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J. A. Dennis

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GOOD NEWS  
**THE TEXAS HERALD**

VOL. 36, NO. 7

AUSTIN, TEXAS

JULY 1985

## ***"TAKE ME—USE ME"***

### **ALL FOR THY GLORY**

(Lu. 19:20, Mt. 5:16, 2 Cor. 4:6; Col. 3:23)

Lord, take my gifts, and use them for Thy glory!  
I would not have them in a napkin hid.  
Teach me to trade with them, and multiply them  
By Thine own Spirit and Thy Holy Word!  
Let me not fear the face of men, or devils,  
Nor be deceived by flattery, or guile;  
Give me a heart to choose and do Thy will, Lord;  
A single eye for Thy honour, my God!  
Let me be faithful in the least thing, Jesus;  
In heartiness do all things as to Thee;  
Give me the Seed to sow—and then confirm it—  
Increase my fruits of righteousness, I pray!  
Give me Thy peace, Thy purity and power;  
Let quietness and confidence be mine;  
The fruit of Thy Spirit—and Thy dear Presence—  
That brightly before men my light may shine!  
So with the armour of righteousness gird me,  
That whether on the right hand or the left  
The foe assails—I shall be hid with Christ  
In God, my joy exceeding, staff and stay!  
So shall I go from strength to strength in Zion!  
Until at least I kneel before Thy Throne,  
In humble adoration and thanksgiving  
Presenting to Thee trophies Thou hast given!

—Hilda Rovik Lindal

**"For thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory,  
forever, Amen."**

**Matthew 6:13**



# GOOD NEWS THE TEXAS HERALD

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Mail Address Post Office Box 2156, Austin, Texas 78768 U.S.A.  
Editor ..... J. A. Dennis

"The words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life." (John 6:36).

## STOP, LAST CHANCE Stop, Stop, Stop

Dear Texas Herald Family,

This is my last chance to tell you how much we love you, and how much your love and prayers and generous gifts have meant to us and this ministry. Please continue sending us your REQUESTS for prayer.

Mrs. Dennis, at 82 years of age and Brother Dennis, at 87 no longer have the energy and strength to manage a ministry as great as this one is, and takes as much time as this one does, and we feel the only solution is to dissolve Words of Life, Inc. and to discontinue the Texas Herald with the July, 1985 issue.

Sincerely,  
Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Dennis

## SEVEN-WIRE FENCE AROUND HELL

William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, before he died, predicted that the time would come in America when these doctrines would be preached in our churches:

1. Religion without the Holy Ghost.
2. Christianity without Christ.
3. Forgiveness without Repentance.
4. Salvation without Regeneration.
5. Heaven without Hell. . .

### Heaven without Hell

It is popular today to preach about Heaven, but not much is said about Hell. Those who major on Heaven, and God is Love, are preaching only half the Gospel, the better half, yes, but still only half the Gospel, not the Full Gospel.

The Old Time soul-winning preachers like Jonathan Edwards and Billy Sunday preached about Hell. They made it very plain that Hell was at the end of every sinner's life, and every back-slider's life, unless he repented and turned to God. Then they told of God's Great Love, and the provision He had made through Jesus Christ, his Son, for them to be saved, forgiven, and instead of going to Hell, they could live forever in Heaven with Jesus and his saints.

In my opinion, the greatest soul-winning Preacher that ever walked this earth is Jesus Christ. And Jesus preached the Full Gospel. He spoke often and very plainly about Hell, and very tenderly about God's Love that longed to save men from going to Hell.

In that Golden Text of the Bible, Jesus spoke of both Hell and Heaven.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish (that's Hell) but have everlasting life. (That's Heaven) John 3: 16.

Let's see what else Jesus said about Hell.

"And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off; it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched.

"Where their worm dieth not,, and the fire is not quenched.

"And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off; it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

"Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

"And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:

"Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. (Mark 9: 43-48)

In Luke 16: 19-31 Jesus tells us the story of a rich man and a beggar. They both died. Lazarus, the beggar, was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom.

What became of the rich man?

"The rich man also died, and was buried. And in HELL he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeing Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

"And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am tormented in this flame." (Luke 16: 22-24)

Yes, there is a HELL and it is HOT, whether you like to believe it or not.

HELL was not originally planned for man. It was made for the devil and his angels.

"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting FIRE, prepared for the devil and his angels." (Matt. 25: 41)

But, because of the wickedness of man, HELL had to be enlarged to hold all those who rebelled against God.

"Therefore HELL hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it." (Isa. 5: 14)

The last book in the Bible tells us there is still a HELL.

"And death and HELL were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Rev. 20: 14-15)

### Billy Graham Preached about Hell

I believe we would all agree that Billy Graham is one of the leading soul-winning Evangelists in this generation. And when he began his ministry, he preached very plainly and boldly about Hell, and I expect he still does, for he is still winning many souls today.

Billy Graham's first big campaign, I believe, held in Los Angeles, California, some 30 years ago. This was the meeting that launched him into his world-wide ministry. Some business men in Los Angeles put up a tent and invited Billy Graham to



come for a two-week campaign, and he went. God moved so mightily in that meeting, and so many souls were saved, that the sponsors voted to continue the meeting for another week. And for many weeks it was continued, week after week.

I read that when Billy Graham ran out of sermons, he sent for his father-in-law to come and preach, also a few others. But whoever preached the Word, souls were saved each night. For, no matter who preached, Bill Graham himself gave the invitation for sinners to come and accept Jesus as their Saviour. Then he prayed and asked the Holy Spirit to settle down over the crowd, and convict the sinners, and back-sliders, of their sin and bring them to repentance, and their surrender to Jesus.

Some years back my wife and I had the privilege of hearing the testimony of one of Billy Graham's converts in that Los Angeles meeting. About 100 Baptist churches in the Austin area had cooperated in sponsoring a revival campaign in the City Auditorium. Different Baptist Evangelists did most of the preaching, but for the next to the last night, they had invited Stuart Hamblen of Los Angeles to come and preach and give his testimony of how he was saved in Billy Graham's meeting in Los Angeles.

Stuart Hamblen, before he was saved, had been a Cowboy radio singer. And I shall never forget, when he gave his invitation for sinners to come forward and accept Jesus as their Saviour, how in his cow-boy language, he urged them, "Come on, Ole boy! You're doing right! That's right! Come on, Ole boy!" And they came in droves.

#### Stuart Hamblen's Testimony

But when Billy Graham came to Los Angeles for his first great meeting, Stuart Hamblen wasn't like that. He was a wealthy, proud cow-boy singer, with race horses, hunting dogs, gambler, drinker. He had a fine home, a beautiful Christian wife, he occasionally attended a fashionable Hollywood church, but was not saved.

During the meeting, Mrs. Hamblen arranged a luncheon in their home, asked Billy Graham to come as the honor guest, and invited some of her wealthy friends to come and meet the evangelist. Stuart Hamblen said he liked to arrive late when invited to places, so he could "make an entrance" and everyone would see who came in. When he entered the dining room, everyone else was seated, and his wife had arranged that the only vacant place was beside the evangelist. Billy Graham, before he left, gave Stuart Hamblen an earnest, serious, and personal invitation to attend the meeting, and Stuart Hamblen promised to come. He said he was always proud to show off his pretty wife and her lovely clothes, so one night, both dressed in their best, they "made their entrance" at the tent meeting. They went down the center aisle to quite near the front and took seats to Billy Graham's right, as he stood in the pulpit to preach.

Along in his message, Billy Graham waxed more and more fervent, and then shouted: "If you hypocrites don't quit your sinning, Repent and get right with God, you're going to Hell!" His right arm was swinging around and his finger pointing, and came to rest—pointing right where the Hamblens were seated. Later, Billy Graham swung that right arm around again and shouted: "If you hypocrites don't straighten up, confess your sins, and ask Jesus to save you, you're going to Hell!" And that finger seemed pointed right at Stuart Hamblen. He didn't like that much, but he did agree to go one more night. He decided, that night, to sit on the other side of the tent, so as to be out from under the preacher's right arm and pointing finger. But Billy Graham again fervently shouted in his message: "If you hypocrites don't quit your sinning and get right with God, you're

going to Hell! But this time his long right arm made a circle over his head and that finger came to rest, pointing right down where the Hamblens were sitting that night.

Hamblen looked around to see who was behind him. Then he said to his wife, "Who is that preacher pointing at?" She said, "If the shoe fits, why don't you wear it?" That made him mad. He said, "I wear the pants at my house. No one is going to talk to me like that! We're getting out of here." So they "made their exit", down the center aisle. He said, "I showed them the best dressed back and pair of shoulders in Hollywood."

When they reached their home, Hamblen, still mad, said "I'm going hunting!" He got on one of his fine horses, took his dogs, and rode up to his hunting lodge in the hills. Billy Graham's meeting was scheduled to end in three days, and he planned to stay up there until it was over.

He said it rained for three days, his dogs wouldn't hunt, and he didn't get a thing. But he stuck it out until the last night of the meeting, and planned to get home after the last service was over. The rains had swelled the creek and he had to cross at the foot of the hills, his horse had to swim, he got wet, and arrived home about midnight, cold, wet, and miserable.

When he reached home, the lights were on and his wife was in the kitchen fixing him a good supper. He put on some dry clothes and came in and sat down in the kitchen. He noticed that his wife was going about her duties, humming a tune, and looked so happy that he became curious, and asked, "What are you so happy about?" "Oh!" she said, "You know, they voted tonight to extend the tent meeting another week!"

The next week, Mrs. Hamblen persuaded her husband to go one more night to the revival meeting. This time, he stayed through the sermon, and through the invitation for sinners to come forward and accept Jesus as their Saviour. He noticed that the ushers would occasionally stop beside someone, say something to them, and some times would take them by the arm and lead them down to the front.

The ushers had recognized Stuart Hamblen when he come in, and had passed the word around that he was there, and that they should unite in prayer that God would save him that night. Soon, one of the ushers came and stood beside Stuart Hamblen, who in his hard heart said, "If this guy touches me or says a word to me, I'll sock him in the jaw!" But the Holy Spirit would not permit the usher to say a word, or to touch the man beside him. So, he just stood there with closed eyes and silently prayed.

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And, slowly, the Holy Spirit melted Hamblen's hard heart, and he walked down the aisle, repenting of his sins, accepted Jesus Christ as his Saviour, and became a new creature in Christ Jesus. Because Billy Graham had preached the Full Gospel, about Hell, and about God's Love through Jesus Christ, that would save him from going there, and Stuart Hamblen never forgot it.

### God is Love

The usual argument that there is no HELL says that God is Love. That we are his children. And that God is surely as good as we earthly parents. And, "You wouldn't send your little child to HELL, would you?" They seem to think that ends the matter.

No, I would not send my child to HELL, and neither would you.

If you lived near a busy highway and a small child who liked to play out in the yard, you would no doubt warn the child against going out in the busy street, and run the risk of being hit by a speeding car.

You would possibly go further than that. If the child were too small to properly understand the danger, you would build a high fence around your yard and strictly warn the child to stay inside the fence.

Then you would feel safe in going about your duties in the house or the back yard, believing that you had done everything you could to insure your child's safety.

But suppose, in spite of all that you have done, you hear a scream that chills your blood and sends you racing towards the highway.

Yes, it is your child, lying mangled in the road, hit by a car going too fast to stop. And there on the fence are some threads from your dear child's sweater, showing where he had climbed over the fence that you had placed there for his protection.

Did you send your child to his death?

No, you did everything you thought necessary to protect him from the very thing that killed him.

God has never, and never will, "send" anyone to HELL. If they go to HELL it will be in spite of all He has done to prevent it.

## CALVARY

I came alone to my calvary and the cross  
I bore was to great for me.  
The stones were sharp and pierced my feet  
And my temples throbbed with the withering  
heat.  
Loomed sharply before me that tortuous trail  
No use to try I would only fail.  
I turned back in sorrow, clothed in defeat  
The way was too hard, I would retreat  
To highways easier with scenery more fair,  
Yet a moment I lingered, watching there,  
As I held my gaze on that rocky side,  
A Man came up to be crucified,  
He toiled all the way up that stony road  
And the Cross He bore far surpassed my load.  
His brow was pierced and crowned with thorn,  
His back was bleeding and broken and torn,  
He turned for a moment and looked on me!  
And I followed in rapture to Calvary.

(Anon)

—Redemption Tidings

For God has built a "Seven-Wire Fence Around Hell."

In cow country an ordinary fence has three strands of wire. But if a rancher wants to put up a good fence he strings up four strands of barbed wire, a four-wire fence.

God didn't stop with a three-wire fence. He loved his own so much and wanted so much to keep them out of HELL that He put up a "Seven-Wire Fence Around HELL."

If you go to HELL, you will first have to climb over that Seven-Wire Fence.

What are the Seven Wires?

### Seven-Wire Fence Around Hell

1. Your mother's prayers. Up until this present naked, beat-nick, smoking, drinking, rebellious generation, most mothers prayed for the salvation of their children, and many a wild son or rebellious daughter were brought into the Ark of Safety, born again, and saved from an eternity in HELL, because God heard a mother's prayers and saw a mother's tears.

I heard Stuart Hamblen tell how he was saved in Billy Graham's Los Angeles campaign some years ago. And how after two or three weeks he began to wonder if it was real, if he really was delivered from drink and sin. He decided to find out. He went into a saloon that he had previously frequented and walked up to the bar. The bar tender asked, "Do you want a drink?"

Stuart Hamblen replied, "That is just what I came in here to find out!"

Some of his former cronies sitting at a table waved and said, "Hi Stuart! We knew you'd come back!"

Stuart Hamblen said, as he stood there with one foot on the brass rail, the bar tender waiting to serve him, his companions waiting for him to join them, the devil waiting for him to fall once more into his lap, he seemed to hear music.

It was coming from deep inside him. The Christian songs his mother used to sing; about Jesus, about the Blood, about Heaven and about HELL.

And suddenly he KNEW! He said to the bar tender; "No, I don't want a drink!"

He turned and walked out. He said he could still hear the "tap, tap" of his cowboy boots on that tiled bar room floor as he marched to the street. "And," he said, "That is the last time I've ever gone into a bar, unless it was to tell the fellows about Jesus."

2. The Second Wire that God has built around HELL, is your conscience, to warn you when you are tempted to do wrong, to assure you when you do right.

3. The Third Wire around HELL is the Holy Spirit.

"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you: but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

"And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.

"Of sin, because they believe not on me." (John 16: 7-8)

The Holy Spirit convicts you of your sins, makes you see that you are a sinner, in order that you can cry out to Jesus, repent of your sins and ask Him to save you.

### DECISION

When Daniel was faced with a decision  
It didn't take him long to declare  
He would far rather sleep with a lion,  
Than try to live without prayer.



4. The Fourth Wire God has placed around HELL, to keep you out, is His Church.

"Upon this Rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." (Matt. 16:18)

You may scoff and laugh at the Church; you may point out its failures, its weakness, and its hypocrites. But if you go to HELL it will be because you have climbed over this wire, too, and flouted its message; for Christ gave to His Church the commission to tell you about Heaven and about HELL, and to warn you to flee the wrath to come.

"And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16: 15-16)

### Be Careful!

But, sad to say, not all churches that claim to be His church, are really the Church of Jesus Christ. In 1967, Christianity Today printed the results of a poll that Jeffrey Haddeb had taken of ministers in five leading Protestant denominations. He sent out 10,000 letters and received 7,441 replies. They were not asked to sign their name, but merely to answer 'yes' or 'no' to a few questions.

1. Did they believe in Jesus' physical resurrection from the grave? The 'No's' ranged from a low of 7% in one denomination, to a high of 51% in another, with the average of all who answered, at about one third of the ministers saying, 'no.'

2. Do you believe in the Virgin Birth of Jesus as a biological miracle? The 'no's' ranged from a low of 5% in one denomination to a high of 60% in another, with an average for all preachers that answered, of slightly under one half saying 'no.'

3. Do you believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God? The 'no's' ranged from a low of 57% to a high of 89%, for an average for all who answered, of about three fourths saying 'no.'

This means that many preachers in these five respected and respectable churches in America are not saved. For to be saved, a man must have a Saviour. And if Jesus was not born of a Virgin, and did not rise from the grave, he was not the Son of God, that his Word says He is, and He could not save anyone from their sins. If Jesus was the son of a carpenter, Joseph, or the illegitimate son of Mary, he was a liar, and blasphemer, as the Jews branded Him.

Paul makes this very clear.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord (not man) Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Romans 10:9)

"And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

"Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we

have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

"And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins." (I Cor. 15: 14, 15, 17)

I knew one man who testified that he had preached for 52 years in a respectable denominational church, before someone led him to the Lord. And another man, who testified that he had preached 8½ years in one of the leading Protestant churches, before he was saved. Be very careful where you go to church. Be very sure the preacher you are listening to, is saved, a born-again Christian, that he believes in, and has as his Saviour, the Virgin-Born, Resurrected Son of God. Otherwise he may lead you to Hell, with him, instead of Heaven.

5. The Fifth Wire that God has placed around HELL, to keep you out, is Tis Holy Word, the Bible. You may ridicule it as out of date, impractical, or whatever, but the reason sinners scoff at God's Word is that it brands them for what they ARE — SINNERS — LOST and on their way to HELL — no matter how learned or cultured or wealthy they might be — if they have not repented of their sins, accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour and been born again by His shed Blood.

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no not one."

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3: 10, 23)

### God's Great Grace

6. The Sixth Wire that God has placed around Hell, is his Great Grace, Extended Mercy, and Longsuffering Patience, that has spared many a sinner's life until he got sick of his sinning, and God can save him.

Judge Kermit Bradford, of Atlanta, Georgia, whom we know, is a splendid example of the protection of this Sixth Wire. Before he was saved, Kermit Bradford's two loves were liquor and women. His hobby was flying his small airplane. Often he could circle low over his mother's home, and she would come out in the yard and wave to him. He described his mother as a Saint. He said he had never met anyone in the world that had the kind of religion his mother had. One day, soon after flying over his mother's home, and seeing her wave, an oil line broke on the plane, and he was headed for a crash landing. God was merciful, and the plane crashed into some trees, and he didn't get a scratch. Later that day he told his mother about the crash, expecting her to faint. She said very calmly, "Son, I knew all about that last night." Jesus had awakened her in the night and told her of his impending crash and death. She prayed several hours until God gave her the assurance that He would give her boy another chance.

Then came the day when his mother's God call her home. At the funeral Kermit realized that he would never see her

### TRUST

Build a little fence of trust  
Around today;  
Fill the space with loving work,  
And therein stay;  
Look not through the sheltering bars  
Upon tomorrow,  
God will help thee bear what comes,  
Of Joy or sorrow.

—M. F. Butts

### PRAISE BRINGS BLESSING

The shortest, surest way to all happiness is this: Make it a rule to thank and praise God for everything that happens to you. For it is certain that whatever seeming calamity comes to you, if you thank and praise God for it, you turn it into a blessing. Could you, therefore, work miracles, you could not do more for yourself than by this thankful spirit: for it needs not a word spoken and turns all that it touches into happiness.

—(Anon.)



again. Her home was Heaven, and his destination was Hell. He turned to leave the room where her body lay, and the God his mother talked with, spoke to him, loud and stern and clear: "Young man, if you take one step towards that door before you surrender your heart and will to me, this is the last chance you will ever have!"

Kermit knew He meant it, and right there he surrendered his will to God. He knelt beside his mother's casket and promised her that he would seek her Jesus.

#### His Plea for Mercy

Three months later, in prayer, Kermit was confronted with the person of Jesus Christ. He made his plea for Mercy, as the guilty do in court, with unconditional surrender to God, and prayed, "God be merciful to me, a sinner, for Jesus' sake. Take

### MOUNTAINS SEVEN — STEPS TO HEAVEN

In silhouette against the sky  
There towers old Mount Sinai,  
Where God inscribed his law on stone,  
That none have kept, save Christ alone.

Transgressors, here their guilt deplore,  
And mourn, 'till through God's open door,  
They view the blest Mount Calvary,  
Of Christ's atonement, full and free.

It's rays of far transcending light,  
Bathe Mount Moriah's lofty height;  
While Christians journey to and fro,  
Those altar fires to keep aglow  
With sacrificial offering  
The Christ's redeemed are called to bring.

The Mountin of Beautitudes  
Leads high above mere platitudes,  
In ways that make the life replete,  
With blessings found at Jesus' feet.

Then caught up in adoration  
On Mount of the Transfiguration;  
With Peter, James and John of old,  
The consecrated may behold  
Moses, the type of law divine —  
Elijah, of the prophet's line,  
And Christ, whose all transforming Grace  
Illuminates the holy place.

Then as others disappear  
Lo! Jesus only shines forth clear,  
And his loved image fixed within  
Helps souls to daily cast out sin.

As are the mountains round about  
Jerusalem, God reaches out  
His everlasting arms of love —  
The soul's safeguard for courts above.

O'er all the battlements of time,  
Mount Pisgah's summit stands sublime;  
There, wayworn pilgrims heaven bound,  
View that celestial glory crowned  
Mount Zion, City of our God,  
The goal to which our fathers trod.

Mount of Mounts, last of seven  
Steps that culminate in Heaven.  
By faith triumphant may I soar  
Swift-winger to that Elysian Shore  
Where joys forever more about  
On God's Eternal Camping Ground.

—Jennie Bayer Dennis

my life and use it as you will." Immediately a peace and quiet swept over him. The fear of Hell was gone. Soon after that, he realized that the desire for other women, alcohol and cigarettes was gone.

Two years later Kermit Bradford called on Jesus Christ to baptize him with the Holy Ghost. This brought to his heart a deeper love for Jesus, joyful fellowship with other Christians, and power in his life and witness. People come to his office in Atlanta to be prayed for. He has flown over two million miles across America and the world, given his testimony for Christ from the Queen's Court in London, England to the lepers in Guyana. His life is a miracle, his testimony is miraculous. He is a prime example of God's Grace — that Sixth Wire, that kept him out of Hell, until he was ready to Surrender, accept Jesus Christ as Saviour, and start towards Heaven.

7. The Top Wire that God has placed around HELL, to stop you from going there, is His Precious Son, Jesus Christ, strung up on the Cross of Calvary.

If you insist on going to HELL you will first have to trample that Loving Saviour under your rebellious boots and ignore His plea:

"Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11: 28)

"He that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out."

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have ever lasting life." (John 3: 16)

"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).

Yes, God is Love. He loved you so much that, though you were a sinner, rebellious, doubting, scoffing, He gave His only Begotten Son, that you might escape HELL and go to Heaven to live with Him forever. He gave you the Church, to bring you the Truth found in His Holy Word. The Bible, the way to escape HELL and make Heaven. He gave you the Holy Spirit to tell you that you needed a Saviour, a conscience that told you the same, a Mother that prayed that you might some day be saved.

And his Grace to surround and protect you until you would come to Him.

And Jesus Himself, because He loved you, stretched himself on the cruel tree, across your path, as the topmost Wire on God's Seven-Wire Fence to keep you out of HELL.

J. A. Dennis

### THE CHRISTIAN'S FIVE WEAPONS

Five weapons has God given His sons,  
Far more effective than swords or guns.  
There is great power in Jesus' name;  
Christ yesterday, today, forever the same.  
The blood of Jesus protects our soul,  
And through this blood we are made whole.  
At the Word of God the enemy will flee,  
Just as surely for you as he will for me.  
If you'll lift your hands in praise,  
You feel all the pressures of Satan raise.  
And if you will yield and pray in tongues,  
Every demon foe not only leaves but runs.

—Eleanor Grace Armstrong



# “House of Prayer”

By Mrs. J. A. Dennis

Mr. Dennis and I opened the House of Prayer at 1108 E. First St., in Austin, Texas, April 16, 1951. I saw a great need and an opportunity to have a children's group. Each day I saw little Latin-American and poor white children going by from school and saw their happy faces as they flattened their noses against the glass window as they curiously peered in, trying to see what was going on in the building. When we were ready for services, I printed posters for the windows, which read: "Each Thursday, 3:00 to 4:30. Classes for boys and girls. Bible lessons, singing, hand work."

The first Thursday no one came. As I thought and prayed about it, this Scripture came to me, "Go ye into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid him to the marriage." (Matt. 22:9) So, the next Thursday, about time that school was out I heard the laughter of the children coming down the street, I went to the door and invited them to come in. A few came, others said they would come next week. Some had to call Mama to see if they could stay. It wasn't long 'till I had a nice class of seventeen. We sang songs, had a Bible lesson on the Flannel Board, memorized Scriptures, did some hand work, and had an ice-cream cone, or cookies and fruit punch. And always we closed with a circle of prayer. Some had never prayed before, but their precious little souls soon caught fire and they would venture to repeat a prayer after me. Soon there was always a Thanksgiving Prayer time for homes, mothers, fathers, and later they prayed for the sick ones in their families.

Little Judy was only four, but she wanted to come with her bigger brother, and soon learned to be a good girl. She was a little darling, and the little child-like prayers she prayed were no precious and made me understand what Jesus meant when He said in Mark 10:15, "Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." When Judy's grandmother became sick, I went and prayed for her. A few days later I asked Judy's brother how his grandmother was. He smiled and said, "Oh, she's alright. Jesus healed her."

Frances was a very shy darling. She never missed unless she was sick, and she

hurried to tell "Miss-us Dennis" about it whenever anything happened to her. One day she came with both eyes blackened and her head skinned from falling down stairs. I said, "Oh, Honey!" and pulled her head over my breast and said, "We'll say a prayer for you." When I finished, she shyly skipped away without a word, but I knew that she just knew it would be alright. And sure enough, the neighbors said they had never seen black eyes get well so quick. One day I discovered that Frances had a wart on her finger and all up her arm. I put my arm around her and kept her until all the other children had gone, then we went back in our living quarters and I asked her if she didn't want me to pray for her. After the prayer, we just smiled at each other with a mutual understanding that nothing more needed to be said, and she skipped along home. About a month later at Prayer time, I asked if any of the children had anything that they did not like, and I would pray for Jesus to take it away. One said he had a bad temper, another a sassy habit, and so on. Frances didn't say a word, so I asked her if she didn't want to get rid of those warts. She smiled and said, "They're all gone."

Mrs. Anne Wong helped me a great deal with the children, and they all loved her. They called her "Miss Anne." At refreshment time we taught the children little thank-you prayers, as they had never had thanks given at meals. We taught them the Beatitudes, Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Twenty-Third Psalm, and other Bible stories that children love. The timid ones soon lost themselves in the fun and enthusiasm, and joined in reciting memory verses and singing with the rest.

## FACT, FAITH & FEELING

Fact, Faith, and Feeling were walking  
on a wall,

Feeling got too near the edge  
and took an awful fall,

Faith was so close to Feeling  
that he fell too

But Fact remained and  
pulled Faith up and that  
Brought Feeling too.

—Herald of Hope

One day I told the group a story about the children in India being hungry. At our next meeting I saw a little girl putting some pennies on the wooden cross we used for the pulpit. When I asked what they were for, she said, "For the babies in India." So we started a fund and frequently sent a small amount to some organization for that purpose.

One Christmas day as we sat down to eat our dinner and I asked God's blessing on it, I found myself praying that we might share some of our abundance of food with someone who was hungry. Soon the phone rang and a lady asked us to pray for her daughter who was real nervous. I asked her if there was anything else we could do for them, and she reluctantly said we might bring some food for the two children. I phoned a friend who also brought some food and drove me to their tourist court. As I went out the door I grabbed up a toy that had been left for us to give to some one. We found that the father and mother and brother of the nervous girl had driven to Austin to see the daughter and have her with them at Christmas, as she was a patient in the State Hospital, a girl of 30 with the mind of a child. She kept wringing her hands and saying, "I'm so nervous." We wound up the toy, which was a soldier in a jeep. It ran across the floor, halted, "rared up," and came down with a thud, and the soldier's helmet flopped down over his eyes. I have never seen anyone change so quickly as that girl. She became quiet and then she laughed and laughed, just like a little girl.

We had a Prayer Group for women that met each Friday. One morning a lady, who had come for her second time, told us that as the devotional was being given the week before, Jesus suddenly healed her of tension and several ailments and she was relaxed and happy and thankful.

We spent five blessed and happy years in the House of Prayer, then closed it up in September, 1956, to go and minister with Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Jucas at the Austin Gospel Tabernacle for another five years. We will never forget the precious little children and the ladies that met around the rough Cross pulpit in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth, at the House of Prayer.



# HOW GOD BAPTIZED ME IN THE HOLY GHOST AND FIRE

By John H. Osteen

This is the story of a man's search after God's best. It is the story of a man in the deep, dark hole of tradition — chained and shackled by the teachings of man. I was taught this way as a lie. I ridiculed it. I just didn't think it was so. I believed, as I was taught, that the day of miracles was past; tongues and prophecy had ceased and passed away; praying for the sick was useless because the day for that was gone forever and casting out demons was a sign of ignorance! In spite of what the Bible clearly said, I was convinced a person received all he ever would from God when he was saved and washed in the blood of Christ.

I was really saved in 1939. I came down the aisle of a church, repented of my sins and gave my heart to Jesus. I felt the call to preach the gospel so I began immediately to prepare myself. I attended and graduated from John Brown University and Northern Baptist Seminary in Chicago, Ill. After graduation, I pastored Southern Baptist churches for nearly fifteen years. I cried and prayed over my sermons. I conducted revival meetings and many people saved. My desire was to be completely sincere and dedicated to God. Just because a preacher or church-member doesn't understand the Baptism of the Holy Ghost does not mean he does not love Jesus and serve Him in sincerity. Thousands of preachers and their members greatly oppose what is in this book, but they are saved and love the Lord. They are acting in all the light they have. They are a product of this generation and its teachings. It was said of Cornelius and his household, "As they heard the word the Holy Ghost fell on them . . ." May have not "heard the word" concerning these things. Let's give them the Word of God and they will believe!

As years went by, I became increasingly aware that I needed something else from God. I felt that maybe next year I'd find it. I kept trying to press in to find more reality. I sought after God. I sought after power, but I did not know how to believe. I saw my church members stream down the aisles crying in their hunger for more of the power of the Lord. They would say, "Oh pastor, I

want more power to live for Jesus. Can you tell me how to find more?" I would just say, "I'll pray for you." They didn't know that in the secret place of my heart, I too was saying the same thing. My heart grew heavier and heavier as the years went by. I remember sitting in my study in Baytown, Texas. I read the books of Acts and saw the miraculous and the supernatural. My heart said, "Oh, God, I wish it could happen today." But every bit of my training rose up to say it's not for today. I heard the voice of every professor in college say, "It's not for today." Every book in my library said it can't happen today. I closed the Bible and wearily went about the task of trying to pastor a church. That is the condition of thousands of people today. It ought to make us weep.

## I TRY BUSINESS

Finally, in desperation, I quit the ministry and went into business. I said, "I'll not be a hypocrite. I cannot seem to find the place to climb the hill of God — to get the curtains pulled back. I can't understand. So I'll just quit preaching."

Into business I went. I plunged myself in deep to make money. I never intended to be pastor of another church.

Out there in the business world, unknown to many people as a Christian or a minister of God, I met all types of Christians across the land. I was astounded—amazed! I found that many professed Christians used profanity, drank liquor, told dirty stories and had no victory in their souls — no evidence of any spirituality! I was startled down in my soul at how little good was being done in this world. I said, "Do these people think they are going to heaven? Do they think they are right with God?"

## Jesus Only!

**JESUS ONLY be my sight!**  
**JESUS ONLY be my light!**  
**JESUS ONLY be my theme!**  
**JESUS ONLY reign supreme!**

—Edward M. Brandt

I'll tell you, it startled my soul. It stirred me and I knew that I had to do something about this situation. God pointed His finger at me and said, "Well, what have you done? You haven't paid the price to seek my face and to turn from your own wicked ways and to find the answer. This is the product of the 'easy-believism' that you have been preaching."

As a result, I accepted the pastorate of a Baptist church of 1,000 members. Then I set my face to seek God. I said, "If there is a God in heaven, if the Bible is His word, if there is somebody called Jesus Christ who has saved my soul, I'm going to find more power and I'm going to find that power for the sake of our generation."

Well, I sought and prayed and cried and pleaded for the power of God. But I can see now that while I sought the power of God, I didn't want what the power of God would do.

What was it that led me?? Well, I had some things happen to me. Our little daughter, Lisa Kelly, was born into our home about two and one-half years ago. I had never wanted the power of God for healing or anything like that. I just wanted the power of God so I would be a great minister like Billy Graham or Billy Sunday, or somebody else. You know, people have all kinds of strange ideas about why they want the power. They want great multitudes to come and listen to them. But God has other reasons.

This is how God began to show me. When our little girl was born we saw immediately she was not a normal child. We thought her neck was broken. She couldn't hold her head up. She couldn't hold her arms up. She couldn't hold her legs up. She was just a little blob of quivering flesh.

So we said, "X-ray her to see if she will be alright. See if there are any broken bones." They couldn't find any broken bones. Three weeks later we took her to a pediatrician in Pasadena, Texas.

She laid her on the examination table and looked at her for a while and then turned to my wife and said, "Mrs. Osteen, I'll tell you now that you might know beyond the shadow of doubt, your child is



not normal. She is probably a spastic or something of that nature. I know enough about children to know that this child is not normal."

I'll tell you, I began to search out the will of God, relative to Divine healing. When it is your own child you begin to change your mind. I had been taught to stay away from divine healing and divine healing services. Why, I wouldn't any more have gone to a healing crusade than I would have picked up a rattlesnake. I thought it would ruin my prestige. That's just how much darkness was around my mind at that time.

But, you know, when your own child lies hopelessly abnormal, you can change your mind about a lot of things. When I looked down at our little baby, our own flesh and blood, I said, "I don't care what the college and seminary taught me, or what my professors said, I don't care what dark tradition says, I'm going to take the Word of God and I'm going to find out whether God put this on my baby or not, and whether there is any hope for my baby to live a normal life."

I was amazed when I took the Bible. I found the first promise that God gave to a redeemed people was this: "I am the Lord that healeth thee." Isn't that wonderful?

I went on through the Bible and saw old David pick up his harp and begin to sing: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases" (Psalm 103: 2, 3). I went on and I heard the prophet cry with the voice of an archangel, "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings" (Malachi 4: 2).

I came to the Gospels and I said, "Lord Jesus, I've preached about you. Let me take your hand and go through the pages again to see if I have anything to learn after 19 years."

As I took His hand and walked with Him through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, I saw Him open the eyes of the blind, make the lame to walk, the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak. I saw the mighty miraculous life of Jesus Christ. I saw that He spent at least 75 percent of His timing healing sick bodies and casting out demons. And I said, "My God in heaven, could this be the Jesus I have preached for 19 years?"

The answer came like the lightning and thunder from heaven in my soul from Hebrews 13: 8, where it says, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever."

Then I heard Him say, "Is any sick

among you? Let him call for the elder's 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 heal the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up" (James 5: 14, 15). These signs shall follow those that believe. Not those who disbelieve! And as result of these old truths newly learned by us, we took our baby to the Lord in prayer and presented her to God on the basis of His promises.

In a few weeks we took our baby back to the same doctor. She examined our baby and then said, Mrs. Osteen, I have prayed for your baby just as you have. And now that I have examined her, I want to tell you that the Almighty God has healed the baby and she is going to be normal."

She is normal. She walks and talks, sees and hears, and there is not an abnormal thing about her. Why? Because Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

I tell you, that experience blasted me up to the top of the dark hole of tradition. So I said, "Now I'll pray for the sick, but I'm going to do it in a dignified way. I'm going to get them healed so they won't have to run to those Pentecostal people all the time and get all mixed up. They will just get healing as they ought to get it." You see, you have no idea of the darkness of tradition in the hearts and lives of people.

Then, one day, I was sitting across the table from a man who knew something about the way God's power works, and he said, "Brother Osteen, a little teen-age girl got under the power of the Spirit in our church." Well, I just plugged up my ear.

I said, "I'll not listen to any of that fanaticism." (Just think about it! Preachers across the land have counseled with me from New York to California because they are hungry for God. The reason I

#### PRAYER

Prayer is so simple,  
It is like quietly opening a door  
And slipping into the very  
presence of God,  
There in the stillness  
To listen for His voice,  
Perhaps in petition,  
Or only to listen,  
It matters not;  
Just to be there,  
In His presence,  
Is prayer.

—Selected

left my church is that I have to interpret to these ministers and their people that God is trying to baptize them with the Holy Ghost and fire. They are hungry for God but don't know how to have their hunger satisfied.)

The man across the table from me continued. He said, "She began to speak in another language." Well, I plugged up the other ear, because I certainly didn't want to listen to all of that. I knew there was nothing to it. And then he said, "A missionary leaped up in the back of the church and said, "This child is speaking in the language of the tribe to which I minister in a foreign land."

#### I FIND IRREFUTABLE PROOF

When the man across the table made the last statement, a bomb exploded in my soul, and I began to believe. It was the first time I had come face to face with the irrefutable proof that supernatural things were happening among people who were baptized with the Holy Ghost. I thought, Where have these people been? Why haven't they come and laid down the irrefutable proof that this thing is real?

If God is working supernaturally in your life, talk about it. Don't get entangled in all the pull of professional religion — the religion that wants to be dignified. Dignity doesn't save the world. The world is looking for the power of the living God that will change the lives of people.

I remember hearing somebody tell about a preacher who had become so dignified, he wanted to impress his congregation. He was dealing with a lawyer and, finally, he got him to come to church.

The preacher said, "Lord, I want a dignified service. This man is so elite, as far as our society is concerned. I want to win him. Lord, when he comes help us to have a dignified service so the lawyer will be impressed!"

Well, the service came and there they were. God began to move and to bless. An old sister felt the power of God, and up she came, and round and round she went, shouting and praising God. Well, the preacher put his head down in his hands and he said, "The service is ruined. That lawyer will never come back."

The pastor arose and preached the best he could. But he knew it was a lost cause. When the service was over, he asked the lawyer, "How did you like the service?"

He said, "Well, Brother, I'll tell you, in my own church I have heard better preachin. But if I had something in my soul that would make me as happy as that old lady is and if I could feel that good in church, I'd be the happiest lawyer this



side of heaven."

(You see, the preacher didn't know that no matter how professional or orderly we get, there's a craving in the soul of mankind for God. And, my friend, you don't have to drag through life as if a dead Jesus were your Saviour. You can have the power of the risen Christ in your life if you will pay the price. And you who have the power of God are responsible to God and the people. So start manifesting that power. Let the gifts of God operate in your life so people will know there is something more than just ordinary in your life.

I decided to set my face toward God to find His power! I said to myself, and to God, "The hour is too late. Hell is too horrible, sin is too black, Heaven is too real, eternity too long, and time is too short for me to fail you." I closed my library, I was determined to have only the Bible. I had listened to man, to denominations, to traditions long enough. In this dark hour I had to know what God had to say.

I was alone in my office in downtown Houston. I read and studied day and night. I read of Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Jesus, and the early church and disciples. I read carefully the commands and desires of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I began to see that we are sent to face and help a darkened, hell-bound, demon-ridden world, but we are not to do it in our own power. It was God's plan that His people

have a Supernatural ministry. It was and is His plan that the Power of God be for our day in the twentieth century. The Supernatural was God's plan to destroy the works of the devil and set men free.

I discovered that even though Jesus was the Son of God nothing was ever heard of His supernatural ministry on earth until the Holy Ghost came upon Him. The Spirit drove Him into the wilderness and when He came out, there went out a fame of Him throughout all the land. I found out the disciples were saved, and their names were written in the Lamb's book of Life, but nothing much was taking place except arguing and bickering over the first place until the blessed day, in Acts 2, when it says, "And suddenly there came a sound from Heaven!" I found out that when the Spirit of God took over their tongues, they began to speak in other languages.

I discovered in the 8th chapter of the book of Acts, that under the preaching of that great Evangelist, Philip, Samaria had turned to God and they believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and were baptized in water. But here came Peter and John, and I wanted to wave them away. What are you coming down here for? Don't you know the Spirit has regenerated them? Don't you know their names are entered in the Lamb's book of Life? The Word of God says they came to pray for them that they might receive the Holy Ghost. I didn't say it — God said it! Tradition

began to crumble!

As I studied the Bible I saw more. That devout man of God, Cornelius, as he heard the Word, had the Holy Ghost fall upon him, and he spoke in other tongues! It came like thunder to my soul, and lightning to my spirit — when Paul saw those Elders of Ephesus, he asked them, as he watched their powerless, praiseless lives, "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?" He laid his hands on them and "they spake in tongues and prophesied."

When it suddenly came to me and I knew it was true, I wept. I got in my car and drove 16 miles to my home. I shouted and cried all the way home. "My God it's true! No wonder I have been confused and defeated!"

I preached to the church on the text, "I baptize you with water, but He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and fire." My subject was in the form of a question, "When did Jesus baptize you in the Holy Ghost and Fire?" If we know when we are baptized in water, we would certainly know when and if we had been baptized in FIRE. I confessed to them that I had not had this experience, but was setting my heart and soul toward God to have it!

I went to visit one of the Pentecostal churches and sat in the back of the church. But they saw me and called on me to pray. And everybody started praying and I couldn't even think what I was thinking, much less what I was saying. They told me to lift my hands. When I got one hand lifted up a little, I felt like I was undressed and ought not even to be in public. When I really got my hands up high, I knew I ought not to be in society. I felt like a democrat at a republican convention!

But did you know the uplifted hands are the universal sign of surrender? If a man were to come up and put a gun in my back, I'd just give up and raise my hands. God has said, "I wish, therefore, that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting" (I Timothy 2: 8). Holy hands to God! If they are stained with sin, you don't want to lift them to God. But if you are right with God, if you have no anger against anybody, if you don't doubt God and your life is separated to God, you will want to lift your hands to Him.

There was another thing I couldn't abide. I couldn't stand to have women praying for me. I didn't want anything to do with women preachers or women who prayed in public. They prayed in a strange way and it made me nervous. But

(cont'd. on pg. 12)

## SIGNS OF ABUNDANCE OF RAIN

By ALMENA M. SPRINGER

Does the present seem just a dark valley,  
The future a mountain of fear?

Are shadows of doubt and suspense  
Around you — hovering near?

Life's trials — do you shrink from them?  
Does it seem you've no strength to go through?

You have to the end of yourself  
And think there's no more you can do?

Take courage, dear Christian, and listen —  
The showers of blessing He'll send —

For dryness and darkness and shadows  
Are signs of "abundance of rain."

—Herald of Holiness



# PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE

By Don Wiggins

**Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the Divine Nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust (II Peter 1: 3-4)**

**For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the Glory of God by us. (II Cor. 1: 20)**

These days when so many believers have been claiming God's promises in the Word they seem to have forgotten why the Lord has given us these promises to begin with, even though every promise in the Word is yes and amen in Christ Jesus they never were intended for us to consume them for our own lust.

We read in the above scripture that by the glory and virtue (excellence) of Jesus Christ we have been given exceeding, great, and precious promises. I like that! Because His promises are exceeding and great! But the "bottom line" is that the purpose of the promises are that we might be partakers of His divine nature. The only reason we are able to receive His promises is because of His glory and virtue (excellence).

When Jesus was resurrected from the dead in all of His glory and virtue, He gave authority to you and me to claim those promises. We also have been called to that same glory and virtue that gives us authority to claim those promises.

**But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him: and with his stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)**  
**Who his own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. (I Peter 2: 24)**

**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: 15)**

What really excites me more than anything is that I can partake of His divine nature. When I received His exceedingly great and precious promise of eternal life by confessing Jesus as Lord my spirit man took upon His divine nature. I just wasn't changed, but II Corinthians 5: 17 says I became a new creature. My spirit

in the new birth took upon the divine nature of God through Jesus Christ. When I claim the exceeding great and precious promises in Isaiah 54 4 & 5, I Peter 2: 24 and James 5:15 for healing, I became a partaker of His divine nature, because His divine nature is never sick. His nature will not allow sickness.

When I claim the exceedingly great and precious promise in Philippians 4: 19 "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" I become a partaker of His divine nature because his divine nature is not poor, therefore all my needs are met.

**Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. (Romans 8: 37)**

Praise God, when the enemy Satan comes against me I claim the exceeding great and precious promise of Romans 8: 37 that I am more than a conqueror and as I do I become a partaker of His divine nature because His divine nature is victorious.

But the most exciting part is that His divine nature in His promises are changing me from glory to glory. Oh, the very thought of being conformed to His image is exciting. To know that He is working in me both to will and do His good pleasure, is knowing that I am partaking of His

## TRUST AND OBEY

J. A. Dennis was a man who trusted and obeyed.  
Because he believed in a better day  
About a city of hope beyond the sky.  
Because he knew my word would never lie.  
Many desire but few obtain.  
But here was a man who was ordained.  
To trust in my precious name  
therefore many will never be the same.  
Trust and obey there is no other way.  
That is all our brother could say  
He believed what he said and did what he said.  
Big among men he did not appear  
But to me he was very dear.  
He believed the Word as it was heard.  
Therefore he has flown as a bird.  
Loved by many, known by few.  
But to me he was as the morning dew.  
—Don Wiggins

divine nature. In His Word He promises never to leave us nor forsake us but He takes up residence in our spirit and imparts His divine nature to us so that we then take on His characteristics. His divine nature has given me a nature that is His. My old nature of sin was crucified with Christ, and because he lives I now live a new life because of His divine nature. As it says in II Peter 1: 4 because of His divine nature and His exceeding great and precious promises we have escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. Because we have His divine nature we are no longer slaves to sin and the lust of this world.

Can you just imagine someone who has been taken prisoner, but has no legal way to escape from his captors. He knows he is guilty and he is sentenced to a life of slavery with no chance of parole. There is absolutely no hope of escape. Finally a friend volunteers to pay the penalty for him but also gives him his identity and imparts to him his character to the point where no one would ever recognize the person again. He is given a complete new life and the slate is completely wiped clean. But above all he no longer desires slavery but loves his friend's identity.

That is exactly what Jesus provided for us. He enabled us to escape. We were slaves of the corruption that is in the world with all of its sin and bondage to the god of this world, Satan. But Satan no longer has any claim on us because our old man who served sin is dead, and was crucified with Christ and has been given His divine nature.

Oh, friends, lets claim His promises for only one objective and that is to be partakers of His divine nature.

Just to know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death.

Many Christians use the excuse that they aren't able to change, or can't quit habits in their life. What they are actually saying is they can't help being what they are, because it is "not their nature" to change. Apparently they don't have the revelation that says that they have become partakers of His divine nature.

Not only have we been given His divine nature in the new birth, but have the authority over the power of sin.

**And that you put on the new man which after God is created in right-**

(cont'd. on pg. 12)



## PARTAKERS OF HIS DEVINE NATURE

eousness and true holiness. (Eph. 4: 24)

**And have put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him. (Col. 3: 10)**

I used to really be frustrated in my Christian walk by habits of my old nature. I would hear one teacher say that we are the righteousness of God in Christ and another say we need to live righteous and holy lives. I was totally confused. It was a struggle trying to live a holy and righteous life. The more I tried the more I got frustrated. Both teachers were right.

We are recreated in Christ Jesus and have become partakers of his divine nature and we definitely do need to live holy and righteous lives. But the only way we can overcome habits of our old nature is to get a revelation of the divine nature in our spirits that is in the image of him who has created us.

To put it plainly, we need to "act out" and live what we are in our spirits. We need to live the divine nature from the spirit to overcome the works of the flesh. In my spirit is He who is greater than he who is in the world. Inside me is his divine nature. My old sinful nature is dead! When it became a revelation of who I was in Christ Jesus I began to "walk in it." I began to walk in true holiness and righteousness. I put on the new man who is created in true holiness.

Thank God we can by his exceeding great and precious promises overcome sin and all the works of Satan because we are partakers of His divine nature.

In conclusion, we put on the new man from our hearts and walk in the newness of life by His divine nature.

**Don Wiggins  
Pastor Hallelujah Faith Center  
Kerrville, Texas**

## HOW GOD BAPTIZED ME IN THE HOLY GHOST AND FIRE

by John Osteen

when I went down to the altar to seek God, do you know who prayed for me? Women. They gathered around and prayed all together. I tell you, it made me nervous.

I went to Galveston to talk to a famous evangelist about how to get the baptism. His wife was sitting there. I'd ask him a question and she'd answer. If I asked him a hundred questions, she answered eighty of them. So I had another setback. But I became so desperate and hungry for God that I said, "Lord, I will be willing for anyone to pray with me. Send me help—anybody, anybody." A friend took me to visit Rev. and Sister J. R. Goodwin in Pasadena, Texas. It was in their home as they taught me to yield to the Spirit that I first spoke in another language. I expected many other things to come with this language. I was frightened and nervous. As a result of these things I did not yield to the fullness of God's power. Later I was desperate and determined to really give up to the full flow of power.

I said, "Oh, God, Thou who didst save me and call me and Thou whose call is upon my soul, Thou knowest my heart. I want to be used. I want to serve you!"

He asked, "Are you willing to lose the prestige of your denominational standing? Are you willing to be fired from your church and have your salary cut off? Are you willing to have doors shut against you and not be invited to preach in their churches?" To all these and many more questions, I answered, "Lord, I am! I am! I am!"

I ran up to the edge of time and leaped off in the arms of God. In an air-conditioned room, with my hands lifted up to

Heaven and my heart reaching up for my God, there came the hot, molten lava of His love. It poured in like a stream from Heaven and I was lifted up out of myself. I spoke in a language I could not understand, for about two hours. My body perspired as though I was in a steambath. The Baptism of Fire!

### MY PEOPLE RECEIVE POWER

I'd like to tell you about my Baptist church — how they have received this. How they have come through to the power. People who used to have to be begged to come to church, and would drag themselves into church just to be dutiful to God, have now become flaming evangelists. At this writing 190 have received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.

I wish I could tell you how the deaf have heard and how the lame have walked. Little crippled girls have been healed instantaneously. Tumors have disappeared. Maladies, lifelong, have been healed by the power of God. Preachers have come in from all across Texas to see what God is doing.

Under the power of the Spirit, one young lady spoke Spanish even though she knew none. One deacon spoke Danish, even though he knew none! Jesus is present in power. The lost are being saved! Heaven has come to earth!

The Glory of it all is too much for words! Oh that everyone would believe! God is on the move. My prayer is, "Oh, God, I want to move as You move and bring deliverance to our generation!" Oh, Brethren, let's join hands to claim the victory for multitudes of others in Jesus' name! PENTECOST IS NOT A DENOMINATION BUT AN EXPERIENCE FOR ALL!

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