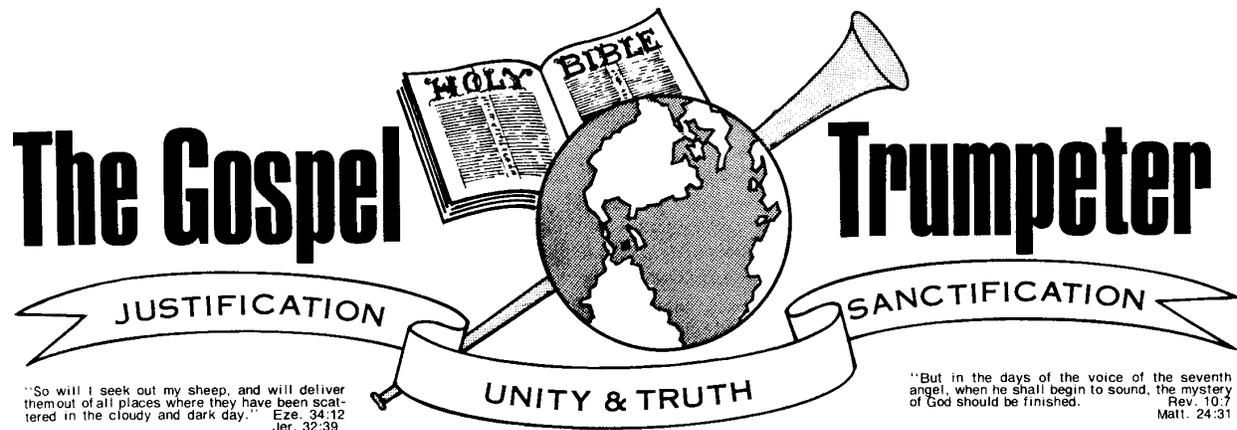


The Gospel Trumpeter



JUSTIFICATION

SANCTIFICATION

UNITY & TRUTH

"So will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day." Eze. 34:12 Jer. 32:39

"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished." Rev. 10:7 Matt. 24:31

SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

Vol. 49 August 2019 No. 8



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?"

SPRING 2019 CAMP MEETING REPORT

THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER USPS #871620

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

POSTMAN, send form 3579 to the printer:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Brother Roger L. Decker Editor
Workers Too Numerous to Mention

THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

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

SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH

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

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Vol. 49 August 2019 No. 8

Saints Gathered to Worship

Another beautiful camp meeting season began on Father's Day, Sunday, June 16, 2019. Pastor Roger Decker opened the meeting and welcomed the saints from near and far to God's Acres in Newark, Ohio. Brother Decker encouraged all in attendance to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness and to feast on the good things of God. For eight days the saints sat together in heavenly places. Glorious Truths of the Gospel sounded forth by faithful ministers of the Lord.

This year's camp meeting was very well attended. We were privileged to meet saints from various places that we have not been acquainted with previously. There were also dear saints in the meeting that we have not seen for several years. It thrills our hearts to see how God is gathering His people together. We saw familiar saints and friends brought together in fellowship once again. What a blessing it was to reminisce over the good times! God's desire has always been that all His people be together. He did not mean that we must be in one place, but that our hearts be together in unity according to the faith. Paul said in Ephesians 4:3 that we ought to endeavor "to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." In Philippians 1:27 he said to "stand fast in one spirit, with one mind

striving together for the faith of the gospel."

God's Holy Spirit surely filled the assembly as He moved about blessing our hearts time and time again. He anointed the preaching of the Gospel as the brethren presented the old paths to our hearts. We witnessed individuals move to an altar of prayer seeking salvation shortly after the service began. Thursday evening souls moved to the altars as a quartet sang an anointed song. We were blessed as the adult choir sang, and our young people's choir glorified God in songs of praise as well. It is always a delight on Saturday morning to hear our young children sing the praises of God and recite Bible verses.

Brother David Stegmeier delivered the first message on Sunday morning entitled "The Home: the Bulwark of Our Society." His thoughts centered on the importance of a godly, two-parent family. He stressed the need of a father's rightful place in the home and laid a strong foundation for the family. Sunday evening Brother Reggie Stegmeier exhorted on "The Father's Responsibility." Both messages challenged fathers and mothers to give diligent heed to their responsibilities to conduct a solid, Christian home.

Brother Abraham Burton was the evening evangelist for the June meeting. Beginning on

[continued on page 13]

Luke 8:26 And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee.

27 And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs.

28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of

God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not.

29 (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.)

30 And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him.

31 And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.

32 And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them.

33 Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked.

The Devil



Brother Roger L. Decker

"Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth"

We always use the Word of God as the final authority. We have to get beyond what people think. Often false teachings are taught to prop up other false theories. The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." He said in verse 24, "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient."

No doubt, you have heard some teachings about the devil and where he came from, but I want to cover these teachings with the Word of God. Speaking of the conversation that the devil had with God, the devil talked to God about Job. In Job 1:8 you can read that God mentioned Job to Satan when He said, "Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?"

In verse 10 Satan said to God, "Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house,

and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land." What happened after that? God let the devil get to Job, his family, and his possessions, but the devil could not take his life.

The devil does have power over the natural man, the man that is void of the Spirit of God, but that is not so concerning a child of God. The devil has power to tempt the child of God, but the child of God has power to say no to the temptation by the Word and the Spirit of God. He does not have to yield to the

temptations of the devil. Although this is contrary to what false religion teaches, I would rather take God's Word.

We read in 1 Corinthians 10:13, "There hath no temptation [your temptation is not unique] taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." You do not have to give in to temptation.

You may ask, "How powerful is the devil compared to God?" He is powerful when it comes to temptation, deceit, and evil, but to understand his power compared to the power of God, let us refer to the Book of Luke to find out. Jesus cast out many devils. In Luke 11:20 Jesus said, "But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you." The devil's power is darkness. He loves to cause people to be in confusion.

The Apostle Paul said in Colossians 1:13, "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated [changed, or transferred] us into the kingdom of his dear Son." Here darkness is presented as having power and authority. All Jews and Gentiles who do not embrace the Gospel of Jesus Christ come under this authority and power. The Apostle Paul lets us know that nothing less than the power of God can redeem a man from this darkness. If you are not saved, then in all honesty to your soul, you are under the power and influence of Satan.

Who Is the Devil?

At Halloween people like to dress in a red suit with horns, a pitchfork, and a tail to represent the devil, but that is not what he is really like. The devil is a spirit, and he can be anywhere. You

need to keep that in mind. The Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:2, "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." When Jesus cast the devils out of the man who dwelled in the tombs, those devils were spirits. We read in Luke 8:29a, "For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man." John 13:2 reads, "And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him." What happened? An evil spirit entered into Judas that caused him to carry out the transgression that was in his mind.

Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 14:33, "For God is not the author [or the beginning] of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." Since the beginning, it has been the plan of Satan to come against man and to come against the work of God, to distort, to confuse, and to deceive. His main goal was to lead man away from the simplicity of the Gospel, the divine plan of present and eternal salvation. In many instances, his work has been effective, especially when he can take the divinely inspired Word of God and misinterpret and misapply the meaning and the message of God's Eternal Word.

The Apostle Paul said in 2 Timothy 3:16, "All scripture [including the Old Testament] is given by inspiration [that simply means it is God breathed] of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

One false theory that has circulated around the religious world was that the devil was once one of God's angels and abode in God's Heaven with God, being one of the chief of the angels. Supposedly, they say that

he got tempted and puffed up with pride and caused turmoil or created a war, and then God had no choice but to cast him out. Now, all of this may sound good to the carnal mind, but let us see what the Scriptures teach. Again, Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Was the Devil a Fallen Angel?

How did the devil come to exist? This is where the fallacy is. Let us start with the beginning. We all had a beginning, and you cannot go back in your life any further than the beginning. Was the devil a fallen angel? Did he get puffed up with pride and cause God to cast him out of Heaven? First, we ought to start with the words of Jesus. He could teach the Word of God in such simplicity and clear up all confusion.

In the Book of John, Chapter 8, Jesus was talking to the Jews of that day. They always kept before Jesus two people: Abraham and Moses. The Jewish leaders constantly mentioned Abraham, saying they were children of Abraham, so we are going to break into that conversation. John 8:39-44 reads: "They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children [this is very simple], ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. Ye do the deeds of your father. [That stirred up the Jews. No doubt, they could probably trace their genealogy back to Abraham. They were Orthodox Jews, and they were in the lineage of Abraham.] Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even

God.

"Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." They accused and blasphemed Jesus, but He rose again, and that did not stop the Gospel from spreading throughout the then-known world.

Some things about the devil stand out. First, he is a murderer. He can kill your soul spiritually, and he can kill you physically. He will try to get you to partake of illegal drugs. He may get you to drive your automobile too fast. He may try to get you to drink alcohol, or to partake of other vices. Why? Because he is a murderer. That does not mean he is going to cast a death sentence on you the next day, but he has many ways of working. John wrote in 1 John 3:15, "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." The devil was a devil from the beginning; he never abode in the Truth. That ought to eliminate the thought of the devil being an angel in Heaven.

The second thing that stands out about the devil is that he is a liar. Revelation 21:27 says, "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." In other words, if you are a liar, you are not in God's Book, the Book of Life. The devil is the father of lies. All of these were his characteristics

from the beginning. At his first estate means at Creation. The devil is a destroyer. You should not carry on conversations with him and think you can outtalk him. The best thing to do is to shut him down immediately. How does the devil work? When people get crosswise, they destroy other souls when they start whispering in their ears and getting people to go along with them. He works through darkness and deception.

What Are Angels?

The Bible is very clear on what angels are. Hebrews 1:14 tells us, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" What does it mean to minister to someone? It means to wait upon, to serve, or to take care of them. How do they minister? In Matthew, Chapter 4, when Jesus had just come through temptation, verse 11 tells us, "Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him."

Angels ministered to Peter in prison. Acts 12:7 states, "And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands."

The angels were with Lazarus when he passed away. In Luke 16:22 Jesus said, "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried." Psalm 34:7 says, "The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."

Angels do not marry. When you go to Heaven, you are not going to get married. You will be like the angels, so that means the number of angels stays the same.

Luke 20:34-36 reads: "And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection." Angels cannot die because they are immortal. If they do not marry, then the number of them stays the same. Angels are not free, moral agents. If they were, then God would have a plan of salvation, or a plan of redemption, for them.

The word "angel" is also used to mean minister. In the Book of Revelation, each of the seven letters to the seven churches were addressed to the "angel" of a particular congregation. Now, the angel over each congregation was none other than the pastor. It was not some celestial being that was in charge. Second Peter 2:4 tells us, "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment." He was not talking about ministering spirits, or the angels in Heaven, but rather he was talking about ministers who lived ungodly lives before the flood and at the time of Sodom and Gomorrah. In 2 Peter 2:17 Peter said, "These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest [or driven by the wind]."

Isaiah's Proverb

We want to look at some Scriptures often used to prop up the theory that the devil was once a resident in Heaven where God dwells. Isaiah 14:12 reads, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!"

In this Scripture it looks as though the Prophet Isaiah has a telescopic view of the devil falling from Heaven, but let us see what this chapter is really talking about. Remember, Satan had already been around for a couple thousand years. There are two main subjects in this chapter: the king of Israel and the king of Babylon. I want you to read a few verses so that you can understand what this parable, or this dark saying, is about.

The Prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 14:1-4: "For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land: and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob. And the people shall take them, and bring them to their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the LORD for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors. And it shall come to pass in the day that the LORD shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve, That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!"

What is a proverb? It is a parable, a taunting speech, or insulting remarks. Who was it against? It was against the king of Babylon. What caused the king to lose his throne or why was Babylon destroyed? Who was the king of Babylon and what was the golden city? The Word of God explains it very clearly. King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, and only Daniel could tell him the dream and give him the interpretation. Daniel was going to give a prophecy. Daniel 2:38 says, "And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field

and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold." The golden city was Babylon. Isaiah was prophesying of a parable, or a mockery, of the downfall of a mighty, powerful, puffed-up king of Babylon, who was King Nebuchadnezzar.

Isaiah 14:5-12 continues: "The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers. He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth. The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing. Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us. Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us?"

"Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee. [This tells of the fall of Babylon and their leader, and suddenly verse 12 comes into play.] How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!"

According to sectarianism, all of a sudden this whole thing changes on this one verse. They say it means the devil is Lucifer, but that is not so. Up to this very moment, the subject was altogether different. The word *Lucifer* is Latin, which means "daystar." It is not talking about Satan. It is the same taunting speech and the same proverb that was against King Nebuchadnezzar.

Verses 13-16 continue: "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee [Can you see the devil? Can you see his spirit? No!] shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms."

The King of Babylon

You will notice that the one who did the falling was right on this earth. Now I want you to read of King Nebuchadnezzar's fall. Daniel 4:28-31 states: "All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee."

Who was Isaiah talking about? Reading up through those verses, you should not stop at verse 12 and say it is talking about the devil. If you read on, it will explain to you that it is still a proverb. It is a taunting speech against the king of Babylon. It mentions "the man." Is not this the *man* that caused the earth to tremble, speaking of a man who was right here on this earth.

Luke 10:17-18 reads: "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy

name. And he [Jesus] said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." These verses of Scripture are self-explanatory. We find the seventy returned with joy. They were joyous because of the victories they just had in Jesus' name. They rejoiced in the fact that the devils were subject to them through His name.

What was Jesus telling them? He did not say that Satan fell from Heaven, but rather he fell *as lightning falls from heaven*. The heaven that Jesus was speaking of is the ariel heavens, not where God dwells. The overthrow of Satan was compared to lightning flashing through the heavens. When an individual is saved, that is just how quickly the devil goes out and Jesus comes in. Just as quickly as you see a flash of lightning light up the sky, you can see the quick change that takes place when the devil is cast out of someone's life.

John wrote in Revelation 12:7-9: "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil [that is not the actual devil, but what the devil was using, or was represented through], and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

Michael is Jesus Christ. Daniel 12:1 says, "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book."

Who is Michael that is going

to stand up? He is Jesus Christ. Jude, verse 9, states, "Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee." Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first."

The dragon represents pagan Rome. There was war in heaven, but not the Heaven where God dwells. Why? Because evil cannot get into Heaven. If it could, then maybe one would get kicked out. What heaven was he talking about? The same heaven that Nebuchadnezzar was exalted to. It is a place of control that the pagan Roman Empire and those who were in conflict with Christianity had, and the wars were spiritual warfare. Revelation 6:2 tells us, "And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer."

A Spiritual Conflict

Let us look at the battle for a little bit. Acts 17:22-23 reads: "Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you." The war was a spiritual conflict, just as we are in today. The church does not go out and fight carnally, but we are in a spiritual battle.

In 2 Timothy 4:7 the Apostle Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." In 2 Timo-

thy 2:4 he said, "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

Where did the devil come from? God created him. When do you first read of the devil in the Bible? It is in the Book of Genesis. It was when he was called the serpent. He was more subtle than any other creature that God made. Isaiah 45:5-7 says: "I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things."

In Colossians 1:16 the Apostle Paul said, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him."

Why would God create a devil? We are creatures of choice, and to have a choice, there has to be another way besides the right way. There has to be the good way and an evil way. Choosing the good way is the only way that you can truly show your love for God. All the devil has for anyone is darkness, deception, and being lost forever. He is a spirit that will lead his captives into trouble and will leave them in a hopeless state forever, if possible. However, if individuals will turn to Jesus, they will find the power to live holy that is lacking in their lives.

(Compact Disc TR-2037)

Psalm 38:3 There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin.

4 For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden

they are too heavy for me.

5 My wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness.

6 I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long.

7 For my loins are filled with a loathsome disease: and there is no soundness in my flesh.

Psalm 38:18 For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.

Are You Sorry for Your Sins?



Brother Garrett Haylock

Taking Responsibility for Sin

I believe someone rightly stated, "Sin is the blame for all sorrow." You can trace anything that is wrong in this world back to sin. God made man upright. When He finished His work of creation, He said in Genesis 1:31, "And, behold, it was very good." He placed man in a garden where he knew only good. The one stipulation was that in the midst of the garden there was a tree that they were not to eat of. God told them in the day that they ate of it, they would surely die. It seems like doing what God says is never the most popular way to live. Romans 5:12 reads,

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

All the evil and wickedness that happens in this world cannot be blamed on God. Man has paved the road for this downfall, and this downward spiral was started by man through listening to the devil instead of God. The psalmist said some things that we all should take thought of in this life. In Psalm 38:3 the psalmist said, "There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin."

If you are still outside the fold of God, you need to lay claim to

that. Whatever is wrong, you need to face up to your responsibility. It may be brought on because of your sin. Many times people blame others for things that go wrong in their lives. The psalmist was taking responsibility for his own actions. If you are saved, you need to stay saved, and by the grace of God, determine to stay in the church. Many problems are facing our world today.

Although the world may sometimes say that Christians do not have fun, we have a lot of fun serving God. It is a blessed thing to serve Him. The good thing about it is, as a Christian, when you pillow your head at night,

you do not have to worry about many things. The most important thing is that it is well with your soul.

Everyone who is saved has to come to grips with the fact that it was his own sins that took him down the downward spiral and separated him from God. When you come to grips with it, then you start to draw nigh to God. The Bible says in James 4:8a, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you." In the rehabilitation institutions, they tell people that in order to receive help, they must first acknowledge that they have a problem. If you are living in sin, you are bound by something, and you really cannot help yourself. Many times in those institutions, they are only interested in getting a person sound enough to fit back into society. A person might stop drinking or smoking, but unless his sins are forgiven and his iniquities are covered, when he dies, he will still go to hell.

Remember God in Your Youth

When you come to Jesus with a burden of sin and repent, God will clean you up, set you in the church, and outfit you for society. He will give you a fresh start at life. I am glad that I do not do the sinful things that I used to do. I no longer go to the same places that I used to go, because a great change took place when I was born again. He took away my desire to sin. He took away my desire to smoke, drink, carouse, and many other things. When you get saved, God puts you back on an even keel and gives you something worthwhile to live for. How does it start? It starts when you realize that you are a sinner. The earlier you realize that you are going down the wrong path, the better it will be for you.

The wise man said, "Remember now thy Creator in the days

of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them" (Ecclesiastes 12:1). When you remember God in your youth, it will spare you. My pastor used to say, "When God saves you in your youth, He will save not only your soul but also your life." God will save you from so many things.

I remember the one and only time that I got drunk at the age of eighteen. I said, "Lord [I had heard of Him, but I never knew Him in a personal way], if You will help me to get over this hangover, You will not have any more trouble with me over that." I was not saved yet, but I meant it, and thank God, I never got drunk again.

After I came to the Lord and after serving Him for a little while, I saw some things. I saw some of my friends' lives after they were introduced to cocaine down in the islands. We grew up in good times, but I never saw cocaine until after I was saved. A guy was giving it away by the matchbox full, introducing it to our little island. A person came on our job site and offered it to me. He said, "This thing will make you feel high." I said: "Well, I thank God that I do not have to get into that. I have read a little about it. I have Jesus, and I don't need anything more to satisfy me." I did not touch it. God has spared me from many vices because I got saved at the age of twenty-one. I said, "Thank You, Lord." The only regret that I have is that I did not get saved earlier.

Sin is the thing that you have to deal with. You have to come to the place where you realize that is where the problem really is. Verse 4 of our Scripture lesson reads, "For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me." Sin is something that hurts. It affects you in the way you live, in the way you think,

and in the things you do. Sin affects your life in many negative ways.

Sin Causes You to Do Foolish Things

Sin will draw you, attract you, and force you into things that you do not want to do. Some people say, "I will never do that." Friend, unless you quit sinning, there is no telling how far down you will go, because the depth of sin is not known. I am grateful that one can come up out of it with the help of God. Sin is an awful thing. Psalm 40:12 says, "For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me."

Many people are living in sin who really do not know what to do with their lives. They are seeking something to make them feel good, so they try things that make them feel better for a little while. Maybe you are outside the fold of God. Jesus is right for whatever is wrong in your life. If you will turn your life over to Him, you will never regret the day that you did.

When you come out of sin, the Bible says it is a day that you will remember, just as the Jewish people remembered coming out of Egypt. God told them they should remember that day all the days of their lives. It seems like it was just last week for me, but it has been close to forty years. God has been good to me, and I am grateful that I dealt with my iniquities. It was taking me further than I really wanted to go, but God intervened.

Verse 5 of our Scripture text says, "My wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness." The Bible lets you know that being foolish will cause you to die before your time. I want you to realize that sin still has

that capability to take you down and make you do foolish things that will wreck and destroy your life. When I read this verse of Scripture, I thought about what sin has done to so many people. Their sin made them do foolish things, and God in His mercy spared their lives. Sometimes foolishness kills people, but many times God in mercy reaches down and pulls them out.

Your sin is hurting more than just you. What should cause you to be more sorry for your sins than anything else is to think that your sin is hurting others. Even as people puff on cigarettes, addiction has gripped them, and those cigarettes have become so addictive that they can hardly put them down. While they are smoking and hurting themselves, it is actually proven that second-hand smoke is more destructive to others than for the one who is smoking. Sin is an awful thing, and you need to strive, by God's help, to come out of it.

Again, our Scripture text says in verses 5-6: "My wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness. I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long." Sometimes a friend may come by and say, "Let's go there" or "Let's do this." For a moment, you may forget what sin can really do to you. It can hurt not only you but also others.

Jesus Died for Your Sins

The Prophet Isaiah said something in Isaiah, Chapter 53, and every time I read it, I am more thankful to God. Verses 3-6 read: "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and

afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

When they spit in Jesus' face, plucked out His beard, and stripped Him naked in the midst of that public hall, all of that was done for our iniquities. This man had done nothing evil. When He was brought before Pilate, he asked what evil He had done. The crowd was crying out to crucify Him. Up until then, Pilate had not heard of any evil that He had done.

After examining Jesus, Pilate said, "I find no fault in this man." Jesus never did anything wrong. The Bible says that He was tempted in all points like we are, yet without sin. It was all our sins that sent Jesus to the Cross. When you really get the concept that you are still out in sin and Jesus died to pay the price for your sins, you should feel so grateful. The devil does not want you to see that you are ungrateful or that someone loved you so much that He died for you. Jesus was willing to pay the complete price and to make the full sacrifice so that you and I could be delivered from sin. If you continue in sin, you are being very ungrateful, because John 15:13 tells us, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Romans 5:8 states, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." I am grateful that God sent Jesus into the world to save us from our sins.

Your sins start to take effect upon you when you really focus on what your sin is doing to you and to others. It cost Jesus His

life. The One who had done no sin died at thirty-three years of age for no just reason but to pay the penalty for sin. When you really think of that, it should draw you a little nearer to the thinking of the psalmist, when he said he would be sorry for his sins.

Friend, Jesus Christ paid the price, and He can deliver you from every sexual sin, every drink, or whatever sinful pleasure that you are bound with. He paid it all so that you could be saved, have eternal life, and have it more abundantly. The song entitled "Sin Can Never Enter There" by C. W. Naylor says in verse 4:

*If you cling to sin till death,
When you draw your latest breath,
You will sink in dark despair,
To the regions of the lost,
Thus to prove at awful cost,
Sin can never enter there.*

Your Sin Hurts Others

Heaven is a holy place. When death happens, and they say "ashes to ashes and dust to dust," there may be little children or grandchildren left behind. There are family members hurting because of your sin. Even though they bury you, the Bible tells us that the iniquities of the father will go down to the third and fourth generations. When you think that a little child might become an alcoholic because his mother drank so much, that is sad. Many a child is born with a substance in its system because of the mother's indulgence in it. They say if that child was to take one drink, he would automatically become an alcoholic.

When you really bring this thing into bearing, you must think of the many dangers that you are encountering and the hurt that you are doing while you are enjoying sin. There are mothers staying up all night and

praying: "O Lord, have mercy on my son. Give him another chance. Bring him back home." It is taking away their rest because of a burden to see that son or daughter delivered from sin.

Jesus took up the tab so that sin could be stopped in your life and you could get rid of it. First John 2:2 tells us, "And He is the propitiation for our sins." He is the means by which you can now be delivered from sin. In the parable in Luke 14:17, Jesus said, "Come; for all things are now ready." Everything that you need to make you happy is found in Jesus Christ, and it is now ready. When Jesus was stretched out on the Cross and cried out, "It is finished," it was not a cry of defeat; it was a cry of victory. Jesus had finished what the Father had sent Him to do.

If anyone goes to hell now, he has to pay the fare, because Christ has provided a way to escape in the presence and person of Jesus Christ. None of us has to go to hell; so friend, do not choose to go there by going against all the good admonition of the Scriptures, the great love of God, and the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ. When you are sorry for your sins, that is when things start to happen. The Holy Spirit will single you out by talking to you and showing you exactly where you are.

In the Book of Joshua, the Bible says that Achan got clear instruction that nothing of the spoil was to be touched. The silver and the gold was to go to the coffers of the Lord. However, when Achan saw those wedges of gold, the silver, and those changes of garments, the Bible says that he coveted and he took. That was his sin, but when payday came, it was much different. Israel lost thirty-six soldiers, and thirty-six families were disrupted and grieving because Achan saw, he coveted, and he took. After it was all over, he had to dig under

his tent and get the wedges of gold, the silver, and the changes of garments. He might have thought it was worth it for a while, but not after he got caught.

Acknowledging Sin

Friend, sin is deceptive and destructive. Even though the devil promises much, he only comes up with a little. There is only a little pleasure in sin, and it is only for a season. It does not last. Some are up, and then they are down, and then they have to get up again, and then they are down. That is the way sin is. Christ raises us up and makes us sit together in heavenly places. Acts 1:25 tells us that Judas fell by transgression.

In the Book of Jude, verses 24-25 read: "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen." When God raises you up, you will keep striving to do the will of God. You should not look down your nose, so to speak, at people and say, "Well, I am better than you." You should look in gratitude and appreciation and say, "Lord, that could be me, except for Your grace." God wants you to be delivered and raised up, sitting together with the saints of God in heavenly places with Christ Jesus. It all begins with becoming sorry for your sin.

Achan took those things and hid them under his tent. He looked around, no doubt, while others were grieving and moaning because of the loss of those soldiers. Achan did not even acknowledge, "I was wrong for doing that." He just kept it to himself. When Joshua started to pray about the defeat at Ai, Joshua 7:10 reads, "And the LORD

said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?" This was no time to pray. This was a time to act, because sin was in the camp. The Scripture says Joshua started to deal with the families early in the morning.

The families were called tribe by tribe, and family by family. Finally, Achan was discovered to be the culprit. The Bible says in Joshua 7:19, "And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me." When Achan acknowledged what he had done, Joshua sent men to dig it up. Sure enough, it was right there. Joshua inquired of the Lord regarding what to do. Because of Achan's sin, because of Achan's foolishness, he had to be stoned, not only Achan but also his wife, his children, his cattle, his sheep, and his flocks. Then everything had to be burned, including his tent. God wanted this thing wiped out completely.

The True Cost of Sin

The only remedy for sin is to wipe it out. Today we cannot go around killing people. That does not wipe out sin. Before Christ came and there was grace, that was the way they dealt with sin. Sin has to be destroyed, and now it is through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Achan's sin caused his whole family to be wiped out, all because of his foolishness. Sin is costly, not only to you but to your family. Sin is no one's friend. You need to make sure that you are sorry for your sins.

Achan was stoned and everything he had was destroyed as a penalty for his sin. I can just imagine Achan saying to his family, when it was too late, "Oh, I'm so sorry that you are going to

have to pay for my sin." You see, the devil never shows you the depths or the true cost of sin. If you could only realize what it is doing, what it has done, and what your actions are going to cost others, you would refrain. One thing that gives me a measure of relief is when I talk to my children. When I talk to my son, I can say, "If you ever smoke a cigarette, take a drink, or live fast and loose with women, you have not learned it from your dad." After Jesus came into my life, I thank God for the way He took my sins. I got saved at twenty-one years of age, and my son Joseph was born when I was thirty-one. God straightened out my life. I became sorry for my sins, and I repented over them, confessed them, and forsook them.

It is a winning situation when you turn your life over to God. You not only take a better path for your feet, but you set up some bulwarks. Your children can look back and say: "Daddy did not do it like this. Whenever problems come, we can always look back to how Daddy and Momma dealt with it." People in sin say: "Well, I only took two drinks. I can go in and take a sip." Friend, do not let the devil fool you. The Bible says in Proverbs 20:1, "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

While times are good and things are going smoothly, just two drinks, and you will say, "Well, I can show them that I am in control." You will start getting problems on the job, maybe a little problem in the home, and those problems will keep increasing. You will add one more to this, and one more to that. You will drink and drink to forget your troubles, and then you will go to sleep feeling bad. You will wake up feeling worse with the same problems. You will find

those problems can swim, and they will be right there facing you. You will have a hangover and the problems will still be there. You need to turn to Jesus today.

Becoming a New Creature

The Father laid all our iniquities upon Jesus. He bore them to Calvary, and we do not have to carry them anymore. I thank God that we can rejoice in salvation. This is not merely for old people. Psalm 37:25 reads, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed [or His children] begging bread." If God reaches down and saves you at an old age, salvation is still sweet, but it is not exclusively for older people. Living for Jesus is still the best way to go. I am grateful that Jesus paid it all.

The Apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5:14-15: "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves [our lives should not be about ourselves], but unto him which died for them, and rose again."

The Apostle Paul said that is the way we are supposed to live. In verse 17 he said, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." You can have the victory over the very things that you are struggling over and the very things that are taking you toward hell. You can stop the hell-bound train through the grace and the power of God. You can get off that train, find peace for your soul, and have victory over the things that are plaguing you. Thank God, it starts with being sorry for your sins. Are you sorry for your sins? May God help you to see the damage

that sin is really doing.

The Bible lets us know in 2 Corinthians 7:9-10: "Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of." I have never seen a person get saved who testified: "I am sorry that I got saved. My friends turned against me. This one does not talk to me anymore. That one pushed me out of their circle." Some people might treat you rudely at the beginning because they have seen so much mockery around religion. Some people may be skeptical and say, "Is he really serious?" However, when they see you living consistently for Jesus, they will no longer be skeptical.

Having Godly Sorrow

Titus 2:11-12 reads: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts [anything that would destroy the body or that would be adverse to the body], we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world."

The Apostle Paul wrote 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." The body and the spirit both belong to God, so we need to be careful. God will deliver you and take good care of you once you turn your life over to Him, but you have to be sorry. It is godly sorrow that works toward salvation.

Every day that I have stepped out to serve God has been a good

one. Yes, I have had some struggles and problems, but I have Someone with me to share my heavy load. I feel His presence near me every day, and that is enough to make me happy and to keep me encouraged to live for God. After this, I will go to Heaven too. I am grateful. May God help you to realize that it starts with your becoming sorry for your sins.

Second Corinthians 7:10 says, "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death." This world is sorrowful. The Bible says in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death." May God

help you to turn away from all wickedness, all ungodliness, and become sorry. I trust that something has been said to awaken something in you. Maybe you have been doing these things and not realizing that you are hurting others. Your sin is hurting others. It is hurting you, and it will take you to hell unless you repent over it.

Every time I read about Achan, I say: "Lord, help me to never be the downfall of my family. I want You to help me to be a light and an example to lift them up, to give them courage, and to help them to realize there is a better way than living for the devil."

Friend, if you are not saved, why don't you become sorry for your sins and come to the Father? You need to bow your knees and say: "Father in Heaven, I know that I am a sinner, and I am ashamed of it. I am a sinner because I refused to accept what Christ has done for me on Calvary. I have been reminded that my sin is hurting me and others around me. I have done that long enough, and now I am coming home. I want to give my life to You." Are you sorry for your sins?

(Compact Disc TR-2007)

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

Monday evening, his first message was entitled "We Must Depend on God." His thoughts centered on men and women knowing that they are securely established in Christ. Tuesday he spoke on the thought of "Faith." It is vitally important that saints maintain their faith in these troublesome times. Then Wednesday his message centered on the thought of "Christ: the Power of God or Foolishness." Friday evening Brother Burton asked the question, "Do You Have the Mind of Christ?" His message Saturday evening was entitled "The Wicked: A Message From God." Brother Burton finished the meeting with the topic, "Endeavoring to Keep the Unity." Each of his messages was anointed of God and fitting for the time in which we live.

Brother Roger L. Decker brought the Monday morning message on the thought of "Holiness." Living a pure and holy life is something that many people do not believe in. Tuesday Brother Allen Polston delivered a much needed message entitled "Being Part of a Coverup." Broth-

er Allen Borders laid out the guidelines for knowing "How to Combat Temptation" on Wednesday morning. Then Thursday morning Brother Michael Wilks encouraged hearts with a message on "Natural and Divine Healing."

Brother Calvin Foster delivered a message on Friday morning entitled "Don't Turn a Deaf Ear to the Word of God." Sunday morning Brother Richard Talbot preached a sermon on "Behavior That Hinders Prayer."

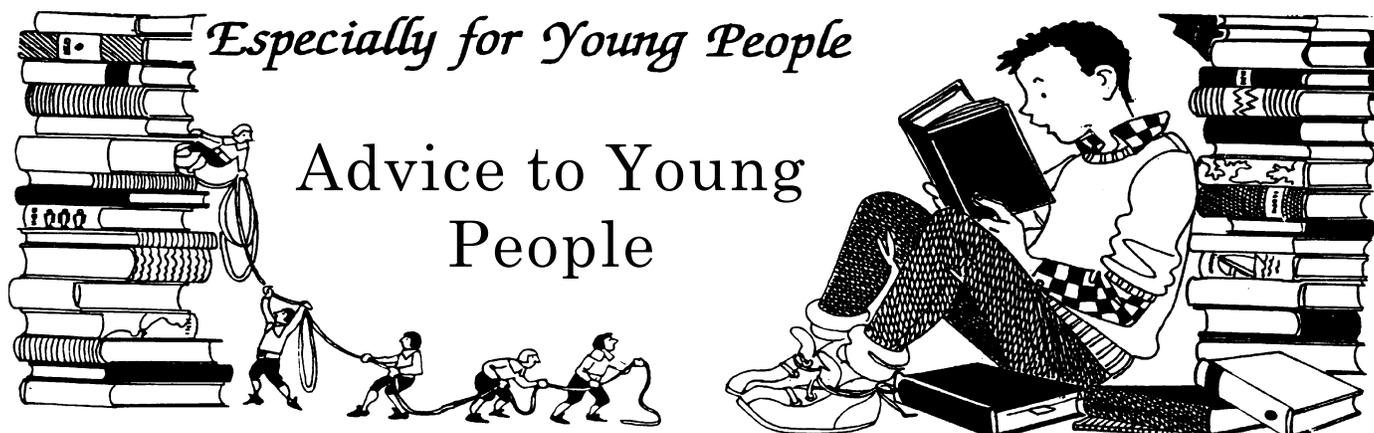
Each afternoon Brother David Stegmeier brought sound teaching on building a strong Christian life. The titles of his lessons are: "Faith That Can Be Seen," "When Little Is Much," "The Christian's Armor," "Four Small But Exceedingly Wise Things," and "The Choice Is Yours."

Sister Karen Wilks worked with the young children in the barn each morning. During that time she taught an illustrated story based on Bible principles. Those little hearts were also taught Scripture verses and songs. Saturday morning the children sang in the song service. The children always bless our

hearts as they sing and recite the Bible verses they have memorized.

After the children finished the song service, instead of a morning message being preached, Pastor Roger Decker delivered an explanation of the Scriptural duties regarding ordained ministers. He carefully outlined the requirements one must follow to be a successful overseer of a congregation of God's people. Four brethren were ordained. They were Brother Allen Borders, Brother Brandon Gonzalez, Brother Timothy Wilson, Jr., and Brother Matthew Bragg.

If you were unable to attend the June camp meeting but would like to obtain the CD's or DVD's, you may do so. To order a copy of the messages or songs, you may order them from *The Gospel Trumpeter*, CD Ministry, 675 North Cedar Street, Newark, OH 43055, or you may call 740-345-1312.



Ecclesiastes 12:1 states, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." When you get saved young, you do not have to go out into the world and make a lot of mistakes. Some mistakes a person makes in life will follow that person his whole life. Therefore, it is a blessing to get saved young.

I grew up in a broken home as a young man. I got saved when I was eighteen years of age. I made a lot of mistakes in life. If I had listened to my mother at an earlier age, I would not have made any of those mistakes. Young person, your parents love you, and they are looking out for your future by taking you to church, by teaching you the ways of God, and by being a godly example to you. As you get older and look back, you will be very grateful for your parents and for the person that you become. When you get older (and believe me, time goes so fast), you will be thankful.

Ephesians 6:1-4 instructs: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. [That is a principle that God puts a promise to. You ought to honor and respect

your parents. God does not want you to have a mean spirit toward your father or your mother. You need to think about that.] And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

A father has a responsibility to bring up a child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and to be a godly example. Moms and dads have made mistakes, and they wish they could go back and correct them. I always like to tell people, as my former pastor sometimes said, "I'm not responsible for how you treat me, but I am responsible for how I treat you." Do not live your life holding grudges.

I thought about a short story in 1 Kings, Chapter 3, when God highlighted the wisdom of Solomon. Verses 16-27 tells us: "Then came there two women, that were harlots, unto the king, and stood before him. And the one woman said, O my lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child with her in the house. And it came to pass the third day after that I was delivered, that this woman was delivered also: and we were together; there was no stranger with us in the house, save we two in the house. And this woman's child died in the night; because she overlaid it. And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me,

while thine handmaid slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom.

"And when I rose in the morning to give my child suck, behold, it was dead: but when I had considered it in the morning, behold, it was not my son, which I did bear. And the other woman said, Nay; but the living is my son, and the dead is thy son. And this said, No; but the dead is thy son, and the living is my son. Thus they spake before the king. Then said the king, The one saith, This is my son that liveth, and thy son is the dead: and the other saith, Nay; but thy son is the dead, and my son is the living [what I am trying to show you is the heart of a true mother]. And the king said, Bring me a sword. And they brought a sword before the king.

"And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other. Then spake the woman whose the living child was unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it. Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof."

No mother would want to see her child cut in half and slain. I want you to know that your mother and father would do the

same for you. Solomon appealed to the human nature of a mother by putting the baby's life in danger. You do not know how many times your mother and father have protected your life, even when you were a little baby, and put you in a car seat. You do not know how many times they almost had an accident and the car seat held you in place because they cared. Your mother and your father love you. I want you to think about that.

In the Book of Genesis, Chapter 34, you can read about a young lady whose name was Dinah. Verses 1-2 read: "And Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her."

I want to encourage you, young person, to protect yourself from being defiled. Whether you are a male or a female, your virginity is very important. Out in this world, many people have insincere love affairs, and some young men are like wolves. They go from girl to girl. Some girls are the same way. Some girls can break your heart. Any time you let your affections go for a person and he or she disrespects your feelings and your affections, it can hurt you, so you need to protect yourself from that. Dinah went out and got defiled. God wants you to listen to your parents, to your pastor, and to other preachers. We are not telling you anything to harm you; we want to help you.

King Solomon said in Proverbs 1:5, "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels." In verses 7-8, 10 he said: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. My son, hear the

instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother. . . . My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not."

Sinners will try to make you feel that they are having all the fun and that they are doing well, saying, "I have this and I have that. I am doing well." Do not listen to them. Proverbs 13:15 says that "the way of transgressors is hard."

You are blessed if you are in a congregation with other young people and godly families. You should be thankful for a congregation where there are other young people and saints of God. You should be thankful for the older people in that congregation, and you need to respect them and love them, because if it was not for them, there would be no congregation. Many of the older saints have made sacrifices and have worked hard to lay the foundation for you.

Young person, God does not want you to mess up your life. He does not want you to become a father or a mother before the right time. If you will respect one another and one another's feelings, you will be blessed.

The Apostle Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." You should not put yourself down and say, "I can't do anything for God." Paul instructed Timothy not to despise his youth. You are young, but you can be a blessing. A lot of children in the world have never heard Bible stories. They have never heard how David killed the giant when he was just a boy and how wonderfully God used him.

There are responsibilities upon everyone, and life has many responsibilities. Whether you are at home, at church, at school, or at work, there are rules. Do not think that because you are saved

there are no rules. You must live a disciplined life as a Christian. We all are surrounded by rules and the need for respect. When you get a job, and they give you responsibilities to do it, there are going to be rules to go along with it.

I like this little poem called "Home Rules." It reads:

*If you sleep on it, make it.
If you wear it, hang it up.
If you drop it, pick it up.
If you eat out of it, wash it.
If you step on it, pick it up.
If you open it, close it.
If you empty it, fill it up.
If it rings, answer it.
If it needs you, be there.
If it cries, love it.*

You would be surprised at the people who have children and treat them poorly. You are blessed if you live in a home with a good, godly family. You are blessed to have the enjoyments of life. Do not take them for granted. You are blessed if you have good meals for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. It is a blessing to have a good night's sleep. It is a blessing to have a good place to live that is warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Are you thankful for all those blessings?

It is a blessing to have good health. It is a blessing to have a good church to attend where the pastor preaches the Truth and people love one another. That is a great blessing! It is a blessing to have good friends. Some people grow old with their friends. Good friends can help you along life's way. Above all, it is a blessing to have salvation. If you have Jesus as a young person, your future is bright. I do not want you to mess up your life. I do not want you to die and go to hell and be eternally lost.

I thought about the story of the prodigal son. In Luke, Chapter 15, you can read how he went to his father and said, in essence,

"Father, I am a man now, and I want to take what is mine and go out into the world." He went out and got with the wrong crowd and wasted his money and began to waste his health. Then he remembered his father's house, that he had servants and food to spare. When he left home, he did not realize that he was heading for the hogpen.

It is very important for you to listen to godly advice. I do not want to see your future destroyed because you did not listen. I cannot make you do what is right. Your parents cannot make you listen; it is your decision. I hope you have an ambition in life. You need to stay in school, get an education, and learn a trade or attend college. I pray that you do not forget God. Do not leave God out of your life.

You need to respect the things of God. I want God to bless you. Again, you need to honor your mother and father. They might have made some mistakes. You are not responsible for how they treat you, but you are responsible for how you treat them. A married woman ought to treat her husband right, and the husband ought to treat his wife right. We have responsibilities, and life is short.

Let me share something with you. Life is so uncertain. We do not know what a day is going to bring. You may say: "I have it all figured out. I am going to attend college and do this and that, and I am going to prosper." You had better take the advice of James in James 4:15 where he said, "For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or

that."

Our health is uncertain. Many things in life are uncertain. We do not know what could happen to us. An accident could take my legs or my eyes away from me. I thank God for my eyes, and I thank God for my legs. We do not know what tomorrow holds, but we know Who holds our hand.

Remember, if you are a Christian brother or sister, you need to do all you can to stay faithful. So pray for one another, stay strong, and may God bless you. One day you will leave this old world and make Heaven your home if you stay true to God. May God bless you is my prayer.

Brother Calvin Foster

Sweet Poison

A little boy, when his mother was out, got a chair and climbed up to a shelf in the closet to see if there was anything nice. He saw a small white paper parcel. He opened it. It was filled with white powder. The boy tasted it and found it sweet. He took more, and then put it up again. His mother came back. The boy soon fell ill and complained to his mother. She asked what he had eaten. He told her that he had tasted some of that sweet sugar in the closet.

"Oh, my boy, it is poison. It will kill you!" she exclaimed. The doctor was sent for, and the boy's life was saved. But that boy never forgot that what is sweet may be poison. So is sin. Something we like much may be wrong; but if it is wrong, it is sin—it is spiritual death.

Take care what books you read and what you watch. They may contain sweet poison. They may injure your mind and your character and your life. They may wreck your happiness and your usefulness.

Selected

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.

The Influence of a Spirit



Brother Mike Wilks

The Spirit You Possess Controls You

As I was reading the Scripture passage, the word that stood out to me was "whole." God accepts nothing less than wholehearted service. He is not going to accept partial service. He wants your whole heart, which requires being born again. We are His disciples, and we are constantly learning. The Bible lets us know that we are threefold beings. Ecclesiastes 4:12 tells us, "And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a

threefold cord is not quickly broken."

When the three parts of an operation are working correctly, it creates a powerful witness. Exodus 23:14 reads, "Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year." Numbers 22:28 states, "And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times?" Balaam struck the donkey three times. The Lord offered David three things in his punishment for sin.

Jesus said in Matthew 18:20,

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 27:63 states, "Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again."

In Acts 5:7 we read, "And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in." In the space of three hours, Sapphira walked in after her husband had been struck dead. You cannot just live any old way; that does not create a right witness. The thing that you can decide is

the kind of spirit that you possess. What really drives you is the spirit that you possess; that is who you really are. You cannot possess a nasty spirit and be pleasant to be around; it is impossible. The spirit is the DNA of the soul. In other words, what the DNA is to the body, the spirit is to the soul.

DNA is the information molecule. It stores instructions for making other large molecules. These instructions are stored inside each of your cells, distributed among forty-six long structures called chromosomes. These chromosomes are made up of thousands of shorter segments called DNA, or genes. Each gene stores directions for making protein fragments, whole proteins, and multiple specific proteins. Nature has yet to find a better solution than DNA for storing, expressing, and passing along instructions. That is what the spirit is to a man; that spirit of yours is controlling you. Many times it is controlling, or expressing itself in you, but you have to yield to it for it to fully work, whether you are lost or saved.

Yielding to the Holy Spirit

When some people do heinous things, it is because they have been entertaining or thinking about it in their minds. Finally, it gets to a point where they yield to it. These matters are serious. You can possess the Holy Spirit. He is the greatest treasure that has ever been given to a man or a woman. You must yield to Him so that He can express Himself through you. That takes work, just as a sinner yields to an old, nasty spirit, a Christian yields to the Holy Spirit.

There is nothing like reading your Bible. As a Christian, when you yield yourself to reading and studying the Word of God, the Holy Spirit takes greater control. I have my richest thoughts and

richest times with God while I am reading the Book. After I am finished reading and studying the Bible, my faith increases because of what I have read. When you read the Word of God, your faith will increase, and you will get stronger spiritually. That is the reason the devil does not want you to do it. Likewise, when you pray, you are yielding yourself to the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Spirits control a lot of things. We live in a spirit world. The things you see are temporal, but the things unseen are eternal. The spirit that you possess is working and controlling the expressive side of you. For example, we all feel hunger for food; that is your flesh talking to you. You might have a specific craving for something. The spirit works in the soul just as the appetite works in the flesh. You desire certain things because of the spirit that you possess.

The Christian wants to be in the house of God because of the spirit he possesses. That is the reason some people do not want to come to church. They do not possess the same spirit that God's people do. Many people have no interest in the things of God, and the only way to win them to Christ is through the power of God. It is going to take more than just an invitation. You are going to have to pray for them. Something has to compel them to come to the house of God. We must live the life before them and show them a better way. Do not doubt for a second that the soul craves God.

An earthly minded man tries to fill that hunger in his soul, but without God where else is a person going to turn? Some turn to drinking alcohol, partying, and carrying on in their search for true happiness. They may think that is where they are going to find it, but that is not true.

Salvation Changes Your Spirit

I thank God for the understanding that He gave me. I remember standing in a bar and getting angry that all those people around me were having a good time and I was not. I was not as happy as they were because there was a little knowledge of God working in me. God was telling me, "You know better." Some people out in the world really love the things of the world, but they have not been shown the better way, so they hold on to what they do know.

Without God your soul will become encumbered with many things, and you will get weighed down. Sin will destroy you. When that threefold being is not the way God intended him to be, your soul begins to become corrupt. Some people live for the liquor bottle, the cigarettes, or the drugs. Do you know why? They do not know any other way, so they search to fill the void in their souls. As humans, we look for earthly, tangible things. We are born in this world, but the soul can become numb to God.

Some people get themselves in such a bad condition that it takes a mighty work of God to get them out of it. What are you going to do in the end if you leave God out? The flesh moves along and becomes one with this earth. You can get so entrenched in the vices of the world that you enjoy them and do not want to put them down.

You may say, "I would never be like that," but you do not know that for sure. The spirit that you possess is who you are. If you possess the Holy Spirit, you are living holy. If you possess the spirit of the world, then you are worldly. The spirit that you possess governs your decisions, your disposition, your attitudes, and your morals. When someone gets saved, he is resurrected. The con-

science that was dead in trespasses and sins becomes resurrected to the things of God. Maybe you used to steal and not think anything about it, but when God resurrects you, you do not do that anymore, because salvation works on the whole man.

Usually when a person has a security system, when someone walks in the door, it will chime. Many people have a security system because they want to keep out intruders. Are you carrying around an intruder? An intruder is not so much to worry about on the outside, but the intruder you want to worry about is one on the inside. The devil is not going to set off an alarm. He is going to walk in and begin to work on you. You will not hear an alarm, but he is there to work on you.

Being born again means that you become completely new. When you are born again, you become completely different, and the spirit within you changes. The Word of God is like a mirror. If a spirit is working on you, the Word will reveal it.

Your Choices Determine What Spirit You Possess

What you are around is going to influence you. Parents influence their children. Whatever you do in your home will influence them. If you run down others, they are going to pick up the same spirit. There is a spirit behind it that reinforces and energizes it. When the devil works, he keeps prodding because a spirit is working. He is energizing it and trying to get you to become bitter or envious and to get you to get your eyes off the things that you need to keep your eyes on. You need to recognize the spirit behind that.

When you reach the age of accountability, young person, the choices you make are going to determine your spirit. If you become rebellious and disobedient,

you will imbibe a wrong spirit. If you choose to leave home and say, "I'm out of here," you open the door to another spirit. It is not as simple as walking out the church door and later realizing that you want to get back to God, and then walking back in. It does not work that way. Once someone leaves, oftentimes that person does not return. Why would you want to take that chance when you do not have to? The Church of God has the ultimate Truth.

If you yield to ungodly things, a wrong spirit is behind it. For example, if you start looking at pornography, a lustful spirit will get hold of you. It is much more than looking at ungodly pictures. A spirit will cause you to yield to it more and more. The more you yield to it, the further it will take you. You could end up in prison because you made bad decisions about things that God forbids you to do. Sometimes people do not realize that the choices they make are opening the door to the devil's plan. It is not merely a choice, but they are taking a wrong spirit with them. There is a binding power that comes with vices such as alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. These things are more than chemical addictions. Bondage comes along with them. That is where the devil wants you.

If people leave a congregation wrong, they may look the same and act the same, but they will have a different spirit. The Holy Ghost does not divide. When the Holy Spirit is present, there is fellowship. Bitterness is a wrong spirit. False religion has a spirit. That is the reason people who have left the church can look you in the eyes and say they are doing just fine, but their spirit does not bear witness with your spirit. There is only one church, and she is not divided. It is the same spirit. The same Book creates the same new creatures. If you are a

new creature, you will do new things. New creatures do not divide.

Ungodly Lifestyles

Sports are not sinful, but they can get hold of you and lead you away from God. Not all spirits are dirty or foul, but anything that opposes God is a wrong spirit. The devil is an accuser and an opposer. His job is to turn you away from God. He will take the smallest things, the little foxes, and use them.

Mark 16:9 reads, "Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils." Luke 8:30 states, "And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him."

Everything that a person yields to opens the door for something more. A person can get himself in a place where he actually accumulates wicked spirits. Perhaps you have been around people and noticed that something was going on. You could see in their eyes that something was working on the inside. It may be a chemical imbalance, but something is going on inside.

The Bible can save a wayfarer man. God made everybody, and He can talk to anyone. He speaks every language. It does not matter if someone cannot hear or communicate, God can still talk to him.

The spirit world is a busy place. We read in Job 1:7, "And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it."

Satan is walking around constantly, seeking whom he may devour. There is a spirit world, but people in the world do not understand the things that

are going on in it. They do not realize that there are spirits behind things. That is the reason homosexuality has made the moves in society that it has. People who are involved in that lifestyle say they were born that way. They do not realize there is a spirit to it. Contrary to what they say, God did not make anybody that way. It is a spirit that gets hold of people.

Salvation is powerful. It changes you, it changes your wardrobe, it changes your thoughts, and it changes how you spend your time. When a wicked spirit like that gets hold of you, it does the opposite. That spirit will cause you to lust after the same sex; that is perverted. Now, we do not shun them; they need to be saved, because sin is sin. God does not say people are going to hell only for that sin. It is all sin, and everyone needs to be saved from sin. Nevertheless, it is a perverted lifestyle, and there is an evil spirit behind it.

Second Corinthians 11:14 reads, "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." Without God people are out there wandering around in sin. Have you ever tried to carry someone if you are in the water? It is tough, because you have no leverage, or power. Where do you find the power of God? You find it in the Word of God and in the Holy Spirit. That is where the power to do right

comes from.

The Truth Will Make You Free

When a hurricane or a tornado goes through an area, people affected by it are not ashamed to ask for help. You should never be ashamed to admit that you have a spiritual need.

The process of salvation gives a person new spiritual DNA to help him do the right things. This process has been afforded us by Jesus Christ. When someone surrenders his life to Christ, the blood is applied, and that puts him in a justified state. When he takes faith in it, he stands in a justified state before God. God allows him to reason whether or not he wants salvation. Everyone who goes to an altar of prayer does not get saved, because some individuals do not give up all. Even though someone is in a justified state, that does not save him. He has to be willing to give up all, and once he gives up all, then the Holy Spirit is given to him. Have you given up all?

Jesus spoke of when an unclean spirit goes out of a man. You can read in Luke 11:24-26 that the unclean spirit said he was going to return to his house, and when he returned to that house, he found it swept and garnished. What is that a witness of? It is a witness of the Holy Spirit's work. When the Holy

Spirit moves in, He cleans house, because He will not inhabit an unclean place, or a heart with an ugly spirit. After that unclean spirit found the house swept and garnished, he said he would move back in with seven other spirits more wicked than himself. We are blessed to know Truth and to know what we are fighting.

When King Saul had a wicked spirit working on him, what did he do? He had David come and play the harp for him. Some people have the harp of false religion. They get troubled and go to a false place of worship to have their spirit soothed a little, but not fixed. Do you have the Holy Spirit or do you have a substitute? Every time you get troubled, do you turn to the bottle or to other things because you know deep down you are not right with God? That is a spirit working on you.

You should be so thankful that Jesus said the Truth will make you free. The devil has so many evil spirits. When those devils are working, no wonder people get so confused. On the other hand, when God comes into your life, there is only one Spirit. God is not the author of confusion. The Bible says you can grieve the Holy Spirit. You need to make sure that you yield to Him and do not grieve Him.

(Compact Disc TR-1744)

***An upright man can never
be a downright failure.***

My Personal Testimony

I was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, and my earliest recollection goes back to when I was about five years of age. There was always a pull in my heart to do what was right, but I did not really know what was right. I had good parents who loved me, but my mother and father fought quite a bit during my young years. Often married people do not realize what they do to their children when they fuss and quarrel.

Young person, when you marry, you need to marry in the Lord. I am not saying that when you marry in the Lord, you are not going to have any problems. You will have some bumps in the road, so to speak, but you stand a greater chance of making your marriage last when you marry in the Lord. You also stand a greater chance of leaving your children a godly heritage if you marry in the Lord.

As a child, I remember having a drawing in my heart to serve God, even though I did not really know what serving God was all about. I went from church to church. I had two half brothers who were approximately twenty years older than me, and they took me to church with them from time to time.

At times, I tried to serve God and tried to do what was right, but I always found that I could not because of a lack of power. I would promise God that I would do this or that, and then I found myself breaking those promises.

One reason was that I did not have what I really needed to fulfill and keep those promises. It takes the Spirit of God working in you, and you have to keep the flesh under.

During my lifetime, I have been to many different churches. My mother and father were good people, but they rarely took me to church. Many times I would walk or ride a bus to church because I wanted to be where I thought things were good. My first experience with the Lord came when I was probably twelve or thirteen years of age, but I did not grow because I did not have enough understanding. I did not receive enough personal counseling to help me to fight the good fight of faith and win the battles.

I did not understand it at that time, but God was leading me. Many times I struggled with doubts and fears and failed to keep promises I had made to the dear Lord, yet His faithfulness continued to work with me.

As a teenager, I thought I wanted to get married. Without asking God or seeking counsel, I got married. This marriage was not in the will of God, and it proved to be a disaster. Her stepfather, who worked on the railroad, was moving to another city, and she did not want to move. Therefore, we decided to get married. That is not the way to do it, and that is one reason it did not work. Fortunately, we did not have any children. We stayed

together for a few years, but we experienced many problems.

In the fall of 1960, I had my first visit to God's Acres with my oldest half brother. I felt something different, but I did not know what it was. Soon after that, my father took seriously ill with cancer from smoking. His esophagus and part of his lungs were eaten up from smoking. Young people might think smoking is cool, but the aftereffects are not cool. If you are ever around someone dying of cancer from smoking, you will get the picture.

I loved my father, and I really missed him. Three months after my father's death in 1961, my mother died suddenly and unexpectedly. That crushed my world. Six months later, I was drafted into the military and served for the next three years. Through my mother's and father's deaths and being drafted into the military, God got hold of my heart again. I gained a real experience of salvation, and God kept me through my military years.

While I was out in the field, my wife became unfaithful to our marriage vows. She became involved with another man, and that was very devastating to me. The Lord kept me during those years in the military despite my heartache. I spent more than three years there and attended a movement Church of God. The pastor was a really good man who helped me as much as he could. I did not realize it then, but the Church of God movement was losing some things, yet God was faithful to me.

Once I decided that I was going to serve God, my wife said, "I'm not going that way." After nine years of marriage, that was not pleasing to hear, but I was determined not to allow anything or anyone stand in my way. After I was discharged from the military, I moved back home to Columbus, Ohio.

When I got home, my world

fell apart. It was amazing that God kept me all the way through the military, but when I came home, I backslid and became entangled with drinking. One night while I was sitting on a barstool, I picked up my glass, and the thought came to me, "Where would I be if God were to call me?" I sat my drink down, paid for it, and said, "God, if You will let me live until Sunday, I will be in church," and I was.

In April of 1965, God dealt with me, and I knew He wanted me to attend the Church of God in Newark, Ohio. At first, I really wrestled with it, but I knew that God was dealing with me and that I had better make some moves. I am so thankful that I listened to God. Because of my obedience to the Lord, I have so much more today than I have ever had.

When I came into the congregation, I decided that I was going to serve God with or without a wife and with or without friends. When your purpose in your heart to serve God no matter what, God will make a way for you, just as He did for Daniel, the three Hebrew children, and many others. God is a good God.

About a year and a half after my wife and I were divorced, I noticed a young lady in the Newark congregation. She had only dated one other person in her life, and that did not work out. She was praying about the situation. When the Lord brought Therese Caudill into my life, it was much different than my previous experience. On August 4, 1967, we were married. We had four children, and all four are saved today.

When you determine in your heart that you are going to serve God, He will make a way for you. God will be on your side. He will work for you, and He will help you. Matthew 19:29 reads, "And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or

father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundred-fold, and shall inherit everlasting life."

I would like to tell you of some of the miraculous things God has done for me. There was one time in my life when I lost my job, and I could not find another one. For approximately two years, I was without a steady job, and we ended up having to sell our home. Before we sold our home, we were unable to pay our electric bill, and for seven weeks we had no electricity.

There came a time when my wife said to me, "We don't have anything else in this house to fix for food." All the basic staples were gone. We got on our knees and prayed and asked God to help us. Before we got up from prayer, there was a knock at the door. Someone brought us food. When God does something special like that, no one can take that from you. When God does something spectacular for you, it builds up your faith. If you never allow yourself to be tried, how is your faith going to grow? It does not come by just saying, "Lord, I want faith," and you have it. Sometimes it comes through hard persecution, trials, misfortune, or financial distresses.

Many times God has miraculously helped me through severe trials. He has healed me on many occasions. The first time I remember being healed instantly was when I had fallen off a horse. As my brother-in-law and I were riding horses one Saturday afternoon, my horse took off running, and I fell off. The next morning when we went to church, I was walking sideways and could not straighten up. I asked my pastor, Brother E. A. Wilson, to pray for me. He and some of the brethren laid hands on me and prayed. Instantly, I stood up straight. These things are burned into my heart and mind, and I will never

forget them. I have been healed of gout, allergies, and various other afflictions, for which I give all the honor and praise to God.

God is so good to us! If you get one point from this testimony, it is to let God lead you. I want to encourage you to sell out, surrender your all, and yield completely to God. Let Him do with you what He wants to do, not what you want Him to do. That is what the Cross is all about. God's will may cross your will. Many times He will let you do a lot of things that you want to do. He does not take everything away from you, only those things that He wants you to get rid of, such as things that would be harmful to you. You will be the benefactor if you will let Him have His way with you in your life.

Young person, when you start thinking about finding a companion, you need to pray and look for someone who is spiritual. You need to ask God: "Is this person the one You want for me? If so, Lord, please work it out." God can do that. Whatever you do, let God have His way with you.

In conclusion, I would like to share part of an old song with you. It describes my life as well as others. It is entitled "Is Not This the Land of Beulah?"

*I can see far down the mountain,
Where I wandered weary years.
Often hindered in my journey
By the ghosts of doubt and fears;
Broken vows and disappointments
Thickly sprinkled all the way,
But the Spirit led, unerring,
To the land I hold today.*

*Is not this the land of Beulah?
Blessed, blessed land of light,
Where the flowers bloom forever,
And the sun is always bright.*

Brother Fred Barrows

WHY REVIVAL TARRIES

Prayer as Vast as God

God-gripped prophets of old had a sensitive awareness of the enormity and unpopularity of their task. By pleading their own inefficiency and inadequacy, these care-bowed men sought to escape the delivering of their burdened souls. Moses, for instance, sought to evade a nation-wide commitment by pleading a stammering tongue. Yet note how God evaded his evasion by supplying a spokesman in Aaron. Jeremiah, too, reasoned that he was but a child. Yet in Jeremiah's case (as in Moses'), the human objection was not sustained. For men of divine selection were not sent to the council chambers of human wisdom to get their personalities polished or their knowledge edged. However, God somehow trapped His man and closeted him with Himself. If according to Oliver Wendell Holmes, a man's mind, stretched with a new idea, can never go back to its original dimensions, then what shall we say of a soul that has heard the whisper of the Eternal Voice? "The words that I [the Lord] speak unto you, they are spirit, and *they are life*" (John 6:63). Much preaching is diseased today by borrowed thoughts from the brains of dead men rather than from the Lord. Books are good when they are our guides,

but bad when they are our chains.

Just as in atomic energy, modern scientists have touched a new dimension of power, so the church has to rediscover the unlimited power of the Holy Spirit. To smite the iniquity of this sin-soaked age and shatter the complacency of slumbering saints, something is really needed. Vital preaching and victorious living must "come out of" sustained watches in the prayer chamber. Someone may say, "We must *pray* if we want to live a holy life!" Yes, but conversely, we must *live a holy life* if we want to pray. According to David, "Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart" (Psalm 24:3-4).

The secret of praying is praying in secret. Books on prayer are good, but not enough. As books on cooking are good but hopeless unless there is food to work on, so with prayer. One can read a library of prayer books and not be one whit more powerful in prayer. We must learn to pray, and we must pray to learn to pray. While sitting in a chair reading the finest book in the world on physical health, one may waste away. So one may read about prayer, marvel at the

endurance of Moses, or stagger at the weeping, groaning Jeremiah, and yet not be able to stammer the ABC's of intercessory prayer. As the bullet unspent bags no game, so the prayer-heart unburdened gathers no spoil.

"In God's name, I beseech you, let prayer nourish your soul as meals nourish your body!" said the faithful Fenelon. Henry Martyn spake thus: "My present deadness I attribute to want of sufficient time and tranquility for private devotion. Oh, that I might be a man of prayer!" A writer of old said, "Much of our praying is like the boy who rings the door bell, but then runs away before the door is opened." Of this we are sure: The greatest undiscovered area in the resources of God is the place of prayer.

Who can tell the measure of God's power? One might estimate the weight of the world, tell the size of the Celestial City, count the stars of heaven, measure the speed of lightning, and tell the time of the rising and setting of the sun—but you cannot estimate prayer power. *Prayer is as vast as God* because He has committed Himself to answer it. God pity us that in this noblest of all employments for the tongue and for the spirit, we stammer so. If God does not illuminate us in

the closet, we walk in darkness. At the judgment seat the most embarrassing thing the believer will face will be the smallness of his praying.

Here is a majestic passage from the venerated Chrysostom: "The *potency* of prayer hath subdued the strength of fire; it hath bridled the rage of lions, hushed anarchy to rest, extinguished wars, appeased the elements, expelled demons, burst the chains of death, expanded the gates of heaven, assuaged diseases, repelled frauds, rescued cities from destruction, stayed the sun in its course, and arrested the progress of the thunderbolt. Prayer is an all-sufficient panoply, a treasure undiminished, a mine which is never exhausted, a sky unobscured by clouds, a heaven unruffled by the storm. It is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings." Are Chrysostom's words mere rhetoric, to make a commonplace thing look superlative? The Bible knows nothing of such cunning.

Elijah was a man skilled in the art of prayer, who altered the course of nature, strangled the economy of a nation, prayed and fire fell, prayed and people fell, prayed and rain fell. We need rain, rain, rain! The churches are so parched that seed cannot germinate. In many places the altars are dry, with no hot tears of penitents. Oh, for an Elijah! When Israel cried for water, a man smote a rock, and that flinty fortress became a womb out of

which a life-giving stream was born. "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

Of this let us be sure, the prayer closet is not a place merely to hand to the Lord a list of urgent requests. Does prayer change things? Yes, but prayer *changes men*. Prayer not only took away the reproach of Hannah, but it changed her. It changed her from a barren woman to a fruitful one, from mourning to rejoicing (1 Samuel 1:10 and 2:1). Yes, it changed her "mourning into dancing" (Psalm 30:11). Perhaps you are praying that you might dance when you have never yet mourned. Many choose the garment of praise while God says in Isaiah 61:3, "To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, [I give] . . . the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness." If we would reap, the same order is true, for "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psalm 126:6).

It took a *heartbroken, mourning* Moses to cry: "Oh, this people have sinned a great sin. . . . Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written" (Exodus 32:31-32). It took a *burdened, pain-gripped* Paul to say: "I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh" (Romans

9:2-3).

If John Knox had prayed, "Give me success!" we probably never would have heard of him; but he prayed a self-purged prayer—"Give me Scotland, or I die!—and his prayer scored the pages of history. If David Livingstone had prayed that he might split Africa wide open, as proof of his indomitable spirit and skill with the sextant, his prayer would have died with the wind of the forest; but he prayed, "Lord, when will the wound of this world's sin be healed?" Livingstone lived in prayer, and literally died upon his knees in prayer.

For this *sin-hungry* age, we need a *prayer-hungry* church. We need to explore again the "exceeding great and precious promises of God." In "that great day," the fire of judgment is going to test the *sort*, not the *size* of the work we have done. That which is born in prayer will survive the test. Prayer does business with God. Prayer creates hunger for souls; hunger for souls creates prayer. The understanding soul prays, the praying soul gets understanding. To the soul who prays in self-owned weakness, the Lord gives His strength. Oh, that we were men of like prayer as Elijah—a man subject to like passions as we are! Lord, let us pray!

Selected

*The voice of a holy life often speaks
loudest when the tongue is silent.*

SPRING 2019 CAMP MEETING RECORDINGS

Recrd. No.	Date	Message Title	Minister
TR-2271 TR-2272	6-16-2019	The Home: the Bulwark of Our Society The Responsibilities of a Godly Father	Bro. David Stegmeier Bro. Reggie Stegmeier
TR-2273 TR-2274 TR-2275	6-17-2019	Holiness Faith That Can Be Seen We Must Depend on God	Bro. Roger Decker Bro. David Stegmeier Bro. Abraham Burton
TR-2276 TR-2277 TR-2278	6-18-2019	Being Part of a Cover-Up When Little Is Much Faith	Bro. Allen Polston Bro. David Stegmeier Bro. Abraham Burton
TR-2279 TR-2280 TR-2281	6-19-2019	How to Combat Temptation The Christian's Armor Christ: the Power of God or Foolishness	Bro. Allen Borders Bro. David Stegmeier Bro. Abraham Burton
TR-2282 TR-2283	6-20-2019	Natural and Divine Healing Four Small But Exceedingly Wise Things	Bro. Mike Wilks Bro. David Stegmeier
TR-2284 TR-2285 TR-2286	6-21-2019	Don't Turn a Deaf Ear to the Word of God The Choice Is Yours Do You Have the Mind of Christ?	Bro. Calvin Foster Bro. David Stegmeier Bro. Abraham Burton
TR-2287	6-22-2019	The Wicked: A Message From God	Bro. Abraham Burton
TR-2288 TR-2289	6-23-2019	Behavior That Hinders Prayer Endeavoring to Keep the Unity	Bro. Richard Talbot Bro. Abraham Burton
TM-417 TM-418 TM-419 TM-420 TM-421 TM-422	2019	Spring Camp Meeting Songs #1 Spring Camp Meeting Songs #2 Spring Camp Meeting Songs #3 Spring Camp Meeting Songs #4 Spring Camp Meeting Songs #5 Spring Camp Meeting Songs #6	
	2019	Spring Camp Meeting Choir Songs # 1 Spring Camp Meeting Choir Songs # 2	
	2019	All Morning Messages in MP3 Format All Afternoon Teaching Services in MP3 Format All Evening Messages in MP3 Format	
	2019	All Songs in MP3 Format	

All messages and music recordings are available only on regular CD's or MP3 format. 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 one. 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*.

Meeting Announcements

NEWARK, OH

August 4-11

Camp Meeting: Church of God, 675 N. Cedar St., Newark, OH 43055

The first service begins Sunday 10 a.m. Three services daily: 10 a.m., 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Please make reservations in advance, if possible. See page 27 for more information.

For lodging/camper reservations, please contact Bro. or Sis. Bush at 740-345-1213.

For further information contact: Pastor Roger L. Decker.

Telephone: 740-344-2543

MEDINA, OH

September 1 & 2

Special Service & Labor Day Meeting: Church of God, 6745 Wooster Pike, Medina, OH

Please note that the Labor Day services have been moved back to Monday.

Service times: Sunday 10:30 a.m. and Monday 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

All services will be followed by a meal.

For further information contact: Pastor Mike Miller.

Telephone: 269-447-4227

CANBY, OR

September 4-8

Revival: Church of God, 522 NW 2nd Ave., Canby, OR 97013

Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, Mississippi

Service times: Wednesday-Saturday 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 10:45 & 6:00 p.m.

For further information contact: Pastor E. David Stegmeier.

Telephone: 503-266-9297

SUMMERSVILLE, WV

September 8-15

Revelation Meeting: Church of God, 74 Armstrong Road, Summersville, WV 26651

Preaching from the Book of Revelation each service.

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

Visit the website at: www.ChurchofGodSummersvilleWV.com

For further information contact: Pastor Earl R. Borders.

Telephone: 304-872-4047

HAMILTON, MT

September 9-15

Revival: Church of God, 307 North 2nd Street, Hamilton, MT

Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, Mississippi

For further information contact: Pastor Patrick Brower.

Telephone: 406-381-7268

WARRENSVILLE, NC

September 21

First Annual Fellowship Meeting: Church of God, 2042 Teaberry Road, Warrenton, NC 28693

Service times: 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

For further information & for local accommodations contact: Pastor Allen Borders.

Telephone: 740-485-8881

BLUE ASH, OH

September 22

Special Service: Civic League, 9306 Towne Square Avenue, Blue Ash, OH 45242

(Located at Ronald Reagan Highway and Kenwood Road)

Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, Mississippi

Service time: 10:00 a.m.

For further information contact: Brother Boch.

Telephone: 513-260-1960 or 513-791-0691

MT. PLEASANT, PA

September 23-29

Revival: Church of God, 109 Salvation Lane, Mt. Pleasant, PA

Evangelist: Brother Larry Dishman, Hurley, Mississippi

Service times: Monday-Saturday 7 p.m. each evening; Sunday 10:30 a.m.

For further information contact: Pastor Paul W. Prinkey, 109 Salvation Lane, Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666.

Telephone: 724-547-2151



*A Cordial
Invitation . . .*

to attend the
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August 4-11

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