

KEEPING IN TOUCH

FEBRUARY 2007



whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I
may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one
spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of
the gospel;

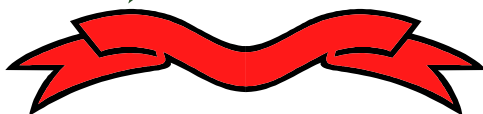
Philippians 1:27

Table of Contents

<i>Are We Communicating Yet?</i> By Kate Trotter.....	18	By Terry Smith.....	28
<i>Baby Announcement: Imig.....</i>	19	<i>Trench Warfare by Wesley Schell.....</i>	45
<i>Can God Really Do Everything?</i> By Jarka Srkalova.....	15	<i>Visitors' Corner.....</i>	34
<i>God's Way in Me</i> By Melissa Trotter.....	31	<i>Word: Love Not the World</i> By Brother Burt Asbil.....	4
<i>Kids' Chronicles.....</i>	3	<i>Word: The Evening Sacrifice</i> By Brother Cecil duCille.....	35
<i>My Good Things</i>		<i>Word: Look On the Fields</i> By Brother Bob Strelow.....	20



Info Center



Dear Readers,

Welcome to our February edition of *Keeping In Touch!* What you hold in your hands will undoubtedly bless, strengthen and uplift you.

In this edition, we are offering three words given by Brother Bob Strelbow, Brother Burt Asbill, and Brother Cecil duCille that should be an encouragement for you. We have testimonies from several of our staff members that you should definitely check out. Also, Sister Jarka Srkalova submitted her testimony that answers the question, "Can God Really Do Everything?" And please, do not skim over the *Kids' Chronicles*, because we have a bevy of testimonials from the little ones that will certainly bless your soul!

If you have anything that the Lord has placed on your heart to give, an encouraging word of faith, a testimonial, a praise report, etc., please do not hesitate! You never know how much of a blessing it may be to someone who reads it. You may send your submissions to us at either of these addresses:

News Bulletin, PO Box 409, Mahomet, IL 61853 or kitbulletin@truevine.net

Living Word Omega Message 2272 County Road 350 E

Directions: Take Hwy 47 North from Mahomet. We are the first right after Briar Cliff Subdivision.



Meeting Schedule

Sundays at 10 AM

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM



Prison Ministry:

Sunday Mornings the 11th and 25th,

Monday Evenings

Cleaning Crew:

February 3 ~ Helping Hands

February 10 ~ Peckmann's

February 17 ~ Davis'

February 24 ~ Kate

February 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

Kids' Chronicles

Nebraska Convention 2006

-from the children's perspective

Caroline Trotter

We drove to Grandpa and Grandma Trotter's house to stay there for the convention. We had three meetings every day. We had one meeting on Sunday when a lot of people got up and shared their testimonies. I remember Daddy and Mommy getting up and going on the stage and Daddy sharing his testimony. I felt good about that. I made friends with Tabea St. Louis.

Mommy and I looked up Bible verses that Mr. Jantzi preached at the convention. There were 12 things like broken handed, broken footed, flat nosed, and crooked back that the priests in the tabernacle couldn't have to go in the Holy of Holies.

The Nebraska Conference

By Isaac Trotter

I was very blessed at being able to go to the conference this year. We woke up to leave at about 5:45 AM and I had to overcome my will to stay in bed and not get up. At the conference we were talking a lot about the spirit of anger and how it controls almost everybody and that this spirit needs to be destroyed so that when Jesus comes, there won't be any place for that spirit to come up and so that Jesus will say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," instead of, "I do not know you." I think the last three meetings of the conference were the best meetings because God called us as a church up to the front to repent of the spirit of anger. At the meeting before the last one, we stayed there repenting till 11:30 PM. I thought that we were not going to have another repenting meeting, but we did. It seemed that God wasn't

finished with us as a church. God really touched me so that when Mr. Cassell asked us children to come up and sing and praise God, I was not ashamed or scared, so I went up there. God worked in me so that I am not afraid of what other kids will say. So I can do other things like that. I believe that God is working inside of me so that anger will not be inside of me any longer. Whoever did not go, I have to tell you it was very good.

The End

Josiah Asbill

I was really glad I could go to Nebraska for the Thanksgiving convention. During one of the meetings, Mr. Jantzi spoke about different infirmities that if the priest had them, he could not enter the Holy Place or burn incense. This means that if we have something wrong in our spiritual life, we will not be able to enter into that place that God desires us to be in. Of all the words that were spoken during that time, the word kept coming that we needed to repent. After the songs on Saturday night, they gave an altar call that anyone who felt that they needed to repent could come forward. I went forward because I felt that I needed to have some changing in my soul. I didn't want to have sin in my life and I asked Jesus to forgive me. I knew that He touched my heart because afterwards I felt refreshed and forgiven. Since coming home I have been greatly challenged because I have to walk out my repentance and not just speak words without any action. On Sunday morning there were testimonies given by some of those who had been touched by God.

Another testimony that I have is that while I was playing basketball at the gym inbetween meetings, my ring finger and thumb were bent backwards. It hurt really bad and did not go away. Just recently, though, I noticed that the pain was gone and it felt much better. I am so thankful that God has touched my soul and my body, too! God bless you!

The Nebraska Conference

By Caleb Trotter

I liked the conference and THE FOOD! I liked singing the songs and listening to the preaching, too. They talked a lot about anger. I went up and prayed that I would not be angry anymore.

The End



Love Not the World

Brother Burt Abill

Mahomet, IL

July 2nd, 2006

Father, we are so glad to have this opportunity to come into Your presence. We are so glad that we have the opportunity and the privilege to gather ourselves together unto You, that we might have this opportunity to hear Your Word, individually as well as collectively. We know, God, that You are walking in the midst of our souls, that You are working according to a time schedule for You have a plan and we have to be in a certain position and a certain place at a certain time. Father, so often we are like children, unaware of the time or the circumstances. Though we see the events unfolding round about us, our cognizant reality of the circumstances is not what it should be. Father, we would ask that You would give us that pressure, pressure upon our souls, pressure upon our minds, that we might understand the position of importance and the vital necessity for us to perceive the moving of the Spirit of God in our lives - individually as well as collectively.

We present ourselves before You this evening, and we are asking You, God, for Your wisdom, asking for Your unction, Your anointing, not only upon the words and the mind and the heart of he who speaks, but God, also on those of them that listen. Let us have hearing hearts, Father, not hearts that are hard and rebellious, not hearts that are stiff-necked, but hearts that are open, my God, that they might hear to perceive and to understand the collective will of God.

Father, we have worked individually - You are requiring and asking of us to work collectively. It is not a preacher or a minister that You are looking for, but God, a BODY which You might inhabit and sit in a place of preeminence and predominance, that You might have rule over every thought and every action, and every soul, my God, might be in subjection to the power

and the unction and the anointing of God.

We pray this evening that You would loose us that we might rise in the Spirit. Oh God, we pray that You would bring forth a revelation of Jesus Christ and our need for that position, that place. My God, help us, I pray in Jesus' Name. Praise the Lord. Hallelujah.

I want to start this evening by telling you about a dream that I had a while ago. In this dream, there was a Special Forces Unit. By Special Forces, I mean not the regular Army, but one that is specially trained in the art of warfare. Often that warfare is being conducted in a covert manner and, oftentimes, they are put in positions where they can expect no support if they get into trouble. They have to rely upon their own resources and of course, their own strength as well as their training. As I was observing this situation, the orders came for this team to go deep into the enemy territory, and they were to go in "deep," I mean. They were going to be planted, as it were, in the midst of the enemy. The enemy was all around them and they were in a situation that was quite tough for them individually, as well as collectively. They were given their orders, and as they moved out, and as they arrived at their objective, it became known to leader of the force that one within their midst was collaborating with the enemy - but he did not know who it was. This leader intuitively knew that he was given the task. I don't know how I knew all of this, except for the Spirit of God was revealing it to me as I was dreaming it. His job was to fulfill his task in spite of this troublesome worry. He had responsibility for the team and would be held accountable in spite of the fact that someone in the midst was giving up information about their objective and location. Hallelujah! But he also had to do it

in a way that would fulfill his task without revealing too much to anyone about where they were going to be or what they would have to do next. He had to do it in such a way that he could eventually find out who it was who was in collaboration with the enemy. I also became aware in the dream that the individual that was collaborating with the enemy was not doing it necessarily because he was working with the enemy to defeat the force, although his actions were doing just that. It was that there was a relationship that he had with the enemy, and in that relationship, because the enemy knew who and what he was, the enemy would ask certain questions, or build certain scenarios, or certain circumstances in which he and this other individual would be involved with, and out of those circumstances he would get the information that he needed. It would be somewhat like a counter-espionage, I suppose, working to get that information. With that information, the enemy was causing a great deal of difficulty with regard to the mission that was given to these soldiers.

As I was waking up, the Lord spoke to me a scripture and it was out of the fourth chapter of James. Now, the fourth chapter of James is not really a good chapter for a “sons of God” message, in one sense. But if we want to be sons of God, then the message that is in the fourth chapter of James is very pertinent. Now, before I get into that, let me express to you another thought that I am having and that is about the early church.

God did something with the early church that was very special. Not only did He do something with the early church, but I believe what is just as important is that the early church did something with God. That is something that is just as pertinent and as important a fact that we need to recognize as it is to know that God was doing something with the early church. There was a particular Word that was being delivered to that church and the strength and the power of that Word began to revitalize the society in which the church was living at that time. It had a particular strength. It had a power to achieve a particular destiny and goal. There was an expectation that God had of the people when He began to anoint the ministry of that day to bring forth the Word of “Thy Kingdom come.” Hallelujah. Praise the Lord.

This is not history according to Burt. This is history according to Acts. Any of you can go into your Bible and begin to read the story of the early church. Most of us, at one time or another, as we have read that story, have probably said, “Boy, I wish I could have been there at that time.” “I wish we would have lived in that environment.” Hallelujah. Well, the environment was created, not only for the purpose of establishing the early church, but it is was given to a people

who had the potential to believe in the ability of the Word to create an environment that was conducive to the releasing of God into that environment. The power and strength that came via the Word was on the basis of the belief that the people had IN the Word and there was an action that was taken that demonstrated that belief. Hallelujah. There are many scriptures that demonstrate this principal but there are three that come before me and one of them is found in Hebrews 11:6. ***But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*** Seeking implies an action that demonstrates that which is unseen. Hebrews 11:1, ***Now faith is the substance of things hoped for*** (not seen), ***the evidence*** (things done because of action) ***of things not seen.*** Then finally in James 2:14 it says, ***What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?*** It is a rhetorical question and the answer is “No”! One must demonstrate what they believe by what they do.

If you look at history... Now, Brother Unger can probably do a much better job of this than I can. But if you take history and you go back and begin to examine the world, the church and the Word, you will find that the devil has always tried to subvert, divert, destroy, or change the Word. The whole basis of the attack of the enemy is to destroy the validity and the strength that is in the Word of God but the problem that he has is that the Word of God is infallible! It is immutable! So, then, what is the solution to this problem? It is again a rhetorical question. If you cannot change the Word, then you have to change that which is changeable and that is us. Three of the most destructive words that have had the most devastating affect on humanity are the three words spoken to Eve in the garden by Satan, “Hath God said?” (Genesis 3:1). It is my position of belief that this is where humanity was injected with the virus of unbelief.

Now, God did not give us a Word in order that you and I might get into Heaven, although the church has taken that Word and said that that is the purpose and the plan that is in God’s heart. Hallelujah. **THAT ISN’T THE PURPOSE OF THE WORD.** This is not the doctrine according to the theology of Burt Asbill. This is the doctrine according to the theology of GOD, because God’s desire is not to get you into Heaven, but **TO GET HEAVEN INSIDE OF YOU.** Hallelujah. Glory to God.

Brother Alan, I believe it is, isn’t it? I have a Word for you. *Things are just beginning to happen. The start of something new is beginning to take place. There has been a certain desire that you have had in your*

heart. You have come through a very rough and rocky road and God has finally got you to a place where you are able to say "Not my will, but Thine be done." And in accordance to that Word, and in accordance to that desire that you have had, and the position that you have placed yourself upon the altar of God, God is going to begin to open doors for you. Doors of ministry, doors of opportunity to not just talk about the salvation of God, but the plan that God has for an eternal domination of humanity. He is going to bring you forth in the midst of that position, in the midst of that place. Not as one that is high and lifted up, but as one that is down and before the Lord, upon their face in intercession for those around them that see not with their eyes, or hear with their ears. So, God wants to encourage you this evening to KEEP ON PRESSING. And there are many things in this Word that you don't understand, but God is going to begin to open your understanding. Amen. Praise the Lord. Glory to God.

So, there is a Word that God has, and I want to tell you something - regardless of the position or the place or the dispensation of the time that we live in, the purpose of God is unfolding the same as it was in the beginning, in the middle, and especially so for the end of time that we ourselves now live in.

When God began to brood over the rebellion and chaos that was in the midst of Genesis 1, there was already something in the heart of God. There was a thought. There was something that He saw down the road, because He is not only the Beginning, but He is also the End. Now, how can a God that is the Beginning and also the End change His purpose or His idea, or change His theology? He wanted something from the very beginning. He wants to inhabit, as it were, humanity in such a way, in such a fashion, that humanity, in its weakness, in its loneliness, in its place of utter failure and defeat, can begin to magnify and exemplify the works of a living God, standing in resolute victory in spite of its inherent weakness. Hallelujah.

The Bible says that the devil comes as a thief (John 10:10). Hallelujah. So what is it that he comes to do? Kill! Steal! Destroy! Especially so when it comes to this Word that we have that we call the Bible. The Bible, simply put, is the blueprint of God with regard to bringing forth the reality of what He desired in the beginning. What He wanted in the beginning was a SON. You see, the devil had to impart, or implant his thought, and he did that in the Garden when he spoke to Eve. You see, the devil knows and understands the power of the Word, because the power of the Word finds its strength from the position of belief of the one that hears it. If I believe this word of the world environment around me more than I believe God, this en-

vironment is then going to be preeminent. This is going to be a predominant element of overshadowing. This world, human, devil environment is going to be in a position of control. I believe this, do you hear me? If I look up in the mirror and see what I see and I believe it to be the truth of the matter, then I am going to be what I believe. Hallelujah.

You know, there are so many different philosophies. When I was a young man, there was a man called Norman Vincent Peale. Boy, that was a long time ago. I think he was out of the West Coast in Oregon or Washington. He brought forth a doctrine and he became very popular because of it. What was it? "The Power of Positive Thinking." I think Brother duCille mentioned something about it this morning. I'm sure he did, in that he started talking to us about what the "strange fire" was that is being brought into the church. One of the examples that he gave was that of psychology. This man took a thought **from** the spiritual principle of faith and brought it down out of Heaven and the church made it carnal, made it a carnal, natural understanding and psychologically apprehendable and put it in the church as a spiritual principle. So what happened? What we now have is the first church, or perhaps I should say, the universal church of the positive thinkers. **Faith is not positive thinking; positive thinking is an alternative to faith.** It is not that the man didn't have a relationship or an experience with God. I don't know anything about him. Not that the man was not a Christian, or did not love the Lord. I don't know. I suppose that he has gone on to his reward by now. The fact of the matter is that he had a thought that was based on a principle of God - holding the truth of God in unrighteousness (Romans 1:18). That is because the truth of God that he had, did not have as its motivation the thought or the intent that God had with regard to His original thought or intent. **If you want to think positive, you have got to think GOD, because God is positive.** God is never negative, which my wife is always reminding me, because I can be a very negative fellow. The fact is that God has a thought about a position that has a particular place as its destiny. And it is not to the degree of what we believe about that thing as much as it is that we believe that God is.

I don't believe that God's thought in the beginning is different than now. I do not believe that God's thought is different. I do not believe that the Holy Ghost that we have today is different than the Holy Ghost that was poured out upon the early church. I do not believe that the Holy Ghost that we have now is different. So, why is the church in the condition it is in? Why is the church so far back from the place that the

early church had achieved if it has the Holy Ghost? It is either a different Holy Ghost, or it is a Holy Ghost that the church doesn't believe in.

The Holy Ghost that was poured out upon the former church... You can go into Acts the first, second, third, and fourth chapters. It talks about being gathered in the room together and the power of God fell, and the Word of God began to go forth out of that room. Brother Ravenhill was a great one for statistics. He said there are... well, let me just throw a figure out there. Mine is not as great as his was. Let's say there are 250,000,000 people that are professing to be baptized in the power of the Holy Ghost and yet sin is more rampant and more in a position of supremacy today than it was in the time of the early church.

Well, we can say that the sin in the early church environment wasn't as strong as it is today. That is true, but the scripture says that where sin doth abound, grace doth much more abound (Romans 5:20). The problem is that we have had this injection of unbelief in the form of a human/demoniacal theology of alternative action. "Well, I am only human!" Of course, you don't have that problem, right? "We are only human. We are not perfect." Praise God! We are not perfect, but there is a Spirit of perfection, if we believe in the power of the Holy Ghost, if we believe in the power of the Blood! Do you hear me? It has the ability to override our imperfections. If it weren't for the power of the Blood, my goodness! You know, God uses the foolish things to confound the wisdom of this world (I Corinthians 1:27).

You are looking at one of the foolish things! Do you know that there is no tenacity or determination in me to resist sin? Do you hear me? Hallelujah. But the power in the Blood gives me the determination and the tenacity, in spite of myself, to work against the nature that always wants to rise up and to usurp. If it weren't for the power of the Holy Ghost, I would not even have the strength to stand up here and to speak to you because it is the power of the BLOOD that enables me.

You know, this fellow knows what he has to deal with. Do you know that? This fellow knows what goes on in his mind. This fellow knows what kind of thoughts come and what kind of actions are being perpetrated against his soul, and his emotions. This fellow knows! Do you understand? Without God, I would be a man most miserable (I Corinthians 15:19). It isn't that your problems are worse than my problems, or worse than somebody else's problems. It isn't that your struggles are greater than someone else's struggles. It is just that it is **your** struggle. It is **your** position, the place that has been given to **you** by God to prove the

validity of your profession of faith. It is your responsibility to believe that God is and what God has spoken to you is a viable, living reality that He has the ability to bring into being. The practicality of this position is the thought that the environment that you and/or your body is in has no authority, has no power to override the sense of reality that you have of God concerning your physical or spiritual well-being; nor does it have the ability to undo or override the righteousness that you have because of the Blood of JESHUA. Quite frankly, I think we are a church most miserable. We have our - I don't even know what they call them - IRA's, ERA's, ICU's. We have our alternative plans and purposes. We are putting our little nest eggs away. We are doing all sorts of things and we are always looking for the retirement environment. Some of you haven't even started thinking about retirement yet. You are not old enough. But you still have your dreams and expectations.

How much do you believe the Word? How much of what you are doing or what you are involved in is, in fact, pertinent to the bringing forth of the Kingdom of God? You know, it says that Jesus Christ shall not come until this gospel of the Kingdom is what? Is preached (Matthew 24:14). Now, does that mean the television and satellite and radio and missionaries and all of those things that are going on? I don't believe that it is necessarily all of those realms of media that are going to profess or proclaim the fact of the Kingdom. The Kingdom, quite simply put, is the manifestation of the sons of God. There is something of a message that you preach by your overcoming. There is something of a message that you preach by the fact that you demonstrate the reality of the Word that you say that you personally believe. Hallelujah.

I believe that everybody needs to find their niche in God and do whatever is absolutely possible and then push through the impossible to fulfill the reality of what they believe. The very first thing that God is going to do is to get you out of the possible and into the impossible. Oh, you guys are saying, "Amen," too easily. **GOD HAS GOT TO GET YOU OUT OF THE POSSIBLE INTO THE IMPOSSIBLE.** As long as you have a dime in your pocket, it is possible to do something. As long as you have your health and your vitality to be able to resist the disease that attacks your body, there is some possibility of you providing some means of escape for your own set of circumstances. HELLO!

One of the things, one of the manifestations of the power and the belief that the people in Acts had is that God began to move upon them in a financial way. "Oh, here he goes again!" No, I don't want your money. I'm telling you, there is a manifestation in whatever

you hold the dearest. Do you know that you don't have to be 30 or 40 years old to be tight fisted and hanging on to your wallet? You don't even have to have a wallet. I know some very young people who are very financially oriented and quite tight fisted.

I don't know if in the time of the early church the apostles got up and began to preach, "Well, if you are filled with the Holy Ghost and you really believe this Word, you are going to go out and sell all of your goods and come and put it down in front of me right here at my feet." I do not believe that was the case. I believe that there was a desire in the congregation to participate in a demonstration of the Kingdom of God. There was something of the demonstration of the power of belief in the Word that began to work within the hearts of the church that was hearing the Word. "Oh yeah! Give and you will be blessed!" Do you want to know how they were blessed? Shortly after that, in the following chapters, they began to be persecuted and God scattered them. They couldn't have been scattered if they had been planted. Now, being homeless, they had no place to go. They had to go where the Holy Ghost told them to go. Did you ever think about that? That a home is like an anchor?

Now, I am not saying that you don't need to buy your home. I'm not saying that. Don't go out of here saying that! That is not what I am saying. What I am saying is that there is a power in the belief of the Word that you are pursuing after. If your actions promote self, a position of self protection and self-preservation, that will be a demonstration of what you are listening to. You are going to manifest in this natural realm that which you are paying attention to. Oh boy!

We sing the song, "In the day of My power, My people shall be willing" (Psalm 110:3). Why are they going to be willing? Because they have a sense of reality that supersedes that which they see, hear or feel, a reality that goes beyond their natural environment. And ladies, I know how important a house is; you have to have everything just so. Well, in your mind, anyway. There is just that sense of security when you drive in the driveway, "Oh, this is mine." Like a little bird flying into its nest. Hallelujah. It is not only the ladies. The guys kind of like their position of predominance or that feeling of manliness. "I built this! I provided this! Don't you drive a good car? Don't you eat good food? I provided this!" All I would say is to look at the birds, having only trees and fields to live in. You know, I provide a lot of food for birds. Sometimes I think that what I am doing is for the birds. Hallelujah.

There is a certain position that you have to come to, a certain determination that you and I have to come to in our pursuit after God. We have to determine what

it is that we are going to listen to. Now I am coming to the scripture in James. I just can't give you James and slap you with this Word and sit down. I've got to kind of work you up to it, so you don't get really mad at me at the beginning.

Do you know that the instinct of self-preservation is one of the strongest instincts in humanity as well as in the animal kingdom? Do you know that it also has a very strong presence as far as the earth out there is concerned? Did you know that? Did you know that the earth itself demonstrates self-preservation? I used to hate weeds until I found out that weeds have a purpose. I thought that their main purpose was just to give me something to overcome. But they really do have a reason to exist. Weeds have a purpose. Weeds are to preserve the land and to keep it until the earth can produce brush and trees that will bring it into a stable condition so that it might be able to resist erosion. That's the purpose of weeds. That doesn't mean that I go out there just to farm weeds! Although sometimes I think so.

There is something of a reality that you and I have to have as to the Word that we say we believe. I believe that the church is in trouble. I really do believe that the church is in trouble. I believe that we are standing at a line of demarcation as far as the church is concerned, individually, as well as collectively. I believe it! I believe that each and every one of us, in our own set of circumstances, is being confronted with the reality of who we are and what we are in a natural arena and we are being given the opportunity to exchange what we are for what HE IS. That is wherein the problem lies. That is the crux of the whole issue, because what we are/have/desire is something that we have more faith in and more belief in, than that which God is offering us and giving us an opportunity to participate in.

I cannot get up here and profess to the fact that the church is in a good place. The Word of God that has been coming to this church, collectively speaking, for many years, has been that God is not happy or satisfied or content with where we are, collectively and individually. We have things that we want more than we want God.

When the rich young ruler came to Jesus Christ, Jesus went through the mechanics. He went through the mechanics for a reason, because He wanted to establish for you and me that the man was a conscientious young man. He loved the Lord to a certain extent, and therein was the problem revealed. But when it came down to the brass tacks, down to the nitty-gritty, we find out that he **loved himself** more than he loved God. Now, if your Bible says something differ-

ent, you let me know, and I'll get you a new Bible! He loved himself more (Matthew 19:16-23).

Do you know that we have expectations and desires and things that pop into our brains with regard to our children, with regard to our lives and the things that we are involved in? We are planning and purposing for them, as well as for ourselves, all the way down the line. I have a question to ask you! Does any of that have anything to do with the expectation and the desire that GOD HAS FOR YOU or for them? You know, I am not opposed to a man or a woman going out and getting a good job, if God says to go get a good job. But I can tell you that in the goodness of that job, there is something that God is going to require of you with regard to what you believe as far as the Word of God is concerned, and the things that are going on around you. It really doesn't matter what it is that you have or achieve. It can be a house, job, family - it really makes no difference. The requirement is the same. What purpose is it achieving and how will it facilitate the plans and purposes of God for an eternal end? Hallelujah.

Go into Hebrews and begin to read about the testimonies. We are going to be judged on the age or the time frame that we live in. We are going to be judged on the actions or the response of individuals that have responded to the Word and have done better than we have done. That is scriptural, for it says of Noah in the letter to the Hebrews that, *By faith Noah, being warned of God...moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which...* He what? *...he condemned the world* (Hebrew 11:7). Hello! I'm talking about Noah! One man's obedience to the Word of God! The Word of God came to Noah and said, "Destruction is coming. I want you to build a boat." Do you think that he built it without consequence? Do you think he built it without self-sacrifice? Well, maybe he went into a committee. Now, many of you say, "Well, we don't have a committee." Oh yes, you do! "We are going to get together and we are going to pray about it." Well, I don't have anything against praying. What I do know is that when you pray, God is going to speak, and YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY.

You know, there was a time when my son, he was very small and he was looking out the window at the yard and he wanted to go out there and do something. He said, "Mommy, I want to go out there." Mommy said, "No, you are not going." He said, "Mommy, I don't want that NO, I want the *other* NO." This meant that he wanted yes but he was too young to understand NO, NO. Hallelujah. He heard "no" but he wanted to go. Do you hear me? We hear "no" but we want to go. We want whatever it is anyway. But there comes a

time that sometimes God says, "Okay, go." And to our chagrin, we find ourselves in a dilemma and we begin to say, "Oh, God! How could You do this to me?" But of course, you don't do that, right? You don't say, "Well, it is all Your fault, God. If You hadn't done what You did, I wouldn't have done what I did." Or, "Why don't You do different, and then I can be different?" OH! We always have the finger pointing somewhere else. It is always somebody else's fault. It is always somebody else's problem. It is always somebody else's set of circumstances that made me do it. "What else could I do?" Well, for one thing, you can deny yourself. Humble yourself, as it were, before the LORD. Repent and begin to walk in a different direction, in a different manner and display a different behavior. Hallelujah! We are so self-serving; I don't know how in the world God has ever put up with it so long! And believe me, I'm not just talking to you, I'm talking to me. Maybe I'm just talking to me. Maybe it is just my set of circumstances that I am preaching about.

Children are rebelling against mother and father. Wives are rebelling against husbands. Husbands are rebelling against wives. There is rebellion in all sorts of things. Independence! We have a philosophy that says, "We shall be as gods," and that, "We shall be sons," but we want to be sons without due process, without the cross! We want to step out of our human shoes into sons of God shoes without going through the change, burial! Through much suffering, much tribulation, much trouble ye shall enter into the Kingdom of God (Acts 14:22). It is only as we pick up our cross that we can follow in the appropriate manner. My God. How can God look down on a church in this hour, in this day and say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of the LORD"? I'm talking collectively. I'm not just talking individually. If your position of suffering is what it should be, praise the Lord! Pray for the rest of us. We don't like to suffer. Does anybody like to suffer? Some of you don't like heat. I like heat. I just don't like cold. I would rather be hot than cold. When it is cold, you wear double socks, double pants, double shirt, and then you wonder why you don't get anything done, when sometimes, if you would just exert some energy working, you could start shedding all that extra clothing. Isn't it amazing? The temperature hasn't changed.

You know, I appreciate some of the ministers in the Evangelical Church. One of them is Brother Kent Hovind. I do appreciate him. I appreciate the spirit, I appreciate the tenacity, the determination, and the fact of what he believes in. Do you hear me? He believes in what he is doing. I'm not assessing it one way or the other, but I am telling you that I have a commendation

and an admiration for the man because he does what he believes. He does it with all of his heart and all of his resources; he throws everything that he is into it. There is nothing held back. Do you know he travels? I don't think he is an isolationist. I don't think he enjoys being alone. But he travels extensively. His funds are poured into it. I like people who get the burden of God and begin to pick it up individually and put themselves on the line. Would to God we had a church of them. Would to God we had a body of them that would understand the reality of the thing that God requires of them.

I appreciate people that come out here. I appreciate them coming out here and spending their time without thought of remuneration. You know, it is not fun pulling weeds. I asked Brother Martin Hloska one morning, "How are you?" He said, "Prepared to die." That was his theme. That was his motto. Every time I talked to him, I'd say, "How are you doing, Brother Martin?" He would say, "Prepared to die." He didn't like pulling weeds and weeds are what he got, row after row after row after row, morning to night. If you think that we work just an eight hour day, think again. It is work, and work, and work, and work. And when you are through with work, there is more work to do. There is never enough time, and never enough energy to complete the task, to complete the job, and yet it is a job that has to get done and it is not that it is being done for the sake of GOOD VEGETABLES. What God wants to do is to make you palatable, so that when somebody takes a bite out of you, their face doesn't go "uuughhhh" and you leave a sour taste in somebody's mouth.

I am so blessed! I am so blessed! I have never done anything, do you hear, as an "off" occupation, a life-long position or place of labor that God was not talking to me about my position in the heavenly realm. My goodness.

There is a need for the church to **STAND UP! SHAKE YOURSELF! SHAKE YOURSELF OF THE DUST! RISE UP!** Let's read it. Isaiah 52:1, *Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean. ²Shake thyself from the dust; arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion.*

Isn't it amazing! Brother duCille was talking about Zion. They that worship what? The Lord in the Spirit and in truth. "In truth" means facing the reality of who you are, of what you are, and the requirement that is upon you and whether or not you are performing in

accordance to God's desire. Not yours. It has nothing to do with you. Part of the plan, part of the process, part of the act is the fact of you denying yourself.

When I first came into this message, many, many years ago, it was not called "the sons of God message." It was called "the death to self message." DEATH TO SELF! That Word was imprinted indelibly upon my mind, and it is something that confronts me in every situation. Am I fulfilling the obligation of the power of the Word that is upon me in my given situation? Am I allowing death in the position of my ever loving of life? My goodness.

The souls of Hebrews 12, they talk about the place of their comfort. They lived in caves, dwelling alone. They were what? Sawn asunder! Hung! Pushed off edges of ravines! I don't know. All sorts of things were enacted against them. Why? Because they believed and they demonstrated that belief in action!

Now, you think that because you have the sons of God message, when you come to the end of time and somebody comes up to you to blow your brains out, you are going to say, "Well, I rebuke you in Jesus' Name." THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING INSIDE OF YOU THAT IS NOT AFRAID! There has to be something inside you that has a reality that is greater than the gun, greater than the prison, greater than the place of isolation and devastation. These men had something. These women had something. Do you hear me? When the Communists came into power and began persecuting the European church, some of those men and women had a reality of the gospel of salvation. That is all that some of them had, yet it was enough to keep them in a place of integrity. They did not lose their integrity. There is a position of integrity that God wants to impart and impregnate the church with!

You know, I thank God for my wife. She is always confronting my position of unbelief in a very simplistic way, so simplistic that I just say, "It can't be that simple." Yet, God comes to her aide and proves her right and me wrong. Hello! Boy, if you don't think that is humbling! Of course, I always go, "You were right, and I was wrong! Well, Okay! You won that one!"

I'm telling you, it is an attitude that is instilled in this nature that is called man. "Oh, I'm going to dress the way I want to dress." "I'm going to talk the way that I want to talk." "I'm going to do what I want to do, and I'm not going to be like anybody else." FOOL! Walk out the door and you've got a hundred of them doing the same thing and yet they are "different." Do you know that God allows sin and rebellion out in the world? He allows it in order to confront us with our position of rebellion. By the virtue of what God has

deposited in us, we should have something of a power in the name of Jesus to rebuke it! But we are so in love with ourselves and who and what we are! We have our nationalistic spirits. We, the people of the United States, have certain unalienable rights. **YOU HAVE NO RIGHTS IN GOD!** The only position, the only place, the only privilege that is allowed me is to worship Him and to give Him preeminence, predominance, and a place of preference beyond my own position, my own place. Hallelujah!

It is easier just to farm. It is easier just sitting on a tractor. I don't have anybody around me. I just drive back and forth, me and God! But nothing happens as far as my soul is concerned. Nothing happens as far as my desire for God is concerned. Nothing happens unless I am doing what God wants me to do - putting myself on the front line. Come on, brethren! I would much rather be in a position of support back there in the old supply house far enough away that I can't hear the shells going off or the screaming of men as they are wounded or dying. Come on! But that is not the position or the place that I desire! **I WANT TO BE A SON!!!!**

He said to the rich young man, "You need to keep the commandments." The young man said, "No problem! No problem! I read my Bible. I pray. I give my tithe. I'm there on Sunday morning. I'm there on Sunday night. I'm there on Wednesdays, sometimes. I work hard. I love my wife. I love my children. I've done all of these things. I've done them well. I've done them all." You know what I think? I believe that he was telling the truth. Jesus didn't rebuke him! He said, "Okay. Well, what about this? Love your father and your mother." You can deal with that one for a while. He said, "I've done that." And do you know, I think that he did. I think that he was a son that had exemplified himself in a manner that wasn't braggadocious. Boy. Put that one on. But Jesus said, "One thing you lack. There is something that you love more than Me. Something you lack." He said, "Go, sell all that you have and give to the poor." It says that the young man went away sorrowful. He rejected his opportunity (Matthew 19:16-22, Luke 18:18-23).

Now, may I tell you what God was offering him? He was offering him a position of sonship. Do you remember what He told the twelve apostles? "You shall sit on twelve thrones" (Luke 22:30). It was a position of authority, a position of preeminence, but more than anything else, a position of obedience. Jesus said, "Sell all that you have and come and follow Me" (Matthew 19:21). Hallelujah! The Bible says that he went away sad. You see, it wasn't that God didn't have the position to give him, because He did, in the aspect of offer-

ing it to the young man. He wouldn't have offered something to him that He couldn't give, and that was not his to give in the first place. The most tragic thing about it is that that young man had the ability to get up and over his position of prestige and his love for the things that he possessed. It doesn't have to be money. It doesn't only have to be money.

In Isaiah 52:1 it says, ***Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion.*** He is talking about the end-time church. He is talking about the sons of God. ***...put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.***

But there is a prerequisite, a precondition. It says, **"SHAKE THYSELF!"** You have a responsibility! I have a responsibility! I am sure that we would much rather have somebody else get shaken. "Shake my wife, Lord." "Shake my husband, Lord." Well, you shake one corner of the house and the whole house will shake. It is amazing how often God begins to answer some of our prayers, and when He begins to answer them, we begin to howl. The Bible says to shake thyself from the dust. Rise up and sit down (Isaiah 52:1). First, you have to shake yourself of your humanity. Hallelujah! Come, let's look at some of the aspects of this humanity.

Genesis 3:1, ***Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*** He was using the Word of God in a manner and in a fashion to bring you into a place of submission. Paul said it a different way in Romans 7:11, ***For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.*** ¹²***Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.*** ¹³***Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.*** Oh my! So here we have the devil in a conversation with the woman. I want to tell you something. The devil is today in a conversation with the woman, the church. "Hath God said? Could it not also be that ye shall be as gods? Don't you have a right? Don't you have a position of personal recognition?" Come on! What about a church that desired no recognition? What about a church that desired no position of personal preference? What about a church where we have everybody thinking about somebody else instead of themselves? It is not just a matter of thinking about somebody else. Do you know that? I cannot think good about an individual unless I am thinking about God. It is not you that becomes my

focus. "Oh, I am going to help you, sister. I am going to do good by you. I am going to encourage you. I am going to help you today, whatever it is you have to do." My help for you is superfluous if it is not motivated by the Holy Ghost, and if my thought and my intent is not to please God. It says of Jesus that He did that which His Father did. Now, I might be trying to exalt myself or to build myself up in your sight, that you might have a special consideration for me. Do you think that will achieve the objective of God? Absolutely not! It will bring me into a place of trouble and tribulation because God will want to deliver me of my position of personal preference.

Isn't it amazing how we are always willing to help God on our time schedule? Have you ever noticed that God always interrupts your time schedule? First of all, it is kind of amazing to me that an eternal God has a concept of time and will allow Himself to be hedged in and regulated by it. You talk about infinite patience! Can you imagine what time must be to an eternal God? I don't know what it would be to me. "Let's just get on with the business of eternity. Let's just forget about this thing of time."

So here comes the devil and the woman says in Genesis 3:2, *We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: ³But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.* You see, the devil knew to some extent, the weaknesses that were in Eve, and that are in humanity. Now, if you don't think that the devil doesn't know your weaknesses, you are mistaken! He knows me. He knew my father. He knew my grandfather. He knew my great, great, grandfather. Everything that he knew about them was employed and implemented, until down through the ages here comes "little Asbill" in the fullness of all of his grandfathers. You don't think that he knows me? In spite of that factor, there is something that God gives to me, He imparts it, and it is called WORD. WORD! Just think about the Word of salvation! That a man can say, "You must be born again," and it does something in my soul, a sinner's soul. Do you hear me? Amazing! Hard hearted, stiff necked, rebellious, determined, absolutely determined to go to hell. Then a man comes and says, "You must be born again." And something in my soul stirs and begins working something of an understanding, and if not an understanding, at least a desire to be born again. Out of that thought comes a revolution against the nature of sin that has been upon me since who knows how long. Out of that place, out of that hell, out of that hole, God reaches down and brings me up and a soul is redeemed. Glory! Hallelujah! But it took my participation!!!

I had to believe that what I was being told was possible. No wonder that the Bible says, *without faith it is impossible to please him* (Hebrews 11:6). Do you know what pleases God? The demonstration of the reality of who He is is on the basis of the Word. That Word, let me tell you, it wasn't that that Word just saved Burt Asbill's soul. Do you hear me? That Word began to break the bondages of hell that were on my family. Spirits of fornication, spirits of adultery, spirits of alcoholism, spirits of addiction, spirits of malice, spirits of hate, all those things - that one little seed that was imparted and the belief that I had in the ability of that seed to save this soul began to germinate and bring forth a deliverance in the realm of my natural being. My father was delivered. My brothers were delivered. My children were delivered. Hallelujah! My grandchildren are being delivered. Glory to God! One little thought, one little word, one little place of acceptance of the hope that was in my mind that this could actually be a reality began to reach out into the darkness of hell and break the chains, break the bondages. Hallelujah! And I began to shed that old snakeskin. HA! Come out of that cocoon! But it is not without cost!

The devil has risen up in many different situations, and come again, and again, and again, and tried to tell me that the Word of God is not real, that it is a figment of my imagination, that it is something that is contrived by my psychological involvement in my hope and my aspiration for a better life. COME ON! See, I am not talking Greek to you. I am talking English! If you don't think that you aren't being confronted with the reality of the world out here, you had better think again. Many of you are in the valley of decision between the reality of the world and the reality of the gospel of the Kingdom of God by the Word that has been delivered unto you and the soul that has been saved and the offering of the position of sonship. What is the position, the destiny of that soul? What will that salvation do for you in the realm of eternity or in the realm of the natural?

Let me tell you a little secret, if I may. My family has certain familiar spirits and I have been privileged to come against those spirits. I have seen God deliver me and my family from those familiar spirits. But do you know that there are certain spirits that are in my family that are not my responsibility to overcome? They are my children's responsibility. Do you know that? I mean, I can do everything that I can. I can pray for them, I can counsel them, I can instruct them, I can teach them in the acts of warfare, but there are certain spirits that they are designated to meet and to overcome. Not that I could not overcome them, but for whatever reason in the economy of God, God has des-

ignated *them* as the overcomer. So, I have an awesome responsibility, do you hear me, to prepare my children and my grandchildren. Hallelujah! What a marvelous opportunity that is confronting me on a natural realm. Do you know that in my family, there have never been consecutive generations that have loved the Lord? For some reason, God picked me! Do you hear me? I don't know why! For some reason, God picked me to begin to prosper in the gospel and to reach out in the spirit and to deal damage to the kingdom of hell. Do you hear me? My children were under the auspices of this Word and their children are now being instructed in the accoutrements of warfare. I have a responsibility as a grandfather to teach them how to be fighters in the Spirit. I have to teach them what their heritage is in the Lord, not in the aspect of Asbill, or whatever else it may be. Hallelujah! Glory to God! And the darker the situation, the greater the glory. My goodness. You know, Brother duCille talks about a man who used the term "sudden death, sudden glory." He was talking about it in a negative sense, but I am saying it in a positive sense. There is a position of death that I can come to that gives me the taste of victory and the vision to see eternally. Hallelujah!

You know, we are not to know each other after the flesh (II Corinthians 5:16). Do you know that? That is what the Bible says and yet the flesh is so predominant that it is all that we see. We spend so much time in the flesh! We do not want to exceed our comfort level.

Genesis 3:4, ***And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die.*** "Oh, you won't really die." My goodness. "Oh, you are not really going to hell. You'll make it into Heaven. You don't have to be so fanatical. You don't have to be so tenacious. You have a right to live your life. You have a right to program your children and prepare for their future." Let's say that the world is going to go on for another sixty years. Your preparation for your child, what is it doing for the Kingdom of God in that sixty year time frame? Will they just be good at their profession? You know, I have been told that without an education it is impossible to succeed. "Oh, I want my children to have better than what I have." Would to God that my children could walk in the path that I have had to walk in, because the blessing of God has been at every turn. The provision of God was at every impossible set of circumstances.

Do you know that God puts things in our midst to encourage us and to judge us? I know a man that is in a position that he shouldn't have because he doesn't have the degree that is required to be in that position and yet God has exalted him. Time and time again men have risen up to put him out of that position and

God, again and again, has removed those men - men with PhD's, CCD's, TCD's, who knows what they are. God removed them. We would rather go to school and learn how to do something well and be a success at it, than to go to the Creator for the solution and move in the auspice of that anointing, that power. We would rather do something in a natural arena to achieve some sort of goal. That is why we have programs in churches. Building programs! Growth programs! All kinds of programs! Why? Because it is natural? Because somehow it is easier to do? Or just because we really don't believe in the power of the Almighty? We just don't believe it!

Let's go back over into James. When I awoke from this dream I woke up thinking, "Well, who is it?" (chuckle) Of course, you probably wouldn't have done that, right? "It's not me. Who is it?" God spoke this Word because He knew that I would be asking Him, "Who is it?" James 4:1, ***From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?*** Romans 6:11 says, ***Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*** ¹²***Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.***

¹³***Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.***

Those words, ***members as instruments***, mean weapons of unrighteousness unto sin. You know, we sing the song, "Ye are God's Battle-Ax." Weapons of righteousness. James 4:2, ***Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.*** He is talking to the church! He is not talking to sinners. He is talking to the church. Now, do you think that they were coming to church, coming to meetings with their six-guns, and having shoot-outs? Isn't he talking to the church? I believe that he is talking to the church and not only the church then, but the church NOW. Hallelujah! Don't yield your members! He said, ***Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.*** ³***Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.*** You know, I don't know how to put this, but we have this miracle wand theology! However, most of the time I have found that if you are doing the will of God, there is a resistance in doing the will, to stop the will of God from coming to pass. So there is something of a necessity for me to persevere in the midst of doing the will, against the resistance. Hallelujah! And you know, the

timeframe is not up to me. God is not McDonalds. Sometimes it takes years in the aspect of what God tells you to do, and as you begin to press to do the will of God, weeks, months, and years go by without any evidence that that will was being performed. But as you persevere and press and you come to that position where you can't press, you can't persevere, but yet you persevere because you hope in God. The Word says, ***Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD*** (Exodus 14:13). Hallelujah, the will of God is done!

We need to be a persevering people! We need to be a pressing people, a people who have the ability to say, "Hath not God said 'Yea and Amen'?" (II Corinthians 1:20). Hallelujah! Do you know that the first problem that Eve had is that she began to talk to the devil and she did not even know that it was the devil. Many of us are talking to the devil and we, like Eve, don't even know that it is the devil.

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts (James 4:3). Just think about it! Ask amiss is not asking in accordance to what it is that God desires. Well, in order to know what God desires, you have to first desire God and then get to know Him. The degree to which you desire God is the degree to which you are going to know what it is that God desires. HELLO? My desire cannot be different than God's desire. Therein lies the problem - my desire is not God's desire.

James 4:4, ***Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*** You talk about straight and narrow, Brother Bob! Jesus said, "Deny yourself, pick up your cross, follow Me" (Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34, Luke 19:23). Praise the LORD! Hallelujah!

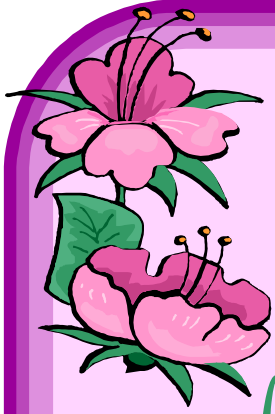
The sad part about it is that I don't know, after all this, that we really comprehend the position, the place of decision that we are in. You cannot remain in a static position - it's an impossibility. If you think that it is not, go up on the roof and walk off of the edge. There are rules and regulations that are governing the environment in which you live. As it is in the natural, so it is in the spirit. There are rules and regulations that are governing the environment in which we live spiritually. I think that we are in a very serious place, spiritually speaking. I think that we are in a very serious set of circumstances, and there are requirements that God has put upon us individually, as well as collectively, that we are not fulfilling.

Friendship with the world is a situation that is unacceptable! It is unacceptable! Romans 8:10, ***And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but***

the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. The quickening is a quickening of eternity and immortality. The phrase, "shall quicken your mortal bodies," explained and defined in the Greek gives the impression that the quickening is something other than just the life of the natural thing responding to life. It is an eternal, immortal impartation that gives you the ability to rise up above and over the circumstances in which you find yourself. It says, ***¹¹But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*** We are talking about a resurrection spirit! ***¹²Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. ¹³For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*** Mortify means to kill, to put to an end our self-serving, our self-preservation, our self-centeredness, our place of personal preference. Furthermore, it is our responsibility to do the killing. It says, ***¹³For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. ¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*** What are you aspiring to be? What is your calling and your election? It makes no difference of the condition or the thing that you are dealing with, IF you believe the Word.

You know, I appreciate Brother Gruver's testimony. It was so simple, so practical and so natural and yet so spiritual. Do you remember his testimony of getting knocked off of the cliff? Faith! He was injured in his leg or something. He was unable to walk, hanging by a branch on the side of a precipice and the Word came to him, ***So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*** (Romans 10:17).

Now, what would you have done? Would you begin to speak in tongues? Rebuke the devil? What he simply did was to somehow pull out his Bible, hang on to his knapsack, and I don't know how long it was, a couple of hours, maybe? It was quite a while, wasn't it? Hanging on the side of the cliff, reading the Word of God out loud. It gave him the strength to climb up the side of the mountain and to walk on a leg that was impossible to walk on. My goodness! We need to have such faith! We need to have that position of belief that we can exercise ourselves in the Word that we have, that we might receive the promise. God bless you! God bless you! □



Can God really do everything?

By Jarka Srkalova



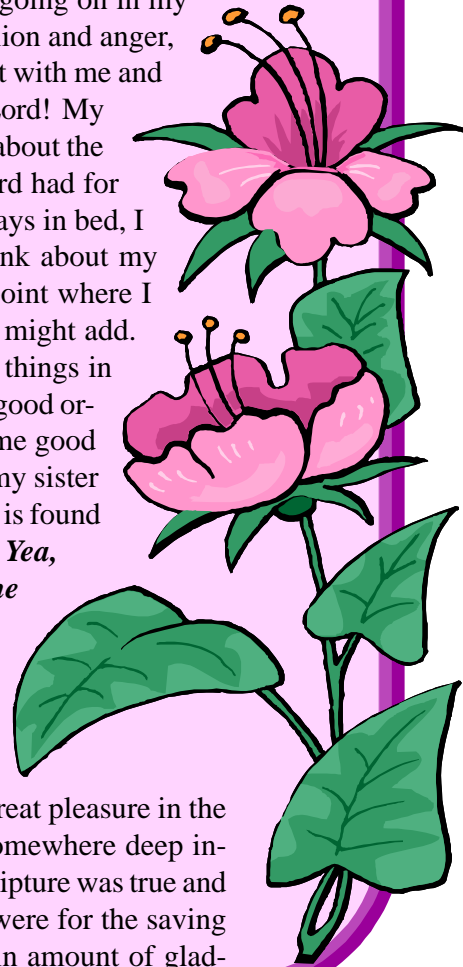
My daughter and I were cooking something in the kitchen recently and suddenly she asked me, “Mommy, can God really do everything?”

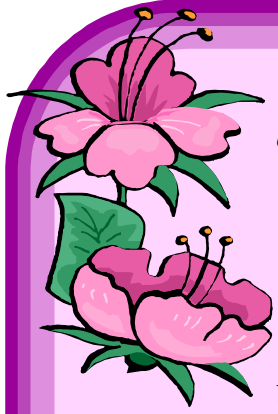
I did not know what she was thinking about, what thoughts were caught in her little head, but my whole life immediately flashed before me like a film. I saw all the moments when the Lord was touching me miraculously and when my faith was being formed into an unshakeable confidence.

I said my YES to the Lord when I was twenty-five, but it took a long time for faith to be rooted in my heart and start to reflect in my actions. When I moved from my parent’s house I began to look for fellowship, but I wasn’t finding a church, or Christians who could show me the true character of God and lead me on His path. I had been trying to live according to the law of God, but I wasn’t experiencing His grace. I fell into chaos and I didn’t know what to do. I had to deal with all of the loneliness on top of everything else. There came one trial after another and unfortunately all of my decisions to follow the Lord had cooled off and I went back to the world.

I concentrated all of my attention and strength on my occupation as a nurse. I was finding the reason for living in my job. I felt so profitable and necessary. My soul was delighting while my body was languishing. One night, when I was totally exhausted after a number of difficult shifts at the cancer ward in the hospital, I found myself in a very difficult situation. I lost total control of my legs. I was fully paralyzed, and I laid in bed at the hospital for fourteen days. It was the first time in my life that I found myself walking through the valley of death with a vision of life in a wheelchair or even confined to bed. When I had left the traditional church, it was very difficult for my parents and they didn’t handle it well at

all, for they ended up renouncing me at that time. My sister (also a sister in Christ) visited me very faithfully, having to come about ten miles to visit. She read to me from the Bible and from a book that had the testimony of Joni Eareckson, a sister who had had an accident and was confined to a bed. That sister was so thankful in her state! I was, on the other hand, blaming God and everything for what was going on in my life. In spite of my rebellion and anger, my sister was very patient with me and how much more was the Lord! My sister kept reading to me about the love and care that the Lord had for me. During those long days in bed, I had plenty of time to think about my life, until I came to the point where I had quite a resentment, I might add. I began confessing some things in my life which weren’t in good order and that I had left some good decisions behind. Then my sister read a scripture to me that is found in Psalm 23:4. It says, *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.* It wasn’t that I had found great pleasure in the Lord’s instructing, but somewhere deep inside I believed that the scripture was true and all of the circumstances were for the saving of my life. With a certain amount of glad-





ness and even fear, I read verse 5, *Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.* *‘Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.* I was moved and had tears in my eyes and started confessing it both with my heart and mouth.

I repented to the Lord for all my false promises, from evading Him by turning to other paths, and for filling my life with my own will and unbelief. And what happened next? My mobility was coming back; first in my legs, then in my arms. In a few days, I was fully able to control my body. I stood before the Lord totally broken and determined to submit to whatever He said.

I moved from Brno (in Czech Republic) to Slovakia. I found a fellowship of Christians who sought the Lord sincerely and I sought with them. Though I had gone through more trials and falls, I had not departed from God and, thanks be to Him, He did not give up on me.

I was seeking the Lord for about a year (in 1990) when I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. I had to undergo chemotherapy and cytostatic treatment, and I lost all my hair and weighed around 110 pounds. Surgery was impossible and the doctors were awaiting my death. Even though I was asking God, “Why is that?” I still believed that there was a plan for my life, that my life wasn’t going to end like that. Then one brother found a scripture that says, *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:* (James 5:14). We had simply believed it and put it in action and it really worked! After fourteen days of multiple medical examinations, the doctors confirmed that there was no sign of cancer in my body! It was a great testimony for everyone! Even though all of my case sheets and records had been “lost” at that time, me and the brethren in the church, along with many doctors could not deny that they had witnessed healing. I had started to recover and my body was getting stronger. I wanted to understand what God was saying to me in that situation. No longer had I asked, “Why?” but my question was, “What do You intend, Lord?”

The Lord spoke to me clearly one day, “I have not yet finished My work with you. My plans with you are higher. I will form and train you until you fully submit to Me, so you can experience the full measure of My presence, My love, My mercy, so you can be used for My purposes.” What could I say except, “Amen,” and, “Thank You, Lord.”

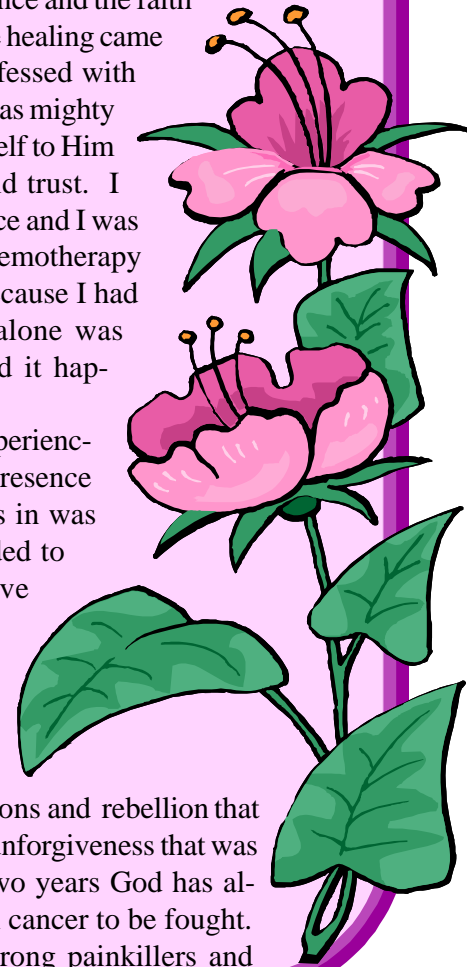
I experienced a period of time filled with joy and the Lord’s favor and the intention of doing every-

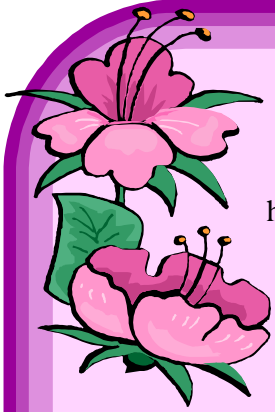
thing for God. But there was yet one thing that gave me much trouble and it was the medical prognosis that said I would not ever be able to have children. It was frequently on my mind. I treated the knowledge in different ways. Once I would be struggling with all of my strength, then later I would be sorry for myself, depressed and rebellious towards God. My thankfulness to the Lord that He saved my life was fading and I started to blame God for taking what I considered to be the most precious thing, being able to have children and to be a mother.

I wasn’t able to see through the lie of the devil at that point, but now I know what it was about and where my treasure was. *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also,* Matthew 6:21. I kept losing all of the battles with my soul and my priorities were influenced by my situations.

Though I was trying to live in God’s presence so much and I was happy sometimes, I sensed that something was not in the right place and I had expected that fullness of blessing to be different. I knew that the Lord is a jealous God and that He didn’t want only a part of me. He wanted my whole being. Therefore, He allowed another “valley of death” experience in the year 1995 when the tumorous cancer again attacked my body. Based on my first experience and the faith that I had because of it, the healing came again at this time. I confessed with my mouth that my Lord was mighty and that I would give myself to Him alone and in Him I would trust. I put my hand on the ill place and I was healed. I rejected the chemotherapy and medical treatment because I had believed that the Lord alone was worthy to heal me. And it happened!

Even though I was experiencing more of the Lord’s presence and favor, the state I was in was not sufficient. God needed to deal with that destructive root of bitterness and unforgiveness, which was feeding on me, like a cancer and almost killed me. God clearly showed me the accusations and rebellion that were in my heart and the unforgiveness that was related to them. After two years God has allowed the last battle with cancer to be fought. I had to take shots of strong painkillers and





this disease was eating my body. But the truth revealed to me during my misery and then my repentance, which followed afterwards, saved my life again! I had to confess many of my transgressions and bad attitudes before the church. Personally, I had to put some relationships in the right order. Shortly afterwards, the FINAL healing without any consequences came. And the Lord promised me that I wouldn't have to fight cancer again and it wouldn't return into my body. This happened in the year 1997 and God has been faithfully fulfilling His promise even to this day!

I was experiencing evident miracles, but the Lord was quiet about the children. Year after year my faith was tried. Even though I was overcoming in many areas, I was falling down and losing faith in the realm of motherhood and partnership. I had continuously started to resign.

When I was 38, I surrendered from the fight. I actually took the position of yielding my desire of marriage and children. I knew that I would need the armor of God to manage the situation and to make my life worthwhile by myself.

At that point, God moved me to a different locality where He had been preparing a husband for me there! Without my involvement and pursuit! It was a time when I was not looking for him and I had even stopped believing that it could happen to me. Matthew 6:33, ***But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.***

But I still needed to renew my mind and trust the Lord much more concerning maternity. My husband and I really desired to have children. The first pregnancy resulted in a miscarriage very shortly. I am not certain whether our faith was not strong enough then, but we started arranging an adoption. I was almost forty at that time. I could not hear about the testimony of Sister Sarah anymore and my desire kept on growing, but His will was different. As soon as the adoption authorities qualified us as being competent and they added our name on the waiting list, I got pregnant. For quite a long time I couldn't believe that it really happened and that it was actually happening to us. We canceled the adoption and started to look forward to the birth of our baby, both in joy and in fear. The pregnancy was complicated from the very beginning. Once again we had to fight our way through many valleys of death and different medical prognosis. It was a time of many battles, but the Lord is the mighty Conqueror and we conquered with Him! In August of 2002, our healthy Annie was born. It was a great testimony for many and a miracle for us!

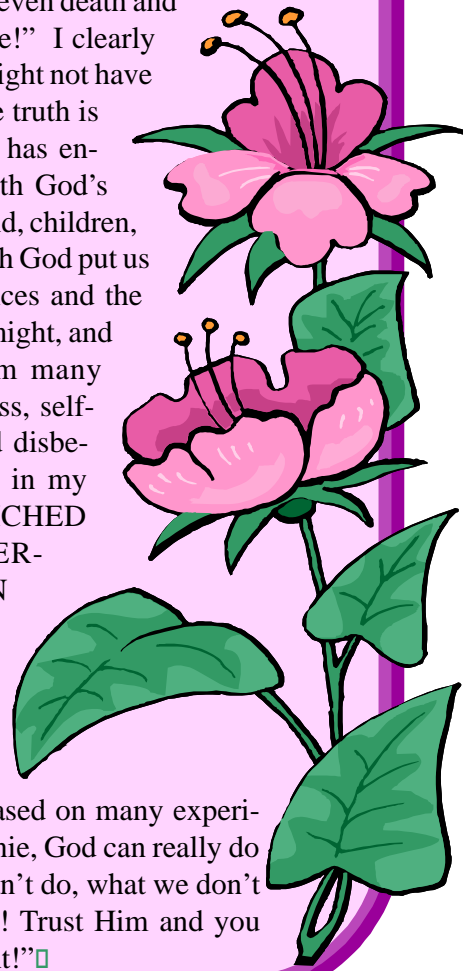
I got pregnant again after a year and had a miscarriage, so we considered adopting again and I got pregnant! The pregnancy was a lot more complicated and difficult than the first one, but as opposed to that, I was very peaceful and my faith grew with every month of pregnancy. The devil tried to entangle my mind with his lies and paralyze me. He kept reminding me that all the tests were pointing to down syndrome. One day I decided to give our child to God again and I received a new truth: that the baby is healthy.

It came to pass! After many complications, our beloved dear daughter Miriam (God's beloved) was born. She was healthy, beautiful, and viable. Both of our daughters were delivered by Cesarean. We refused sterilization with the faith and knowledge that the Lord holds our lives and we trust Him. We don't have any doubts that He's always known what is going on in my body and what the body can handle.

Therefore we are delighting in everything that the Lord gives into our lives and we seek His will each and every day. We ask for the wisdom for bringing up our girls and we want to be a good example and a testimony.

Sometimes when I am looking back and evaluating my life, I can't do anything but say, "Thank You Father. Thank You for everything! For every tumble and new rising, for every trial and even death and the resurrection that came!" I clearly realize the reality that I might not have been alive today. But the truth is that I am alive and God has enriched me. Enriched with God's presence, with my husband, children, brethren, the church which God put us in, the precious experiences and the fear of God's greatness, might, and love. I was saved from many things, healed from illness, selfishness, self-pitying, and disbelief, from many injuries in my body and soul... ENRICHED WITH HOPE TO OVERCOME THE WORLD IN MY SOUL.

What did I finally answer my little Annie? With absolute safety, fear, but a certain amount of self-esteem based on many experiences and trials, "Yes Annie, God can really do everything! What man can't do, what we don't even dare to think about! Trust Him and you will experience His might!" □





Are We Communicating Yet?

by Kate Trotter



At summer camp this year, the children were taught the importance of their dependence on Jesus Christ.

In many activities throughout each day, they found solutions to their questions and problems by physically going to "The Head." This was a man hiding behind a curtain who represented Christ, the Head of the Body. He always had an answer or instruction for the children and they were encouraged to run to Him for their help. The parallel to this cute picture of little children running to "The Head" multiple times in a day is in how we adults handle our days.

In the process of opening the new First Fruits store and restaurant, my job was to set up a new POS system, which is a computerized cash register. We ordered two systems to be programmed and sent to us. We were told that all we would have to do was take them out of their boxes, plug them in, turn them on and we would be off and running. However, there were some glitches that came into the process. It began when only one of our computers arrived at our software company. The technician set up this first computer and sent it to us without its partner computer. He then received the second computer and found that it was the larger and stronger computer, the one that would run the show, The Head. He set up this system, our server, and sent it out to us. We plugged everything in, got it set up and found they could not speak to each other. There was a barrier between them that did not allow their communication, much like us before we are born again. Our dead souls simply cannot commune with our heavenly Father, who longs to break down the barrier that stands between us. The shed Blood of Christ is there to wash us clean from our scarlet sins and to bring our dead soul to life. All we have to do is believe and call on His name and the barrier will be broken.

This first hurdle with our computers was overcome and the barrier was removed. They could communicate! Now the server could instruct and assist the other computer with its daily operations. All day long these computers were to talk to each other and keep each other up to date on everything that happened and all the new information they received. Yet again, we experienced a glitch. This time, though the machines were now able to communicate, they just would not do it. It seems that the smaller computer would not submit to serving the larger computer and they simply would not talk to each other. They knew of each

other's presence and were given their rank and instructions, but the Head could not overrule the little upstart. The little one simply refused.

Now, I know I am talking about this from an angle that is not completely technical, but I am doing so because God used the situation to speak to me. The little computer had it in its head that it was in charge and though it had been told to submit to the larger server computer, there was still no communication. When I asked God what I should see from the situation, He reminded me of summer camp, the children going to The Head and I saw how my computer wasn't talking to The Head. This is like us; we simply refuse to synchronize ourselves with The Head, our Lord Jesus Christ. We behave as if we know more and can handle it ourselves. Independence from The Head does not seem to be a heinous sin in our daily lives.

Let me go back to our computers. Since the server seemed to go to sleep and the little one wanted to run the show, they continued to refuse to talk and I was therefore confined to use only one register - one register that limped its way through the opening days of our store, forced rather unwillingly to submit to our demands that it ring up sales and be a proper cash register in serving the people that came to our store. Amazing. This little computer had been built and programmed to serve and yet it revolted and refused to perform to its utmost ability according to its talents.

Are we not similar in our behavior? Do we revolt against the total servitude we have been called to fulfill? Do we refuse to speak to The Head? Because my networked computers refused to submit to The Head and communicate as the Head and the Body in their correct positions, I encountered great difficulty in using the Body to bring sustenance to the world. Each one of us is like my little computer, needing to lay aside our notions to be the Head, submit ourselves to being part of the Body and go to the Head seeking His authority and direction, making sure we are always in sync with Him. Throughout the day, my Head computer receives new information to share with my Body computer and my Body computer needs to receive it and put it to use immediately. This will only come to pass if my two computers are in constant communication with each other. Jesus said He only did what He saw His father do and only said what He heard the Father say. He



was in constant communication with The Head and continuous submission to the authority of The Head. It is because the Body, like my computer, is lacking a continuous connection and submission to the Head that we are having such troubles functioning smoothly.

For moments of time, my Body computer would communicate with my Head computer, but for reasons unknown to me, that communication lasted only a short time and then would be broken again. The ministry, my technicians, would come to the two computers and try to bring reconciliation and fellowship to them. For a brief period, the two would work in harmony once more, and then something would separate them and communication would be lost.

During this last conference, God was using the ministry to point out that we needed deliverance from anger and other companion sins that will often show up with it. Anger separates us from communication with the Head. When we are separated, we cannot do or say what the Head is doing and saying. It is difficult for me to believe that there are many people that have gained full control over their emotions and have completely overcome anger in all its forms. The issue is not only the violent outbursts

of emotion that are most obviously categorized as anger. In doing a little study, I found that irritation is a small amount of anger that you feel, exasperation is a larger amount of anger and offense of any kind on any level is a short period of anger that you experience. We were given the opportunity to repent and be delivered from the anger within our souls. I took that opportunity, as did many others. I want to be free of it so that I can be closer to The Head. Anger blocks my communication with Him and just as with my computers, will cause me and the Body to limp through life unable to perform and serve to the fullest that God desires. In the case with my computers, there would be some deliverance, but after a short time, the communication would stop again and the technicians, the ministry, would have to come and minister again in order to restore the relationship. I want my relationship to be continuous, but if anger, the specific emotion that God is dealing with right now, comes back into my being, I must continue to be

delivered so that I can remain in fellowship and obedience to the Head.

There came a time with my computers during which my technicians (the ministry) came in and did extensive reworking (ministry of deliverance) with my computers. When the technicians completed their task, the computers were working in sync with each other, the server (the Head) was calling the shots and the little computer (the Body) was in submission and obedience with full communication passing between the two. Praise the Lord! I rejoiced with great joy over this success. How much more will God rejoice over us when we come to that same place of which Jesus spoke, a place of continual connection with the Father?

There is yet one more aspect of my computer issues that I want to explore. Throughout the process of setting up the computers and using them, I found that the computer would simply reject the other machines that

were to be used in conjunction with it. At one moment, the computer and all its attachments would be working together, at the next, they would refuse to cooperate at all. In comparing this to the Body of Christ, how often do we refuse to work together with those to whom God

has connected us? The register could not perform its duties to its fullest capabilities if it could not print a receipt, display prices and open the drawer to give change. Neither can we if we reject the parts that others that must play or if we refuse to play our parts.

This computer situation lasted almost a week and still hasn't reached complete perfection in all of its workings. However, God has been gracious in solving many of the issues for which I am very thankful. I learned a great deal throughout this technical and spiritual lesson and my hope is to come to the place of constant synchronization connection with my Father in Heaven. I do not want to miss out on what He is saying to His Body. In addition to that, I want to move in conjunction with the Body, for we are members one of another, and when we separate, we become as useless as each separate part of my computerized cash register. Let us be encouraged to get into our specific places and perform to our fullest capacity. God bless you!□



Announcement! Announcement!

We are so excited to announce the birth of the 3rd baby in the Imig family!

Matthias Paul Imig was born to happy parents, John & Pat.

He is also welcomed by his older brother and sister, Lucas & Ami!

The day of arrival was Friday, January 19th,
and he weighed in at 9lbs 14oz and was 22 inches long.

May God be praised for His goodness unto us all!□

Look On the Fields

Brother Bob Streblow

July Convention 2006

Mahomet, Illinois

Brother Peter Schneider: This is Brother Bob Streblow. He is from Powder Springs, Georgia. He has been all over the country and God has used him mightily in the prison work and in the streets. There are many of us that testify of the power of God that is through the book that was delivered through his circumstances [Mr. Pegelow at the Gates of Hell]. Come up, brother. Hallelujah. Brother Bob Streblow, bless you.

Brother Streblow: I greet you in the name of the Lord. What a name! Is there any higher name than that? He can lift you higher than anybody else or *anything* else! His name is Wonderful, Prince of Peace, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, Counselor, and how wonderful He is. It is such a pleasure to be here. I am very excited because my oldest daughter is here. I have not seen her for, I guess, about thirty years she tells me. I have two grandsons here and a great-grandson that I've never seen before today, and he's already nine years old. God keeps me so busy that I'm just not able to get around! I am just delighted to be here. I have two grandsons here, and a great-grandson, and of course I've got a whole bunch more of them! I have six children, ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and I guess my motor is just getting started! Not for more children for this world, but for that world to come! Blessed be the name of the Lord!

We have been very, very excited about coming here. And every minute and every hour and every day I have been here, I have been receiving feedback from the

people. I can see that God made no mistake in sending me here. I have grown to love Brother Steve Goodman, who published Mr. Pegelow, and worked so hard to get it all done. I did nothing! So don't look at me; God did it all! It is just wonderful to know that He is Lord and King of all kings! Thank you, Jesus. Let us bow our heads in prayer for a moment and let the gentle dove of the Holy Spirit settle on our shoulders and in our spirits and in our hearts.

Peace, peace be still. Quiet every mind here. Father, You have given us weapons of warfare, and we know, Father, that You have put us in charge through the powerful name of Your only begotten and beloved Son. Thank You for that, Lord, thank You for it. Thank You, Jesus.

Every morning when I'm at home, between four o'clock and five o'clock in the morning, there comes a mockingbird that sits on my back porch. The Lord has sent him into the forest, and he has learned the songs of many beautiful song birds and he sits there, just about day break, and he sings his heart out to God, and I know that it is time for me to get up and begin my thanksgiving meeting. I don't have Thanksgiving one day a year, I have it every day that that mockingbird shows up! I get out Psalm 103, and I begin to say, ***¹Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. ²Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: ³Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;***



As my family and I have transversed this earth together, Satan has attacked us many times, but do you know something? Not even death could rob me of one of my children! After thirty-four convulsions, my second oldest daughter died in my wife's arms, and she was rushed to the hospital. When she was there, the doctors took one look at her and pulled the sheet over her body. That was in Silver Spring, Maryland, at the Seventh-day Adventist hospital. My wife said, "No, Lord." My same daughter had been healed previously from being burned by a boiling pot of potatoes that had been pulled down over her head. She had been standing on a high chair when she saw my oldest daughter, Joy, playing in the back. Then she got so excited that she stepped off of that high chair, and grabbed the closest thing to her, which was a boiling pot of potatoes, and pulled it down over her own head. My wife was in the back attending to Sandy, my third oldest daughter, who was a newborn, when she heard a scream from the kitchen, and she rushed to her daughter. She found her on the floor burned all over her body. Where the potatoes hit, it took all the skin off, and where the pot hit her skin all the skin collapsed and was gone.

I was at the office of the National Evangelistic Center in Washington, D.C. when my wife called me. She said, "Please come and meet me at the hospital." She came by ambulance with that little girl. My wife called me because she knew we always trusted the Lord for healing, and she didn't know what to do. The neighbors were standing outside our apartment shouting, "Do something with your daughter!" They could hear the screams coming from within our apartment. So she decided to call for an ambulance, but she called me first, and I said, "Yes, go." They took her to the doctor's office, and her skin was dripping off of her body so to speak, and all of a sudden she started screaming in that doctor's office. But the Lord was there. The doctor said to me, "We must rush her to the hospital. We must do this and we must do that." I said, "Doctor, just do what you can to take the pain from her and bandage her up and we're going to take her back home." Because we had no insurance, they wouldn't even touch her until we gave them some money. It was quite a day! We took her home and she was all bandaged from the top of her head all the way down her body. He had put some salve on her and we laid her in her crib. We put our hands on Pamela Faith's body; her middle name is Faith! We started to pray for her, lifting her up to Jesus, and God put her under His anesthetic! When we finished praying, we looked at her and she was sound asleep. Can you imagine that in that burnt condition? She was **sound asleep!** He gave her His anesthetic. Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him. He showed up in that

little bedroom and touched her body. We never took her back to the doctor. I just changed the bandages. There were bad spots where the bandages stuck, so it would loosen fresh skin that was trying to grow onto it. But do you know that she never got any infection at all, not one iota of it! Isn't that wonderful? Isn't that just like the Jesus you know?

Oh, Jesus wants to do a miracle. There's going to be a miracle that will go out of this place. It is going to go right from here to Cleveland, Ohio. I am not telling everything in order here, but I am going to get to it in a minute, because I left you with a lady that was with another young lady who was dying, but I'm getting to that! I wanted you to see why this happened in the hospital. Three months later, Pamela didn't have a bandage on her body any place. Researchers say water burns are the most infectious of all kinds of burns that you can get, but not a trace of infection was any place on her body. In fact, Brother Avery Luwers from Dallas, Texas came to visit us in Washington, D.C. He was a friend of mine who paid for my first tent in order to go out and preach the gospel when I was just an eighteen-year-old boy. He sat down in our living room, and I called my three little girls in and he said, "Which one of your girls was burned?" This was five or six months after she had been burned. He looked over all the girls and he couldn't figure out which one had been burned! To this very day, you can not even tell where Pamela was burned. We had warred with the devil all the time with her because of the infections she always used to get. Her ears, her eyes, she was the most susceptible of all our children to diseases, but once she was healed of that burn she never got any more of those things. She was one of the healthiest of our children from then on. Isn't that wonderful? That is just like Jesus.

When she had died and was left on that gurney at the hospital covered with the sheet, the doctors and the nurses went out and left her there. My wife went back into that room and she said, "God, you healed this girl of all those burns; you can't let her die now." She stood on her faith, and do you know what? When I got to the hospital, there were thirty or forty doctors and nurses outside in the hallway. Oh, you already know what's coming! That little girl was healed by the power of God! God raised her from the dead! My wife, by faith, wouldn't let her die! She commanded life to come back into her body! All of a sudden, they saw the sheet begin to move underneath. My daughter first breathed in several deep breaths. My wife pulled that sheet back and she said, "Thank you, Jesus!" She's rather conservative when it comes to a lot of things, but she went shouting out into the hallway, and the nurses and the doctors came running and they recorded it in that Seventh-day

Adventist hospital as a miracle. Praise God! Oh, bless the Lord, Oh my soul! But now it is not enough just to praise God. It is not enough just to enjoy the blessings of the Lord. It is important that we turn our faith to people who are in need. Do you see what I mean? God wants to increase our vision.

A few years ago, I had to put my mother, who is now eighty-nine years of age, in a nursing home, and it was the hardest thing I had ever done in my life. I had taken care of her for five years and she was beginning to get very extreme dementia. She was starting to run away, and was starting to do a lot of things that people in that condition do. I realized that she was too much for me to handle and we took her to a nursing home. Rather, God led us to this nursing home. I said, "Lord, I want some place where my mother, as a Christian, will feel very welcome." We walked into this nursing home, and God spoke to me to put her there, because they give such great care to people. We put her in that nursing home and there was a young lady by the name of Angela Gutierrez who checked people in there. She checked her in and she was so comforting to me, so strong to me that I knew this was an unusual place. Angela made me feel at ease. She was a beautiful young lady who had a Mexican father and a Puerto Rican mother. I looked at Angela and I said, "You sure are a fine young lady." She told me, "I'm a graduate of Ohio State University. My father doesn't like it that I came to a nursing home after he spent so much money on me." But she said, "I've got a heart for old people." Isn't that wonderful? I want someone around me like that, because I am fast moving in that direction!

At this nursing home, one of the first questions they asked was, "Do you want spiritual help?" on the application. I knew right then and there that they were putting their priorities in the right place. So they admitted my mother and I found out that the people were Spirit-filled and led by God, and God was working so beautifully in the people's lives. At times the Lord would give back to her all that Satan was trying to rob from her. I remember how she used to feed the bums that would come by the railroad tracks where we lived, or hobos, you might call them. She was always feeding them. It was just wonderful. I was raised with that principle and she was one of those people who were always serving someone else. While she was in that nursing home, the Lord would come upon her some days and He would have her start walking up and down the halls and when she did, she would go into rooms and would lay her hands on the patients in there, and things started happening. Brother Steve has been there. You met Angela Gutierrez. You know about it. She began to go down the halls and pray for salvation and for sick-

ness, and one day, the administrator, Tara, called me into her office and said, "What's different about you and your mother?" Hallelujah! She said, "Things are happening around here, and they say that it is your mother going up and down the halls praying for people!" She was eighty-nine years old. Can you imagine? But it was her habit in life.

Now I'm getting to the point where I want to really bring this where we want to go. So far it has all been preliminaries. I was so impressed with Angela that I decided she would be the second person I would give Mr. Pegelow to. I gave the first one to the administrator, and she put it on her desk, and the receptionist from the nursing home came in and saw that book on the desk and said, "Where did you get that?" Tara said, "From Bob Streblov." And she said, "I've got to get one. Where is he? Is he still here?" "Yes, he's back visiting with his mother." And while I was back there, the receptionist came running down the hall, and she said, "Where are those books?" I said, "Why? Who told you about them?" She said, "I saw one on Tara's desk, and I've got to have one. I read that when I was in prison, and it changed my life." Hallelujah! She said, "I'm a living epistle of Mr. Pegelow's testimony." She had been in trouble with alcohol and it touched her life, and not only that, but she gave it to everybody who worked there. I had to bring another two hundred books so that the people who were patients could get one, and they started giving them to relatives who were coming to visit them! And we had a thing going! Praise God! Amen!

About four weeks ago, Angela called me into her office. I didn't know this when I gave her a copy of Mr. Pegelow, but she was crying when I came in. She said, "Bob, would you please pray for my daddy? He's 59 years old and his liver is gone. They're taking him tomorrow to the Emory University Hospital in Atlanta to see if he's qualified to get a replacement liver." And fortunately, he was turned down. **Fortunately** he was turned down because he had Hepatitis C. That was another incurable disease, so they could not give him a liver. I said, "Thank you, Jesus." I knew that Angela was somebody special. We had a great rapport with one another, and I knew God had His hand on her life. In fact, I could see her being a social worker among the people we're going to be dealing with shortly. We have ninety people now in this building across the street from where I live, which was a bank building, and they are all abused women who are running from their husbands in DeKalb county in Georgia. We're going to need social workers and all kinds of people to help get these people on their feet working with the Lord.

Now do you know that Angela, her mother and her sister, there's three of them in the family beside the dad,

are meeting right now in an apartment in Atlanta, Georgia. Her dad is in a hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. I told her we are going to pray for her dad and we're going to send the word to heal him! Not only are we going to do that but we're going to pray and send the word to other people you know who are alcoholics and are coming to a crossroads. If you know of somebody who the Lord has laid on your heart, we are going to send the word! Hallelujah! Oh, let this be a resurrection morning. If you know of someone who is laid upon your heart, and you want to see a miracle go to them, we are going to send those miracles together. We are going to be in agreement! I feel a uniting of our faith. Alcoholism is one of the toughest things to overcome. I've got a grandson in jail. My daughter just told me he might have gotten another three or four years because he messed up in jail. But we are going to send the word, whether they are in a jail, whether they are in a hospital! If they've got one foot in the grave! Jesus said, ***I am the resurrection, and the life:***

he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: (John 11:25). Thank you, Jesus. Let us agree and touch someone else. Let us agree and send the word tonight for miracles all across Illinois, all across America!

Father, in the name of Jesus, Who cares about every one of those drunkards, Who wants to loose them from the prison of Satan. Your Word says that if any two of us as touching shall ask something in Your name, You shall send that word to them. Let's send that word now! In the name of Jesus, we bind those alcoholic spirits. We bind them! Satan, loose your roots in their hearts and lives. Loose every fiber of Satanic influence in their lives! In the name of Jesus, Satan free them in Jesus' name! Loose them! Oh, hallelujah! Thank You, Jesus. Thank You, Jesus. Thank You, Jesus! He has set the captives free. Oh thank You, Lord. We agree with You that these people are free, free, FREE! Every root, every tentacle of Satan, I ask that it be removed out of that life, in Jesus' name! Thank You, Lord, for touching Mr. Gutierrez. Thank You, Lord for restoring that man to his family! They've lost their home over his sickness! But now You are returning, reversing the fortunes of this person. In the name of Jesus Christ, hallelujah! I expect on Thursday, Lord, to hear that

telephone ring, and the report of the glorious good news. Thank You, Jesus. Hallelujah! Thank You, Lord. We offer up the offering, Lord. Yes, our victory, our victory! Oh, Praise God!

I have met so many wonderful people here. And I am so glad I have gotten to know you, my Brother Cecil duCille. I am so glad that you shared with me the other day what has happened in this area of the country. He has laid this area on my heart. I'm going to be standing with you for a mighty army to come forth. We are going to address the young people and the children in this place as well as all the adults. So you boys and girls, and young people, get ready to accept something very special from the Lord. There is nobody that is closer to the heart of God than little children. He rebuked his disciples when they rebuked Him for taking too much time with kids. He loves kids; He loves young people! Matthew 18:11, ***For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.*** And God's going to use children.



My son, at seven years of age, after a visitation from the Lord, came down the aisle in a little church building in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. He came down the aisle with his hand stretched outward. Jesus was leading him to the altar, and he fell on his knees, and when he did the Lord began a process in him that is going on to this very day. He stayed in that church and we couldn't get him out of it for four

days! Four days! He never ate anything. Seven years old! Everybody thinks my son is a little bit weird, but I'll tell you something, he's got a hold of something that I haven't even touched yet! He's been on a forty day fast. Can you believe that? My daughter, Sandy, found him almost dead in his house. He had to get to know Jesus better! He was a grown man when that happened. He is forty-seven, is a very gifted artist, and God is going to use that marvelous talent He has given him.

But this is what I want to say to you. When he finished with those four days, he started going up and down the streets of that little town, preaching to all the other children! He would gather them under a tree so the sun wasn't shining on them, it was summer time, and he started preaching to them. Next door to us, where the little church was, a family named the Grundys lived

there, and they were grundy all right! They were the baddest people in town. We were afraid for our cars every time we went to church. We never knew what that family was going to do, but Jesus loved them. And all He could find was a seven-year-old boy who wouldn't say, "We can't do that!" Mark went up and down the streets preaching the gospel to the kids. One of the Grundy boys came up to my daughter, Joy, and he said, "Are you one of the Streblov girls?" She found out he was saved and full of the love of God. He's now a grown man and loves the Lord, and it is all through a seven-year-old boy. Isn't that wonderful? I've met a few of those people that Mark led to the Lord years ago. Mark, my beloved son. He's got to be beloved, because all the rest were girls! I have five girls. I look at these little princesses that run around here, and it is just beautiful to see the activity of God in their lives. They are still kids, but there is something bigger and better going on in them. This is what attracted me to this group of people. I was so impressed with how the children are in this place. I saw it in Atlanta, too, so it must be all over! But it impressed me because I know what God can do with a kid. Praise God! Little boys and girls, young people, God can do anything through you.

Let us read Matthew 18 for a moment. I want to give you some of the Word. Jesus asked the question in Matthew 18:1, ***Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?*** Boy, I tell you, He put some adults in their place. We get to be a little high-minded sometimes about who we are and what we do. God can pick up one little child and do more with that child than He does with some people's whole life. One sinner that repents and comes to the Kingdom of God, the angels in heaven rejoice. ²***And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, ³And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. ⁶But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me,*** hear that, parents? Don't be the cause for a child to take up an example of sin. Jesus gives a very, very stern warning. ***It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.*** That is a powerful word right there. That's some serious stuff. Don't offend these little ones. ⁷***Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!*** He goes on to describe what would be better than to do that.

Verse 10 says, ***Take heed that ye despise not one of***

these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. Do you know that the Father gives an accounting to the angels to watch over these little ones? That's some powerful stuff right there. He makes them watch over the little ones. ¹¹***For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.*** What do you think? Matthew 18:12, ***How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?*** Jesus again said, ***Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest*** (John 4:35). There are people who are *absolutely ready* to receive the gospel, but it is where we are looking! People are too busy sometimes *with religious things* and not concerned about the thing that is in the heart of the Father. The very purpose that Jesus came was to seek and to save that which was lost! I have asked the Lord, from early in the time that He laid His hand on me, to let me hear His heart beat, let me delve into His mind and ask, "What are You thinking about what is going on? How do You feel about what is going on in the church today?" Where is our attention? It has been my sometimes-unpleasant task to call the church to accounting regarding the lost.

When I came to this place on Friday afternoon, I remember when we drove up here, I saw one of the most beautiful sights I have ever seen in my life, and I have seen some pretty ones! There were about four hundred gophers out in that field. They were crawling all over those vegetables out there and were actively engaged in farming! It stopped me right there! I was right in the middle of that driveway coming up with the dust blowing in the back and all of the sudden the Lord said, "Son, their industry is great here. They have great industry. They love to work and they are doing great things." And He said, "Oh, if they could just lift their eyes a little higher, and look on the world that I came to save! To seek and to save!" I have the heart of an evangelist. I love to go on the streets myself and I can't wait to get to Las Vegas. I was there for ten months and it was *fun!* Not the kind of fun a lot of people think about! But I was able to pray with Telly Savalas just before he died and lead him to Jesus. God had led him to one of my best friends and she got converted the first night I was in Las Vegas, and she put me in favor with Telly Savalas and we had that wonderful privilege of praying the sinner's prayer with him. He had that bald head, and his tears weren't streaming down that way (indicates down off the back of his head) but they sure were streaming down this way (indicates down his face). Tears are not a sign that somebody is truly repentant, because many an alcoholic, you will *think* the person has re-

pent, but the person has not repented until they have Godly sorrow. As long as they are worried about their spouse accepting them back, some of them are just crying over the *mess* they got themselves in. They're not crying because they hurt the heart of God. There is earthly repentance and then there is *Godly* repentance. It is *very* important if you are going to go out and win souls to make sure that they repent with *Godly* repentance. They have sinned against God. Amen.

Now, I want you to turn to a very important scripture. It is found in Psalm 126. Would you kindly turn to that if you have a Bible? I am going to give you the secret to success in touching the lives of people around

you. *¹When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. ²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them. ³The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.*



Are you glad? *⁴Turn again*

our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south. Many of us are in captivity and we don't even know it. Our song has left us, our tears are no longer there, our first love has diminished to a flicker, but look at verse five. *They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.* You are already excited about it, aren't you? *⁶He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.* That means there is not one doubt about it! If you go forth weeping, you shall *doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.* There is no greater joy than when you have committed your life to a new birth. Hallelujah! The greatest joy that you can bring to heaven is a sinner who repents and commits his life to the Lord Jesus Christ. Weeping is important in order to touch the hearts of people. Weeping is important. I'm going to put these two scriptures into my book, Mr. Pegelow, because the secret to getting into the hearts of those prisoners, those alcoholics, is to have a broken heart for them. **A broken heart for them.** *⁶He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.*

I want to leave you with this passage in II Corinthians 10. I said I have that uncanny responsibility of

calling to the church's attention the issue of lost souls. It is one of the hardest messages for people to receive! As long as you are putting them on Hallelujah Avenue, and shouting all the way, and you are sitting there with no responsibility in a wonderful service, there is no accountability. But we are here to commit ourselves to action! II Corinthians 10:3, *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)* The first stronghold to cast down is imaginations or arguments against God. Someone was telling me about a person that they know who is an alcoholic that wished I would remove the words At the Gates of Hell from the title of my book. They didn't like the word "hell" on there. They said, "I don't think I can get this man to the Lord with that title the way it is." Now listen, you are not the convincer, the Holy Spirit is the convincer. I will tell you one thing, God wanted that on the cover of that book, because it makes some people stop and think that would not think otherwise. God has a purpose in everything. He never makes a mistake. Sure it shocks some people. In fact, Mr. Gutierrez did not like it either, but he is so close to that gate now, he is starting to think differently. They said, "We've never seen our dad cry over his condition, but after we read Mr. Pegelow to him in the hospital in Atlanta, he began to cry." Crying alone won't get you there, but it is a start to breaking down the walls. Praise God! Now, unbelievers have arguments, yes, they will give you a hundred arguments if you just leave them alone! Tell me about it! Am I right?

Audience: Yes.

They can give you some arguments as to why they don't believe this gospel. But these weapons we have are mighty! I could add another little word to that, and I don't think God would be grieved. **Almighty. Almighty!** I don't think God would be grieved with that. In fact, I think some translations might have that. I know that these weapons are mighty through God to the what? Pulling down of strongholds. The Holy Spirit can make all their arguments dissipate when He comes upon them with His Spirit, who is the convincer, the reprover and the convicter of sin, righteousness and judgment. Oh bless the Lord! These weapons are mighty.

The second stronghold is every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. I don't care how that person has been preparing their arguments against God. God through the Holy Spirit can make all those arguments dissipate until they are left without an excuse. Praise God! That is what our weapons are for. Now, it says here, *and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;* The Holy Spirit can *bring* them to repentance. He can *make* them *come*

to obedience. Thank God! Aren't you glad of that?

You have the easiest job in the world, because He proposed these weapons. He won the victory! He said, "Do not be afraid of the world." He said, "Do not fear it at all. Be of good cheer! I have overcome the world!" (John 16:33). Your faith isn't all that important either. It is your cooperation that brings it about. Faith is important, but it's not that big a deal, because the Holy Spirit has faith too. That is not you, that is Him. What He wants to do is to work through us. Now look at verse 6, ***And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.*** God did not give you power to destroy people. That is Satan's job. God came to seek and to save that which was lost. He is on your side when you go forth. He has made all the provisions for it. It is not a difficult process. It is just a matter of submitting to Him, and letting Him work His power through you. That is why a little child can be sometimes *more successful* than an adult, because the adults have too much going in their minds. They're trying to reason out how God is going to get to that person. Forget about it! *You* have weapons through God to the pulling down of strongholds.

I have never had to fear any place I have gone, and I go to Fulton Industrial Boulevard in Atlanta, Georgia, just about every day, looking for lost souls. Jesus came to seek and to save! When was the last time you went looking? When was the last time you went *looking* for a lost soul? Well, if you are following Jesus, He is out there seeking to save that which is lost. Am I right? How many can't say, "Amen," but you can say, "Oh me?" I want to give you something to think about, and hopefully in the days, weeks, months, and years to come, whatever it takes, we are going to get focused on the thing that Jesus is seeking, to save that which is lost. That is your most important mission!

In fact, you're almost better off when you get your first love. The first thing that happened when I got converted was I went *looking* for the other five teenagers in an automobile wreck down the road. I was told that when they left the Tabernacle church that night at an old camp meeting, when I went forward for prayer, they went out the back door laughing, but within an hour, one of them was dead, and four were in the hospital. This took place in Waupaca, Wisconsin. I went to that hospital because I heard what had happened and I lead those four to the Lord that first night of my conversion. *First* night! Do you know why? I didn't know what to do too much, but I loved them, I cared about them and that made the difference! There is nothing like your first love. And the Lord has been talking to this body of believers, not just through me, but through many others, that He is trying to get the love lit again in our lives!

How many would like to feel that first love again? Revelation 2 tells you the return address. Revelation 2:5, ***Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent,*** that is the first thing. The *first* thing you must remember, ***from whence thou art fallen.*** "Am I doing what I *first* did when I *first* got Jesus into my life?" I know what I did. I went out and won a soul for the Lord. I could not take a "no" for an answer any more! They had to be saved because I knew what the Lord had saved me from. And on top of that, ***And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.*** The second thing is what? Do you remember, sister?

Sister Addie Chattic: *And do the first works.*

Do the first works! Now, the first time you did the first works, you had His love motivating you. The second time you have to pick it up yourself. During the first years of my life as a Christian, as a seventeen-year-old boy, I read the Bible through three times. Three times! That was my first works. Do you remember what motivated you at first? What was God trying to do through you at first? Have you lost that? Remember that! Remember where you came from! And then go back and do the same thing He motivated you to do at the first time. This time you will have to do it on your own. God has already given you the booster, now it is *your* turn to *be* the booster. You have to say, "God, I *fell* from this spot, and I have to get back up there and I'm going to get there. Help me, Lord." How many think He will help us? If His greatest motivation is to seek and to save the lost, He will help us! Now, the last thing a lot of people think is that if they are not going to accept Christ, I am going to preach judgment to fall upon them. In fact, the disciples asked Jesus one time, "What should we do? Call fire down from heaven?" Jesus said, "You don't know what Spirit you are of. You haven't got first love. That's *lost* love!" Praise God. I want to lift you up, so will you stand to your feet, please?

Jesus, You know that the thing that is pulsating in Your heart right now is not just for the ninety-nine sheep that are here, but it is also for the people who are not here. It is the people who are not here whom He is concerned about. They are the people we should be helping. They are the people we should be reaching out for. Now, Father, I thank You that You have done many wonderful things in all of our lives. We have been very privileged to experience the redeeming Blood of Jesus Christ, the thrill of rivers of living water flowing out of our bellies, and to experience the revelation of Jesus Christ in our hearts as it explodes in glory and splendor. What a thrill it is, Lord! What a thrill it is in life! What a thrill it is, Lord! But there is no comparison to make heaven happy, to satisfy the heart of the

Father, our great High Priest, to honor what He did on the cross, than to bring someone else to the feet of Jesus! That's what thrills Him! That's what pleases the heart of God and gets all of heaven excited! Over one sinner that repents! Thank You, Lord. Not that He does not love the righteous, not that He does not care for the righteous, but it is that the righteous would pick themselves up, and return to their first love and ask the Lord to move through them with His Love. Thank You, Jesus.

How many would like the Lord to restore your first love to you? Go back, take inventory of your life and see where you are. Let us pick ourselves up and say, "God, motivate us again. Help us to repent and do the first works."

I'm going to ask the boys and girls of this place that would like to be a partner with God, who would like to be used by the Lord, and who would like to put your life into God's hands and let Him use you. I'm going to ask something a little special. Would it be inconvenient for the children to come up here? If one of your children comes up here, I would like a parent to stand behind them. See how easy it is to get children to come to the Lord? He said ***except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.*** It is important. This is wonderful. You grandmas and grandpas can come too, if you wish to stand with your young ones. I see even some of my young ones coming up here. I appreciate that. Oh, thank You, Jesus. This is a wonderful sight. Jesus' heartbeat is going just a little bit faster now. As He looks down upon this scene, He loves you boys and girls. He loves you. I love this little fellow, he gets up here and plays and beats his foot and is so enthusiastic about it. I like that. That is the beginning of little roots that are growing in their hearts and I want to encourage that in you. Whatever your hands find to do, do it as unto the Lord. Praise God. This is beautiful. Doesn't it make you proud as a parent to see this kind of thing going on in their hearts? I know I am kind of being gentle today, but the preacher of preachers was preaching this morning, and he got everybody about as high as a kite can go! I called him a young stallion



today. He was into that! And that is wonderful, but we have some serious thinking to do, too. There are times to take inventory of what we are doing and we want it to count for good, don't we? All right, let's lay our hands on these children and young people and let's pray for them.

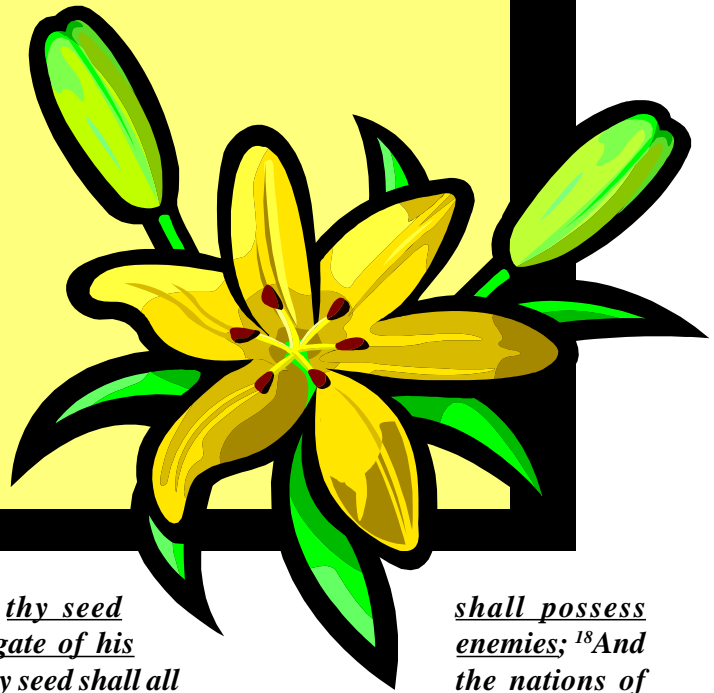
Lord, don't let happen in their life, what's happening in my life. I repent today, Lord, and return to first works so that my children can have an example. I don't

want a rope hung around my neck and be cast into the sea because I've offended ones of these little ones from getting closer to Jesus. You have a responsibility, parents, a vast responsibility. I feel so much for this work. You have such a harvest field here. I saw that all over that field that day. I saw that and God whispered, "I wish that they would have that much love and concern for the lost. It is harvest time! As good

as those big heads of cauliflower, and big heads of cabbage and all those things, as *good* as they are, they do not compare to one precious soul that you bring to Jesus. Oh, praise God. Let's pray.

*Father, in the name of Jesus, now only You can do the work in their hearts and it doesn't matter, it can be quiet or it can be emotional, but the important thing is that You do the work in these peoples lives, from the parents to the youngest child that's represented here. In Jesus' name. In Jesus' Name. How many have been touched by the Spirit of God? Have you been touched? Let this message ring in your ears and be driven home to your heart. I met a lady the other day that said, "Brother Bob, I never told you, but God spoke to my heart when I heard you in Atlanta and I want that to happen tonight." Only the Lord can change somebody. Only the Lord. That's not emotional, because you can't be emotional all the time. You have to have your feet on the ground and still have that beating in your heart. Lord, help me today to help **somebody** who is lost. Thank You, Lord. Let's thank Him for it. Thank Him for it. Seal it with your Holy Spirit, seal it in every one of these lives. May these parents be encouragers of their children, examples before their children, and do everything to encourage them, in the name of Jesus, in the name of Jesus. Thank You very much. □*

My Good Things



By Terry Smith

Genesis 22:17 says, ...*and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies.*

To put this verse in context, let's go back a few verses and see what is going on in the scriptures. Genesis 22:6, *And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.* ⁷*And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?* ⁸*And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.* ⁹*And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.* ¹⁰*And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.* ¹¹*And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.* ¹²*And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.* ¹³*And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.* ¹⁴*And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.* ¹⁵*And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,* ¹⁶*And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: ¹⁷That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore;*

and thy seed the gate of his in thy seed shall all

shall possess enemies; ¹⁸And the nations of

the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Now, we all remember the story of this and we have all heard about Abraham's faith and vision of what the Lord would do for him. We have all heard about this great sacrifice, but I saw it from a bit different view this morning when I was reading this verse. I saw our offering of our souls to the Lord. We know personally the most important thing that we can offer the Lord is our soul and the hardest thing for me to offer the Lord has been and is MY GOOD THINGS. I don't believe we can have much increase of the seed of Christ in our soul until we offer the Lord our good things. What do I mean by good things? Well, after the Georgia conference in 2005, I remember being down on the floor praying to the LORD and offering Him my soul and being quickened by the Holy Ghost to lay down all of me - not just my sin and my flesh and my bad things, but to lay down my good things. I wondered what that might be and the Lord showed me that it was all of my good intentions that He desired to be laid down before Him; all of my studies of the Word that I desired to do; all of the Bible learning and Greek/Hebrew studies that I desired to do; all of the notes that I took that I desired to type in my PC. Basically, it was all of the preaching, sharing, learning, studying methods and desires and intentions and aspirations that I had in my heart to do. These were all good things, but they were my good things. They were my way of being pleasing unto Him. If I might add, they were my "carnal minded" way of being pleasing unto Him.

Now, He blesses my studies and quickens verses and words to study by the Holy Spirit. I find the Word has more meaning than ever before and also there is a peace and a knowing that there is no rush - that it will not go

away if I do not “preach” it or “share it immediately” or whatever was thought before. If there is no opening in the meeting for me to share what has been given, or if the flow goes a different direction, it doesn’t matter. It is God’s problem, not mine. Instead, there is a building upon what is given - continually - as well as a growing awareness of my smallness in the whole vision of the God’s view.

Well, if the carnal mind is enmity against God (Romans 8:7), even if they were GOOD, I didn’t want them any more. I laid down all my good things before the Lord. I remember thinking at the time, between the tears, “What do I do now to please You, Lord?” If any of you noticed, that was just about the time that I quit having to share my “wonderful learning” with you at church (I’m sorry for not learning this all sooner). I also was very quiet writing for a while. I desired to only do what the Lord showed me to do. I had been saying for years, “Not my will but thine be done,” but yet, when it was a “good thing,” I thought it was His will and now He was teaching me a new and better way (Hebrews 10:20) - HIS way. I am also made very aware at this moment that I have no other motive for writing this than to bless the Body of Christ. God has been in the process of dealing with me and the need to not have another motive - no agenda of trying to make the people see such and so, no wanting to help some people see this or that. All of my past motives had been also carnal. We hate to admit it - we hate to see it - any other motive is carnal and from our good. I want to be delivered from all of my good. I just want to bless the Body of Christ HIS way.

Now, back to Abraham and Isaac. When Abraham was willing to offer up to God his best, what did God do? He opened the storehouses of Heaven, didn’t He? We are all very good at repenting and offering up our bad and wanting it to be gone, but how often do we offer up to God our BEST for Him to have His perfect will in us? Are we afraid that we will not have anything left if we do? I think when the LORD put that on my heart that I was afraid that I would not have anything in it’s place, but He has been very faithful to show me that He has a new and better way. He has also been faithful to show me that when I offer up my sin and bad, what is that? It is my duty to repent and become cleansed. ***For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life*** (Proverbs 6:23).

God gave up His VERY BEST for us. The Levitical priests gave offerings of the very best animals to GOD, unblemished and without spot. The Bride of Christ is to be unblemished and without spot, also. As long as I hold on to my good, I am blemished and spotted. They appear clean to the carnal - but spiritually I am holding back from God and not giving Him my very best. NO FLESH shall enter in! Not even good flesh! ***Be ye therefore perfect,***

even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:48). ***...ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy*** (Leviticus 11:45, 20:26, I Peter 1:15).

God is not going to give us 100% reward of being a first fruit if we only give Him 30% of ourselves. God is not going to give us 100% reward of being a first fruit if we only give Him 60% of ourselves. God is not going to give us 100% reward of being a first fruit if we only give Him 80% of ourselves. Am I repeating myself? God IS going to give us 100% reward of being a first fruit if we try our best to give HIM 100% of ourselves. Have you ever heard, “you get what you pay for”? Well, if we only give God a part, how can we expect to be made a whole?

In Acts 5, Ananias and Sapphira thought that they could give what they wanted and hold back what they wanted and that they could get God’s best blessings. God is not asking for our decision of what we can give Him. God is saying that if we want to become a son of God well pleasing unto Him, that we must give our all - even OUR BEST. We are wanting HIS best - we should at least be conscious of the laying down of our best to gain His best. Otherwise, we stand the risk of being like Ananias and Sapphira, and that would not be pretty or satisfying.

NOW that you see what Abraham was doing, what he was offering, what he was willing to lay down for God, look at what God said He would give Abraham, because it is also what He will give us when we lay down our all, our best for God.

It, first of all, speaks of a seed - for us it is the “seed of Christ.” It is ***Christ in you, the hope of glory*** (Colossians 1:27). ***Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ*** (Galatians 3:16). This is very clear, isn’t it? This seed will multiply and grow and become greater than all of the nations that have previously inhabited our souls. The fullness of Christ will consume our souls completely. ***It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it*** (Luke 13:19).

What about this, ***thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies...because thou hast obeyed my voice*** (Genesis 22:17, 18)? Where do we have gates? What is He referring to? Well, we have Psalm 24:7,9, which says, ***...lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in***. We have learned this is our mind and to keep it lifted/opened for the King to come in. The verse that was quickened to me when I was reading was another reference to our gates. It comes from Revelation 4:6-11. Please think about the “seed shall possess the gate of his enemies” as you read these verses and see what the Lord shows you.

Revelation 4:6, ***And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne,***

and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. ⁷And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. ⁸And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. ⁹And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, ¹⁰The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

First of all, these beasts are our soul areas which have been brought under submission to the LORD Jesus Christ. Second of all, the four and twenty elders speak of the priesthood that each one of us are to become in CHRIST. These areas of our souls have gates (we have heard them referred to as back doors also). These gates the SEED OF CHRIST shall possess, or we shall possess for Christ as the watchmen of our own souls. These beasts shall be overcome by the *...blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death* (Revelation 12:11). These gates shall be claimed for our Messiah, our KING. These gates shall no more be ruled by and trespassed by our enemies.

Now, the priesthood is one of our promises. Let us look at a few scriptures. I Peter 2:9, *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous*

light. Revelation 1:6, *And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.* Revelation 5:10, *And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*

So, to summarize what I was seeing when I read this in Genesis 22:17: I see that when God told Abraham that his seed would multiply and that his seed would possess the gate of his enemies, I was seeing that when we finally make our soul offering completely and pleasing unto the Lord, that the Christ within us will then be able to be in control of the gates of ALL areas of our soul and then those enemies will have been overcome by the Blood of the Lamb, the word of our testimony, and that our life in Christ is more important than our life in the temporal realm.

All of these things are in the process in each of us now. The completion is not for us to touch or to taste or to see in the natural, but by the Spirit of the Living God, we know that the completion is what the Lord sees as our future in Him. Our heavenly Father sees that vessel that is covered over with gold and has no more wood showing through. That is our hope, that is our goal, and we shall not be satisfied until we see ourselves in the image and likeness of our precious Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ our Messiah (Psalm 17:15).

Brethren, be encouraged! Our heavenly Father sees our completion and the angels in heaven rejoice. We need to be more conscious of our end in Christ's fullness and less conscious of our present temporal condition. *Christ in you, the hope of glory* (Colossians 1:27). What a glorious hope we have - what an awesome vision of our future. Be encouraged - there is nothing that we can give God that can possibly compare to what He has and is giving to us in the natural and in the spiritual. God bless you, brethren.□

*Genesis 22:17,
...and thy seed
shall possess the gate
of his enemies.*





As I am thinking about writing something concerning the Nebraska Convention at the end of November, I find that my personal experiences are so intertwined with it. So, this is not just a convention summary, but a testimony of God's goodness to me.

I had been in what I felt was a dry place in my walk with the Lord. Oftentimes, it seemed that I wasn't able to concentrate on the Lord to the extent that I wanted to. The devil and his lies just kept rearing their ugly heads and it was such a fight just to keep my head above water, so to speak. I was crying out to the Lord, not because of my outward circumstances, but because of my own wretched soul and the capacity it has to submit so easily to the devil. I had been battling this depression that would just come upon me at any time and I really, really wanted deliverance. The Lord definitely met me at these times when I cried out to Him for forgiveness for feeling the way I did and He helped me by giving me songs and scriptures and just even little things to be happy and joyful about. One of my struggles in particular was feeling like such a failure that I could never measure up to be an overcomer or a son of God, so why don't I just give up? Well, when I got honest with myself, I knew that wasn't really an answer, and in fact, letting that thinking overcome me just made me feel worse. I know that God wants me to be His son more than I want it, so I figured that if He thinks He can take this desperately wicked heart and change it to His liking, then it would be a really good idea to submit. It wasn't that I had never made this decision to surrender, but like I wrote in the December bulletin, it seemed that God was confronting me with more to overcome and did I want to go on with Him? It was as if the bar was being raised a little higher to jump over. I believe God allows the devil to come at you and me just so we will overcome, just so we can see things in us that are not right and deal with them. So after a struggle within, I said, "Yes, Lord,

I've made up my mind to go on, I've made up my mind to surrender my all." I made the decision and the determination that no matter what, I will go on. In spite of nasty feelings that overwhelm me, in spite of whatever disgusting thing rises up in my soul, I am going to see the King. The Lord began to show me that I must believe Him. I was looking so much at how horrible I was, I was not seeing His healing or His life or His Blood that was available to those who believe Him.

At this point, I still felt a little shaky, like I had made a determination, but didn't quite know how it would work out in day to day life. Then we went to the convention. It was a life-changing convention for my family and me. I want to write what the Lord spoke through people who got up and shared so maybe you can get a little taste of the whole thing.

Mr. Schneider started off the preaching Friday morning with the scripture in II Timothy 3:1-5 that speaks of men in the last days that will be lovers of their own selves, covetous, unthankful, without natural affection, etc. and from such turn away. Many people in our world now have given and are giving their lives for the sake of hell. We should be able to give our lives for the sake of Heaven. He shared that this generation parallels the last days in these verses. It is a generation of "everybody's doing it." We must make decisions that are from the heart because the Father wants us to be one with Him. Then, if we are one with Him, we will be one with each other. He told us that the Lord spoke to him that we are fighting two wars: outward and internal. The internal one, in particular, is compatible with evil and with the devil. I could witness with that! Concerning this, he used a phrase that I really like and it is that we must have "eternal vigilance" over our souls. It means to me that we must be vigilant all the time and also, that our vigilance must be because our eyes are focused on the eternalness of God, not looking at our

frame here on earth. He mentioned in the midst of preaching, and it really stuck out to me, that “if you have a self-esteem problem, go to the cross and see your sins covered by the Blood.” Maybe he was preaching it just to me, but in relation to my struggles with feeling like I could never measure up - seems like a self-esteem problem to me - I felt excited. He really did die just for me and I needed to believe it. Mr. Schneider encouraged us near the end of his preaching to believe the Word. This first morning, the Lord was telling me to believe Him in a deeper fashion.

In the afternoon, Mr. David Walter started by sharing from Galatians 5:16, *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.* I remember that this was an excellent word but I was not able to take very many notes in this meeting, so I don't have a complete thought. His theme was “legalism”, but what I remember the most is that he was talking about our response to the Word of the Lord that has come to us from God's anointed people in our midst. What we do with the Word we hear is very important and we must learn to walk by the Spirit, not by what our soulish nature says is or isn't the Word of the Lord. We cannot rely on feelings or go by what has worked in the past. He told about a vision the Lord had given to him one time when he went to Africa. He had the vision while Brother duCille was ministering in Africa but the vision refers to the Word of the Lord going out to all the Body of Christ through whomever the Lord uses to speak. In the vision, he saw the Word coming from Brother duCille like shafts of light. The shafts of light were hitting hearts of people who were near the front of the room, signifying those who had a greater desire for the Lord. These people were being changed by the light, but as the light traveled farther back in the room, some of the shafts of light were being deflected by mirrors and never getting to people's hearts. Others were like going through a prism, thus distorting the Word or only part of it reaching the person - deception. This vision brought a good example of God's Word going forth and caused me to look at myself and really examine where I want to be - receiving the Word in my heart or doubting it, thus giving the devil license to deceive. Again, it spoke to me about believing God with all my heart and being one who “sits near the front” like the ones in the vision sitting near the front and getting the full Word into their hearts. Sandra Walter got up after he



was done and shared some practical examples from the story of her mother how the Spirit of the Lord was directing them and teaching them how He works. The story showed very succinctly that whether we walk in the Spirit or not, it can be a life or death result. I thought that if the “poor me” spirit is overwhelming me, I probably am not walking in the Spirit of the Lord - another reason to overcome it!

At the end of this meeting, Mr. Ferguson brought a short but to the point exhortation about deciding for the Lord. If God be God, then serve Him (I Kings 18:21). We can't keep holding on to the flesh. Pray for one another and don't judge. He spoke of going back to the foundation of our faith, which is repentance at the cross. Repentance is humbling ourselves. “I receive You as my Lord and Saviour.” It seemed to me at the end of this meeting that God wanted us to respond to the Word of the Lord and that the most proper response would be repentance.

Mr. Herrig spoke in the evening meeting about his recent trip to Africa. We printed a written report of this in the December bulletin. He read Isaiah 57:15, *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.* Sounds like repentance, doesn't it? The thing that stood out to me in his talk about Africa, was first of all, that the brethren there very much responded to the Word with repentance, right away in the meetings, and the

Lord brought much deliverance. The second thing was he spoke of the elder's meeting and how the men involved in it were moving in maturity in the Lord and God brought lots of reconciliation and repentance, more than what anybody expected. It seemed to me as I have looked back and thought about this, that God is moving in the earth. He is doing wonders among His people. We also want the move of God, but to have it, we must have a crushed spirit - contrite. I don't want to be left behind in the move of the Lord. I want to go on with Him. Mr. Herrig spoke specifically of the spirits of anger and sexuality that were addressed in Africa and that this Word is for the Body all over the world. It became obvious to me that these two spirits have a strong hold on many, many people. The Lord convicted me, also, and I pray I can walk out an overcom-

ing and deliverance from them. God was also pointing His finger to the fact that you don't have to have a blatant problem, such as yelling and screaming or pornography to have a problem with anger or sexuality. God wants cleansing, no matter how little it has a hold in your soul. The last thing I remember Mr. Herrig mentioning was that altar calls are hard for some because we don't want to open up before others and that it is PRIDE keeping us back from the blessing. Also, fear was mentioned and I was thinking that fear really is pride because we are afraid of what others will think, which is being proud of ourselves!

The next morning, Friday, Mr. Mark Jantzi gave an excellent teaching from Leviticus 21:17-20 which tells 12 blemishes that a priest could not have if he was to come and offer at the altar of incense or go within the veil. It speaks to us that God will not allow us to go into the Holy of Holies if we have these blemishes. The first one is **blindness** - a lack of vision or unwillingness to see new light and new truth will be given to those who seek it violently (Proverbs 29:18, II Peter 1:12, Matthew 11:12). **Lameness** represents having an injured walk because of getting off God's path and falling in the pit but lameness can be healed (Hebrews 12:13). Having a **flat nose** is no discernment. The results of no discernment are found in Isaiah 5:20, Ezekiel 22:26 and 44:23. The next one is **anything superfluous** which is a disfigurement; also, bad balance or poorly proportioned. Mr. Jantzi described this one as someone who majors in minors and minors in majors. **Broken footed** means one who is unreliable or untrustworthy. We must be able to back up our word, as the Lord does (Proverbs 25:19, Psalm 138:2). Also, there is **broken handed** - unable to grasp and retain what God gives us (Hebrews 2:1, Titus 1:9). The next on the list is **crookbacked** - a flaw in the backbone, which is lack of moral uprightness and purity; also unable to bear one's burden, or handle pressure or difficulty (Galatians 6:5). One who is a **dwarf** never grows up to spiritual maturity. God cannot open His heart to an infant or child (I Corinthians 13:11, Ephesians 4:14-15).

A **blemish in the eye** means hypocrisy or a critical, judgmental, cynical attitude (Matthew 7:1-5). **Scurvy** refers to malnutrition from feeding on the world's pleasures leaving you with no appetite for the things of God. The remedy is in Matthew 5:6 and requires fasting so that the real stuff will taste good. Next comes **scabbed** which is someone who is touchy, easily offended and hurt, overreacts and is apt to carry resentment and bitterness. These wounds need healing by the one with the heart of a shepherd to pour in the oil and the wine. The last one is

broken stones which means unfruitful, unable to reproduce. The fruit of the Spirit is not abundant (John 15:1-11). Right after Mr. Jantzi sat down, Brother Unger brought a word to him that God said He was going to use this Word just ministered to bring deliverance to many people. I was very challenged by this teaching because I could see things from that list in me. I am so thankful that God is bringing this stuff to light so that we can get rid of it through repentance.

After lunch break, we came back together and the Lord really met us during praise and worship. Whenever we sing, I have a desire to come up higher in praise and worship and this time it was a reality. At one point, when we were singing *In the Day of My Power*, Mr. Cassell asked the young people to come up to the front and just worship the Lord there. Many children went up and as they came in their purity and childlikeness, and began to praise and worship the Lord, His anointing poured down and many adults were set free, also. It was marvelous to see. I have been thinking lately about the children and how they are as much a part of the Body of Christ as we adults are and that God can really use them in ways that the adults cannot move. After the singing, Mr. Schneider brought an exhortation to respond with repentance. There was much repentance and deliverance at the altar and also, I believe, in the seats, too. I was taking care of our four children so I didn't actually get to the altar but after the meeting ended, the place cleared out for supper and I was able to talk to the Lord without distraction. He is so good to meet us right where we are. Looking back, I know the Lord's deliverance was very real and that since then, the devil has not been able to come against me with the intensity he had before in the area of despair and depression. God imparted to me a strength to resist him that prior to this I did not have. Praise the Lord!

In the evening, Barak Asbill shared and this was another one where I didn't write many notes - being a mother



took priority - but he talked about the *logos* and the *rhema*. If I can try to put it into words, the Lord has sent His Word down to us like the rain upon the herbs of the field. That Word becomes life as it is used by the plant to produce fruit. God has given us so much and I must find out from God what He wants me to do for Him and do it with all my heart. Isaiah 55:10, ***For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: ¹¹So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.***

After Barak was done, Mr. Walter came and encouraged us about the seed of Christ planted in our souls and that we must believe that the Seed will come forth. Everything is warring to steal the Seed, but we can have the faith.

Mrs. Sharon Buckmaster encouraged us to let our trees be pruned, dug around and fertilized. And she believes the Body is beginning to move.

Mr. Herrig then exhorted concerning responding to the Word and there was much repentance again. It was marvelous to see the Lord working in so many people. Both my daughters were touched by the Lord and began to weep and Anna went up of her own volition and repented for being disobedient, bossy and irritated. She told about it the next day, too. Caroline began to weep and she willingly went with me for prayer and I believe God is working greatly in her heart.

Sunday morning came with a good praise and worship time and then Mr. Cassell said that those who had a testimony from the previous day should come and share it. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion and lots of people got up and everything they had to say was good, good, good. My

husband, Charles, got up and opened his heart about the Lord's conviction on him before coming to Schuyler and both he and I were prayed for. God is working mightily with us but I can't really say more because the testimony is still happening! My daughter, Anna, got up and told everyone about her deliverance and I have seen a change in her. She has fallen, but she is getting up repenting and change is there.

The last thing to share about the convention is that some computer and sound system gurus that were there got together and were able to broadcast the audio of the meetings live through the internet. I was so excited that people like the Buckmasters, my mom and dad, and the duCilles were able to hear the last two days live. At the beginning of one meeting, Mr. Sonmore even had Brother duCille on his cell phone and he spoke to us all over the sound system!

It was a life-changing convention. It has been three weeks since we got home and God has been showing me that everything He did was real and true. One of the main things that I have been able to do is to believe Him and trust Him, no matter what I see in the natural and no matter what I feel like. I can have a lot of feelings come into my heart but if they don't line up with the Word of the Lord, I must not dwell on them. There have been challenges and devils rising up, but the more I believe God and just stand, the more peace I have. James 1:2-4 says, ***My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*** I find that feelings can come, things can happen, but God is in control. When I submit to Him and have patience, actively believing the Word, and waiting, God actually changes my feelings and sometimes the circumstances. So, wait on God, and let the peace come.☐

Visitors Corner

A wintry, Illinois welcome to all our visitors! The weekend of December 9th brought Brother Val and Sister Mary Rodriguez and Brother George Herrig to our "neck of the woods." We are so glad they were able to come for the grand opening of the First Fruits store and fellowship with us at our Sunday morning meeting and potluck afterwards. We were blessed to have Brother George and Sister Susan Herrig here the weekend of December 24th as they were en route to Jamaica. Brother Jim and Sister Joanne Cassell were with us for our Wednesday evening meeting, December 27th. We were very thankful to have them, along with Brother Eugene and Sister Eileen Myers, here for our Sunday meeting on December 31st. After returning from Jamaica, we again had the pleasure of fellowshiping with the Herrigs and the Cassells on Sunday, January 14th. We also had Sister Kristi Wickboldt's smiling face in our midst along, with her two little ones, Joshua and Elisa, here from December 28th - January 12th while Brother David went to Jamaica. Thank you all for coming and making our time together so warm (no matter what the weather has been)! We hope to see you again soon!☐





THE EVENING SACRIFICE

Cecil J. duCille

July 4, 2007

Mahomet, Illinois Convention

The Lord called me this morning from around five o'clock, and though I was late for service, I have been working all morning. ☐ Praise God. We thank God for those that are here. We thank God for hearts that are tuned to God. The oneness that we have here is a oneness that cannot be achieved by human organization, but the oneness in Spirit that we have is because we are all here wanting to hear what God says to the Church. Because you and I are the same in our desire to hear what God says to the Church, then you pray that God will speak to us, and that we will hear Him.

In the natural we think of high heights as being above our heads, going up. In the spiritual, height still means above our heads, but above humanity, going up from humanity. We are in a zone between Heaven and hell, between light and darkness. We are the only creatures who are in this realm. We have the privilege of going up into light, brighter, brighter, brighter, brighter or going down into darkness, darker, darker, darker, darker. One time God gave me a word that we are in a twilight zone. We are in a zone where humanity can become devils. You can go so low that you become a devil, and you can get so high that you become an angel of God. I don't need to preach to you to tell you that you can see that some men have already received the "mark of the beast." God made man spirit, soul and body. The spirit connects you with God's Spirit, so it is pulling you up. The soul is in the middle, and the spirit is connected to the soul, but the soul lives in a body, and the body is connected to the earth. So while one is pulling down, the other is pulling up. Every human being is in a position to choose whether he wants to go down or up. The mark of the beast is when one deliberately goes down eradicating their God conscience.

So, in my understanding, when I talk about the "rapture," I am talking about getting higher with God, and getting so high with God that you get out of the natural and into the spiritual completely, like where Jesus Christ was.

He said, "...the Son of man which is in Heaven" (John 3:13b). So you can experience Heaven right here. Hallelujah! Or you can experience hell.

You come into a meeting like this and the meeting is either "low down" flat on the ground, or you see it rising, rising, rising, rising, and coming up to a level. This morning we have been rising, and I want you to keep rising so that your mind will be compassed with heavenly things, rather than with earthly things. Amen.

So God took a nation, a people, and it is not because this people were better than other people, or more numerous than others, but God chose this people, and you cannot quarrel with God. So when God chooses you, you have nothing to say about it. It is not because you are any good thing that God chooses you. "I am pretty and God chose me because of my beauty." Nothing of the kind. God chooses you because God chooses you, and there is nobody, nothing that can give an answer or a reason why God chose the Jews EXCEPT that He chose one man, and that man was very faithful and they called him the "Father of the faithful." He was the "Father of the faithful," he became the father of a nation of people. That nation of people affected the whole earth, so that, whereas the earth was going down-down-down into hell, that nation began to give principles and they began to rise up.

Now, the difference between a beast and a man is that your spirit is subject to God's Spirit. It has a pull on you, and your soul is attached to your spirit, and there is a love and a binding, a marriage, yet to be consummated between your spirit and your soul because there is a third man coming in and this third person is the body, and the body wants to marry the soul. But God said to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life (Romans 8:6). So a tug-of-war goes on and any side that you go on, that is the side that is going to win. So, if you become carnal, you are going down. If you remain spiritual, you are going up.

This morning, we want to encourage you to be spiritual, and to actually turn your mind to the things of God. Now, God wrote things in the Bible for the Jews. He talked to them and He showed them life. He made certain promises to them, and He made everlasting promises to them. Now, can you make an everlasting promise to a person or a thing that is not everlasting? How would you like that? My mother used to say, "It is like a side pocket to a dog." Give him two beautiful side pockets. He has no hands. Now, God would not make an everlasting promise to a people who were not everlasting, and for a long time, we could not differentiate between what the Old Testament and the New Testament were saying. But God did something. He sent a man named Paul, and that man studied. He was a doctor of Old Testament law. He knew all about the law. Then all of a sudden, God knocked him down on the road to Damascus while he was going to persecute Christians, and took him unto Himself. He went fourteen years out into the desert to understand what God was doing. He didn't just jump up and start preaching. Fourteen years; and after the fourteen years, he came to teach the Church what God had been saying in the Old Testament as against the New.

Now, the Old Testament is what we call the "shadow." Now, you cannot have a shadow unless you have a substance. You must have light, you must have substance and then it casts a shadow. So therefore, the shadow is there, the substance is here, and the light is here. And if you come towards the substance, when you meet the substance, then you don't have to look at the shadow again. But if you cannot understand the substance, you will look at the shadow and you will see an arm sticking out. You will say, "He has an arm," and you will know exactly where the arm is because that is where the shadow is.

What I am saying to you is that we are going to read the Old Testament this morning. All I am saying is that we are going to read some of the things in the Old Testament and we are going to read some of the promises that God gave to Israel, which promises Paul gave to the Church. Let's turn around to Exodus 19. We want to talk about the "evening sacrifice." That is the Word that we are going to bring to you: "The Evening Sacrifice." Hallelujah! For there was a sacrifice in the morning, and there was one at noon, but we are involved in the "evening sacrifice." So that is what we are going to talk about.

Exodus 19:3, ***And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus***

shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; Come on, now. Why would God say Jacob and Israel? Isn't Jacob Israel? But Israel is not Jacob. Are you with me? All right. Let's go on. Jacob means the carnal Jew, and in scripture, for us, we translate it as the carnal Christian. Israel is the whole Church. So, He wants to speak to the carnal Jew, the carnal Christian, and to the whole church.

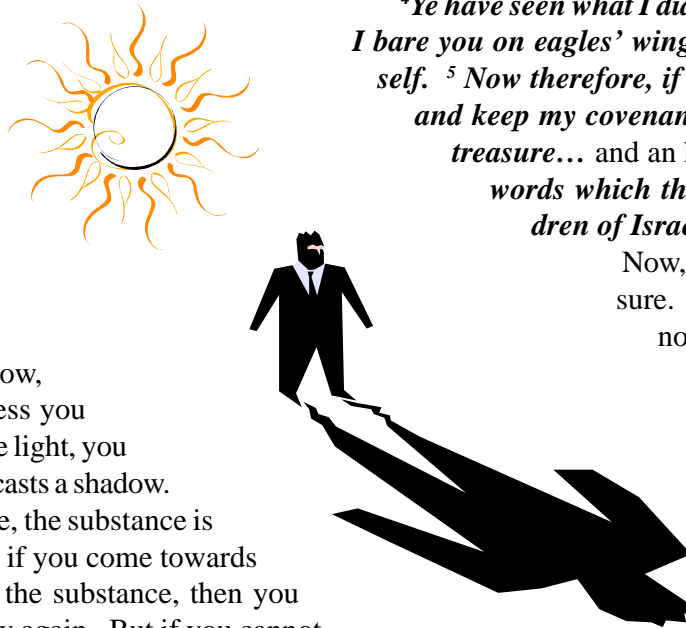
Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Therefore our destination is Christ. He is bringing us unto Himself. It sounds very selfish, but I love when God is selfish, (amen) because He is bringing me unto Himself. That means that I am going to melt into Him and am going to become a part of God. Can you imagine that? God is promising a people that He will redeem them from their naturalness, from their carnality, and bring them unto Himself.

Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. ⁵ ***Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure...*** and an holy nation. ⁶ ***...These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.***

Now, we love treasure. We love treasure. I think if a treasure came here now and they put it down outside and said that anybody who could get out there first would get as much as they could take, this place would be emptied in a short space of time. Everybody would run out to get some treasure. Have you ever thought about what God

counts to be valuable? Now, we count money. We count gold as the epitome of money. Gold, we count gold, and God counts you as His treasure! In other words, YOU make God rich. That is the value of humanity before God. He says, "You are My treasure." He says, "I will take you as a peculiar," not just an ordinary little stone, but as a ***peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:***

And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests... What is that? What is that? Do you know that when you lay hands on a person that you are actually putting your life on the line for that person? Did you know that is what it means? Did you know that God made the people of Israel lay their hands on the priest and confess their sins over him, and their sins left them and went into the priest? Amen. You know, I have seen it happen. We had situa-



tions where brothers laid their hands on people and they didn't have the spiritual virtue or energy to counteract that thing that was in that person and it came back upon them.

One day, we were called up into a mountain top to go pray for a woman who was possessed with some devil. We all left to go and this young man took a short-cut through the bushes and got up there first. What he wanted to have was the glory of being the person who delivered the woman. If you have those kinds of things in you, keep away from demons. They will kill you because they can spot a wrong thought anywhere. The boy ran up there. He laid his hands on the woman. When we got there, his hand was crippled. His hand was withered. And we never got him better. He started having epileptic seizures and he had them until he died. We could not bring deliverance to him. You have to beware of how you lay hands. Do you remember in Hebrews 6:1, Paul speaks of the "laying on of hands" as part of our foundation doctrine? You need to have that foundation doctrine well secured in your foundation. Do you understand? Because in the laying on of hands, you are actually accepting unto yourself the problem that the person has.

When the woman had the issue of blood... You can imagine that it was some sin that gave her that issue of blood. Now-a-days we might say it was some sort of venereal disease. She grabbed the hem of Jesus' garment and Jesus said, "I felt virtue come out of Me" (Mark 5:25-33). Do you realize that when you lay hands on a person that you are giving out virtue? YES! He said, "I felt virtue come out of Me." They said, "But everybody is touching You and rubbing up against You." He said, "No, no. Something else: there was a deliberate action that pulled the virtue out of Me." Do you know what action it was? Faith. The woman believed it! I am telling you - you do not know how strong faith is!

There was a case where a sister that I know - we used to fellowship with them - was sick and she went into the hospital. They had two people in the room. On the bed beside her was Sister Walsh. I'm saying her name, because if she hears this tape, I want her to get in touch with me. There was this woman, Sister Walsh, on the bed and she had been in a car accident. The car had turned over on her side and she had been pinned underneath the car. The hip bone was crushed and when they took her to the hospital they had to take out this bone (part of the pelvis). But they had to take it out, so the rest of the leg was just hanging by flesh. There was no bone there. She was on the bed beside this sister friend of mine. They were preparing her for amputation, but she was too weak, so they had to strengthen her up first before the amputation. So the sister said to her, "Don't let them amputate your leg. I know a man who will pray for you and your leg."

Come on, now - I am talking about faith! One person,

a stranger, lying down on a bed, tells you that she knows a man, who if he prays for you, you will walk, although you don't have a good leg to stand on. She believed it! My God! SHE BELIEVED IT! She believed it with all her heart that she told the doctor, "NO! I will not amputate." The doctor said, "You are an idiot!" He said, "This is going to kill you." He said, "You will be dead soon." It so happened that she was a nurse, and one doctor in her hospital got so mad. "Some idiot made a fool out of you and you are going to die." He got so mad that he said, "If you walk, I will serve God for the rest of my life." That was all that God wanted to hear.

I was in a meeting at a school where I taught. We had one brother from America there preaching. When the meeting was over, I was walking to my classroom and suddenly a woman ran down and grabbed me and said, "HERE IS THE MAN! HERE IS THE MAN!" I thought I was being mugged. So when another lady came down, she said, "Brother duCille, this is Sister Walsh; I want you to pray for her." And they told me the story of what had happened to her. I felt so inept. I had no power to pray for her. I felt wretched. I said, "All right, sister. You go home and my wife and I will pray, and we will see what God will say." We were really afraid of the situation - the woman had no hip and we were to pray for her that she could walk. Well, she never stopped bothering me. I mean, I had no rest. I would be going to do something and the phone would ring - "Are you coming now?" "No! I'll come tomorrow, another day." She kept on and she kept on until my soul got bitter in me. I said, "My God, You will have to heal this first." So, we were at the school and suddenly the Lord said, "GO!" I spoke to Mavis, and we closed up our classes and decided to go. We went and it began to rain behind us. We ran to the bus and the rain followed us and when we got on the bus, the rain came on the bus. The bus took us to her house, and the rain was behind us again, and we ran to get to her door, and we got into her door and the rain came down in showers.

We began to tell her about Jesus. But she was patiently waiting. She didn't want to hear anything else but for us to pray for her. FAITH! I'm telling you, FAITH will do anything! We knelt down. Mavis knelt there, I knelt there, and this woman sat up on a high chair with her leg hanging down. I held on to the leg, Mavis held on to the leg, and do you remember what you felt in Africa, brother? An energy, an electrical charge was coming through the woman's leg and shaking my hands. I said, "Mae, do you feel anything?" She said, "Yes." So I said, "Take your hand off of it." We took it off and no charge. We put it back and this electrical charge was jerking our hands. And we said, "In the name of Jesus Christ, just walk!" Remember now, she had on a brace because she had to have on the brace to be able to even use the crutches.

So she took off her brace and we said, "All right!" I held her one side and Mavis held her other side and we walked around the table. Then she walked around the table. She said that she was feeling like she was falling down on her face, so we said, "Okay, you keep on." By the time we had finished with her, she was walking on her own, walking up and down praising God!

So, she put on the braces the next morning to go to work and she said nothing to anyone. At midday, at lunch-time, she was sitting on her high chair with her legs hanging down and one of the nurses came up to her. God can use sinners, you know? The nurse said to her, "Walshy, you look to me like you could walk. I guarantee that you can't come off of that thing and walk to me right now." The girl came off and walked to her and she almost fainted. I didn't go back to check up on that doctor, but brother, I don't think God will let him off the hook.

FAITH! By FAITH then, we are going to fit the bill of God - not because we are righteous, not because we are pretty, not because we are good, not because we are better than anybody else - BUT BECAUSE WE BELIEVE WHAT GOD SAYS. He will make you a royal priesthood. Now, God created the priesthood to be a mediator between God and man. Do you know that is what a priest is? So when Jesus Christ came, Jesus became the mediator between God and us. So, the priesthood was abolished. (chuckle) But then, He said He had a new priesthood after the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:11). Who is this Melchizedek?

Abraham went to battle and he overcame the five kings of Sodom and Gomorrah, and when he was coming back, there came a man to him. Abraham said, "Who are you?", and the man said that He was the king of Salem (Genesis 14:18-20) and Abraham recognized that it was God and he gave Him a tenth of all, his tithes. You know, I always wondered what He did with it. (laughter) Maybe He just put it up into smoke or something. But he gave to this King of Salem and Salem is Jerusalem. Yes! City of peace! So this situation brings us into something new - a new order of priesthood has been created.

I said to God, "Lord, help me! Help Jamaica!" God said, "Will you stand in the breach?" Amen. You are standing in the breach for many people. The life of the whole world is depending on a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a peculiar people at this very time. Now, it is hard to believe and many people don't believe it. But you have a boy, and the boy will not obey you. You say, "Don't do so and so! Don't do so and so!" He says, "Well, I am a man. I can do what I want to and you are not responsible." Do you know what happens? Down the road, when he gets into trouble, he comes right back to you. The whole trouble and everything is laid at your feet. You are responsible. God made me responsible for Jamaica. I asked Him, I

said, "Lord?" He said, "If My people who are called by My name." WATCH IT, NOW! Beware of what you lay hands on, because the moment you lay hands on it, you become responsible for it. "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face..." (II Chronicles 7:14). He said He would hear from Heaven and what would He do? He would forgive your sins. In other words, He would make you a priest and heal your land. Don't you understand?

But then, turn it in the converse. If My people - that "if" there is a terrible thing - do not seek My face, do not humble themselves, do not pray, I will not heal their land. Are you there? We are talking about the evening sacrifice, and I don't know if we will still be friends after I am through. I don't know if we will still be friends.

I want you to turn with me to Leviticus 14. Remember, I told you I was going into the Old Testament. If we don't go there, we won't see certain things that we need to know. I talked to you about the boy, the child. I have had some of them to deal with. They refuse to obey rules, refuse to walk in Christ, refuse to do righteousness. "I am a man. I can do what I want," and then the trouble comes down. To this day we are under the pressure of the trouble because there are some things that you can do in life that are everlasting. Amen. When you went to that girl and told her you loved her and wanted her to marry you, you made an everlasting covenant. Amen. There is no way - you had better not think of how to get out of it, because it is everlasting. So you can do some things, and some of the things that we have done in life, they are everlasting.

Now therefore, there are certain sins that are committed in the world that cannot be abrogated, the people cannot get deliverance unless somebody else rises up and takes responsibility for it. I am going to give you another story. I'm a story teller, right?

One day, I went up to my brother's house. My brother went to preach in an area that was Satan's kingdom. You remember one scripture that says "you dwell where Satan's seat is?" (Revelation 2:13). Well, this place is one of the places in the world where Satan's seat is, and he went up there to preach. He started preaching and got a church and people began to be delivered, so that means that God was with him. I went up to visit him, and with me was my assistant. In those days we called them "deacon." (laughter) The deacon was a 250-pound man. He was the strongest man I had ever seen. When he stomped, the windows rattled, and when he shouted, praise God, the windows rattled. Now, I am not telling you anything that is not true. So, can you imagine what it did to your ears sometimes? This brother, I'm telling you that about him because this is one of the reasons that caused the trouble. We went up to visit my brother and the moment that I stepped into his house, I got totally crazy. I didn't do it. I just stepped into

his house and I began to shout and to rebuke the devil from out of his house. Amen. His wife took sick. They had to ask me to leave because it was so bad. We went on so bad that a crowd began to come down, and of course, he was a pastor of a church and we had to leave. But the work wasn't done and she took sick. Her sickness was peculiar because one day she would have one disease, and the next day it would be another. So she had polio. You all know what polio is? The limbs begin to be contorted and twisted up and this polio took a hold of her. I did not know. I was 70 miles away now and my mother called me and said, "Cecil," (she didn't say Cecil, but let me say Cecil). She said, "Your sister-in-law is dying and they are afraid to tell you because you might come and make a ruckus and blow down the hospital or something like that."

So, I started fasting. I called the whole church to fast. Monday morning we got into fasting and as I knelt down, an angel came before me. He said, "Hold this." He gave me a handle to hold, and he kind of pulled it like it had some extension, and he pulled it out. He went one measure, and he went another, and I was following him. When we got to the crossroads, about two or three miles from where we started, he stopped. He looked back at me and he said, "Who is going to pay for this?" And when he did that, my heart just leapt with fright. "Who is going to pay for this?" And I said, "I will." He said, "All right," and he kept going. We got to the university hospital, which was seventy miles away. She was lying in the bed contorted up. This was the university hospital that had all the young doctors around observing how the polio was taking charge of the person, and this teacher was there. The angel went in and he took a shaft and he pushed it right down into her chest. And he turned to me and he said, "Okay." I knew that I had to push it, and I said "In the name of Jesus!" and the woman jumped up into the ceiling and was totally healed.

Now, what kind of a payment? Why did I have to pay for it? In a spiritual sense, all the demons - hear me, now - all the demons that were on her CAME ON ME, and if I didn't have the virtue of God to get rid of them, I would be like her. Glory to God! Amen.

When you are called unto the priesthood of God, you are called unto suffering. Wife, if your husband is not walking in God, you are called to suffer and to bring him

to his knees by the power of Almighty God to serve God. Yes. When I saw my brother in sin, I said to God, "It is either that this man is going to be saved, or You kill me." I said, "No more food to my mouth until Frank praises God." I stopped eating that day. Yes. Sunday. I went to work Monday morning, and Saturday when I came back I couldn't find him. The next Sunday he was saved and speaking in tongues.

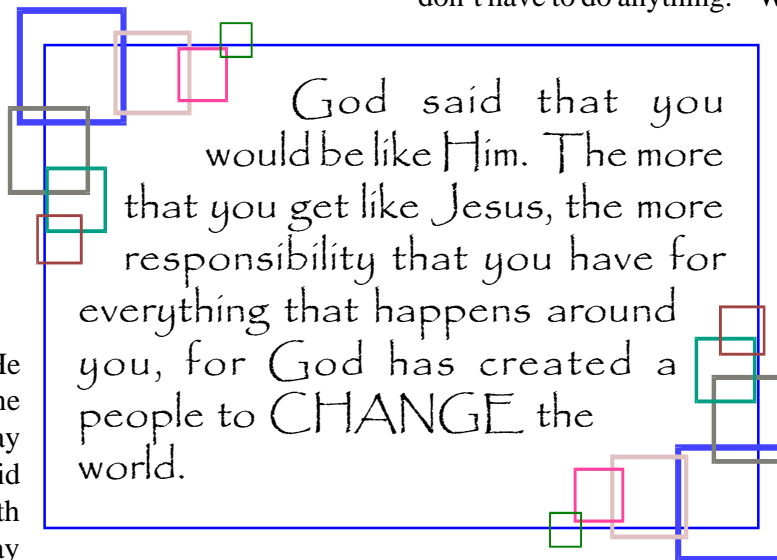
God says that "the Kingdom of God suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force" (Matthew 11:12). If you don't mean what you are doing, get out of the business! Amen. Too many people are content for their neighbors to go to hell. You are content for the people around to go to hell. You see them every day and within a few years, a lot of them will be in hell, and you are having your breakfast every morning. Don't you understand? God has created a people for the saving and the deliverance of the world. Somebody said, "But Jesus Christ died to save them. We don't have to do anything." Well, God said that you would

be like Him. The more that you get like Jesus, the more responsibility that you have for everything that happens around you, for God has created a people to CHANGE the world. Hallelujah! Amen.

So we were looking at Leviticus 14:10, ***And on the eighth day he shall take two he lambs without blemish, and one ewe lamb of the first year without blemish, and three tenth deals of***

fine flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, and one log of oil. What did Brother Sonmore call it? Yes, a log of oil, he measured it and it is two gallons of oil. Now, how would you like two gallons of oil to be poured over your head? Amen. What are we talking about here? You and I know that Jesus Christ is the Lamb. Amen? Have you ever thought whether Jesus Christ was a "ewe" lamb, or a "he" lamb typology in scripture? Help me, please. The type in scripture, was Jesus Christ a "ewe" lamb, or a "he" lamb? He was a "he" lamb, or a "ram." This is telling us about three lambs. It says there is a "he" lamb, there is a "ewe" lamb, and another "he" lamb. Now, unless you can tell me what this scripture means, you know - I would really probably have to tell you what the LORD showed me. ***"And the priest that maketh him clean..."***

We are talking about a man who has leprosy. Now, in the Old Testament, leprosy means *sin*. Sin, uncleanness. So, we are all lepers. We were lepers, thank God. Amen.



We were all lepers and we have been made clean by the sacrifice of Calvary. But then, why were we made clean? It is that if God offered Himself - Jesus offered Himself for us, that we should not love our lives unto the death. We should also offer ourselves for the deliverance of our fellow man.

I'll tell you something. I'm skipping ahead, and showing you something here. Jesus died. Jesus brought salvation. There are good men out there who can't believe it. Do you know that? There are good people who can't believe it and they have to get to a certain place in conviction before they can believe it.

Now, let me ask you something, Peter. You have some neighbors, right? And they know you, right? Suppose your neighbors saw that you were arrested and condemned as a terrorist, and they decided to execute you. They executed you and your picture was in the newspapers and on the television, and everybody saw it, and your neighbors knew that you were gone. One day, exactly three-and-a-half days afterwards, you walked over to your neighbor and said, "Hello!" Let's assume that your neighbor is an unbeliever. Come on, now! Tell me what would happen to that unbeliever? (Peter: "He would be a believer.") You have given absolute conviction. There would be no other reason for him to be an unbeliever after that moment. Hallelujah!

Now, the scripture says that when Jesus resurrected from the grave, the first person that He talked to was Mary Magdalene. And when she ran in to tell the brothers, they said she was "gone;" she was hysterical. They couldn't believe it. Imagine that Jesus told them time and time again, "After three days I will rise again." They didn't understand what it meant. They had never seen anybody rise - BUT yet they saw Lazarus! But somehow or the other, it was too good to be true. Amen.

Now, those were believers, and yet the power of unbelief was so strong on them. Now, if they would kill all of us and the next three-and-a-half days we would start walking the streets of Champaign and Bratislava and the Czech Republic, - what would happen to all the people who knew us and knew we were killed and who were unbelievers? They would be shocked into belief!

Well, let me read a scripture for you, because you believe that I am giving you a hypothetical case, and it is not. Let us turn our Bibles to the 11th chapter of Revelation.

⁷And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. ⁸And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. ⁹And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies... Did you notice that? He is making a spectacle

of their dead bodies. ***...see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. ¹⁰And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, (Merry Christmas) and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.*** Brethren, the two prophets are nothing else but the Body of Christ, filled with the Spirit of Jesus Christ, (Hallelujah!) and the Word of God. You know, I turned to God and I said, "But God, can the Spirit and the Word die, and their bodies be laid in the street?" Do you know what He said to me? "Can't they?" (laughter) When He said that to me, I said, "Oh, yes." Jesus did, because Jesus was the embodiment of the Spirit and the Word, and He died and rose again. So, if there is not a nation, a generation of people who come forth, die and rise again in the physical flesh that men can see them... You cannot judge men with unbelief, because there is a type of man who would believe if that happened. There is another type of man that would believe if you would preach the Word to him. But God is going to wring the earth clean of every one that could be saved. And this is the LAST offering. Hallelujah!

You say, "But why was it necessary for the children, all the people of God to be killed?" They were eaten by lions. What an awful death that must be. They were burned with fire. Amen. They were put to the sword. Why was it necessary? Look at II Timothy 4. Here we see, ***⁴And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. ⁵But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. ⁶For I am now ready to be offered...*** I thought we didn't need any more offering. ***⁶For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.*** So Paul is saying that because of his ministry, because of his stewardship, because of his priesthood, he was "ready to be offered." Do you know that the priest offered himself first? When he went to the Altar of Incense, he offered himself. The people put their hands on him and they confessed their sins before him: adultery, theft, lying, murder, and he took all of the sins and staggered in before God, and offered up for himself and for the sins of Israel. And the fire went up, the smoke went up and God accepted it. So therefore, there is an offering to take place in our time. An offering that soon will be, but let's read a little more about it because there were some people who were too poor to give the offering. Amen? Let's go back to Leviticus.

There were some people who were too poor; can you understand what that says? Some people were too poor to make the offering, therefore God said that they should get two doves and the doves would be the offering for that person - Holy Ghost. Yes, the Holy Ghost would come in.

Leviticus 14:10, *And on the eighth day he shall take two he lambs without blemish, and one ewe lamb...* "On the eighth day." What is that saying? That is saying that on the new beginning - eight is the number of new beginning - that God is going to create an offering. Now, Jesus first, then the Church became the offering. But how would you like to be a Jew? How would you like to be a Jew in the time before Jesus came, and all that the Jews went through? Sometimes I wonder why God said, "Go out there and kill the Amalekites." He said to kill them, kill their dogs, kill the cats, kill the cows and the goats, kill the children and the women. Most Christians say that shouldn't be in the Bible. Have you ever met any Christians who say that it shouldn't be in the Bible? Amen.

In Cuba there is very little AIDS. Castro handles AIDS like any epidemic should be handled. That is, you isolate the people who have the disease. Do you understand? If you had a communicable disease and you were sitting here with everybody, probably everybody would get outside and they would start having that disease, and it would spread. So you take the person with the disease and you put them in a special place, and you take care of them there. Amen? Some diseases, when they take hold, the disease of homosexuality, the disease of...some sinful diseases, God, in the Bible, handles it by fire. I don't know if you noticed that? Everywhere you see that disease, God burned out that place. Hallelujah!

Now, the Bible says that when Joshua went into Canaan land, God told him to burn the cities! The scriptures deliberately say, "But this city, the Lord said don't burn it - and that city, don't burn it (Joshua 11)." Why? Why do you want to burn a city? Fire must burn up everything in



the city and kill every living thing because of a disease that would destroy the whole human race. That's it. And God is GOD. God is GOD. Some of us don't approach God as GOD.

We approach Him with reason. "No, that is not good. That is not right." You approach God

who creates and destroys, amen, and when He destroys, He is creating. Amen. He creates and He destroys.

I used to go, as a child, to a potter's house. This potter would teach us children how to make different vases and so on and so on. You had to have special clay. The clay had to be clean. Sometimes you would rub the clay and you would feel a little piece of something in it and you

would have to take it out and keep on molding. Sometimes the clay dies. Dead clay can't make pottery any more. You would have to scrape it off and put on a new lump. You create, you destroy. Nobody goes around and says that I am a man that destroys beautiful vases. "It was a beautiful vase, but it wasn't right, so I destroyed it - make another one."

God is saying to you that if we can trust God as being GOD, He said in this Bible in certain places that He destroyed it completely. He burnt out the cities; He did not leave a root or branch. You say, "Then why isn't He doing it now?" I'm telling you now, it is being done. It is being done, only the difference is that salvation... God says that where there is somebody who shed innocent blood, by man shall his blood be shed (Genesis 9:6). That is the law. Amen. But then, because of Jesus Christ, if you shed innocent blood and you repent, then the Blood of Jesus covers the innocent blood and the land is not marred with blood. But what we are doing is saving the murderers. We are saving the murderers and the murderers are being saved to murder more, and the spirit of murder is coming forth in them. You know, you read the Ten Commandments, and I do not understand why the translators put "thou shalt not kill (Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17; Matthew 5:21)." Because when you put "thou shalt not kill," it is saying that those people who God told to kill, something was wrong. The Bible did not say so. It said, "Thou shalt not murder", and murder is different from killing, because the man who pulls the thing to execute or to hang someone who sinned, they are planning to hang him - someone who pulls the trigger - he would be a murder, just as the murderer that he killed. But he is not, because the Bible did not say, "Thou shalt not kill", it said "Thou shalt not murder" and they wrote "kill." You Bible students, please look it up when you go home. You look it up and you will find out that there is a word for "murder" and a word for "kill."

God Almighty is saying that He is creating a people and you are going to be in the company of the Lamb. In the morning, Jesus Christ died. Thank God, He gave us His Blood and He saved us from our sins. In the middle of the day, the Church and all those who went towards bringing this Church here - starting with Abraham and going right down through the whole nation of the Jews, bringing forth Jesus Christ, bringing forth life in my soul. We become the next lamb - the last lamb to be offered is the two witness company. Amen. Now, let me go on a little here.

¹²*And the priest shall take one he lamb, and offer him for a trespass offering, and the log of oil, and wave them for a wave offering before the LORD:* ¹³*And he shall slay the lamb in the place where he shall kill the sin offering and the burnt offering, in the holy place:* There was an offering made, and the next offering that was made was the ewe lamb. The ewe lamb. Now, the scripture would

never refer to Jesus as a “she” lamb, so what God is doing is saying that He has a Church that is going to be walking in His footsteps, and walking in His precepts, a Church that will lay down their lives to bring in the harvest of God. This is what the ewe lamb is. But then, He said that there is another lamb to be offered in the evening, and that lamb is all the lambs put together - because another he lamb... Let me take you to Revelation. Let us go to Revelation 12 where the woman brings forth the manchild - Hallelujah! I jump ahead, because I want you to keep understanding what I am saying while we go along.

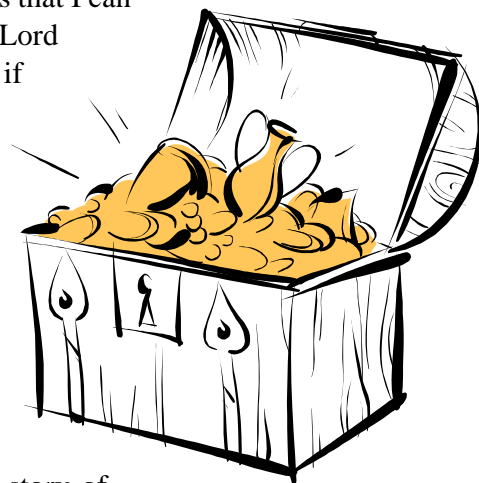
Revelation 12:1, *And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: ²And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. ³And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. ⁴And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. ⁵And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.* We are talking about a Church - a Church standing on a Church, pregnant with a Church, bringing forth a Church. And that is the LAST CHURCH, which is no longer a she Church. It is a He Church. But then, why did He change from a woman to a man? Because the Church is now having the power in Himself. Christ is part of that Church now, when you see the men in Christ, the men in God just like Jesus Christ Himself. So Jesus Christ is bringing forth a Church that will be filled with CHRIST.

So the brethren said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1b). “Teach us to pray; we don’t know how to pray; teach us to pray.” He said unto them, “When you pray, say, ‘Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.’ Praise You, God! Thank You for Jesus! Hallelujah! And then you say, ‘Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, **IN ME** as in Heaven.’” “In earth,” He says. **IN EARTH**, but we don’t expect it just to be in the dirt outside there. It must be in the **HIGHEST EARTH**, when man is filled with the power of God, and man is filled with the fullness of God, and Christ is reigning! I hear you singing, “Thy throne, O Lord, is forever,” and I am there smiling. You don’t know what you are saying. The throne of God will be in your heart. He said, “You will be the throne of God, the temple of the living God, and I will create an everlasting temple.” If the temple is everlasting, then He can give you everlasting promises. You see? So if we understand the Word of God - it is just one Word, and

right through and through we can see the Word of God bringing forth life everywhere.

Know who you are! Have a Godly ambition! Don’t let sin take you! When the man Joseph was faced with sin, he was tempted - that woman had been looking at him long ago. He knew she had a crush on him. Yes, and he was tempted. When she grabbed him, he knew that was the moment of truth. In his mind, “How can I do this great sin and sin against my God?” (Genesis 39:9). That means that he thought of it. Yes, he thought of just submitting to her. He would have a great time in the palace. Amen. But before him he was faced with death. To resist her would be death, because she was going to lie about him anyhow. And so he said, “I would rather die.”

Brethren, God is asking you now to give up your lives. Make your life an offering now to God. Make up your mind now that you would rather die than submit. And more than that, God is calling a people to be His precious treasure, and I want to be the precious treasure. There are a lot of other things that I can be. I’m saying, “Lord God, if so and so, if this action, if that action is standing on my rights over here, it is going to take away my being that precious treasure - I’d rather die. I’d rather die.”



I told you the story of how I made up my mind to die. I decided to die. I stopped eating because the youthful lust that was within me would have destroyed what God was doing to me, and I was at a crossroads just like Joseph. I said, “Let me die, my God.” I stopped eating for forty days. God sat down there and watched me. He was watching me to see if I would break down, but I was determined. Blood was coming through my mouth. I was coughing so hard I couldn’t hold myself down on the bed. I was just coughing and the blood was just spattering out. I refused to drink water. Some of the willing workers, a band of women from the church, came in. One powerful woman held me down. She took a spoon with water and put it in my mouth. And they took a cornmeal poultice and put it on my chest. I couldn’t help myself. I was weak. And when they had gone, God came to me. He had a chart and was showing me how I was going up the hill. He took up the chart and put it down and said, “Turn back.” Amen. Hallelujah! Praise God.

So we see then that scripture has us, but I want to in-

delibly mark you with these scriptures. There is a scripture in Numbers 19 that I want you to see. Numbers 19:2, *This is the ordinance of the law which the LORD hath commanded, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring thee a red heifer without spot, wherein is no blemish, and upon which never came yoke:* ³*And ye shall give her unto Eleazar the priest, that he may bring her forth without the camp, and one shall slay her before his face:* ⁴*And Eleazar the priest shall take of her blood with his finger, and sprinkle of her blood directly before the tabernacle of the congregation seven times:*

All right. Praise God. We won't read the whole thing, but let me tell you the story. They take this red heifer and they burn her to ashes, everything. Then they collect the ashes and they mix them with water and they wash out the tabernacle with it. What is the meaning of that? Remember, it is a heifer. It could not be Jesus Himself. God is talking about the Church in the last day, the final cleansing of the temple, when the Church will be burnt with fire. Yes. Going through death, and being used to finally make a final washing of the temple of God. I need to remind you that some of the people who belong to God, they are out there in the bars today drinking. They are out there carousing. They are in Las Vegas. They are working in hell right now. "And them also will I bring saith the Lord God" (John 17:20). Hallelujah. Yes. So that is one scripture that I wanted you to see.

Turn to the last scripture now in Revelation 14. You can't have a good message unless it ends in Revelation. And you tell me what this means, for somebody doesn't believe the Word. But God bless you. God bless us all. God help us to understand the Word of God. Revelation 14:1, *And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.* Having His name AND His Father's name written in their foreheads. The Greek says, Ὁ ὅ δά?νῆδ ἄδ?ῖδ (tu patros a tu). His name, His Father's name, and His name (Strong's Concordance #s G846, G3962, G3686). That is to say, the nature of God is now written in their minds. Amen. You

receive now the mark of God. It is impossible now to get the mark of the beast; you can't be a beast anymore. Amen. He said, "...an hundred forty and four thousand." I want

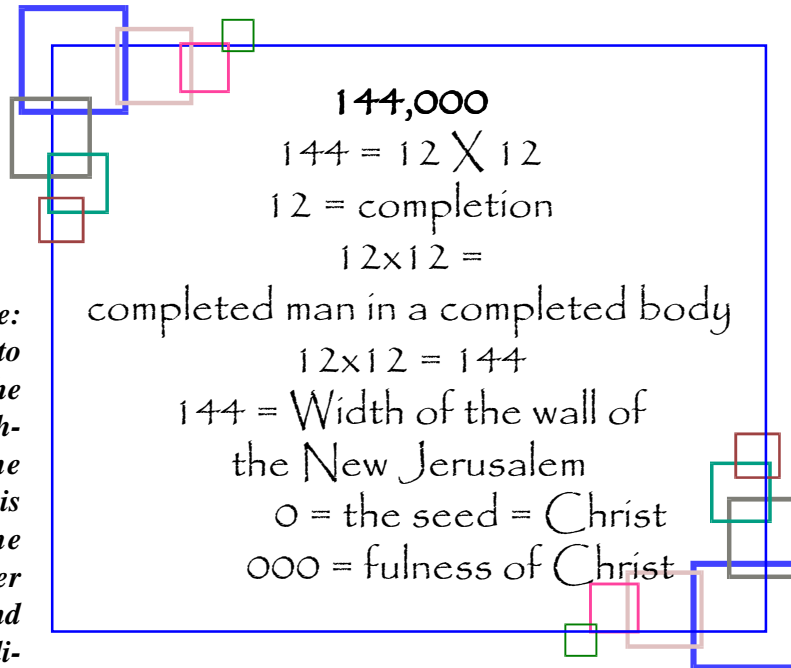
to show you what that means. "An hundred forty and four thousand." "Having his Father's name and His name." When we are talking about the Father's name, we are talking about the nature of God AND the nature of Christ written in their foreheads.

144 equals 12 x 12. 12 equals completion. 12 by 12 means the completed man in a completed body. So the completed man is 12 and the completed body is 12, and it is 12 multiplied by 12, so get 144. The scripture

says that 144 cubits is the width of the wall of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:17). So, if you understand the whole thing, you will understand how true this is. Now, the zero equals the seed, which equals Christ. In scripture, anything that is repeated three times is the fullness. So, 000 equals the fullness of Christ. So then, what are we seeing? Jesus Christ, the Lamb, was standing on Mount Zion. Now, *zayin* is the 7th letter of the Hebrew language. It's value is 7 and it means perfection. So the Zion company is the "perfected man." God uses that word *Sion* to show His strong ones, His completed man. David created the city of Zion, all by the revelation of God.

Now here we are then where it speaks of Jesus Christ, the Lamb. They refer to Jesus in scripture as many different things. For instance, one place He is referred to as a Lion (Revelation 5:5). But this place He is referred to as a Lamb. So what is the meaning of that? He is in His capacity as dying for our sins as an offering. Right? So Jesus Christ, the Lamb is standing on Mount Zion. He is standing upon the perfection now, and with Him - He is not alone - He has a lot more like Himself, the Zion Company, standing with Him. The completed man in the completed body, in the nature and the fullness of Christ, with the nature of God the Father in his forehead and in his mind and Christ IN him. That is the meaning of the 144,000.

So if anybody tells you that 144,000 is a natural number and it means Jews or anything like that, you will know that he is uninformed. This information came from God. God made me a student and He sat down with me for 7



months and taught me and there is no way that I could believe anything else but what He tells me. Amen. I challenge the church because there are some things which I say out of my mouth which *I* am saying and the church is not supposed to allow it. Do you understand why God created a Body? If I am saying something that you don't understand, if you don't believe, go ask God! Just ask God!

I know many men who do that and God tells them, "Yes, he is talking the truth." So, if you can get a Word from God to say that what I am saying is not right, then I will have to go back to God and say, "My God, the brother said You told him that this isn't right." And then I will be corrected if I am deceived. The Church is not supposed to be deceived. The Church is supposed to hear from God. Amen.

Now, concerning this 144,000, the scripture went further to describe who they are. We go down into Revelation 14:4, ***These are they which were not defiled with women...*** Now, He is not talking about natural women. He is talking about the women that caught Samson, the false churches that catch people and destroy them. We are coming out of this system, all this falsehood that the Church has imbibed. God is bringing us out of them. This is why He says the people who handle the heifer have to wash themselves in clear water, because outside there they would be contaminated. They couldn't come back into the tabernacle unless they were cleaned up, and they must wait until the even before they can be clean (Numbers 19:7-10). Don't you understand? The Church will not really be perfected and be cleaned until the even - the evening in which we are. We are in the evening of time, and God Almighty is cleansing the Church. The last cleansing will be giving your life before God, and that will finish the job.

⁴These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. ⁵And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God. Now, is it possible to make a mistake there? After God goes to such detail to explain to us who these people are? And who

YOU will be if you are diligent to be part of this company? Do you understand what I am saying? Praise be to God!

So, the company is redeemed. I want you to understand what is meant by redemption.

Jesus Christ died, and He redeemed my soul from hell. He took me out of death and He gave me LIFE. But I have a part of me that is not redeemed, did you know

that? Part of you is still in death! Not redeemed! Turn to Romans 8, for I have decided to give you all of the scriptures. I am not going to assume that you know anything. You know, that is why I said that this man Paul was a marvelous, marvelous gift of God to the Church, because he went into certain things that none of the other apostles understood.

Romans 8:22, ***For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. ²³And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit...*** The firstfruits, don't you understand? Remember now, we just read about the firstfruits and it was said by an angel. It was an angel speaking to John in a vision that spoke about the firstfruits. Amen? And here is Paul writing about the firstfruits. ***...the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.*** That piece of earth that you have there unto you, you call it a body, it is a veil that is separating you from perfection! Amen. You can't go out and kill yourself to get perfect. You are gone, because the last act that you committed was sin. If anyone destroys the body, the temple of the living God... He said, ***if any man defile (destroy) the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are*** (I Corinthians 3:17). So I hope you get it right. And it says here, ***the redemption of our body. ²⁴For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?*** So when we say that we are saved, we are saved, praise God, by hope. We are coming to the day when we will be saved completely. But right now, you have a piece of earth unto you there that is pulling you down from what God wants you to be. Amen.

So He said, ***they loved not their lives unto the death*** (Revelation 12:11). Amen. Praise God. ***...they loved not their lives unto the death.*** Hallelujah! Hallelujah! You must be the offering. Hallelujah! You must be the offering. When you start putting your offering in the plate, OFFER YOUR SOULS! Don't forget that the offering that the priest put down was not only the incense, but it was his soul that he was offering, and that was what made you a priest. Hallelujah! That was what made you a king. Hallelujah! He said He shall make you priests and kings (Revelation 1:6, 5:10). Hallelujah! Praise God.

I'm sure you are tired, but I thank God for it. Praise God! Amen. We need to get the tapes and we need to go over the Word and we need to go over it until it gets into us and becomes our flesh. Hallelujah! Praise be to God! Amen.□

Trench Warfare

By Wesley Schell



Colossians 2:13, *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; ¹⁴Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; ¹⁵And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*

I have heard many preachers say that God speaks to you on the mountain top but it is in the valley that you have to walk out what God has spoken to you. Well, I would agree with that saying because I just went through that process. In the spring of 2006 I had a mountain top experience with God, about which I wrote in the KIT. It occurred when God visited me for a couple of weeks in a row during praise and worship. On one Sunday, the presence of God was so marvelous. God was touching each and every person and I told God that I wanted to take the next step with Him. Then we started to sing the song, "Come Unto Me You All," and God came to me like a rushing river and filled me up. All I can say is that I could feel God physically working inside of my body and for about five minutes my response to Him was, "Yes, Lord." At the time, I didn't know what He was asking me or what it was going to require of me, but that didn't change my response. I said, "Yes Lord, I will go the next step. I want a clean heart, so I am ready for Your coming."

Then on the following Sunday I had a similar experience during praise again. The Spirit was moving and I had opened my heart up to God and I heard God tell me, "I am the door." It was an interesting comment that He made to me, but after searching it out I came to the conclusion that He was speaking about the door into the Holy Place. Because God told me that He was the door,

I concluded that my position with God was that of an Outer Court experience. That is fine with me because the Outer Court is not my final destination. I am only passing through and not remaining there. In the book *The Pattern* by Cecil duCille, he states that only dead men and women can enter into the Holy Place. These people have not died naturally, but rather they have allowed the death-to-self process to occur in them to the degree required for entrance into the Holy Place. Death-to-self will continue to occur beyond that point, but they are allowed to advance to the next step. Those interactions with the Lord were during praise on Sundays when the Spirit was moving and everything was so great and wonderful. I would say that I was on a mountaintop with the Lord.

It was not too long after that experience with God that I found myself in the valley having to walk it out. This experience happened around May, and for the next three months I was in the trenches working out my salvation. When I said, "Yes" to the Lord, I believe that it put in motion the refining quality of God. I don't know entirely what I said yes to God about, but due to the proceeding months I can conclude that God was wanting and giving me the opportunity to overcome the spirit of lust. Now I can look back and see why God told me that He was the door. God wanted me to come up higher in Him, but this spirit was in direct opposition to His will. First and foremost, God needed my cooperation and I gave it to Him by saying, "Yes, Lord." Then He spoke to me about the next step that I could take with Him and that was going into the Holy Place experience, I believe. Finally, I have to walk it out until the mission is complete.

To put it mildly, I went to war. Arm yourselves, troops, and get to your battle stations, because the enemy of my soul is coming. During the summer, I had the most intense warfare that I have ever gone through. All day long my mind was bom

barded by that spirit, and I hated every thought that came into my head. It was awful; I couldn't close my eyes without having to fight off another attack, and I knew that the only way I would be delivered was if I gave no quarter to the enemy. This constant onslaught of my mind produced an agony and a cry in my heart for deliverance because I did not like it at all. It was unclean and my heart's desire is to be pure and clothed in righteousness. I want the white garment that Jesus can give me. Revelation 3:5, ***He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.*** This foul spirit was a blight to my soul and it was time to be put under foot, because I don't want to lose the calling and election that is on my life by not giving God the ability to change me.

From June through August, I fought this spirit continually, and then in September I had a breakthrough. I had a dream where I was talking to two people in a bowling alley and I was telling them my testimony of what God has done in my life. They didn't understand what I was saying, though, and why I was doing what I was doing. So I told them that I have a choice in the midst of everything that has happened in my life. I can choose to love God and obey Him or I could deny God. I said it was my choice and I choose to love God. After that one of them got up from the table and walked outside where I heard a gunshot. I ran out there and the person was dead. That was the end. I told the dream to the elders and they said that the two people were spirits. I was told that I had dealt a blow to the spirit of lust and killed one of them. That really encouraged me. After I had the dream, the warfare that I was in became easier to win and it occurred less and less. One of the spirits was dead and then I started to pursue the other spirit that was in the dream, because I wanted total victory and freedom. Some time towards the end of October, I started to have a new thought come through my head. Before I had the dream, I was in the defensive position and all I really did was pray and cry out to God for deliverance, but after the dream I had thoughts of victory when I engaged my enemy. I would picture myself wielding a sword and overcoming some beast. I pressed

God and asked Him for total annihilation of the spirit of lust because one day I want to get married and this spirit must be destroyed from my lineage before that day, because I am not passing it along to my children. It will end with me. Through November I continued to ask God for the neck of my enemy and I knew that I was going to the convention in Nebraska towards the end of November. I have a predetermined desire about going to conferences and it is always to leave the conference different than when I came. I would say that God met my expectation and then much more.

If I could put a theme to the conference I would say brokenness and contriteness. Psalm 51:17, ***The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*** God was telling us that He wants a people who are broken and humble and I believe that it happened to some degree. I think that one way to get broken and humble is to allow the Spirit of God to honestly search one's being and reveal the dirt and filth that is hidden. Then it must be repented of. God really searched people's hearts and He was putting His finger on two aspects: anger and sexuality. Another Word was spoken about specific characteristics that will prevent a person from becoming a son of God. Out of that foundation came three repentance sessions where half of the congregation openly responded to the Word that was given. Saturday night after the Word was preached, Brother George Herrig got up and said that the repentance was not over and that we needed to respond. He encouraged the young people to come up and totally dedicate their lives to God and God would meet them and break the yoke of hell. So when I heard that, I was up there right away and poured my heart out to the Lord. I told Him that I wanted this spirit of lust totally destroyed and that I wanted to serve Him with all of my heart and life. I dedicated myself to God that night and also to His purposes and no sooner had I finished than there was a hand on my shoulder. Brother Peter Schneider was there and he told me that he had a Word for me. It was that God had blotted out the ordinances that were set against me from my past. I knew that it was a scripture, so when I returned to my seat, I looked it up and I was so blessed. Colossians 2:13, ***And you, being dead in your sins and the***

uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; ¹⁴Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; ¹⁵And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. That Word touched my heart so much because it put a seal of approval to my summer's worth of trench warfare, and in one sense, it is finished. Victory has come and the principalities were spoiled because God is greater than all of them. So, the next day at the conference, I testified to the power of God to save to the uttermost. In 2002, God saved my soul out of a sewer of filth and depravity, and it took four years to get the upper hand over the spirit of the age, worldliness, and the spirit of lust that is so prevalent in the world. In my mind, right now, while I am writing this, I am reviewing all the circumstances and situations that I had to walk through to get to where I am now. It was quite difficult and there was a price that I had to pay, but I can say without any shame that it was worth every effort.

Now that the conference is over, I am tremendously thankful to God, because I feel FREE. My mind is free and I feel clean and very refreshed. I know that I still have to finish walking it totally out, but the spirit's power over my life is broken and I want no business with it ever again except to destroy it. I would also like to say, "Thank you so much," to the brethren who helped me find solid ground to stand on. "Thank you for your time, council, and guidance. May God bless you all." Finally, I want to take this opportunity to warn young people of the effect that the spirit of lust has upon a person's soul and to whole-heartedly encourage all of you to stay pure and walk in righteousness. You may think, "I am young and have my whole life ahead of me, so I can enjoy it now," but you are wrong because every action that you take now is going to have an affect on your future.

The spirit of lust tries to leech its way into every person's life and I would say that every person born is going to encounter this spirit in one form or another. I also think that males have a bigger problem in this area than females do, but I don't rule out that females do, too. This particu-

lar spirit is not a spirit to be played around with. Its desire is to destroy young people's innocence and twist the way that they think about life. My prayer would be that no one would flirt with this spirit and give it access into their soul, because it looks like fun and so inconsequential at first, but its end is death. It has an outward appearance of being innocent and appealing to the eye, because one could observe an unwed couple that are dating and the thought would come into their head, "What harm can come from that? They are so happy and really like each other." I think that it is a lie designed to snare people's soul into its folly. My estimation would be that a vast majority of the population date and are mesmerized by the whole process, because they have never seen any other alternative. The media, Hollywood, and the present generation of young people almost revolve around lust. Most people have never had an example of finding their husband or wife from a real Christian point of view. I would encourage everyone to watch the movie "Pamela's Prayer." You will not be disappointed, because the movie touched my life and it can do the same for you, also.

For me there is no question about dating, because I don't think that dating lines up with the way that God would do things. God does not do things happen chance. What I mean is that God does not have to try things out to see what would happen. Trial and error is a human characteristic, but God is exact. He knows the best way to do everything, including finding a husband or wife for an individual. I had a little talk with Mr. Asbill a couple of months ago that really helped me find solid ground to stand upon. What he told me was that God knows what my future entails and also the best path for me to walk to get to the proper destination at the end of the day. You see, I have two roads ahead of me: my path and God's straight and narrow. My path will end up with enormous amounts of unnecessary tribulation. God will still work to get me to the expected end but it would be harder and more difficult and possibly unachievable. However, I can avoid some of that tribulation by



obeying God and choosing His path for my life. The whole time he was speaking to me I knew that God was talking to me about marriage. God wanted me to willingly lay down my path and receive His with gladness. Though it was tough, I am so very glad that I did it, because I have full confidence that God can do far greater for me than I could have ever done on my own. I say all this because of one point, we young people don't have to be looking around for potential spouses. God knows and He also knows the best timing for it to happen. What I believe is that God will speak to people when the timing is right and then it can happen, but until then "seek first the kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33).

For 19 years of my life, I never met one young person who was not caught up with dating or checking out how attractive other people are. The same spirit motivates both of them. Most people I knew would date a person and break up, but couldn't handle being single and would date somebody else only to break up with that person later on. Each time their heart would get wounded from the break up and then they thought that somebody else would heal the wound so they would impatiently get somebody else, not really caring who it was, to be their rebound person to help them cope with the rejection that they felt. Once their self-confidence reached an okay level they would get bored or not interested and break up with that person because they now thought they could do better. I hope that people don't get offended by this, but can honestly view what the whole process does to people's emotions, mental reasoning, and behavior, because when people's emotions are tangled up and hurt they can do some really strange things.

When two people date, part of their soul gets wrapped up emotionally in the other person and when they break up, part of their soul is lost. They can never get it back. There are many things in the courting process that should be firsts for both individuals. What, though, if one individual had dabbled in the world and stained their heart? How would that make the other person feel if they had remained pure for the one that God had for them and not dated? I think that one of the biggest problems with it all is that young people don't think about the consequences of their actions. In their

minds, they are all indestructible and will live forever without any consequences for their actions, but that is not accurate. Galatians 6:7, ***Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.***

Sin has a crafty nature in the fact that it always starts small. Nobody would jump right out and mess their life totally up. It begins with seemingly innocent actions like holding hands. There is nothing wrong with holding hands, unless it is a means to an end. One of the biggest problems with sin is that it can be addictive. At first, a person only has to sin a little bit before their moral guard tells them to stop, but over time, sin will erode people's morality away, thus the little sin will have no affect upon the person and it becomes acceptable behavior to that person. Now it takes a greater dosage of sin to reach the moral guard. After a while, that still isn't enough for them so then they keep plummeting down into hell trying to catch some rabbit going deeper into its hole only to find out when they catch it, that the rabbit is a dragon. One day, a person will find themselves involved in things that at one point in their life they would have been ashamed by that behavior. Some people would say that it was a matter of growing up and now things are okay, but I don't. To paint a clear picture, there is behavior that will please God and behavior that will not please God. In the end it is each person's choice whom they will please, either God or the devil. Every person's choices today are going to determine where they stand in the future. It all boils down to one question. What is your desire for your life? Do you want to be 0%, 30%, 60% or 100% sold out to God? Each position has its boundaries, but we determine what position that we will have at the end of the day. For me, I am through with the petty dating business and the world. I am going to press upward and go deeper into God. Philippians 3:13, ***Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*** □

