

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. 50 December 2020 No. 12



Church of God Tabernacle in Newark, Ohio

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

Psalm 122:1

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

Guest Editorial

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.

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

Brother Roger L. Decker Editor
Workers Too Numerous to Mention

THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

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

SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH

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

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TIME FOR THE WINTER 2020 CAMP MEETING

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. In just a few weeks, December 27, 2020, Winter Camp Meeting will begin at God's Acres. It is the last time this year that we will get together with God's people for worship and fellowship. Camp meeting is a special time when we can have our souls renewed and refreshed. These times give us a wonderful opportunity to feast on heavenly manna and to enjoy the good things of God. The Lord always prepares a table that encourages and lifts our hearts. The saints become enriched with greater understanding and are challenged to keep pressing toward the goal. The Psalmist David said, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD" (Psalm 122:1). David knew the importance of going to the house of God. It was there that he received spiritual instruction for living a godly life.

As it has been said so often, we live in a time when the forces of evil have been turned loose against God's people. Many people were hindered from attending the camp meetings earlier this year because of the pandemic. Those forces are determined to destroy our faith and love for God and for one another. Satan seeks to divert the saints from the path of

holiness and righteousness. We all need greater enlightenment from the Lord. Learning about the good way and the things that please God is so desperately needed today.

The Hebrew writer instructed us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together in Hebrews 10:25. We need to hear the Truth, and then we must believe it and obey it. This is what will bring victory to the soul. James warned us to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. (James 1:22). This is not a time for us to become relaxed in our efforts of living for God. It is a time, as Paul said in 1 Timothy 6:12, to fight the good fight of faith and to lay hold on eternal life. The wise man said to "Buy the truth, and sell it not" (Proverbs 23:23). It is necessary to gain all the understanding we can and not to let it slip away from us. Truth brings freedom and spiritual stability. It also requires diligent obedience.

Camp meeting is held for your spiritual prosperity and blessing. It is our desire to provide a place for you to come and learn of His ways. We encourage you to do all you can to be here so that your soul may be fed and enlightened. We write this to stir up your pure minds and to provoke you

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*Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?
2 God forbid, How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*

Is It Possible to Live a Sinless Life?



Brother Roger L. Decker

"Thy Word Is Settled"

You need to know the definition of sin. Sin is not something that you inherit or that you are born with. When you came into this world as a little baby, you were clean, with no sin whatsoever. In fact, you were in Adam and Eve's state when they were first created. As we look at the definition of sin, we do not want to go by what some theologians say it is, but we want to go by the Bible.

Sin comes through three avenues: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, but there are two ways of committing sin. First John 3:4 states, "Whosoever committeth

sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." That is the sin of commission. James 4:17 says, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." This is the sin of omission. Both carry with it knowledge: one who knows to do good but fails to do it and one who commits sin. You cannot sin without knowledge. You need to always keep that in your mind.

When dealing with sin, you have a knowledge and a will. In other words, you have a choice. Rather than committing sin, you have the choice of not sinning through the power of God. Again, you cannot commit sin without knowledge. We read in

Romans 3:20, "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." Romans 4:15 tells us, "Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression."

As we look into living a sinless life, let us look at why people say that no one can live a sinless life. Is it possible to live a sinless life? Multitudes say no, and they have some very convincing arguments if you did not know the truth. As time goes on, we find that those things that were once unacceptable or prohibited in society have now become acceptable by many people. Therefore, nothing is

really wrong to many people anymore. They seem to think that almost anything goes. The important thing is not how people look at these sinful things, but it is what the Bible says and how God looks at them.

I want to be fair in the message, but sometimes truth hurts and the only way to get rid of the hurt is to take it to God. You need to realize that people change, but Truth does not change. Truth always comes to the top. I like to explain it this way: When I was younger and used to milk the cow, I would bring in a bucket of milk, and the cream would always come to the top. I did not like pure cream on my cereal, so we would put the milk in a bottle and refrigerate it. When I put the milk on my cereal, the cream was still there, but I would shake it really well and then I did not see it.

Truth always comes to the top, just as cream comes to the top in unhomogenized milk. Truth always supersedes falsehoods. Psalm 119:89 reads, "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven." Some people are very skeptical when you start talking about living a holy, sinless life. Many times it is due to the way they were taught as they were growing up, or maybe it is due to conversations they have overheard. Others have been taught in a religious school that it is not possible to live free from sin. Some have seen everything but holiness lived in homes of professing Christians. If you heard it preached to you frequently that nobody can live holy, then you might have a hard time accepting the Truth.

"A Shadow of Good Things to Come"

We want to look at some Scriptures used by people who object to living a holy life. The problem is, they take the Scrip-

tures out of context. I want you to look at these Scriptures in the light of their context. You should always look at a Scripture in its context. You should not try to build a doctrine on one Scripture. You need to look at who it was written to, when it was written, and why it was written.

First Kings 8:44-46 states: "If thy people go out to battle against their enemy, whither-soever thou shalt send them, and shall pray unto the LORD toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house that I have built for thy name: Then hear thou in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause. If they sin against thee, (for there is no man that sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near." You need to understand the context of this Scripture passage. Those people were under a different covenant than we are today. They were under what we call the old Law, or the old dispensation.

Let us read another one. Ecclesiastes 7:20 tells us, "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." These words correspond with the words the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 3:23, which reads, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." The words of the Old Testament were uttered before there was a perfect atonement for sin. The words pertained to the human family that lived under the Law. There was a law of conscience, and the Law of Moses, and there was the dispensation of the prophets. The sacrifices under the old Law could not take away sin. There was no way possible that an individual could live holy under the old covenant.

Under the Law, atonement

was made once a year by the high priest. Let us read this from the Scriptures. We read in Hebrews 10:1-4: "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins."

Those Scriptures that you read were pertaining to the old dispensation. Ecclesiastes says there was not a just man, which is true. Every man had sinned and had come short of the glory of God. We understand that, but I am talking about living a sinless life. It was impossible under the old Law, but it is possible under the new covenant. Hebrews 7:19 says, "For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God."

The writer of Hebrews said that remembrance is made of sins every year (or once a year), but false religion says there is remembrance made every day and that we must repent and ask for forgiveness every day. This is saying that those under the old Law had it better than those in false religion today. Those in false religion say they have to confess their sins every night.

Jesus Came to Put Away Sin

Hebrews 9:7-14 reads: "But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made

manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

We are a long way from Moses' day, a day of the conscience and of the prophets. Christ came to put an end to sin and to fully save men from sin. Matthew 1:21 tells us, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." Notice that the verse does not say He shall save His people in their sins, but rather *from* their sins. There is a big difference. Saving somebody and leaving that person in sin would be like leaving a person in quicksand with something to hold on to so that he would not go under completely. Saving a person *from* quicksand would be to remove him from it.

John 1:29 reads, "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the

sin of the world." When something is taken away, it is no longer there. We read in Hebrews 9:26, "For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

Let us look at another Scripture used to object to holiness, found in Proverbs 20:9, which says, "Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?" No man can say that he has made his own heart clean. You cannot save yourself. Also, you are not saved by works. There are people who work continually, but good works will not save you. Works are necessary, but works follow faith in God. Paul wrote in Titus 3:5-6: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour."

Only Jesus Christ can purify hearts. Acts 15:8-9 reads: "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." Our hearts are purified by faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Men are commanded to live holy, and now are able by the grace of God. God would not command us to do something if we were unable to do it. God does not ask you to do something that you cannot do.

Cleansed From All Unrighteousness

Peter said in 1 Peter 1:15-16: "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

What kind of holiness was Peter talking about when he said, "Be ye holy; for I am holy"? Peter was speaking of the same type of holiness that Jesus Christ had. Holiness is not sinning more or less every day, but holiness is what Jesus had. He did no sin. How is it possible to be holy as God is holy? Your soul must be clean. There can be no defilement in the soul when it comes before God. For example, one is not clean if he has a wrong attitude against anyone. If anyone would have been justified in having a bad attitude, certainly it would have been Jesus Christ. However, He did not feel that He could be justified in having a wrong attitude, and He had more opportunities than all of us put together. If you are not willing to forgive, then you have a need.

One time I heard a minister preach a good message starting out, but it was mixed with false doctrine. As he closed the message, he referred to Romans, Chapter 7, and stated that the Apostle Paul himself struggled. Now, if this were true, we would have no confidence in the writings of the Apostle Paul. The Apostle Paul was actually speaking of his life before his conversion.

Verses 14-19 read: "For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do."

The minister that I heard speak let his audience know that they could not live holy, and he

said that even the Apostle Paul had trouble living right. If that were the case, we probably would not want to read the other Books in the Bible that Paul wrote. We could not have confidence in a man who said he wanted to do good but could not do it. That would let you know the man was unstable.

The minister did not talk about why this was written; he just left it hanging. If you go back to the first verse of that chapter, you will find out why Paul wrote what he did. Paul wrote in verse 1 of the same chapter, "Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?" What was Paul talking about? He was speaking of his experience under the old Law, when he was a Pharisee. At that time, Paul desired to do right, but he did wrong. The Apostle Paul was relating his condition while under the Law.

We read in Romans 3:10-11 (the first four words are key): "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." The phrase "As it is written" pertains to the Old Testament. The New Testament was not yet written, but it was spoken to those under the new covenant. The righteousness of the old Law was self-righteousness. People had to do the best they could under the old Law.

In Philippians 3:9 Paul wrote, "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness [your own righteousness is self-righteousness], which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith."

John wrote in 1 John 1:8-10: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to

forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." What was John talking about? Verses 6-7 tell you what he was talking about: "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." He said the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from *all* sin.

You cannot mix light and darkness. Either the light is shining or the darkness is in control. Genesis 1:3-4 reads: "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness." Light and darkness are still divided today. You cannot be in the darkness and in the light at the same time. There is a division.

We find in 1 John that some were claiming to have fellowship yet they were still walking in darkness, as if to say they had not sinned and they did not need to be cleansed. John said there was a need of confession and cleansing.

Destroying the Works of the Devil

Now let us look at some Scriptures that speak out against the teachings of sinning more or less. If you believe in sinning more or less, then you would have to come under 1 John 3:8-9, which states: "He that committeth sin is of the devil [you would have to say that you serve the devil when you commit sin]; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil [sin is the works of the

devil]. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

John was saying that if you commit sin, you are of the devil. God does not make you sin, but the devil wants you to miss the mark. Another translation says that when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning, but the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.

Along with the teaching of "sinning more or less every day" comes a teaching of "once in grace, always in grace." To say they remain a Christian and commit sin, they would be saying they are still in grace even if they commit sin. This is a terrible teaching that causes people to be careless in their living. It looks like they use Christ as a license to commit sin. According to that teaching, people can sit in the same barroom as the sinner, but they think they have a right to use Jesus Christ as a license to commit sin. Let us look at some Scriptures that refute this idea.

Acts 1:25 reads, "That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." Some say that Judas was never saved. If he was never saved, what did he fall from and why did sin cause him to fall? If he was already in sin, how could he fall? Judas had Old Testament salvation. At that time, they did not have salvation as we know it until the Day of Pentecost. How were they made clean? Jesus said in John 15:3, "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."

Matthew 10:1-4 states concerning Judas: "And when he [Jesus] had called unto him his twelve disciples [or followers], he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out,

and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease [Satan cannot cast out Satan]. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him."

By transgression, Judas fell from the ranks of apostleship. He betrayed Jesus Christ, but he was one of the numbered twelve, and he was given power to cast out devils and to heal the sick. Jesus said that Satan cannot be divided against Satan. In other words, Satan cannot cast out Satan. Therefore, Judas was saved according to the old Law. You need to keep in mind that the Apostles and Jesus Christ were born under the Mosaic Law. Jesus Christ had to die on the Cross before the Day of Pentecost. The blood of Jesus has to take away sin before the Holy Spirit can make His abode in your temple.

"He That Overcometh"

I want you to read some more Scriptures that go against the doctrine of "once in grace, always in grace." Jesus said in Revelation 3:5, "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, [What keeps a person's name in the Book of Life? 'He that overcometh.' What if he stops overcoming? Will his name be blotted out? Yes, according to the words of Jesus, it will.] but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

If an individual professes to be saved yet sins every day, what is he overcoming? If you believe that doctrine, you are

saying that Jesus Christ will let you in if you are a part-time overcomer. Friend, that is not what this Scripture is saying. Again, Jesus said, "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the Book of Life."

The largest percentage of the Bible is written to God's people. Why would God waste time reproving His people if they were eternally secure? The Books in the New Testament are for reproof, and they are to perfect the saints. Most of those books in the New Testament are written to the church. Why? One reason is so the church will not fall.

What happened after the Apostles left the scene? Many people apostatized, and out of the apostasy came the Roman Catholic Church, and it was not built on the Word of God. It did not come from God out of Heaven, but it came up out of the sea, or out of wickedness. In other words, it came out of the minds of men, and it is still darkness yet today. It has not changed. Certainly there are good people there, and that is the reason we do our best to get them out of it, but that spirit has never changed. Protestantism is a sister to it. The Bible lets us know that the protestant churches came out of the Roman Catholic Church and made an image to the beast.

I thank God for the Truth in the Church of God. Christians need to be warned. That is the reason we have the new covenant, and that is the reason Paul wrote the things he wrote. Paul wrote from experience. You should take the admonition and warning that he dealt with and apply it to your own life. A Christian is subject to falling and needs to be warned. That is the reason we have pastors, evangelists, Sunday school teachers, and elders in the church, to warn peo-

ple. When they get too close to the edge, stay out of the services, or maybe the way they dress starts to change, we warn them. We warn them that if they stay on that path, something is going to happen and they are going to lose their experience with God.

Redemption in Christ

Galatians 5:4 reads, "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." It is possible for you to fall from grace. Proverbs 28:13 tells us, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." The real problem is that many times individuals do not really sell out to God. In false religion the preaching is often shallow, which matches the living. Some have been taught church joining for so long that they think repentance is just joining a church. True repentance is needed for one to be saved. When one repents, he is forgiven from all sins in the past to the moment that he is saved.

We read in Romans 3:23-25: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God."

Why is it that the writer did not mention sins in the future? You receive the Holy Spirit to give you power to live above sin. If a man does sin, then he has an advocate (Jesus Christ) with the Father to get forgiveness.

When one repents, that is admission into the Church of God, the body of Christ. If you are saved, you are a part of the body of Jesus Christ. He lived in an earthly body, and after He

died on the Cross and rose from the dead, He ascended back to God. Those who are saved are a part of the body of Christ, the church.

To get into the body of Christ, you must be saved, and then you become a member of the Church of God. This membership is through salvation. We are brought into the body by the Holy Spirit. Water baptism does not put a person in the church. If a person is saved, he is already in the church. Water baptism is an outward expression of a work that has already taken place on the inside.

First Corinthians 12:13 states, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles [the Jews and the Gentiles became one body, and for the Jews and the Gentiles to become one body, each one had to repent], whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."

I want you to notice that by one Spirit, we are baptized into *one* body, not several bodies. God has made a way so that you can live sinless if you want to live that way, but not everybody really wants to live holy. Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

The Truth will set you free if that is what you want. Some people do not want to be free. They may enjoy being around the people of God and enjoy going to church, but they want to hang on to some things. They want to reserve a couple of rooms in their hearts. Others want freedom to do as they please and yet go to God's Heaven in the end.

First of all, to be saved, you must have a desire to live right. If you do not want to live right, there is no use playing around with God. The only way you are going to get into God's Heaven is

to be an overcomer. What do you have to overcome? You must overcome sin. You must work to get into God's Heaven. You need to be free from sin before you go to the final Judgment and get into God's Heaven. Everyone who is saved wants to be saved. When people have a desire to continue in sin, it saddens God's heart. God will let you be free to do as you desire.

Is it possible to live a sinless life? Yes, according to the Scriptures, it is possible. Under the Old Testament dispensation, the people did not have the example of Jesus Christ. Under the new covenant, we have an example of how we are to live through Jesus Christ. Hebrews 4:15 tells us that He "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Are you living a holy, sinless life?

(Compact Disc TR-2295)

[Guest Editorial—continued from page 2]
unto love (Hebrews 10:24). Remember, dear one, living for God takes real effort. Making Heaven your eternal home calls for deep determination and consecration. Regardless of the cost to make it through, be assured that it will be worth it all. You need to keep in mind that just one glimpse of His dear face will amply repay whatever the cost we have suffered or endured.

In addition to hearing the precious Word of God, there are other blessings for gathering together with the saints. It is a time to share burdens and problems

with other children of God. Hearing the testimonies of praise by others is certainly a great source of strength. Satan strives to convince individuals that their situation is unique. He endeavors to persuade a person that he is the only one who has ever had a circumstance such as his. However, when you learn of the trials of others and hear how they have overcome, you will find that this is a common salvation. You are not alone and your problems in life are not unique.

Pastor Roger Decker wants to extend a cordial invitation to join him and others at this camp

meeting. We are looking for a time of spiritual infilling. The Lord desires to renew your hope and increase your faith. Dear Christian, it will be worth all the effort that you put forth to attend the camp meeting. Also, we ask you to earnestly pray for lost souls and for the success of the meeting. God's direction and presence is certainly coveted in each service. Having Him in our midst as the Honored Guest is of utmost importance. He is the only hope of redemption for the lost and for the continued success of the saints.

**Your reputation is what men think you are.
Your character is what God knows you to be.**

Exodus 3:7 And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the

Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

9 Now therefore, behold, the cry

of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.

10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

He Came Down to Deliver



Brother Prince Moon

"Old Things Are Passed Away"

I want to focus briefly on verse 8, which begins, "And I am come down to deliver them. . . ." I went someplace for employment a few years ago and asked for a job description. They did not have one available, so how was I supposed to know what to do? A job description describes what you are to do and how you

are to conduct yourself with people on the job. Christ has a job description that He does so wonderfully. The Bible says He came down to deliver.

Why is it so hard for some people to get delivered? Sometimes people do not want to give up certain aspects of their lives. They dislike choices "A" and "B," and they kind of like "C," but they have to give it up altogether.

Many young people get started in the drug culture with marijuana. It is a stairstep drug to stronger drugs. They are not going to stop there, so it is best not even to try it. In fact, you ought to get away from those who smoke weed, or marijuana. Drugs are the devil's work. Many begin with marijuana, then take pills, then drink alcohol, and then they move on to cocaine and

heroin. The devil will take you further than you want to go. He wants to kill you.

One day God delivered me from all of that, and I have not had any of those vices for more than thirty years. I thank God for deliverance! Have you been delivered from cigarettes, drinking, cursing, or a bad temper? Salvation caused me to hate what I used to love and to love what I used to hate. Cigarettes make me sick now when I get around them. I used to enjoy smoking cigarettes, but I do not want to be anywhere near them anymore. I am happy about that. I do not want to forget where God has brought me from and where He is going to take me. If you are saved, you should never forget where God has brought you from.

Some people were considering suicide, ending it all, but God pulled them back. I know of a man who was homeless, and he sold his shoes for alcohol. He was going to jump into a lake, but at the last minute God stopped him because he had a praying mother. Thank God, he was fully delivered. Thank God for godly parents.

I will never forget the morning that I got saved. The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Deliverance is a wonderful thing. I thank God for that! You can tell the devil: "I am delivered. Devil, you did not do it; God did it." Deliverance means to be set free.

The Lord Knows How to Deliver the Godly

Deliverance is not just for the unsaved. Sometimes the saints need deliverance. Issues may arise in which we need God's deliverance from situations. I

was working a job some years ago and had to commute about ninety miles one way, and it got to the point where it was too much for me. I went to a church meeting, went to the altar, and prayed: "Lord, deliver me from this situation, because it is wearing me out and my car is worn out. Lord, I am expecting Your deliverance."

I felt impressed to go to my job and turn in my resignation. When God delivers, He has a "ram caught in a thicket," so to speak. A few days later, I had a new job only two miles from my home with the same pay and the same benefits. God will deliver and maintain what He delivers.

Second Peter 2:9 reads, "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." The Lord knows how to deliver those who are saved. You may need deliverance from a temptation. The devil may try to put you in a "pit" like Joseph. Joseph did not do anything wrong, but his brothers put him in a pit. The devil will try to trap you or try to cause you to fall into a ditch.

Some folks can lead you astray. You may need to ask the Lord to deliver you from neighbors or friends. You may be one who is easily influenced, so you need to watch that and pray, "Lord, deliver me from being so easily influenced." Some folks have a persuasive way of influencing others. They can talk and act in a compelling way, so the Lord may need to deliver you from that.

Another person may need deliverance from the guy he sees in the mirror every day: himself. Sometimes your worst enemy is not the devil or someone else. The problem is not your mother-in-law, the pastor, or anyone else. If you are honest, your worst problem faces you in the mirror every morning. That is the

reason the Bible says in Romans 12:1, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." That is where you need to start. That is where you start giving yourself altogether to God, and then He can use you.

If you are unsaved, the door is closed on God. If you are saved, the same door is closed on the devil. Philippians 4:13 states, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

When I got saved, I had a tendency to have a bad temper. It was not triggered easily, but it would be embroiling. I was at work one day, and a guy called me out in front of people, so I kicked a chair. Afterward, I prayed: "Lord, I need deliverance from that kind of reaction. I do not want that to happen again, because it might lead somewhere else." A year later, while on a front porch, a guy grabbed my face and pushed me up against the wall and said, "Oh, watch Moon now, boy." I went into the office and prayed, and God gave me deliverance. Praise the Lord! It was not in my own power, but it was God's power working through me. He cannot do it unless you ask Him and want to be fully delivered.

Power to Set You Free

John 8:36 states, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." The Church of God is full of free people who serve God, testify, write songs, and witness freely. May God help us because He has freed us to serve Him.

When God's people were in Egypt, they could serve God, but they were limited. In essence, Moses said, "We are going into the desert to worship God."

Pharaoh said, "You must leave your animals."

"No."

"Then leave your women and children."

"If we go, we all are going." God gave them full deliverance, and they were able to serve God.

Again, 2 Peter 2:9 tells us, "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." The Lord knows how to deliver you from temptation. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

God knows how to deliver you. Maybe you are in a difficult situation, so you need to pray: "Lord, I need deliverance. I can sense that the devil is pestering me and issues are piling up. I am saved and I love You, but I need Your help." That is what He does. He helps and delivers His children. His children are free to pray and to serve Him.

One thing that can bind you is fear. Have you ever been fearful? That is a tough one, because fear will hinder you. First John 4:18 reads, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." Sometimes the old devil can cause fear.

Years ago a sister who lived alone had a fear of the darkness, so she would leave the lights on all night long. That went on for years. The devil would torment her. The devil is a tormentor. He knows how to torment your mind. Every night she would hear sounds. One day she came to me and said: "I have had enough. I need deliverance from this fear, because I cannot continue to live this way. I cannot testify clearly, knowing that I

have to go home and the devil is there."

We prayed that day, and God delivered her. She went home, and that night she turned out all the lights and went to sleep in the dark. Deliverance brings peace, understanding, encouragement, boldness, and faith. Whatever the devil tells you, you can tell him: "Devil, I have been delivered and your chains are broken. You have no more power over me, because I have been delivered."

Henry Ford was driving his car to Detroit, and a car in front of him broke down. It was a Ford also, so he got out and asked, "Can I help you?" The guy said, "Yes, I cannot get it started." So Henry Ford worked on the vehicle and got it started. You see, he knew what to do because he made the car. Likewise, God knows exactly how to deliver you because He created you. He wants His children to be free, not just from sin, but from every hindrance. You can serve God on a continuous basis. God knows how to deliver you. I thank God for deliverance and for being set free.

Deliverance From Bondage

Joel 2:32 reads, "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call."

Before I got saved, I was a television addict. I was watching television about eight hours a day. In those days the television networks had soap operas, and I used to like to watch a certain one. I could not break that habit. I said to myself: "Now you are saved. Couldn't you spend some of that time better by praying for the saints, by witnessing, and by studying God's Word? You can use that time for something more

edifying than watching a soap opera." God helped me to get delivered from that habit. When I was growing up, the television was a babysitter for the most part, and that is how I got addicted to it, but I thank God for deliverance.

Real deliverance is mandatory if you want to serve God, because as long as you are bound by something, God cannot really use you due to your limitations. Is something holding you back? If the devil cannot hold you back, he will try to push you too far. You must be free to serve God.

John 11:43-44 states: "And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go."

Lazarus had been dead for four days. The Jews thought that the soul hovered over the body during those days, but God wanted to dispel that. You can read in John 11:21 that Martha said, "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." In verse 23 Jesus said to her, "Thy brother shall rise again." Then in verse 25 He said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." What a statement!

Next, Jesus went to the tomb and said with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth" (verse 43), and he came forth from the tomb. He still had the napkin on his face, and he was still bound with grave clothes. Jesus said, "Loose him, and let him go" (verse 44). For the young person who is bound, Jesus is saying, "Loose the young person, and let him go." For the older person who is bound, He is saying, "Loose the older guy, and let him go." For the mother who is bound, He is saying, "Loose the mom, and let

her go." For the father, He is saying, "Loose the dad, and let him go." In essence, Jesus said: "Loose him. I have done My part," and they did. What a testimony!

Free From Hindrances

Perhaps you are bound by something. Maybe it is not sin, but you are limited in your service to God. It might help someone else to hear your testimony. Are you afraid to testify or to witness? The devil may tell you this or that is going to happen if you do. You need to just do it and break free of that fearfulness, and it will be a blessing.

The devil will try to stop those whom God wants to use. If he is hindering you, you need to pray: "Lord, I want to be free from whatever is hampering me. I want to be free from whatever has limited me in serving You. Free me from whatever is hindering me in going all the way with You. You are my Savior, the One who leads me." You may want to walk with Him, but you cannot do it if you are bound.

Again, John 11:43-44 reads: "And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go." Perhaps you are thinking: "I want to serve God, but I can't find the time." God can deliver you. Someone once said, "A lot of people are busy for the world, but they are idle for God." You can be busy and yet not do much.

You should want your life to count for Christ, not for the world or for the flesh. God is moving, and you need to move with Him. Peter followed, but he followed afar off. That was not good. Jesus wants you to walk in His steps. He has something that He wants you to do or some-

where that He wants you to go with Him. If you draw nigh to God, He will draw nigh to you. May the Lord help you to get in step with Him and stay there. Some get worn out. I found that if I was not obeying God, I would get worn out. Life will wear you out. The devil wants to wear out the saints of the most high God. If you are in step with God, He will revitalize you and build you up.

Maybe you feel weary because of the battle. If you are weary from the battle, you can pray, "Lord, strengthen me." Maybe the devil is talking to your mind. The devil has a big mouth. He will talk to your mind. He will tell you all kinds of discouraging things. He will try to project a dismal future, drag up the past, or mix up your mind to slow you down and bind you. Some are bound in their mind, in their thought process. Those feelings, notions, and ideas are to slow you down and cause you to worry about things. The devil will bring up traditions and various ideas to slow you down and to break your pace with God. Once you stop, it is hard to get back into that pace again.

The Lord will help you to get free of any hindrances. If the devil cannot stop you, he will try to hinder you. He will use other people to do that. He wants to hinder you from serving God with all your heart, soul, and mind. He may use family, friends, or anyone he can to slow you down. You need to remember that he is a liar, and he never abode in the Truth.

Lay Aside Weights

The Bible says in Hebrews 12:1, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us,

and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

Some things may not weigh a lot for a couple of miles, but when you are running, they can get heavier and heavier. Some things have to be put aside, because the longer you carry them, the heavier they get. The spirit can only handle so much weight. After a while, it will wear on you.

Have you ever felt weary? I surely have. You might have to lay aside a friendship, kinship, or anything else that is hindering you, because it will wear you out. You can become weary. You need to be set free from whatever confines you, slows you down, or does not allow you to serve God in a free manner.

Matthew 6:13 reads, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." This was Christ's priestly prayer, and He prayed, "deliver us from evil." You may need to pray: "Lord, I am not doing wrong, but I can sense that I am in an evil environment. I am praying that You will deliver me. You said that You would, and I need that. I want to head this hindrance off early. I don't want to wait three or four weeks. I am praying that You will deliver me from this evil influence. I want to stay saved."

The devil has a plan for each of us, but God has a plan too. Jesus came down to deliver us. If God delivered approximately a million people from Egypt, fed them for forty years in the wilderness, gave them wonderful weather, supplied water from a rock, sent manna from heaven, and caused their clothes not to wear out, He can deliver you. He wants to deliver you because He loves you.

God does need you and me. I need my wife. She is a wonderful lady. I want her to be with me.

That is how God is about His bride. He loves His bride and wants her to be free to worship Him, serve Him, and love Him. If she is hindered and cannot move, He wants her to be free. God wants you to be free. Christ died for that purpose. If the Son has made you free, you are free indeed.

How to Gain Victory

We had a little tree near our house, and I said, "I will cut it down one day." I let it go, and now it is big. It is too large for me to cut down. I have to find somebody else to do it. I should have cut that tree down when it was small. I could have handled it then, but now it is too big for me to handle. Friend, if you have something in your life that is hindering you, do not wait to get rid of it. Do not play with it. You need to catch it early.

There was a man that went out and saw a small snake. It was cold, so he said, "I will have mercy on it and take it home." He began to take care of it, and he

allowed it to go around the house freely. It began to grow. He came home one day and the snake slithered into his lap and bit him. He said: "How could you do that? I rescued you and took care of you." The snake said, "You knew I was a snake when you brought me home with you; I bite."

You should not let certain things grow and get out of hand. You may look up one day, and it will be an oak tree instead of an acorn. You need to take care of the problem now, before it gets any larger. May God help you, because He wants to free you.

If you want to see the extreme power of God, it will take extreme actions on your part. Solomon was so excited about God that one day he sacrificed twenty thousand sheep and twenty-two thousand oxen for the glory of God. That moved God. You should want to move God, and you can. He is waiting to be moved on your behalf.

Let us move God in behalf of your unsaved children.

Let us move God for the

glory of God. Let us move God for our unsaved neighbors and friends and in behalf of those who are ill. He is waiting.

We need to touch Jesus. Have you read about the woman who had the issue of blood? She said, "If I can touch the hem of His garment, I will be healed." She had to come down low to do that, but she touched Him, and immediately she was made whole. Let us touch Him. Let us move Him, praying: "Lord, I want to get past this thing. I want to get loose from this situation."

Do you desire the blessing of being released from your situation? You can be released permanently. When the Hebrews left Egypt, that was it; they never had to go back. They saw Pharaoh's army and the horses dead on the shore, and they were free. They felt so good about that. Won't you seek Him now to gain the victory that you need in your life?

(Compact Disc TR-2211)

God's Way Is Best

*God's way is best; if human wisdom
A fairer way may seem to show,
'Tis only that our earth-dimmed vision
The truth can never clearly know.*

*God's way is best; heart, cease thy struggling
To see and know and understand;
Forsake thy fears and doubts, but trusting,
Submit thyself into His hand.*

*God's way is best, I will not murmur,
Although the end I may not see;
Where'er He leads I'll meekly follow,
God's way is best, is best for me.*

C. W. Naylor



Especially for Young People

The Christian and Social Media

What is social media? The word social involves interacting with people and sharing information, and media is the means by which we can communicate. At one time, people communicated mainly by word of mouth. When people lived too far away, they wrote letters until the invention of the telephone. Another instrument of social communication is the computer. In the 1980s having a computer began to become common in the average household.

Some forms of social media platforms are MySpace, Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. The first social network service was launched in 1997, and it was called SixDegrees. It was based on the idea that people are only six connections away from one another. A user could create a profile and become friends with others. It only lasted until 2001, but not everyone had the Internet at that time.

The next social media platform was called Friendster, which was launched in March 2003. A user could create a profile, upload photos and videos, and send messages to other users. Then LinkedIn was launched in May 2003, and it is still in use today. It is a business and employment-oriented online service where a person can upload a resume and connect with business associates.

In August 2003 MySpace was launched. At one time, it was the

largest and the most visited social networking site in the world. A user could have a personal profile, connect with friends, and upload videos, pictures, and music. A user could also create a blog. A person could talk about what was going on in his life and write paragraphs and books.

In February 2004 Facebook was launched, and by 2008 people began to leave MySpace for Facebook. It was originally created for college students.

If you have social media, why do you have it? Do you have it to keep in contact with friends or family? It is a great way to share pictures. If you have friends or family that live out of state, it is a great way to stay in contact. Churches use it to update people on coming events. It can be a beneficial tool.

Does your family have rules about social media? Some families have created what they call a social media contract with their children. They tell their children they have to keep their settings private at all times. If you do not know how to do that, you need to have somebody help you. You need to set them high so that people who do not know you cannot see what you are doing. Some other rules are these: I will not post inappropriate pictures of myself, I will not view pornography, and I understand that everything I post is permanent.

You may think, "I will post

this and then take it down, and nobody will ever see it again." Just because an app says your post has been deleted does not mean that is true. Snapchat got in trouble because they were telling people that once they deleted something, it was gone, but that is not true. Snapchat now says there is no guarantee that messages are deleted within a certain time frame. Snapchat also said there may be ways to access messages and pictures on devices after people have deleted them.

You need to keep in mind that when you post something online, it is there forever. Someone might take a screenshot of it. Huge servers back things up. Lots of information is being saved on large servers in different places. You need to be aware of this.

On impulse a young person may take a goofy picture, and then later think, "I don't think I really want my college recruiter or my employer to see that picture, so hopefully it is gone since I deleted it. As I mentioned, there are a few positive things about social media, such as keeping in contact with family, posting an encouraging story, or encouraging someone. However, there are also some negative aspects of it.

Some studies show that social media can make a person feel depressed. You may interact with friends and have social contacts and yet you feel depressed. How can that happen? Sometimes you

might use a filter to make you look thinner and to make your face and your hair look better; however, when people see you in person, they may wonder who you really are because you do not look the same as you do on your social media.

Why do some people feel that they want to create a brand, so to speak, but when people see them in real life, they are not really what they appear to be online? This may cause some people to feel lonely. Someone might have five hundred friends online, so how can that individual be lonely? Well, he goes to his social media page and sees that everybody seems to be doing great. This person has a new boyfriend or girlfriend, and another person posts vacation pictures. Someone else shows pictures of all the new stuff he or she bought. On the other hand, you do not have a boyfriend, you did not go on vacation, and you do not have any new stuff. Therefore, you start feeling depressed and kind of lonely. Sometimes, in reality, people's lives are falling apart, but they try to portray to others how great they are doing. They want others to think everything is awesome, but it is not.

There is a condition called *imposter syndrome*. Some people portray themselves differently on social media and try to make others feel less important, and it can cause you to feel depressed. Then there is *cyber bullying*. There are plenty of incidents where it has gotten completely out of control. Name calling, rumor spreading, and physical threats can be very dangerous.

Body shaming has occurred on social media. A few years ago, a model was in a gym changing clothes and took a picture of an older woman who was changing clothes. She posted it on Snapchat and said, "If I can't unsee this, you can't either." She faced possible jail time and lost her

gym membership. The model thought it was funny at the time, but I am sure that seventy-year-old lady was not laughing; that was very insulting. Undoubtedly her family was not happy about that either. The model later said it was an accident and that she did not know that she was sharing it with all her friends.

You need to be aware of Internet scams. Scammers send out emails, and I understand that this has moved to social media as well. For example, you may receive an email from someone who claims to be a Nigerian prince in Africa stating that he has a couple million dollars and needs to get out of the country. The email may say that if you will help him either by giving him your bank account number or by helping to pay his fees, he will give you 20 percent of his two million dollars.

Another scam that you need to be aware of is called *phishing*. This is where someone sends you a link to try to get you to log into your account from that email so that someone can obtain your login information to one of your accounts. It looks real, and it may look official, but it is a scam set up by criminals. You should not enter your information in that email or location. If you do, scammers will have your personal information and can steal your money.

There are *selling wall scams*. For example, a selling wall scammer may contact you and say, "I want to buy what you are selling, and I will give you a check for more than you are asking. If you cash that check for me and give me \$100, you can keep the rest." The problem is, that check will bounce, and you will be out your item and an extra \$100. This is something that you need to be aware of if you advertise an item on social media selling walls.

There is *catfishing*. This is

when someone pretends to be somebody else online. There are television shows and a movie about it. People have lost a lot of money by being scammed by people who pretend to be someone they know. In order to avoid this, never give out personal information online, even to someone who seems to be a friend.

What else can be a danger to you? You may feel that you always have to be connected, so your phone vibrates and you receive a notification or possibly someone posted something or sent you a message. You wonder what is going on. Therefore, you are constantly being alerted. This can create anxiety, and it may even make you feel exhausted. What is the solution? You need to go into your phone settings and turn off some of those alerts.

What are some other down sides to social media? There is drama in real life, but social media seems to ramp it up. For example, you may get involved in a situation when you really did not want to be. That can become a problem. It is kind of like driving down the road and seeing a car wreck. You would not drive by and say, "God, help them." No, you would try to see if someone needs help. Drama on social media can be the same way. It would be human nature to be drawn into it. It is similar to a car wreck that you cannot ignore. However, you need to be careful that you do not say things that you should not say.

Another thing to consider if you want to have social media is that people monitor social media. Employers monitor it. Some monitor it to see if employees post anything when they should be working. College recruiters may monitor your social media. I read about a football coach who had his assistant monitor the football players' social media. Some football players have not learned that if one is not careful,

he could lose his chances of being recruited based on what he posts on social media.

One college coach signed up a player. College officials were all excited about recruiting him until they looked at the young man's username, and it was very vulgar. They said: "Do you know what? We don't want him no matter how good a football player he is." He lost that opportunity because of his social media username. One football coach began a program called "Pause Before You Post." His motto is, "Never let a 140 character tweet cost you a \$140,000 scholarship."

How should a Christian young person handle social media? First of all, what are your parents' rules and expectations? You ought to stay within their guidelines. It will be a blessing to you. Second, you should pause before you post. Before sharing or retweeting something, you should think about it. Does it have an inappropriate picture?

I know of someone who reposted something, and in the background a person was dressed very inappropriately. That person did not notice it at first glance but liked the words and the predominant picture that was in the front. Others have reposted, and in the username were bad words, maybe some profanity. Suppose you see a long post and there is profanity near the end. You only read part of it and decided that you really like it, so you quickly retweeted or shared it, and then you realized that you should not have posted it. You can delete the post, but you should learn to be very careful about what you repost or retweet on your page. In the business world, there is the saying, "You post it, you own it." It does not matter that you did not write it initially.

Proverbs 17:28 reads, "Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise." An old saying is

that it is better to be thought a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt.

Consider another viewpoint. Suppose someone posts something that you disagree with and you want to argue the point. Social media is a place to voice your opinions, but it is rarely a place to listen. You should seek first to understand why others may think as they do. That may be their opinion based on past hurts. Again, it is good to seek first to understand. The Amplified Bible in Proverbs 18:2 states, "A [self-confident] fool has no delight in understanding but only in revealing his personal opinions and himself."

A book that I read says, "Choose being kind over being right." This is applicable to social media. Consider the fallout of what you say or post. Suppose some of your friends absolutely hate ice cream, and you post a picture of vanilla and strawberry ice cream and say: "Look at this picture. It is wonderful! People who don't like ice cream are dumb." How are your friends going to feel? They may feel attacked.

Proverbs 18:6 in another translation says, "Fools like to start arguments." Is it worth hurting other people? Is it worth losing their friendship? What if they lose out with God? What if they became so hurt over your social media posts that they lose out with God or quit coming to church? You should always choose being kind over being right.

You need to keep in mind that your social media posts make a statement about you. What does it say about you if you are always posting, "Look how great I look" or "Look what I have accomplished"?

What would it say about you if you were to share pictures of Adolf Hitler, Charles Manson, Jeffrey Dahmer, or other mur-

derers? Certainly it would show others that you need prayer and that something is wrong. What would it say about you if you were to "like" the posts of people who use profanity, who break the law, who hate the police, who rap about beating up women, who dress immodestly, or who are against Christianity? Your social media posts are a reflection of who you are.

Social media should not be more important than real people. In grocery stores I have seen people go through the line who were talking on their cell phone the whole time. They do not speak to the cashier or the bagger or anyone else. I have been in restaurants and looked across the dining room and observed Mom, Dad, and all the children on their cell phones the whole time. No one in the family was talking to one another. That is sad. I was thinking, "You people are missing precious family time and great interactions." I repeat, social media should never be more important than people.

Lastly, what does God think about your social media posts and the pictures that you post? You need to look at them through God's eyes. How could you use social media for good? If your parents allow you to have social media, you should consider how you can use it for good. Words are powerful. They could be used for good or bad. You could invite somebody to church. You could reach out to a person if you notice that he or she is down or struggling or having a hard time.

In closing, young person, social media can be fun and powerful, but it can be addictive. It can be a positive force in your life or it can be negative. How will you choose to use social media?

Sister Sheri Strelecky

Philippians 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

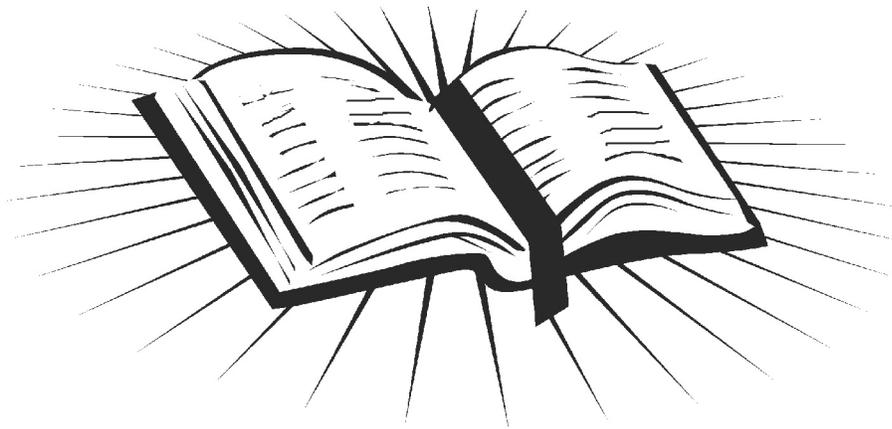
9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

10 That I may know him, and

the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

The Power That God Has



Brother Ryan O'Neil

Resurrecting Power

I was raised in the church, but I did not really understand a lot of things. I rebelled and went out into a life of sin and made a mess of my life. I got in a place where I needed God, and God was merciful and saved me. One time I was driving down a busy highway near where I grew up. I came around a curve and semis were coming at me in both lanes with guardrails on both sides. I whipped my car between one semi and the guardrail and kept going. I thought I was a really good driver, but God put His hand on me and said: "No, that

was Me. I saved your life and had mercy on you."

Not long after that, I went to church one night. I decided that I would go and wait on a friend. God dealt with me that night. I remember the message. The preacher asked, "What will you do with Jesus?" I sat in the back of the church. They sang two songs of invitation, yet I stood there. On the third song, I finally went to the altar and got saved, thank the Lord. God is merciful, kind, and long-suffering. He is a miracle worker. He changes hearts, and He changes lives.

I never thought I would be a

preacher. I did not like public speaking. I did not want to get in front of people, but God changed that, and I still need His help every day. I need Him to supply me with what I need, because even though I am a pastor, He still has to help me through my battles, temptations, and trials. He still shows me what I need to change in my life. I have to work on keeping a good attitude. God will help you too.

In our Scripture text, Paul exhorted the Philippian congregation and, in essence, told them: "Look, it is not about your religious ideas or your own way of doing things, but it is about Jesus

Christ." If you stop pointing people to Christ, you are losing something. You have to be careful that you do not put forth your own ideas or your own theologies. Our power and help is in Jesus Christ. It is so important that Christ is the center of your life.

Paul said in verse 10 of our Scripture text, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection." When Jesus was on the Cross, there was nothing the disciples could do. They had no authority with the Roman government.

Jesus was crucified and placed in a tomb, but He did not stay there. Something supernatural happened, and He rose from the dead. It is even recorded in history that Jesus rose from the dead. The natural man could not raise Jesus from the dead. The power of God raised Him from the dead, and that is the same power that you can know in your life. The power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that changes a sinner into a child of God.

Newness of Life

Salvation is not something that you can do on your own. You cannot enroll in a program to bring about this change. A doctor or a psychologist cannot make this change in you. It takes the power of God. He changed me from being a sinful young man and made me a new creature in Christ Jesus instantly. I went to Him and said: "I'm sorry, Lord. Please forgive me. I need to be changed," and He did it.

The power of God changes us and raised us up from spiritual death to spiritual life. His power can make you a new creature in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:1-5 reads: "And you hath he quickened [or made alive], who were dead in trespasses and sins; 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: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)." Only God can change the sinner. Only God can change the heart. Only God can take a liar and cause him to tell the truth. Only God can take a hateful man and make him love. Only God can take a cheater and make him honest.

Some people try to change on their own, but they cannot do it. I know of people who cuss and say: "Oh, I'm sorry. I'm trying to change." Only God can change you from what you are to what you should be. He has the power, but you have to avail yourself of that power. Jesus did not die so that we could continue to live in a way that God is displeased with. Jesus died, and the blood that He shed was to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. God did something that we could not do.

Romans 6:1-4 reads: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

A lot of people go to church and name the name of Christ, but

the question is, Where is the newness of life? Where are the ones who are saved from sin and living righteously and holy? Where are those who have quit the sin business?

Many have been taught that churches are just good social groups, a place where people can get together and get the children off the streets and teach them good moral principles, but God has something better than that. God has something far more powerful, and that is changing hearts and lives.

Kept By God's Power Through Faith

God loves you, and He does not want you to stay in a condition where you are separated from Him. Romans 6:23 states, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." The power that raised Jesus from the dead is the opposite of what the devil and sin bring.

I want to do my best to help you. First Peter 1:3-5 states: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

When we get saved, we do not immediately go to Heaven. When the thief on the cross got saved, he died a few hours later. When most people get saved, they get to live to serve God. The devil is not satisfied with your being saved and living that way. He is going to do his best to get you back. He will do his best to discourage you, dishearten you, and keep you from living in a

way that pleases God.

We live in a society that is getting worse as the days go by. Many people want to discourage others from living right and doing right. If you do not embrace their ideologies, they mock and scorn you. They do their best to embarrass you in front of others to discourage you from living in the way that pleases God. The devil loves it because he knows how it wears on you. He knows how you function in your mind. He is doing his best to get you to become weary in well doing and to cause you to become discouraged. You are going to see things, you are going to hear things, and you are going to fight battles in your mind. The devil will do his best to get you to give up and quit.

No matter how tough you think you are or how smart you think you are, discouragement is real. The devil knows how to work on you. In the Bible you can read about some who got discouraged. They looked at their circumstances and allowed those problems to affect them. After Jesus died, Peter got very discouraged. When he was sitting with the other disciples, he said he was going fishing. The devil discouraged him in his mind by the things that he saw and experienced. Later, when Peter wrote 1 Peter, we find that he said this power does not fade away. The power that saved us and changed our hearts, our minds, and our lives will not fade away.

First Peter 1:5-6 reads: "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations."

What you must understand is, the same power that saved us and changed us is the same power that is going to help us

through battles and trials. This power keeps us from failing, from giving in, and from giving up and going back to where we once were in sin. That is the power that God has for us. The devil wants us to believe that we do not have any power. He wants us to believe that we cannot do anything about the situations that we are in or that we cannot see God move on what we are facing. Friend, the devil is a liar.

God Has Victory for You

The devil is slick. He is a cheat, a liar, and a thief. He is like a con man, and if you listen to him long enough, he will talk you out of what you have. Do you know how con men work? They know how to talk to people and get them to believe what they are saying, but their end game is to get something from them. That is how the devil works. He will come to you and cause a problem with a brother or a sister. He will cause you to become discouraged about work or school. If you listen to him, you will think that you have no power left and there is nothing to work for, nothing to be encouraged about, and nothing to fight for anymore. Do not listen to the wrong voice. What you have to do is tell him: "Look, the power that saved me from my sins and changed my heart and life is the same power that is going to deliver me from this trial that I am in."

The trial that you are in can discourage you to the place that you forget the power that God has for you. The devil wants you to believe there is no power because of what you see in society. He may tell you there is nothing left of the church. He may tell you that, because you do not believe like the world does, you are an oddball, but that is not what God is saying. He is

saying something different.

I remember a song from when I was a child that says, "The darker the night, the brighter the light shines." The darker the world gets, the brighter the church shines and the more hope there will be for those who are out there looking. They will look on us and say: "They have something. God is working in their midst." Although the devil may tell you there is no power and try to get you to give up, God has something better.

You may go through some battles. You may fight some things for a long time, but do not give up. There is power and victory in those things if you will hold on. Though a trial is long, this does not mean that God has forgotten you. God has not forsaken you. You need to remember that God's time is not our timing. Consider Job. God did not deliver him immediately; yet through it all, God kept him. In the end things came out even better for Job.

Sometimes you will wrestle with the devil. You may think you have him whipped, but the next thing you know, he is popping up his head again. I am not condoning fighting, but before I was saved, that was one thing I liked to do. You might have a guy down and think you have him whipped, but as you get up to walk away, that guy may get back up and swing or kick and take you down. That is how the devil works. You may think you have him whipped and think the trial is over, but the next thing you know, the devil is back. You can still beat him through the power of God.

God does not allow you to go through things so that you can be defeated. He allows you to go through things so that you can learn some things and grow. God does not want those things to beat you down. That is what the

devil wants. God has victory for you in every situation no matter how dark it looks.

In 1 Peter 1:6 Peter said, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations." If you allow the devil, he will talk you out of your salvation. I have seen him discourage people, and soon you do not see them anymore. They quit coming around because they listened to the devil and allowed him to talk them out of what they had. You must not allow the devil to do that.

Avail Yourself of God's Power

You can have the power of God through Jesus Christ. Think about what God has saved you from, such as the things you could not change or the things you wanted to fix but could not fix; then God came and saved you, changed you, and changed situations around you. That same power is what can be working in your life today if you allow it. God's power does not diminish over time. It is still there for you.

Luke 10:17-19 tells us: "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." This was the promise that Jesus gave His followers. In essence, He said: "I am giving you power over those things. I am giving you power to knock Satan down from his exalted position." If you will avail yourself of His power, you do not have to be beaten in any trial.

Young person, the devil is especially working on you. When I was growing up, there were many things in the world for

young people to get messed up in, but nowadays it is even worse. The temptations and peer pressures are really strong today. Some pressures come from the public education system and the government. All these things are trying to mold young people into something that the devil wants. They do not care about your being pure and holy and clean. They want you to fit into their plan and to make you a puppet for their ideologies. It is growing worse and worse. It is sad that elementary and preschool children are discussing ungodly things that never even crossed my mind as a five-year-old child. Now what are some children seeing in their homes? What are they being fed by the media? What are they being taught by older young people that corrupts their minds at an early age?

Young person, you are facing many ungodly things today, but do not forget that your power lies in God. You need to get a deep relationship with God. You should not just come to church and be religious, but you need a personal relationship with God; then get your roots down and know where your power comes from. You are being tempted in ways that we older folks were never tempted in, with things we never saw, and with things that never crossed our paths. You need to draw close to God, stay in this race, and find power with God. You do not have to become a drug addict or addicted to porn. You do not have to become an alcoholic or a homosexual. Do not let the devil draw you into those vices. Do not let the devil warp your mind. You need to stick with God. The devil wants to convince you that you have no power, but Jesus promised that you could be victorious over the sinful things that come your way.

Today we are facing things in our country that we have never had to face before. Ungodly

things that should not even be in question are being promoted, such as abortion, homosexuality, and transgenderism. Atheism, Muslims, Buddhism, and all kinds of Eastern religions are on the rise, and we have to deal with these. Our freedoms are slowly being taken away from us, and we are having to make decisions and work in such a way that we have to be "wise as serpents, and harmless as doves," as Jesus said in Matthew 10:16. Nevertheless, there is victory for us in these times.

Our power does not come from ourselves, and this is what you have to realize. You are not wise enough or strong enough to make it on your own. It takes the power of God, and that is where victory comes from. You may be smart, and you may be strong, but being smart and strong will not get you through. It takes the power of God. Some people feel that because they are strong, they do not need God's help, but they end up making a mess of their lives. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:57, "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Jesus Is the Answer

In the midst of your battle or discouragement, do not listen to the devil; listen to God. Sometimes people discourage themselves because they say: "I can't do anything. No one pays attention to me. No one wants to hear from me," thereby discouraging themselves.

One way the devil likes to work on some good saints of God who are humble and stay in their place is by causing them to be down on themselves. The devil is keeping them pushed down to the place that they do not testify, they do not rejoice, they do not work in the service, and they do not work with souls. They need to understand that is a

trick of the enemy. God will give you victory over that. He will help you to find the balance that you need to find and show you where you can work for Him and do it for the glory of God.

The devil is tricky and sly. He will use anything he can to keep you from gaining the victory in what you need. Husband and wife, he will do everything he can to keep you from gaining victory over problems. When I first got married, I had some learning to do. I was a person who spoke my mind. It did not matter how it made someone feel, if it was true I would say it. I had to learn some wisdom, gentleness, and kindness. I had to learn that words might not hurt me, but they could hurt my wife. I had to do some changing.

In the home the devil will take advantage of anything he can. Couples have to be careful because they can discourage and dishearten each other. In my Christian experience, I had to learn that the power was of God and not of me. If I wanted to see something changed, I prayed, and God helped me to see things change in my home that needed to be changed.

The point is, the devil will

use anything he can, even in the home between a husband and a wife or between parents and children. He will use every trick he can in a congregation, even if it is concerning the color of the carpet. He will use every little trick he can to cause friction, but every saint can have victory over that too. God can still work, and He can still bless. We are blessed to have shelter, heat in the winter, and air conditioning in the summer.

The devil will use every little thing he can to defeat you by causing you to take a wrong attitude, become discouraged, hold a grudge, or hold unforgiveness. He will use every trick that he can get hold of to keep you from having victory. The power that saved you and gives you victory is the same power that can give you victory in this battle that you are in today. God will give you victory, but it is only through Him. The power of Christ can work in your life if you will allow it. However, you will have to be steadfast and unmovable in Christ, because He is where the answer is found.

John wrote in Revelation 1:12, "And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being

turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks." He wrote in verses 17-18: "And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

If you read history, you will find that back then a person of authority often had a key over his shoulder. He had the authority to make certain decisions over things in their jurisdiction. Jesus is saying, "I have authority and power over death and hell." He has power and authority over the things that you are fighting in your life.

No matter what you are facing, God has the power to give you victory. Maybe you are about ready to give up. Perhaps you are having trouble in the home, at school, on the job, in a congregation, or with a brother or a sister. God can give you victory in every aspect of your life. May God bless you. God has great things for you if you obey Him.

(Compact Disc TR-1695)

I've Found a Refuge

*I've found a refuge now from ev'ry sorrow,
Joy everlasting and sweet;
I see this world with all its sinful follies
Conquered at my feet.*

*Oh, could you offer ev'ry earthly treasure,
Diamonds and pearls of the sea;
Then turning from them I would gladly whisper,
"Christ has set me free."*

*Far brighter than the shining stars above me,
Beaming with beauty and grace,
Adorned in Heaven's majesty and splendor,
Is my resting place.*

*Oh, blessed tho't, my sins are gone!
I lean on Jesus' breast,
And while the storm without is madly raging,
I have perfect rest.*

D. O. Teasley

Exodus 18:13 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening.

14 And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even?

15 And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to enquire of God:

16 When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws.

17 And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good.

18 Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone.

19 Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God:

20 And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.

21 Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such

as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:

22 And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee.

23 If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace.

24 So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said.

THE FEAR OF GOD



Brother Calvin Foster

The Beginning of Wisdom

I want to call your attention to verse 21 of our Scripture lesson. It reads: "Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness." One of the main quali-

fications to be a minister of God and to counsel people is that you need to be a leader and to have the fear of God. God has given us a ministry. Paul called it the ministry of reconciliation. In this position God is using ministers as His vessels.

God chose to use Paul as an

instrument to get His Word out. Paul mentioned this in 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 when 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. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus

Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." You need to come to God and not let anything come between you and God.

Psalm 111:10 says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever." One of the wisest things that I have done in my life was to fear the Lord. I thank God, even as a rebellious teenager, that my mother would quote Scriptures to me. The fear of God was in my heart. If you want to be wise, you need to fear the Lord, because this is the beginning of wisdom.

Ecclesiastes 8:11-12 states: "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him."

Some worldly people may try to make you feel that they are getting along well. They may do wrong a hundred times, and God does not carry out judgment against them. God may bless them with good jobs and other blessings, yet they do not have the fear of the Lord. If God can bless them like that, the Bible says, "I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him."

In Psalm 23:6 the Psalmist David said, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for

ever." Ecclesiastes 8:13 reads, "But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God." If you fear God in your heart and life, that is a wonderful thing. You are a blessed person to live your life in the fear of the Lord.

"By the Fear of the Lord Men Depart From Evil"

We are preaching the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Gospel is good news to the world. In Luke 4:18-19 Jesus said: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord." That sounds like good news to me! That sounds like blessings coming through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I thank God for the Gospel, and I thank God for the good news of it.

Proverbs 16:6-7 states: "By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil. [Today many people are defying the Lord. They are defying His people, and they are defying the ideas of God. They do not fear the Lord, and it will not be well with those who do not fear the Lord.] When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him."

Someone may say: "I don't want to get saved and give my life to God. I have too many enemies and too much trouble in my life." The Bible says when a man's ways please the Lord, even his enemies will be at peace with him.

Jeremiah 32:38-40 tells us: "And they shall be my people,

and I will be their God: And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me." I want to keep the fear of God in my heart wherever I go. The fear of God is a blessing.

In Jeremiah 10:23 Jeremiah said, "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." The fear of the Lord will keep you out of trouble, and the fear of the Lord will help you to take care of yourself.

When Jesus spoke in Matthew, Chapter 15, He talked about what was in those people's hearts. Do not let evil get into your heart. Jesus said in verse 19, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." All kinds of thoughts will come through your mind in a day. If a bird wants to make a nest in my hair, I am not going to let it, and so it is spiritually speaking. All kinds of thoughts will come to your mind, but do not let the devil make a nest there.

Verse 20 reads, "These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man." Thank God, the fear of God keeps me from letting those things get into my heart. Do not let them get into your heart. I praise the Lord for the fear of the Lord.

What kinds of thoughts does the Bible say to think on? Philippians 4:8 instructs, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good

report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

The Good News of the Gospel

None of us deserves God's mercy, and none of us can save ourselves. I have thought about the people who have gotten stuck climbing mountains and the people where wild fires raged throughout their communities and burned down their homes. Rescue workers do not try to give people lectures. They come to help and rescue people. Likewise, God wants you to know that if you have the fear of God in your heart, you can rescue yourself and other people around you.

The good news of the Gospel is, in spite of how evil people are, God still seeks after people to save their souls. Romans 5:8 tells us, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

If you are living in sin, you are living beneath your privilege. Christ died for you, and you do not have to be a sinner anymore. You need to fear God. One of the main reasons that people do not want to be rescued by God is that the pride of life is in their hearts. You need to humble yourself before God, cast away foolish pride, and let God save you from your sins. You need to let God give you a holy life and a better life.

Jude wrote in Jude, verses 20-23: "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh." My dear friend, by the

grace of God, we are vitally interested in your getting saved and giving your life to God. By the help of God, we will do what we can to pull you out of the fire of hell before it is everlastingly too late.

Young person, you will have some very serious practical life decisions to make as you get older. The Bible says in Ephesians 6:1-3: "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." You may say, "I am eighteen years old." Honor your father and mother. You may say you are nineteen, twenty, or thirty years old. Honor your father and your mother.

Keeping the Fear of God in Your Heart

No good thing is going to happen to you when you do not fear the Lord. In just a matter of time, trouble is going to come into your life. You should not give up your virginity and start a family when you are not married. That goes for the young men and the young ladies. You should not live a double life by pretending to be saved on Sunday, but when no one is looking, you chase after the world. God is watching you. You had better keep the fear of God in your heart. To have the fear of God is to have a reverential fear and respect for God. We are living in a time when many people do not have enough reverence and respect for God. I am not saying that God is walking around with a hammer, and every time you make a mistake or fall out of line, He is ready to hit you in the head. God is your Heavenly Father. The Bible says that all His children get correction some time or another.

God could turn my world upside down, so I want to keep the fear of God in my heart and stay saved. Young man, you should not quit school. You should stay in school, learn a trade, and look forward to having a family someday. You should raise your children to have the fear of God.

A thought may come to your mind to quit your job. How is a man going to quit his job when he has a family? A young man told me one time, "I quit!" I said: "How can you quit when your wife just had a baby? Why would you quit your job when you do not have anything else lined up?"

Young person, a question to ask your parents or your pastor is, "Should I marry someone who is not a Christian?" You may think, "Maybe I can change him or her" or "Maybe he or she will get saved." When Sunday morning comes around, you will want to go to church, and he or she will not want to go to church. When camp meetings and revivals come and he or she does not want to go, you are going to feel sad. You need to think about that.

If you fear God, you will not let unforgiveness get in your heart. You should not walk around with unforgiveness. You need to let it go. If you fear God, you will be a good father or a good mother to your children. If you fear God, you will be a fair business person. If you fear God, you will be polite to others. Young man, you will not just bust in the door when you see a woman coming in behind you. You will be a gentleman and open the door and let her go in first.

If you fear God, you will be a faithful husband or a faithful wife. Many women out in the world today are very promiscuous. They have the "Delilah" spirit in them, and they will take you. Many men out there will

test you, sister, but if you fear God, you will be faithful to your husband. If you are not married, you will be faithful to God because you are married to Christ and Christ is your husband. What makes that happen? You must have the fear of God.

If you fear God, you will be a law-abiding citizen. The Bible teaches that Christians should be law-abiding citizens. If you fear God, you will be respectful of others and of their property.

"Knowing Therefore the Terror of the Lord"

Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. [It is your duty to fear God, your Creator. As a Christian, you should not want to disappoint God, your family, or the family of God.] For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." No one has any secrets that God does not know about.

Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:10-11: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." We all must stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Some people think that they are going to get by, but the Judgment is coming, and Jesus is coming back. Knowing the terror of the Lord, people are going to be so sorry that they did not get saved. They are going to be crying and gnashing their teeth, saying, "Oh, I should have gotten saved!" Knowing the terror of the Lord, we want to persuade you to fear God and keep His commandments.

Jesus said in Matthew 9:12-13: "They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. . . . for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Many sinners have hardened their hearts against God. They do not have the fear of God or respect for God. Some of them do not even have respect for other human beings, respect for the church, or respect for anything that is right. They want to call that which is right wrong and that which is wrong right.

The Bible says in Acts 17:30, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent." God commands men to repent. Jesus said in Luke 12:4-5: "And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him." What Jesus said is very profound.

We do not want to get hurt, and we do not want to die. We have a natural fear of danger, but when you look at the whole picture, it is better to fear God and to keep the fear of God in your heart. The fear of God is very important. You do not want to get to the place where you walk, talk, and act any kind of way.

When I first got saved, another young man got saved around the same time. Sometimes we would ride around together just as a lot of young people do today. We went to prayer meetings together and did things for God together. However, he let the devil start talking to him. He backslid and got under a different spirit. When I said something to him about it, he grabbed me by the collar and said: "Shut up! Shut up!" That was kind of shocking to me. He was my spiritual buddy, but

when the devil got hold of him, the old man came back in him, and he lost the fear of God. He did not respect me or care about what I felt or what I said anymore. He ended up getting in trouble and got a life sentence in a penitentiary.

You are going to be tested, but keep the fear of God. Do not be too proud to run away from bad situations. Hebrews 12:28-29 reads: "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire." God can put something on you that no one can help you out of. That is another reason you should fear God.

After Death Is the Judgment

Hebrews 10:31 says, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Some people are playing fast and loose with God, so to speak. Are you as spiritual as you used to be? Do you have victory over your temper? Do you have victory over lust? Have you allowed the fear of God to work in your life as you know it should? Have you left your first love? Your love for God should be hot.

Many people are not taking care of their body. They smoke, do drugs, drive drunk, and all these kinds of things. Sometimes God gives them a wake-up call. If God gives you a wake-up call, you had better answer it. God is giving some people wake-up calls, but they are not answering Him. Due to the fact that they are not answering, judgment follows them, and they say, "What happened?" They did not answer the wake-up call.

Joy is waiting for the sinner who answers the call. Jesus said in Luke 15:4, "What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave

the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?" Jesus said in verse 10, "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." You should not keep company with people who do not fear God.

John 8:21 says, "Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come." We are living in a world that does not fear God. Do not let the devil drive an evil spirit into your heart so that you do not fear God. The latter part of Revelation 21:8 reads, "And all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." You ought to fear God. Hell is a terrible place. Someone may say, "All my

friends are going to be in hell with me." Do not let the devil sell you that lie.

In Mark 8:35-37 Jesus said: "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Some people may look as though they are having fun. They wear fine clothes, have plenty of money, and have fine automobiles and fine homes. What shall it profit them if they gain the whole world? Whether you live seventy years or more, the message is still the same.

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

If you live to be a hundred years old or more, after death is the Judgment, and you are going to stand before God. You will have to give an account for how you have lived. What is more important? It is not how long you live, but it is where you will spend eternity.

God wants to see men and women everywhere get saved and stay saved. Friend, God wants to see you do well. Your pastor is the watchman for your soul, and you need to communicate with the man of God. He is watching for your soul.

Do you love the Gospel? The Gospel is right. The Gospel is so beautiful. It is the greatest thing in the world.

(Compact Disc TR-2127)

The Heart's Cry

Millions of unsaved people are marching from the cradle to the grave without God, without hope, without the Gospel. Is it that they do not want the peace and the joy that come through knowing Him? Is it that they would not change their lives of sorrow and degradation for a better life? Many people may not truly want the Gospel, but some are yearning for something better than the lives they are currently living.

The words of one woman should appeal to every genuine Christian. She said, "Tell your people how fast we are dying and ask them if they can send the Gospel a little faster." Then the words of an Indian woman should make us feel like doing our best. She said, "Oh, tell us again who Jesus is, but tell us slower, for we forget so soon." The words of an Asian woman indicate how anxious

some are to hear the Gospel again when she said, "Are we only to hear this once—only once?" The words of a boy show how even children desire to know Christ. He said: "Does Jesus Christ live here? Tell me where I can find Him. Oh, please tell me!"

These quotations certainly indicate that the heart burden is the same the world over. They ask for something that will satisfy. They are willing to make almost any sacrifice to find satisfaction. Some are willing to endure the most excruciating pain and suffering because they have been told that by doing so they will find the relief that they seek. We know there is no hope except in Jesus Christ, for there is none other name under Heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.

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December 27-30

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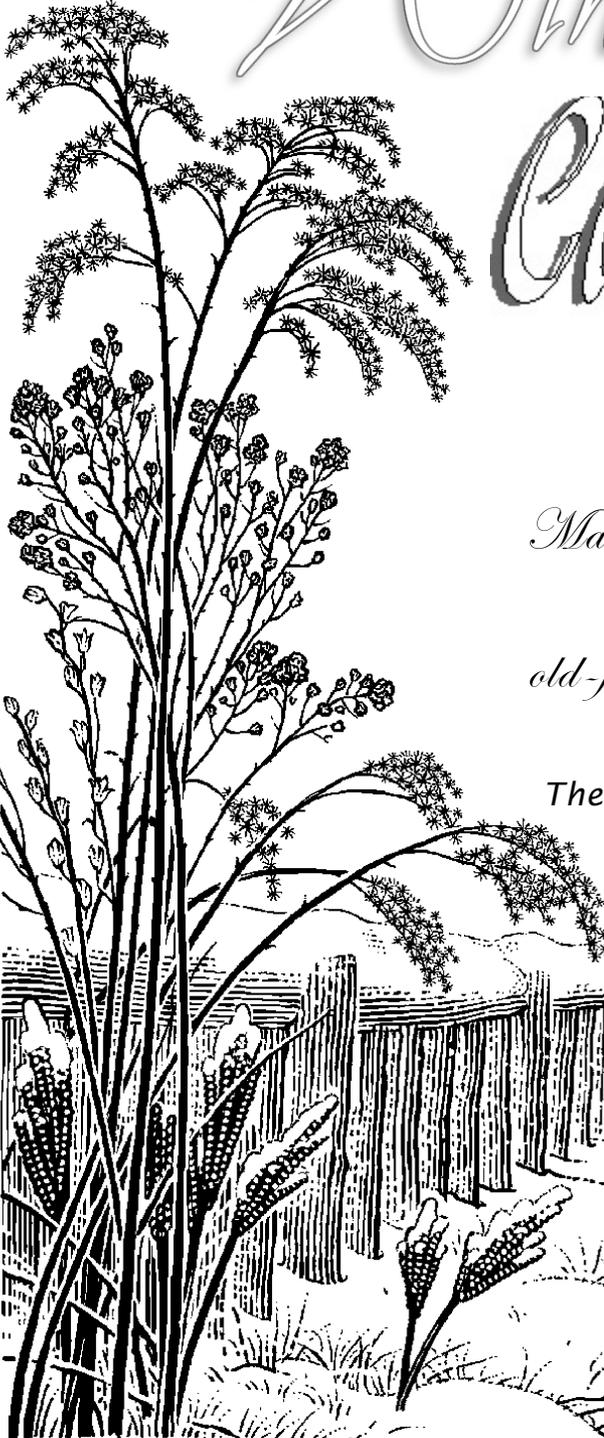
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(See page 27 inside for more information.)