeless place. Hope is an important ingredient in life. Suffering would be practically intolerable without hope. God knew this, of course, so He gave us the gift of hope.

Hope is present in us when life is comfortable, but hope is essential when life offers its very worst. Sometimes it seems that when going through deep valleys, we cling to hope in desperation and rest on God's promises of a better future where an unfading inheritance awaits us. This enables us to experience the joy of God even when we suffer. Because of God's gracious provision, we do not have to lose hope.

One of the hardest things that Christians face is uncertainty. Too often we slip into the belief that

because we are saved, our struggles are over and everything will go smoothly. When facing calamity, we understand this is not actually true. God's salvation does not mean the end of tribulation, but it means that we can walk in hope because we know how the story ends. To be human is to be troubled and to experience your share of trials. Whether you are saved or lost, you are going to experience difficult places in life, but the good thing about being a Christian is that you have God on your side to help you during times of trouble.

The news is mostly filled with stories of troubled people. There are stories of scandals, illnesses, accidents, murders, thefts, vandalism, deaths, diseases, marital strife, divorce and broken homes, scattered families, deserted children, unemployment, inflation, floods, fires, and earthquakes. Any of these can rock our lives at any time. Hard times can weigh heavily upon us and get us down. Sometimes we hear the phrase, "down in the dumps." Sometimes God's people can get down in the dumps. Thank God, some days we are up in the clouds, so to speak, but other days we can get discouraged. The psalmist began Psalm 130 by saying, "Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O LORD." This is an expression that describes a very low point of life, a time of extreme distress and trouble. Possibly somebody reading this message is going through a hard place or a dark valley. Maybe you would like to rejoice and praise God, but you are very distressed.

Some people say, "You should never ask God why." Friend, some spiritual people in the Word of God asked God why. I do not think it is wrong, out of concern and a heavy heart, to talk to God as you would your earthly father and ask why. Even while Jesus was on the Cross, He looked up to His Father and asked why. You can read in Matthew 27:46 that Jesus asked, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" While you are in a low place, you should not feel guilty or condemned when your heart cries out why. Don't lose hope! The devil is working, so let us not be ignorant of his devices. Let us not lose hope of revival. I fear that the devil is working such a work that, if we are not careful, we will give in to the thought that the days of revival are past. I believe that the church can still experience a real revival.

Have Persistent Faith

The Bible says in 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, which are

called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." That promise still stands, but the devil wants us to look at certain conditions and throw up our hands and say, "There is nothing we can do but wait for Jesus to come." Friend, I am expecting a revival to take place.

It is a trick of the devil to rob us of our faith and to cause us to believe that revival is an impossibility. It takes faith in order to have revival. James 1:6 tells us, "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed."

Jesus said in Matthew 21:22, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." As we pray for revival, we have to believe that God is still on the throne and that He can still send a revival. Whatsoever things you ask in prayer, believing, which includes asking for a revival, you shall receive. I am glad that Jesus Christ is just the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is the One who brings about revival, and He can still do it today.

I really believe that our world is getting ripe for revival. It has been during perilous times that revival has come in the past, and thank God, it can happen again. When God comes for His church, I believe we will go to Heaven in a wave of glory. As you are praying about certain things, don't lose hope. When you pray and pray and it seems as though there is no change, it is easy to lose hope; don't lose hope! If you are praying for your lost children, your companion, or your grandchildren, don't lose hope. The devil is trying to rob you.

I refer to this Scripture quite often in Luke 18:1-8, which states: "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared

not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

"And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Jesus was not talking about saving faith here; He was talking about persistent faith. We need to be persistent as we pray and seek the face of God. If a mountain is in your life and it seems bigger than you are, God is bigger than the mountain. Don't lose hope because of that mountain in your life. God is still in the business of removing mountains. I do not know what your mountain might be, but don't lose hope!

You need to keep holding on to the horns of the altar, so to speak. You might be burdened for your children or for your companion, and you have been praying. Perhaps weeks, months, or years have gone by, and instead of getting closer to salvation, they seem to be getting further and further away from God. It may seem that instead of their hearts warming up, they are getting colder. Friend, do not give up; keep praying.

I still hold to the promise in Psalm 126:5-6, which states: "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." It helps when Zion travails. If you do not believe it can happen, then you are not going to travail. You are not going to get under a burden, or carry a burden. Don't lose hope; hold on to God.

Many times there are signs when people are losing hope. One sign is a lack of persistent prayer. Most often the first sign of losing hope is being haphazard in your prayer life. In contrast, a strong Christian life is characterized by fervent prayer. You can lose hope and grow weary in well doing. The Bible talks about this. Paul wrote in Galatians 6:9, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

You may say, "I'm going to give up." Why do you want to do that? The Bible says not to be weary in well doing. We have this promise from the Word of God: ". . . in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." I thank God for the promises in God's Eternal Word.

Pray Fervently

Another reason people lose hope is that iniquity is abounding. Jesus talked about it in Matthew 24:12 when He said, "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Some people have a lack of respect for God and His Word. Such a lack of respect is infectious. If you are not careful, what you see going on all around you can affect you and cause your love for God to wax cold.

In our Scripture text in Psalm 130 we are given four steps for getting out of despair. The first one is prayer. Hope in hard times expects God to actively listen to your personal concern. The Psalmist David said in verses 1-2: "Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications." Christ equated fervent prayer with not losing heart in Luke, Chapter 18.

Ephesians 6:18 says, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." The psalmist realized that he needed help. He knew that if he was ever going to escape from his troubles

and from despair, he would have to cry out to God. The help he needed was not self-help. He did not need a friend or a therapist. A person can be guilty of looking to the wrong people and going to the wrong places for solutions to problems.

What did the psalmist do? He cried out for the Lord because he realized that the way up and out was through prayer. Sometimes life is hard. You may say, "I'm having it good." Well, you had better watch out, because more than likely it is getting ready to get hard. When life gets hard, you need to remember to pray and not despair.

I once read of a young preacher in Louisiana. During the depression, electricity was just coming to that part of the country, and he was in a rural area preaching in a church. They had only one little light bulb hanging from the ceiling for the whole sanctuary. As this young preacher was preaching his sermon, suddenly the electricity went out. The building was pitch black, and the preacher did not know what to do. Being a young man, he stumbled around until one elderly brother sitting in the back of the church said, "Preach on, preacher; we can still see Jesus in the dark."

The good news is that you can see Jesus in the dark times, and you can be confident that He hears your prayers. Whether or not you can see Him or feel Him, He sees you. Someone may say, "I don't know how long it has been since I have really felt the presence of God." If your life is still clear before God, if you have not committed sin or have not been disobedient, I can promise you that God knows where you are, and He will be there for you, because you have His promise in the Word of God. Jesus said He would never leave you nor forsake you.

In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus anticipated drinking the bitter cup of our sins and experiencing the wrath of God upon the Cross. What did He do? In the long night of His spiritual struggle, He prayed, He prayed, and He prayed again. What

an example Jesus set for us in difficult times. When we are down in the valley, the Bible lets us know we must pray and not faint.

Confess and Forsake

The second step for getting out of despair is confessing. Hope in hard times expects God to be forgiving and not condemning, and that is the way God is. The psalmist continued in Psalm 130:3-4: "If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared." It is said that the early Christian theologian Augustine inscribed the words of Psalm 130, verse 4, in part, on the wall of the room where he was dying: "But there is forgiveness with thee." Praise God! I am glad there is forgiveness with God.

There is forgiveness at conversion. Thank God, He can take every one of your sins and put them in the sea of forgetfulness, never to be remembered against you again. That is not all. As a Christian, you have forgiveness with God. He is not going to clobber an individual if he fails. God does not put you down further if you should fail. He has forgiveness for you if you ask Him.

Moreover, when facing death, the Christian has hope because of a forgiving God. Verse 3 reveals that God does not delight in making a list of your sins and then focusing on that list.

Again, the psalmist said in verse 3, "If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?" What does that mean? If God were of the disposition to keep a list of everything you do and put it before your face all the time, then who could stand before Him?

John said in 1 John 4:8 that "God is love." In 1 Corinthians 13:5 Paul let us know that love "thinketh no evil." Love does not keep a list of all offenses or store up a memory of offenses. God desires to forgive you. I am not talking about sweeping anything under the rug, so to

speaking. I am saying that when a person confesses and forsakes all sin, God always has mercy.

You do not need to despair if you should fall. You never have to quit or give up, because there is a God in Heaven Who wants to forgive you. His desire is to forgive you and to set you back on your feet once again. God is not eager to condemn, but He is eager to forgive. We can see the forgiving heart of God in the father of the prodigal son. Luke, Chapter 15, tells us when the rebellious son returned home broken and repentant, the father did not pull out a list of offenses and hold it in his son's face. No, instead the father embraced his son, kissed him, and had a welcome home party for him. He said his son who was dead was alive again. He was lost and was found.

During the Babylonian captivity, the children of Israel had plenty of time to reflect on what got them there. This was the ministry of hard times and suffering. How many times in your life have you thought long and hard about what caused you to arrive where you are? It forces you to get real with sin and to get real with God. Before there can be forgiveness, one has to confess and forsake sin. The sin of a bad attitude, a critical spirit, or self-focus needs to be acknowledged and confessed.

James 4:17 says, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." Why is it that people view confession as a negative thing. Confession is not a downer; it is the way up and out of hard times. If anyone knew this, David knew it. David said in Psalm 32:1, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered."

David continued in verses 5-6: "I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah. For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when

thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him."

Confession is the activity of the godly. It is the proud, sinful heart that will not make confession to God and admit when he has failed God. Why live a life riddled with guilt, driven by shame, and running in fear from confession? Thank God, forgiveness comes to rid one of the wake of needless guilt, shame, and fear. Who needs those things when God is gracious to forgive? We are motivated out of grace and not guilt. The weight of guilt keeps a person in the depths of despair.

Perhaps you need to confess your reluctance or your refusal to forgive others. Are there others whom you refuse to forgive? If so, you ought to confess that to God. If you refuse to forgive, you are left with resentment, anger, bitterness, and hatred. These will hold you down in the dungeon of despair. Confession is good for the soul. Do you know what you ought to do? You ought to tell God what He already knows and confess the truth about your needs. He can set you free. God already knows every need you have. God knows more about you than you know about yourself. He knows everything about you.

Watching and Waiting Patiently Upon the Lord

The third step to getting out of despair is to patiently wait. Hope in hard times expects God to move in His time and not yours. Hope makes us willing to wait. The psalmist said in Psalm 130:5-6: "I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning."

I believe the psalmist was leaning forward and looking up. He was not looking back or looking down. This is a posture of hope; his expectations were set on the Lord. One good thing about being in a low point in your life is, there is no-

where to look but up. When you get down as far as you can go, there is no place else to look but to Jesus. Why not look up? You have been down long enough. The psalmist said, "I wait for the LORD." The word wait means more than merely standing still. The psalmist was waiting in hope. In verse 6 he gave a picture of a watchman. The watchman patrolled the city through the night hours. There were no street lights; everything was dark, giving opportunity for evil people to accomplish their evil purposes. A watchman was fully employed to watch for something that might be unusual. One thing was certain, the dawn was coming and a watchman looked for the light of dawn.

A night watchman, or a night security guard, constantly checks doors, walks the halls, and watches the monitors for anything out of the ordinary. A night security guard anticipates the morning, because the night shift is a long, lonely shift that ends at daybreak.

What was the psalmist saying? Waiting is not resignation or collapse. Waiting has to do with what you can do right now as you wait for God to do what you cannot do. There are some things that we cannot do because we do not have the power, the strength, or the ability, but we know the One who has the power. We have to wait on Him. When I was a young Christian, I found that God's clock is not necessarily on time with ours. Waiting is proof of faith. In waiting, you keep looking for the morning.

One thing you can do as you wait on the Lord's timing is to read and rehearse the promises of God's Word. You can write down the Scriptures, read them, and rehearse them every morning and evening.

Again, verse 5 says, "I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope." God really loves you, and with Him all things are possible. The Bible is packed full of hope; it is rich with His promises, and all His promises are true. If you are not reading your

Bible, you are not feeding your hope. If you are not feeding your hope, you are in danger of losing your hope and slipping down into despair. As you claim God's eternal promises and weave them into your soul and your life, hope brightens your horizon.

Waiting can be a dark time. Seeds need the dark, cool dampness of the earth to spring up into new life. Little babies in a mother's womb need a warm, dark place to grow. The body needs the dark night to rest and renew. Waiting can be a time of growth and preparation.

Believing God

The fourth step for getting out of despair is to believe. Hope in hard times expects God to respond in love. Psalm 130:7-8 reads: "Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption. And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities."

The children of Israel were in Babylon, and their confidence in God's profits and promises grew. Long before the Syrians and the Babylonians came, the prophets warned the people of their coming. The prophets told them to repent and turn back to God. Looking back, they were able to see that the prophets were right. If they had only listened and believed, they would have still been living in Jerusalem, but they failed to believe God.

God has never lied to us. We can believe His Word and embrace His Truth. God still works everything to the good of those who love Him and who are called according to His purpose. God can turn your present misery into a future ministry. You must believe there is a way up and out of your hard time. It is the time to pray, confess to God, look up, and lean forward as you patiently wait and believe in the future. God did not abandon His people in exile. He did not abandon Jesus, and He will never abandon you. No matter what you are going through, God

is the answer, and He is your only real hope. With God there are no hopeless situations. There are only people who have grown hopeless about them.

The psalmist was not down in the dumps. The true measure of life is not what comes your way, but how you respond to what comes your way. How have you been responding to what has come your way? The psalmist taught a lesson as he cried out to God in the midst of hard times. Rather than drown in self-pity and look for someone to blame, he took responsibility for his present situation and looked to God in hope. There is always hope with God in your life. Our God is with us in the valley of suffering, and wherever God is, there is hope.

Psalm 130 begins and ends with God. In the first verse, the psalmist cried out to the Lord with confident expectation of hope. In verse 7 he said, "Let Israel hope in the LORD." When you choose God, you choose hope. When you turn to God, you turn to hope. What you expect from God is going to have a critical effect on how you respond to life in the hard times. Hope elevates your expectations and will lead you out of despair. Just as a blacksmith places

metal in the fire to mold it to its ultimate purpose, God uses fire in your life to form you into the person that He created you to be. While you may feel broken in the process, when you get to where God is taking you, you will know that it was worth it. When you come out of the fire and get to the place where God has planned to take you, you will know that it was worth it.

Someone may be thinking, "If you only knew the mess that I am in." Then you need to fully know the one true God, because He has a plan despite the level of your mess. He will give you both a future and a hope. While only He knows, when you arrive at the future, you can claim your God-given right to hope now.

Our Scripture text says in Psalm 42:5, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance." Whether it is a rebellious child, trouble in the home, sickness, disease, a financial problem, or lost children, don't lose hope!

(Compact Disc TR-1726)

Count Your Blessings

*When you're feeling down and out
And the blues have got you down;
Just put a smile upon your face
And drive away that frown.
Start in to count your blessings
And name them one by one;
And you will then begin to see
Just what the Lord has done.
He never does forsake His child,
For that's His promise true:
"Lo, I am with you always,
Even when this life is through."*

Selected

Revelation 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels.

Revelation 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

Faith Is Powerful



Brother James Presley

Examine Your Faith

The two verses of our Scripture text have one thing in common: they both talk about war. If you have not been saved for very long, you will soon realize that you are in a battle. The devil is after you. He wants you to fail and to give up the fight. It is up to you not to give up.

We are fighting an enemy that is stronger, smarter, and craftier than we are. He can outmaneuver any one of us. The devil will always have a way to try you one more time. Without God in your life, you cannot

defeat him. Each day I live for the Lord, I find that I need Him more and more. I will need more of the Lord tomorrow than I do today. We need more of God each and every day of our lives. The enemy will defeat us without God.

The devil will bombard you and throw things your way to try to get you to give up. You may ask, "Why is that?" You have something he wants you to give up if you are saved. He wants you to give up your faith in Jesus Christ. He wants you to give up trusting in the Lord and believing in God and His Word.

Ephesians 2:8 tells us, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." You are saved by grace, but it comes through faith. If you repent, believe, and trust in the Lord, you will be saved.

Grace has to be applied to your heart through the act of faith. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Simply put, faith is believing in something that you cannot see. The same faith that the devil is trying to take from you is the same faith that will help

you to win the war, but you have to utilize it. You cannot let the devil have it. This is the reason he battles you so much.

Have you been in a battle? Is the devil bombarding your mind, telling you things that are not uplifting? He is trying to get you down. Have temptations become hard to overcome? Do you feel that the devil is suppressing your spirit? He is working on your faith. If he can get you to become discouraged, he is winning the battle. The devil wants to take your faith.

In a war if you can get the enemy to become discouraged and oppressed, it will not be long until you will overcome him. If soldiers on a battlefield get surrounded by the enemy and the battle is raging, and they do not know when reinforcements are coming, their outlook will start to get bleak. With a little discouragement, it will not be long before the enemy overcomes them. This is the reason you need the Word of God more and more in your life. When you read the Word of God, it encourages and uplifts you. It gives you what you stand in need of to battle the enemy.

Do you find yourself doing less and less reading of the Word of God? The devil tries to get you busy doing needful things to try to keep you from reading and studying the Word of God. Also, he wants to keep you busy worrying and trying to figure things out on your own. The Word of God is uplifting, and there is power in the Word. If you are not reading the Bible as you should, the devil is winning. Next, he will start to work on your faith so that you do not trust in God as you once did.

The devil does not want you to pray, because prayer will bring reinforcement. Prayer will give you the victory and the help you need. What does the devil say? "You don't need to pray as much as you do." He wants to get you so busy that you do not have time to pray. If you find yourself praying less or not as

fervently, the devil is winning.

The devil wants to take your faith, and he uses two avenues: Bible reading and prayer. Who would knowingly tell the devil, "Here is my faith; you can have it"? The devil knows you would not do that, but he also knows how to work on your weak spots. He will work on them and try to get you to stumble. If he can get you to stop reading and praying as you should, it is easier to stumble and fall.

The devil has been perfecting his skills for many years. You have to stay close to God, keep your faith fervent, and trust in Him even more to overcome the enemy of your soul. The devil knows how to work on your weak spots. It is going to take a lot of effort on your part to be victorious. How is your faith? Is it as strong and as fervent as it used to be? Every now and then, it is good to examine yourself to see how you stand before God.

Having Persistent Faith

Luke 18:1-8 says: "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" The widow woman in this parable had faith.

Verse 1 starts, "And he spake a parable. . . ." A parable is a story with a lesson in it. Jesus had some-

thing to teach those brethren. Verse 2 lets you know there was a judge in that city who neither regarded man nor feared God. I want you to notice that the Scripture does not say that he did not believe in God, just that he did not fear God. This judge was a wicked man. I want you to think about this: the judge had mercy on that widow woman. It was not because he was nice and merciful, but because she troubled him continually. She was persistent. She had faith that he was the one who could help her in the time of trouble.

The fact that this judge did not fear God stood out to me. Some who come around the Church of God are not saved, and they are allowing the devil to work things in their lives. Like this unjust judge, they do not fear God. Psalm 111:10 says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." The judge in the parable was a man of authority, but he did not have wisdom, because he did not have any fear of God. A person starts getting wisdom when he starts to fear God. Today many people do not fear the Lord.

An old friend of mine used to come to church with me, and one day he asked, "Why don't more people get saved?"

So I asked him, "Well, why do you think more people are not saved?"

He replied, "I don't think they are afraid of God."

Matthew 10:28 says, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Many young people are afraid that their worldly friends may say something to them if they sell out to God. They say, "What are my closest friends going to say?" If your closest friends say something against your getting saved, they are not your friends. The Bible says if you are ashamed of God, He will be ashamed of you.

Many men in the work force are afraid to let other people know that they are saved. They are afraid to live right before them. They are

afraid to say, "If that joke is dirty, I don't want to hear it." God put the Christian in the work force to be a witness who will stand out in a crowd. You do not need to fear man, but you need to fear God. If you are not saved, you need to fear God, because one day God is going to hold your soul in His hand and make an everlasting decision.

Strong, Unwavering Faith

In Luke 18:3 we find that the widow lady had an adversary who was coming against her. No doubt, that adversary was very intimidating to her. He was probably stronger than she was, and she needed help. So she ran to the judge. We have an adversary, but thank God, we have Someone to whom we can run. I am thankful that our Judge is not unjust. He is a loving, caring Judge who is willing to help us in every way possible to overcome the adversary. I thank God for Jesus Christ.

Verse 4 tells us the unjust judge would not help her at first, and then he finally helped her. Have you ever prayed for something, and the prayer did not get answered? Perhaps you prayed again and still did not get an answer, and then you prayed yet again. The situation seemed to drag on, but you continued to pray. I gave that illustration to say this: there are times when God wants to see if you are going to be as persistent as this widow woman. She had persistent faith. She was determined to get an answer to her request. Sometimes God wants to see how persistent you are. He wants to see if you are going to come to Him repeatedly until you get an answer. I appreciate God for teaching me that. I teach that to my children. Sometimes I want to see if they will keep asking.

Luke 18:8 says, "Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" The Amplified Bible says, "However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find [this kind of persistent] faith on the earth?" The Lord is going to have to find that kind of faith in us. Being

persistent is to continue to do something even though it is difficult or if other people want you to stop. Who would tell you to stop praying? The devil does not want you to pray, but reinforcement will come when you pray.

As time goes on, you are going to need stronger faith, because times are getting worse. Many dangers are in our own country. Nothing is impossible if our country turns its back on God. We are going to need persistent, strong faith in Jesus Christ. We need faith that will move mountains when we need mountains to move. We need faith so that we will be unmovable in our beliefs, like the saints of old had.

Have you read *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*? Those saints stood the test of time because they had a strong faith in Jesus. Did they see Him literally? No, they saw Him by faith. They saw Him answer prayers in their lives. Their faith was unwavering unto death. Some were even burned at the stake. Do you think that you could endure being burned at the stake? Could your faith enable you to stand as those saints did? Those saints overcame their fears because they had strong faith in Jesus. Is your faith as strong as it should be?

Deuteronomy 32:20 says, "And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith." This is a position in which the devil wants to get you. He wants your faith to crumble. He does not want you to trust God. He wants you to trust in your own ideas, in your own thoughts. To whom was this referring? Verse 15 tells us, "But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation." The devil wants you to lightly esteem the Rock of your salvation. There was a lot of flesh there, and then verse 20 describes them as "children in whom is

no faith."

We need to keep the flesh under control. You cannot let the flesh tempt you to the point where your faith starts to dwindle. You cannot allow the flesh to grow or it will hinder you. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:27, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." Paul knew that if he did not keep his flesh under control, it would hinder his faith and eventually cause him to lose out with God. Too much flesh will cause you to lose out with God. The devil uses many ways to hinder faith in God.

Doubt is another way the devil uses to drag your faith down. Have you ever prayed and asked God for help or to deal with a loved one's heart? What can happen? The spirit of doubt will come around and put questions in your mind. When you pray, you need to be sure that you pray for God's will to be done. When you are burdened for souls and pray for them, the devil will put thoughts or questions in your mind to discourage you from praying, such as, "How is he ever going to let go of that drinking problem?" With God all things are possible, but it takes faith.

Maybe you have invited people to church several times before, and they have not come. What will the devil tell you? "You have invited them several times and they have not come. Why invite them again?" The devil knows that one more time may be the time they show up and get saved. You cannot listen to the lies of the devil. He will tell you a lie every time you pray. If you allow him to work doubt in your mind, it will affect your faith.

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus

Matthew 14:27-31 says: "But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he

said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"

Peter had enough faith to ask Jesus to bid him to go out there, but when he started to walk on the water, his faith wavered when the sea became boisterous. Peter took his eyes off the One who gave him the power to walk on the water. When God uses you, speaks through you, and wants to encourage you, often the devil will bring something around to try to discourage you, to scare you, to cause you to worry, and to try to get you to take your eyes off Jesus, the One who gives you the power.

When Peter stepped down out of the boat, he had a little faith, but he took his eyes off Jesus. That is a lesson for every saint of God. If you take your eyes off Jesus, you are going to start sinking. As soon as Peter saw the boisterous waves, he became frightened and started to sink. He forgot that he had already walked on water.

The devil wants you to forget about all the victories that God has given you. He has given you power over temptation. No doubt, He has helped you through hard places. He has answered your prayers, and perhaps He has healed your body.

I never want to forget the victories that God has given me. I want to see others in my family saved. The devil will try to get me to forget about praying for them. He will say, "Oh, it is impossible for him to get saved" or "It is impossible for her to get saved." There is no one who is impossible with God. His hand can reach all the way down in the pit and pull a soul back up. You need to remember all the victories that He has brought you through.

All Things Are Possible to One Who Believes

I want you to think about how powerful faith truly is, and this is where reading the Word really comes in. You can read in the Old Testament and in the New Testament how the people went through many trials with victory by simply believing. Mark 9:23 reads, "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." That verse is powerful! It is a short verse, but it was spoken by the Son of God Himself. He is also the same One who said in Matthew 11:28, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." It is easy for the child of God to believe that, because he has experienced salvation. However, the devil does not want you to realize that the same One who said that also said this: "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."

Consider all the many instances of divine healing in the Bible. What did Jesus say in John 14:12? He said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." God is still able to do all things. Faith has power attached to it.

John 11:26 reads, "And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" When you believe that, you will be saved. According to the words of Jesus, as saints, we are never going to die spiritually. Christian friend, unless you back away from God, you are never going to die. The devil will try to cause you to question and tell you that God cannot do that. On the contrary, God can do all things. Our God is a powerful God!

Where does the power in the Word and the power in prayer come from? It comes from God. In Matthew 28:18 Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." He can do all things. We were saved by faith, and our prayers

are answered by faith. We must believe in the same way we believed when we got saved. When I bowed down and prayed, nothing was impossible with God. I knew He could take away my sins, and He did.

The devil fights faith so much, because he wants you to give up. If you give up, you cannot be effective in your life. If you allow your faith to dwindle, you will affect others. Do you have a child, a loved one, or a husband or wife who needs to be saved? Maybe you know somebody who is sick and needs to be healed. God is able. The devil will work on your faith to try to hinder you every day.

Have Faith in God

In the Old Testament, you can read the story about Elijah on Mount Carmel with the four hundred fifty prophets of Baal and the fire that came down from heaven. Elijah had faith. He made a bold statement when he said that the true God would answer by fire. He knew God was going to answer. He had faith and confidence in Him. He trusted God to answer his prayer. You can read in 1 Kings, Chapter 18, that fire came down out of heaven and licked up all the water.

Have you read about David and Goliath? David had faith in God that He was going to deliver him. Why? Because of all the other victories God had given him. It will inspire your faith to have victories that you can look back on. God has delivered you and brought you through hard places in life. If He brought you through those hard places, He will bring you through anything the devil can bring your way.

Moses had faith in God. You can read in the Book of Exodus that after the children of Israel left Egypt, they had the Red Sea in front of them, Pharaoh's army behind them, and the mountains on both sides. What did Moses do? He did exactly what God told him to do, because he had faith in God. God parted the Red Sea, and Moses and

all the people walked through on dry ground. However, when Pharaoh and his army attempted to do the same, God troubled them and caused the wheels on the chariots to fall off. Then Moses lifted up his arms and the sea came crashing in upon them.

What about the three Hebrew boys? They were thrown into the fiery furnace. Do you think they had faith that God was going to help them? Daniel 3:17 says, "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king." They had confidence that God was able to deliver them from the burning, fiery furnace. It is amazing what God can do when someone has just a little faith.

How is your faith? Maybe you are going through a heavy place and the devil is dragging you down and trying to discourage you. Maybe the devil is working on your mind, saying, "It is never going to work out." You can trust God and ask Him to help you. You just need to believe Him wholeheartedly and to persistently go to Him. God will answer your prayer and help you.

Maybe you are struggling to gain the victory over something. If

so, you need to trust God, turn your faith over to Him, and ask Him to help you. When the devil is banging on your door to tempt you, many times the victory is not with one little, simple prayer. Oftentimes you must pray over and over again to get the victory. The devil is real. Sometimes when you pray, he will pound even harder, because he does not want you to pray. You should not give up after you say one quick, little prayer. You need to be persistent about it; that is what God is looking for. God will answer your prayers. He is more than able to help you. If you are struggling, you are not the only one who has ever had struggles. Do not get depressed or discouraged. That is just fuel for the enemy to continually work on you. Many have had struggles in life, but they got the victory. You can get the victory too.

Have you been listening to the voice of the devil? Has he questioned you and caused you to doubt? If the devil has been hindering your faith, you need to take time and have prayer with God. You need to ask Him to fortify your faith so that you can overcome anything he throws at you. God is more than able to give

you the faith you desire.

In Mark 9:24 you can read about a man who had a possessed child. The disciples could not cast out the spirit that had hold of him. The verse reads, "And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." He had a little faith, but it was not enough; he needed more.

Ephesians 3:20 states, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." What is that power? It is faith. God is able to do all things, as long as you let faith work in your heart.

The battle is over your faith. The devil will win the war if you give it up. How is your faith? Have you been trusting God as you should? Do you need stronger faith? Has the devil been working on it? Do you need to strengthen your faith? God wants to do a great work on you, child of God. You can have a powerful experience with Jesus Christ. If you have a need, won't you pray?

(Compact Disc TR-1782)

Building Your Own Mansion

There is a legend of a wealthy woman who, when she reached Heaven, was shown a very plain mansion. She objected. "Well," she was told, "that is the house prepared for you."

"Whose is that fine mansion across the way?" she asked.

"It belongs to your gardener."

"How is it that he has one so much better than mine?"

"The houses are prepared from the materials that are sent up. We do not choose them. You do that by your earthly faithfulness."

(This may be a legend, but it bears a profound truth.)

2018 Camp Meeting Dates

June 17-24

July 29 - August 5

December 27-30

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



Fall 2017 Camp Meeting Recordings

| Recrd. No. | Date | Message Title | Minister |
|--|-----------|--|---|
| TR-1933 TR-1934 | 7-30-2017 | God's Chosen People It's Not a Matter of If, But When | Bro. David Stegmeier Bro. Larry Dishman |
| TR-1935 TR-1936 TR-1937 | 7-31-2017 | The Gift of Languages, Part 1 of 2 Symbols of the Church: The Bride Errors of the TULIP Doctrine | Bro. Roger Decker Bro. David Stegmeier Bro. Larry Dishman |
| TR-1938 TR-1939 TR-1940 | 8-01-2017 | The Gift of Languages, Part 2 of 2 Symbols of the Church: The Mother Step Up to the Plate | Bro. Roger Decker Bro. David Stegmeier Bro. Larry Dishman |
| TR-1941 TR-1942 TR-1943 | 8-02-2017 | Is It Possible to Live a Holy Life? Symbols of the Church: The Body of Christ If God Be for Us, Who Can Be Against Us? | Bro. Roger Decker Bro. David Stegmeier Bro. Calvin Foster |
| TR-1944 TR-1945 TR-1946 | 8-03-2017 | Will There Be a Millenium? Symbols of the Church: The Church of God Am I My Brother's Keeper? | Bro. Paul Prinkey Bro. David Stegmeier Bro. Calvin Foster |
| TR-1947 TR-1948 TR-1949 | 8-04-2017 | We Preach Christ Symbols of the Church: The City of God Basic Truths of Jesus Christ | Bro. Abraham Burton Bro. David Stegmeier Bro. Calvin Foster |
| TR-1950 TR-1951 | 8-05-2017 | Be Strong in the Lord Symbols of the Church: An Army | Bro. Leamon Whitehead Bro. David Stegmeier |
| TR-1952 TR-1953 | 8-06-2017 | The Substance of Our Faith Beyond Redemption's Point | Bro. Richard Talbot Bro. Larry Dishman |
| TM-393 TM-394 TM-395 TM-396 TM-397 TM-398 | 2017 | Fall Camp Meeting Songs #1 Fall Camp Meeting Songs #2 Fall Camp Meeting Songs #3 Fall Camp Meeting Songs #4 Fall Camp Meeting Songs #5 Fall Camp Meeting Songs #6 | |
| | 2017 | Fall Camp Meeting Choirs Songs # 1 Fall Camp Meeting Choirs Songs # 2 | |

Morning Messages in **MP3** Format in **MP3** Format
 Afternoon Teaching Services & Evening Messages in **MP3** Format

All Songs in MP3 Format

All messages and music recordings are available only on regular CD's or MP3 format. (Cassette tapes are unavailable.) The suggested donation for regular CD's is \$3.00 each and for DVD's is \$5.00 each. DVD's are not available for the afternoon teaching services. The suggested donation for MP3's is \$10.00 each. The postage is \$3.00 for one CD or MP3 and \$0.35 for each additional. Recordings may be ordered by writing *The Gospel Trumpeter*, CD Ministry, 675 N. Cedar St., Newark, Ohio 43055, or by calling (740) 345-1312, the Print Shop. Please make check or money order in U.S. funds payable to *The Gospel Trumpeter*.

Don't miss these . . .

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Morehead, KY
October 2-8

Revival: Blue Bank Church of God, 3200 Blue Bank Rd., Morehead, KY
Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, Mississippi
For more information contact: Brother Jeff Fannin
Telephone: 606-784-2858 or 606-776-2639 or 606-784-9241

Mt. Pleasant, PA
October 16-22

Revival: Church of God, 109 Salvation Lane, Mt. Pleasant, PA
Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, Mississippi
Service times: Monday-Saturday 7:00 p.m.;
Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 1:30p.m.
For more information contact: Pastor Paul Prinkey
Telephone: 724-547-2151

Summersville, WV
October 23-29

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

Newark, OH
October 29-
November 5

Revival: Church of God, 675 N. Cedar St., Newark, OH
Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, Mississippi
Service times: Monday-Saturday 7:00 p.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m.,
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m., and Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
For more information contact: Pastor Roger L. Decker
Telephone: 740-344-2543

Canby, OR
November 23-26

Revival: Church of God, 522 N. W. 2nd Ave., Canby, OR
Service times: Thursday-Saturday 7:00 p.m. and Sunday 6:00 p.m.
For more information contact: Pastor David Stegmeier
Telephone: 503-313-0227

Newark, OH
December 27-31

Winter Camp Meeting: Church of God, 675 N. Cedar St., Newark, OH
Service times: Wednesday 7:00 p.m.; Thursday-Sunday 10:00 a.m.
& 7:00 p.m. Morning prayer services Thursday - Sunday. Heated
dormitories. For lodging reservations contact Brother or Sister Bush,
725 N. Cedar Street, Newark, OH 43055, or call 740-345-1213.
Please make reservations in advance, if possible.
For further information contact: Pastor Roger L. Decker
Telephone: 740-344-2543

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