

FAITH AND VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



God's Hornets

By Bro. Harlan Sorrell

“And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee. I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land. And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out before thee. Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me: for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee.” Exodus 23:28-33.

This was God's command to ancient Israel concerning their inheritance in the land of Canaan and the manner in which they would possess it. This is a “type” of our inheritance today in the spiritual land of Canaan, or the sanctified life.

Let us take special notice of the manner in which God said He would drive out the Canaanites. He said He would “send hornets.” (See also Deuteronomy 7:20.) Cruden's concordance describes hornets as “the large species of wasp, whose sting is very severe.” Imagine the natives of ancient Canaan, hiding in fear, perhaps, from the armies of Israel. Then God sends a swarm of hornets upon them. I know of few things that will make people move like a sting! Few people could remain quiet and hidden when under an attack of hornets. If anything would bring the enemy out of his hiding place, surely this would! Now these Canaanites represent those things in us or about us, after we have been sanctified, that have to be driven out in order that we may fully inherit this good land.

God works in the lives of His sanctified children relative to their inheriting the fullness of the spiritual land of Canaan just like this. He sends the hornets, those things that severely sting, into our lives. This brings all of those hidden enemies of our untempered self-life out of those places where they are lurking, of which we are totally unaware. The initial experience of sanctification and infilling of the Spirit is an

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instantaneous work. It cleanses our carnal nature and thoroughly purges our hearts. The Holy Spirit then comes in to abide and work in us. But He does not instantaneously temper either the natural or acquired traits of our humanity. The tempering of our humanity is a progressive work: a continual and ongoing process as long as we remain "in the body." We sing the song which says, "More like Christ, my heart is praying, More like Christ from day to day. All His graces rich displaying, While I tread my pilgrim way." If we truly mean what we sing, then we are inviting the Holy Spirit to do a tempering work upon our humanity. Sometimes this will involve some p a i n f u l experiences. We are told in the Scriptures that Jesus, the

God said that He would not drive out the Canaanites in "one year," but little by little He would "drive them out from before thee...."

Captain of our salvation, was made perfect through sufferings and that, though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience through the things that He suffered. (See Hebrews 2:10; 5:8.) Then Peter tells us in I Peter 4:1, "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind:..." We are called into the fellowship of Christ's sufferings and self-denial, that we also might be perfected.

One of the most important things for a newly sanctified soul to understand is this—even though it is now perfectly cleansed, so far as the heart and affections are concerned, there are still a lot of things regarding the natural human traits, thought patterns, personality, temperament and just the human make-up in general, which will need a lot of adjustment via the tempering work of the Holy Spirit. These things are not necessarily relative to sin, but can be very deep-rooted into the self-life, many times even beyond the point of our own awareness. These things are sometimes inherited or acquired through family backgrounds or personal experiences, etc. They are just a part of us as humans. Yet, they need adjustments in order for us to be truly molded into Christ's image in all things. The effects of the fall passed down to us from Adam are far more intricate than many

people realize. They go far beyond our understanding and comprehension in many ways, and in many areas of our lives. Therefore, the plan of salvation through "sanctification of the Spirit" (II Thessalonians 2:13-14) includes, not only the purification of our hearts from a depraved nature, but also a healing process for our humanity. This process can only be performed by our continual yielding to the Holy Spirit's dealings with us regarding ourselves making adjustments in those areas He illuminates where adjustments need to be made, destroying and doing away with those things in us, or about us, which need to be destroyed and done away with. He comes to live within us, gives us a perfect heart, and then He

goes to work to perfect those things concerning us. (see Psalm 138:8; also *Evening Light Songs* number 195, verse 2.) Sanctification is an experience of the heart and soul which fully opens the door to the Holy Spirit, giving Him full access and right of way to begin this lifetime process. But it is an experience that is contingent upon us keeping ourselves as fully yielded as we were the moment we received it.

God said that He would not drive out the Canaanites in "one year," but little by little He would "drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land." This reveals the progressive phase of the Holy Spirit's work in the sanctified life. We do not possess the fullness of all that sanctification provides the day we get sanctified. It then becomes ours for the taking, yes, but we must go forward in cooperation with our Guide, the Holy Spirit, in the great quest of "taking the land." This does not mean that we become more and more sanctified as we go along, but it means our experience in God becomes deeper, broader, richer and more fruitful. We possess more of this good land that is ours in the Holy Spirit, whom God has given us, as we learn to identify self, how to deny it and let the Spirit take control of those areas of our humanity where self reigned.

In verses 32-33 of Exodus 23, we find that

the children of Israel were to “make no covenant” with the inhabitants of the land nor allow them to “dwell in thy land.” Why? “Lest they make thee sin against me” or “be a snare unto thee.” This is a very important thought. These inhabitants of the land represent traits, characteristics, etc., deeply rooted and perhaps hidden within the humanity of sanctified people. These are not sins, but are things that can become a “snare” and cause sin. These inhabitants of our land are our enemies. But how are we going to recognize them? God will send His hornets—those things that will sting “self.” You can be sure that the hornets will bring self out of its hiding place! As we identify self in those areas of our humanity where it may be hiding, we can

Did you ever wonder how someone who you knew had an experience of sanctification, and was living victoriously for awhile, ended up backslidden or under some kind of false spirit?

pursue it, overcome it and bring our humanity into the moderation of the Holy Spirit. We must make no covenant with self-interest. We must not allow it to dwell in our land. When God sends His hornets and reveals to us those things deeply rooted within our humanity that are related to the self-life, then we must conquer them and drive them out. There may be many yet hiding within our human make-ups, personalities and temperaments that the hornets haven't brought out yet, but when they do, make no covenant with them, but destroy them. This is all a part of God's process of perfecting that which concerneth us and enabling us to fully inherit the land which is rightfully ours—this Canaan of full salvation.

Did you ever wonder how someone who you knew had an experience of sanctification, and was living victoriously for awhile, ended up backslidden or under some kind of false spirit? Well, in many cases, this was how it happened. God's hornets brought some enemy relative to that individual's self-life out of its hiding place. But, instead of pursuing it, overcoming it, and slaying it, the individual made a covenant with it and permitted it to dwell in their land, that is, within his or her humanity. The result was, the soul was snared and ultimately fell back into sin.

We received the baptism of the Holy Spirit by giving Him permission to take full control of all aspects of our lives—by making a consecration of ourselves and all that pertains to us, both now and in the future. But, if at some future time we fail to fully cooperate and allow Him the complete right-of-way concerning us for any reason, we can grieve Him out of our hearts and make ourselves vulnerable to “other spirits.” We can grieve Him in various ways. It can be through unwillingness to submit our ideas and opinions when He leads us into areas where those ideas and opinions conflict with those of some of our brethren. It can be through unwillingness to surrender our position for fear of humiliation and the affect on our image in the minds of

our peers. It can be through the attitudes we take toward circumstances and people God allows to vex and try us along life's way. We could list many ways that sanctified people can grieve the Holy Spirit in various situations and circumstances they encounter along their life-long journey to Heaven. And, if they grieve Him to a certain point (that point is only known to God), He will withdraw and leave them, and other spirits will rush in to fill the vacuum. And, many times, these spirits are not what most people would recognize as unclean or evil spirits, but they are religious spirits—spirits of a higher order, specially designed by satan to counterfeit the Holy Spirit Himself. These spirits move in then, and begin to act as Holy Spirit to the soul, leaving it blinded to its real unperfected, untempered and immoderate condition due to self not having been slain. The heart and soul are then defiled and no longer pure before the Lord, although they may yet be very pious, and even consider themselves more holy than others.

Let us remember that the hornet stings God sends our way in life are needful and are sent to help us locate our enemy—“self.” When God's hornets locate him, let us slay him lest he become a snare unto us and cause us to sin.

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This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21, and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ—the same gospel that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for the body. James 5:14-15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from sin and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

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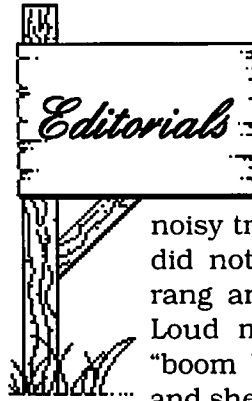
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There is a story of a certain woman who lived in a busy district of a large city. One evening, after a busy day, she retired early and drifted off to sleep. The noisy traffic that sped by her home did not rouse her. The telephone rang and she continued to sleep. Loud music thumped from the "boom box" of a passing motorist and she continued to rest. The children raided the refrigerator and played noisily about the house and she was oblivious to their activities. Then, a remarkable thing happened—from another room of the house came a small voice that called, "Mommy," immediately the woman jumped out of bed and rushed to the side of her three-year-old daughter.

This mother obviously had her ears tuned to the cry of her little girl. Even in her sleep, her motherly love prompted a sense of duty toward her child. This selective sense of hearing might be difficult to explain in scientific terms but mothers are often gifted with this ability.

I Peter 3:12 gives this precious insight into the nature of our Heavenly Father, "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers:..." We should be encouraged to make our petitions known to the Lord for He does hear the cry of His children. This knowledge should inspire faith in God for His love is even greater than that of a faithful mother. Notice this passage of Scripture in Isaiah 49:15-16, "Can a woman forget her suckling child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands: thy walls are continually before me." Even the great love that is in the heart of a mother for her child does not exceed the love God has for His own. Jesus told of how His Father even sees the sparrow that falls to the ground and He said, "...Ye are of more value than many sparrows."

It has been said that black bears are normally not aggressive toward people when they chance to meet in a remote area. They generally are easily scared away. However, they say that if the bear has cubs, then one should be cautious to see that they don't get between the mother bear and her cubs. For then the bear can become aggressive and attack people to

protect her cubs. Jesus said if someone were to offend one of God's children it would be better for a millstone to be hung around their neck and they be cast into the sea. God said in Exodus 22:22-23, "Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child. If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry;" Whoever would willfully injure the people of the Lord are placing themselves in a serious position before Him.

Psalms 102:17 makes this statement about the Lord, "He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer." One can be sure that the Lord hears His children's prayers. He is not like the idol gods of the heathens that have eyes and ears that cannot see or hear. He is the Living God, and He is awake and vigilant.

There is a report of a family that had a young child that was recovering from an illness and the mother desired an egg to feed her daughter to help her gain strength. However their finances were extremely tight because her husband had been temporarily laid off from work and they could not afford the eggs for their daughter. The mother was discussing their tight situation with a friend and the friend suggested she pray for the Lord to provide an egg. The mother had never really considered asking the Lord for an egg. So she knelt on her knees and prayed for the Lord to give her an egg for her daughter each morning for breakfast.

Later that morning the mother heard a noise coming from the hedge in front of their house. There among the branches sat a fat red hen she had never seen before. In a few moments the hen hopped up and was gone down the road, but there on the ground was the egg she had prayed for. In amazement the mother collected the egg and gave thanks to God for answering her prayer.

The next morning she was startled to hear cackling coming from the hedge again. She went out to investigate the noise and sure enough the red hen had come again and laid another egg. This routine was repeated every morning for over a week. Each morning her daughter had a fresh egg for breakfast. The daughter's health improved, the weather warmed up and the husband was able to go back to work.

The following morning the mother waited and watched out the window for the hen, but the hen never returned.

Many people today have an apathetic, passive attitude toward God, but let no one think for a moment that God is filled with that kind of apathy toward His people—for those who think that are greatly mistaken. He has a burning love for the righteous person and His ears are open to their cry and their prayers.

There is no place on this earth or in the heavens above the earth that man can isolate himself from the Lord. Therefore let the child of God rejoice and let the sinner be fearful. Jonah foolishly tried to run from God, but he was glad the Lord heard his prayer of repentance from the depths of the sea. While the Lord is not obligated to respond to a sinner's prayer, sometimes He does answer their prayers in an effort to draw them to Himself. He would like for them to pray a sincere prayer of repentance and come into true fellowship with Him.

There are other things the Lord hears besides our prayers. He hears the things we say to one another. He hears the things we say about Him. Malachi 3:16 says, "Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD...." The Lord goes on to say, "...they shall be mine...when I make up my jewels...." What a wonderful reward for speaking about our awesome Heavenly Father.

There are other people who do not speak so kindly about the Lord. So it was with a man who was working in the baggage room of a large railroad station. In the course of his work he dropped a heavy parcel on his foot and let loose with a string of profanity. A little girl who was standing in the doorway of the room called to him and said, "Please, mister, don't talk that way. Don't you know that God hears you?" The words of the child gripped the heart of the man and convicted him of his sinfulness. Throughout the balance of the day, and through the night, her question plagued him. "Don't you know that God hears you?"

Again and again these words rang in his ears. It was the turning point in his life. Within a few days this man cried out to God for mercy and in faith was converted. The words of a little child had pierced his hard heart, convicting him of his need of salvation which he had heard about all his life but had never heeded until this time.

There may be times that a Christian prays earnestly for some need and it seems that no answer is forthcoming. It is in those times that one must submit to the will of the Lord and trust His wisdom in the matter. He will not forsake His children so He obviously has another plan in mind that is superior to the petition we are requesting. It becomes an opportunity for one to seek for and find special grace to endure and learn to exercise faith and patience, which will cause one's character to be considered more precious than gold. "Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." James 5:11.

"Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live." Psalm 116:2. When we survey the past, we see many gracious answers to our calls for Divine assistance. These blessings from the heart of a loving God encourage us to continually call on Him. Jesus instructs us to "Ask and it shall be given you...." Let us ever live close to the Lord so that He will be pleased to answer our earnest prayers.
—Bro. Willie E. Murphey



Standing Prayer Requests

Sis. Merline Allen
 Sis. Gladys Cashio
 Sis. Helen Carson
 Sis. Genevieve Carver
 Sis. Elizabeth Corteway
 Sis. Waneta Creel
 Bro. Terry Dawson Sr.
 Sis. Guy Domin
 Sis. Patsy Doolittle
 Sis. Dorall Forbes
 Bro. Troy Gentry
 Jaden Howard
 Sis. Patsy Jordon
 Sis. Earnestine Jordon
 Sis. Karoline Kessler
 Bro. Mark and Sis. Darlene Knight
 Sis. Virginia Myers
 Sis. Elsie M. Offerman
 Sis. Melba Powell
 Sis. Sharon Quave
 Bro. Vernon Robinson
 Sis. Ruth Shehee
 Sis. Cheryl Smith
 Bro. Michael Smith
 Bro. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor
 Sis. Imogene Taylor
 The Mitch Taylor family
 Sis. Norma Tiller
 Bro. Delmar Wilkins
 Bro. Curtis Williams

HOLLY HILL, SC, MEETING REPORT

Dear Bro. Willie and Saints: It is with grateful hearts that we send in a testimony of thanksgiving for the wonderful revival meeting God gave us at Holly Hill, SC. Bro. Leslie and Sis. Sylvia Busbee expressed a burden to come and be with us, and we truly appreciate the way God met with us in every service. There was a sweet spirit throughout the meeting, and our souls were refreshed and revived to continue on this Christian journey. How gracious it is of the precious Spirit of God to condescend and meet with His children who are waiting in anticipation of something special from Him! He never fails to feed a hungry soul. We thank the Lord for the meeting He gave us, and we desire the prayers of the Saints for our continued faithfulness to God here in Holly Hill.

In the love of Jesus Christ,

—Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Smith and the Holly Hill, SC Congregation

LA—I desire prayer and would like to be placed on your standing prayer list. I am suffering from arthritis and other needs. Thank you.

—Sis. Guy Domin

SC—Please pray for a brother in our congregation, Bro. Syer McElhaney, he has serious physical needs.

—Sis. Cheryl Smith

OK—Sis. Sharon Quave is in great need of prayer. She is very weak and at times suffers greatly with various symptoms of her illness.

OK—Sis. Imogene Taylor is severely afflicted with cancer. She has a bright testimony and the Lord comes to her rescue when the pain becomes intense. Continue to remember her in prayer.

MEETING DATES

Guthrie, OK (Revival)—Nov. 3-7
Loranger, LA (Assembly Meeting)—Nov. 24-28
Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—Dec. 25-Jan. 2
California State (Pacoima)—Dec. 26-Jan. 2

MEETING NOTICES

LORANGER, LA, ASSEMBLY MEETING

Lord willing, the Loranger, Louisiana Assembly Meeting will begin Wednesday evening, November 24, with morning and evening services daily through Sunday, November 28. If you can join us, come praying for a blessing.

There are separate dormitories for the brothers and sisters. Electrical and water hook ups are available for those with campers. Meals are provided and expenses met by freewill offerings.

From Loranger, go two miles south and about three and one-half miles east on Hwy. 40.

For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about 10 miles east of the Tickfaw exit. (At the exit, take Hwy. 442 which runs into Hwy. 40.)

For more information, contact Bro. Carlos Doolittle at (985) 878-8122. The chapel phone is (985) 878-2788. Please do support this meeting with your prayers.

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held at Guthrie, OK. Lord willing, the first service will be Saturday evening, December 25, and the meeting will continue through January 2. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U.S. Daily worship services throughout the meeting will start at 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. There will also be morning prayer services and youth services, the times of which will be announced at the meeting.

The campgrounds are located east off of Sooner Road on Lakeview Road, which is a little over four-tenths of a mile south of the intersection of South Division and Sooner Road. All who come will be cared for. The expenses of the meeting will be met by freewill offerings.

We especially urge the Saints in Oklahoma and the surrounding states to attend this meeting. Come praying with a burden for the unsaved and for all those who need help in soul and body. Please send all contributions

for the coming State Assembly Meeting directly to the State Treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, 807 W Lake Rd, Guthrie, OK 73044.

To obtain further information about the meeting, contact Bro. Philip Gellenbeck (405) 282-2999.

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The annual California State Assembly Meeting will be held, Lord willing, from December 26, 2010 through January 2, 2011. The first service will be Sunday morning with Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. There will be three services daily throughout the remainder of the meeting at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The campground is located at 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, CA 91331. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Your presence and prayerful support will add much to the success of the meeting. Three meals are provided daily as well as accommodations for those needing them. Expenses are met by freewill offerings.

For more information you may contact: Sunset Guest Home (818) 899-2022; Bro. Paul Phillips (661) 251-6956 or Bro. Herbert Clay (818) 897-1396. The chapel phone number is: (818) 899-9021.



**LETTERS
FROM
OUR
READERS**

KS—Dear Saints: Just a note to say God is good all of the time! Here it is, Fall, and the heat is gradually going away with cool weather settling in. Thank God for the changing seasons.

The Lord blessed in our meeting (Wichita, KS) with eight ministers attending at one time or the other. There was some altar work and rejoicing by encouraged Saints. We are sure these are the last days and we sure want to stay ready for Christ's return. Praise God!

Christian love, —Sis. Shirley Knight

WA—Dear Sir: I'm a man who has been convicted of three second degree murders with a good-time release date of 2047, when I'll be

101 years old. In 1976 I was recaptured off an escape I did in 1975. After being put back in prison and given more time, I began looking at myself and thinking what a mess I had made of my life. So I started looking for answers in the Bible, prayer and going to chapel. I was captivated with Jesus and the sacrifice He made by leaving Heaven where He had it made and coming to this sin-cursed earth to be born in a barn; to live a life of an itinerant preacher. Never owning a home and having no certain dwelling, never having a wife or children. Praying at times alone all night and teaching men the true way to live their life acceptably with God. He was lied about, beaten and crucified like a common criminal. One day while listening to this story, the Gospel melted my heart and I put my faith in Jesus and received the forgiveness of my sins. And like that old hymn says, "The burden of my heart rolled away." I actually felt the heavy load of sin roll off my back, and I knew that I knew that I had found what I had sought for in drugs, booze, sex, rock & roll music and the criminal life style—deliverance and peace that passes all understanding. I walked out the door of the prison chapel and looked up at the sky, it was bluer than I had ever thought. I knew something had happened and I would never be the same. I made a vow to God that day that for what He had done for me I would do anything He asked.

One of the things He began dealing with me on was un-confessed sin. You see, although I was charged only with a property crime when recaptured from off that escape, (an escape that lasted a whole year.) there were three killings I'd done which began to plague my conscience. In one sense, I could claim at least two of them were justifiable. I eventually decided to confess all three to a detective who I wrote a letter. He came to the prison and took me back to court to stand trial. I wanted to show people the power of God to change lives, but many times I broke down during the ordeal of three murder trials in three separate cities. On Good Friday, 1977, I was convicted of the first killing and was led away to begin serving one of three "20 year to life" sentences.

The parole board gave me a flat 100 years with a good time release date of 2045. Since then they've added two years for setting a fire. When I got back to prison, most of my friends left me saying they couldn't trust me anymore, since I snitched on myself I might snitch on them. Men came up to me and asked me why I confessed when I didn't have to? I told them

because I believe God wanted me to. One man laughed and said he had done things in his past that he would never tell about. I still believe confessing is right in order to have a pure conscience, which the Bible speaks about.

That was nearly 30 years ago and I'm now 60 years old. Some might say I don't have much to show for my life, no wife, no children, all my family have died. But my pastor told me no one stays in this world forever. If you are a Christian you know this world is not your home. We're just waiting for our promotion to glory. It will all be worth it then to see Jesus and all those stripes on His back and the Apostle Paul. And we'll be so happy to rejoice with joy unspeakable. Some folks say that Heaven is a myth. Don't you believe it. There is a great reward for anyone that serves God. I'm just happy that I could do my small part to advance the Kingdom of God. Jesus said in Mark 10:29-30, "...There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life." Amen, all of that and eternal life too! You just can't beat the fulfilling life of a Christian—the healing of the mind and soul. And just to make it to Heaven and see all the Saints, it will all be worth it then.

Sometimes when I'm feeling down and start feeling sorry for myself, I just think how Jesus suffered, and then I realize, I'm not suffering so much. I cried because I had no shoes until I saw a man who had no feet. I guess if I had a hymnal, I'd turn to "Onward Christian Soldier." That is a song they sing in churches. But God is still inspiring me today just like He did when I first got saved. He will never lose His power because He is King of kings and Lord of lords. Many of the disciples went back to fishing after Jesus was killed but when He was risen they became fishers of men. Hallelujah. —Phillip B. Hausken

CA—Dear Fellow Saints and Workers: Sincere blessings are wished for you in Jesus' name. My husband, Archie Sherman, is improving daily and greatly pleased of the Lord. We still solicit your prayers for his full recovery from the heart attack, due to his long standing congestive heart failure condition.

Much love and prayers to you all in the Lord.
—Sis. Norma H Sherman

Where Is The Blessing?

By Bro. Leslie Busbee—July 1958

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8. The object of this article is to help the people of God to be drawn closer to Him and be more able to receive the manifold blessings that He desires to give. If you are one who is wondering where the blessings are, please read and give this careful consideration and prayer. As the Scripture tells us, it takes a person who has a pure heart to be able to discern the spiritual blessings of God. I Corinthians 2:14 says, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." In Acts 15:9 as Peter was speaking, he said, "And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." Again in I Peter 1:22 he said, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." The Word of God, when accepted and put into practice by any person, will purify his heart and life through the workings of the Spirit of God. In Hebrews 12:14 it says, "Follow peace with all men, and HOLINESS, without which no man shall see the Lord." To be holy is to be pure.

In the beginning, after God had seen all things that He had made, said, "Behold it was very good." Genesis 1:31. Everything that your eyes can behold, naturally, is pure and good. The trees, rivers, lakes, streams, animals, mountains, grass, and everything that God made (which was all things, John 1:3) is good and pure. God's very plan for the human race in every way was good. But something happened to man when he disobeyed God that caused a separation to exist between himself and God. He was driven from the Garden and the fellowship with God, with the sentence of death upon him. And this death "...passed upon all men, for all have sinned." Romans 5:12. But when Jesus came He made a way that man could be brought back into that state of holiness that he had once enjoyed, praise the Lord! We can be passed from death unto life and enjoy the blessings of the Lord. Titus 1:15: "Unto the pure ALL THINGS ARE PURE, but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their

mind and conscience is defiled." So we see that all things are pure and in these things we have found many, many blessings to our souls.

When you are driving down the road, where is your mind? Is it on your troubles, or is it on the Lord? Just notice the beauties of nature. You might think that the country in which you live is not pretty, but you take a closer look. Look at it with a pure heart. You may see a tree. Think about that tree and how it lives and grows; meditate and apply it spiritually and you will be surprised, maybe, at the blessing the Lord will pour out upon you. "Keep your eyes on the road," they say. That is right, but have you ever tried to get a blessing from it? Think of the road that Jesus walked and the example He left us, then think of the road that He left us to trod and how that if you will keep on it you will reach your destination, Heaven. A group of cows are straying a little close to the road and you have to slow down in order not to hit them. Is that such a trial that you frown and think they ought not to be there? Or do you look for the blessing? There is one there. Look for it. On a hot summer day you are delayed on your trip by having a flat tire. Such a trying time you may have in getting it fixed may turn you to leaping and shouting if you will look for the blessing. It is there, my friend. When you are at your daily work and something trying happens, like a cow kicking over the bucket or a dirty dog jumps up on you, knocking you down or you take a hard knock in the head by running into something or your tractor runs out of gas or many other hard trials we meet up with, do you worry and fret about it or do you look for the blessing? I want you to try it. Be sure you love the Lord and have a pure heart and then begin to look for the blessing, because it is surely there.

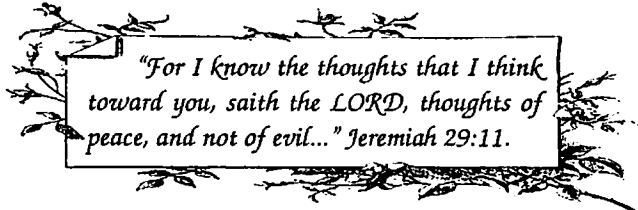
One strain of a song that we sing says that He will turn what seems to harm us into everlasting joy. I read a story one time about a horse that fell to the bottom of a well. The men didn't know how to get him out so they decided to bury him in the well. They began to shovel the dirt in on the horse and every time they put some dirt in, the horse would trample it down and they kept on until they had the well full of dirt and the horse just stepped out and went free. The very

thing that was meant to kill the horse saved him. These trials that we hear so much about would be more joyous to us if we would look for the blessings that are surely there. I could tell many blessings in which the Lord blessed me in that way. But one in particular stands out in my heart.

In West Virginia last summer, I happened to be driving Bro. Darius Gibson's car and we stopped at a station for gas. We told how much we wanted and while they were filling with gas, the man came around and I, thinking that we had all the gas we wanted, gave him the money, started the car and left. The attendant had to quickly jerk the gasoline spout out of the tank to prevent damage being done, and we went away with just part of the gasoline we were entitled to have. When I realized what I had done, it made me feel bad for a while, until we began to look for the blessing. The Lord brought a Scripture to Uncle Darius in Jeremiah 23:21. "I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied." The blessed lesson we received helped us to realize that God wants us to wait on Him, then after we are prepared and have all God has for us, then we can go. We will lose everytime we get ahead of the Lord. That was a blessing to me, but I realize now that the secret in receiving a blessing from God is to have a pure heart and keep in the center of God's will.

Do you know that one of the best ways to get a letter is to write one yourself? So it is with blessings. If you want a blessing, just bless the Lord yourself and be a blessing to someone else. When we all get to the place more fully and stay there, then the blessings will roll. I Peter 3:8-9 says, "Finally, *be ye* all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, *be* pitiful, *be* courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing." Follow the instructions in God's Word and I am sure that we can never cease to tell of His manifold blessings

(Reprinted from July 1958 *Faith and Victory*.)



SEEK THE LORD

By Sis. Gladys Cashio

"...He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6. "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5-6. "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:6-7. "Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it." Psalms 34:14.

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:" Isaiah 1:18-19. "The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." Psalms 34:18. "For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." Psalms 51:16-17. "Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30.

Yes, come dear sinner friend, come with all your heart if you will know the deep riches of full and free salvation. Come confessing and forsaking all and surrendering all to God, let Him have His way in your heart and life. He will lead you into a path of perfect rest to your soul and give you joy the world can never give. His power can make you clean, His plan is perfect. His will is to save you. He stands with out-stretched hands, waiting to receive you, His love never fails. If you are not convicted of your sins, it could be that you have justified yourself in them too long. If you have not been born again, you are still in

your sins and Jesus says that if you "...die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come." John 8:21.

If you know you are not saved, this is enough to awaken you. God's spirit will not always strive with man. Do pray now for an awakening, beg God to send conviction on your soul. Jesus loves you and stands ready to forgive when you come to Him with all your heart. It has been said, "It doesn't take a seeking soul and a seeking Savior long to get together."

To repent for your sins means to regret that you have sinned and to be sorry enough for all the wrong you have done that you are sick of it and won't ever do it again. You want salvation more than you want anything else in all this world. You are willing to go all the way with God at any cost. It cost me much, but I paid the price and have been enjoying greater riches ever since. The Lord doesn't require us to give up anything that is good for our soul. He can look ahead and He knows what it will take to get us to Heaven. I pray often, "Lord, send the things my way that it will take to get me to Heaven." Salvation is the sweetest thing this side of Heaven and, praise our God, it will take us to Heaven. But we must give up all of self, and be filled with the fullness of Christ.

The way is plain—Christ is the door and He will always be your guide to lead you on. He, in his love and wisdom, will enrich you for Heaven. Let Him have His way in your heart. Please don't draw back no matter what He requires you to do—it is by going all the way that you are saved. Don't stop at anything short of a "know-so" salvation. "You can know this day that your sins are gone. If you'll come to Christ and forsake the wrong."

Give up all the sinful things of the world, selfishness, habits, lust, foolishness, and everything as God reveals it to your heart.

Seek the Lord to be your guide while you are young in life. Ask Him to guide you in each choice in life, that you will not make a mistake in your decisions. He knows what lies ahead, follow Him closely. There is a precious, still, small voice that will speak to you saying, "this is the way, walk ye in it." If you will keep tender and follow softly, this voice will be ever present to guide you all the way. But if you fail to obey it a few times, soon you will not hear it any more.

"Sweetly a voice is calling, open the door for me." Let Him in, He comes to abide in your heart and to fill it with His undying love. Let it be you in whom all the fullness of God dwells.

Don't stumble at other's mistakes, but go all the way with God. You set the example. This is an individual salvation. Let us set our face toward Heaven and press our way on—ever keeping Heaven in view.

"And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever. Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it." I Chronicles 28:9-10.

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There All the Time

By Sis. Lana Johnson

St. Luke 15:11-32

A father in the Bible days

Had two sons who went different ways.

We hear often the story of the son who strayed,

But don't hear much about the son who stayed.

The son who strayed, his inheritance spent

In riotous living as he recklessly went.

The son who stayed in his father's abode

Allowed cares of life to be a burdensome load.

He didn't take time to count the blessings he had.

He only took time to be a hard-working lad.

So when the brother who had been very bad,

Returned to the house, he got angry and mad.

Because the father forgave his straying son

And seemed to forget the things he had done.

"Bring the best robe, a ring, and some shoes."

"Kill the fatted calf; we have no time to lose."

"We'll eat and be merry on this happy day."

"My son who was lost has come home to stay."

"This is a day for rejoicing and hope."

But the staying son started to lament and mope.

He asked his father, "Why did you do this for him?"

"He spent all his money on such a sinful whim!"

"I have worked hard; you didn't do this for me;"

"How is it my faithfulness you cannot see?"

The father replied, "My child, don't you see?"

"You have forever been here with me."

"Everything that I have has always been thine,"

"And these have been here for you all this time."

Are we, too, bearing a large load of care?

Not taking our needs to the Lord in prayer?

Not allowing His grace our souls to fill

Means we are not doing our Father's will.

Let us lift our hearts to the Father above,

Seeking His faithfulness, grace, peace and love.

All that He has can be thine and mine.

So take comfort and know that it's there all the time!

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