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"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
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 said, "... 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 everywhere 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 Demas 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 "wrote 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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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." (I 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 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. 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 I was crying out as all the churches banding together as "Saints 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 me, and I saw the thief on the right side 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.

I then saw my cross on Calvary unfold, and I was a 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.

I could say, not a verdict of guilty when one of the days came in the Huntsville State Prison Electric Chair to die. 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 it 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? I, 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 also said that we are to take an angel's name, born of Abraham's seed. Jesus, Who gave His life for you.

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-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.

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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 dam-
nation. 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 an-
swer to my question, with a question
for sin and gain the right to live again when
To accept his word and receive atonement
I would have deliverance from eternal dam-
ning. Then as if a
willing, I thought I was in
as I looked and watc
thought I was in
As time was
running out, the tribulation was near. I an-
swered, 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 be-
lieve 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 be-
iefs of God’s power.
Now was the day I was to come in con-
tact with a particular Christian lady. I be-
lieve her visit was on or about June 5th.
Anyway it was within a week after my con-
vinction. She has sent me the New Testame-
t and for the special trip to
ed a particular Ch r is t ian lady. I be-
He 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 Scrip-
tures I did not understand. Her visits be-
came regular. (Turn page)

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### THE POWER OF PRAYER

| Moses prayed, his prayer did save | Ten lepers prayed, to the priests were sent, |
| A nation from death and from the grave. | Glory to God! They were healed as they went. |
| Exodus 32: 14 | Luke 17: 12-14 |

| Joshua prayed, the sun stood still; | The thief who prays — for mercies cries; |
| His enemies fell in vale and hill. | His goes with Christ to Paradise. |

| Hannah prayed, God gave her a son; | The Disciples prayed, the Holy Ghost came, |
| A nation back to the Lord she won. | With cloven tongues and revival flame. |
| I Samuel Ch. 1 & 7 | Acts 2; 1; Malt. 18-19 |

| Solomon prayed for wisdom, Then | Conviction filled the hearts of men, |
| God made him the wisest of mortal men. | Three thousand souls were born-again. |
| 1 Kings 3: 12; 10: 24 | Acts 2: 41 |

| Elijah prayed with great desire; | Peter prayed, and Dorcas arose |
| God gave him rain and sent the fire. | To life again, from death’s repose. |
| 1 Kings 18: 37-45 | Acts 9: 39-41 |

| Elisha prayed with strong emotion; | The Church had prayed, then got a shock, |
| He got the mantle, with a double portion. | When Peter, free, at the door did knock. |
| II Kings 2: 9-14 | Acts 12: 5-16 |

| Three Hebrews prayed, through flames they trod, | When Christians pray, as they prayed of yore, |
| They had as a comrade, the Son of God. | God will save sinners as He has before. |
| Daniel 4: 21-25 | II Chron. 7: 14; Acts 4: 4, 13 |

| Daniel prayed, The lions’ claws | In Faith and Love, united stand, |
| Were held by the angel, who locked His'ir jaws. | Revival fires shall sweep the land. |
| Daniel 16: 10-22 | Acts : 1-4 |

| Jonah prayed, God heard his weal, | And sinners shall converted be, |
| And quickly delivered him from the whale. | And all the world God’s Glory see. |
| Jonah 2: 1-10 | Acts 5: 14; Joel 2: 18-32 |

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— Mrs. M. E. Thorkildson
On June 16, she purchased 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 3:19, 12, 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 no 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
Bible, "So is he that layeth up treasures
for himself and is not rich toward God. "The
treasures applied to me and I found God
censures 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 con
quered 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 bap
thism 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
to be done, souls saved, sick healed and be
lievers filled. She told me Jesus is our
peace. She expressed whether we be Jew or
Gentile, Jesus Christ is for all and the Bap
tism is needed to cleanse me with his shed
blood on Calvary some nineteen hundred
years past, But first I had to find the an
swer 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 pow
erful 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 go right and I started praying
for everyone to open their eyes and ears
to the Lord.

Before Rev. Williams left to pastor a
duchurch in Dallas, I joined and became
a member of his church here. My new pas
tor, 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
my mother, Sylvia Ayres, and my friends to
attend. My request was granted and 16.
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 Any
thing," 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 con
finement 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 De
vil in action. I saw dramas unfold, one bi
zare plot after another, and one can easily
fall deep in these pits of sin by not know
ing 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 prays
of my new friends, Gordon Lind
sev, Dr. Klauke Kendrik, John Osteen,
Billy Graham, William Branham, A. A. Al
Murphy and so many others everywhere.
Along with my many periodicals I will con
tinue 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 mercies of Jesus
will give me courage and safely lead me
to guide me through the dangers and
shares ahead. My route is the Kingdom of
God.

"Will you please join me in the follow
ing 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 thy servant such a love
that whatsoever in Thy service may happen
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 home. Amen"

"Then is 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 Doubs Ashley
P. O. Box 8084
Houston, Texas.

(PAGE SIX)
By Frank Romanelli

Greetings in the lovely Name of Jesus. I write this ray 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 seek Him through the only means at my disposal which was the catechism lessons furnished by the Catholic church. I was hindered by many reasons—my military service, being away from my family and friends for years, and a religiously weak Catholic Church and many times my human nature would make me question my true faith. The Bethany Banner, Mar. 1, A. D. 30.

It was at this point that the Lord led me to Dallas, Texas. Here, I took my first step to understanding God's Word. I continued to attend the Terrace Motel Summer House Restaurant and Institutional Management Business Mens Fellowship International, and made my first confession, communion, and confirmation in the Catholic Church. For many years after this time I led a devout Catholic life, working for God and fulfilling my duties, but after several months of hard work I realized that God was the only One who could help me.

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 lied in bed for most of the night I laughed and cried with happiness. The Spirit of God started to deal with me. The Lord led me to believe that only a Catholic priest would fulfill my desires.

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.

I read the Bible and after several months I realized that God was the only One who could help me. I began to study God's 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.

Former Catholic – Now Saved
And Filled With Holy Spirit

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.

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 Judaea 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 this news and ran to迎接 Jesus. He had decided to see if Lazarus' reported death. No one could be reached today that could give a coherent account of what happened. Eye-witnesses said a huge crowd had gathered around 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.

“He doeth the work which worketh; but GOD gave the increase.” (Col. 1: 29)

“I have planted, Apollos watered; but GOD gave the increase.” (1 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.” (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 true; for 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)

“In my Father’s house are many mansions; if a man be not made perfect on earth, he shall not be made perfect in that other place.” (John 11: 42)

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 furthermore 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 y e a 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.

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.
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 brethren, be ye steadfast, 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 saved 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 unfailing, 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)

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

The second printing of Elijah and Elisha booklet will soon be available.

This is a ministry of love and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. As He provides for their printing and mailing, we will send 10 of our booklets — one kind or assorted — Postpaid, to anyone who will prayerfully distribute them for God's glory and the blessing of His people.

The Texas Herald

Box 2156 Capitol Station
Austin 11, Texas, U.S.A.
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 contum, 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 first becoming one with Him. 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