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What Would HE Say Today?

In the midst of war we prayed for peace. We looked forward with fervent desires for Christmas "at home." For family reunions, the presence of cheery voices to make lonely hearts glad. We were all longing for that something we call Peace.

Now there is still no sign of "peace"! Why? Probably because there is something wrong at the core. The simple truth that peace can not endure outside if there is selfishness, greed, strife and a lot of hokum inside. The boil is caused by impure blood within the blood stream. When people and nations are possessed with impure motives on the inside our hopes for a peaceful world go out the window.

If Christ were to return this Christmas Day how would HE handle the situation . . . what would HE say?

He might say that "I, the Prince of Peace, have returned to remind you that you have no peace, have had none for nearly two thousand years of Christian civilization, and you will not have any in the future, HE will point out that we are using this season merely to eat and drink and dance and exchange articles with our relatives and friends, without really knowing HIM whose birthday we are supposed to be celebrating. HE will probably say: "I have not been visible to the natural eye and for that reason you have turned Me down. You have sought after pleasures and personal gains. You have been interested only in the things which rust and decay and die. You have robbed and slain and raped in a hundred ways those whom you should love, all because you have not within you the desire for that which you were created by God.

"I made this trip back to earth that you might REALLY LIVE and live abundantly. I came that you might have peace that passeth all understanding. I came that you might have love that endureth all things. Such love as I give to you, you can give to others. If you have not MY love in you, you will seek for self-centered love, for selfish honor, and for selfish gain. You will continually be striving to create that which will kill others. But you cannot create that which will kill others without creating that which will kill you.

"The strife which is among you has reached such proportions that you can no longer continue unless you are willing to give up your strife and hatred for kindness and love. The love that will help you out of your difficulties is not something merely to be talked about or written about, but is a divine in-dwelling power that must live in the innermost part of your being and must be as much a part of you as is the blood that flows through your body.

"The day is almost done. I have returned for just this one broadcast. To give you a final opportunity to avoid your own destruction and the destruction of all civilization of all time. I shall not destroy you. You will destroy yourselves. My love alone will make you see . . . will make the crooked paths straight. If you receive ME and obey the voice within you, you shall have that peace that passeth understanding. You shall live not to destroy, but to build for all mankind. God bless you all."

—Reprinted Courtesy of the "Hanson Weigh."
Merry Christmas!

At Christmas, men and women, preachers and politicians, business men and soldiers and housewives, speak of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, the Way, the Truth and the Life, the world's only Hope for Peace.

The rest of the year they speak of "security" and "strength," of armaments and marching men, of planes and tanks and atom bombs, to "keep the peace."

God cannot answer our prayers for peace until we are willing to receive it His way.

We do not have peace because we have been unable and un-willing to accept the Way of Jesus as the transforming Way of Love, of good for evil, of loving thine enemies, and thy neighbor as thyself.

We cannot capture peace by killing men. We cannot claim Christ's favor and disregard His commandments. We cannot win peace until we surrender to Him, give up the way of force and adopt His Way of Love. We cannot claim His love for ourselves until we are willing to extend that love to all men everywhere.

We pray that at this Christmas season and throughout the New Year, you may experience in your life and reflect in your world and try Jesus' Way to Peace.

Merry Christmas
Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Dennis

DO YOU NEED HELP?

Are you discouraged, sad, sick, in trouble, in need, or out of work?

Come to THE HOUSE OF PRAYER.
The Lord will help you. All are welcome.

Services — 7:30 P.M.

WILL YOU BE A DONKEY?

Are you down-hearted and blue? Defeated and discouraged? Do you sometimes feel that your life is of little value, that there isn't anything you can do to help Jesus bring in the Kingdom of Heaven on earth? If you feel that way, perhaps I can help you, for I too have felt just like that.

As I told you last month, for twenty years I carried two heavy burdens on my back, one bag on each shoulder. In one, all the sins, mistakes, guilt, remorse of yesterday. In the other, all the fears and doubts of the future. Until one day Jesus spoke to my heart and succeeded in getting me to cast down these heavy burdens at His feet and straighten up — free!

Much of my burden was an inferiority complex that brooded over past failures and anticipated future defeats. At that time there came to me a new interpretation to this passage of scripture which I want to read to you: the story of Jesus and the Donkey — the Donkey which Jesus especially chose to carry Him into Jerusalem on His Triumphant Entry. Listen:

"And when they came nigh to Jerusalem, unto Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, he senteth forth two of his disciples and saith unto them, Go your way into the village over against you: and as soon as ye be entered into it, ye shall find a colt tied, whereon never man sat; loose him, and bring him."

"And if any man say unto you, Why do ye this? Say ye that the Lord hath need of him; and straightway he will send him hither. And they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door without in a place where two ways met; and they loose him... And they brought the colt to Jesus, and cast their garments on him; and He sat upon him." (Mark 11: 1-7)

Years ago I found fault with this parade into Jerusalem, of Jesus' riding on a little stupid donkey. My father was a breeder of Thoroughbreds and I have always loved a fine horse. I thought if I were staging a parade as Jesus did that day I would go and get the finest big prancing steed I could find, a handsome trimmed saddle and silver mounted bridle, so that folks would know a King had come to town. A horse like we see leading the many colorful parades up Congress Avenue in Austin on special parade days.

And I expect, if the little donkey could have reasoned and spoken, he would have argued to the two disciples that came for him, that he was un-qualified to lead the parade. He would probably have said: "No, I am not capable of leading the parade, of carrying a King into the city. Go get someone else. Go get a big, strong horse, someone capable, someone experienced. I've never had a saddle on my back or carried a human being; I've never known a bridle. I have no education, no seminary training, never been to college. I don't even know the way to Jerusalem. No, get someone else for this job."

The disciples might have had to talk into the donkey's long ears quite a while before he would consent to go. They could have explained that he didn't have to know the bridle, that he could just do like the cow pony of the West does today, obey the pressure of the rider's knees, the sway of the rider's body. That he didn't need to know the way to Jerusalem, that Jesus knew the way, that all he would need to do would be to go wherever Jesus guided him. And they could point out that if Jesus had chosen a big prancing mount with flowing mane and waving tail, with rich saddle and bridle, the people who lined the road might have cried out, "My, what a pretty horse the Master is riding." But as He rode into Jerusalem on the lowly donkey the cry was, "As He did, the MAN." (Luke 19:5)

In this story I found the answer to the problems of my life. Though wanting to do great things, I was always held back by a sense of inadequacy, of inferiority, so that when an opportunity did come I would say, "No, I am not worthy or capable. Go, get someone else. I can't do it."

When I caught the full significance of the Donkey Story, I saw that Jesus didn't need folks with fancy appearances or many
talents. They are always in danger of calling attention to themselves instead of pointing attention to Jesus. But He needs men and women of mediocre talent or with no talent except the willingness to be a dutiful, obedient, lowly donkey on which Jesus can ride into the hearts of men. He needs men and women who are willing to be overlooked or forgotten that all eyes may be focused on Him, the Saviour of the world.

Listen to what Paul says about that:

“But ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

“But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are: that no flesh should glory in His presence.” (I Cor. 26-29)

This is a mystery that the world, in its pride of achievement, cannot understand and will not accept. Unless you become as a little child, Jesus said, you cannot enter the Kingdom.

When Jesus chose the twelve most important men in history, His disciples, He passed by the learned and proud political and religious leaders of His day to choose twelve common working men, hard-fisted fishermen, to shake the world with miracles and wonders. Why? The wise men would have had ideas of their own as to how the Kingdom should come in and would have gotten their own ideas mixed into it. So Jesus picked common, un-learned men who didn’t know any more than to believe every word He said and to obey every command He gave them.

And today we see that very thing taking place again. Jesus is seemingly passing up many religious leaders, with much scholarly wisdom, with many man-made degrees, with many talents and many ideas about the Kingdom of Heaven. Their churches are cold and dead, their people spiritually unfed.

While Jesus has today raised up a group of un-learned or slightly educated men to whom He has entrusted the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the gifts of healing, of miracles, of discernment, of tongues and interpretations, of prophecy and Heavenly wisdom. (See I Cor. 12)

Why? Perhaps because they don’t know any more than to believe the Word of God, literally, and to go out and obey the commission of their Lord and Master, when He commands them to lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.

Perhaps because they know that in themselves they are nothing, they can do nothing, their wisdom amounts to nothing, their training is nothing, their talents are nothing; that only Jesus, working through them, can do anything worth while.

And hungry thousands are flocking to hear them preach the Word under the anointing of the Holy Spirit that makes their words alive and powerful; to see the wonderful things that only God can do.

They are only fulfilling Paul’s observation that God hath chosen the weak, the foolish, the base and the despised to confound the wise, that no flesh should glory in His presence.

So friend, if you feel you have no talent, you are not properly educated or trained or capable of doing anything for the Lord, remember He can use you just like you are. In fact, He needs you, just as He said He needed the little dumb donkey. Are you willing to be a little donkey, to be un-noticed, un-praised, forgotten in God’s service? If so, then Jesus wants you, He desperately needs you to carry Him into the hearts of men and women. Each of you can be a witness to His power, His love, His goodness.

But before Jesus could use the donkey he had to be untied. Jesus told the disciples to loose him. And I saw that I had been useless to the Lord because I was tied up to a post—that post, myself. Perhaps you are tied to that same post—to yourself.

And the disciples could not untie the colt if he persisted in pulling back on the rope as I have seen many western broncs do. Jesus could not untie me, until I quit pulling back on the rope and let Him untie me. Perhaps some of you are pulling back on the rope today, refusing to let Jesus untie you.

The messenger that Jesus sends today to loose you is the Holy Spirit. “Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?” (Acts 19:2) If not, you can receive Him if you will humble yourself and ask earnestly for Him to come in and take over your life and set you free.

This story of Jesus needing the Donkey, Paul’s statement about God choosing the weak and foolish and despised to do His work, encouraged me tremendously, but they were not sufficient to untie me from myself. Only the Holy Spirit could do that. When I found that out I began to seek and to pray for the Holy Spirit to come in and dwell within me where Jesus promised He would dwell. He said: “He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.” (John 14:17)

It is nice to think of God in Heaven, upon whom we can call in time of need; it is better to think of Jesus walking by our side in time of trouble; but Jesus promised even more than this. He promised us Himself, within us, in the Person of the Holy Spirit.

“Ye shall be baptised with Holy Ghost not many days hence . . . (And) ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me.” (Acts 1:5, 8)

Friends, would you be a donkey in Christ’s service; would you like to have the Holy Spirit untie you from self and failure and remorse and fear? He is eager to do it because He needs you in His service. Just open your heart today and ask Him to come in and take over your entire life, past, present and future. Turn over everything to Him and He will use you to His glory.

“Drudgery is as necessary to call out the treasures of the mind as harrowing and planting of the earth.” — Margaret Fuller

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God Is A Good God

God is a good God, and His highest purpose for you is to do you good. Whatever be your state, God knows and understands. But more than that, He is anxious to do something about it. Why doesn't He do it, then, do you say? He is doing it as fast as you will let Him.

What is your trouble? Do you need money, perhaps, or a job? God has all the wealth in the world and is waiting for someone in whom He can invest it where it will bring dividends for His Kingdom. Why do you want money? For selfish pleasure? For God's bounty, you should learn to give liberally, unselfishly and joyously to all good causes and all needy persons whom God sends your way, for God loves a cheerful giver.

“In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God, even concerning your sanctification.” (1 Thess. 5: 18)

If so, God has money for you. His Word says, “My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4: 19) Do you believe that? It is true if you are His.

But before God invests money in you, He only does what any wise banker does before making a loan. He wants to find out what sort of character you have and what you intend to do with His money. He can tell pretty well by what you have been doing with your money in the past. Do you squander your money for beer, cigarettes and cheap entertainment, night spots, beauty treatments and fine clothes? Not a very good record. Any wise banker would hesitate to make a loan for such purposes. God does not have money to invest in those things.

Are you a tither? Listen to what God says about that:

“Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?” (Mal. 3: 7)

“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse; for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.” (Mal. 3: 8-9)

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” (Mal. 3: 10)

Perhaps that is why you are in need. Perhaps you have been robbing God and God has found it out and He doesn't intend to invest any more of His money in someone He can't trust.

“If ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?” (Luke 16: 12)

In addition to being a tither, if you want God's bounty, you should learn to give liberally, unselfishly and joyously to all good causes and all needy persons whom God sends your way, for God loves a cheerful giver.

“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.” (Luke 6: 38)

God has plenty of money. “The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts.” (Haggai 2: 8) “And the cattle upon a thousand hills.” (Psalms 50: 10)

He is eager to find folks in whom He can invest it, if it will work for His Kingdom. God sent in to George Mueller in England during the sixty years of his ministry, over seven million dollars with which to feed and clothe the children in his orphanages. And George Mueller never asked any man for a penny; when he needed money, he just asked God for it and God supplied the need. But Mueller did not hoard up what God gave him, he immediately gave it out, for the care of the orphans and for missions in foreign lands.

God is supplying thousands of dollars today to send His ministers and missionaries all over the world. He is buying expensive plane tickets for men like Billy Graham, William Branham, Thomas Wyatt, Oral Roberts, Stanley Jones, Glenn Clark and many others, as they fly from state to state, nation to nation, continent to continent. Why?

Because they are working for His Kingdom and He can expect some good returns on His investment. God is not, like the banker, wanting to get back His money with interest. God is wanting to invest His money with someone where He will get back souls saved from sin, men turned back to Him, men healed in body, mind, and soul through faith in Him, where He will reap increased good-will and love and peace, where men will witness for Him.

Can you assure God that He will receive this return from all money He invests in you? If you can, He will approve you as an investment risk and supply you with all you need. Not maybe all you think you want, but all you need. And you can ask Him for it in faith. He said He'd do it.

“Call upon me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not.” (Jer. 33: 3)

Do you need healing for your body? God wants you to be well more than you want to get well. In fact He's been trying harder to get you well than you have been trying to get well. God is a good God.

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” (3 John 2)

God has put within your own body a health department of glands, cells and white corpuscles, which was intended to keep you well if the department had been kept in good order by proper eating, drinking, exercise. If it had not been upset by wrong thinging, hating, fearing, anger and resentment. Have you been faithful in the care of this marvelous miracle which is your body? Or have you been careless and let the Devil get in and tear down the temple of God which temple ye are? (1 Cor. 3: 16-17)

Well, if you have, just ask God to forgive you right now and confess that you have, and He will have mercy. Whenever God finds a body where His natural provision for health has been broken down by sin and wrong living, then He is anxious to heal by His super remedy—to heal by faith—all who will believe in Him, call on Him, and obey Him. This He is doing all over the world today.
CHAPTER 9
PAUL'S WEAPONS

"One man with courage makes a majority."
—Andrew Jackson

Paul, next to Jesus was the greatest soldier of the Cross. He said of himself, "I have fought a good fight." When opposed, attacked, reviled, beaten, and prosecuted by his enemies, what weapons did Paul use in return? He used the weapons that Jesus used, the Sword of the Non-violent, the twin-edged weapon of Truth and Love.

"And out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword." (Rev. 1:16)

"The Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb. 4:12)

To most Christians non-violence means suffering wrong and doing nothing about it; suffering in silence; being pushed around, beaten and killed, and taking it all with a smile, remembering the rewards promised to the persecuted and the martyr. We have gotten the idea that redeeming suffering in silence: being pushed around, beaten and killed, and taking it all with suffering is done alone by suffering! Our attention has been fixed primarily on our own suffering, on our own selves. This is a selfish and not the Christian attitude.

Certainly Jesus suffered, and surely His suffering was a factor in the redemption of sinners. Just as certainly was Jesus non-violent. He did not strike back in anger or in self-protection or retaliation, regardless of whether He or some other was the victim of injustice. But when He was unjustly condemned, persecuted without cause and crucified without sin, neither did He take it passively, smilingly and in silence! He drew His sword!

This sword did not spring from a sheath at Jesus' side, but from His mouth! It was the sword of the Spirit, the cutting, two-edged blade of Truth and Love. A weapon more powerful than retaliation, violence or passive suffering. He coolly stated the truth about the situation, the right in the matter and where the other person was wrong. If his accusers were hypocrites He told them so. If they robbed widows, He calmly stated it. If they were blind or mistaken or wicked, He did not hesitate to say it. That is why they "durst not ask Him any further question." They dared not further risk the cutting truth about themselves.

When Nicodemus came under cover of darkness, Jesus told him He must change his life entirely, be born again. Jesus drove the hucksters from the temple telling them they making His Father's house a house of merchandise. He converted the woman of Samaria by convicting her of living in adultery. He stung the lawyers by putting His finger on their dignity and useless arguments. The Jews who brought the adulteress to Jesus "were convicted by their own conscience and went out one by one" when Jesus quietly turned their attention from the woman's sin to their own. He dismissed the woman, not by overlooking her sin or condemning it, but by recognizing and pardoning it.

When His disciples wavered, Jesus rebuked their lack of faith. He pointed out to Peter his vacillation and disloyalty; to James and John their presumption in asking places of authority instead of service, "I salute you.

The gloom of the world is but a shadow. Behind it yet within our reach is joy. There is radiance and glory in the darkness, could we but see — and to see we have only to look. I beseech you to look.

Life is so full of meaning and purpose, so full of beauty — beneath its covering — that you will find earth but cloaks your heaven. Courage then to claim it, that is all! But courage you have, and the knowledge that we are pilgrims together, wending through unknown country home.

And so, at this Christmas time, I greet you . . . with profound esteem and with the prayer that for you now and forever, the day breaks, and the shadows flee away."
—Fra Giovanni, A.D. 1513

Judas He called a devil. He drove the Pharisees to madness and murder by showing up their hypocrisy, their pride, their greed and revealed the blood upon their hands.

John the Baptist used the same methods, telling Herod he had no right to his brother's wife, Paul did not hesitate to point out the sin and blindness of the Jews and the lusts of the Greeks, in his speech and letters.

The Gospels give us such revealing passages as these: "His adversaries were ashamed," "they were cut to the heart," "did not our hearts burn within us?" Why? At hearing the Truth, the plain, un-adulterated truth; the heart searching, revealing truth; the cutting, stinging truth; the healing forgiving truth; from the guiltless lips of the only One pure enough, loving enough, honest enough to tell it. He could tell it because He lived it. His words and acts were one. His life was the Word.

Before the Sanhedrin and Pilate and Herod, Jesus said little. He calmly stated that He was the Son of God. Anything more would have been repetition, and sometimes to repeat a statement is but to weaken it. He had answered all their questions in public a few days before. The die was now cast, the books were closed. Now remained that other part of redemption: suffering in forgiving love.

Love alone is apt to be soft and unjust. Truth alone is in danger of being harsh and un-merciful. But Love coupled with Truth is both kind and convincing; both just and forgiving. Jesus coupled the two for His power, His was a two-edged sword.

Most Christians shrink from pointing the finger of truth at their opponents. They try to take suffering in a spirit of love, to refrain from anger or condemnation, and any show of self-righteousness; but in all of these attitudes their attention is still centered upon themselves! The important thing is still, 'How shall I act while being per-
strated by His life and teachings. This is of God. The Christian's plea must never own heart and life are pure. Am this is tinged with concern about ourselves. treading softly here, first making sure that his sword of the Spirit.

real danger. The emphasis is still upon ourselves. The other's sin is never to be compared to our righteousness. The Christian, out of the picture himself, must hold up the sinner's guilt beside the purity of Christ, demonstrated by His life and teachings. This is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. The Christian's plea must never be "I say upon you" but always, "thus saith the Lord." Never "Follow me" but "Follow Christ."
The first obstacle that keeps us from copying Jesus' methods here is the danger of letting anger, revenge, and self-pity enter into our plea. We do well to steer clear of these and bad better be silent than to blaze out in any cutting words that are tinged with concern about ourselves.
The second thing that restrains us is the danger of self-righteousness. It is a very real danger. It is often more self than righteousness. Christ's admonition, "Judge not that ye be not judged" may well give us pause, for, as Paul says, "thou that judgest doest the same things." Only the pure can use the sword of truth, for it is a two-edged weapon. Once unsheathed it cuts both wielder and foe, exposing the wickedness of both. The Christian must tread softly here, first making sure that his own heart and life are pure. Am I motivated by self-pity, or anger or fear? Will my life, my actions, my motives stand the blazing light of truth, the pointing finger, the counter accusations? "First cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye." Unless one wears the protecting "breastplate of righteousness" he dare not enter the arena of truth.

Perhaps the greatest obstacle to following Jesus in exposing the other's guilt, is fear; fear of giving way to anger, fear of self-righteousness, fear of a secret sense of guilt, but most of all the fear of the consequences to ourselves. For truth is a dangerous weapon. It is the one thing the wicked cannot stand. Men are not so afraid of lies as they are of the truth. They cannot stand its searching rays upon their lives, unless—their lives are pure." As the truth cuts away their hypocrisies and exposes their sin, it drives them to madness. That searching light must be shut off, that cutting sword must be turned aside, the one who dares to wield so sharp a weapon must be silenced. Hence persecution is added to persecution and violence and violence.

We must be prepared for danger if we use this weapon. It is no accident that the handle of the sword forms a cross! He that takes up this blazing, cutting Word of His, truly obeys, "Take up thy cross and follow me."

Jesus did what most of us are afraid to do. He stood day after day, face to face with His accusers, unprotected except by His unsullied purity and that penetrating look from His eyes, unarmed but for this scintillating sword. With it He struck again and again at the sin in their hearts, seeking to expose and kill it, not them.
The quivering flesh rebelled and fought the operation, but Christ, unwavering, held the point of the sword upon the point of sin. This is the sword He meant when He said, "I come not to send peace but a sword." (Matt. 10:34).

Man cannot long endure the truth about their sin; they must either remove the sin who points the sword. The only way the Jews could escape its cutting edge was to repent, or kill Him. They chose the latter, but that did not still the sword. The disciples took it up. Peter wielded it expertly on Pentecost, pointing it at the same vital spot and set 3000 free!

Paul was an expert wielder of this sword. He ordered the sorcerer Bar-Jesus to be stricken blind for his perverting the right way of the Lord. (Acts 13:10). He told the opposing Jews at Corinth, "Your blood be upon your own heads." (Acts 18:6). He said in paring from the elders at Ephesus, "I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." (Acts 20:27).

He challenged the right of the Romans at Philippi to imprison him and those at Jerusalem to scourge him, a Roman citizen. (Acts 26:37; 22:25).

Like Jesus, Paul did not hesitate to speak out the truth, to challenge injustice, to point out sin, but in all his persecution he never lifted a hand in retaliation. He remained true to his charge in the letter to the Romans.

"Recompense no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath; for it is written, vengeance is mine: I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirsts, give him drink; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head (and perchance burn the evil from his heart). Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." (Rom. 12:17-21).

Are men drifting off in sin today? Has the world forgotten God in a maze of lies and half-truths? It is not because the truth is not powerful to save, but that so few are pure and brave enough to dare lift that healing sword and wield it in His name! When that deadless cross is being held aloft, men are being saved and sin dispersed. When one weakens and lets it fall, it lies unused until another comes along who dares to lift it up again.

Christian, the Way is clear. You are not here to save yourself, but others; not to save your life but to pour it out in holding for a fleeting hour this sword that sets men free! Come, its handle fits your hand, and mine. Dare we? First the cleansing bath of prayer. Remove all anger, revenge, and thoughts of self. Flee self-righteousness. Seek purity that will stand the blazing light of day. Overcome fear: fear of encounter, fear of consequences, fear of death. Let it be swallowed up in a great, yearning suffering love. Not that your prayers, your words, your life, will save, except they fit you to bear the sword, the truth, the searching Word of God! You will not be allowed to hold it long. But do not falter. Each time one dares to lift it, it draws another to catch it from his falling hands.

Paul caught this sword from the hand of the Master and conquered Greece and Rome for Christ.
Don't Miss It!

TEXAS VALLEY C. F. O.

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The Holy Spirit

(Continued from last month)

MY OBSERVATIONS

Having been brought up in orthodox Sunday Schools and attended orthodox churches where the Holy Ghost was never mentioned or hastily skipped over as a “bad word” indulged in by erractic if not erotic “Pentacostals,” I went through most of my Christian life with little knowledge of the Holy Ghost and that little was prejudiced and adverse, as I expect is the case with the majority of Christians in America.

The Holy Ghost was either associated with those who claimed the “quiet” kind that sanctified them and made them impervious to sin, or with the “noisy” kind which was usually accompanied by fleshly demonstrations of self, of running, jumping, moaning, crying, etc.

The “sanctified” ones usually belied their claims of sinlessness, and the noisy kind usually disputed themselves in such a manner as to cheapen something that must be high and holy if it were of God.

For years thereafter I held my coat tails piously aloof from both beliefs and took complacent refuge in “my” quiet, dispassionate and sterile brand of “Christianity.”

But when faced with the necessity of knowing a deeper faith and power than my here-to-fore religious experience was able to afford, I began to seek, with much trepidation, to know more about this Holy Ghost which I had written off as error.

When I had dared to enter some of those unpretentious buildings in the poorer sections of our American cities to see what all the shouting was about, I was repulsed by the poverty, the naïve abandon and the apparent ignorance and un-couthness of many of the worshippers at their “altars.”

But I was thrilled and envious of the joyful singing, the shining, happy faces, and the bold sureness of their uneducated preachers. They might not be right, which I very much doubted, but one thing was apparent, they were certainly not inhibited by modesty or lack of learning.

Some of these visits filled me with repulsion, some raised up arguments in my mind, and some thrilled my soul, depending on the individual ministers and the members of their congregations.

One thing worried me. I had been fortunate in sitting at the feet of deeply spiritual men and women, recognized as led of the Spirit, sought by men and women of many denominations and many lands, men and women who it seemed to me had the mind of Christ on many vital issues of today: race, war, prayer, love. And I found many “Holy Ghost” preachers who loudly claimed to be “speaking His words”, yet who were ardent militarists who would evidently welcome the massacre of all God-haters and unbelievers across the seas if they threatened the security of our land; who were strict Jim-crow segregationists and who stoutly quoted scripture to support their views, (though not the scriptures that spoke of brotherhood).

And who boldly declared that God was inside them, in the Person of the Holy Ghost, yet seemed very unloving towards anyone who disagreed with them or questioned their stand, forgetting that “God is love” (1 John 4:8) and “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” (John 13:35)

I was in their “praise services” or knelt at their prayer “altars” midst the uproar of shouts, moans, “tongues” and confusion that undoubtedly Paul was warning against (1 Cor. 14:27-33, 40). I tried to reconcile all this with “Be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10), and “In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.” (Isaiah 30:15)

To reconcile these differences wasn’t easy and it took several years of alternate seeking the Holy Spirit and drawing back in disgust, before the Truth seemed to dawn on me.

That Truth was this: The “Pentacostals” did not have all the answers, they did not have all they claimed to have, but they did have something. I could see that there were good Pentacostals and others not so good, just as I had known saintly Methodists, Baptists, etc., and others far removed from saintliness. Their ministers did not always speak the unadulterated Truth, as was also true of many other ministers I had heard.

I could weigh some of their results or “fruits” and must admit that some of the quiet and more orthodox spiritual leaders I knew must have done a thousand times more for Christ’s Kingdom than had some of these shouting “temples of the Holy Ghost.”

How could these things be? If the Holy Ghost was of God and came into man as the Comforter or Holy Spirit sent back by Jesus to dwell in His place in the hearts of men, should they not know all Truth, have all the answers and bring forth fruit more abundant than anyone who did not possess this Holy “Ghost” of Jesus?

Slowly I realized that the Holy Ghost was an enabler, rather than a purveyor of Omnipotence. He did not bring in all the answers when He came to dwell in man, but if that man were willing and eager to learn, the Holy Spirit would “guide you into all truth” (John 16:13) and “teach you all things.” (John 14:26)

Sad to say, I observed that some, exalted by the fact of His incoming, had not waited for Him to lead them into more truth but had hastily jumped to the conclusion that the truth they then had was THE Truth.

My observation, then, is that the Holy Ghost releases the potentiality of the believer. He does not necessarily nor immediately reveal all Truth to the one possessed of Him. He delivers the Spirit-filled believer from inhibitions, fears, doubts, that afflict most people whether Christian or pagan. If the receiver of the Holy Spirit humbly seeks His guidance and teaching, through continued prayer, fasting, Bible study and most of all by Obedience, then he can be led into THE Truth.

I then could understand how some without the Holy Ghost Baptism had more truth than some with His Baptism. But I could see how every believer should have more of the truth and more power, and how they could if filled with the Holy Ghost.

If the quiet, saintly Spirit led Christians I know would let down the last barrier of their aversion to anything that seemed to them irreverent and noisy, and would welcome the Holy Spirit of Jesus, the Holy Ghost, to come in and take full possession of them and all their faculties. He would flood them with bosiness, frankness, audacity, revelations, and power beyond anything they have yet known and their great work for Jesus would be doubled or trebled.

On the other hand, I observed dangers against which I knew my quieter friends were unconsciously defending themselves.

With the deliverance from inhibitions and repressions and with the heady wine of exuberance that accompanies the Holy Ghost, there is the added responsibility of guarding against the misuse of this new-found sureness and power.

The Holy Ghost is Power and power, like dynamite, is dangerous if used carelessly. Gasoline is dangerous when in an open container but is very powerful and useful when regulated by a carburetor into the motor of your automobile.

Many Pentacostals did not have the advantages of self-discipline, Bible study and prayer before their new-found freedom, and consequently used the power of self-ex-
pression and self-release to their own hurt and to the stumbling of others.

Some fall into temptations of the flesh and the Devil when the brakes are taken off their emotions, even as some of our more reserved brethren and sisters succumb to the wiles of sex attraction even in Holy places.

Some, with the unstated argument that since the Holy Spirit has come in He must thereby approve of all the believer thinks and does, have become dogmatic and careless, confusing the “leading of the Spirit” with the urge of their own desires or the mold of their own prejudices.

On the other hand, I observed that many of those of the more reserved denominations, with a background of self-discipline, of Bible study and prayer, of a belief that they themselves must do something about their spiritual life rather than dump it and its consequences into the lap of God; that when they were baptized with the Holy Ghost they were joyous and fruitful but in a quieter, more peaceful way than many of the “Pentacostals.”

Many of my quiet friends were more powerful in prayer, with more marvelous results of healings than were many “Holy Ghost” people. Yet the outstanding, instantaneous, miracle healings usually came at the hands of the daring Holy-Ghost-filled minister who dared, in the Name of Jesus Christ, to command the afflicted one to “rise up and walk” NOW! Not next week or in a month or two, but NOW!

What was my conclusion of all this? It sums up in something like the following:

The Pentacostals did not have all the Truth but they had Something that today’s Church is powerless without: the Fire and the Boldness and the Potential releasing Power of the Holy Ghost. That some of their noisy demonstrations were more of the flesh than of the Spirit and were probably due to the fact that they were being taught to believe that these things were signs that they really did have the Spirit in them.

That part of the reason for their more emotional, noisy behaviour that offends many people of refinement, results from their more unlearned, child-like state of existence. Whether Spirit-filled or not these folks cry more loudly at funerals, brawl more openly in their homes, shout more belligerently at ball games or cops or errant motorists, than do the more reserved, inhibited, cultured men and women who consider themselves in a higher bracket. The Country Club citizen can be just as wicked as his chauffeur or his cook but he usually commits his sin with less noise.

I observed that the more educated (and there are a great many college-bred Pentacostals) the Spirit-filled ones become, the less noisy, the less apt they were to demonstrate in “tongues,” dancing, shouting or leaping over benches.

I observed also that much of the aversion to Pentacostals and the speaking in tongues came from our pride and our very real fear of losing our respectable friends or our respectable positions. After all, Jesus was considered crazy (Mark 3: 21; John 10: 20) and Paul “beside himself.” (II Cor. 5: 13)

I decided also that the Church, to successfully win its fight with the world, the flesh and the Devil, must have the Holy Ghost, even if it must be had with all its apparent disadvantages. But I am convinced that the “Holy Ghost,” as manifested by some, needs to be redeemed from much of its fiendishly manifested and restored to the place it occupied in the Book of Acts.

I cannot but feel deep within me that much of Pentacostalism has cheapened something meant to be high and holy. Many have mistaken noise for power, abandon for anointing, bragging for witnessing, and demonstrations for reality. Jesus needed none of these to prove the Spirit of God. I know of a tree “that a three shall be known by its fruits.”

After all it is the Spirit, or Ghost, of Jesus that comes in and not some erotic “experience.” It is Him and not “tongues” we should be seeking. And when He comes in, no one need fear anything which He will bring along.

The Holy Spirit’s entrance is like a visitor at the door of your home. You may open the door a wedge and let him put his foot in. You may invite him in but confine his occupancy to one lone bedroom. In there he may have liberty to shout or dance or speak in tongues, without having any dominion over the rest of the house. You are still in charge of the living room, dining room, your own bedroom, kitchen and garage.

Or you may invite him into your life and confine Him to the Worship Room. There He may sing and pray and shout and speak in tongues; while you continue to rule the rest of your life. You still govern your business, your social activities, your domestic relations, your sex life, your eating and your drinking.

You “have the Holy Ghost;” Yes, but does the Holy Ghost have you?

This explains to me why many “Holy Ghost” people do less for their Lord than some Christians who deny the Holy Ghost, or at least do not accept the idea of the “other tongues” Baptism.

But the earnest Christian who will be “taught all things” and “led into all truth,” as the Holy Ghost is eager to teach and lead, does not confine or ‘quench” the Spirit. (I Thess. 5: 19) He invites, urges, his Royal Guest to take over the entire house, to rule his business, to govern his eating and his drinking, his family and sex life, his conversation and his prayers, his days and his nights. The Holy Ghost then is in charge of the house, the former owner takes only a small room in the basement or attic. Then the Lord will feel it safe to trust the owner with some of His gifts. (I Cor. 12: 1-11) And the fruits of the Spirit will begin to blossom. “Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.” (Gal. 5: 22-23)

It is my earnest conviction therefore that the transformation and power of the Holy Ghost Christian depends on three things: 1. His natural ability and talents, 2. The Gifts of the Spirit with which God may endow him, and 3. The measure in which he surrenders to and obeys the teaching and guiding of the Holy Spirit after his Baptism.

Many people do very little with the Holy Ghost besides perhaps boast of His “living with them.” Others, with “two talents,” gain other two; still others, given “five talents,” gain other five. The Holy Spirit will release and magnify and use their potentialities to an amazing degree but not all will be equal in achievement.

Paul, with great talents and intensity and complete surrender, “knowing nothing but Jesus Christ,” bore a thousand times more “fruits” than did some of the un-named 120 who were filled with the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentacost.

The worth of the Holy Ghost to the Christian is not, then, to be measured by comparing one person with the Holy Ghost and another without Him. It is to be judged by the difference, before and after, in the life of those who in more or less degree earnestly surrender their lives to the rule of the indwelling Christ— in the Person of His Holy Ghost.

“What, know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, and that ye are not your own?” (I Cor. 6: 19)

It is my further conviction that the Baptism of the Holy Ghost can be a gradual infilling, coming in successive steps or waves of His glory, and at widely removed times; though with some the complete and full Baptism takes place at one time.

Many Christians have experienced God’s presence in such an intimate and marvelous way, accompanied by visions of Jesus, hearing Him speak to them, or the flooding of their bodies and souls with His warmth and joy and peace; yet have never spoken in tongues.

I believe if they will recognize these blessings as the Holy Ghost IN them, surrender their prejudice against the speaking in tongues, and yield themselves to Him in perfect trust and ask Him to completely take over their body, mind and soul and manifest Himself in any way He thinks best, that He will complete the Baptism He has started and give the infilled one the evidence in the Bible way, which will end forever his arguments in the matter.

“Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?” (Acts 19: 2)

(Continued next month)
**CHRIST AND THE HEADLINES**

An earnest attempt to look at today's events through the eyes of Jesus.

**AMERICAN MADNESS**

"Whom the Gods would destroy, they first make mad."

—Shakespeare

The madness in Korea still goes on. Our young men are still dying for they know not what or why. That nightmare of destruction in the name of "liberation," which came as a result of President Truman's "get tough" policy, is now dumped in the lap of our new President, Mr. Eisenhower, along with all the other headaches that Truman's foreign policy has brought upon us: Tunisia, Formosa, Indo-China, Nato, Spain.

It is no wonder that Truman didn't want to run again. He had piled up so many crazy problems all over the world that he could not solve. And now he is anxious to have some one take over the responsibility of his mistakes.

America's foreign policy of recent years has made us the laughing stock of much of the world, and possibly the most hated nation in the world, if not the most feared. We have assumed the un-democratic, impossible and un-Christian role of policing the world, and imposing our will, by force of arms, on millions over which we have no moral jurisdiction.

The smokescreen behind which our foreign policy has been justified is the overworked phrase, "fighting communism." Much that we have done under that banner is hastening the day when Communism will rule more of the world than it now does.

Our leaders have remained blind to the long-term strategy and announced program of Communism: to take over the world, country by country, NOT BY RUSSIAN ARMIES, but by inner revolts made possible by inner economic collapse in those countries.

Statesmen have repeatedly said that Communism cannot be stopped by bullets, that it can only be stopped by bread. By giving the hungry, desperate and determined millions of the world the things to which life entitles them, in a better way than Communism can promise to give them.

In spite of these warning our foreign policy has been one of bullets, partly because our President, State Department and Military leaders have been blind, and partly because "bullets" make profits for big business.

We have been sucked into the mad commitment of stopping, by force, any inner revolt led by Communists in any country in the world. The maddest mania in our most insane wards could hardly think up a crazier task for America.

We have been duped into this crazy role by the scare crow of fear: "If we don't do this the Communists will take over America." "When will the Red's strike at America?" Etc. We can almost hear the roar of Red planes in the sky, and the blast of atom bombs over our cities.

And so we spend and strain, send and drain, our rich land and our resources, our men and our principles, in a futile attempt to do what our better judgment tells us can not be done this way.

We are beginning to realize that the more of our resources we spend, the more men we send abroad to die in this or future, and announced program of Communism: to take over the world, fighting, richer, machinery.

The only friends we have won and the only good we have done with our spending is where we have furnished economic aid to needy people, in Europe, India, Japan.

Since the war of ideas—Democratic Capitalism against Communism—cannot be won by bullets, it is obvious that this economic aid program is the only sensible move we have made. But it has been trivial beside the lavish expenditures for foreign military ventures.

On the other hand, our self-appointed role of policeman over the politics of the world is making enemies around the globe. It has caused us some uneasy alliances with dictators (Tito and Franco) and with Empires (Great Britain, France and Holland) who are desperately trying to hold on to colonies that will soon be free in spite of our armed might.

In these un-holy alliances we have violated all the principles of Democracy, Liberty and Justice upon which America was founded. In the name of expediency we help keep Communism alive in Yugoslavia, Fascism in Spain, Colonialism in Indo-China.

Where this un-Democratic fiasco will end, no one can foresee. We have allowed ourselves to be jockeyed into the position of the war party around the world and permitted Russia to hold herself out as the advocate of peace.

Anyone who criticizes our foreign policy is said to be "giving aid and comfort to the enemy." and anyone who advocates peace is smeared as a Communist.

One who advocates Christ's Way of Peace, the only way with any hope of solving this world-wide dilemma, is said to be "taking sides with the Communists." Tommyrot!

I: is the same technique used a few years ago to silence anyone who dared raise his voice against the deluge of liquor, bars and honkey-tomks which Roosevelt and Repeal turned loose upon America. Then, if one spoke against liquor or advocated prohibition, he was "taking sides with the bootlegger." So, many Christian people, frightened from their convictions by the enemy, "look sides with the bar-tenders, the beer makers and the whiskey distillers."

By talking peace, by called America back from her mad policy of trying to force the people of the world, at the point of a bayonet, or the threat of an atom bomb, to give up or refuse Communism, is not "taking sides with the Communists.

It is "taking sides with Jesus Christ," the Way, the Truth and the Life, the Prince of Peace.

Truman's foreign policy of "getting Tough" and "containing Communism" by placing America soldiers all over the globe, is but the Devil's scheme to bring about the downfall of America and thus ruin her hopes of saving the world and winning that world for Christ.

When America has impoverished herself on armaments, when her armies are dying on a dozen far-flung battlefields, when hatred of the Western "Policeman" has reached its height, then could come our economic collapse, our defeat and a dictator instead of democracy for America.

Another delusion that has mesmerized the America people is the fond hope that peace will come through the United Nations. The United Nations, contrary to some wishful thinking, is NOT a world government. It is not as strong as the League of Nations, which we once spurned. It is a debating society, plagued by national pride, prestige and face-saving, with no means of successfully enforcing any agreement there made. It is no more apt to bring peace than any other treaty or alliance or peace pact has done.

Some day we will see that only the Prince of Peace knows how to bring peace on earth, good will to men. Must we wait until our young men lie buried beneath a dozen foreign battlefields, until our rich resources are wasted, until our cities are rubble and our Democracy dead, to see and follow Him?

This is the Devil's brew that Eisenhower inherits. I have a deep conviction that many of the millions who voted for him did not do so in the hope that he would lead our foreign legions to victory, as much as they voted in repulsion against the whole
idea of foreign legions, of American blood being mixed with foreign mud, of American homes broken up by a perpetual draft, by the whole un-democratic and un-Christian mess of foreign relations that the Devil has succeeded in leading our nation into.

If one speaks against policing the World or against sending foreign legions here, there and yonder to "stop Communism" one is tagged an "Isolationist." What we need is isolation from evil, not isolation from doing good.

In His parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus commended the man who helped his wounded neighbor by binding up his wounds and furnishing him with food and shelter. He did not advocate sending troops abroad to kill, to destroy, to bomb and to bleed, all in the lying name of "Peace."

What can Eisenhower do about it? If he tries to muddle along in the same general direction Truman has started he can do very little. He can only speed up or slow down our inevitable drift to destruction.

The only hope for America and the world is a return to the sound, Christian doctrine of Jesus. What would that be for America?

1. Announce to the World that from now on America stands ready to help with food, clothing and economic aid, needy people everywhere.

2. That we will no longer send American troops or guns or bombs, anywhere. That our highest contribution to the peace and freedom and justice of the world will be to keep America strong and free, rich and productive, sharing and generous, in doing good, not evil.

3. That we stand for Liberty, Equality and Justice for men everywhere— in Yugoslavia, Spain, South Africa, Tunisia, Egypt, Indo-China and in our own Southland.

4. That we will use all Christian and Democratic means to help people everywhere, to cooperate with good, to be an example and a Good Samaritan, but that we will NOT be a world policeman, we will NOT play into Russia's and the Devil's hands by adopting their ways, that we will adopt Christ's slogan: "I come, not to destroy men's lives, but to save them." (Luke 9:56)

It has long since been conceded that we made a sad mistake in being enticed into the First World War by our business ties with Great Britain.

It is now coming to light that we could have avoided our entry into the Second World War. By so doing we would have contributed far more to the peace of the world than we accomplished by the pouring out of our billions and our blood. We tried to make the world safe for Democracy, and succeeded in making it safe for nobody.

Mr. Eisenhower's sweeping victory is strong proof that the American people are convinced that Truman and Acheson made a bad mistake when they sent our troops into Korea and then brought pressure on the United Nations to back up their action.

May God help our new President and his advisors to see God's purpose in leading our Christian fore-fathers out from European tyranny to establish on these free shores a blue print for the world, a land of Democracy, freedom, justice and equality.

Here, He set us down in a paradise of green fields, flowing rivers, forested hills. He gave us friendly neighbors and protected us with wide oceans, across which NO FOREIGN FOE has EVER successfully come against us.

We were His hope for the World. We were to teach, to lead, to clothe, to feed, and to save the world, NOT to police the world. The world has tried other policemen: Syria, Babylon, Rome, Great Britain. All have failed to bring peace to the world or happiness to its people. Only bankrupt statesmanship would try to follow history's failures.

America was born for this hour, but she is not living up to her inheritance. She is selling her birthright for a mess of international potage and foreign graveyards. Unless we, and soon, reverse our mad foreign policy, the Ruler of the Universe must say to us as He once said to Israel:

"The Kingdom of God shall be taken from you and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof." (Matt. 21:43)

America's only hope, Eisenhower or no Eisenhower, is that we come back to the feet of God and ask Him to guide us out of the mess we're in, not only in Washington but all over the world.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (II Chron. 7:14)
God Is A Good God

[FROM PAGE 4]

But God is also concerned about what folks intend to do with their bodies after He goes to the trouble of working a miracle in them. Why do you want to be healed? So you can go on living selfishly? So you can drink more, or dance better, so you can enjoy more rich food, more pleasure, more sin? Why do you want to get well? That is an important question if you are asking God to heal you. Do you offer your body as a temple of the Holy Ghost where He can dwell and serve the world through you? Have you then asked God for the Holy Ghost to come and dwell in you? If not, then you had best pray that prayer first, for Paul says: "If the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His spirit that dwelleth in you." (Romans 8:11)

Have you already received the Holy Ghost? Have you turned your life over to God, body, mind and soul? Will you do that right now? Will you dedicate your healed body to His service, to His glory? Then He is anxious to heal you and nothing can keep you from getting well if you believe Him and will obey Him.

What must you do? First, read if you are able, God's Word everyday, especially the passages about Christ's healing miracles. That will strengthen your faith. "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." (Rom, 10:17) Next, tell the Lord you are dedicating your body entirely into His hands, ask Him to tell you what to eat, how to live, and obey Him.

Next, if you are able, go and listen to a man of God preach who believes God heals today. Go and hear him three times, each time praying for him and for all those who hear him. Then go to him at the close of the third service and ask him to pray for you in the Name of Jesus. If you are not able to go to church, call some man of God whom you trust and ask him to come and pray over you the prayer of faith. That's what God's Word says to do:

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." (James 5: 14-15)

Then, when you are prayed for, thank God immediately and continuously for His healing you, even though you may still have some symptoms or some pain. Faith doesn't believe in symptoms but in the Word of God. "Faith is the evidence of things not seen." (Heb. 11: 1)

Then, stop talking to anyone about your sickness or your pains or your symptoms or how you feel. When anyone asks you how you feel, if you can honestly say "Fine," then say, "Fine, thank God." If you don't feel fine, then say, "I am trusting God to complete my healing." Or "The Lord will raise me up" or "By His stripes I am healed." For that is what God says in His Word. I Peter 2: 24 says, "By His stripes ye were healed." Mark 16: 18 says, "They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover." James 5: 15 says, "The Lord shall raise him up."

And Jesus said if we confessed Him that He would confess us before our Father in Heaven. So you keep on confessing that God is completely healing you and He will bring it to pass.

Then, thank Him every day, morning, noon and night for healing you. Praise Him, love Him, obey Him. And when the Devil comes around taunting you and reminding you that you are still sick, rebuke him and get rid of him the same way Jesus did, by quoting God's Word to him. Say, "It is written, By His stripes I am healed. It is written, They shall lay their hands on the sick and they shall recover. It is written, The Lord shall raise him up. Get thee hence, satan, you are a liar, because Jesus said you were; your words are lies, your symptoms are lies. I am standing on the Word of God and you can't hurt me."

If you talk like that to the devil, who is the author of your sickness, he will leave you.

"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4: 7)

Yes, God loves you. He would do anything possible to heal you. He has already done all that needs to be done on His part. His Son Jesus died on Calvary that you could be delivered from sin and sickness. "Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses." (Matt. 8: 17) He made provision in His Word for the elders of the church to pray for the sick so He could heal them. He has done His part. Now you need to do yours. To believe Him, trust Him, and obey His Word.

"If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee." (Exodus 15: 26)