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J. A. Dennis

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GOOD NEWS
THE TEXAS HERALD

VOL. 14, No. 3

AUSTIN, TEXAS

MARCH 1963

"HE HEALED THEM ALL"

SPREAD IT BEFORE THE LORD

A Poem on Isaiah 37:14

Go, spread before the Lord thine empty barrel,
Thy failing cruse of oil, thy slender purse;
He feedeth birds, gives flowers their rich apparel,
And shall He see His children faring worse?

Go, spread before the Lord that startling letter
Which brings dismay and trouble to thy breast;
Like one of old, prove that it is far better
To throw its weight on Him and be at rest.

Spread out before the Lord those sins besetting
That bring the blush of failure to thy face
And fill thy heart with sorrowful regretting —
Christ giveth conquests in His secret place!

Spread out before the Lord that longfelt worry,
Speak of it often to thy Heavenly Friend;
He that believeth shall not want to hurry
Himself or God toward an unexpected end.

Spread out before the Lord from its beginning
Each piece of work attempted for His sake;
Each call to service, social or soul winning;
No step at thine own charges thou must take.

Spread out before the Lord thy daily duty,
It is not waste of time to tell Him all;
So shall life be "for glory and for beauty,"
If Jesus guides in greatest things and small.

—Winifred A. Iverson

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him;
and he shall bring it to pass."

— Psalm 37:5

GOOD NEWS

THE TEXAS HERALD

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Editor J. A. Dennis

"The words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life. (John 6: 63)

GUEST EDITORIAL

BIBLE REPENTANCE

A Vital Condition of Saving Faith

By Harold K. Sheets, General Superintendent
The Wesleyan Methodist Church of America

General William Booth, the great founder and leader of the Salvation Army, once prophesied that the day would come when we would have (1) religion without the Holy Spirit, (2) Christianity without Christ, (3) forgiveness without repentance, (4) salvation without regeneration, and (5) heaven without hell. It would appear that you and I have lived to see, in some measure, this entire prophecy fulfilled. Perhaps in no area has the fulfillment been more apparent than at the point of forgiveness without repentance.

Believing in Christ without repentance does not produce changed living. Unquestionably many would have less struggle and defeat over the sin problem had their repentance been thorough and Biblical in the first place. Nor can saving faith arise in glad assurance to receive the atoning Christ unless there is this foundation of repentance. Perhaps it could be said that repentance is to the spiritual birth what the pains of labor are to physical birth.

The importance of the doctrine of repentance can be clearly seen from its prominence in the Scriptures. John the Baptist began

his ministry preaching repentance. Likewise it is recorded that our Lord "... preached the gospel of the Kingdom of God, ... saying ... repent ye, and believe the gospel." (Mark 1: 14, 15). Jesus commanded His disciples to preach repentance. Peter preached it in words, "Repent and be baptized," on the occasion of his first sermon following Pentecost. Again Peter preached repentance following the healing of the lame man — Acts 3: 19. Saint Paul preached repentance to the Athenians, "The time of this ignorance God winked at," said he, "but now commandeth all men every where to repent" (Acts 17: 30). To the Ephesians he declared his consistent testimony both to the Jews and also to the Greeks, "repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." Again in his defense before King Agrippa, Paul affirmed his obedience to the heavenly vision in showing them at Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all Judea, and then the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and do works meet for repentance.

"Repent or perish" said our Lord. When asked the meaning of Pilate's slaughter of the Galileans whose blood had been mingled with heathen sacrifices, Jesus answered that these Galileans were not sinners above all others because they had thus suffered and that "Except ye repent ye shall all like wise perish." To reinforce this strong statement, our Lord followed with a reference to the eighteen upon whom the tower of Siloam fell, pointing out that they were not sinners above all men that dwell in Jerusalem, but that "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish."

The necessity of repentance arises from the nature of sin as rebellion against God. Repentance has been defined as a "sincere and thorough change of mind in regard to sin." It may be said that repentance implies conviction for sin, godly sorrow for such wrong doing, admission of guilt in confession, and reformation of life. "Fruits meet for repentance" were called for by John the Baptist as an evidence of genuine repentance.

As touching the intellect, repentance means to change one's mind, thought, purpose, or view regarding a matter. The prodigal son made such a change. Peter at Pentecost calls the Jews to change their views concerning Christ — Acts 3. As touching the emotions Paul describes repentance to the Corinthians as working carefulness, a clearing of yourselves, a generating of indignation, of fear, of vehement desire. Concerning certain cities to whom Jesus preached He warned that if the same mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon which have been done in you, they would have a great while ago repented, sitting in sack cloth and ashes. The publican in true repentance "scote upon his breast." This is not to say that true repentance will always be accompanied with a flood of tears or an outward evidence of deep feelings within. In what must have been genuine repentance the psalmist exercised his volition in the words, "I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sins."

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OLD HERALDS WANTED

We are very much in need of some back issues of The Texas Herald. If you have any of the issues listed below and will send them to us, we will greatly appreciate it:

1951—July

1952—March, April, November, December

1953—February, April, June, July, October, December

1954—May, July, August

1955—January, April

1957—March-April

Thank you,
J. A. Dennis

As touching the will and disposition, repentance produces action. The prodigal said, "I will arise . . . and he arose." (Luke 15: 18, 20). He not only thought on his ways and felt sorry for his sin, but he turned his steps in the right direction. Bible repentance, then, is shown in confession of sin to God; in forsaking of sin, and in turning to God with the whole heart. Paul spoke of the Thessalonian Christians as having "turned . . . from idols to serve the living and true God." (1 Thess. 1: 9).

But how is repentance produced? Is it an act of God or of man? It is probably correct to say it is both. That repentance is seen as a divine gift is illustrated in Peter's message at the house of Cornelius when he declared that "God hath also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life." And further when Paul in writing to Timothy urged his son in the faith in meekness to instruct those who oppose themselves if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth. Moreover, it is clear that repentance is brought about by human means. It was Peter's preaching on repentance that opened the way for a great number to repent and be saved following Pentecost. Nineveh repented upon hearing the preaching of the Word of God. "How shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed, and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard," reasons the apostle Paul. Paul to the Romans further states that the goodness of God leads men to repentance. Again Peter says that God shows His long-sufferings toward humanity because He is unwilling that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. Our Risen Lord's message to the Church reminds that "as many as I love, I rebuke and chasten." The chastisements of God are sometimes for the purpose of bringing men to repentance. We see then how that God uses human means to lead men to repent.

Men who will not repent cannot be saved. This refusal to repent can take the form of utter defiance and rebellion against God and moral righteousness. The spirit of apostasy and of anti-christ grows where and when men refuse to repent. Perhaps it will be by divine economy that the age of grace shall close for men at that time when the world arises en masse to defy God's call to repentance. What an awful day to contemplate! Are we approaching it?

The need of repentance is an accepted truth in heaven. Our Lord in commenting upon the shepherd who found the lost sheep stated that likewise "joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth more than over ninety and nine just persons who need no repentance." Repentance is also accepted as God's truth in hell.

A SWEET INCENSE

(Psalm 141:2)

Yesterday God blessed us.
Today, let's praise his name.
Because when comes the morrow,
He'll bless us just the same.

All we are and all we have
Were gifts from God above.
And we can never give too much
Of gratitude and love.

We seldom praise when things go wrong;
Some times, when things go right:
But we should offer God our praise
Each morning, noon, and night.

—Roberta Johnson Beck

The rich man who lifted up his eyes in hell and saw Abraham plead with him to allow him to return from the dead to his five brethren, stating that "if one went unto them from the dead they will repent." So long as people believe and preach the Word of God, repentance will be accepted and acknowledged as a Bible step to salvation in this world. Thus three worlds claim the truth of and the need for repentance.

But why do men not repent? Some do not repent because they have not been so taught. Others are hindered because of the carelessness and looseness of the age concerning God's will and plan. Still again there are those because of love of sin, sensual pleasure, and a life of willful disobedience, refuse to repent.

Repentance lays the foundation for carefulness in godly living, for watchfulness lest the Holy Spirit be grieved, and for the conformity to Christ's death and the consecration to His full will which are the conditions of cleansing from all sin. Repentance lays foundation for revival. Nor is repentance an exercise only for sinners. Five of the seven churches in Revelation were called to repent. Would not obedience to this command mark the beginning of revival in many holiness churches today?

Godly sorrow for sin, open confession, restitution where possible, a complete change of mind, of thought, of purpose, and of affection — these are accomplished when man is willing to work with God in genuine repentance unto life. This is the repentance toward God which becomes the one and only Biblical foundation for faith in the Lord Jesus Christ unto salvation.

— The Wesleyan Methodist

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THE TEXAS HERALD

Box 2156 Capitol Station Austin 11, Texas, U.S.A.

SAVED ON DEATH ROW

By Leslie Douglas Ashley

My testimony, as you read it, will put before you another work of God, of how He delivered me from the fear of death to the joy of life, from sin's damnation to Jesus' Glorious Realm of Light, "For God created man in His image." And, according to Romans 12, I have lain before Him my life as a living sacrifice and His Will will be my life.

The Route of Sin-Homicide to the Courtroom to Death Row to Jesus For Mercy

**Jesus Christ Is For All:
All Is For Jesus Christ**

**When the great Redeemer came
For guilty man to bleed
He did not take an angel's name
No, born of Abraham's seed
Jesus, Who gave His life for you**

The gentle Saviour was a Jew.

On the 24th of May, 1961, I was found guilty of murder after a nine-day trial here in Houston, the all-male jury, consisting of four oil refinery workers, a carpenter, a tree surgeon, a postal clerk, a postman, an estimator for an electrical contractor, a retired foundry worker, a salesman and a millwright for a paper company assessed the penalty of death. Then, following the verdict, I was transferred from the hospital tank to death row, to a very lonely cold cell here in the county jail. At once, my attorney filed a motion for a new trial and the case started on the roads of legal battles for various appeals. All during my first night in this death cell, I thought, "No, not a verdict of guilty when I am innocent of premeditation and malice." My body was torn apart with fright, knowing I was to die in the Huntsville State Prison Electric Chair. I could not sleep, as all I saw were the words "Guilty & Death" spelled out in the steel that surrounded me. All I could say, "I don't deserve this. Someone help me, please." I was crying out as I did not have the slightest idea of who to turn to for comfort. The night crept by, finally the next day dawned. This day was not like the day before, then I was not in a cell like this nor had I had such a let-down.

During the day I received a visit from a Rev. Pemberton, and he asked me did I know who Jesus was and my reply was, "No, who is He?" He explained to me in detail as I listened and then afterwards he led prayer. (Something that truly led me how to pray and seek forgiveness. Upon his departure, he presented me with a Bible, with certain verses underlined. I returned to my cell and placed the Book he had given

me under my mattress, not knowing or realizing it was the Bible, the Key that would open the gates for me to find the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Later in the evening, a small black book was given to me by the guard on duty, on its cover was written "New Testament" the same as the Minister had given me. I compared them and found them to be exactly alike, except that the Reverend's Bible was larger with larger print. I thought to myself, what can these two Books do for me? So, I thought, I have nothing else to read, so I'll see what's to this. I thumbed through them and found them to be a lot of books combined in one. Then, in curiosity, I read the last Book, "Revelations" and understood what I read. I saw the extreme importance of it and at once saw the future unfold that very day for me.

I pondered what the Pastor had told me. He had said, Jesus gives comfort and if I would believe on the Lord Jesus Christ I would be saved. Also that Jesus came to save the ones like me that were lost. He mainly underlined Romans 10:13, "Who-soever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." He told me that Jesus was patiently waiting for me to turn to Him for Salvation. One of the things he said that stayed with me was, "Hell is at the end of a Christless life." I decided to write him a letter telling him I was reading and understanding, also to thank him for coming to see me.

I noticed on the inside of the other New Testament was stamped the name of a Church. I wrote them a letter as I had to the Minister, expressing my appreciation for thinking of me, a sinner, also how grateful I was to feel I still had friends, particularly ones I did not know. The churches came to now me through my flight, trial and imprisonment. There were many churches banding together as "Saints of Jesus," they took petitions of prayer before the Throne of Grace for God to cast His Light upon me.

Yes, even then, contact was being made by much prayer and fasting that I, a Hell-

EDITOR'S NOTE

Leslie Douglas Ashley is scheduled to die in the Electric Chair at Huntsville, Texas on March 30th, 1963. Those wishing to see his life spared are urged to write immediately to The Board of Pardons and Paroles, Austin, Texas and also to Governor John Connally, Austin, Texas, asking them for mercy and clemency, that Ashley's death sentence be commuted to life-imprisonment.

bound sinner with a heart that was closed, would open and confess my sins as God is faithful and just to forgive me my sins and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness. They firmly believed my sin would come to a halt. The Pastor hadn't waited for me to write him as I received a letter from him explaining more to me about Jesus. Under separate cover was a greeting card from a member of his church representing the entire congregation. His last line, "All have sinned and come short of the Glory of God." Then my body shook and all of a sudden, I heard a voice saying, "God is Real, God is real." I lay down and started reading the twenty-seven books in their complete form.

One morning, a few days later, I looked out the window towards what the Bible described as Heaven, and I knew God, who fashioned the universe in a week's creative time, was looking over me. I saw the Devil to be mighty, and after that flash I saw that God is allmighty. As I sat looking upward past the clouds into space, again before my eyes, I beheld the Supreme, though hazy, also an arrow worded on one side that I, Leslie Douglas Ashley, was under his jurisdiction and his rule. On the other side of the arrow that pointed at me were, "The Messiah, Jesus Christ, had come, died and rose to save downward sinners like myself. "In some small scroll I saw he held my life and if I refused him I would perish. At the tip of the golden arrow I saw, "Believe thou this?" And I believed. Jesus Christ has not changed, He is the same today, as he was back in 33 A.D. He will be the same tomorrow. God's miracle began in me and I believed in Jesus Christ, as the second person under the Blessed Trinity, God as one.

I then saw the three crosses on Calvary unfold, Jesus and two thieves were crucified. I saw one to the left, one to the right and my Most Adorable Lord's Heart bleeding for me as he hung there in the middle. I saw the thief on the left side sneering at him, saying, "if you are the Son of God, deliver yourself from these nine-inch spikes which are driven into your feet and hands, also save me." I saw the other on his right come to repentance and ask my Jesus to remember him when he went to Heaven where his kingdom awaited. Jesus forgave him and assured him after his confession he would be in Paradise.

One thief died in sin, while the other died with sin taken from him. I saw his cross bring about a last-minute conversion. He had faith of Jesus on the center cross. I was in the same type of situation except my fate is to be in an electric chair. I asked my-

self, will I be in Grace and Glory when I die? I still did not have the answer. It was focusing-in slowly but surely. Jesus gave His life, a dying Saviour, with my sin upon him. He suffered the agonies of Hell so that I would have deliverance from eternal damnation. Then as if a gush of wind came into my cell and landed on the Bible, the pages were parting and turning themselves, as I looked and watched, I thought I was in a trance, it was real, there it was, the answer to my question, with a question and answer, "Fear not, I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning, the end. I am He that dieth and was dead: and behold, I am alive forevermore, and have the Keys of Hell and Death." This is what Revelations showed me in the 8th, 17th, and 18th verses of the 1st Chapter.

From my light fixture, God's voice assured me if I was to reject his word, I would spend eternity in the pits of Hell. To accept his word and receive atonement for sin and gain the right to live again when he comes to claim his own. As time was

running out, the tribulation was near. I answered, saying, "I want with all my heart, body and soul to be able to reign with Jesus Christ, my God, and see the second life and Kingdom. At that moment, I believe in my inner thoughts, the change in me took place and from darkness I passed into Christ's Light. Although at that time I was not genuinely saved.

I was convinced, without a doubt, that God is everywhere and he could be found anywhere He was sought, even here in death row. I saw how God was present in the over heated furnace and delivered Shadrac, Meshach and Abednego without a blemish, as the Bible pointed out. I also found John 3: 15, 16, 17 to verify my beliefs of God's power.

Now was the day I was to come in contact with a particular Christian lady. I believe her visit was on or about June 5th. Anyway it was within a week after my conviction. She has sent me the New Testament, the same kind the church missionaries distribute to the prisoners at the Houston Pri-

son Farm. Her church holds services there each Tuesday, preaching to the men the word of God. I was taken out of my cell into the outer hall where we got acquainted. Before her departure I kissed her on the cheek for being so kind as to have left the Testament and for the special trip to see me. The prayer she prayed for me did wonders as the words that flowed from her shook the Devils and Demons loose from me, the ones that still had held me in bondage. When they shut the gates between us, I turned away as tears were forming in my eyes and I began to feel lonely. As she walked down the hall she was praising the Lord and she said, "Douglas, you are not alone, Jesus is with you." Back in my cell, I wept and wept, gratifying my Lord for sending this lady and the Pastor to me.

She, my friend, began writing me letters, word for word, the Truth which lies in God, she explained to me all the Scriptures I did not understand. Her visits became regular.

(Turn page)

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Moses prayed, his prayer did save
A nation from death: and from the grave.
Exodus 32: 14

Joshua prayed, the sun stood still;
His enemies fell in vale and hill.
Joshua 10: 12-20

Hannah prayed, God gave her a son;
A nation back to the Lord she won.
I Samuel Ch. 1 & 7

Solomon prayed for wisdom, Then
God made him the wisest of mortal men.
I Kings 3: 12; 10: 24

Elijah prayed with great desire;
God gave him rain and sent the fire.
I Kings 18: 37-45

Elisha prayed with strong emotion;
He got the mantle, with a double portion.
II Kings 2: 9-14

Three Hebrews prayed, through flames they trod,
They had as a comrade, the Son of God.
Daniel 4: 21-25

Daniel prayed, The lions' claws
Were held by the angel, who locked their jaws.
Daniel 16: 10-22

Jonah prayed, God heard his wail,
And quickly delivered him from the whale.
Jonah 2: 1-10

Ten lepers prayed, to the priests were sent,
Glory to God! They were healed as they went.
Luke 17: 12-14

The thief who prays — for mercies cries;
He goes with Christ to Paradise.
Luke 3: 42-43

The Disciples prayed, the Holy Ghost came,
With cloven tongues and revival flame.
Acts 2; I; Matt. 18-19

Conviction filled the hearts of men,
Three thousand souls were born-again.
Acts 2: 41

Peter prayed, and Dorcas arose
To life again, from death's repose.
Acts 9: 39-41

The Church had prayed, then got a shock,
When Peter, free, at the door did knock.
Acts 12: 5-16

When Christians pray, as they prayed of yore,
God will save sinners as He has before.
II Chron. 7: 14; Acts 4: 4, 13

In Faith and Love, united stand,
Revival fires shall sweep the land.
Acts : 1-4

And sinners shall converted be,
And all the world God's Glory see.
Acts 5: 14; Joel 2: 18-32

— Mrs. M. E. Thorkildson

On June 16, she purchased from a religious book store, a Bible for me with my name printed in gold letters on the front. In the Bible, she wrote a dedication, "I could give you no greater gift than this Precious Book of Life, God's Holy Word, The Holy Word, The Holy Body." She specified certain Scriptures, Psalms 119:1-176, Psalms 124:1-8, Romans 8:31-39, Romans 10:9-13, 1 John 1:9 and Proverbs 28:13, she said were for me.

I found this Bible to have a total of 66 Books, divided into 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 of the New Testament. Along with my Promise Box of Daily Scriptures she had sent me, I began to learn and live by the Food of the Word.

On one of our visits my lady friend brought me a poem written for me by a lady of the church:

The Inner Voice

There is a voice within you calling

To higher and better things

In constant yearning and great heart
burning

A beautiful song it sings

'Tis the voice of God, In your spirit
life

In your most hidden springs

Who knows what you can be

And do as a man

That's the beautiful song it sings.

I was now realizing I was climbing up the tree of life and I had to cleanse myself of all sin so I would be pure when I reached the top. I had the sin of greed and selfishness in me as I had acquired several Bibles and didn't want to part with them, as I loved them dearly. Then I found this sin in the parable given by my Lord in my Bibles, "So is he that layeth up treasures for himself and is not rich toward God." The treasures applied to me and I found God condemns it. I thought having more than one Bible made me victorious in His eyes. I also believed they made me pure and upright by having them. Again the Lord spoke to me in Acts 3:6, "Then Peter said, 'Silver and Gold have I none, but such as I have, I give thee.'" I presented two of my Bibles to the other who also needed Christ as their answer. Glory to God! He conquered and gave me victory and set me free from the sin of selfishness. I began hearing from other Pastors and Evangelists. All of the letters pointed out Jesus requires a unity of heart, in all humanity and for all to believe in the Word of God that has been handed down to us in our generation in the King James Bible. I was joining the Christians who sought not to please people, but God. Now my next step was water baptism. Jesus said, in Matthew 18:19, "Again, I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in Heaven." A friend of mine joined me in prayer that I could find a way to be baptized. As God is not void of power and will make a way where there seems no way. My friend be-

lieves that in this hour there is so much to be done, souls saved, sick healed and believers filled. She told me Jesus is our peace. She expressed whether we be Jew or Gentile, Jesus Christ is for all and the Baptism is needed to cleanse me with his shed blood on Calvary some nineteen hundred years past. But first I had to find the answer to my question, should I pray for those against me? I had to seek for the answer as I wanted to be a perfectly clean vessel of God before the Baptism.

He spoke to me again and led me to Matthew 5:44, which shows the Lord plainly taught us that we are to pray for those who seem against us, and if everyone would follow this, it would lead the most hardened to be born again, a child of God. I found out of this Scripture that light is more powerful than darkness, Truth is stronger than a lie and God is greater than the Devil. Then I saw before my eyes my Lord hanging on the cross with His life's blood slowly trickling down the crude piece of timber saying, "Father forgive them; For they know not what they do." (Luke 23: 24) I found that the mob was ignorant of the fact that they were crucifying the Son of God, His only begotten. Only in their ignorance did they merit this prayer. Then I dwelt in the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelations and believed word for word. My heart got right and I started praying for everyone to open their eyes and ears to the Lord.

Before Rev. Williams left to pastor a church in Dallas, I joined and became a member of his church here. My new pastor, Rev. H. G. Weathers really joined in with the Saints of the church and led many songs for me along with much prayer which led to my coming baptism.

On July 27th, I wrote a note requesting permission for baptism and if possible, for

LETTER

TWO HUNDRED SAVED

Ghana, West Africa
Jan. 13, 1963

7th Jan., 1963

We travelled to a certain town about 70 miles from Kumasi to preach the Gospel. People in this area of the world were very eager to hear the Words of Life. The two chiefs in this area gave us all the necessary help that was needed. They asked their messengers to beat gongong. The name of the town is called Kwasi Mensa. At about 7:00 p.m. over 2000 people have assembled to hear the Gospel. As usual, the preaching was started with Spiritual Fire. During the sermon, over a hundred people testified of their healing. In this we give all the glory to our Lord Jesus.

8th Jan., 1963

During the morning one woman whose left ear was deaf was prayed for and her

(To page 11)

my mother, Sylvia Ayres, and my friends to attend. My request was granted and Lt. Harry Smith made the arrangements and I was furnished with white clothing and was taken to the Chapel. On the wall of the Chapel was the Scripture, "What doth the Lord require but to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with God." Rev. Weathers gave a powerful sermon on going forward with God. We sang a number of songs and the best was "God Can Do Anything," requested by my mother. Then I was baptized in the tank of water. The Lord's Prayer closed the service. I returned to my cell feeling full of energy for Christ the King. The fullness of Jesus was dwelling all through me. My baptism spoke to me that I was not to be bewildered or hurt, nor disappointed over my circumstances of confinement because I had lost my freedom and maybe my life in the flesh, now I was born of the Spirit. Only two months prior, my life was fated to destruction as I only watched television and went to movies, I saw not God but the workshop of the Devil in action. I saw dramas unfold, one bizarre plot after another, and one can easily fall deep in these pits of sin by not knowing our Creator. I am coming forth with my testimony to help other wayward ones that are lost. I feel it is a disaster to keep silent when it is necessary to testify of Jesus Christ the Risen and Reigning Redeemer. Here it is the middle of 1962 and I am continuing to grow spiritually with the prayers of my new friends, Gordon Lindsey, Dr. Klaude Kendrik, John Osteen, Billy Graham, William Branham, A. A. Allen, Oral Roberts, T. L. Osborn, Rt. Rev. Murphy and so many others everywhere. Along with my many periodicals I will continue to grow. I also realize that before and after me there will be multitudes of God's children going to their deaths testifying His Name. Oh! Glory be to His Name! No matter what lies ahead, the strength of Jesus will give me courage and safely lead me and guide me through the dangers and snares ahead. My route is the Kingdom of God.

"Will you please join me in the following prayer?"

"Oh Lord, my God, the fountain of all true and Holy Love, the One Who has made and preserved me that I might love Thee. My God, give to thv servant such a love that whatsoever in Thy service may happen contrary to flesh and bones that I may not feel the sting of death. Also that humility may be my sanctuary and Thy service the joy of my soul and death itself the entrance of an eternal life when I may live with Thee, my strength and my hope. Amen"

"Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil." Psalms 23:4

Respectfully submitted for the Glory of God by Sinner Saved by Grace
Leslie Douglas Ashley
P. O. Box 8084
Houston, Texas.

Former Catholic – Now Saved And Filled With Holy Spirit

By Frank Romanelli

Greetings in the lovely Name of Jesus. I write this my testimony not for recognition, but only that my gracious Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ may receive the glory

I was born July 6, 1930, in Dearborn, Michigan, of two wonderful Italian immigrant parents. We were, I believe, an average family who worked together for the common aim of self preservation. We were of Roman Catholic background and believed that this was the only true Church.

The Spirit of God started to deal with me at an early age. So I began to diligently seek Him through the only means at my disposal which was the catechism lessons furnished by the Catholic church. I was hindered many times, but while in the military service I completed all the tests and made my first confession, communion, and confirmation in the Catholic church. For many years after this time I led a devout Catholic layman's life, fulfilling all the required sacraments.

While attending Michigan State University, I had to make a decision about the theory of evolution. In order to get along with the educational system, I tried to twist God's Word to make Darwin's theory work. This practice of twisting God's Word to make it meet my needs was just an easy way out for me and my conscience. Actually, this practice of twisting God's Word has caused more problems in the world than can be imagined. I continued to attend the Catholic Church and many times my hunger for more of God led me to believe that only being a Catholic priest would fulfill my desires.

In 1958, I received my degree in Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management and after several months of hard work, I realized that something was lacking in my life. I went into the world and could not find the answer, so then I turned to the reading of the Word of God. I started in Genesis, but without the Holy Spirit as my Teacher, I knew not the power of what I read. It was just a lot of words and history as far as I was concerned. At this point I again turned into the world and began to drink quite heavily. In fact, I had to be slightly inebriated before going to bed in order to relieve my conscience of the guilt that my life was unfruitful. During this time I had a nagging fear of death and realized that God was the only One who could help me.

Frank Romanelli is Manager of the Terrace Motel Summer House Restaurant, Austin, Texas, and Secretary of the Austin Chapter of Full Gospel Business Mens Fellowship International.

It was at this point that the Lord led me to Dallas, Texas. Here, I had my first introduction to the protestant religion, by attending services in an Assembly of God church. My first reaction was one of ridicule and my thoughts were that these people were way off base. But the hunger for God and the honest desire to have other

people know of His great love was something that was truly manifested in the actions of the people of this congregation. I knew that I could not truly attend the Catholic mass and also these services without being a hypocrite. So, I decided to see if what was taking place in the Assembly of God church was true or false.

I began to study God's Word at every opportunity and one night in early December of 1960, I came to know the truth that there was nothing I could do, but rather that it had already been done by Jesus Christ for me. I laid in bed for most of the night I laughed and cried with happiness. This knowledge that I was truly saved made me hungry to know more about God and His wonderful plan for mankind. I turned to His Word and really began to study its contents. As I did, I realized that God's Word was for us today and that it was all truth.

I heard several messages in tongues and the interpretations in English during services. From this I said to myself, if this is truly from God, then I, too, must receive this Gift. One night in June, during a revival, I made my decision to have more from God. I went forward at the invitation for those wishing the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Then the evangelist came to me, he had me clap my hands and stomp my foot three times. He had sensed in his spirit that I suffered from great pride and this was a way of bringing the flesh into submission to the Spirit. Immediately after doing this, with my hands in the air and praising my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, I began to speak in another tongue. It was a little stammered at first, but after a few minutes it turned into a heavenly language. I continued to speak to my Lord for one hour. I had my hands raised all this time and felt no tiredness whatsoever.

This confirmed to me that I could trust God's Word because He is the same yesterday and today and forever. Praise the Lord, isn't it wonderful to know that He bore our sins on the cross and by His stripes we are healed? This means to me we can have access to the Father and have perfect fellowship with Him. I have learned that sense knowledge will never give you peace of mind and spirit, but revelation knowledge given to us through God's Word and illumined by the Holy Spirit, is all truth and is the only answer to eternal peace and happiness.

DEAD MAN COMES BACK TO LIFE!

(News as it might have been written if there had been newspapers 1900 years ago.)

Another breath-taking event rocked the village of Bethany and all of Judea today as Lazarus, who was reported dead and buried four days ago, was seen walking into his sister's home, alive and well.

Lazarus was accompanied by Jesus, the strange faith-healer from Nazareth, and a group of his followers.

Mary and Martha, sisters to Lazarus, were quite overcome with joy at the family's reunion. Jesus has been a frequent guest at their home when in this vicinity and he made a long journey here on foot when he heard of Lazarus' reported death.

No one could be reached today that could give a coherent account of what happened. Eye-witnesses said a huge stone was rolled away from the tomb and the man they all thought dead walked calmly out and embraced his sisters.

Religious leaders at Jerusalem are investigating the incident as it is said this young evangelist teaches men to disregard the priest's authority and follow him, claiming he is God's Son.

The Authorities are keeping the whole Lazarus family under careful surveillance to see what connection they may have with this threatened revolution.

The Bethany Banner,
Mar. 1, A. D. 30

ELIJAH and ELISHA

By
J. A. Dennis

Are you a "Do-it-yourself" Christian,
Or an Executive for God?

(Continued from last month)

DAVID

David was an Executive of God. He could "take his hands off" and let God handle every situation that was in "His Department."

Though anointed by the prophet Samuel as God's chosen king of Israel, David had to wait ten years for the fulfillment of that promise. During that time he was hunted "like a partridge" by Saul, whom God had rejected, but who was still in power. Twice, Saul's life was in David's hands. All he would have to do was to "stretch forth his hand" and Saul would be dead, and he would be king. Or he had but to "say the word" and his lieutenant was eager to smite Saul to death with his spear. (I Sam. 26:8)

But David refused to take into his own hands that which was in "God's Department." He refused to "stretch forth his hand against God's anointed." He trusted and waited, until God was ready to move.

Even after Saul's death, David did not move to take over the rule of Israel. He inquired of God and was told to go up to Hebron, where he was made king of Judah. And there he waited seven more years, until the leaders of Israel came and asked him to be their king.

"And David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake." (II Sam. 5: 12)

PAUL

Paul was an Executive for God.

Though he accomplished more for God than any man who ever lived, except Christ Himself, Paul recognized the fact that it was "not I but Christ" that did the work.

He had learned to "turn over to the Lord" the big tasks that came his way, and with "exceeding Joy" he saw the Lord Jesus work mighty miracles through him.

"Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily." (Col. 1: 29)

"For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have COMMITTED unto him against that day." (II Tim. 1: 12)

"Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the LORD gave to every man?"

"I have planted, Apollos watered; but GOD gave the increase.

"So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but GOD that giveth the increase." (I Cor. 3: 5-7)

"I can do all things THROUGH CHRIST which strengtheneth me." (Phil. 4: 13)

"For I know nothing by myself." (I Cor. 4: 4)

"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)

JESUS

Jesus is THE EXECUTIVE of all time.

He rebuked fever and it left. (Luke 4: 39)

He cursed the fig tree and it withered and died. (Matt 21: 19)

He rebuked the angry waves and they subsided. (Matt. 4: 33-35)

He ordered evil spirits to depart and they fled. (Luke 4: 33-35)

He commanded the dead to come forth alive and they came. (Luke 7: 12-15; John 11: 43-44)

And, being the true Executive that He was and is, He delegated this same authority to his followers.

"Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure disease." (Luke 9:1)

"Behold I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you." (Luke 10: 19)

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

"If you shall ask anything in my name, I will do it" (John 14: 12-14)

Many Christians quote these verses and wonder why they haven't come true in their lives. Perhaps it is because they haven't perceived just how Jesus "did" these miracles, and they are trying as "do-it-yourself" Christians to do them.

Jesus was the supreme example of the One who knew how to delegate to Another the great tasks that came to Him. And He tells us how He "did" the works He did.

"The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do." (John 5: 19) "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." (John 5: 30) "But the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works." (John 14: 10)

Jesus had committed his ministry, his safety, his life, all into the Father's hands, with a confident, "Not my will, but thine be done," and He trusted God to do a perfect job in all his affairs.

"My Father is greater than I." (John 14: 28)

"I knew that thou hearest me always." (John 11:42)

"Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matt. 26: 53)

Let us learn this lesson of Delegated Authority from the Master Executive — Jesus Christ.

HURRYING OR HURRIED?

There is a great difference between Hurrying and being Hurried.

The "do-it-yourself" person is always hurried. "Oh, I have so many things to do. I just don't know when I'll ever get caught up! I have this to do, and that to do, etc., etc."

He is "pushed" — driven — hurried — by his job, his business, his duties, by life. Always a little behind, usually arriving a little late and all out of breath, not from hurrying, but from being Hurried.

The Executive hurries, but is never hurried — pushed — driven — by the tasks he faces.

Listen to the two types as they face the same situation:

The "do-it-yourself" person says, "Hurry up! Let's get started. It is now 12:30, and I should be in San Antonio (80 miles away) for a meeting at 2:00 o'clock. And I have to get gas, and, Oh, I should have the oil changed in my car, and tires checked. Oh, dear, I'm afraid we'll never make it on time. And I've got to be back here for another meeting tonight at 8:00. Oh, my!"

While the Executive speaks thus: "Let's Go! It's 12:30, and we will be in San Antonio at 2:00. The car is all serviced and full of gas. (The Executive is ahead of things, instead of behind). After the meeting we will get a good supper somewhere on the road, and be back here in plenty of time for the 8:00 o'clock meeting tonight. Here we go!"

Jesus hurried but was never hurried.

"When he had heard therefore that he (Lazarus) was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was . . . Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day?" (John 11: 6, 9)

"And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him." (Mark 10: 32)

Jesus was never "pushed" by life or its circumstances. He was always ahead of things, "pulling" people after Him, rather than being driven by them.

He was never late or never worried, never pushed and never hurried.

"I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself." (John 10: 17, 18)

The "do-it-yourself" person is the "hurried" person. And the hurried person is the worried person.

But the Executive type person who "hurries" to get the job done and done right, has learned from Paul to **"do it heartily, as unto the Lord." (Col. 3: 23)**

"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)

ENTER INTO YOUR REST

"There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

"For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

"Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, Lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief." (Heb. 4: 9-11)

Few Christians have entered into their rest. Only the executive type Christian can enjoy the rest that comes with the cessation of his own struggling, and the peace and joy of knowing that he is safely cared for by the mighty power of God. This is a rest that the "do-it-yourself" Christian never enjoys — unless, by God's Grace he learns to cease being a "do-it-yourself" Christian, and becomes an Executive for God.

I have been a "do-it-yourself" person and a "do-it-yourself" Christian most of my life. And I am far from

being a good "executive" now.

But in the spiritual realm, God has been teaching me the last several years to delegate to Him the things that I can't do, and He can do so wonderfully, so that now I am enjoying, thanks to his Grace, the services of a General Manager Who is doing a wonderful job of running the departments of my life that I have fully turned over to Him.

I have found that He isn't interested in "helping me" as so many times we pray for Him to do. But that He works best when we have full confidence in Him and turn the job over completely into His capable hands. And sometimes He lets us "help" Him do His great work, rather than allowing us to make Him merely a "helper" in our little affairs.

SAVIOUR

First of all, I have a Saviour. He knows all about Salvation, the New Birth, what it takes to save us and what to keep us saved.

I have found that I cannot save myself, I cannot make myself good, no matter how hard I try; so I have turned that department of my Christian life over to Jesus.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." (Eph. 2: 8-9)

"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." (Col. 1: 13-14)

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4: 12)

"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 6: 11)

"Who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." (I Cor. 1:30)

GREAT PHYSICIAN

"I am the Lord that healeth thee." (Exod. 15: 26)

Presidents and Kings and millionaires have their own personal physician, available wherever they are, day or night, to guard their health.

But I have a personal Physician, and a greater One, who guards my health day and night, month after month, year after year — since I turned that job over to Him, exclusively, some 20 years ago. Oh, Hallelujah!

"And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee." (Exod. 23: 25)

"Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." (Matt. 8:17) "By whose stripes ye were healed." (I Pet. 2: 24)

For years I suffered misery in "the midst of me," with a touchy, acid stomach, sinus trouble, hay fever, weak eyes, frequent colds, and a severe bout of the flu every few years.

Then I changed doctors, took Jesus for my Physician, and have learned the joy of good health, have gone without glasses now for over 15 years — after wearing them for 20 years — my stomach feels wonderful. My sinus trouble and hay fever are gone, and I haven't had the flu for 20 years.

Oh, how thankful I am that I have Jesus in charge of my health.

PROTECTOR

Kings, Presidents, and Dictators have their own personal body guards, to protect them from harm and violence.

But I, too, have a personal body-guard, and a safer one, for I have Jesus, the mighty Son of God, at the head of a corps of protectors which surround me day and night.

"There shall no evil befall thee (me), neither shall any plague come nigh thy (my) dwelling,

"For he shall give his angels charge over thee (me), to keep thee (me) in all thy (my) ways.

"They shall bear thee (me) up in their hands, lest thou (I) dash thy (my) foot against a stone." (Ps. 91: 10-13)

"The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. O Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in him." (Ps. 34: 7-8)

To me, these protectors are as real as the cop on the corner, and much more effective by day I am kept from accident; at night I lay down behind unlocked doors, without fear of harm.

"I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety." (Ps. 4: 8)

FINANCIAL MANAGER

"My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4: 19)

For years, as my wife and I learned to "live by faith" we had a constant struggle over finances. Often times it was more like "existing" by faith. At times we wouldn't have over a dollar when we went to the grocery, and you know how little a dollar will buy when you're hungry. Every month we had a struggle as we tried to "pray in" the rent money, and every month we had another struggle over money to print the Herald.

Then a few years ago, my wife and I "elected" Jesus as Treasurer of Words of Life, The Texas Herald, and also of our own personal lives. When I turned the financial part of our affairs over to Jesus, I told Him I was looking to Him to see that our needs were taken care of, that I was not going to worry any more about it. That if the money wasn't on hand when the rent came due, it would just go unpaid. If the money wasn't there when it came time to print another Herald, it just wouldn't get printed, but I wasn't going to concern myself about it any more. I was turning it over to Him to "worry" about and take care of.

Well, Praise the Lord, from that day on our financial worries ended and our receipts began to increase. For Jesus only works when given a free hand. He doesn't care to take on a job unless fully trusted with it, and just doesn't work when we "keep our hands in the pot."

For years "I" had been raising the money (through prayer), asking Him to "help" me. But now He's in full charge of that department, and doing a wonderful job of it.

GUIDE

Mountain climbers and big game hunters take along experienced guides to lead them to the game runs and by safe trails.

I, too, have a Guide — day and night — Who knows the Way, and is eager to show me if I will Listen and Obey.

"Thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." (Isa. 30: 21)

"Howbeit, when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." (John 16: 13)

For years, in Austin, I struggled between two opinions — whether to work and have an adequate supply for our personal needs, and to help with the Herald expenses, or to devote all my time to prayer, study of the Word, and writing for the Texas Herald. At first I tried it without working, then I worked for a year. Then for five years I did nothing but study and write and fast and pray.

At times when in almost desperate need of funds, I would seek employment, but the jobs would flee from me, or else, if one was available, the Lord would not "suffer" me to take it.

Then I "gave up." I told the Lord I wasn't going to look for another job. But if He wanted me to work at something for a while, He'd have to send the job to me. I wasn't going to do any more about it, and futhermore I wasn't going to worry any more whether the rent got paid or the Herald printed.

Not long after that a man for whom I had kept books years ago, phoned and asked me to come work part time for him. I prayed about it, then went, and stayed a year, working 3 days a week. Then a better job was offered me, without my looking for it. I prayed again and took it. And while there the Lord has been very near and dear to me. I work alone, have a place to pray, and God has given me strength of body and eyes and quickened my mind so that I can turn out a big day's work for my employer, then come home, eat a good supper, and study and write all evening, or answer letters, or package up books and tracts for mailing.

PREACHER

"But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him." (I John 2: 27)

For years my agonizing cry was, "Oh Lord, make me a preacher!" I knew I wasn't one, and never would be one unless He made me one.

Many times I have gone home after a "sermon" and cried out in sickness of heart, at the flatness, the deadness, the dryness, the fruitlessness of my message — just words, word, words. At times I was tempted to say that I "would never preach again," but was afraid to say that — if He wanted me to preach.

Then, gradually, I began to see that He didn't want me to preach, but to let Him do the preaching, just like He wanted to do the guiding, the providing, and the saving, and the healing.

So I ceased making "outlines," threw away my notes, quit "preparing" a sermon. I studied my Bible, read inspiring magazines, waited before Him, but often went to the Tabernacle on Sunday night not knowing what the message was to be or even what text to read.

Back in the prayer room, while the people were singing in the auditorium, He would give me a theme and a text, or change the one I was going to use, and then He would speak a message through these lips of clay, that would send me home almost weeping with the joy of His blessed presence.

So, now, I have a Preacher to do the speaking for me, and I'm learning, slowly, to turn that over to Him, too.

LETTER

(From page 6)

ear was opened by the Word of the Lord. A woman suffering from witlow in her left thumb was healed at once. She said, "It is really a miracle. I can't feel the pain at all." Because if these miracles, more people accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. The two chiefs accepted Jesus and were prayed for. Come and see them dancing at the tune of our timbels and chimes. Our God is a good God indeed. We thank Him for fulfilling His Word: "I am the Lord that healeth thee." (Ex. 15: 26) Our

God is a mighty Man. He is very powerful. All the glory and thanks must be given to Him in the Mighty Name.

9th Jan., 1963

It was a really wonderful day. Our God is a Mighty Man. (Zeph. 3: 16-17) During the sermon God strengthened our hands and healed every one who came to the campaign. Your book, "Praise the Lord," has really helped me. All throughout our campaigns we have been basing our preaching on Praises to Father God and through that He has been manifesting His Name. During our sermon on Divine Healing, God wrought special miracles. A young man

whose knee-cap has been misplaced owing to a lorry accident, was jumping like a hart. The knee-cap came back to its dwelling place at the Word of God. A boy who had a fractured foot and could not walk for months, was healed at once and started to walk. Immediately after these miracles, the Chief's wife accepted Jesus Christ. At the end of these campaigns, the total number of people who accepted Jesus was 200. We give all the glory and thanks to Father-God through our Lord and Mediator, Jesus Christ.

Yours still His laborer,
Evangelist E. Y. M.

EDITOR

The same thing is true about writing articles for the Herald. When I began working 5½ days a week, I was really worried that I would not have the time or the energy or the ideas to keep the Texas Herald going.

So I had to turn that over to Him, too. And He sends in articles from others' pens that are better than my own, and occasionally lays on my heart something to write, that by his Grace I get on paper and in print.

No longer do I worry whether there will be anything to print in next month's Herald. I used to keep from 4 to 12 issues ready ahead, but now there is only this one ready.

For I have "resigned" as Editor, too, and am content to be His secretary, and try to write what He dictates, asking Him to excuse the errors and the time I miss his real meaning, and I hope you'll excuse it too.

MIRACLE WORKER

"These signs shall follow them that believe: In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." (Mark 16: 17-18)

Many people come to us for prayer. I used to dread to see them come, because I felt helpless to help them.

But the Lord Jesus has shown me that all He expects me to do is pray the "prayer of faith" over them — which means pray for them and EXPECT HIM to heal them — and He will take care of the healing.

"I am the Lord that healeth thee." (Exod. 15: 26)

"If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." (John 14: 14)

"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)

KEEPER OF MY SOUL

"I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have COMMITTED unto him against that day." (II Tim. 1: 12)

Satan doesn't like to see God's children enjoying their rest. So he keeps up a constant effort to disturb us, dislodge us, and destroy that rest.

Many times, especially when very tired, or discouraged because of so little done for the Master, I have felt his attacks.

Sometimes it is the feeling of separateness from God. My soul is dry, my feelings dead, my prayers futile, and my mind oppressed by idle or fearful thoughts. I could even wonder, "Is it all worth while?"

Then, by his Grace, I take shelter under his Blood, and claim the promises in his Word, refusing to go by feelings or appearances, or results, but to claim his protection over my soul's salvation, the same as I do over my body's safety and health.

At such times one of my favorite verses is 1 Cor. 15: 58:

"Therefore, my beloved brethern, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye KNOW that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

I know that He is the only One who can save a sinner from his sins, so He is the only one that can keep that sinner saved. And so I trust — not in "Eternal Security" — but in the Eternal Saviour, to keep me from the clutches of the evil one, and to "restore my soul" and the "righteousness and peace and joy of the Holy Ghost."

I not only have a Savior, a Personal Physician, a Royal Bodyguard, a Guide, a Financial Manager, an Editor, and a Preacher, to handle the different departments of my Christian life — but I have a Shepherd, keeping watch above His own.

At times for days I have literally lived on this final passage from his Word, and found it unailing, for there's Victory in Jesus.

Hallelujah!

"Now unto Him that is able to keep you (me) from falling, and present you (me) FAULTLESS before the presence of his glory with exceeding JOY, To the only wise God our (my) Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen." (Jude 24-25)

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"An author is never successful until he has learned to make his words smaller than his ideas."
— The Bible Friend.

THE RARE QUALITY OF MEEKNESS

Cora L. Vinal

"The meek will He guide in judgment, and the meek will He teach His way" (Psa. 25:9). And the meek can be described as the ones that have caught a glimpse of the greatness of God, and have become aware of their own littleness; the ones that have been delivered from their own ideas and opinions, to depend upon the One who has perfect understanding of all things. Or, in other words, they are the ones wherein self has been dethroned, and in whose hearts Christ has been enthroned. They may not be so prominent as some others. They may not talk so fluently. They may not run quite so fast. But they are known of God.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance" (Gal. 5: 22-23a). And even as the church of Christ is one body with many members, so the fruit of the Spirit is one fruit with many different flavors. And meekness can be said to have a very delightful flavor. A meek person is a very desirable person to be associated with. There is no harshness of disposition, no sarcasm, no sharp words, no boasting of abilities, no parade of accomplishments, and nothing that is unseemly or hurtful.

"The meek will He teach His way." Not because He is a respecter of persons, but because such ones are more apt to hearken. They acknowledge their need of instruction. Therefore they learn to do the will of God more quickly than those that are strong-willed and self-confident. They develop spiritual comeliness and stability under all kinds of conditions. They are not puffed-up by praise, nor cast-down by blame. They can be pushed aside, or be treated with utter disdain, or contempt, but the rare loveliness of their Christlike character remains the same.

The men of this world have an altogether different disposition. They must be quick to contend for their own rights. They must be on the alert to confound their adversaries. But not so with the followers of the once-crucified Christ. For such ones are not aspiring to become great in this world. They are striving to please God. Therefore meekness is not considered a very valuable

quality to possess in the estimation of unsaved men. It would not shine very brightly in the banquet halls of this pleasure-loving generation. It would not make much impression upon the rulers and law-makers that serve in high places today. Because meekness belongs to a far better country. It is closely related to that noble company of which this world is not worthy.

Jesus said: "Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart." Thus we find two excellent qualities dwelling together in the heart of God's dear Son. Virtues very difficult for the natural man to imitate. They can only be possessed by yoking up with our Lord Himself. For to become like Him is only made possible by first becoming one with Him. Again it is written: "A meek and quiet spirit is in the sight of God of great price." Not something slightly different from the ordinary disposition, but something of great value, something extraordinary, something beautiful to behold, something that belongs to those that have been made partakers of Christ.

"But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace" (Psa. 37:11). And that rich inheritance is not something gained by human effort or ability. Neither does it belong to this present world. It is a God-promised possession in His eternal Kingdom. It will have its fulfillment when our Lord returns to establish His kingly reign upon this renewed earth. "But with righteousness shall He judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth . . . They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." (Isa. 11:4, 9).

Again we read: "Seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger" (Zeph. 2:3b). And that great and terrible day may be very near. If meekness is to be of any saving value, then it will pay greatly to seek meekness. "For the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up: and he shall be brought low . . ." (Isa. 2:12). But meekness shall never need to be humbled, and righteousness shall never need to be judged. They shall

continue to shine when all the highly-praised lights of this world have faded away into oblivion.

But meekness is not weakness. That is unthinkable, because meekness receives its nourishment from the true and living Vine. Therefore meekness makes no attempt to retaliate, nor to rise up in self-defence, because it is too deeply-rooted in the love of God to take offence at the hateful doings of the ungodly. True meekness refrains from even making mention of such things. Thus meekness commands respect. For it is a quality that is far removed from the superficial goodness of the natural man, and is only found in those that are joined in spirit to the One who is altogether lovely.

How can meekness be obtained? The answer is simple. It is obtained by drinking deeply of the Spirit of Christ. He is the fountain-head of all the divine virtues. Therefore meekness, lowliness, gentleness, patience, and all such excellent traits of character belong to the new creation in Christ Jesus. And even in these trying days the right relationship with Christ still produces the finer spiritual graces in individual believers. And such ones can be found ministering in simplicity and sincerity, sometimes doing cheerfully and efficiently the less rewarding things that others pass by. The meek ones can also be found in the secret place of prayer, communing with the living God, where such things as pride and self-will are not allowed to enter. A meek person may not be greatly appreciated, and perhaps never once be applauded, but a meek person is not powerless, nor useless.

And then, if need be, meekness also shines brightly where violent tempers arise in scorn and derision, and where lying tongues are unleashed, and where trouble and commotion are very present realities. Then meekness remains unmoved and undisturbed, and utters never a word of complaining or reviling. Meekness belongs to the Kingdom of God. Meekness is heir to an everlasting inheritance. Meekness is well-suited to adorn the palaces of the King of glory. And meekness shall be abundantly rewarded some blessed day when the unlovely things of this world have passed away forever.

—HERALD OF HOPE