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"I THEREFORE SO RUN"

- In the race of life

WE MUST RUN TO WIN

Do you remember how, on a racing-track, every competitor runs, but only one wins the prize? Well, you ought to run with your minds fixed on winning the prize! Every competitor in athletic events goes into serious training. Athletes will take tremendous pains — for a fading crown of leaves. But our contest is for an eternal crown that will never fade. I run the race then with determination. I am no shadow-boxer, I really fight! I am my body's sternest master, for fear that when I have preached to others I should myself be disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27, J. B. Phillips' Translation
WAITING ON THE LORD

from the notes of the late A. Coates (England)

Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart. wait, I say, on the Lord. (Psalm 27:14)

There is something satisfying and rewarding in waiting on the Lord. We can just pursue our own course, and so get into a rut, and find that we are in a wrong and unprofitable way. The apostle Paul says, "I verily thought I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth." Even if we don't, like the apostle, find ourselves going in the wrong direction, we can become weak and dry Christians. What is the great remedy? It is waiting on the Lord. It is interesting to note that this word "wait" is really a number of different words in the original, and consequently has different shades of meaning. It can mean, expect, look for, wait with hope, slaying of self, silence, or just waiting, and we must bear this in mind as we look at various scriptures.

A lot of people think that prayer is waiting on the Lord, but, while prayer is part of the waiting, it can be intermittent with long lapses between prayers, and, very often a lot of self unfortunately enters into our prayers. Waiting on the Lord, however, is seeing what the Lord wants with us, not what we want from Him. Waiting is tarrying, not rushing not our own timing just waiting, while prayer affects. The importunate aker others, or this one with mundane things. Material things are always present, and he works through our senses as when he tempted Eve; "good for food, pleasant to the eyes, make one wise." You know his arguments and temptations, and how cold and deceitful God can separate us from God, but if you had the Lord inclining to you and hearing you, you must be prepared to wait on Him. As we saw before, waiting is often coupled with patience. God isn't in a hurry and, while patient prayer can change things, it can also change us. There is no change in God, but prayer and waiting can so, change us that we are made fit to receive; or it can so enlighten us that we are made capable of receiving God's gifts and blessings.

Psalm 25:5 says, "Lead me in thy truth, and teach me. for thou art the God of my salvation: on thee do I wait all day." Wait or expect as it means here. How do you expect the Lord to lead if you don't wait on Him? And don't forget, you need leading all day, so be prepared to wait all day. Do you expect the Lord to teach you if you neglect His word? There are a lot of bewildering and complex conditions which arise today in every phase of life. In our youth, at work, in the home, our life prospects: well, whom do we wait on at every turning? Who can lead and teach? We never need to be in doubt, we can always wait on the Lord. We need teachings as well as leading, and you usually find that the person that knows it all is the one who takes the wrong turnings.

Why isn't there a hunger for the word of God? It is no good putting a good meal before a man with a duodenal ulcer. Today you can give a man the sincere milk of the word or the strong meat of the word, and he puts it away. Invite him to a feast of God. If the move doesn't come from the Lord, then we had better keep on waiting, because there will be little work done apart from Him. Again, what an effect our waiting must have on the Lord Himself. If we are on His doorstep all the time He must be affected. The importunate asker — that to me is akin to waiting. Why are some Christians consistent year in and year out, while others are soon out of the way, out of touch with God? Well, it is all here, it is all a question of waiting on the Lord. The thing that matters is what the Lord says and does, and our job is to wait for HIS saying and doing. I Thess. 4: 11, says, "Study to be quiet," not a deathly silence but an expectant quietness, transparent before God.

HOW SHOULD WE WAIT?

Psalm 37: 7 says, "Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him." The correct translation of the word "wait" here is "to shy self," and there must be a negation of self, a resting and patience as we wait on the Lord. God won't be stampeded, and, whilst we want to hurry things, it is only when God does something that it counts, so we see that the first thing required is a slaying of self. The next thing required is patience, "My soul, wait thou only upon God, for my expectation is from Him." (Psalm 62: 5). Waiting here means "silence," but an expectant silence. God can read our thoughts, and will satisfy the longing heart, so we don't need a gabbling mouth but a waiting, expectant, longing heart.

Sometimes it may be difficult to define exactly what we are waiting for, but we know that it is only Him that can satisfy, so let our heart cry be, "O Lord I want to wait on Thee." Our waiting can be silent meditation, it can be prolonged prayer, resignation, consecration. It can mean an alteration in our lives, the baptism in the Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit, for all blessing is here, and, if we want a visitation from the Lord, we must wait. For it is not always easy to be silent before the Lord and wait for Him. There can be a fear of what will happen if we do wait, but we can be sure that whatever the Lord reveals or does, it is for the best and for our ultimate good. "When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek." (Psalm 27:8).

THE RESULTS OF WAITING

"I waited patiently for the Lord and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry." (Psalm 40: 1). Oh, to have the Lord inclining to us and hearing us! How easy it is to slip away from God and yet be religiously busy. The enemy's tactics are to fill our minds with mundane things. Material things are always present, and he works through our senses as when he tempted Eve; "good for food, pleasant to the eyes, make one wise." You know his arguments and temptations, and how cold and deceitful God can separate us from God, but if you had the Lord inclining to you and hearing you, you must be prepared to wait on Him. As we saw before, waiting is often coupled with patience. God isn't in a hurry and, while patient prayer can change things, it can also change us. There is no change in God, but prayer and waiting can so, change us that we are made fit to receive; or it can so enlighten us that we are made capable of receiving God's gifts and blessings.

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is wealth without the ability and character to use it? "For since the beginning of the world, men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, O God, beside thee, what He hath prepared for him that waiteth for Him." "Waiting for Him," or a more correct translation "waiting earnestly for Him." Are you in this position? Well God is looking down and a record is being kept.

You know it is very significant that this dispensation started with a "waiting for the Lord." Jesus speaking to His disciples after His resurrection said, "And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but tarry ye in the City of Jerusalem, until ye be endowed with power from on high." (St. Luke 2: 49).

Venerable Sir and Pastor:

I have written me to ask that I offer some good advice and help for Mrs. John Korner's afflicted husband. I know of no worldly cure for such a case, and so I must be a wilderness, and that we have been accustomed to do, to cooperate with Him.

This is what we do, and that we have been accustomed to do, for a cabinetmaker here was similarly afflicted with madness and we cured him by prayer in Christ's name.

Accordingly you should proceed as follows: Go to him with the deacon and two or three good men. Confident that you, as pastor of the place, are clothed with the authority of the ministerial office, lay your hand upon him and say, "Peace be with you, dear brother, from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ."

Thereupon repeat the creed and the Lord's Prayer over him in a clear voice, and close with these words: "O God, Almighty Father, who hast told us through thy Son 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye ask the Father in my name. He will give it you'; who has commanded and encouraged us to pray in his name. 'Ask and you shall receive' and who in like manner has said, 'Call upon me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me'; we inworthy sinners, relying on these thy words and commands, pray for thy mercy with such faith as we can muster. Graciously deign to free this man from all evil, and put to nought the work that Satan has done to him, to the honor of thy name and the strengthening of the faith of believers through the same Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, world without end. Amen."

Then when you depart, lay your hands upon the man again and say, "These signs shall follow them that believe; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover."

Do this three times, once on each of three successive days. Meanwhile let prayers be said from the chancel of the church, publicly until God hears them.

In so far as we are able, we shall at the same time unite our faithful prayers and petitions to the Lord with yours.

Farewell. Other counsel than this I do not have.

I remain, etc.,

Martin Luther

Original text in Latin: W. A. Br. (Letters) XI MIN 2

"Real Holiness has love for its essence, humility for its clothing, the good of others as its employment, and the honor of God as its end."

—Emmons

SEVEN STEPS to VICTORY

By J. A. DENNIS

(Continued from last issue)

4. JESUS LIVES IN YOU!

"At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you." (John 14: 20)

What a wonderful day it is for the Christian when God makes real to him that Jesus Christ, by his Spirit, lives in his heart.

"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Col. 1:27)

Most Christians, when they pray, think of God as being away off in the heavens, so that it is difficult to make Him hear or understand our needs. But God's Word says He is right inside us, in our heart, in our bodies, in our cells, if we are born-again and filled with his Spirit.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." (Gal. 2:20)

When we pray for health in our bodies we usually pray to a God afar off, asking Him to "come down and heal us." While all the time He is right INSIDE us, healing, strengthening, making our bodies new, as we trust and cooperate with Him.

"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." (Rom. 8:11)

Just think! The very Power that came down and rolled the big stone away from Jesus' tomb, the very Power that drew Jesus from those winding grave clothes, the very Power that gave Him his glorified, resurrected body, the very Power that enabled Him to go through closed doors, to ascend up to Heaven — that same Power — the almighty Power of God — dwells — lives — right inside your breast! How can we be sick with God actually LIVING inside us?

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (1 Cor. 3:16)

Picture a man sitting alone in his home at night. Suddenly a mob of hooligans bang on the door. "Open Up! We are coming in to rob and beat and kill you!"

Fear chills his blood, his heart thumps wildly, he runs with trembling limbs to the telephone and with shaking

(Turn to page 8)
Is it safe to divert attention from Christ to the Holy Spirit?

FANATICISM

A SPIRITUAL CLASSIC

(From "Inheritance Restored")

M. L. HANEY

Webster defines fanaticism as "excessive enthusiasm; wild and extravagant notions of religion; religious frenzy." Enthusiasm as here used, may be defined as a conceit of divine possession and revelation, leading to extravagant views and overrated imaginations; a state in which the judgment is ruled by the imagination, exposing its subjects to dangerous errors. Fanaticism, or, excessive enthusiasm, has not been confined to the Christian religion, much less to the experience of sanctification. Other subjects have produced the same mental condition in all generations of men.

The fanatical element introduced into the holiness work in the days of Mr. Wesley, gave that good and great man more trouble than any other evil agency. If Mr. Wesley's warnings and counsels on this subject had been heeded throughout the great holiness movement in this country, it would have prevented much dishonor to Christ and injury to His cause. No one internal agency has so hindered the work of holiness, both in Europe and America, as the presence of this hydra-headed monster. Perhaps our greatest mistake has been the failure to detect its insidious advance in time to resist its fatal consequences.

Opposers of the holiness work have stigmatized every department of the holiness experience and teaching as fanatical, and its teachers as fanatics. This injustice has led the friends of holiness to entirely ignore the presence of fanatical tendencies. There is, too, a profound confidence and love accompanying the experience of holiness, which causes its subjects to be mutually unsuspicous of existing evils. The simplicity of the souls imbued with this grace, is one of the open doors to deception by a subtle foe. Add to this the fact that some of the most earnest persons have been thus led astray, and you have sufficient reasons why the inroads of this terrible evil have been unrecognized by the wisest holiness teachers. But such teachers cannot further avoid responsibility, nor deliver themselves from the blood of souls, by ignoring the presence, and denying the existence of such evils, after they are manifest.

It is easy to see and expose the evils of others, but it requires great humility to confess and expose evils among ourselves. Hence, there are persons who continually repeat what they hear about the wrongs and corruptions of churches and ministers who are persistently silent about known evils and corruptions in our own ranks. This tendency may be of nature, and not of grace.

From personal knowledge, the writer is compelled to concede the presence of this evil in connection with the holiness work. Not in every place, nor generally, but in individuals instances, east, west, and south. It may be recognized by some, or all, of the following marks, and is known by its fruits:

1. Fanaticism rejects the aid of human reason, and the use of common sense, as if these were necessarily at variance with spiritual religion. This results in the rejection of human teaching, and human teachers are, in the mind of a fanatic, displaced by direct divine inspiration, until he is quite certain that all of his words and acts are of God.

2. Fanaticism is inevitably marked by an unteachable spirit. One who is cleansed from all sin, and made perfect in love, is walking with God, is always ready to receive instruction from the humblest and most unworthy instrument. But the fanatic, after he has passed certain boundaries, cannot be taught either by God or man.

3. Fanaticism is always characterized by the absence of humility. By its agency, a modest, unassuming Christian is made brazen and obtrusive. The sublety of this spirit is revealed in the putting on of a false humility. No form of pride is more refined or dangerous than the humility thus assumed. Its subject thinks himself humble and will say much of his own littleness, perhaps; but his whole deportment indicates the absence of humility.

The first and most disastrous case of fanaticism ever witnessed by the writer, was a minister. He was modest and unassuming to a fault. It seemed impossible for his friends to lead him to entertain a necessary estimate of his own capacity for successful labor. But when this spirit took possession of him, the change in his whole demeanor was something to behold. Instead of recognizing a superior, he had no equal, and none were qualified for labor but himself. Dr. and Mrs. Palmer, Inskip, McDonald, and Cookman were mere novices; and he declared, in the presence of witnesses, that "the whole of them knew no more about the Holy Ghost than an old goose." I hardly need add that this case resulted in the grossest immorality and spiritual death. Fanaticism always fills its subject with inordinate self-conceit.

4. In this condition, the attention of the subject is withdrawn from Christ (and often from the Holy Scriptures) and centered on the Holy Ghost. Fanaticism in religion is usually the result of false spirit-leadings. It begins by diverting the attention from Christ to the Holy Spirit. This is accomplished either by false human teachings, or by direct satanic agency. The Holy Spirit never leads astray, but there are other spirits that always do. Satan cannot get foothold in the heart of God's child till he turns the attention from Christ. He cannot induce a holy man to set his heart on any impure or forbidden object. He, therefore, decoys the attention from Christ, and fixes it on the Holy Spirit. In this subtle manner, he transfers the faith of the child of God from Christ to the Holy Spirit. But God cannot save or keep the soul by faith in the Holy Spirit. Nor can the Holy Spirit abide in the soul to lead or instruct, only as He is sent of the Father in response to faith in Jesus Christ.

Therefore, as soon as faith is transferred from Christ to the Holy Spirit, we are no longer led by the Holy Spirit, and Satan, as an angel of light, enters in the name of the Holy Spirit. Satan cannot come in response to faith in Christ, but he will surely take possession of the soul if Christ is left out and our faith is transferred to the Holy Ghost. The religious fanaticism of the ages has largely sprung from this root. When Satan has thus separated a soul from its vital relation to Christ, he rarely at first, suggests a wicked course of conduct. On the contrary, he moves him to increased exertion in God's service, jostles him about here and there, and leads him to seeking attainments from God not promised in His word; urges duties which are unreasonable, and leads his subject to fancy himself called to some wonderful work. Having taken the place of the Holy Spirit, he magnifies the Holy Spirit, and keeps the attention of his subject fixed on the Holy Spirit. Sooner or later, if this delusion is not recognized and broken, the soul thus severed from Christ is led into utter confusion, distrust of God, immorality and death. This false leading is marked, at the beginning, by unnatural petitions to the Holy Ghost, and a peculiar phraseology concerning the third person in the Trinity.

5. Fanaticism ultimately displaces both human and divine love, and brings its subject into an abnormal condition of soul, by impairing or destroying natural affections. Holiness always increases natural affections. As certainly as it is of God, it regulates and refines the love of husband and wife, of parent and child, of friend and friend. Fanaticism relentlessly sunders these hallowed relations. Holiness is perfect love to God, and is exhibited by obedience to all
His commandments. Fanaticism displaces divine love by a wild and passionate devotion to the phantoms of its own invention, culminating in corruption of the affections and disregard for the order of God. That divine love is replaced by impure love, is evidenced by morbid attachments to forbidden objects, by indulgences of an immoderate and questionable character, by excuses rendered for sin, and finally, by pleading innocence for acts of grosser immorality, as being authorized and commanded by the Holy Ghost. Few have reached this extreme, yet those who have are a warning to all others.

6. Wherever fanaticism has arisen in connection with the holiness work, it has been the greatest obstacle in the way of success. This is true in every case where this spirit has been given prominence in such meetings. It is true not only where it has produced moral corruption, but also where it has been pleaded as a substitute for sin. It has produced moral corruption, but also produced its fancied revelations, and persistently herald its unscriptural and abnormal experiences.

Names and localities could be readily given, where the whole work of God has been hindered for successive years by this agency. If, as soon as this evil appeared in their midst, after the first or second admonition, all who were walking with God in such places had at once withdrawn their fellowship from the erring ones, the cause of God need not thus have suffered. But it has been esteemed heavenly wisdom to remain in Christian sympathy with them, till we have ruined them and the cause we sought to advance. Every honest soul may be safely saved from fanatic tendencies, if plainly dealt with in time; but, after delay, every effort is unavailing. May the painful lessons of the past guard us against a repetition of such failures in the future.

Some of the fruits of this evil are:
1. It disqualifies the subject for the practical work of God. There cannot be found an exception to this rule.
2. It necessarily produces great opposition to holiness. Persons who have not had the experience of holiness, cannot avoid intense prejudice against it as they see the fruits of fanaticism in those professing to be sanctified. Scores of those who oppose the holiness work might be heralds of this precious experience but for this evil.
3. It produces formalism and distrust among those who are truly sanctified. The "religious frenzy" of one brother will, sometimes, hinder the advancement of a whole society. It is so easy for Satan to warn thinking men of the danger of going beyond present attainments, lest they, too, should become fanatic. Let all such know that fanaticism is not the result of too much of Christ, but of Christ being displaced by self and foolish imaginings.

How many of the blood-washed are heedless of the warning today, who lack vitality and power and are deprived of the wealth of an advancing experience, because some one has acted wildly in relation to the deep things of God? And the evil thus wrought by Satan is twofold in its results, leading to fanaticism on the one hand and producing formalism on the other hand. The preventive to fanaticism is sound Scriptural teaching, a close adherence to the Word of God, an ever-abiding faith in Christ, and the thorough use of good sound, sanctified, common sense.

The malice of Satan against holiness, indicates the divinity of its origin. The fail-ures and the follies of its professed advocates should lead us to greater wisdom and profounder harmony with the will of God. What we need is holiness — genuine Bible holiness.

The more there is of the false, the greater the need of the true.

The Wesleyan Methodist

My Saviour And I
A Testimony to His Presence and Power
By THOMAS D. WHITEMAN
Dallas, Texas

"HE THAT DWELLETH IN THE SECRET PLACE . . ."

The two women in the car had been to a prayer group meeting and were returning home. It was about 9:30 P.M. They stopped at the postoffice to mail some letters. They both got out of the car and went in. They returned to the car and started home. They had driven about three blocks when a man's voice from the rear seat spoke, "Keep driving and keep quiet. I will tell you where to go!"

He had them drive several blocks into a cheaper part of town. Then he spoke again, "Stop the car and you on the right get out." She obeyed, and stood on the curb until the car drove away. He told the young woman at the wheel to keep driving and keep quiet. They finally reached a country road, and he told her to stop.

He did not speak for a minute, and that was all the woman wanted. She asked him, "Do you know the first two words of what is called "The Lord's Prayer"?" He said, "Yes," and she asked him to repeat them, and his reply, "Our Father." Again he was quiet for a moment and she started talking quietly, "Our Father and my Father, your mother and my mother. I wonder if they would approve of what you are about to do?"

He did not answer for a few moments, and then said, "Lady, if you will drive back to the highway, I will get out."

She did, and he got out and started walking. He had not gone far before a police car picked him up. The older woman had called the police and then called a member of the prayer group, and asked him to call others to pray for her safety. The young woman refused to prosecute and the young man was returned to prison in another state, from which he had recently escaped.

"... Of the Most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." (Psalm 91:1)

"PRAY ONE FOR ANOTHER"

The man had suffered several severe heart attacks, and had simply given up. His wife worked, so he was alone during the day. They told me that he would not talk to anyone. I let him do most of the talking as he seemed to sense a friend in me. He unburdened himself completely as to how it had all come about. That was in 1952. I went to see him about once a week for several weeks, and he seemed to be improving.

One morning my phone rang and it was his voice, calling for help. I hurried over and found him lying on his bed and suffering severe pains in his heart about two or three minutes apart. There was nothing I could do — except pray for him.

I sat in a chair close by his bed, took his hand in both of mine, and started talking to him about the power of God, in a quiet, conversational tone. In about five minutes he was so still it scared me for his heart about two or three minutes apart. There was nothing I could do — except pray for him.

I sat there another 30 minutes, holding his hand, I spoke to him and he roused up. I told him I had to go, but would see him again. He wheeled around, put his feet to the floor, and literally jumped out of bed. I protested, but he replied, "I felt fine!"

He followed me to the door, barefooted and in his pajamas. I kept in touch with him by telephone, and each time he was "OK." At last report he was working every day and feeling fine.

"Pray one for another, that you may be healed." (James 5:16)
THE VALUE OF AN INDIVIDUAL SOUL

By Frank Ludlow

In acts 26:40 we read of the beautiful character of Philip, the evangelist. There is no finer instance on record in Holy Writ of an entirely surrendered soul to the will and purpose of Almighty God. He leaves a populous city in the throes of a mighty revival — amidst a wonderful spiritual upheaval, with signs and wonders everywhere. He is at once willing, when divinely bidden, to leave the scene of his successful labours to go out on what seems an unpromising errand of obedience, under what we would call "sealed orders." Later, we find him in a very lonely place, the desert, but right there is an enquiring soul reading very diligently, the Word of God and long­ing for more light. Upon the bidding of the Spirit of God, Philip is soon engaged in teaching a vast multitude, with signs and wonders everywhere.

The Personal Value

Every human being has a distinct personality. No two persons have ever been just alike. This means that everyone is unique, and when a thing is unique it is valuable. There are never two faces or two voices exactly alike. Every person has a distinct finger-print. Not so long ago, in the city of Belfast, Northern Ireland, a man was sent to prison for counterfeiting a custom's offence. While in custody his finger-prints were taken. These were forwarded to London and it was discovered that he was a much wanted and very notorious criminal. He was betrayed by his individuality! As long as he lives he will have the same fingerprints. The personality of a human being is the only real possession he has or ever will have. For time and eternity you will always be yourself, and the finest thing any­one can do is to enable, beautify and make wonderful the rare gift of God. Who never creates a duplicate. Each person is made in the image of God, but that image is stamped on it something distinct and unique. It is the value attached to something which is never repeated.

The Unknown Value

It is not known now any more than it was known five thousand years ago, what a baby will become when it grows up. The wisest philosopher or teacher knows nothing about the future of any child. Giotto, the father of Italian painting, was the son of a poor peasant. He sketched the sheep he was tending, using a piece of slate and a sharp stone. Where did he get his genius? No one knows! Many years ago, two masters at the famous public school of Eton were examining a certain pupil's work. In grave tones they were saying, "Look at this boy's work, his Latin is a disgrace." One said, "I feel so sorry for his parents, whatever will become of him." They were discussing none other than one of the world's greatest personalities! That boy became Sir Winston Churchill.

The parents of these boys never dreamed that their children would become world-famous. There was the unknown value in them, and it lies in every child that is born. That is one reason why we should have such regard for little children. Was this the reason why the Lord Jesus declared it was better that a millstone be hanged about the neck of anyone who offended a little child, and the offender sunk in the bottom of the sea? The "unknown" of children ought to mean the greatest care on the part of those who bring them into the world.

Many years ago, just outside London, a poor gipsy family had just suffered the loss of the mother. The broken-hearted father and five children were left in despair. That very morning they suddenly heard someone singing and sounding very joyful. The father approached the singer, a road mender, and said, "Oh sir, will you please tell the secret of your happiness?" It was not long before the dear old road mender was telling them of the love of Jesus. As a result of this the whole family came to the Saviour. Years later, the father became a Gospel preacher and a great friend of General William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army. The sons all followed their father into the ministry, and one of the sons was the famous Gipsy Smith! Oh the unknown value of that faithful witness on the morning he began to sing the praises of his Lord.

The Known Value

This is the influence every personality ex­ercises on others. In some way, we impress everyone we meet. We are indebted to our teachers, our pastors, our parents and our companions. The value of what we give to others is in large part due to what others have given to us. This known value is a thing which to a great extent can be measured. The influence of one person on another is tremendous. It works two ways, either for good or for ill. A fool can set a house on fire; anyone could pass on a contagious disease. No less than seven monarchs of this country have died of typhoid fever, contracted perhaps, by some unknown person taking impure milk or water into the palace. The "known" value of every life goes on continuously. Whether we appreciate it or not, this makes everyone of tremendous importance, because, "no man liveth unto himself."

The Divine Value

God Himself has placed the highest value of all upon humanity in sending the Lord Jesus to die for such rebels as we are. In the Gospel of John we read that GOD SO LOVED MANKIND that He GAVE! God is constantly giving and making provision for all who will put their trust in His mercy. Why? Because of the great value he has placed upon every soul of man.

When I was a boy, the Salvation Army used to hold an open-air meeting in our street. There was a man who played the bass drum who had a voice like thunder. When he prayed, and he often did, he made me quake with fear, but later I got to know him more intimately. He was a great lover of souls. Later on I saw himweeping with men to accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord. Because of his great desire to win men for God he spent much time in prayer, with astounding results. Before his conversion he was in and out of prison. He has served forty-two terms of imprisonment
in twenty-five different prisons in this country. Prior to his conversion he was a wicked man to his wife and family. The night he was saved he was in rags hunted in London by detectives. Hasting through the streets to evade arrest he slipped into a Salvation Army hall, thinking they would not seek for him there, only to find himself in the midst of a red-hot prayer-meeting. Very quickly he was dealt with about his sinful life and a lassie earnestly pleaded with him to get saved. The struggle was terrific, but the power of conviction was so real that he broke down under the Spirit's woeing and went home a new creature in Christ Jesus. Back home his poor wife had put the children to bed without any supper. There was no fire for warmth. His wife expecting to see a drunken, cursing man stagger into the home, could hardly believe his story. When he knelt to pray and seek the blessing of the Lord upon his home that night, his dear wife came to the Saviour too!

Anyone seeing him several hours previously would have paid no attention to him, saying that he was neither good to God nor to man or woman however lost and depraved. The struggle to get saved. The struggle to see a drunken, cursing man stagger into the home, could hardly believe his story. When he knelt to pray and seek the blessing of the Lord upon his home that night, his dear wife came to the Saviour too!

Beloved, let us not limit God and His great love for ALL humanity. Teacher in the Sunday School — that boy, that girl; what will they become? Perhaps they may be awkward now but God has His tomorrow. It brings much joy to me when I think of some of the "awkward squad" I tried to teach many years ago. Today, thank God, some of them are preachers of the Gospel, others are being blessed in Sunday School work.

Praise the Lord, His power is still available in the world today. It can touch any man or woman however lost and depraved they may be. That is what makes an individual so valuable, the possibility of that tremendous change of heart, caused, not by going to college, or making money, or getting culture, but by the power of the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, applied to all who will believe. Beloved, let us arise and be doing for:

Soon will the seasons of rescue be o'er,
Soon they will drift to eternity's shore,
Haste then my brother, no time for delay
And throw out the life-line
And save them today.

God gave the best when He gave Jesus to mankind. He would not have sent Him had He not seen the tremendous value in everyone of us. In this country of ours, there are millions who never attend church or hear a Gospel service. They are as ignorant of the truth of God as the people in darkest Africa or India. What are we doing about it? Brother, sister! If we can do nothing else, we can pray and give according to our means for the salvation of the lost.

—Redemption Tidings

LETTERS

MIRACLES IN GHANA
Ghana, West Africa
June 8, 1962

Dear Brother Dennis,

"Peace be unto you!"

Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

For God is my witness, whom I serve with my Spirit in the Gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you all in my prayers. I praise the Lord for receiving again your parcel of booklets today in Jesus' Name. Praise ye the Lord, forever and evermore.

Brother! I am writing to let you know about some of miraculous healings God has performed through the ministry few days ago at Kunansi Lorry Park in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

1. A little boy about seven years of age, born with a foot so twisted that half of the sole turned up, could only walk on the side of his foot. During prayer, Christ healed him miraculously, the foot was straightened. He put his foot flat on the ground and walked.

2. A young lady possessed with demons, Christ set free and healed her miraculously.

3. A complete cripple unable to sit, for many years, due to strong drinking. He was carried to the meeting. After prayer the Lord healed him completely and delivered him from liquor and all its effects. A woman was suffering from headache for almost six months. She barked like a dog, shouting, screaming, falling to the ground, crying. By the power of God through the Holy Ghost, she was healed instantly, after prayer.

A crippled child, never walked or stood before, after prayer in the Name of Jesus, she walked. Let us give all the praise and glory to God for these wonderful answers to prayer in the ministry.

We are always praying hard for you that the Lord might send you more money for the payment of the printed booklets, the Policies, and all the other bills. We believe that the Lord will supply all the needs, both physical and spiritual, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Sincerely, your brother,
Evangelist E. Y. M.

MORE MIRACLES IN GHANA
Ghana, West Africa
July 15, 1962

Dear Brother Dennis,

We thank you very much for the mailed booklets to us.

On the 4th-12th of July, 1962, we went to preach at a village called "Kokofu" at Bawku area, Ashanti. The Lord performed miracles during the manifestation of the glory cloud in the meetings.

People received the Holy Ghost baptism, healing, and then sinners came forward for their salvation. A man was bitten by a poisonous snake at one of the villages. A witch doctor drenched him but to no avail. It seemed he was dying. Then they sent him for us and I prayed in the Name of Jesus, the man was instantly delivered.

A woman was healed of a broken back by the power of God. She was unable to bend her body but now she is well. A little child was brought to the meeting, suffering from infantile paralysis. The Lord wonderfully healed the child. Glory be to God!

The Lord saved 68 souls and out of this 54 were baptized in Jesus' Name.

Please, we need more booklets and tracts for the work, for more people are rushing for them as we used to go on house to house, preaching in the city. School children are writing letters for booklets, tracts and St. John Gospel. Please, to your possible best to order us some in Jesus Name. Your prayers for us, our family and our ministry will be well appreciated. Greetings to Sister Dennis and all.

Yours,
E. Y. M.

BOOKLETS HELPING STUDENTS
Ghana, West Africa
May 10, 1962

Brothers in Christ,

Let Jesus Christ be praised!

I do not know what to say to express the joy I had when I got the books the Lord allowed you to send to me, neither can I tell how it is turning me and all the readers here into different men and women.

Since I accepted Christ as my Saviour, I have taken to the reading of the Bible more than any of my text books, and this is my text mony. During the term while all my friends were very busy reading their text books and have no time to read the Bible, I took to reading the pamphlets and books you sent me to and learning (studying) only when I feel the urge within me to do so. Many of my friends criticize me for doing this, but to their surprise I was second in Mathematics and got high marks in all the subjects. It will surprise you to hear that any time an examination is about to take place, I usually see the questions in my dream. This is very surprising to me and to my friends.

I beg of you to send me more of your books if the Lord will permit you. I hope many more people will find the glorious light through this books.

I send blessing to your society. Yours in the service of Christ.

J. K. A.
SEVEN STEPS

(From page 3)

hands dials the police. “Help! Come quick! I am being attacked. My life is in danger. Come quickly!”

Will they get there in time to save him? He doesn't know. He shakes with terror.

That is the picture of millions of God’s children when attacked by satan and his diseases or his torments. But see the reality as pictured in God’s Word for all who believe it is true for THEM.

The same man sits in the same house in the dark of night. The same mob bangs on the door and makes the same threats. But now all is different within.

The threatened man smiles, then in a stern but confident tone shouts back at the mob at the door, “Just try and break in, just try to lay a hand on me if you dare. I have the chief of police sitting here with me tonight, and he has a six-gun in each hand. I just dare you to try to hurt me!”

That is the REAL Truth, by God’s Word, if we are born-again and have God’s Spirit in us — God’s Power in us. And who can harm us, what can the devil do to us or bring upon us, when the Son of God is inside our very hearts, guarding us every moment of the day or night?

“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: Because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” (I John 4:4)

5. BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

“Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you, as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.” (John 20: 21-22)

“Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Many Christians seem to think that they do not need the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, that that experience is just for a few of God’s “Pentecostals.”

Yet, Jesus never preached a sermon, healed a sick body, performed a miracle, until AFTER He was filled with the Holy Ghost as He came up out of the waters of baptism in the Jordan.

These same Christians who reject and disobey Christ’s commands to “Receive ye the Holy Ghost,” forget that Jesus would not let his disciples go out and preach the Gospel of his shed blood and his resurrection until AFTER they had tarried in the upper room and were ALL filled with the Holy Ghost.

Not until that happened on the day of Pentecost, were their fears and timidity all burned away by the mighty Baptism of Fire. They were not the same men that they had been ten days before. Now they were truly “New creatures in Christ Jesus,” and old things were done away, behold all things had become new.

Before Pentecost, Peter and the other disciples had been cowering behind locked doors “for fear of the Jews” (John 20: 19) who no doubt were seeking to kill them as they had killed Jesus.

But now, filled with the Holy Ghost and power, they marched boldly out into the streets of Jerusalem, shouting God’s praises and accusing the Jews to their faces of killing the Son of God.

When arrested and beaten and commanded to cease preaching “this Jesus,” they boldly replied that they “must obey God rather than men,” and went right on preaching publicly that Jesus was the Messiah and that He HAD risen from the dead.

Threats, beating, jails, nor death itself could not stop the disciples from gladly witnessing to their risen Lord.

If you want a bold, victorious testimony before this sinful world, follow the disciples’ example and Jesus’ command and be “filled with the Spirit,” as Paul also urges. (Eph. 5: 18)

The Holy Spirit will guide you (John 16: 13), will make the Bible a new and living Book to you (John 16: 14), will bring its messages up to your mind at just the right time (John 14: 26), will give you the proper words to speak in any emergency (Mark 13: 11), will shed forth God’s love through you (Rom. 5:5).

6. SAY IT!

“Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea: and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass: he shall have whatsoever he saith.” (Mark 11: 22-23)

One of the most vital elements in a victorious Christian life, is what we SAY. Not what we hope, not what we think, not what we believe, not what we profess to believe — but what we SAY.

What we say with our lips, in sincerity, always reveals what we really believe.

We can get up in church and give a good “testimony” of what we believe and of what God is going to do for us, because of his promised Word, and then at the church door or at home, in a sentence, nullify all that, and give our true testimony by saying, for instance, “I don’t feel good.” “I don’t know where the money is coming from.” “I don’t think I will be able to go.” etc.

That is our REAL testimony — what we SAY in our everyday private conversation.

We seal our fate with our tongues. We often “dig our own graves with our tongues.” (See Prov. 18: 21)

“Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth.” (Prov. 6: 2)

When the children of Israel had been led out of Egypt’s bondage, yet were complaining in the wilderness, God’s wrath was kindled against their rebellion and unbelief, and He said, “As ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you.” (Number 14:28)

God hears our every murmur, complaint, every voiced doubt and whispered fear, and every word of unbelief our mouths utter.

When someone asks, “How are you?” we reveal, by our answer, whether or not we believe God’s Word, and we seal by our own words, our future sickness or health.

“I don’t feel at all well,” “The devil has had me down,” “I am getting worse,” “I don’t believe I will live, “I won’t be able to go,” “I don’t seem to have faith for my healing,” etc.

Jesus once said, “I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak, therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.” (John 12: 49-50)

“As the Father said unto me, so I speak.” The Father has said none of the things suggested in the second paragraph above. They are all spoken of our own unbelief
and suggested by the devil.

God's Word has spoken very differently: "Let the weak say, I am strong." (Joel 3: 10) "And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick." (Isa. 33:24) "Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." (Matt. 8: 17) "By whose stripes ye were healed." (I Pet. 2: 24) "These signs shall follow them that believe . . . they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." (Mark 16: 18) "My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4: 19) "If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." (John 14: 14)

If you would be victorious in your Christian life, you must guard well your lips and be very careful what you SAY.

Practically every disobedience, every doubt and fear and unbelief, is evidenced to God, the devil, and the world, by our spoken words.

On the other hand, our REAL faith, our true beliefs, are also voiced by our words. "I KNOW I am healed." "By his stripes I AM healed." "I will be well enough to go." "He took my infirmities and bare my sicknesses." "It is the Lord that healeth me," etc.

"Let us hold fast the profession if our faith." (Heb. 10: 23)

7. DO IT!

The final, clinching proof of our faith and the most decisive factor in our Victorious Christian life is what we DO.

Even more important than what we SAY, is what we DO about it.

"I know thy works." (Rev. 2:2)

We can speak a good test mony, we can stolutely affirm that, "we believe God has healed us" or "is healing us," or "will heal us," but whether we really believe and mean what we say or not, will be revealed by what we DO about it.

If we say, for instance, "I believe God has healed me," and then continue to take medicine, or plan on an operation, our lips have only uttered empty words — our real belief is revealed by our actions.

If we say, "I know God will send in the money I need," then continue to worry and wonder and fail to make plans to use the money we say we expect to receive, we fool only ourselves into thinking we believe and trust God's Word.

We believe ONLY what we believe strongly enough to ACT on. Anything less is merely hope or wishful thinking.

If I really believe God is going to send in the money for a trip, or to print the Texas Herald, or to do any other NEEDED thing, then I make plans for the trip, find out train or bus schedules, notify friends of my intended trip. Or I get the Herald material ready, address the envelope to the printer, put on the necessary postage. In short, I do EVERYTHING I CAN do, in preparation of God's furnishing the promised funds.

If I really believed God has healed me, or is healing me, or will heal me, miraculously, without the aid of means or men, then I would throw away my medicine, cancel my appointment for an operation, get up and Walk, and PRAISE God for my healing.

Our praise, or lack of it, is a very good evidence of how much we really do believe or expect from God. If our praise is weak or absent, it is a sure sign our faith is weak or no faith at all.

For if we really believed, yes KNEW, God was going to answer our prayer we would be so happy we could hardly keep from shouting our praises Heavenward.

"Offer unto God thanksgiving, and pay thy vows unto the most high. And call upon me in the day of trouble. I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." (Ps. 50: 14-15)

In this recipe for answered prayer, Thanksgiving comes first, next getting right with God (paying up our vows), THEN asking God for our needs, then the answer, then our testimony, for his glory.

Jesus did not wait until Lazarus had come out of the grave, to thank God for his bringing the dead back to life, so Jesus thanked God FIRST, before He commanded Lazarus to "Come forth!", because He KNEW God would hear and answer his prayer.

We thank people for promised gifts, for promised raises in wages, for promised entertainment — at the time of the promise — we do not wait until we "see if they are really going to do it" before we say, "Thank you, very much."

No, we thank them before the gift comes, before the pay check is received, before we enjoy the home cooked dinner we've been invited to. Why? Because we Believe the promise will be kept and the good thing be given to us.

So it is pretty clear evidence, when we "wait until we're sure we're healed" before we thank God for healing us, that we very much doubt his word and his promise. And our doubt is rewarded by our NOT receiving — "just about as we expected."

The clinching evidence of our faith and the final step to a Victorious Christian walk with God, is DOING what we have SAID we Believe; is ACTING our faith, STEPPING OUT on God's promises, just like we step out on the promises that men make to us.

When my wife and I were led of the Lord to move to Austin and open the House of Prayer for All People, and begin the publishing of The Texas Herald, we had many opportunities to put these principles into practice. And God wondrously made his Word good, whenever we SAID what we very much doubt his word and his promise.

We first looked for a suitable building that could be rented at a reasonable rental. But after searching for weeks, we could find none. Desperate in prayer, one day the story of Joshua came to me. "Prepare ye victuals" he told the Israelites, for "Within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan." (Joshua 1: 11)

"Prepare ye victuals." Get things ready, just like you would if you KNEW God was going to provide the building.

That simplified it. What would I DO if I KNEW we were going to have a building in a day or two, or a week or two? Why, we would need chairs, a piano, song books, we would need the material for the first issue of The Texas Herald, carrying the announcement of the opening of The House of Prayer.

Quickly rising from my knees, I said to my wife, "Put on your hat! We're going to town and buy a piano!"

We looked at several, picked out the one we thought suitable and paid for it. The man asked where he should deliver it. I said, "Could you just keep it a little while until we get a building?" He said he would.

Next, I ordered 100 song books, and they came. Next, I prepared the copy for the Herald and gave it to the printer, asking him to hold up printing until I gave him the location of the House of Prayer.

Next, I ordered some chairs. To pay for them it was
necessary for us to sell our car, and I had it parked on our front lawn, and an ad in the daily paper. But no buyer came. Those who wanted it did not have the cash which we needed; those with the cash didn't seem to want it.

The man from whom I had ordered the chairs wrote that I must take them by a certain day if I was to get them at the price quoted. Did I want them? "Yes," I said I did.

The last day came to pay for the chair order. Surely God would send a buyer for the car today? I had it washed and greased and another ad in the morning paper. And it rained down rain all forenoon! No buyer came, leaves and dirt smeared the newly washed car. And I was on my knees, praying.

Then the Lord impressed me to take the car to some dealer and try to sell it. But I argued that a dealer wouldn't pay nearly what it was worth retail and not what we needed to get from it. But a certain dealer came to my mind.

So, in obedience, we drove the car to the dealer's place. The rain had stopped. He drove the car around a few blocks and asked the price. With fear and trembling, I dared to price it just $25.00 less than we had been asking retail. He said, "On account of the rain, I haven't made a deal today. If I buy this car maybe it will change my luck." He made an offer of $50.00 less than I had set, and we "split the difference" at just $50.00 less than my retail price, which was still more than I had given for the car some 10 months earlier. I took his check to the furniture dealer and said, "Order the 100 chairs." Where shall we deliver them?" he asked. "I don't know yet, I'll let you know when they arrive," I said.

We decided the time to open the House of Prayer would be April 16, 1951, but still we had no building. We had the Herald made up that you have dominion over him; That you are FREE, pronounced as April 16th, and a blank left for the location.

Then a building became available. Not the one we thought we wanted, but in a poorer section of town, where the need was greater. The owner, a Catholic, reduced the price, which was still more than I had given for the car some 10 months earlier. I took his check to the furniture dealer and said, "Order the 100 chairs." Where shall we deliver them?" He asked. "I don't know yet, I'll let you know when they arrive," I said.

But we had "gotten our victuals ready." We had ACTED our faith. And we had seen God make his Word good, as a result. He had directed us to come to Austin and open the House of Prayer and publish the Texas Herald, and He had promised to "supply all our need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4: 19) And He had done so! Praise His Name!

When we began to SAY and DO what Faith and Believing would say and do, then God did what He had promised to do.

Dear Christian friend, if you would rise from a life of frustration, fear, doubt, and defeat, to a glorious victorious life of faith and Victory, take the above Seven Steps to Victory: Decide NOW by God's Grace, that his Word is written for YOU, it is True for YOU; Decide now that you are FREE from the devil's dominion, and that you have dominion over him; That you are FREE, by Christ's blood, from the power and accusation of sin, and are sheltered, un-condemned, beneath the cleansing blood of Jesus. That Christ actually lives inside you, to fight your battles, to protect you and to heal your body and keep you well; That you will welcome and receive NOW the Holy Ghost, to be your guide and teacher, your boldness and power to do what God wants you to do; That from TODAY you will SAY what God's Word says, not what the devil or self or fear or doubt or the neighbors, or the doctor, or anyone else says. "As my Father has said, so I speak."

And, finally, that from this moment, you will DO keep his promise in his Word to YOU. And that you will what you would do if you KNEW God were going to begin this very minute by thanking Him joyously NOW for granting you your request and need, according to his promised Word.

Are you sick? Get up and walk, and thank Him for health.

Are you poor? Thank him gladly for supplying your every need, and begin making a list of groceries you are going to buy with the money He is sending in.

Do you need a job? Thank God NOW for the good job He has for you. One that will serve mankind, not hurt them, one that will enable you to give to God's work.

Are you taking drugs? Put your trust in the Great Physician. "I am the Lord that healeth thee."

And thank God daily, hourly, for his supply of your every need, for his Divine Health, for his Holy Presence in your heart.

These dear ones, are the Seven Steps to Victory.

"But thanks be to God which always causeth us to triumph in Christ." (II Cor. 2)

THE REAL VICTORY

"And yet shew I you a more excellent way." (I Cor. 12: 31)

"For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." (Rom. 14: 17)

There is an even greater Victory for the Spirit-filled Christian than having his prayers answered, enjoying financial security, Divine health, or Victorious dominion over the devil.

It comes from having our heart so taken up with Jesus, and being so filled with his love, so yielded to his will, and so desirous of pleasing Him alone, that what happens to our bodies, our finances, or our ministries, isn't important — just to be his and know that He is ours, is all that really matters.

When you love someone supremely, it matters not how hot the day, or cold the night, how dusty the trail or how long the way, whether across the continent or across the sea — all these are as nothing in the joy of going to be with your beloved.

When we love God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength, and our neighbor as ourself — as Jesus commanded us to do — and are walking in God's will, our inner joy transcends all outward circumstance.

"Rejoice not that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in Heaven." (Luke 10:20)

"Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy, for, behold, your reward is great in heaven; for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets." (Luke 6: 22-23)

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured
the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 12: 1-2)

As Jesus climbed up Golgotha's hill, beaten and bloody and bowed beneath the cross He bore for you and me. He had the joy of knowing that millions of sinners would be saved by the shedding of his precious blood on that cruel tree, and thousands of believers would be healed by the stripes He had taken on His bleeding back. (I Pet. 2; 24)

He had the joy of knowing that in three days the power of satan over mankind would be broken, as He burst the four-sea-hell and the grave.

His was the joy of knowing He had fulfilled the Father's will, and that soon He would return to Heaven to be with His Father forever.

He had the joy of knowing the Holy Ghost would soon be poured out from Heaven upon His waiting disciples — to send them as flaming witnesses to His glory, to the ends of the earth.

Paul, when an old grey haired man, deserted by many of his followers, deep in a Roman dungeon, facing the lions’ den, had that same joy — joy unspeakable and full of glory — that no man or devil could take away. From that dungeon he wrote:

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice . . . . For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: Everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (Phil. 4: 4, 11-13)

Paul's joy, his Victory, was not dependent on outward circumstances. His joy came from within, from “Christ in you the hope of glory.” (Col. 1: 27)

With most Christians, their state of joy goes up or down with their circumstances. When they “feel good,” have good clothes, a nice home, loving family, sincere friends, a good car, a good job, good food — they “have the victory.” But when they “don’t feel good,” their clothes are poor, their food scarce, their car worn out, their job unpleasant, their friends untrue — they are “down,” defeated, discouraged, disgruntled. They are the playthings of outward circumstance, blown by every wind of fate — unstable, unhappy, un-rejoicing.

I was born in a small country farm house. We had kerosene lamps and a wood heater. In the winter, when supper was over and the wind and snow were swirling outside, my father would pile the heater full of wood, then we would sit around it and try to read or study in the dim light.

The stove would soon become “red hot” and we would have to move back to keep from burning. Then, in an hour, the fire would die down and the room be cold. Someone would put in more wood and we would pull our chairs closer to the stove, then push them back again as the stove warmed up. Hot — then cold. Cold — then hot.

In the winter the bed rooms were cold as ice. In the summer the little house was so hot that we often slept out on the porch or on the grass in the yard. Hot in the summer, cold in the winter — depending on the weather outside.

But, now, many people live in homes with a central heating and cooling system that keeps the rooms comfortable regardless of the outside elements. If the temperature on a hot August Day is 105 degrees, it is a cool 78 degrees inside. If it is down to zero on a snowy, wintry night, it is a warm 78 degrees inside. Comfortable, regardless of the outside weather.

How is this done? By means of a thermostat, that regulates the heater or cooler to keep the house at an even temperature, winter or summer.

Jesus had a “Spiritual Thermostat” — the Father lived inside Him. “The Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.” (John 14: 10) If persecution and hate were “hot” outside, Jesus was calm and cool, because of God’s love in his heart. If surrounded by cold indifference, unbelief and rejection, Jesus’ heart was warm and tender and forgiving — because of God’s love.

Paul, too, had this “Thermostat” in his heart, “the peace of God which passeth all understanding” (Phil. 4: 7), the joy that comes from “the love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost.” (Rom. 5:5)

If beatings, or stonings, or mobs were “hot” after him, Paul was cool and calm. Midst the cold of shipwreck, icy waters, or dark, damp dungeons, Paul’s heart was warmed by God’s love, so that he could sing praises at midnight while lying in stocks in a Roman jail, his back bleeding from many stripes.

“But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the Gospel of the grace of God.” (Acts 20: 24)

“Be careful (anxious) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts, and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4: 6-7)

Jesus offers us this “Spiritual Thermostat,” to keep us in peace and joy and Victory — regardless of circumstances, whether “hot” or “cold,” pleasant or unpleasant, sick or well, rich or poor, master or servant, in prison or out, in life or in death.

“If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive.)” (John 7: 37-39)

“Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God concerning you.” (I Thess. 5: 16-8)

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.” (Jude 24-25)

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THE TEXAS HERALD
Box 2156 Capital Station Austin 11, Texas, U.S.A.
The Master-Builder and the New Contract

By PASTOR ALAN STEVENS

God the Master-Builder has made a New Contract (Covenant) through Jesus Christ and the Cross and has submitted it to mankind for acceptance. The New Testament is a copy of the terms of this New Contract. In it God has contracted to meet all your needs for spirit, soul and body. "A better covenant (contract), established upon better promises" to build a better life for all who accept it (Heb. 8: 6-13).

How Does The New Covenant Differ From The Old?
The Old Contract (Covenant) was inaugurated through Moses as mediator (Ex. 24: 3-8; Heb. 9: 19, 20). Its terms were agreed upon by the people — given, verbally, then in writing. The Old Testament writings were called "The Book of the Covenant." It was only for the people of Israel; their sins were only covered year by year; there was no provision for individual spiritual relationship with God.

The New Contract (Covenant) was given through Jesus Christ as Mediator, ratified and sealed with His blood, "the blood of the new covenant." The New Testament writings are the "Book of the New Covenant," the contract to be effective when the people accept it. It is open to all mankind. Through its sins, sin-guilt will be blotted out, forgiven. Believers will be restored to spiritual relationship with God as Heavenly Father and are promised eternal life upon acceptance of it.

God has promised to be "merciful... and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more" (Heb. 8:12). The Bible says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (of God's standards), and "there is none righteous" before Him (Rom. 3: 10, 23), so all need purging of a sinful heart through faith in the blood of the Divine Mediator of the New Contract! (Heb. 9: 14, 15).

Only One Way To Enter Into The New Contract
The only entry is through the Master-Builder's Agent, His Son Jesus! Jesus is the only Mediator, the sole Representative through whom the Master-Builder will work (1 Tim. 2: 5, 6). The New Contract is available to "whosoever believeth" and accepts the terms. For how long? For eternity! The cost? It is free — the price has been paid by Jesus on the Cross "Who gave Himself a ransom for all!"

What guarantee does the Master-Builder offer? Jesus, His Son, is the guarantee, "the Surety of the better covenant" and "He is able... and ever liveth to make intercessions for them (Heb. 7: 22, 25). He gives believers permission to use His name! He vouches for the honesty and faithfulness of His Father. The Contract was sealed with His blood and a copy of the terms in writing is available in the Book of the Covenant — the Bible! He has ascended "to appear in the presence of God for us," on our behalf! (Heb. 9: 12, 24).

What Is The Contract?
What are its terms, its conditions? God, the Master-Builder, has contracted to build you a new life and a new house of righteousness, built upon solid Rock foundation (Jesus Christ), according to His perfect specifications: to supply the bricks of eternal life; the roofing material of deliverance from fears and all the works of the devil: the doors, windows of healing from all sickness, disease; the piping for the living waters of spiritual fellowship: the light of the Holy Spirit to illuminate this life and house: to decorate it with peace and joy: to repair and restore it as needed.

How do we know the Master-Builder will do all this? How can we be sure? We have a copy of the terms in writing in the Bible — "The Book of the Covenant."

In a ship-building yard in Great Britain, a Christian carpenter was telling of his salvation to his unsaved foreman. The foreman replied, "But how do you know? How can you be sure?" The Christian carpenter asked him if he knew the breadth of the waterway in that place. The foreman replied, "Fourteen inches, all around." "How do you know. How can you be sure?" queried the carpenter. "It's in the book. I got it from headquarters!" asserted the foreman confidently. "Just so," said the carpenter, "I am sure of my salvation in the same way — it is in the Book! The Book is from Headquarters — from God Himself!"

All the benefits of the New Contract are "in the Book from H.Q." — the Bible! Forgiveness of sins (Heb. 8: 12); healing for mind and body (Matt. 8: 16, 17; Psalm 103: 3); the gift of the Holy Spirit giving eternal life (Acts 2: 38, 39).

The Master-Builder might change His mind? "I am the Lord, I change not!" He states in the Book. How can we refuse to co-operate? "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever" (Heb. 13: 8). It is in the Book!

Your old life, your old house of self-righteousness, sickness and sin which you have inherited from Adam is perishing! Let the Master-Builder build you a new one! Accept His free offer through His Agent. His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life... more abundantly!" Your acceptance is necessary to make this contract effective for you. It takes at least two persons to complete a contract. The Master-Builder and you!

—Revivalist, Australia