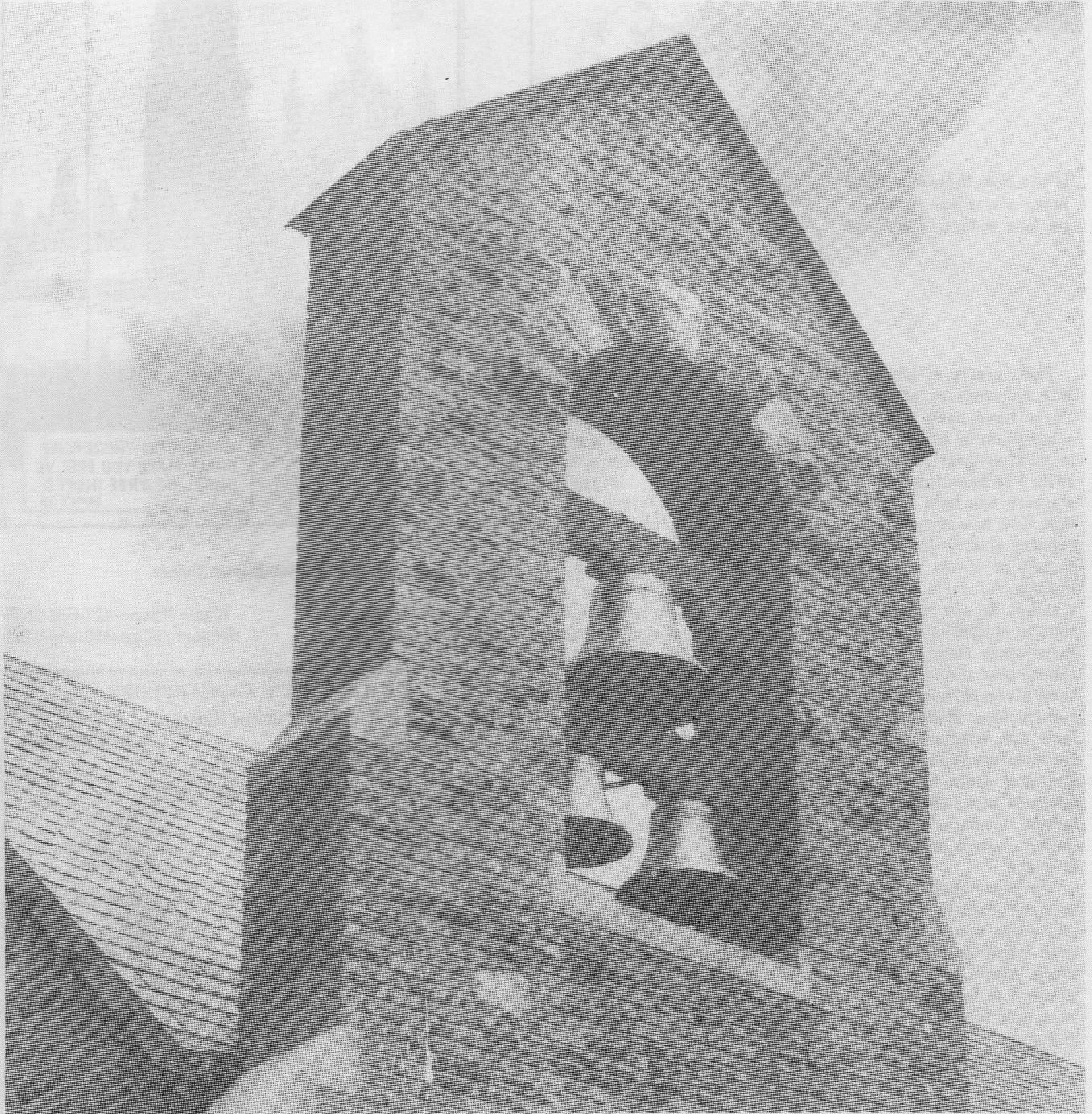


# The Apostolic Faith Report

June - July 1978

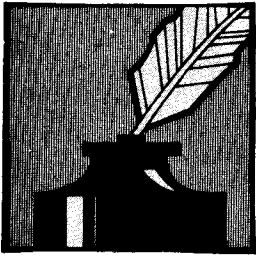
Vol. 25 - No. 6 & 7



## **THE NATION'S STRENGTH**

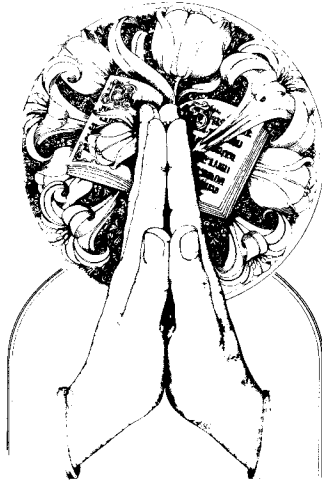
I know three things must always be  
To keep a nation strong and free.  
One is the hearthstone bright and dear,  
With busy, happy loved ones near.  
One is a ready heart and land  
To love and serve and keep the land.

One is a worn and beaten way  
To where the people go to pray.  
So long as these are kept alive,  
Nation and people will survive.  
God, keep them always everywhere,  
The hearth, the flag, the place of prayer.



# EDITORIAL VOICE

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. John 8:36



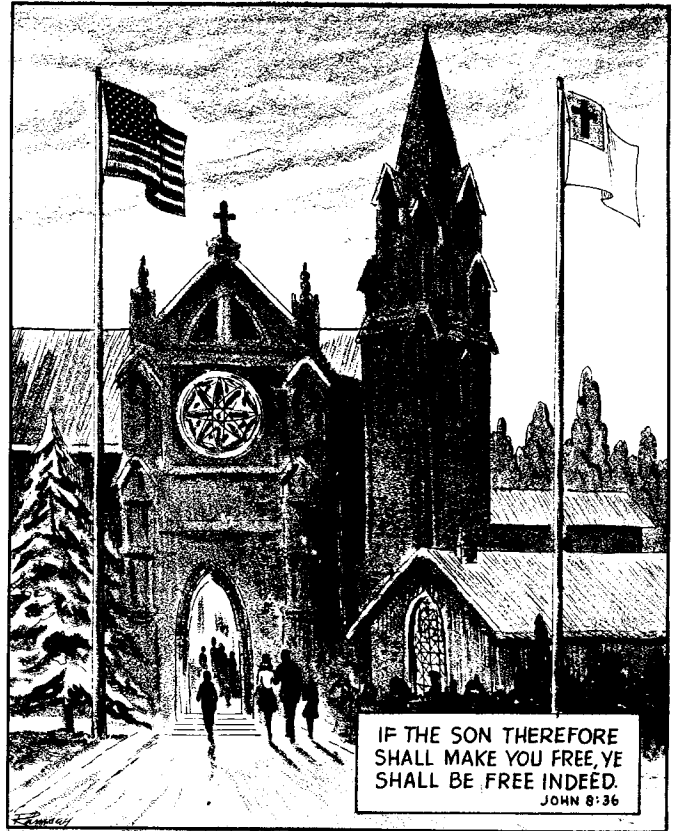
The country of Israel has just recently celebrated their 30th anniversary of being established as a country again. There have been many news articles written about their celebration of freedom. Our own nation is looking forward to another year of freedom on Independence Day, July 4, 1978. I've been thinking a lot lately about our freedom that we each one hold dear to us. How thankful we should be that God has given us the privilege and honor to live in a country that is free. I wonder if we do thank God as we should or if we take this freedom for granted or very lightly. As I think about the freedom that we enjoy I wonder, do we really know, the price that has been paid that we might have our freedom. We know and realize that many gave their lives that we might be free today, and others that didn't give their lives in death have dedicated their lives through their work and efforts that we might remain free. How we need to pray for the leaders of our land for wisdom and guidance. In thinking about our freedom we are made to think about another freedom also. Freedom from the power of sin and Satan. God's word declares to us that if the Son makes us free, we are free indeed. Webster's dictionary says that freedom means "not under control or power of another, to be released from bondage."

We know that when Jesus comes into our lives we are set free from the power of Satan. Satan rules us no more and we're not a slave to him anymore. I think back to the time when Jesus set me free and the burden of sin was lifted. May God help me to never take this "freedom" for granted or forget what He has done for me. The price has been paid for each one of us that we might not serve Satan anymore.

Let us each one cherish and hold dear our freedom. May we never forget the bondage that Jesus liberated us from and may we always live our lives pleasing to Him. Let us each one do our part in seeing that His work goes on that we might see others set free.

K.O.

## FLAGS OF FREEDOM



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God had something better for me



# When He didn't still the storm

By Mrs. H. L. Cutler

I recall vividly when I first became aware that an unseen, indwelling Presence was with me.

A sudden storm had come up during the night as I slept. "Oh, dear Heavenly Father!" I had prayed in fear.

"Please still this storm. I know You can, for You stilled the storm on the Sea of Galilee."

Something had struck the window near me, and the sudden noise of the impact shattered me. As I vainly tried to switch on the light, I heard the roar of a storm.

Heavy claps of thunder jarred the whole house. Chairs rattled. I trembled. Intermittent flashes of lightning revealed chunks of tree branches that had been flung on the front porch. Apparently one of these had struck the window. My apprehension increased as I recalled the tree I had seen split in half by lightning on our lawn only a few weeks previously.

Since my husband worked nights, our small children and I were alone. I fervently hoped they would remain asleep, for I did not want them to share my alarm. I had long pretended courage in the face of storms, hoping the children would not sense the inner turmoil I could not dispel. Up to now, I had been successful. They had gaily observed the changing cloud patterns that tumbled across troubled skies. We pretended our garden flowers nodded a joyous welcome to their good friends, Wind and Rain, whom they could see approaching.

But now as the wind increased in velocity and the house shuddered, all pretense of bravado fled. The fact that our sturdy old house had disdainfully weathered the storms of half a century comforted me not at all.

"Oh, Jesus!" I prayed now in desperation. "I pray the children will not awaken to know how scared I am right now. Please, Father," I implored again, "still this storm the way You did when the disciples were terrified on the Sea of Galilee. I couldn't reassure my children if they awoke now."

I began to repeat the words of the 23rd Psalm. It was as if some gentle, unerring power had formed the words on my lips.

"The Lord is my shepherd," I began aloud, and something happened in my pounding heart. All fear was gone. The sleeping children and their distraught mother were not alone. A comforting invisible Presence filled the room.

"I shall not want." Jesus our Shepherd was right there with us. No longer were the howling winds to be feared.

I went on: "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures." The spoken Word and the inner response were one. *To lie down in perfect tranquility while our Heavenly Father watches over us was the answer*, I thought drowsily. Lie down . . . in green pastures . . . beside . . . still . . . waters . . .

I have no memory of the remainder of the turbulent night. I went soundly to sleep while repeating that verse, even though the house rocked on its foundations and debris struck the windows repeatedly.

A ravaged countryside bore mute witness to the fury of the hours that followed. Neighbors told me it continued until almost dawn. To many it was a night of terror, but God had blessed the children and me with untroubled sleep until the storm was past and gone.

"Mom, who know what?" the youngsters announced excitedly the next morning after they had gone out to play: "I think we had a storm last night. Come and see what has happened to our trees!" They added with obvious disappointment, "And we didn't get to see one bit of it!"

My heart was light as I realized I now had a genuine faith to share with them, both then and in the future. What a joy to tell them our Heavenly Father watches over us all the time, night and day, sunshine and storm alike.

What a lesson I had learned! He had not stilled the storm; He had stilled my anxious heart in the midst of the storm. That was even better! And my heart overflowed with thanksgiving.

# DOCTRINAL TEACHINGS OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH MOVEMENT

## Trinity of the God-Head

(God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, the Holy Ghost)  
"For there are THREE that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word (Jesus) and the Holy Ghost: . . ." I John 5-7

## Repentance [Act of Man]

"Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; Repent YE, and believe the gospel." Mark 1:14-15.

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any man should perish, but that ALL SHOULD COME TO REPENTANCE." 2 Peter 3:9

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." Acts 3:19

## Conversion

(Justification) (Act of God)

". . . Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 18:3

"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man (Jesus) is preached unto you the FORGIVENESS OF SINS: And by Him all that believe are JUSTIFIED from all things, from which we could not be justified by the law of Moses." Acts 13:38,39

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new." IICor. 5:17

## Consecration (Act of Man)

"I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God, that ye PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect will of God." Rom. 12:1,2

## Sanctification (Act of God)

(a second, definite work of grace)

"Wherefore Jesus also, that He might SANCTIFY the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach." Heb. 13:12,13

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the CHURCH, and gave Himself for it; That He might SANCTIFY and CLEANSE it with washing of the water by the word, that He might present it unto Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be HOLY and without blemish. Eph. 5:25-27

"And the very God of peace SANCTIFY YOU WHOLLY; and I pray God, your WHOLE SPIRIT AND SOUL AND BODY be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." I Thess. 5:23

## Baptism of the Holy Ghost

"John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: He shall BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY GHOST and with fire." Luke 3:16

"For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." Acts 1:5

The EVIDENCE of the baptism of the Holy Ghost is the speaking with other tongues. (No fanaticism)

"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues, as the spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:4

"And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God." Acts 10:45,46

## Divine Healing

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and HEALING ALL MANNER OF SICKNESS AND ALL MANNER OF DISEASES among the people." Matt. 4:23

"Who His own self (Jesus) bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes YE ARE HEALED. I Peter 2:24

"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. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:14-16

## Ordinances

WATER BAPTISM (by immersion)

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Matt. 28:19

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Rom. 6:3,4

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it. For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Matt. 26:26-28 (Read I Cor. 11:23-30)

## FEET WASHING

"He (Jesus) riseth from supper, and laid aside His garments; and took a towel, and girded Himself, After that

He poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded . . . "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet." John 13:4-5, 14

#### No Divorce and Remarriage

"Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery; and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery." Luke 16:18

"The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord." I Cor. 7:39

#### Second Coming of Christ

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am ye may be there also." John 14:3

". . . Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing into heaven: this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, SHALL SO COME in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Acts 2:11

"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the SON OF MAN COMING IN THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN with power and great glor." Matt. 24:30

#### Thousand Year

##### Thousand Year Reign of Christ

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that beheaded for the witness of Jesus—and they lived and REIGNED WITH CHRIST A THOUSAND YEARS." Rev. 20:4

"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ and shall REIGN WITH HIM A THOUSAND YEARS." Rev. 20:6

#### Conditional Immortality

(Life through Christ)

". . . I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10

"And this is the record, that God has given to us ETERNAL LIFE, and this life IS IN HIS SON. HE THAT HATH THE SON HATH LIFE, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." I John 5:11,12

"To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and IMMORTALITY, eternal life." Rom. 2:7

(Immortality is yet future. Read I Cor. 15:51-54)

#### Destruction of the Wicked

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to DESTRUCTION, and many there be which go in thereat: . . . Matt. 7:13

". . . In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall BE PUNISHED WITH EVERLASTING DESTRUCTION from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power." II Thess. 1:7-9

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 7:23

"For behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea all that do wickedly, shall be stubble and the day that cometh shall BURN THEM UP, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall LEAVE THEM NEITHER ROOT NOR BRANCH." Mal. 4:1

#### Tithes and Offerings

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye sayd, Wherein have we robbed thee? In TITHES AND OFFERINGS. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there be not room enough to receive it." Mal. 3:8,10

"But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe the mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: THESE OUGHT YE TO HAVE DONE, and not to leave the other undone." Luke 11:42



Page Sermons by the late Gail Shultz  
Typed from original handwritten articles  
Sermon 3

#### CHRIST

Who can write about Him? Who can mention His Holy, Sacred name and not have reverences? The world? Yes—because they know Him not who was with the Father in the beginning. Forever and forever to be the Eternal brother, and elder brother among those who He redeemed with His own precious blood. By faith in the blood of Jesus we are saved. Water baptism which is to follow a conversion is an outward show of an inward work. Jesus also sanctifies and healer. Jesus, Son of God, Divine and our leader and master. Christ has given and appointed our lives to be His witnesses. Be not ashamed of Christ and He will in turn not be ashamed of us before the Father and His Holy Angels.

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## SERVANTS—OR—FRIENDS?

by the late Irene Dilworth

When Jesus was here among men he had friends, and he loved them, Mary, Martha and Lazarus, Joseph of Armithea, the rich young ruler, besides his disciples and many others. It must have been wonderful to be associated with him then, He was so pure and clean, so Holy, and we know He is trying to purify us now so we can be his companions through Eternity. That is why He is so particular about small things. In Matt. 5:48 after Jesus had given them such a wonderful discourse on how to live, the chapter is finished with these words: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect." That wasn't Paul, that was Jesus speaking and He would not command an impossible thing.

The Bible is God's own story of His dealings with men, and it tells us that God has always had friends. Gen. 5:24 tells us of Enoch who walked with God and Heb. 11:5 says he was translated, because his life pleased God. He lived 365 years and was such a friend of God he did not die. That should be a wonderful lesson to every professing Christian. When a man without the Bible could walk with God and be translated we who live on this side of Calvary should bow our heads in shame for the way some of us live and call ourselves Christian. A man must be Christlike to be a Christian, there is no other measure.

Another one of God's friends was that man Abraham, God says of him that Abraham would command his children and his household to keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment and God proved he could trust Abraham, he believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness, he was called the friend of God. James 2:23, Isa. 41:8. Before I was old enough to appreciate the friendship of God I was glad when mother told me, she gave me to God before I was born and that my name meant, "known of God and a friend of God" and I have tried to live to fulfill the name. His friendship outweighs all earthly things, but I have found a better place than just to be a friend, I belong to Him, I have been born into His family and I am now heir and joint heir with Jesus Christ. Jesus' followers were first disciples, then they became servants and in John 15:15 he says: "Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth: but I have called you friends: for all things I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." He knows each one of us for just what we are and He says we are His friends if we do what so ever He commands us.

Your servant might be your friend, but as a rule your friends are not your servants. Your friends have a more intimate position in your scheme of life and I feel it must be so in the plan of God. His servants have a place of trust. He thoroughly equips them and rewards them for all they do for Him, and He befriends them, but there is a different degree of fellowship between God and His friends. Not for one moment is God a respecter of persons. Anyone may be a friend of God, that is optional. If you decide you want to be His friend, you must be associated with Him so much there is perfect harmony between you and a fellowship that is not of this world. There is degrees of fellowship and friendship in the Spiritual realm, just as there is in earthly associations and it all depends on the nature of those who participate in that fellowship or friendship.

Abraham was a friend of God. He believed God and was willing to prove that God could trust him, when the test demanded was against all human reasoning. God gave him the son in his old age, and promised him he should be the father of many nations, and then told him to offer the boy as a sacrifice by fire. How could a dead boy ever be the father of a nation? Such an unreasonable command. But Heb. 11:19 says Abraham had faith to believe God would raise him from the dead. When God saw Abraham was really going to sacrifice Isaac, he stayed his hand so he could not harm the child. God doesn't ask anyone these days for any such test of faith, but every test of importance is something that seems just as unreasonable to us. I think God does that to emphasize the great difference between human reasoning and faith in God. The reason so very many Christians are powerless is because they always lean to their own understanding (reasoning) and God cannot manifest his power. There is such unbelief and doubt in the Supernatural, people are so afraid they will be called fanatics and they are afraid if they try to prove God's word it will not come to pass, fearful of so many things and fear and faith cannot grow in a human heart, one will drive the other out. He says, "Perfect love casteth out fear," and it does. There is no fear in love.

He is such a wonderful teacher, every day I appreciate Him more. He had been trying for days to tell me something but I was so dumb I did not grasp it so He tried another way. The devil was tormenting me and I was fighting him, and I told him he was a liar, that God said he was and I knew it was true. The Lord spoke to me and said: "It is true, so is every word I have spoken, just as true." I had proved the devil is a liar, so it seemed a light broke in and I knew what He had been trying to tell me. I started singing, "It's all true, it's all true, every word of God is true. We know it is, we have always known, why don't we let that knowledge sink in and really penetrate our minds and then act on it. Why do we believe a few things He said and reject so many more as improbable? That is why we lose so many blessings and benefits we might have, we are unbelievers. Jesus said, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible," that's true too.

You say you are a believer, turn to Joel 2:28-29, "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the hand maids in those days will I pour out my Spirit." When I ask if you believe that, you will say, "I don't believe in visions and dreams, a person can be so easily mistaken, and make themselves ridiculous and bring a reproach on the gospel." Surely they could, there is human reasoning again. If the dream came from God it is either a warning or a prophecy—God would not promise visions and dreams and prophecy unless the church needed those things for growth and perfection. A person who is an habitual dreamer wouldn't know if a dream came from God, but God certainly gives dreams and He surely gives visions and I am just as sure He gives prophecy. When Jesus said in Mark 13:23, "Behold I have foretold you all things" He didn't mean that He had told them everything they needed to know; in John 16:13 He says; "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." How true—the Holy Spirit is a great Counselor and in the

everyday course of life, He teaches us many things, and shews us so many things, and in the church He reveals himself as a prophet foretelling events. Some have brought reproach by claiming God had revealed some one's personal affairs to them, who they should marry, where they should go, what they should buy or sell, and that soon goes into fortune telling. We should be very careful in the exercise of the gift of prophecy. God tells us to try the spirits and see if they are of God. A prophecy that does not correspond with God's word is not from God and one that does not come to pass is not true. I believe if God wants you in some particular line of His work, He can tell you Himself, He doesn't need to tell someone else and have them tell you. If you do not have intelligence to understand when God speaks to you, how would you accomplish anything for Him? Everyday we see more and more of the Gospel restored that we witnessed at the beginning of the Century. We haven't seen anything new. Just a restoration of what God gave us when He poured out His Spirit at the beginning of the Pentecostal movement in America. It seems so new and wonderful to people who do not know what happened then, and it is wonderful to see how God is restoring the faith and power of the Early Church, getting us ready for His return and spreading the gospel to the nations of the world.

Yes, God is restoring all He promised, even visions and dreams. A person doesn't have to be in a trance to see a vision. They might be so filled with the spirit they were unconscious of what happened around them, but I have had visions that came to pass in every particular, one of them, I was talking to a dear old saint over the telephone and God swept away the wall and gave me a vision, it only lasted a few minutes, but was very significant. He says He will show us things to come if we are His friends and thank God I am His friend and His child as well. The disciples were only servants of the Lord, the Holy Spirit had not been given, when Jesus sent them out in Matt. 10:1-8 with the power to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead and cast our devils, but they did those things. In Luke 10 He sent out seventy more. The seventy returned rejoicing because the devils were subject unto them in Jesus name. In Luke 10:19 He said to them: "Behold I give you power to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy." Every Servant of the Lord should have that power these days it is just as available now as it was then, and the devil is using every means he has to get possession of people and many of them are God's people. Every Evangelist and Pastor should have power to bring deliverance to those in bondage. When Jesus said, "These signs shall follow them that believe, In my Name they shall cast out devils—they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover;" He meant just what He said, and thank God the hundreds of young men and women who are training in Oregon to carry the gospel to the heathen nations are going with the gospel of deliverance and once they hear it they believe it, and God is working miracles among them. An example of how they believe. I have been sending literature and blessed cloths to other lands for several years. A man in India wrote me about his son who was born a demoniac, the older he got the worse he got and medical science could do nothing—could there be any help from God? I answered his letter and sent a blessed cloth for the boy to wear in Jesus' Name and told him if he would believe the boy would be all right. Soon afterward I got an air mail saying the boy was normal like other boys and they

were happy. The heathen put us to shame, they believe God's word so readily and expect miracles. My heart goes out to them, they are being awakened everywhere and they want revivals like we have in America so their sick can be healed and the demons can be cast out and God will answer their cry and send them a Holy Ghost revival, The Lord is surely coming soon.

We must watch and be careful that we don't get so busy with the affairs of life, that we forget we are at the end of this Dispensation. God is trying to keep the fact fresh in our minds, and every few days the Press or the Radio makes an announcement of something we know fulfills prophecy, sometimes it is a momentous thing. We got a very important one the past week. We read in Rev. 13 about the closing days of this age, when an image will be made for people to worship, the image of a man and the image will talk. Our paper says an electrical man has been produced by an inventor for advertising. The man can walk and talk and do what they tell him to do and he smokes and counts to ten on his fingers. Of course he has no brain, it's all electric, but it made me shudder to even read about him. He isn't the image of Rev. 13 but he surely shows we are moving that way.

One thing that impresses me strangely is how God is calling men and women from every denomination who have consecrated their lives to God. Those who are already in training as missionaries at Bethesda are from 26 different denominations from 30 states and 5 Provinces in Canada, all under one banner of deliverance, all of them going all out for God to reach the heathen with the gospel before Jesus comes. God is moving on the hearts of men and women as He never has before and they are responding. Surely there's a reason. When Jesus said in Matt. 24:14, "And this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world, for a witness unto all nations: and then shall the end come." He intended it should be done. Never before has there been such an effort to reach the heathen and God is blessing every effort, surely we won't fail Him, He paid the price of their redemption just as He did for ours and He loves them too. America has had the Gospel so many years, they do not appreciate it as they should and God has blessed us and prospered us and now He is asking for an 'all out' effort to reach those who have never heard, and He holds us responsible to do all we can. What are you doing?

There can be no doubt about the return of the Lord, it will be soon. The kingdom of this world will soon become the kingdoms of our God and His Christ. Won't it be wonderful to Crown Him Lord of all. One day I was singing His praise and the spirit directed me to sing that old song and as I began to sing His presence filled the room as if He came to listen, He manifested His appreciation of the song, it was as evident as though the room was filled with perfume. It made such an impression on me, and gave me such a feeling of reverence, I never want people to sing it unless they **stand** in reverence. Why not give **Him** as much reverence as we do the Star Spangled Banner? He means more to the Christian world than the flag of any country. without Him there would be nothing. "Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball. To Him all majesty ascribe and Crown Him Lord of all," It makes me so happy to know it won't be long until the whole earth will be full of His praise. I crowned Him Lord of my life many years ago and it will be wonderful to see Him crowned King over all the earth. Thank God it won't be long, my heart cries, "Even so, come Lord Jesus."

## Ashland, Alabama

It was a real joy to have the Bible College group "The Overcomers," with us and we enjoyed their songs and testimonies. They were a real blessing in the homes of our church people and we will long remember each of them. We appreciate Bro. Whiteley and each member of the group for their efforts and dedication.

God has been so good to us! He has blessed our church family in so many ways. We continue to have new people from time to time come to worship regularly with us. We are so thankful for this new growth too.

We have "13" seniors graduating from high school who are a part of our Youth Group. Sunday, May 7th, will be "Salute To Seniors" day with a special morning service for them and they will be conducting the evening service. The ladies of the church honored the seniors and their parents with a banquet April 21st. Everyone enjoyed this time of fellowship and were inspired by the lives of these young men and ladies who have been outstanding in their leadership in their schools, church and community. May God Bless them.

We are in the process of putting new lighting in our church. Do remember us in prayer that God will use our lives for His glory.

Jim Arnall, pastor



## Rockdale, Texas

The Rockdale Apostolic Faith Church sends our prayers and appreciation of your accepting the position of editor of the Report. We did enjoy having your daughter, the other young people and Bro. Whiteley with us recently. They are all very talented.

Bro. Van Blythe announced several Sundays ago that God had lifted his burden for the Rockdale Church, and the people are praying that someone will feel the leading of God's will to come pastor our Church. We desire your prayers and concern.

Sister Rose Blythe enjoyed the ladies' retreat close to Amarillo and felt she received some special blessings.

Please continue to remember Sis. Bill Blythe in your prayers. She needs complete deliverance for a physical condition and is striving daily for this.

Our Church appreciates the Report, and you have our prayers.

Reverend Van Blythe, Pastor  
Mrs. Jerry Hosek, Reporter

## DEADLINE!!

Copy must be in by the 15th of the month to be in the next month's issue.



## Arnett, Oklahoma

I am glad today to report God's rich blessings upon us. He fed us with His word in revival services April 23-30 as Reverend and Mrs. John Scruggs came ministering. Thank God for His faithful servants who preach the word to awaken us to realize our needs. We can find the Lord ready to fill our hearts if we only come to Him.

Rev. and Mrs. Austin Sutton came to conduct a children's crusade in our church May 29 through June 2. We know this outreach to the children of the community will be fruitful in bringing families to know the Lord and into our church.

Thank you to all of you who prayed for me during my stay in the hospital. My speedy recovery could only be the result of answered prayer. Our prayer is for the prosperity of all God's children and the growth of His glorious church.

Ollie L. Kinser, Pastor



## Bayard, Nebraska

We are thankful that the Lord has been blessing and meeting every need. In February we enjoyed having Bro. Lyndel Arnall and family here to bring Bible lessons on Israel. These were a blessing and inspiration to all. In May our Ladies Sunshine Bible Class had a Mother-Daughter banquet. A style show was presented with different ancient Israel costumes. The men of our church have been enjoying a time of prayer, food, and fellowship at our monthly Men's Prayer Breakfast. In April the men had a work day around the church and parsonage and much was accomplished.

We had a special talent service recently. Each person brought a song, instrumental number, poem, or reading. The service was a blessing to each of us. After the service we had a finger lunch fellowship in the parsonage basement.

Alvin Buschman, Pastor



### Midway Church, Logan, Oklahoma

We are praising and thanking the Lord for His bountiful blessings to us in answered prayers. We have received much needed moisture to our community and testimonies of healings and victories for our people. The Lord anointed Bro. Taylor with spiritual messages. "Blessed be the name of the Lord, from the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised."

We enjoyed Bro. Whiteley and the "Overcomers" as they ministered unto us on their tour.

Sunday, April 30th, a special service honoring the graduating seniors was enjoyed. A Bible presented by the board members from the church was given to Cindy Sanger, David Jett and Clifford Flemings. After the worship service a bountiful dinner was served at the activity building in their honor.

The church is now preparing for summer activities, Youth Camps, Camp Meeting and V.B.S.

A boys' club for Junior ages has been organized with Bro. Jerry Howard the leader. Much interest is being shown with 15 boys attending in April. It will meet once a month. Sis. Virginia Jett will be the leader for a girls' club to be organized soon.

Rev. Bob Taylor, Pastor  
Pauline Messner, Reporter



### Pampa, Texas

We appreciated the Choir group and the songs for the night they were with us.

April was a very busy month and May did not slow down any. We had a wonderful week with the Wallis Family and the services were very rich and encouraging and it has helped our church immensely.

We only have one graduating from High School this year from our Church, Edwina Black. We honored her on May 21st at the Church.

We have one getting married this month from our Church. Jolene Black and Hal Davis will be wed on June 23rd. We have had a lovely shower for them and pray for their happiness.

We, as a Church, covet the prayers of all the Churches that we may see God work in a wonderous way in lives of our people. That new interest shall be gained and that we may do exploits for Him.

God bless all and come by and see us when you are around the Pampa area.

Keith Barker, Pastor  
Anabel Simmons, Reporter

### Pine Hill Chapel, Pine Hill, Alabama

We have just concluded our Revival this past week in which Bro. Busch was the Evangelist. Each of us felt the Lord minister and move in every one of our services. We would like to thank both Bro. and Sis. Busch for working with us in our Revival. We would also like to thank Sis. Busch for playing the piano and the special singing she brought. It's our prayers that the Lord will bless and keep Bro. and Sis. Busch through the years ahead.

Youth Rally was held in Pine Hill this month. A wiener roast was the main activity. There was plenty for all and each ate to their satisfaction.

We also want to express our gratitude to Bro. Jack, his wife and Sis. Myrtle for coming and participating in our Revival. Driving over requires an effort which we appreciate.

Your Prayers are requested,  
Donna Pearson, Reporter



Just a few lines to thank our many friends that have been such a wonderful blessing to us in caring with their love, prayers and help these many years. It has been that love and help that made it possible to carry on. I was 11 years old when I heard this precious gospel. Pearl and I both were converted the same night in 1912, in a revival conducted by Bro. Sid Waterbury. I began preaching and Pearl worked in church and Sunday School. We were married 22 months later, June 6, 1914. We've held revivals from California to Virginia, Michigan to the Gulf. We thank God for every precious year in His service. Thanks again to each one for your help and prayers through these years. Please continue to remember our needs in prayer. We would appreciate letters from each that can write to us.

As ever,  
In His Service  
Homer and Pearl Coberly  
1307 30th Street  
Lubbock, Texas 79405

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

I would like to say a special "Thank You" to Bro. and Sis. Coberly for the years that they have carried the gospel. Bro. Homer's ministry has touched our lives in many special ways and I'm thankful for their service to the Master. God bless you, Homer and Pearl, with many more years together.

Karen

*If any man among you seem to be religious,  
and bridelth not his tongue, but deceiveth  
his own heart, this man's religion is vain.*

*James 1:26*



Article taken from January-February 1967 issue

### 12 INCH ANSWER

**QUESTION:** America is known as a land of Slang. Where must I set the curb?

**ANSWER:** "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God." Psa. 50:2,3.

America is well known for its use of slang expressions, a condition which makes it doubly hard for foreigners to learn our language, or rather to carry on a conversation with us.

Slang really covers a vast territory. Originally it was the professional jargon of vagrants, thieves, etc. Not a good beginning, is it? In some instances it is popular but unauthorized language regarded as inelegant. It is used colloquially to abuse with vulgar language, etc.

There is much more that can be said about slang, but this is enough to know that in its mildest form, it is not the best to be used by Christians.

David said, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in they sight, Oh Lord, my strength and my redeemer." If the words of our mouth are going to be found acceptable in the sight of the Lord they will not be drawn from slang expressions, however mild they may seem.

These expressions are used so freely about us that many fall in the habit of using them thoughtlessly. If we listen to our speech with a critical ear, there may be more of us guilty at least to a degree, than we realize.

We have been speaking of slang in a general sense, however, there are a few expressions, used among some Christians, that in definition go beyond slang, yet are considered such by many.

I wonder, as I write these lines, if there are any of you who would think of taking God's name in vain, yet have been guilty of using such words as "golly", or "gosh". Gosh that one implies the other. Golly, a euphenism for God. A more pleasing word used in the place of one that is plainer but might be offensive.

"Gee" is a form of Jesus. Are there those among you who would shrink at the thought of using the precious name of Jesus vainly, yet in anger or frustration habitually use the word "gee".

These and perhaps many more words of near profanity actually come under the definition of "Minced Oaths". Words used to suppress or weaken the force of.

Darn, also durn or dern, is defined as mild profanity. Correlative Damn. Therefore, such words as darn, darned, and darnation are mild forms of damn, damned and damnation.

It is true that these words are spoken without the speaker realizing the true meaning of them, however, the vehemence with which they are spoken denotes a force of fury uncontrolled in the heart. "From the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

Long before I knew or thought of the actual meaning of these words, when I heard a Christian use them I felt as if they were not saved they would be a generous user of profanity. In the light of the meanings of them, I am convinced of this fact.

James said, "If any among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." (James 1:26)

While these are perhaps the most commonly used, there are many more words of near profanity. Often expletives are used with such force that they become out of order. I wonder if minced oaths or strong expletives (words inserted for emphasis) do not come under James' condemnation when he said that out of the same mouth proceedeth blessings and cursings. (James 3:8-10)

Back to the verse at the beginning of this article. To him that ordereth his conversation aright - some feel that the responsibility of our strength lies with the Lord. True, the Lord has promised strength for the day, but we must do our part. We order our conversation, we meditate on the laws of God, we keep our minds stayed on Him, the wicked forsakes his ways, the unrighteous one his thoughts. These and more place the responsibility of the "want to" upon us. God's grace is there, but we must go after it. Come boldly to the throne of Grace. The enemy came against us, but we are told to resist the Devil.

## THE SIGNS OF THE END

Jeanie Mullins

Matt. 24:3 And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

Take heed that no man deceive you;  
For many shall come in my name,  
And declare they are the Lord Jesus,  
Performing great works of acclaim.

Oh, see that you be not troubled  
When of wars and rumors you hear,  
For all of these things must come to pass  
The end is not yet, but it's near.

Nation will rise against nation.  
Kingdom against kingdom will stand.  
Pestilences, famines, and earthquakes  
Occuring in various lands.

'Tis the beginning of sorrows  
When they shall deliver you up;  
Some to be smitten and afflicted,  
Others to drink death's bitter cup.

Many shall then be offended,  
Each other they will hate and betray.  
You will be hated for my name sake,  
By all nations in the last day.

False prophets shall deceive many,  
Comes this warning from men of old.  
Because iniquity doth abound,  
The love of many shall wax cold.

He that endures unto the end  
And proves faithful all the way,  
Death will hold no terror by night,  
For he will be saved on that day.

The true Gospel of the Kingdom  
To every nation he will send,  
As a witness of light against evil.  
Lo, it is finished—now is the end.



You can tell by the sacrifices a man makes whether he really walks with God—not by what he gives, but by what he gives up. Most of us give of our surplus, what we can spare. We keep what we need—and then some. We give to God what is left, the odds and ends, after we have taken care of ourselves. No wonder we find it so hard to walk with Him, for He is a sacrificing God. His companions will have to take up the cross, if they would follow Him.

Peter Eldersveld  
in "The Family Altar"

## IT IS THE BOOK

A noted orator asked Charles Dickens to name the most pathetic story in literature. He said it was that of the Prodigal Son.

Mr. Coleridge was asked to cite the richest passage in literature. He said it was Matthew 5:1-16—the Beatitudes.

Daniel Webster was asked concerning the greatest legal digest. He replied that it was the Sermon on the Mount.

No one has equaled Moses for law, nor David for poetry, nor Isaiah for visions, nor Peter for holy zeal, nor Paul for logic, nor John's statement of sanctified love.

God's Word is the very greatest of all books. We do well to stay close to its pages. It is the Book.

—Selected

## STEPS TO REVIVAL

If My people (believers) which are called by My name shall—

1. Humble themselves (in a contrite spirit),
2. And pray (in faith and persistence),
3. And seek My face (in genuine communion),
4. And turn from their wicked ways (of any disobedience); then—
  1. Will I hear from heaven,
  2. And will forgive their sin,
  3. And will heal their land.

II Chronicles 7:14

## WANTED:

Fathers like Abraham: "He will command his children and household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord" (Genesis 18:19).

Mothers like Hannah: "As long as he (her son) liveth he shall be lent to the Lord" (I Samuel 1:28).

Boys like Jesus. He returned with Mary and Joseph to Nazareth "and was subject to them" (Luke 2:51).

Girls like the one who told her mistress that God could heal Naaman's leprosy (2 Kings 5:1-3).

Brothers like Nehemiah and Hanani who served God together (Nehemiah 7:2).

Sisters like Mary and Martha who opened their home and their hearts to receive Jesus (Luke 10:38,39).

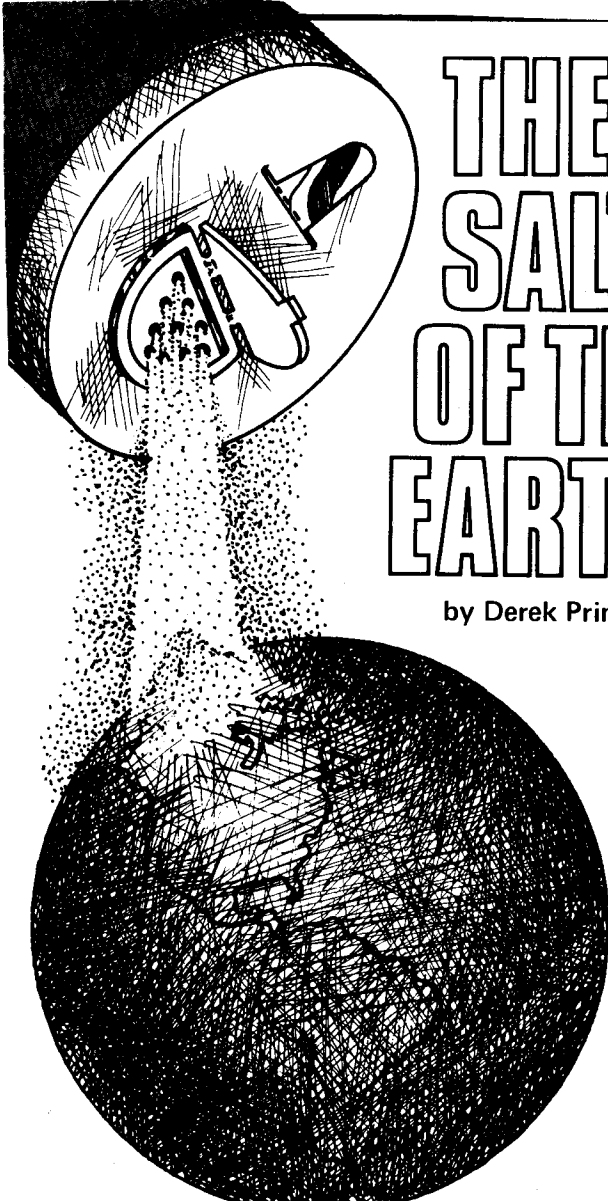
Men in high places like Daniel, in whom no fault could be found (Daniel 6:5).

Preachers like Paul who, "in weakness and in fear, and in much trembling," presented the truth in the power of the Spirit (I Corinthians 2:1-5).

Servants of God like Barnabas. "He was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith" (Acts 11:24).

Lovers of the Bible like the Bereans. "They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily" (Acts 17:11).

—The War Cry



# THE SALT OF THE EARTH

by Derek Prince

As Christians, our function is to give flavor to the earth. The one who enjoys this flavor is God. Our presence makes the earth acceptable to God. Our presence commends the earth to God's mercy. Without us, there would be nothing to make the earth acceptable to God. But because we are here, God continues to deal with the earth in grace and mercy rather than in wrath and judgment. It is our presence that makes the difference.

This principle is vividly illustrated in the account of Abraham's intercession on behalf of Sodom, as recorded in Genesis 18:16-33. The Lord has told Abraham that He is on His way to Sodom to see if that city's wickedness has come to the point where judgment can no longer be withheld. Abraham then walks with the Lord on the way toward Sodom and reasons with Him about the principles of His judgment.

First, Abraham establishes one principle that is the basis for all that follows: **It is never the will of God that the judgment due to the wicked should come upon the righteous.** "Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?" (v. 23) Abraham asks. "That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (v. 25).

The Lord makes clear in the ensuing conversation that He accepts the principle stated by Abraham. How important it is that all believers understand this! If we have been made righteous by faith in Christ, and if we are leading lives that truly express our faith, then it is never God's will that we be included in the judgments which He brings upon the wicked.

Unfortunately, Christians often do not understand this because they fail to distinguish between two situations which outwardly may appear similar, but which in reality are completely different in nature and cause. On the one hand, there is persecution for the sake of righteousness. On the other hand, there is God's judgment upon the wicked. The difference between these two situations is brought out by the following contrasted statements: Persecution comes from the wicked upon the righteous; but judgment comes from God, who is righteous, upon the wicked. Thus, persecution for righteousness and judgment for wickedness are opposite to each other in their origin, their purpose and their result.

The Bible plainly warns that Christians must expect to suffer persecution. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus says to His disciples: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake" (Matt. 5:10-11). Paul writes likewise to Timothy: "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Tim. 3:12). Christians must therefore be prepared to endure persecution for their faith and their way of life, and even to count this as a privilege.

But by the same token Christians should never be included in God's judgments upon the wicked. This principle is stated many times in Scripture. In 1 Corinthians 11:32 Paul writes to his fellow believers, and he says, "But when we (Christians) are judged, we are chastened of the Lord that we should not be condemned with the world." This demonstrates that there is a difference between God's dealings with believers and His

A Christian's presence makes the difference.

Ye are the salt of the earth . . ." (Matt. 5:13).

Jesus is speaking to His disciples—to all of us, that is, who acknowledge the authority of His teaching. He compares our function on the earth to that of salt. His meaning becomes clear when we consider two familiar uses of salt in relation to food.

## SALT GIVES FLAVOR

First of all, salt gives flavor. Food which in itself is unappetizing becomes tasty and acceptable when seasoned with salt. In Job 6:6 this is put in the form of a rhetorical question: "Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt?" It is the presence of salt that makes the difference, causing us to enjoy food which we would otherwise have refused to eat.

dealings with the world. As believers, we may expect to experience God's chastening. If we submit to the chastening and set our lives in order, then we are not subject to the judgments that come upon unbelievers, or the world in general. **The very purpose of God's chastening us as believers is to preserve us from undergoing His judgments upon unbelievers.**

In Psalm 91:7-8 the psalmist gives this promise to the believer: "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked." Here again the principle is seen. Whatever judgment comes as "the reward of the wicked" (that which the wicked justly deserve) should never fall upon the righteous. No matter if God strikes the wicked on every side, the righteous in the midst of it all will not be harmed.

In Exodus chapters 7 through 12, it is recorded that God brought ten judgments of ever-increasing severity upon the Egyptians because they refused to listen to His prophets Moses and Aaron. Throughout all this, God's people Israel dwelt in the midst of Egypt, but not one of the ten judgments touched them. In Exodus 11:7 the reason is graphically stated: "But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know that the Lord doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel." Judgment did not come upon Israel because the Lord "put a difference" between His own people and the people of Egypt. Even the dogs of Egypt had to acknowledge this difference! And the difference is valid to this day.

Continuing his conversation with the Lord concerning Sodom, Abraham attempts to ascertain the least number of righteous persons needed to preserve the whole city from judgment. He begins with fifty. Then with a remarkable combination of reverence and perseverance, he works his way down to ten. The Lord finally assures Abraham that if He finds only ten righteous persons in Sodom, He will spare the whole city for the sake of those ten.

What was the population of Sodom? It would be difficult to arrive at an exact estimate. However, there are figures available for certain other cities of ancient Palestine that provide a standard of comparison. In Abraham's day the walls of Jericho enclosed an area of about seven or eight acres. This would provide dwelling space for a minimum of five thousand persons or a maximum of ten thousand. But Jericho was not a large city by the standards of its day. The largest city of that period was Hazor, which covered about 175 acres and had a population estimated at between forty and fifty thousand. Later, in the period of Joshua, we are told that the total population of Ai was twelve thousand persons (Josh. 8:25). The Bible record seems to indicate that Sodom was a more important city in its day than Ai.

Taking these other cities into account, we could say that the population of Sodom in Abraham's day was probably not less than ten thousand. God assured Abraham that ten righteous persons could by their very presence preserve a city of at least ten thousand. This gives a ratio of one to a thousand. The same ratio of "one among a thousand" is given in Job 33:23 and in Ecclesiastes 7:28, and both these passages suggest that the "one" is a person of outstanding righteousness, while all the remainder fall below God's standards.

It is easy to extend this ratio indefinitely. The presence of ten righteous persons can preserve a community of ten

thousand. The presence of a hundred righteous persons can preserve a community of one hundred thousand. The presence of one thousand righteous persons can preserve a community of one million. How many righteous persons are needed to preserve a nation as large as the United States, with an estimated population of nearly 210,000,000? About 210,000 persons.

These figures are evocative. Does Scripture give us grounds to believe that, for example, a quarter of a million truly righteous persons, scattered as grains of salt across the United States, would suffice to preserve the entire nation from God's judgment and to ensure the continuance of His grace and mercy? It would be foolish to claim that such estimates are exact. Nevertheless, the Bible definitely establishes the general principle that the presence of righteous believers is the decisive factor in God's dealings with a community.

To illustrate this principle Jesus uses the metaphor of "salt." In 2 Corinthians 5:20 Paul uses a different metaphor to convey the same truth. He says, "We are ambassadors for Christ." What are ambassadors? They are persons sent forth in an official capacity by a nation's government to represent that government in the territory of another nation. Their authority is not measured by their own personal ability, but is in direct proportion to their authority of the government which they represent.

In Philippians 3:20 Paul specifies the government which, as Christians, we represent. He says, "Our conversation (literally, our citizenship) is in heaven." Both Phillips and the New English Bible render this, "We are citizens of heaven." Thus our position on earth is that of ambassadors representing heaven's government. We have no authority to act on our own, but as long as we carefully obey the directions of our government, the entire might and authority of heaven are behind every word that we speak and every move that we make.

Before one government declares war on another, its usual action of final warning is to withdraw its ambassadors. While we are left on earth as heaven's ambassadors, our presence guarantees a continuance of God's forbearance and mercy toward the earth. But when heaven's ambassadors are finally withdrawn, there will then be nothing left to hold back the full outpouring of divine wrath and judgment upon the earth.

This leads us to a second effect of the presence of Christians as "the salt of the earth."

#### SALT RESTRAINS CORRUPTION

A second function of salt in relation to food is to restrain the process of corruption. In the days before artificial refrigeration, sailors who took meat on long voyages used salt as a preservative. The process of corruption was already at work before the meat was salted. Salting did not abolish the corruption, but it held it in check for the duration of the voyage, so that the sailors could continue to eat the meat long after it would otherwise have become inedible.

Our presence on the earth as Christ's disciples operates like the salt in the meat. The process of sin's corruption is already at work. This is manifested in every area of human activity—moral, religious, social, political. We cannot abolish the corruption which is already there, but we can hold it in check long enough for God's purposes of grace and mercy to be fully worked out. Then, when our influence is no longer felt, corruption will come to its climax, and the

result will be total degradation.

This illustration from the power of salt to restrain corruption explains Paul's teaching in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12. Paul warns that human wickedness will come to its climax in the person of a world ruler supernaturally empowered and directed by Satan himself. Paul calls this ruler "the man of sin" (more literally, "the man of lawlessness"), and "the son of perdition" (v. 3). In 1 John 2:18 he is called "antichrist," and in Revelation 13:4 he is called "the beast." This ruler will actually claim to be God and will demand universal worship.

Emergence of this satanic ruler is inevitable. Paul says with certainty, "Then shall that Wicked (lawless one) be revealed . . ." (2 Thess. 2:8). Paul also declares in the same verse that the true Christ Himself will be the one to administer final judgment upon this false Christ—"whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit (or breath) of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming."

Unfortunately some preachers have used this teaching about antichrist to instill into Christians an attitude of passivity and fatalism. "Antichrist is coming," they have said. "Things are getting worse and worse. There is nothing we can do about it." As a result, Christians have all too often sat back with folded hands, in pious dismay, and watched the ravages of Satan proceed unchecked all around them.

This attitude of passivity and fatalism is as tragic as it is unscriptural. It is true that antichrist must eventually emerge. But it is far from true that there is nothing to be done about him in the meanwhile. To this present moment there is a force at work in the world that challenges, resists and restrains the spirit of antichrist. The work of this force is described by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7. Freely rendered in modern English, these verses might read as follows: "And now you know what holds him in check until he is revealed in his time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work: only he who now holds him in check will continue to do so until he is withdrawn (taken out of the midst)."

This restraining power, which at present holds back the full and final emergence of antichrist, is the personal presence of the Holy Spirit within the Church. This becomes clear as we follow the unfolding revelation of Scripture concerning the Person and the work of the Holy Spirit. At the very beginning of the Bible, in Genesis 1:2, we are told that "the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." From then on throughout the Old Testament there are frequent references to the activity of the Holy Spirit in the earth. However, at the close of His earthly ministry, Jesus promised His disciples that the Holy Spirit would shortly come to them in a new way, different from anything that had ever taken place on earth up to that time.

In John 14:16-17 Jesus gives this promise: "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth (a title of the Holy Spirit) . . . for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." We may paraphrase this promise of Jesus as follows: "I have been with you in personal presence three-and-a-half years, and I am now about to leave you. After I have gone, another Person will come to take my place. This Person is the Holy Spirit. When He comes, He will remain with you for ever."

In John 16:6-7 Jesus repeats His promise: "But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart. 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." The picture is clear. There is to be an exchange of Persons. Jesus will depart. But in His place another Person will come. This other Person is the Comforter, the Holy Spirit.

In John 16:12-13 Jesus returns to this theme for the third time: "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth . . ." In the original Greek text, the pronoun "he" is in the masculine gender, but the noun "Spirit" is neuter. This grammatical conflict of genders brings out the dual nature of the Holy Spirit—both personal and impersonal. This agrees with the language used by Paul in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 concerning the power which holds back the emergence of antichrist. In verse 6 Paul says, "What is restraining him . . ." (RSV), and in verse 7 he says, "He who now restrains him . . ." (RSV). This similarity of expression confirms the identification of this restraining power with the Holy Spirit.

The exchange of persons promised by Jesus was effected in two stages: first, the ascension of Jesus into heaven; then, ten days later, the descent of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. At this point in history the Holy Spirit descended as a Person from heaven and took up His residence on earth. He is now the personal Representative of the Godhead resident on earth. His actual dwelling place is the Body of true believers, called collectively "the Church." To this Body of believers Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3:16: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

The great ministry of the Holy Spirit within the Church is to prepare a completed Body for Christ. After completion, this Body will in turn be presented to Christ as a bride is presented to a bridegroom. As soon as this ministry of the Holy Spirit within the Church is finished, He will again be withdrawn from the earth, taking with Him the completed Body of Christ. Thus we may fill out Paul's statement in 2 Thessalonians 2:7 as follows: "He (the Holy Spirit) who now holds him (the antichrist) in check will continue to do so until he be withdrawn."

The opposition between the Holy Spirit and the spirit of antichrist is described also in 1 John 4:3-4: "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come, and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

In the world is the spirit of antichrist, working toward the emergence of antichrist himself. In the disciples of Christ is the Holy Spirit, holding back the emergence of antichrist. Therefore the disciples who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit act as a barrier, holding back the climax of lawlessness and the final emergence of antichrist. Only when the Holy Spirit, together with the completed Body of Christ's disciples, is withdrawn from the earth, will the forces of lawlessness be able to proceed without restraint to the culmination of their purposes in antichrist. Meanwhile, it is both the privilege and the responsibility of

Christ's disciples, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to "overcome" the forces of antichrist and to hold them in check.

### THE CONSEQUENCE OF FAILURE

As the salt of the earth, then, we who are Christ's disciples have two primary responsibilities. First, by our presence we commend the earth to God's continuing grace and mercy. Second, by the power of the Holy Spirit within us we hold in check the forces of corruption and lawlessness until God's appointed time.

In fulfilling these responsibilities, the Church stands as the barrier to the accomplishment of Satan's supreme ambition, which is to gain dominion over the whole earth. This explains why Paul says in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 that there must be "a falling away first, before the man of sin (antichrist) can be revealed . . ." The word translated "falling away" is literally **apostasy**—that is, a departure from the faith. So long as the Church stands firm and uncompromising in its faith, it has the power to hold back the final manifestation of antichrist. Satan himself fully understands this, and therefore his primary objective is to undermine the faith and righteousness of the Church. Once he achieves this, the barrier to his purposes is removed, and the way is open for him to gain both spiritual and political control over the whole earth.

Suppose that Satan succeeds, because we, as Christians, fail to fulfill our responsibilities. What then? Jesus Himself gives us the answer. We become "salt that has lost its savour." He warns us of the fate that awaits such savorless salt: "It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men" (Matt. 5:13).

"Good for nothing!" That is severe condemnation indeed. What follows? We are "cast out"—rejected by God. Then we are "trodden under foot of men." Men become the instruments of God's judgment upon a saltless, apostate Church. If we in the Church fail to hold back the forces of wickedness, our judgment is to be handed over to those very forces.

The alternatives that confront us are clearly presented by Paul in Romans 12:21: "Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good." There are only two choices: either to overcome, or to be overcome. There is no middle way, no third course open to us. We may use the good that God has put at our disposal to overcome the evil that confronts us. But if we fail to do this, then that very evil will in turn overcome us.

This message applies with special urgency to those of us who live in lands where we still enjoy liberty to proclaim and to practice our Christian faith. In many lands today Christians have lost this liberty. At the same time multiplying millions in those lands have been systematically indoctrinated to hate and to despise Christianity and all that it stands for. To people thus indoctrinated there could be no greater satisfaction than to trample under their feet those Christians who are not already under their yoke.

If we heed the warning of Jesus, and fulfill our function as salt in the earth, we have the power to prevent this. But if we default from our responsibilities and suffer the judgment that follows, the bitterest reflection of all will be this: **It need never have happened.**

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LADY MINISTERS . . .

MINISTERS' WIVES . . .

LADY GOSPEL WORKERS . . .

YOU ARE INVITED TO A RECEPTION

at the

LAVERNE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Tuesday, June 27, 1978

3:30 P.M.

Make plans now to include this event  
in your campmeeting activities!

### From THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

The number of Jewish people moving to Israel is declining, from 36,750 in 1970 to 20,000 in 1976 and 17,600 in 1977. Under Israel's Law of Return, Jews are granted instant Israeli citizenship, but many are frustrated by red tape and unable to find jobs in their profession. Soviet Jews make up more than 40 percent of Israel's total annual immigration, with a dropout rate of less than 5 percent. The dropout rate for those from North America is 25 percent.

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The United States' top teens are cutting a conservative swath in the field of opinion polls. Of 24,000 high school upperclassmen listed in the Who's Who of American High Schools, 88 percent had never used drugs, 61 percent had never used liquor, and 85 percent said they had never smoked.

## Pearls Of Promise

Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Isaiah 41:10

Let us not pray for lighter burdens but for stronger backs.

## Panhandle Camp Meeting Laverne, Oklahoma

Wednesday Night, June 21 — Thursday Night June 29

For information contact Delvin Wiles, Box 337 — Phone 405-921-5144 — Laverne, Okla. 73848

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Edwin Waterbury Ph. 417-472-6203  
Granby, Mo. 64844

Committee:  
Neil Ragan, 510 S. Cox  
Joplin, Mo. 64801  
Ph. 417-781-5761

Wapel Ferguson, Box 286  
Cave Spgs. Ark. 72717  
Ph. 501-248-1352

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Baxter Spgs., Ks. 66713  
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## PANHANDLE YOUTH CAMP Laverne, Oklahoma Teenage—June 4-9 Junior—June 11-16

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Ph. 405-888-4555

Committee:  
Keith Barker, 706 E. 15th  
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Camp Phone  
601-776-2058

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Teenage Enrollment on June 1  
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Katy, Texas 77450  
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