

# Keeping In Touch

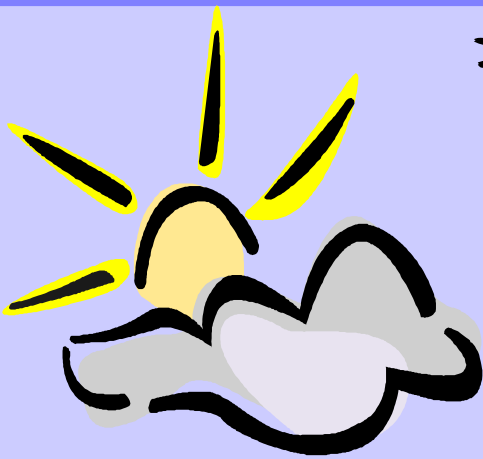
April 2007

*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*



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**I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people:  
I will sing unto thee among the nations.  
For thy mercy is great unto the heavens,  
and thy truth unto the clouds.  
Be thou exalted, O God, above the  
heavens: let thy glory be above all  
the earth. Psalm 57:9-11**

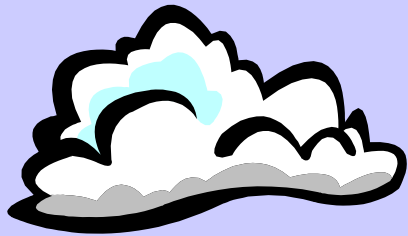


Dear Readers,

Hello and welcome to all of you! We thank God for the opportunity that we have to bring this edition of Keeping In Touch to you. We have much to rejoice about as you will read in the various testimonies that our staff members have written for this issue. We also have a word by Brother duCille which is the first in a series of seven messages that was given in the Czech Republic last summer. The words are on the seven messages to the seven churches and are very pertinent to the hour we find ourselves in. Brother David Walter shared a word with us here in Mahomet after the Nebraska convention last fall that we are also pleased to share with you.

As a special note, the next edition of KIT marks our 10th anniversary and we are planning something special! As always, if you have something that you would like to share with us, please send it to the following address:

Keeping In Touch News Bulletin  
PO Box 410  
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or [kitbulletin@truevine.net](mailto:kitbulletin@truevine.net)  
or check us out on the web at:  
[www.kitbulletin.com](http://www.kitbulletin.com)



## April 2007

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## Meeting Schedule

Sundays at 10 AM

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

### Prison Ministry:

Sunday Mornings:

the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>,

Monday Evenings:

weekly

### cleaning crew:

7<sup>th</sup> ~ Helping Hands

14<sup>th</sup> ~ Becky

21<sup>st</sup> ~ Davis

28<sup>th</sup> ~ Peckmann



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# Seven Stages of

Session 1 of 7

Cecil J. duCille  
September 2006  
Czech Republic

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# Overcoming

The Word tonight is from Revelation chapter 2. What we want to talk about this evening is the first stage of overcoming. We are being molded by God, through all the circumstances, to become overcomers and He gave us seven stages through which we should pass in order to achieve that objective. They are not chronological in our development. That is, they are not one, two, three, four... You don't have to finish number one before number two hits you, but all the different stages might be working at the same time in your life until the work is done.

Revelation 2:1, *Unto the angel (or messenger) of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks.* One of the first lessons that God taught me in the Word was that He had seven men who were like seven stars shining in the heavens at the same time, and that as one would fail, another one would arise so that the fullness of God's light was in the church at all times. The principle is marvelous and only God could create that. Each person has a part, and no person has the whole.

Each person knows the whole but each person only has a part. This part that each man has is to be imparted to a people, and within those that receive that word, from that people will come forth the fullness of overcoming. So then, while this one imparts his part and all the others impart their parts, the Body of Christ will possess the whole. But herein is the uniqueness of the plan: the Body of Christ does not know that it possesses the whole until the parts get together.

So, the fullness of God's Word is in the church and at a certain time God will cause the church to come together and then the revelation of wholeness will come and be manifested in the earth. Now, do we understand that principle? Because we understand that principle, we are going to read about the first part of overcoming, which is probably all that we can deal with tonight.

Now, this angel in verse one says that Christ holds these seven men (stars) in His right hand and that He is also the Christ who walks in the middle candlestick. I would love to hear what the Czech Bible says about that verse. You see, there are some people who preach that there are seven different candlesticks of seven, and that Jesus is the middle candlestick in the seven. But the picture that God gives me is one candlestick with six arms, and that Christ is inside the middle, the seventh candlestick. You will notice that is the only part of the candlestick that stands on the ground. The others are suspended and held up by that middle one. Therefore, it is the will of God that Christ comes forth in one church first, and that is the church in the middle of the candlestick, or that is the candlestick in the middle of the candlestick. Six is the number of man, and if you take away the



seventh candlestick, all you have left is man - but it is the middle candlestick that makes it Christ. Amen.

There is one more point that I would like to make clear before we go on further. I was kicked out of a church in Michigan because I preached that these angels were not spirit beings, but they were human beings. I'm sure that you won't kick me out tonight if you will listen to what I am saying. God could not say to a being that was an angel, "I know thy works; thou hast left thy first love." GOD WAS SPEAKING TO A HUMAN BEING and He called him the angel of the church of Ephesus.

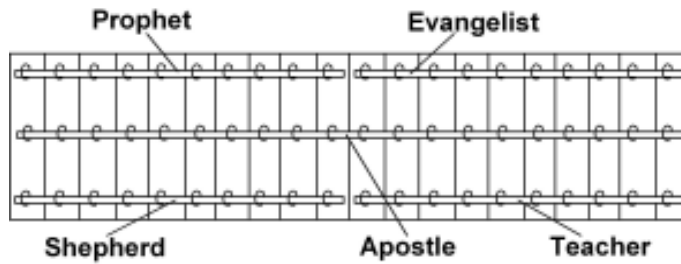
Revelation 2:2, ***I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:*** Now, could we say that this could apply to us? This morning, as our sister brought this book from this American brother who calls himself a prophet, we began to tell her a little bit that he is a false prophet because we know him personally.



He has come against the Word that God has given us, so we know that he is a false prophet. He has been in fellowship with brothers who are "great" prophets, and all of them have been proven to be homosexuals and adulterers and everything else.

Their doctrine has been proven to be a doctrine of ultimate reconciliation, a doctrine that says that God is going to save everybody and even the devil is going to be saved. I personally don't want to go into any heaven where the devil is, but this is what they preach.

"Because you have tried them," the Bible says, "the reason you are here is because you have found them liars." In this world that we are in, there are many, many apostles. An apostle, a true apostle, is called of God, trained of God, and sent of God. False apostles are men who were originally called of God. Many of them have been partially trained by God. But NONE of them have been sent by God. The Word of God says that salvation cometh by hearing, but you cannot hear God unless you hear the Word of God. So that hearing

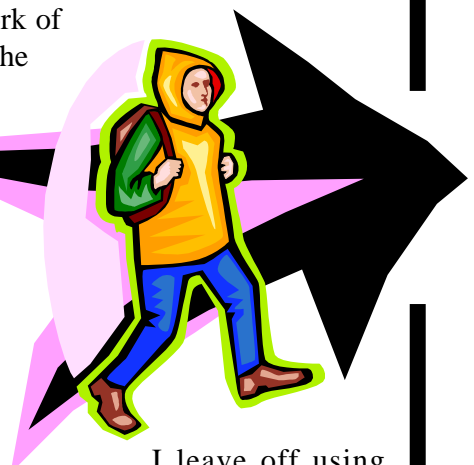


comes by the Word of God, but the question was asked in the Word of God, "How can they hear except they have a preacher?" (Romans 10:14-17). How could you hear without a preacher? The type of

Christian that you are is on account of the type of preacher you heard. The question was then asked, "How could they preach unless they were sent?" Any preacher that you want to prove whether he is of God or not, ask him one question: "Who sent you?" If he can answer who sent him, if he says that God sent him, then you have to find out from him, "*How* did God send you?" Somebody said he had a dream, but when God sends you, it is not a dream. You KNOW you are sent. However, not everyone who is sent is an apostle, for the word *apostle*, although it means "one who is sent," the one who is sent has to reach a certain degree in God before God sends them as an apostle. So, we understand that it is not every servant who is an apostle - for a servant is also sent.

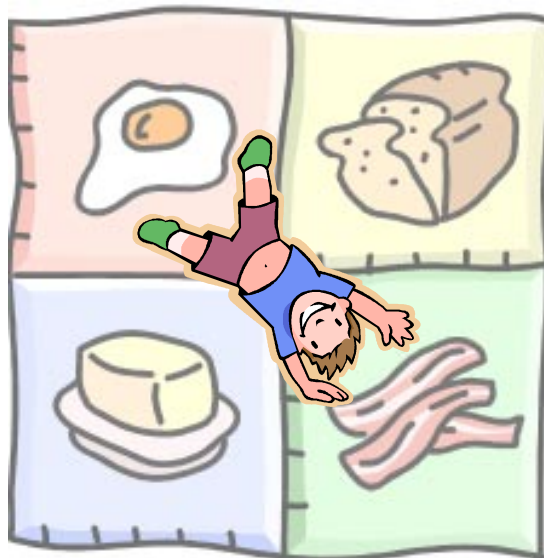
The word *apostle* in the Word of God has a three fold meaning, and it means "one who is appointed, anointed, and sent." In the Word of God, in the illustration of the tabernacle, there are five bars that hold the tabernacle together. A total of five bars hold the thing together, all of which are symbolic in their meaning and pertain to your body, which is the temple of God. If the tabernacle has its symbolic meaning and your body is the temple of the living God, then every temple (body) has the Word of God written in it in symbol. So in your body, the great servant, are two hands, and the (right) five fingers represent the ministry, or the servant of the body. The other five fingers (left) represent the work of the helpers to each of the other fingers.

So, if I am going to lift a weight, and I take one hand, I might have a certain amount of power, but when two hands go, the power is multiplied. If I am going to lift a weight and this thumb, which is I shut this (right thumb)



I leave off using the apostolic finger, and I off, my hand is hardly use

to do anything. So what this natural illustration means is that every group, every church, every body must have an apostolic guidance as illustrated by the middle bar in the tabernacle. You see, when the middle bar comes in behind you, you all stand in a perfectly straight line. Take out the middle bar and some would be leaning right and some would be leaning left and some would be leaning forward and some would be leaning backwards. But to keep the tabernacle straight, God has a bar that each one is held by in the back and that bar is the apostle.



would bring people crawling on their knees; a whole congregation would be saved in one night. **BUT WE NEVER OWNED ONE.** Now, when God says *apostle*, He is talking about someone who He trained, sent, and continues to be with in a ministry to lift up the church. The apostle cannot own the church. He cannot get rich off of the church. He cannot take up the offering. He cannot do anything but give the Word of God if he is a true apostle.

This top left bar is the prophet. A prophet cannot direct the church. Your life cannot be directed by prophecy. The Lord has set in the church the apostolic ministry to show the direct way to go.

You have here evangelist, you have here shepherd, and you have here teacher. So you have five ministries that must manifest in the Church. Now, the prophetic ministry produces a prophet, but it is not everybody who prophesies that is a prophet, for the whole body prophesies, and it is God's will that the whole body will become prophet, apostle, everything, and these bars be done away with.

These are the boards, and the boards represent the Christians. What ties the church to the apostolic ministry, or to any ministry, are the golden rings. A ring represents marriage. So the Body is married to the ministry by golden rings that hold the bar in its place. But the blessed part about the ministry and the rings and the board is that *none of these ministries* has the power to hold the church. The church has the golden ring - in other words, the gold is on the board and the golden rings hold the bar and the bar holds the boards.

Now, if you can understand the principle that God has put there, when He was sending me out, He said, "Never own a church." You hear some ministers say, "My Church." "Never own a church," but the church owns the ministry. In other words, as I stand before you here, maybe I represent the most prolific church builder you have ever seen. We used to build something like four churches every month, both of us. We would travel from place to place. I was telling them today how we went into a place - sometimes it doesn't take more than two messages to build a church. God

God is saying that in order to be an overcomer, you have to know who and what is the apostolic ministry that you are following. Sometimes you only discern this through maybe reading a book. That is why it is so dangerous to read books that mix the gospel that you are receiving. Most of the books you have been reading, you can ask me about them, for very often I know the people very personally.

One day, I was going on with a certain brother - some of you have his books. I was taking him to Bloomington, Illinois, which is next to where the church is now. We had a very large gathering of the church there in Illinois. He was the one that was going to bring the word to us that evening. We were on our way to the meeting and he was driving the car, I believe, and I was sitting beside him. Suddenly, it hit me. I said to him, "How could a man preach a thing like this?" I did not know that I was talking to him. I thought that I was talking to him about somebody else that was preaching this wretched doctrine. He was very quiet as I explained the Word of God and how could he do this and why he couldn't do that and the good and the bad of what he was preaching. The brother went with me to the meeting and he gave a beautiful word, and it blessed all the people. Then, one day, he wrote an article in one of his papers and he told of the incident of riding with me and how God corrected him and changed him from preaching ultimate reconciliation, for that was what he was going to preach.

After he did that, he got together with some of his fellow reconciliationists, and he repented of his repentance. He said that I convinced him against his will. So, some of the books that he is sending out to you people are still ultimate reconciliation. **GOD ONLY HAS ONE DOCTRINE!** There is no way that you could

say either, "Well, it could be this," or, "It could be that"! God's *word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path* (Psalms 119:105). God sends light so that ALL men might be enlightened. The sun in the morning shines from an angle way down low. The angle and the strength of the light changes as the day progresses, but it STILL is the light of God. Now therefore, know the apostle. It is the God in you that will discern the God in those whom God has sent. Hallelujah! Your soul becomes satisfied by the energy of the life of God, which comes from the Son of God. Don't settle for less. Amen. If you don't get the right type of food, you will not have the right type of energy.

He says to the church in Revelation, therefore, "You have found them liars." Through all the mass of information that is coming from the spiritual world, you have sifted out and found the right food to eat. You have rejected the poison, and you have brought the pure Word that gives you Life. YOU HAVE DONE WELL! Amen.

Revelation 2:3, *And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.* Have you borne? Have you had patience? Have you suffered for the Word of God that you have? I remember in Ravno, how ALL the preachers that were Brother Sergei's friends turned against him when he began to believe the Word that God sent to Ravno. For God didn't send the Word to Ravno for him alone, but so that the whole area would be lighted by the light of God. But they turned against him for no reason at all.

I remember one night we went to a church in that city, and after the service, the minister said that he actually rejected the Word because I hit the table. They were sitting down dead, as if they were not hearing anything at all, so I slammed the table to see if I could get them awake. He said the next night when they came for us to preach, "Brother Mark, you come. Don't slam the table. Don't speak in tongues. Don't shout. And we don't want **this** man to be in our church at all." I stayed home, and Mark went.

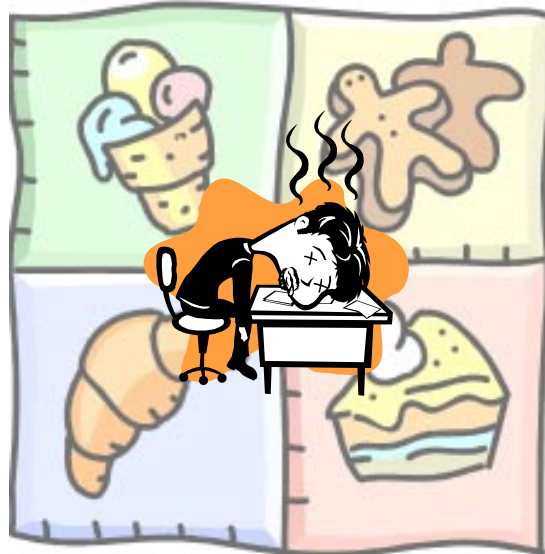
It means that God is putting in the church the Spirit to discern God in the preachers. "But you have had patience," for many have attacked you as being stupid young people. Amen. Thank God for stupid young people who LOVE God, and will walk in truth and righteousness. There is a reason

why God has planted the church in the Czech Republic, in Bratislava, in this whole area. This is supposed to be the only hope that Europe will have because God wants you to stand. The hour is coming when everything will go against you. So you need to feed now and put your roots down to God so that when the storms come, they will not move you. You have *borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.* Blessed be God Almighty.

But you have not yet overcome. (chuckle) You have done works, but there is something about works, that unless works produce **LIFE IN YOU**, they are all in vain. Let's go over that a little bit. "I have done great works for God. I have done mighty things for God, but," Paul said, "I have to be careful lest I become a castaway" (I Corinthians 9:27). Since 1947 or 1948 (you have heard about those days), I have been working in the vineyard of God, and I have had the pleasure, and sometimes the displeasure of meeting most of the mighty men of God. How would you like to meet a man who was present when another man's hand was chopped off? He picked up the hand and saying, "in the name of Jesus," pushed the hand back! And both of the man's hands are perfect. If you saw a man do that, tell me how you would feel about that man. "Oohh, he is a man of God!" "A mighty man of God!" Well?

What about if you saw a man mad, totally demented, wild? It took ten men to hold him, to tie him, to restrain him. They brought him in a closed van like a prison and this same man who put the hand on, says, "Open the van. Put me in." They didn't want to do it! They said, "No, brother. Don't do that, brother. You will be torn to pieces. Ten men had to restrain him." But he said, "Open the van, I say." They opened the van and pushed him in and locked it. They didn't hear

anything. Presently there was a TAP-TAP-TAP on the door. They opened the van. The two men came out hand in hand, and he was clothed and in his right mind. Wouldn't you say that was a mighty man of God? He was, but guess what? He was doing mighty works because he believed God - *but it never changed him inside.* The same man left the mighty works and hit the bottle, and became an alcoholic while he was doing the mighty works. He died



an alcoholic one night after doing some mighty works.

Revelation 2:2, *I know thy works,...* *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.* He had left his first love and God never left him. He had left his first love, but God did not leave him. In other words, God had tested him, God had tried him, God had carried him through the areas of suffering, and God was making a man - but he refused to be made. Do you know what he did? He built a great place; he called it "Miracle Valley." The sick went there and were healed. Those who were suffering went there and were blessed. He became mighty in works and poor in godliness, so that the love that he had for God was turned away for love of the works. Watch it, brethren! You are in the same road! God is saying to you that your works are good, but that your spiritual quality, or maturity is what God wants. All the works, all that you could do for God means nothing if that work doesn't do something to your humanity. It is the will of God that you should be like Jesus Christ. It is the will of God that you should, one day, be able to put aside the humanity that you are, and become like Christ.

Now, I'll tell you something. When God called you, you were not perfect. Tonight you are not perfect. But God is working on you, and if you will allow the Spirit of God to do what He is doing to you... He is killing your father in you, He is killing your mother in you, He is killing your nation in you! In other words, I cannot go and boast, "Ah, I am a black man! I am strong. I am this. I am that. I am the other." I AM NOTHING as far as God is concerned! He wants to make Christ out of you.

A brother was working with me, both of us were working on the things of the Lord, and he got impatient on God one night. He said, "God, You said to me that anything I asked for I would receive. God, I am asking tonight for perfection! Give it to me according to the Word of God. You must give me what I ask for!"

God said, "Yes! Yes, you can have it. You can have perfection." He said, "There is only one little problem. You will have to get rid of the imperfection that is in you." You know, it takes



**When God called you, you were not perfect.**

God to give an answer like that. "It is yours - *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect*" (Matthew 5:48). Didn't He tell you to do it? Why don't you? Too much of your nationality is in you. Too much of your father is in you. Too much of your mother is in you. You have to begin to reject the humanity of you! Hallelujah! Oh, yes! And that is why God calls us to look at Jesus. We sang a song, the last song,

Lord, You are beautiful.

Lord, You are wonderful.

Lord, you are more than my heart can think of.

When you begin to see Jesus, you will begin to see yourself and as Jesus is exalted in you, you become smaller. So, Sister Maja, the brother that you were talking about there, he comes into the meeting like this, with his chest puffed out, saying, "I AM A PROPHET OF THE LORD!" I couldn't help but laugh. NO prophet of God does that. Amen. We are small - prophet, apostle, *...we are of all men most miserable* (I Corinthians 15:19). You are small and wretched when you stand before God. Hallelujah! "Make me a hired servant, oh God. That is all that I want to be." Praise be to God.

*Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.* How do you leave your first love? You say, "Oh, but God, I love You." "Yes, you love Me second-class. I gave you something and you love the thing more than you love Me."

One day, the Spirit of God came to me and said, "Give Me back that gift of healing that I gave you." Do you know why? One day, I was chopping wood to burn and the Spirit of the Lord came to

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**God is saying to you  
that your works are good,  
but that your spiritual quality,  
or maturity,  
is what God wants.**

me and said, "Go and pray for Brother Wilson NOW!" I said, "Yes, Lord, let me just finish chopping this piece of wood." I went down with the ax and the wood came up and slapped me in my forehead. \*\*I SAW STARS!\*\* Man, I jumped out of that hole and ran. It was a small town and I was running up the street and the whole town started running after me to see what was happening. They knew that if I was running up the street that something was happening. I looked behind me and saw these people running after me. I ran through a short-cut to go to Brother Wilson's house. Brother Wilson was smitten by the spirit of madness. His eyes were bulging out of his head. I ran through the crowd that was in the yard and ran into his room, and saw this man staring at me bug-eyed. I put my hands on him and said, "In the name of Jesus!" He just made a great big sigh, like a man who had just come from a far journey, and he said, "Brother duCille, thank you." Hallelujah!



It went on like that. Time after time I would go into a church and I would get up to give a Word and the whole church would fall to the ground and I was talking to the backs of their heads. Everybody was flat down. I was in my house one day and I saw a woman running down the street. She was mad, and they had no cure for her. It was raining and I said to the Lord, "My God, deliver that child." I said, "If You will deliver her, bring her right here into the room." Believe you me, I had a barbed wire fence around the yard. The woman came over the barbed wire fence, because she didn't come back by the road. Suddenly, I heard a knock on my door. I opened the door and the mad woman jumped in before me, dripping with water. I said, "Praise God. You have come." She nodded yes. I said, "Kneel." The first thing you do with a spirit is to take charge. Don't let the spirit manifest before you. "In the name of Jesus, kneel!" She went down on her knees. When she obeyed the Word of God, I knew that she was healed. I laid hands on her and she just thanked me and went home.

So, I became a legend in the little district there. I would be coming along the street and there would be a laboring man coming towards me and He would stop by the way and take off his hat. I was starting to feel that something was going wrong. They were giving me the honor that God should get! It was not good. I had no chance to do anything about it, so God came to

me and said, "Give Me back the gift of healing!"

One of the most powerful men that has ever been in the church was a man called William Branham. He was a very humble man and loved God. He wasn't educated, but he did more miracles than anybody else you can think of. He went to Africa and he preached that they were sons of God, and some tribesmen came in and captured him. They took him to their village and they said, "If you are a son of God, we are going to find out today. The son of the chief is dead, and if you are the son of God, you will bring him back to life. If you are deceiving us that you are a son of God, we will kill you." That was a tall order for a preacher, right? So he went in and he prayed, and he laid himself down upon the boy, and the boy sneezed. He came to life. That is the man I am talking about. There are many, many more stories of the power of God working in his life.

One day, he was standing up with Brother Clayt Sonmore. They were standing in a room talking, a knock came on the door, and two men were there to see him. They said, "We have a word from the Lord." He said, "What is it?" The men dropped on their knees and grabbed him by the feet and said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." He was so torn up. He threw himself down on the ground and said, "God, kill me." He said, "God, kill me, because the very thing that I hate, that is what has happened to me. The people are now worshipping me instead of God." Well, eventually God killed him. Yes, eventually God killed him. He got into a car accident, a freak accident. A drunken man just drove right into him. There was no way to get away. In his dying moment, they told him that his wife was in bad shape, also. His son took up his hand and put it on the wife, and he said, "In the name of Jesus," and the wife was healed, but William Branham died.

I mean, I am telling you all of these stories to tell you that works will not save you. Works will not make you like Jesus Christ. Those who are like Jesus will do the works that Jesus does, but if you leave your first love and begin to love works or love miracles, you are a LOSER. Now, Jesus is saying to those who have lost their first love - because, you know, you can lose your first love and be sitting here praising God! I wonder if you can understand what I am driving at? Your heart and mind is turning to something else rather than to the perfection of the being that God has made you to be. God made somebody an elder, a preacher, but you are so fascinated by the fact of being a preacher that you forget God. Preaching becomes number one and God becomes number two. Sometimes God gives you a wife

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and she becomes number one and Jesus becomes number two. Sometimes Jesus even falls out to number three; the children and everything else become number one and number two. God is saying you are faced with the same thing that everybody is faced with: the Branham, the this, the that; you are faced with the same situations.

2

IS JESUS CHRIST NUMBER ONE IN YOUR LIFE? Answer you - not me. Answer yourselves. Is Jesus Christ number one in your life? As a matter of fact, maybe you should repent here tonight. Maybe we should have a repentance service. Is Jesus Christ number one in your life? Now, God says, *<sup>5</sup>Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent,*

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*and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.* Amen. *<sup>6</sup>But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.* You don't believe in pastors - Nicolaitans - people who rule over the people of God. Or do you believe in it? Do you believe in being a director in the work of God?

4

"You do this," "You do that," "You go over there," "You do the other." NICOLAITANS! God says it is a good thing that you don't like Nicolaitans. *<sup>7</sup>He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*

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If you can overcome the self that is in you, if you can overcome the desire to be great, if you can overcome the problems of keeping your first love, if you can do this, saith God, THEN, (hallelujah!) you are an overcomer! He said here, *He that hath an ear, let him hear...will I give...the tree of life which is in the midst of the paradise of God.* What is He talking about? Jesus Christ! He said, "I will give you the indwelling of Christ within you.

6

*...Christ in you, the hope of glory* (Colossians 1:27). I will give you the Christ within you, the pulsation of life of God within you if you can overcome this." The spirit to fail is always present. The temptation to turn to something else besides Jesus is always present. This is your first love, and God is saying to you, "Remember how you were when you were first saved." Remember the days when you loved God more than anything else. Remember the time when you wanted God more than you wanted the very breath of life. If you turn back to your first love, then you have accomplished the first stage of overcoming.

7

God bless you, brethren!□

# THE WOODPECKER MIGHT HAVE TO GO!



Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark...

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float a while.
10. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

# Being the Cook

Joy  
Kindness Love  
Longsuffering  
Peace



"Help me, Holy Spirit. I need You to respond through me."

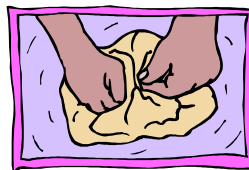
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord.  
Psalm 19:14

By Melissa Trotter

Many of you know my family and me very well and some of you don't, but I am a stay at home mother and as the children have become school age, I have been homeschooling them. Needless to say, most of what I do is centered around my home, my husband and my children. I have spent quite a bit of time this winter thinking about my life in general and my role as a homemaker, in particular. Sometimes when I fill out paperwork for whatever reason, they ask you what your occupation is and I always put down "homemaker." If you look at the word, it is really two words put together: *home* and *maker*. The majority of what I do involves making a home - not keeping a house, but making a home. Home is not the physical house we live in, but it is the very fabric and character of the people who live there. So, I have this idea that everything I do is making a certain kind of home and within this home, each person is affected and influenced by me. There is no way around it. When I said to Charles, "I will," I made the commitment to make a home; I made it also to God and before many witnesses. Also, by virtue of the fact that our union brought children into the world, I was making the commitment to them, even though I had no concept of who they would be. I have always heard people say that our work in the natural, our jobs, should speak to us about things of the Spirit. Well, being my occupation is homemaker, I

have really enjoyed what God has been showing me about our home.

There are many, many things involved in making a home, but the one that has been on my mind the most is making meals. That sounds like a very natural thing, but it is one that is very prominent. I mean, making and eating breakfast, lunch and dinner, not to mention snacks, takes more thought, time and energy than anything else. I believe God wants me to feed my family good, healthy meals and so I cook from scratch - I mean **really** from scratch. If I am making chili, for instance, the dry beans must be soaked ahead of time, the tomatoes must have been canned from the summer before. The last time I made it, I even ground the meat for it!



Kneading  
Bread  
Dough

We eat a lot of fresh fruit and vegetables and that takes more preparation than opening a can of peaches. We make our own bread, which I really enjoy, but anyone who has done it knows that it takes time for kneading, rising, rising again and finally, baking. Rarely is breakfast a pouring of dry, boxed cereal into a bowl with milk and eating in five minutes. I soak a whole grain, like oats, millet or rice

in water overnight (it cooks faster and makes it easily digested) and cook it in the morning. It takes more time and energy for preparation, as well as for eating it!

I've said all this just to illustrate how God has been speaking to me. We have always heard the phrase "first the natural and then the spiritual." I spend a lot of time and energy feeding my family their natural food - down to all the details that can't be overlooked when you prepare and cook. God began to speak to me about the spiritual food that I give my family. I am feeding my family with every word I speak to them, with every action that I make. Every single thing that goes on in my home is forming and molding and shaping the children into the kind of people they are and who they will be when they are grown. Are the words and actions like junk food that I can easily and without thought set out on the table, but that have no life? Or do I think before I speak and give thought to what I do? Am I demonstrating God's will in MY life to be an example to them? It is not possible to be doing God's will in all things unless I have spent time and energy laying it before Him and seeking His face about the things I am to do. So, like I spend time



Grinding  
Meat

and thought in meal preparation, so the Lord expects me to be spending time and thought on each and every thing I do. Some things are big, like making chili. I make a huge pot of it at a time. Two days ahead of time, you soak the beans. The next day you cook the beans and grind the meat. The third day, in the morning, you put all the chili ingredients together to simmer until dinnertime. This is a big thing like - I don't know - maybe deciding what books to use for school. It takes prayer and seeking God about that big thing that you will be feeding your children. A small thing, like peeling and slicing a carrot for a snack, could be how we talk in our homes. My talk must be "peeled" or prepared. In this example, the peeling is a second of saying in my heart, "Help me, Holy Spirit. I need You to respond through me." I cannot afford to speak before thinking. If I don't, it is actually causing dam-

age to my home and to my children's souls. I believe we are in the end of time and God is being more precise and requiring a more perfect way from us. I Corinthians 10:23 says, *All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.* How I counsel my children, how I answer their questions, how I teach them in their schoolwork, even how I put them to bed could be very good, very lawful, BUT all things are not expedient, all things edify not. How will I know if the thing is edifying if I do not put it before the Lord, preparing my talk and my walk? I believe God is asking us to walk in the Spirit, to be perfect, to really consider Him in all that we do.



Carrot  
Peelings

Another thing I thought of is actually sitting down with the children and teaching them the Word of God. In our home, the children and I sit down soon after we get up, before breakfast, and we read the Bible, practice memory verses, pray or read KIT for Kids and I talk to them and interact with them about the Word of God. This is like the actual time of eating the meal. It is me serving them the life and teaching them how to use their utensils to eat. It is introducing them to new things they have never had before; it is whetting their appetites for more next time. At the same time, I am eating with them. It is awesome. But, if I have not had my mind on the Lord, if I am not prepared, Bible time does not go well at all. Prayer is the last thing we do for our Bible time. If prayer is lacking, it is like having no dessert! I am teaching Anna how to make food and she really likes to help prepare dessert. I have spent time and more time helping her make things and sometime in the future she will be able to do it all by herself. What a joy it will be to have a homemade dessert that I didn't have to make! In the same way, she is feeding me when she prays. The time I spend teaching the things of the Lord will bring forth fruit that will, in turn, feed me.

I have children that do not always appreciate what they are served to eat. In fact, they often just plain don't like it! This creates a feeling of worthlessness in me and a sadness at their lack of appreciation. AND, they are not hesitant to tell me exactly what they think



Being a Cook

about what I made. I'm sure I could do better about training them in that area! But when Daddy works hard to bring home the money and Mommy works hard to make the food and serve it, there should only be appreciation and diligent eating it up to nourish

their bodies. Now, I'm going to bring this up a notch and relate it to the Body of Christ. Just think about the people that bring us pure spiritual food. Think about how the Lord has invested Himself in their lives, how they are dedicated to serving Him and being His son. Think about how they spend time and more time before the Lord and finally, maybe on a Sunday morning, they come and deliver the Word of the Lord to us in one hour. Am I still like a little child, complaining about what I get to eat? "Well, I think he shouldn't have brought up that certain thing!" "I think they took too long just to say one little concept." "I don't like the way he presents himself, as if he is better than we are!" "This is too hard to chew - I don't understand and I don't want to hear it." "They really talk too loud." And worst of all, I might talk about it to other people. Have you ever observed how when one child doesn't like something, others decide they don't like it either, especially the younger ones? Woe to me, if I cause another member of the Body to stumble, especially a weaker vessel. We should be as I expect my children to be: thankful and eating it up diligently. A step further is to digest it. I can't see my children digesting their food but I can see the fruit of it - they are healthy and strong! Not many will see you digesting your spiritual food but it will show in a healthy walk with the Lord in your outward conduct and it will show in the bringing forth of fruit.

There is a certain condition of the physical body called morning sickness. It often comes in the first few months of pregnancy. It is characterized by nau-

sea coming at any time, often for hours on end. I have gone through it three times and the best solution is to eat very often. Also, you can't eat just anything. You must eat something with protein, not what they call empty calories. With one of the children, I had to eat before my head came off the pillow in the morning in order to keep the food down. I found that certain foods made the nausea worse, to the point of throwing up. Another thing is that most women, when they are pregnant, are careful what they eat. They know that good nutrition is necessary for a healthy baby. We, as the church of God, are pregnant. We want the perfect nature of Jesus Christ to be formed in us, to be birthed in us. There is a certain way we must eat: often and the right thing. God wants us to be feeding on something with substance, like protein. He wants us to be careful what goes into our souls through our senses. Do I know what I do that is repulsive to God, that makes me throw up, and do I avoid it at all costs? Do I spend time feeding my soul the minute I wake up in the morning?

When you cook food, it smells. It smells delicious! It causes people who smell it to get hungry. I want what I cook to smell good. The Bible speaks of sacrifice as a sweet smelling offering to the Lord. Most of the time, the commitment that I make and the walking out of preparing my words and actions is a sacrifice because it goes against my self. Self does not like to sacrifice. It wants to be fulfilled. But the burning of self and the laying down of your life is a sweet savour unto the Lord.

In Numbers 29:6, it is talking about certain offerings and it says they are *...for a sweet savour, a sacrifice made by fire unto the LORD.*

The Lord spoke to me one morning right when I woke up and the words He dropped into my heart were, "My people shall not perish. Life, life, life." I meditated on those words for awhile and the reason His people shall not perish, but have life is because they eat life-giving food, they feed on God's Word and avoid anything that does NOT bring life. It is obvious in the natural that if you don't eat, you will eventually die, and if you eat bad quality food, it will cause you to die. So in the spiritual, we **must** continually feed on the very best!□

Good Smell



A Vessel Poured Out



# KIDS' CHRONICLES!

Last Sunday during the children's word, Mrs. Davis talked about receiving the Holy Ghost. I was convicted about my need to receive the Holy Ghost and so when I got home that day, I went up to my room to pray. I asked Jesus to baptize me in the Holy Ghost and I immediately knew that God had touched me. After that I was convicted whenever I would do something wrong and even when I began to think about doing something that wasn't right, something inside of me would tell me that it was not right and I would resist doing it. I have not yet received the gift of speaking in tongues but I am praying to the Lord that I will! □



Christopher Asbill



Rachel Chattic

I was blessed to go to Jamaica; I had a lot of fun. In Jamaica, Mr. duCille talked about the Blood and how we can overcome the devil by using the Blood of Jesus Christ. We need to have the Blood of Jesus Christ in our hearts and in our minds, but it must first be in our minds in order for it to be in our hearts. Mr. duCille also mentioned that in 2008 that there will be a great atomic war and we need to be ready for it and for Jesus return. We need to have faith and believe God. My dad shared that Christ is coming into His Church, into His temple. We need to be in Christ. The Lord says we should not be deceived. He also shared out of Luke 9:33, ***If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me.*** □

I was very blessed to go to Jamaica. It was a lot of fun. In one of the meetings, Mr. duCille talked about the blood and how the blood is a powerful weapon and we need to have it in our minds and hearts, and we need to use it. He also talked about the great atomic war in 2008 and the tribulation we are going to go through. We need to get ready for it when that time comes. My dad shared on the Church needing to come together because we will need each other. □



Rebecca Chattic



Isaiah Chattic

I was excited about going to Jamaica. I had a lot of fun. Mrs. duCille mentioned that children need to be obedient. We need to love and obey Dad and Mom. The Bible says, ***Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right.*** (Ephesians 6:1) I want to be a Son of God and one day I hope to go back to Jamaica. □



raise God. We thank the Lord for high times - conferences - and we thank the Lord for mundane days. Can we say, "Thank You, Lord," for even just the average day? If we can do that, we're learning to overcome because overcoming is really just as much in the valley, if not more so, than on the mountaintop. That's what we're finding out. Praise the Lord. Amen.

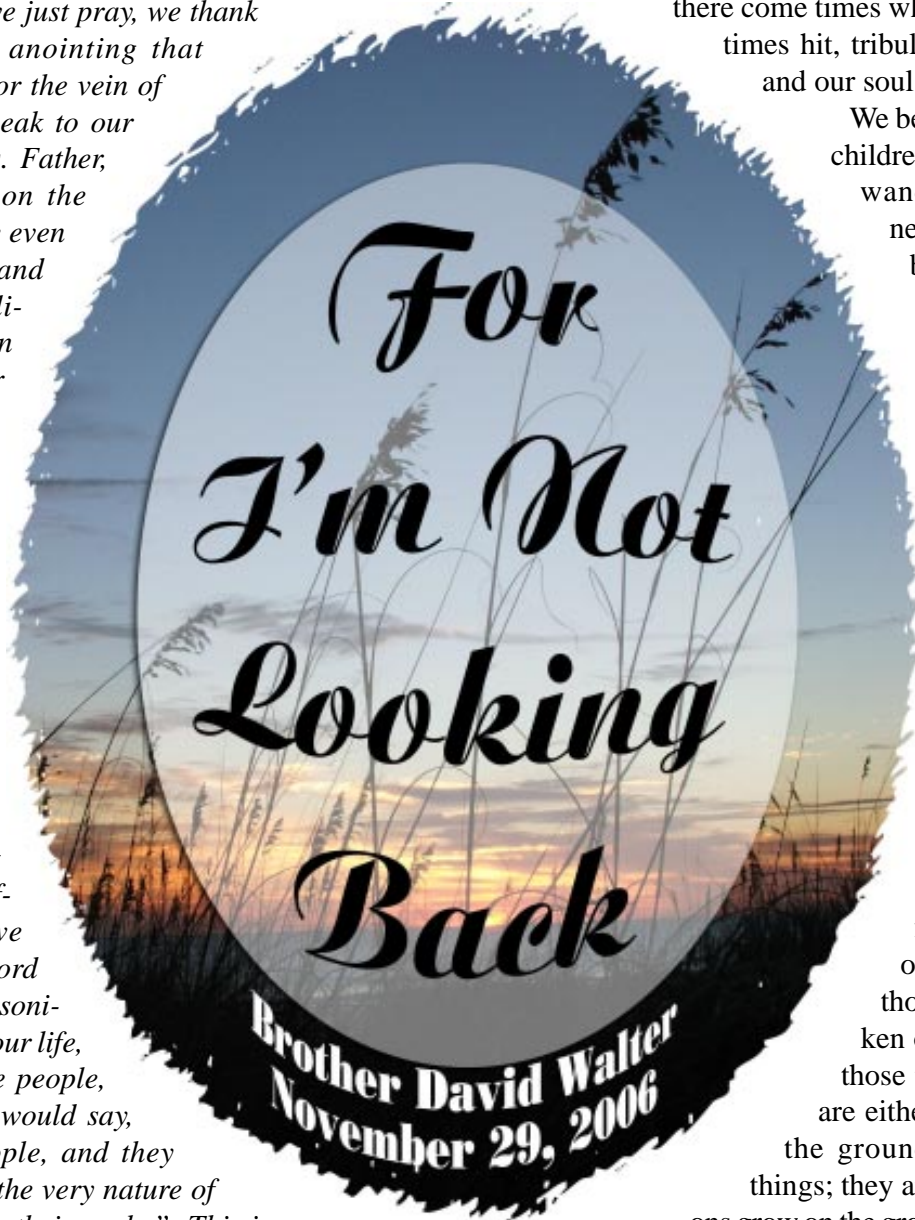
Let us take a moment to pray for the word this night. *Father, we just pray, we thank You, Lord, for the anointing that breaks every yoke, for the vein of the Spirit. Lord, speak to our hearts and our minds. Father, let us concentrate on the bread that You broke even this last weekend, and Lord, let it be amplified, let it grow within our hearts, our minds. Lord, let us abide, as Your Spirit is bringing life to us, that Lord, we could receive all that is on Your heart, Lord God. Help us, oh Lord, not just to be hearers of the Word, but help us, oh God, to be hearers and doers of the Word so that we don't fall into self-deception. Lord, we want to hear the word that it would be personified in our walk and our life, that we could be the people, Lord God, that You would say, "These are My people, and they bear My name, and the very nature of Christ is born within their souls." This is our desire. We pray, break the bread tonight in Jesus' name. Amen.*

If you have your Bibles, let us turn to Hebrews. This is not a long word, but yet, I believe the Word of God for tonight. Hebrews 11:15, ***And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.*** Interesting! In this chapter, there are all these men and women of God - women of faith and men of faith - that are spoken of here and how they overcame. They subdued kingdoms, wrought

righteousness and did all these things, but the author throws this verse in the midst, "truly, if they had been mindful..." That tells you their minds could have been full of something, right? Mindful. Had they been mindful of that country from whence they came out... Brethren, can you remember the country you came out of? Praise God. I can remember the country I came out of. I thank the Lord God that He has delivered me. However, in the midst of thanking the Lord and the work of the Spirit of the Lord, there come times when dry times hit, hard times hit, tribulation comes upon us, and our souls begin to wander.

We begin to wander like the children of Israel; their minds wandered in the wilderness. Though they had been in bondage in Egypt, and they knew they were delivered from under Pharaoh, the intense pressure, tribulation, and the distresses that they now were facing caused some of them to begin to wander in their souls. Their souls began to be mindful of the land from whence they came out, and they began to hunger and thirst for the leeks, the melons, the onions, and all those things that are spoken of. Did you notice all those things found in Egypt are either in the ground or on the ground? They are earthy things; they are carnal things. Melons grow on the ground. Onions and leeks

grow in the ground. In all those things that they longed for, God was speaking to **us**. They longed to go back to a carnal element; they had a carnal desire in their hearts, their souls, and their lives. God wanted to deliver them of those desires. So, you can come out of Egypt in one day, and yet we know it takes forty years for God to un-root, pull out and deliver us from Egypt in our souls. And that's what was coming out. But God had fruit for them to eat that they had not eaten of before. The pomegranate, the grapes - they're all up high off the ground,



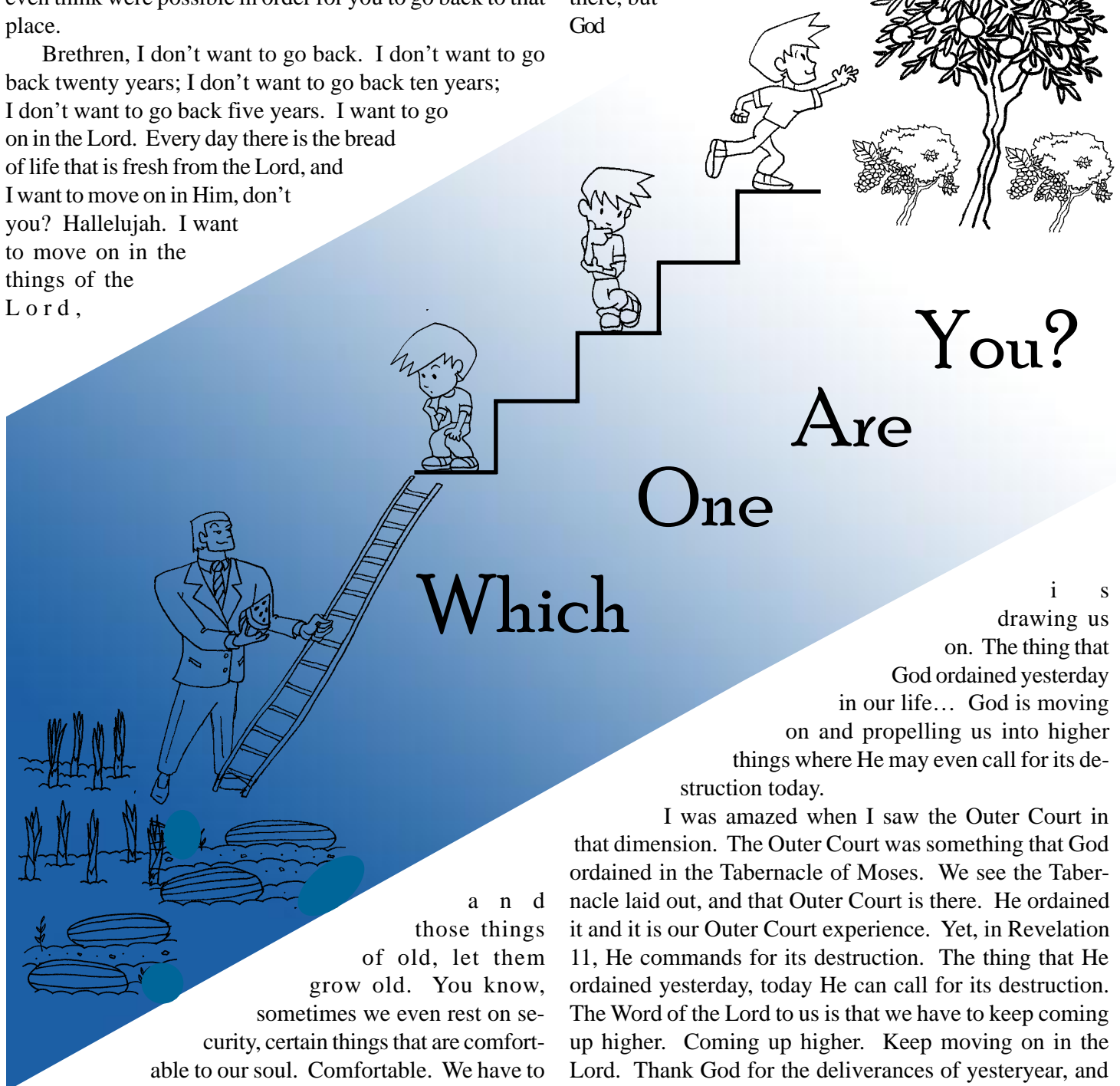
representing heavenly things, spiritual things. But they didn't have an appetite for those things. When we also are in distresses, tribulations, trials and things that weigh us down and pull us back, our souls begin to wander, and we have to watch that wandering.

It says in Hebrews that if they were mindful, **if they were mindful**, if their minds were full of that thing, there would have been an opportunity given to them of returning back to the land from whence they came out. We have to be careful what we set our treasure on, what we set our heart on, because that is the direction our soul will travel. Believe me; the devil will line up exact circumstances to bring you to that expected end, if you desire to go back. He'll open doors, he'll bring ways in which you didn't even think were possible in order for you to go back to that place.

Brethren, I don't want to go back. I don't want to go back twenty years; I don't want to go back ten years; I don't want to go back five years. I want to go on in the Lord. Every day there is the bread of life that is fresh from the Lord, and I want to move on in Him, don't you? Hallelujah. I want to move on in the things of the Lord,

be careful of that. You know, when you go into a department store to buy a piece of furniture, and you sit on those couches, and chairs, you test them to see how comfortable they are. Did you ever see anybody walk into a store and say, "This is about the most uncomfortable chair I have ever sat on. I'll take it."? Have you ever seen that? No, it doesn't happen, right? I mean, you pick the most comfortable chair. And so, our flesh likes ease, it likes comfort, it likes the things that are security based, familiar things. We have to be careful because those can be the ways of Egypt in our soul.

Even a spiritual experience that we've had - we like to go back there, but God



Which  
One  
Are  
You?

is drawing us on. The thing that God ordained yesterday in our life... God is moving on and propelling us into higher things where He may even call for its destruction today.

I was amazed when I saw the Outer Court in that dimension. The Outer Court was something that God ordained in the Tabernacle of Moses. We see the Tabernacle laid out, and that Outer Court is there. He ordained it and it is our Outer Court experience. Yet, in Revelation 11, He commands for its destruction. The thing that He ordained yesterday, today He can call for its destruction. The Word of the Lord to us is that we have to keep coming up higher. Coming up higher. Keep moving on in the Lord. Thank God for the deliverances of yesteryear, and

and those things of old, let them grow old. You know, sometimes we even rest on security, certain things that are comfortable to our soul. Comfortable. We have to

even what happened yesterday, but we have to go on in the Lord. It's like taking a step, and watching the step behind you just be removed and you say, "Praise God, we're going on in," and we keep going higher and higher in Him. It doesn't matter if the bridges behind us are being burned because we're going on in the Lord.

Woe to us, though, if our minds become mindful of something, and we begin to turn back and begin to look back into the things of old. That is where the danger comes in. Let us never go back. You know, you hear the saying, "Good ol' days." Do you ever think about the good ol' days? There are no good ol' days. Thank You, Lord, for what You did in my life back there, but thank God for what You're doing **today**, because this is a new day, this is a new life. Every day in the Lord should be an adventure in Him, and a walk with Him.

Let us go to Genesis 24. This principle is found here in the life of Isaac and Rebekah. Verse 1, *And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.* <sup>2</sup>*And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh: <sup>3</sup>And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell: <sup>4</sup>But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac. <sup>5</sup>And the servant said unto him, Peradventure the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land: must I needs bring thy son again unto the land from whence thou camest? Notice the answer. *And Abraham said unto him, Beware thou that thou bring not my son thither again. <sup>7</sup>The LORD God of heaven, which took me from my father's house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that sware unto me, saying, Unto thy seed will I give this land; he shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence. <sup>8</sup>And if the woman will not be willing to follow thee, then thou shalt be clear from this my oath...* Notice, he says it again: *...only bring not my son thither again.* There is a point that Abraham was expressing to his servant Eleazar, "When you go back to that place, you go and gain a wife for my*

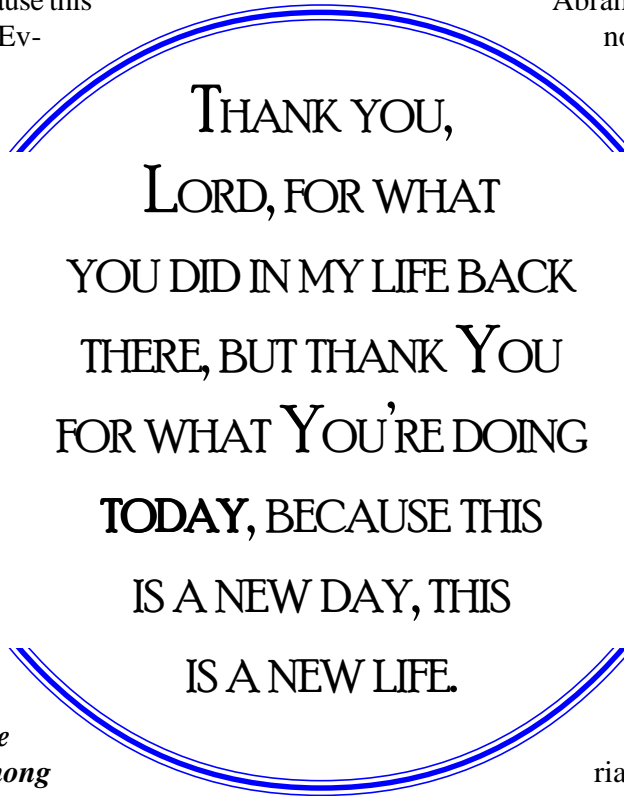
son, Isaac. If she be willing to go and come here, she will be the wife of choice for Isaac, but **DO NOT** take my son there." There is a word in this about going back. Abraham was called out of Ur of the Chaldees and he came to Haran until, "after the dying of the father of him" (Acts 7:4 literal Greek translation). It was after the dying of the things in his heart that he was then able to move on from Haran, and come to the Promised Land, and he wasn't going back. Do you know, Abraham never went back all the days of his life? He stayed in the Promised Land, and except for a few occasions when he journeyed south and one time into Egypt and made a few mistakes down there, he didn't go back to the place that he had come out of.

Abraham said, "For my son, my son will not go back there. He's going to stay right here, and God's going to bring a wife up to him, up to this level."

We read in the scriptures about not being unequally yoked with unbelievers (II Corinthians 6:14). We have understood it on the milk of the word level, that a believer doesn't marry an unbeliever, do they? They do not do that. But brethren, God is bringing us up a level. He's elevating us. He's causing us to drink not only the milk of the word, but to eat the meat of the word and the strong meat, and that there's a spiritual plane that God wants us walking in. Even concerning marriage, for a man or a woman, that you

are to find someone that is of an equal yoking. There is a movement of God's Spirit in the act of bringing us together, that there's a spiritual plane and that someone else may be on a lower plane. Are you following me? This is a very important point. There is a spiritual plane, brethren, which God is bringing a people unto. We have to believe the Lord for the same spiritual plane for our husband-to-be or our wife-to-be, for without it we are only inviting trouble, we are moving into a place where we are NOT equally yoked, but we are unequally yoked.

There is a principle here that Abraham understood. He said, "If the woman comes" (and there is a journey involved in order for Rebekah to come, a camel train, to bring her along many days). "If she will go on the journey to bring her up to the place that my son is at, then she is the one. But if she won't come, Eleazar, you're released from this oath; you don't have to bring her. But whatever you



THANK YOU,  
LORD, FOR WHAT  
YOU DID IN MY LIFE BACK  
THERE, BUT THANK YOU  
FOR WHAT YOU'RE DOING  
TODAY, BECAUSE THIS  
IS A NEW DAY, THIS  
IS A NEW LIFE.

do,” and he reminded him twice, “My son will not go there.” Hallelujah. So there is ground, brethren, that we’re coming up to, in the Lord. We can’t lose that ground. We have to maintain that ground and others that are joining us are going to come up and be joined with us to move on into the things of God. We can’t lose ground or we just invite trouble, heartache and sorrow. I mean, we can invite all sorts of things into our life that God never intended for us to have. Quite honestly, we just don’t have the time. We are moving on in the Lord, and it’s time to move on.

I know there are young people here praying for a spouse. You must pray that God find someone on your spiritual level, of your spiritual desire and appetite that God is going to yoke you with. God has one out there. He might not have many, but He has the one that you need and you don’t need many! You need the **one** that God has for you, to find that one truly in the Lord. There is a spiritual yoking, a coming together where you’re joined together in Christ. Hallelujah. And then that plane is matched in the Lord. So, brethren, we can’t look back and we can’t go back. We can’t think, “I can go down there and bring someone up.” Oh no, no, no. That’s the job of Eleazar, the type of the Holy Ghost. He’ll bring one up, and if they’re the one, God will bring them up and they will match that spiritual plane, so that you can continue on and walk on in the Lord. There is much ground and much territory to conquer, and we need to be

equally yoked in the Lord. Glory to God! You know, it’s a marvelous thing as you observe Abraham’s life. It says in Hebrews 11 that he was searching; he was seeking for a city, and not just any city. He was looking for a city that had foundations whose builder and maker is God (Hebrews 11:10). I mean, there was something set in his heart and his sight that even when he came into the Promised Land, he said, “There’s got to be more than this. God, what is this?” And he began to see it was a spiritual place, it was a spiritual home or habitat. He began to look for a city, not just any city, but a city that had foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Hallelujah. He was looking for something from the very beginning.

Then, as you go through the scriptures, you see Ezekiel beginning to prophesy towards the Body of Christ. In Ezekiel 40:2 he said he saw, as it were, a city that was framed. He saw it in the making. He saw the frame. You know, the foundation is laid first and then the frame of the city goes up, and the frame is the structure that determines how it’s going to be filled in and finally completed. Brethren, we are coming to the end of the end of days. We are

about to see the completed city come to pass. God is putting the roof on right now. If you can see it, there is a foundation laid, and a framework going up. He said we are living epistles. We are **living epistles** and there’s a foundation laid in the apostles and prophets. He says that upon this there’s a spiritual house that groweth up into an holy temple (Ephesians 2:20-22), and that is what we are called to be: stones of this living temple. God is in the final stages of building this temple and we are joined with Abraham on the foundation level and we are joined with Ezekiel that saw the prophetic framework going up - this entire structure.

Brethren, we are so privileged to see the day we’re in. This is a glorious day. Hallelujah. Glorious day! This is a day we can rejoice in, and thank the Lord for what He is bringing us into at this particular time. It is marvelous, and I am just excited! I am just absolutely excited in what God is doing.

There was something that was brought out at this last Nebraska conference concerning anger, concerning things coming out of us, you know. I believe Brother George Herrig said something about just the right button that someone can push, and that the devil will arrange it so that the circumstances will arise where your button can be pushed. Right? It is very true. When the heat rises, impurities come out at 400 degrees or higher that won’t

come out at lower temperatures. Things start to percolate within us and come to the surface as God raises the temperature. God is in the business of dissolving all that stuff that’s coming to the surface. As He removes it, the temperature gets hotter and He removes more, and finally, like gold, it is purified seven times until there is nothing that is going to come out other than God and His righteousness. Can you believe that? That is where He is bringing us! That is the point He’s bringing us to. Brother George called it a button. I call it a pressure relief valve. What is your pressure relief valve, that when you’re under pressure - POOF! - you just take off and explode? Most of the time it is anger, coupled with other things that come out. What is your pressure relief valve? Sometimes it just doesn’t come out under normal circumstances.

Sometimes when you travel things come to the surface. Have you ever noticed that travel takes you out of your normal element? It puts you on the road, puts you in uncomfortable situations. How about uncomfortable beds, if you even have a bed? Sometimes it’s the floor that you’re left with. Maybe you’re short on sleep. All these things

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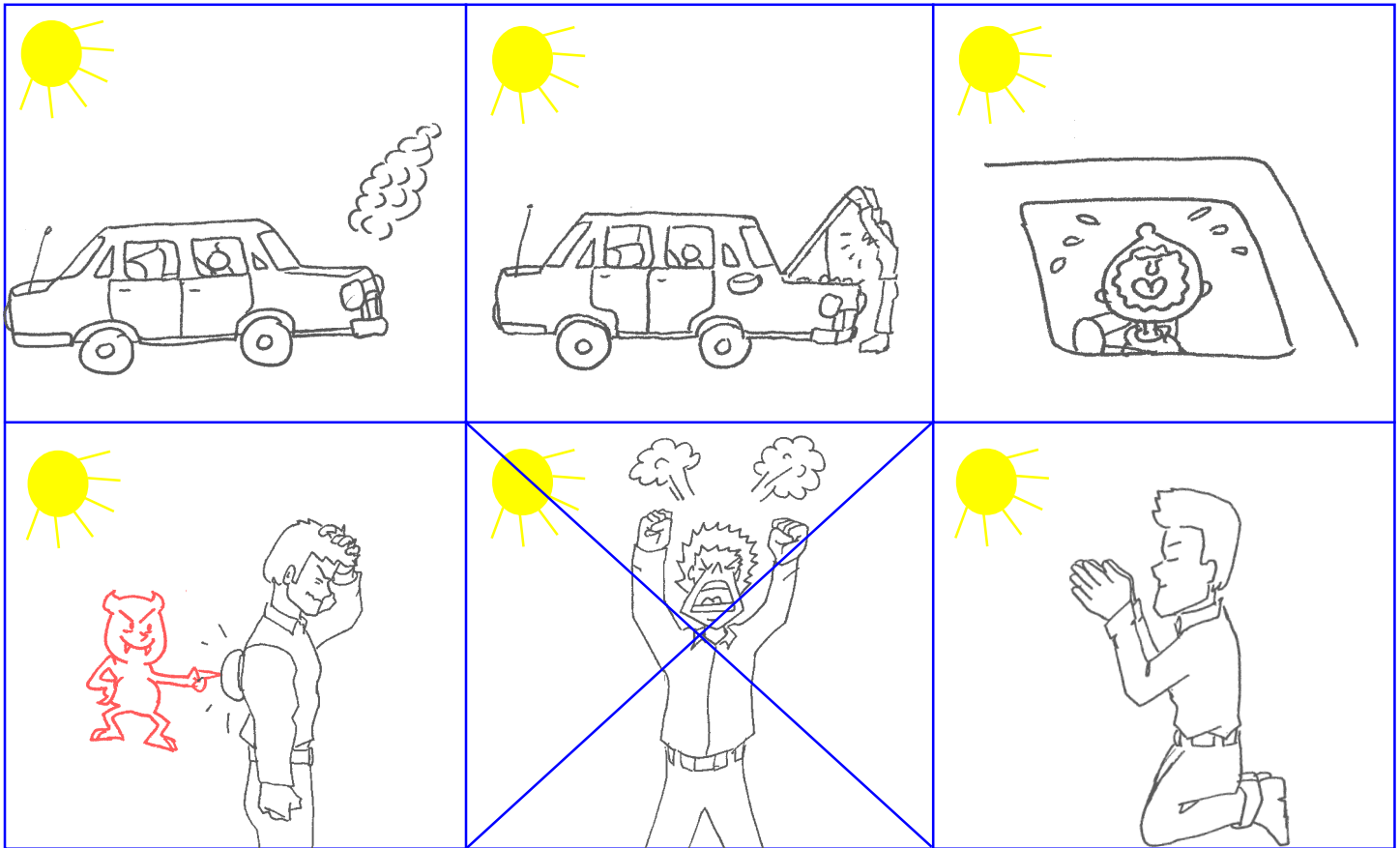
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***BRETHREN, WE ARE SO  
PRIVILEGED TO SEE THE  
DAY WE’RE IN. THIS IS A  
GLORIOUS DAY!***

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# The Pressure Relief Valve



begin to work on you, you know. Then you have a breakfast that is so different than what you're normally used to eating. All these elements start to pile on you, and then someone says the wrong word and - POOF! - something else comes out of you, right? But it IS really you. It is something within you that needs to come out for you to see and then say, "My God, that was deep down inside. That needs to go." You began to go ballistic and get angry, and say things that you later have to repent of, but God is in the business of delivering us, that the only pressure relief valve that we have is **Him**. If you have an appetite for the things of the Lord, when you are under pressure, when you're drawn out and you've had no sleep, when you haven't eaten, when you're sleeping on a hard bed, and all of these irritations come out, and you know you're about ready to explode, **that's the time to pray**. That's the time to turn to the Lord and say, "God, I can feel it coming on. I know myself well enough that it's only a matter of time before someone will say the wrong thing and I'm going to explode. God, deliver me! God, I want deliverance from this thing, that Lord, though someone may say something wrong or something cross to me, I can return with Your answer." The scripture says, "A soft answer turneth away wrath" (Proverbs 15:1). "God, that I could speak from the heart of the Father rather than that which any other person would have spoken." God is delivering us, isn't He, brethren?

ren? He's taking away the things that are natural, and building something that is supernatural within us. Glorious! Praise God.

There was a man in the Old Testament that had fleshly appetites. His name was Esau. Read about it. What was his pressure relief valve? He went out hunting, didn't catch anything and came back very, very hungry. His brother, Jacob, was very cunning and had made a bowl of pottage. Esau said, "Give me, brother, some of this that I can eat, otherwise I die!" Jacob said, "Well, sell me your birthright and I'll give you some of this pottage." It was very deceptive, but he was getting him at a moment when he was very weak, right? Esau was hungry, and now that he wanted something, Jacob had a bargaining tool to work with. Esau said to him, "Give me of this pottage," and Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright." Esau replied, "Alright. What's a birthright to me if I die?" And he ate the pottage. A fleshly man will fill his appetite with the flesh. Brethren, God wants to change our appetites, that we're not driven to appetites of the flesh. And it is not just food. I'm talking about appetites of the things of the carnal realm, the natural plane down here, that God would deliver us and give us a desire for the spiritual food of righteousness, His kingdom, and the things of God pertaining to Him. You know, as bad as it was for Esau to eat of that pottage and trade in His birthright, I believe God

was more grieved with his reaction afterward. I really do. Looking at the scripture, it says he ate, and he drank, and he went his way. That was it. There was no remorse. There was no consideration for what had just transpired. There was no consideration! It says that therefore Esau despised his birthright (Genesis 25:34). He ate, he drank, and he went his way. In the New Testament, Paul said the children of Israel ate and they drank and they rose up to play (I Corinthians 10:7). He was speaking of an adverse way, and that they did something that was wrong in the sight of the Lord and they had no remorse, no sorrow, and no repentance for it. We heard a word this past weekend about repentance. Brethren, Esau did not repent because he despised his birthright. He had no value for that birthright. He didn't know the value. I wonder what would have happened if he had truly repented and turned to the Lord, and said, "Lord, forgive me. I have given away that which You have given to me." We don't know. We really don't know. But it says he despised his birthright, and he left it alone. Brethren, one of the worst things we can do is, when we transgress, and when we've moved away from the Lord, when there is no conviction and no drawing back to the Lord, be careful. Something is wrong deep within. If there is no remorse, if there is no godly sorrow that brings us back to the Lord, something is wrong! Something is deadly wrong. Brethren, it is something that I pray we never come to - ever - in our walk with the Lord.

When we do wrong, when we sin, when we know we have done wrong, make it right with the Lord. Repent. Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of (II Corinthians 7:10). But worldly sorrow brings forth death. We're not talking about punishing yourself or getting down on yourself. What do you expect of yourself? When you're disappointed in yourself, it's because you believed in yourself. But if we trust in the Lord and believe in **Him** and **His** power, God can deliver us! When we're willing, He is able and He will enable us to walk with Him in the realm of truth and the Spirit of life

Praise God. REPENTANCE IS SO KEY. It is the open door that brings us to the throne of Heaven. Sometimes we get into such a place that, truly, the only way out is repentance. There is no other way back to God other than repentance. He has made a way. It says to come boldly to the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16). Did you ever notice that? When do you come boldly to the throne of grace? In time of trouble or time of need, when there's a time that you need to come before the Lord, that's the time God draws you. As you repent, as you open your heart to the Lord, the Lord begins to come in, and He begins to draw us again to that one-knit fellowship that we had before. He even brings us to a closer place where we say in our heart, "I don't ever want to sin again, Lord. I don't ever want to cross You. I don't want to miss You ever again. I want Your will totally and completely in my life."

If we can do that, that is so key, because that is where He is drawing us. It says a righteous man falleth seven times (Proverbs 24:16). Did you ever read that? But he gets back up. It doesn't say he never fell, it says he falls seven times, but in the end he's walking and he's moving on with God. He has a desire for the Lord. "Lord, forgive me, I have grieved You, I have erred, I have sinned in Thy sight. Lord, forgive me." As David said, "Against Thee and Thee only have I sinned, oh Lord, and done this evil in Thy sight. Lord, cleanse me (Psalm 51:4,7)." That is what gave David the heart after God. It says that David was a man after God's own heart. If you look at his natural life, he sinned as much as any man, if not more. But it says he had something that made him a man after God's own heart. What was it? He began to see and feel and know the heart of the Father. He began to understand that, "God, I'm a sinner, but in You is grace. In You is forgiveness, if I come before You." So don't ever let the devil beat you up, brethren. Don't ever let the devil take you down, because if you miss the Lord, that's the quickest time to repent, turn to the Lord, and say, "Lord, forgive me. God, cleanse me, Lord. Give me strength, give me power to overcome this thing that the next time temptation comes, I'm going to walk in righteousness, and I'm going to walk in the Spirit.

LORD,  
FORGIVE ME.  
GOD, CLEANSE ME, LORD. GIVE ME  
STRENGTH, GIVE ME POWER TO OVERCOME  
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BEFORE IN MY LIFE.



I am going to destroy even the power of darkness that worked before in my life.” That’s overcoming. Hallelujah. That is what God wants to bring us into, an overcoming walk with Him.

I thank the Lord that God has deliverance for all of us in our pressure relief valve. What triggers you? Think about it. I mean, you have to concentrate sometimes on these thoughts, “What is it in my life that really pushes my button? What causes me, oh Lord, to lose it when You want us to maintain a level of righteousness at all times, even in the midst of tribulation, even in the midst of suffering?”

It is just amazing what comes out during suffering, isn’t it? Amen. My wife is a registered nurse and she sees a lot of the things that happen when people are going through suffering and we began to understand something about suffering. My God! When our Lord was on the cross... if there was a devil within Him, it would have come out on the cross, do you realize that? If there was anything of darkness, it would have come out in either anger, or vehemence, or some attack, or something spoken against the people around Him. Yet, He came with only the power and the love of God coming forth out of Him. When He was nailed to the cross and going through the grief and the suffering that He was in, He finally said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). Talk about a Man that had spiritual discernment. All the way through His very being it was the nature of Christ coming forth out of Him, that even in the midst of suffering, only Christ came out. That is where God is bringing us. Isn’t it glorious? It is really glorious if you can believe it and see it. In the midst of every trial, whatever the devil throws at us... One day he is going to throw **everything** at the church, everything he can possibly throw, he will throw at the Body of Christ, at you and me. Yet there is a Body that’s going to stand. Hallelujah. There are devils that haven’t been defeated, but they are going to be defeated in this generation. They are coming down. The Lord has spoken it. He is going to have a church, He is going to have a bride, He is going to have a people that are going to walk in righteousness, that are going to pull down the powers of darkness and destroy some darkness that has never been challenged before. Powers are coming down! Hallelujah! And the Lord is coming up! Righteousness is reigning! I’m excited! It’s the time of the Lord and we should be very, very excited for what the Lord is doing. God help us to walk with Him.

So, as you examine your pressure relief valves, and you examine and look at the things that push you over, that just cause you to become irritable in the morning... Some-

thing didn’t happen right the night before and it gets pushed over. “God deliver me! God, do a work in my heart, that, Lord, when that happens, the Spirit of the Lord takes over my soul and something else transitions in my soul, and I begin to cross over, and I discover a grace from the Lord where it carries me through.” Can you say, “Amen?” That’s overcoming. “God, You’re changing me. You’re doing a great work deep within my soul.” Hallelujah. Glory to God.

God is doing such a marvelous work. I thank the Lord

for the vein of the Spirit and the Word of God this past conference time. It was truly the Lord speaking to us, as a people, of the things that we’re going to have to overcome and how to get there. Part of the getting there is true repentance, turning from your sin and making a full 180 degree turn

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## WHAT IS IT IN MY LIFE THAT REALLY PUSHES MY BUTTON?

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to the Lord, and looking to the Lord and saying, “Lord, You’re my Deliverer. You’re the One that can deliver me of this anger. You’re the One that can deliver me from this hot temper. You’re the One that can deliver me from any of these things that come out of me under testing and tribulation.” And you wonder sometimes, “Why? Why is the Lord speaking so much to us about the future? Let’s look at Philippians 3:13, *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind...* Did you notice that? ...*and reaching forth unto those things which are before, <sup>141</sup>press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.* It sounds so very, very clear that it is the one thing that we really need to do in order to overcome. To press towards the mark of the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus is to forget those things which are behind. There are no good days back there. There are only good days ahead of us - good days, great days for the church. An overcoming church is in the making right now. It’s being formed before our very eyes. There are many that are going their own way - they are ones without vision. But God has given a vision, God has given a Word, God has given hope to each one of us that the Lord is propelling us into the things that God has for us, and it’s the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus. Paul said, “This one thing I do. I forget those things which are behind.” Amen. Forgetting those things that are behind, I’m reaching forth to something.

God is doing something to propel us to reach forward into the things of the Kingdom, and that is what is so important about prophecy and the words that come forth. Do you realize how prophetic Jesus was during His earthly ministry? He was prophetic all the time. When He was teaching, when He was instructing, He was having visions,

He was moving in the things of the Spirit, that He could tell His disciples about the things which were coming, so that when they came to pass, they might believe. John 13:19, *Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am He.* What is the purpose of the prophetic? Its purpose is that it solidifies our faith in Him, that, surely, when it comes to pass just as the Lord spoke it, it confirms to our hearts that we knew it all along. The world out there is just totally blind to what is coming on the face of the earth, but we are a church that is being forewarned, being given the direction and the vision for what God has in store, that when it comes, we might believe the rest of the Word that God is going to have an overcoming people. He said that when these things come to pass, ye might believe that I am He. John 14:29, *And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.*

God is speaking to us that the time is short. The days are numbered in God. We have a certain amount of time to get to the prescribed place that the Lord has designed for us to be as a people. God is not changing His time frame, but He is working His grace within us to bring us to that expected place in just the right amount of time. It is time, brethren, it is time to move on in the things of the Lord. We are so blessed. We are a privileged people to be hearing the Word that we are hearing. *That, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.* As Abraham was given the Word of the Lord time and time again, and he began to see it come to pass in his life, it built faith in his heart. He believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness (Romans 4:3). God did astronomical things with the life of Abraham, through one man that believed. What is God going to do through a people that believe Him? If one person can bring forth many nations and many kingdoms for the things of God, what will a nation do in Christ, the Body of Christ?

I'm just encouraging you tonight; I'm just praying, "God, deliver us from the things that beset us, that carry us

down," because, brethren, once God does the things deep within us, internally, we can begin to move out there, externally, against principalities, against powers, against rulers of darkness. You notice the children of Israel, when they went through the wilderness those forty years, they really came up against very few outside enemies. Did you notice that? As they wandered around in the wilderness, God was doing something within the souls of those people. Many of them fell in the wilderness, which is really an indictment against us. "God, we want to be the ones that overcome. We want to be of the Joshua and Caleb company that can come out of Egypt, amen, go through the wilderness, and make it all the way into the Promised Land." The odds are against us, but if we believe God, God is with us. Not one of us will be restricted, to him that believeth.

So, God was doing a deep internal work within all of the children of Israel during the time of the wilderness wanderings - all that time - in order to prepare them for the giants that they were going to face in the Promised Land. So if we deal with that spirit of anger within us, we'll begin to do warfare out there against that kingdom of darkness called anger out there. There's a principality out there called anger, do you know that? There are principalities and realms and rulers of darkness that we're going to tear down as they find no place within us. Hallelujah. We cannot fight the battle if we still have it within us. We cannot. We will not stand. But we need to believe the Lord and trust the Lord.

John 16:1 says, *These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.* When the things that have been spoken start to come to pass, the end of time that we're approaching so rapidly, as we're seeing it close in on many, many other countries in the world; as it begins to close in on this country, there is going to be a mass exodus within Christendom, within the Outer Court church, that are going to lose faith in their God. They are going to expect to have been catapulted out of here. All sorts of

We can't go back and change our beginning,  
but we can begin to change our ending..  
Everybody has a future as well as a past!

other false doctrines of darkness are not going to hold their weight in water, and they're going to begin to lose their faith and many are going to be offended in that day. But the Lord has spoken this Word to us that we would not be offended. "Yes, this is just what the Lord spoke. This is what He said was coming, so now when it comes, I can believe that God said, 'I have overcoming victory over all of this that is coming.'" We're going to need to know it, brethren. We're going to need to know it bedrock, deep within our hearts, that surely this is the work of the Lord. We need to know that it is no longer going to be head knowledge, but it's going to be a walking, working knowledge deep within us. Things are rapidly changing and they're on the move right now. Things are rapidly accelerating, and we need to know the Lord as never before. There's an overcoming that God is bringing us into, He's showing the house to the house (Ezekiel 43:10), He's cleaning up this house that, as this house is clean, we can begin to do exploits, warfare. We can begin to bring others into deliverance, others into healing, others into the realm that God wants to bring them into. This is the work of the Spirit of God. Hallelujah. Amen.

I'm just encouraged. I believe God is putting His finger right on things, exact things, showing us what needs to be dealt with in our lives. There are a people that will pray, a people that will seek the Lord and find His heart and find remorse, find Godly sorrow when they have missed the mark. A people that come to the point, "Lord, I don't ever, ever want to grieve Your Holy Spirit again. I don't ever want to miss You. Lord, I don't want to miss one iota of the things that You have. Lord, I choose not my will, but Thy will be done." Glory to God.

Let us pray. *Father, we thank You for tonight. Lord, we thank You for Your word of life to each one of us, that Father, You're breaking the bread of life deep within our lives and our hearts. We are praying, God, that we would be an obedient people. Lord, You've spoken in times past even to the children of Israel in the days of old that they were a stubborn, rebellious, stiff-necked people. But Father, we are praying that day by day in our walk with You, You will break us of this stubbornness, break us of this rebellious nature that we have been born into. God, begin*

*to envelop us with Your nature, begin to bring forth the nature of Christ that, Lord, we will not rebel against You, and Lord, You will move so deep within our soul that we would never, ever want to grieve You. Father, deliver us from every pressure relief valve that we have in us, Lord God. Lord, times when we're frustrated, Lord, times when we just don't understand, and Lord, something else comes out of us. We're asking, God, that You move by Your Spirit deep within our souls, that You would deliver us, Lord, from that thing that offends You and that offends others, oh God. We are asking, God, that we would be found a blameless people, a people that desire You, that seek after You with all of our heart, Lord, all of our being. We desire the things of Thy Spirit and to move in the unction and the anointing of Almighty God. Lord, we don't ever, ever want to grieve You. Lord, we've found, Lord, our way has not been the best way, but Father, we're submitting to You now. We have learned many, many lessons, and Lord, the one lesson that we have learned very, very well is, Lord, Your way is the best. Your will for each one of our lives is the best.*

*Father, I pray for these young people here today, oh God. I pray, that each one, when it comes time, in Your timetable, to bring a wife or a husband, Lord, it would be of the spiritual plane, that You have called a people to walk on, that they would indeed be equally yoked, Lord God, not unequally yoked, oh God. We pray, Lord Jesus, deliver us from the deception that we can go down there yonder and bring that one up to our level, but instead, Lord, that's the job of the Holy Ghost, and unless You do it, it's not the one. Father, we're praying for the exact one. We believe not only in the good, the acceptable, but we believe in the perfect will of God. Lord, You're calling a people unto perfection, unto fullness. Lord, You have prepared one person, oh God, as a spouse for those that are to be married in these last days. Oh God, that it would be an equal yoking, that there would be a "yea and amen," that the brethren would sense and know that this is the Lord, and Lord, those that are involved would even look to those, Lord God, for that confirmation, look to them for that direction that is a "yea and amen" in the Body of Christ. For Lord, Your Word says that in the multitude of counse-*

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lors there is safety. Father, we pray, Lord, let no mistakes be made. We know the deception that is so strong upon even the strongest believer, Lord God, in this arena. And we are smiting that deception tonight by the Blood of Jesus Christ. We are coming against it before it comes upon them and comes upon us as a people. In the name of Jesus, we rebuke that spirit, and we pray for clarity. I pray for truth to reign. I pray for a desire, Lord God, that Lord, until You have spoken, there would be no commitment, there would be no hearts given, no emotions, Lord, involved, in the name of Jesus. Lord, help these young people to surrender their hearts to the living God. Lord, only You can give that heart away. Amen. Father, we pray, let there be no misunderstanding in this area, Lord God. Let there be no misunderstanding, we pray, but Lord, let there be purity and holiness and righteousness in the presence of Almighty God. That, Lord, You're bringing a people to a spiritual place in You, and Lord, we must be equally yoked. We must be equally yoked in the spiritual plane in order to be going forth into the things of the Spirit, that You're calling a people into. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Let there be no mistakes made. Not in this day and this hour. Lord, we pray, it is better to remain single than to marry wrong. God, we are praying, oh Lord, hold us in the position we are.

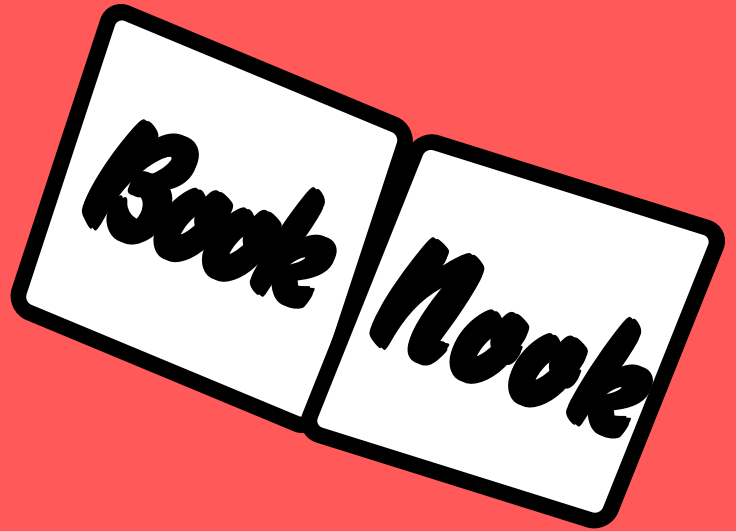
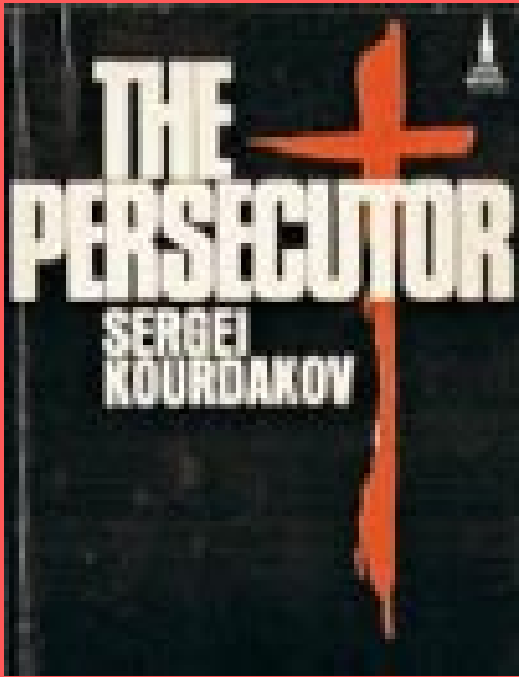
Lord, Your Word says if we're married, seek not to be loosed, if you're single, seek not to be married. Amen. But that our heart's desire is totally and completely fixed upon You. And so we pray for this in the name of Jesus

tonight. That, Lord, You'd hold our hearts and that, Lord, we would know that the time is short and the days we are heading into are glorious days. Lord, they're glorious days! Lord, we are a privileged generation to see the things that we are about to see unfold before our very eyes, that, Lord, everything that You have done here on the face of this earth will be completed in a Body. The sick shall be healed. The dead shall be raised up. The blind shall receive sight. The deaf shall hear. Not only in the natural realms, but also in the spiritual realms, and those are the greater realms for those speak of the eternal realms, oh God, in the Kingdom of God. I pray, give fire, give vision for these young people, especially, oh God, in this day and this hour when temptation is so great, when the powers of this world are so strong. We are praying for an unction from God to come upon them that would overcome, Lord God, any worldly appetites. That, Lord, as they fix their heart upon You, and they walk in the Spirit, Your Word says they will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Father, I thank You for this conference. I thank You for the times, Lord, that we had, Lord God, and the words that were spoken and the movement of Your Spirit, Lord.

Let us not forget it, we pray. But, Lord, that which is of You, intended for each one of our hearts, let it be ingrained in our soul. Lord, let us carry it with us into a daily walk, and bring a foundational level of understanding to us of what that means to walk with You, we pray, on a day by day basis. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen. □





## By Jim Culver

The Lord God, almighty Jehovah, is full of wonder and power. He puts down and raises up, He blesses and curses, and He will honor the cry of one's heart. I've often thought about how blessed I am to be born in these end times, and I think of the potential to be so many things in God. There are so many "help wanted" ads for the Body of Christ, and our Godly foundation opens to us so many different avenues of overcoming life. I was blessed to have been raised in a Christian family and taught, as a child, the ways of the Lord by a Godly mother. I was blessed with a desire to know God because of a good taste placed in my mouth from the atmosphere that I was brought up in. And the people and friends that came into my life were also a blessing from God. There are not too many people who can make this claim. I've recently read a book that has really opened my eyes to the enormity of the investment that God has put into my life, and the potential for righteousness that is given to every man. God comes to every individual to bring them into the paths of righteousness if they want it, and it is a spectacular movement of the heavenly host when we see it from Heaven's perspective. This book nook is about a young man named Sergei Kourdakov. He was from Russia during the height of communism.

Sergei only lived for 22 years but his life was one of constant discipline and commitment. After his parents died, he was raised in orphanages by the hands of outcast member's of the communist party. It was considered a disgraceful assignment for those within the Communist party and most viewed their assignment as punishment. I saw Sergei's life as a testimony of an individual's desire to have truth and do what is right. You know, one time a sister shared a testimony at a conference about how God

had given her a vision of Rock Hudson (a famous actor) on his deathbed crying out to God for mercy and salvation. God spoke to the sister that sometimes we judge people too harshly, not seeing God's work in their life to bring them into salvation and deliverance. This is what I saw in Sergei's life; he was searching for a reason to live and to be of value to the people around him.

As a child, Sergei was encouraged to get involved with the communist youth organization. He had great leader-



What will the fate of Sergei's life be?

ship abilities along with the fact of being very smart. Because he was taught the Marxist doctrine as a child; he accepted it without much question. To him, this was the solution for all of mankind. But as he continued to advance in the party, he began to see things that were conflicting with his inward perspective, that everything worked smoothly for those who lived this Marxist gospel. Nonetheless, he pursued it with all of his strength. Through childhood there were a number of times that he had to choose between his friends and his communist studies, and he stayed true to what he believed was right. As he grew, he began to rise above the rest of the young communists as having a tremendous future in the communist party. This in turn, opened the door for him to go to naval academy on the eastern seaboard of Russia. There he plunged headfirst into his vocation of becoming an officer.

Because he was the number one student and the communist youth party leader for the entire naval academy, he was selected by the police to form an elite squad of naval officers. His assignment was to put down what the state saw as a growing menace to the pursuit of the utopia of communism: Christians. He organized and led this band of thugs as the first group of specially trained unofficial policeman to punish, hurt and dissuade anyone from continuing on as a Christian. They were brutal, ruthless and they actually believed to a certain extent that they were doing the right thing. They had been raised/brainwashed to believe that communism was the savior of mankind and that anything that undermined their society had to be stopped. But God continued to pursue young Sergei in his conscience. He could not escape the thought of the commitment and dedication that these Christians people had, even to the point of constant beatings and death. The love that was shown toward him by the very people he was abusing began to gnaw at his hard heart. He was haunted by the degree of sacrifice that these people would make for a book called the Bible and to meet together to worship God.

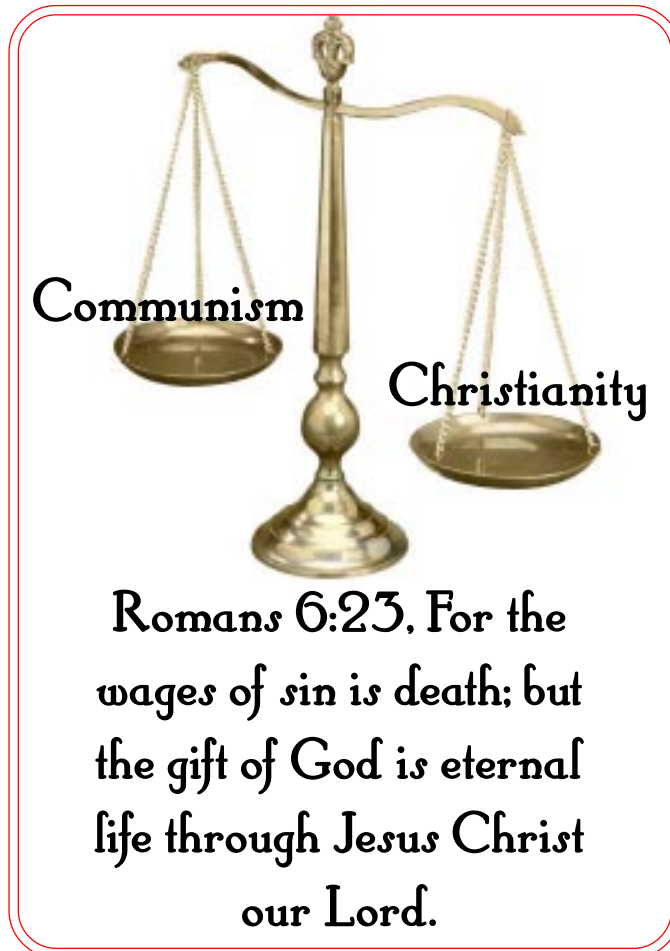
It was good to catch a glimpse of the persecuted church from the other side of the spectrum, through the eyes of the

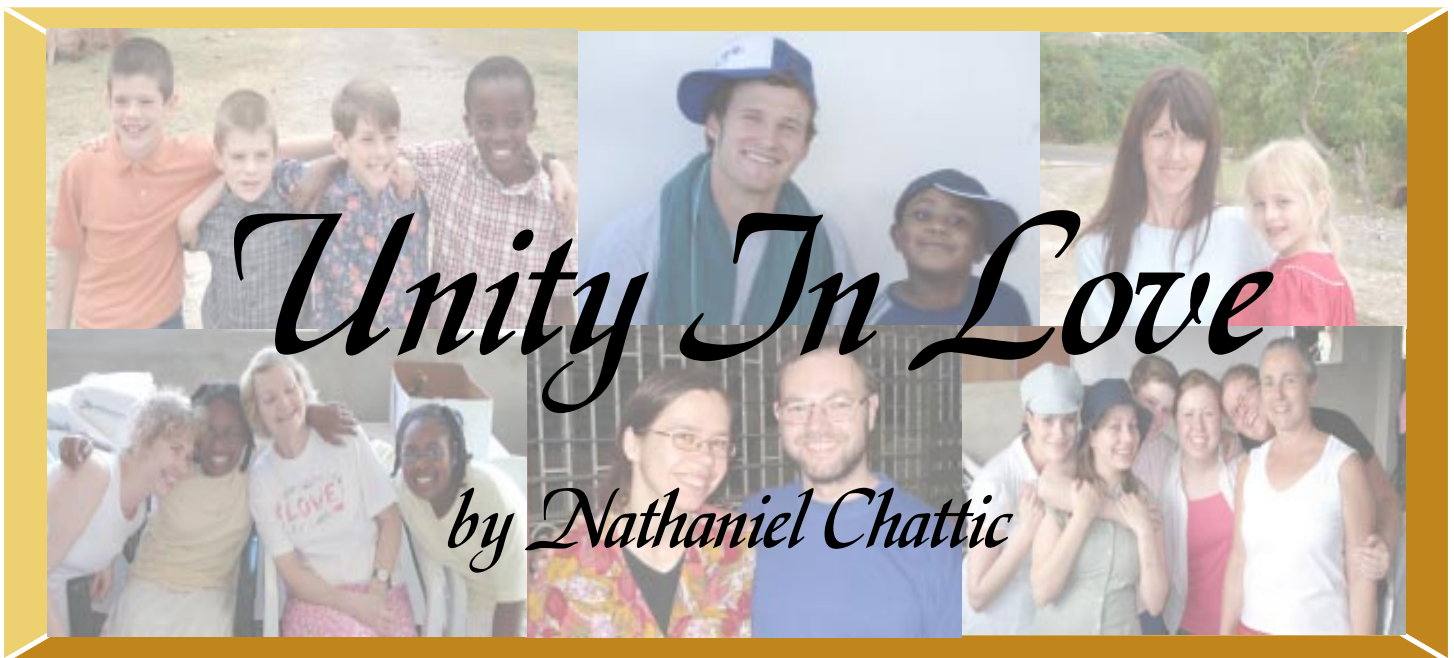
persecutor. It was a little frightening to see Sergei's resolve and commitment to what he believed in his heart to be right even though it was the wrong thing to do. I wondered how many people I see and meet every day that are doing the wrong thing believing they are doing what is right. Then I asked God to show me what areas of my life I was doing the wrong thing, thinking that I was right. I couldn't help but admire and respect the level of dedication he exhibited. I felt ashamed at times and it brought me to a place of gratitude and repentance toward God. The end of the book was truly a blessing as we see the magnitude of the love of God for such a young man who had gone through a hard life of sin. God met him in a powerful way and delivered him, and even what he did with his life after meeting God was truly an inspiration to

my walk with God. If this young man worked as hard as he did for the Communist party, how diligent and committed can I be with a heavenly vision and the leading of the Holy Spirit? It's time for us young men and women to take our stand for righteousness and begin overcoming. For this same flood of deception has already begun to cover this American country under the guise of the state being the caregiver for all of mankind. We must awaken to the fact that we live on the edge of time, and now is our time to push against the hell within and around us. We can do it! We can persevere! If Sergei Kourdakov could overcome a life of brainwashing by the Communist party to find Jesus and make a difference for righteousness, we most

definitely can use the foundation laid for us by the Body of Christ around us to make a positive impact for righteousness, and tap into the limitless potential that is available to the people of God to become the sons of God.

This book nook was made possible by Sergei Kourdakov, the author of this testimony called "The Persecutor," which was published by Fleming H. Revell company in 1973. Young Sergei never saw this book published. Near the completion of this book communist sympathizers in Canada assassinated him. He was publicly working to expose the lies of communism. □





# Unity In Love

by Nathaniel Chattic

I John 3:1, ***Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*** <sup>2</sup>***Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*** <sup>3</sup>***And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*** In my thoughts concerning God's love for us, and to be more specific, me, my mind tends to immediately go to the crucifixion story. One of the things that resounded with me prominently after watching "The Passion of the Christ" was the fact that this was not an "ordinary" man that I have heard and read about so many times. He is more than just another historical figure. This was God in the flesh, as a man, suffering for the sake of the world, bleeding for all of humanity, and dying to save ME, little old me. Why would God do such a thing? Why would God, who knows the very number of hairs on my head, who formed a human being out of a lump of clay, and with one breath from His nostrils caused that clay statue to become a living, breathing organism, subject Himself to such a brutal, degrading, embarrassing exposition of a man at Calvary?

It was done out of love (John 3:16-17). Every time I watch "The Passion," it always incites this question within me, "God, how deep is Your love for me?" This is usually followed up by another thought, "O God, how shallow is my love for You!" And I look at my life, and at how I deal with other people, with my family, my friends, my co-workers, my spiritual brethren, and I see that in some cases, that perfect, unconditional, AGAPE love of God is severely lacking on my end. ***Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*** God has a specific plan for us, stemming

all the way back to the time of Adam. He desires to have sons. I remember a word brought forth concerning design, form and purpose. God had an idea in His mind that He formed during the creation process and that was man, and we see what His purpose for man was as explained in Genesis 1:26-28. These three components, design, form and purpose, are not part of an idea that came from an "ethereal" being that we have no fellowship with in a period of time that happened long, long ago. We serve a living God, a being that desires to have fellowship with His creation, that desires a relationship with us. He came to earth as a man and subjected Himself to humanity (which for an eternal being would be horrific enough!) and suffered the cross in order to provide a means for us to receive salvation, and spark the beginning of a "rebirth" as His son. He gave us the Holy Spirit to lead us into the truth of our potential in Christ, what we can do for Him and through Him.

We have to understand why God created us, what our purpose is, and how to fulfill that purpose, which takes active participation on our part. <sup>2</sup>***Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*** <sup>3</sup>***And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*** In the movie "Facing the Giants," there is a scene when the football coach is explaining his new team philosophy to his players, and it really hits on the question, "What is your purpose?" He challenges his team to glorify God on and off of the field, because in a few years' time, no one will remember whether or not you won a state championship, but God will remember what you did for His name in your life. It seems like God is posing to us a similar question, "Do you know what I have purposed for you to do in your life?" And if you know what your pur-

pose is, God is asking, “What are you doing about it for Me?” Do you have that hope in you, to see the intent of God come to fruition in your life? “Purify yourself.” This is not a mere request, but a requirement from the mouth of God to actively participate with Him on seeing that calling and election through to the end. And I believe one of the key components, if not THE key component, is to have and show forth the love of God.

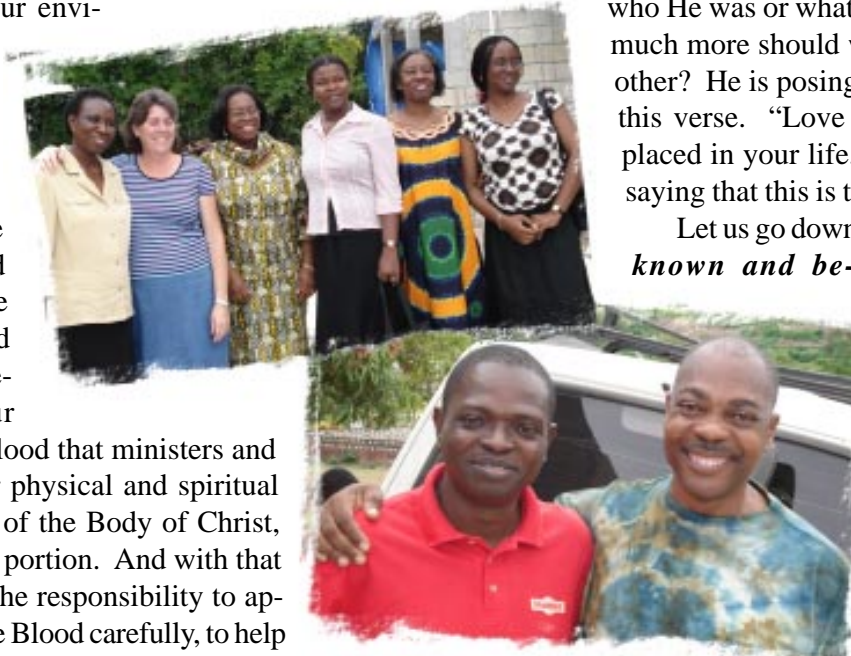
We have been encouraged to meditate on the Blood of Christ, to have the picture of His crucifixion in the forefront of our minds, in order to prepare us for, and in the midst of, various circumstances, trials and tribulations. And it is by His Blood that we receive the strength to combat those enemies within and without. It is that same Blood that has the power to change our way of thinking, our expressions through word or deed, and our vision and perspective concerning our environment and the people God has placed in our lives. The same Blood of Christ that flowed in His veins, that He shed out of love for us, that trickled down the cross, is the same Blood that washed away our sins after receiving Him into our lives. It is the same Blood that ministers and administers life to our physical and spiritual man, and as members of the Body of Christ, that same Blood is our portion. And with that understanding comes the responsibility to appropriate and handle the Blood carefully, to help facilitate its flow one to another, and not to hinder it, or become a “clot” in the Body. I am convinced that it is by the love of God that we can achieve the unity of the Spirit, total and complete UNITY that we have heard about for some time, now! Not in the sweet by and by, but right now.

I was encouraged recently to go over a set of meetings in Dubuque (recorded on March 9-10, 2001) and if you have the opportunity to see them on video, I really encourage you to check them out. Brother duCille was ministering on faith and the love of God, and it encouraged my soul tremendously. The impetus of his love message was nothing that we have not heard before: we should love one another as Christ loved us (I John 3:16-17). I also want to encourage readers out there to check out and study the book of I John. I am seeing clearly now why my father encouraged me to read and re-read this particular portion of scripture (thank you, Dad!). I John 4 continues to expound and stress the point of loving one another. The whole of the

chapter is very good, but I want to focus here on I John 4:10, *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.* For me, this passage reiterates and confirms that God’s plan and purposes have not changed, and that He had a specific destiny for man at the time He created Adam. The icing on the cake is that He has given us the tools to live up to and fulfill our spiritual potential on this earth and in this earth (my flesh). And the mind-blowing aspect of all of this is that He did this without me giving one thought to whom He was or what He wanted to do in my life! That is love, pure and simple. Verse 11, *Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.* If an omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent God can show forth a love so incomprehensible to a lowly creature like me who had not even heard of God, or gave a thought about

who He was or what He could do for me, how much more should we show love one for another? He is posing us with this challenge in this verse. “Love the people I (God) have placed in your life.” To me, it is as if He is saying that this is the least we can do, really.

Let us go down to verse 16, *And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.* We have heard and sung the song, “Abiding in the Vine.” This verse is outlining that principle of abiding in Christ (the Vine). As



extensions of the vine (we are the branches), as members of the Body (Christ is the Head), there needs to be an understanding of not only what part you play, but how to perform your part both on a consistent level and at maximum capacity in the Spirit. That means that you are receiving directions from the Head, and you must heed His directions. What were the greatest commandments Christ laid out for us to follow? Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, mind, soul and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:36-40, Mark 12:28-31, Luke 10:25-28). We have to have the love of God hidden in our hearts, our minds, our very being, and express it to one another in the Body and those God wants to bring into the Body. As a member of the Body of Christ, as a Christian, you cannot perform or fulfill your destiny in Christ to the fullest extent without His love working and manifesting in your life and walk (I John 2:1-2, 5, 8-11).

I Corinthians 13 is often referred to as the “love chap-

ter.” We must understand the intent of God, and what He wants to see accomplished in us individually and corporately. If we cannot love one another, then we do not love God. We cannot love God if we do not love His creation. It starts in knowing and having His love in you of a truth, not just a form of love, not fileo, or conditional love, but pure, unadulterated AGAPE love. It is easy to love those things that are comely or those things that we have a particular affinity for, or take pleasure in. But to have the same measure of love for what we would consider uncomely parts, for people we would not necessarily click or mesh with, that believe in or do things that we may not readily accept, that takes a love we cannot manifest on our own strength. We can pretend we have a form of love, but that is not the Lord’s will. That is not His love working in us.



We must also understand that God’s love is not “formulaic” in nature. At times, my mind tends to “pigeon-hole” how His love is supposed to manifest or operate - and thankfully, I have been proven wrong in those times. I remember Brother Campbell describing the love of God as not always the “mushy-gushy” form of love that we commonly see or may think of whenever we hear the word *love*. Sometimes the love of God is a bitter pill to swallow, for our humanity that is, for our flesh. I think we all can say that we love exhortation, both corporately and individually, but God’s love is also corrective, and sometimes it is a bitter pill to swallow for this flesh. But it does not change His Word, His intent, or His purpose for us.

God loves us so much, much more than we think (or at least, I think sometimes). He gave us an opportunity to receive new life, a chance to get to know Him on a more intimate level, to have deeper fellowship with Him. The Blood that He shed not only revived us, but it serves as the catalyst to transform us into sons, to capitulate us out of our flesh, out of the darkness, and into Him and His presence. His Blood has the power to heal every infirmity, to break the bonds of carnality and familiarity, and ultimately serve as a weapon to overcome Satan. “Love Grew Where the Blood Fell.” Those that went to Jamaica, or heard the meetings online, probably know this song by heart (I think

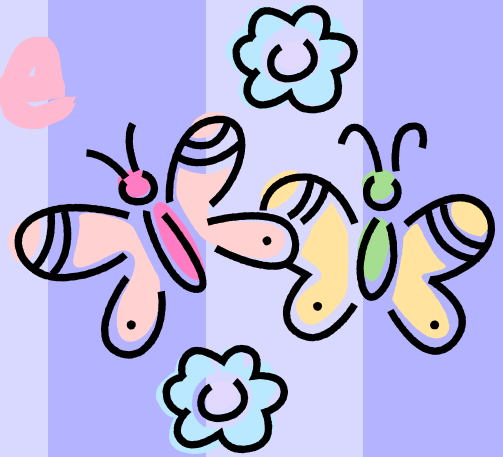
it was the theme song for the conference)! But in that song lies a message of hope, of coming from a place deprived and void of any life whatsoever, and by the Blood of Christ coming into a new environment overflowing with the life of God. “Sin died where the Blood fell.” The song speaks of a transformation process, a process that takes our ACTIVE PARTICIPATION, not an attitude in which God does all of the work and we agree with it. As we participate to make our calling and election sure, we see the intent of God on a much more personal scale, and the testimony that He is laying forth in our lives has more meaning, and that is something that you cannot “osmose.” If we say we love God, we have to have His love inside of us. It takes abiding in Christ, and asking for that mind of Christ to be instilled in us, asking for a heart for the people of God, and those He has placed in our lives to lead to Him.

When we received Christ, His Blood became our portion, and it is that same Blood that is flowing in His Body. I know I do not want to hinder that flow of the Blood in the Body of Christ if I have any ought against my brother or sister. I cannot show forth His love in accordance to His will properly if my will is getting in the way. One thought that stood out to me in watching Brother duCille preach on God’s love concerned the flow of the Blood in the Body. Just as God’s love can flow freely from one to another, so can contention or discord,



bitterness or resentment, or something else that is not of God, if our hearts are not in the proper place concerning one another. I do not want to facilitate in any way that type of attitude or behavior in the Body. It takes a thorough self-examination, knowing where your heart is, and the things that God needs to deal with in your soul. We need to abide in Christ in this hour. We must allow His love to work the change in us, and show forth that love to each other, and to those that have not heard the message of the Kingdom. God is admonishing us to rise up, to climb up to a higher level in the Spirit, and to look to Him concerning our relationships. We must deal with one another with His perspective, and allow Him to influence our day to day dealings with people in and out of the Body. Let us be encouraged in the Lord, in His Word, and promises, and allow His Blood to flow in us and work the change that is needed in this hour. As we are actively participating in that change, let us continue to look for those opportunities to show the love of God one to another. God bless you.□

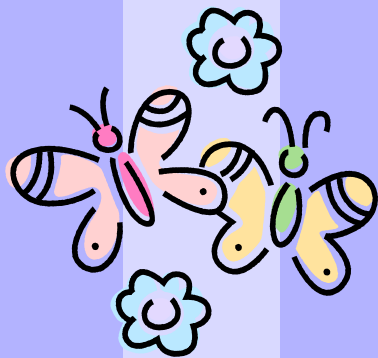
# The Impossible is Possible!



by Stacy Asbill

The things which are impossible with men  
are possible with God.

Luke 18:27



I'm sure that all of you readers find yourselves in situations that seem impossible. Whether it is external circumstances or internal dilemmas, sometimes you just don't seem to see a breakthrough and yet you keep pressing in believing that "having done all, you stand." Well, recently I was in the midst of one of these difficulties and I was so blessed to see how God is moving that it encouraged me to continue to believe Him even when, on the surface, it seems like nothing is changing.

To provide a little background, one of my younger children has had a particular problem with throwing fits. These fits can come without any provocation and can last quite awhile. I have come to realize that I am dealing with a spirit and so it is necessary to fight in the Spirit. While in battle I will hold my child, pray, rebuke the devil, sing songs, and prophesy victory. Eventually the battle ends and there is the victory for that moment. In the

midst of the repetition of these occasions,

sometimes I begin to wonder  
if I am really making

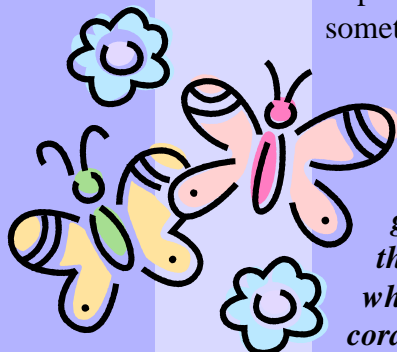
any headway. Ro-

mans 8:28 says that

*all things work to-*  
*gether for good to them*

*that love God, to them*

*who are the called ac-*  
*cording to His purpose* so



I know that God is using this situation to teach me spiritual warfare. What I really desire, though, is to see the victory in my child's soul. Recently while in the midst of one of these battles, I began to sing the song,

*Open my eyes, Lord*

*I want to see Jesus.*

*To reach out and touch Him*

*and say that I love Him.*

*Open my ears, Lord, and help me to listen.*

*Open my eyes, Lord. I want to see Jesus.*

Well, we finally came to the end of that particular battle and our day went on. It was two days later that, as we were doing school at the kitchen table, this child was sitting next to me coloring. All of a sudden I noticed that she was singing - not only was she singing, but she was singing the song, "Open My Eyes, Lord!" It was at that moment that I KNEW that God can indeed do the impossible. During the preceding encounter, things had seemed so insurmountable AND YET the Spirit of God had pierced through that darkness and deposited LIFE! How can words describe the humility I felt as I asked God, "How could I ever doubt!?" Praise the Lord for He is ever faithful to work the impossible in our lives! ■

# WHERE IS MY WALLET?

February 27, 2007

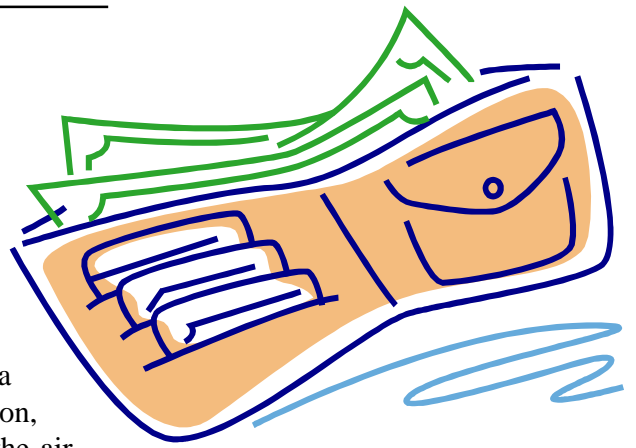
I think that sometimes God gives us certain circumstances, not necessarily just to give us trouble for trouble's sake, but to test us to see how well we will overcome in the midst of it. Last Friday, I was called upon to take my sister to the doctor. I needed to stop for gas, and to fill up a tire that was low. I got out at the station, took my coins out of my wallet, fed the air pump, dashed around and filled/topped off all the tires, and when I was done, went over to a snowbank to wash the grease from the air hose off my hands. I was pretty chilly by that time, and knowing that it was needful to get my sister to the doctor, I jumped back in the car and we were on our way. It wasn't until we got parked at the hospital that I realized I had left my wallet on the back of the car when we left the gas station, and now it was gone. It wouldn't have been so bad had I not just been to the bank for grocery money, and the wallet was full of cash. I felt ill, and had to fight very hard to not cry. My sister needed me, and I wasn't going to break down and not take care of her. I made a few calls and got half of the people I know out looking for it, and we went to see the doctor.

We were at the doctor for a very long time. Every so often I would call to find out if anyone had been able to find my wallet, but all reports were negative. My sister and I prayed that it would be returned in its entirety and I said to her that I thought it would be SO NICE if someone honest would find it and return it to my house - that I would be able to go home and find it tucked in my backdoor or something, and asked the Lord if He would please let someone do this.

When I finally got home much later that evening, there was no wallet in the door. I had figured in my mind that nearly everything in the wallet could be replaced - everything but the grocery money, and that troubled me greatly, but I still determined to not let it get the better of me.

Shortly after I arrived home, my husband came home. He kissed me and the girls, took off his coat, and then turned and HANDED ME MY WALLET! Someone honest had seen it lying in the road near the gas station, picked it up, and had tried repeatedly throughout the day to deliver it to my house. Since no one was home, the man was loathe to just leave it in the door, and when it came time for him to leave town and go to his own home, he looked up another Asbill and delivered my wallet - contents INTACT - into the hands of one of my sisters-in-law.

Isn't God good? I think so!!!



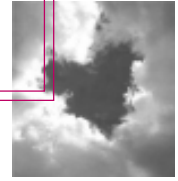
# ONCE LOST, NOW FOUND!



BY SHANNON ASBILL



# Building a Relationship



By Adela Pocajova

As I thought about what I could share, it came to me that it is just the day-to-day walk with God which I really desire to be in and where God is dealing with me so much. In the circumstances God has put me in, I wonder what God does for us to get us to the place of the greatest dependency upon Him. My heart is just so thankful for all the lessons He is teaching me. They are like small stones which are building me little by little.

I like so much that God is being so personal to me. It is something I always wanted and what brought me to seek Him with my whole heart. He is showing me how much He loves me and how His intentions are so much better. It is as if He is showing me a higher path to walk upon. Also, I so enjoy experiencing that when I listen to God, He brings me the word which will carry me through the situations I am facing.

One of those many small testimonies which illustrate God's absolute control over everything that is going on in my life (which is always good to be sure of :) was right before going to the November conference in Nebraska. Because of the contact lenses I wear, my eye got irritated and it became all red. I did not pay a lot of attention to it. What I thought was that it happened to me many times before and my eye just needed some rest. I looked at my eye the night before leaving for the conference and I was scared quite a bit because it was cut and I could see that the surface of my eye was different than usual. In that moment it seemed to be very serious and there just did not seem to be anything

I could do about it. I probably cannot describe it enough, but something in me arose; such a confidence that I can come and require from God to show me what to do. I knew that He would not allow anything which is not good for me. I felt like I could come right before God's throne and He would not reject me. As I began to speak to the Lord, I saw Jesus' Blood being shed while He was beaten and crucified. It was so strong and real. I also remembered the verses I read that morning about the healing of the blind man. I was amazed. I forgot about that! I realized that I read that chapter in the morning asking God what He wanted to tell me. I did not get the answer until the evening. It was as if He showed me His perspective that He already knew everything (sometimes I feel like God is smiling at me) and that He is ready to come to me and do the same thing He did 2000 years ago for that man. So, as I thought about all this, I began to thank Him for His faithfulness and ask the Lord to heal my eye. Then the verse in Isaiah 53:5 came to mind, ***But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him and with his stripes we are healed.*** My whole being just rested in the fact that He is My God that healeth me.

He healed me within a week. But He healed my mind from fear immediately. I found out that God is very near to me and that He will not let me go into the place of trial unless I have the weapons to be able to overcome.

This situation and so many others

just give me such a confidence that I am absolutely known by Jesus. He knows my heart - every thought and chamber of my heart because He is just so exact.

As I think about all this, it just humbles me because He is filling all my needs and I see how little I bring to Him. Doesn't He also have needs I can fill? What fruit can I bring to Him that His soul might be satisfied? I have thought about the scripture in Mark 11:12-13a, ***And on the morrow, when they come from Bethany, he was hungry: <sup>13</sup>And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon.*** I see the Lord asking me to produce the fruit which will feed Him. In Song of Solomon 4:12-14 it says, ***A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed. <sup>13</sup> Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits; camphire, with spikenard, <sup>14</sup> Spikenard and saffron; calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense; myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices.*** There are some specific things which the Lord is very pleased to find in our souls. It is the evidence of His presence in our lives. Sometimes I just stop and ask myself what comes from my garden. Is it that sweet smelling savor unto the Lord? I am also finding out that, as I come closer to God, I begin to ask the Lord to do the same thing for my brother or sister. When I bear the fruit and bring the smell of those spices, it will bless my brethren as well. ***For we are members one of the another,*** Romans 12:5. God bless you mightily! □



# First Love

By Kristyna Kluson, Czech Republic

How do you keep your first love for your husband? There is probably no unique way to answer this question because there is a difference in how people perceive love. The love, which my husband and I had at the very beginning of our relationship, was the agape love<sup>1</sup>. We would nicely flow in the Spirit and only much later we noticed that we were flowing in the same way in our souls. He liked the things I liked, he saw things the way I did. We had an unbelievable agreement on things that were happening around us. And that was the phileo love. In marriage, both of these loves must go hand in hand, but they must come in the right order. Agape love has

to come and grow in our hearts in order that phileo love might come to a place of fullness (see I Corinthians 13).

I always knew that God had a purpose for my life and that in order to fulfill that purpose I would need a husband - someone who God would put in my path and tell me: "This is HIM." Now I know that my husband is the "HIM" as much as I know I am alive. I also know very well that our marriage was put together to fulfill a higher purpose upon this earth. That is why I immensely honor and appreciate my husband. You may ask how this relates to the above question on keeping your first love. Well, this is exactly how you keep your first love - you have to constantly work at mak-

ing sure that you do not lose respect and appreciation for your husband.

It is very important that the closeness between husband and wife does not cause them to lose the reverence for one another. In the marriage relationship, they will discover their partner's shortcomings, weaknesses and imperfections. The mentality of

*It is very important that the closeness between husband and wife does not cause them to lose the reverence for one another.*

taking each other for granted can slowly creep in. But that is a big deception. Love is not to be taken for granted! The very fact that the other individual is standing next to you is not matter-of-fact, it is a marvelous grace of God which has to be appreciated and we have to be immensely grateful for it every day. Love is a living relationship. It is relationship which is constantly developing because it is alive. It deepens, it is being strengthened, purified and it blossoms.

When one says "first love," most people would immediately think of "being in love" - burning heart and fire. But the "first love" mentioned in the original Greek of the Scriptures (Revelation 2:4), is the agape love - the love

which has to go first. If we lose this first love or have a wrong concept about it, it is necessary to repent of it as it is written in the verses that follow. To repent, we need to do the first works. Agape love is very practical and when fulfilled, then it is immensely good, tasteful, attractive and desirable.

You could say that the burning heart and the stars in eyes is surely part of the first love. Well, I don't say it can't be. Actually, your heart would burn even more when the thing has the right order and you know that you are standing on a much deeper foundation. It is not just emotions, but something much, much deeper. You open up

to one another and you become one as two sheets of paper that are glued together to become like only one.

There is one more thing I realized - a wife's submission to her husband helps her to be in love. It is a Biblical principle of the correct order of things. It is only a submitted wife that is able to make the rightful place for her husband and her God in all areas of her life. **God bless you.□**

<sup>1</sup> There are several terms in Greek for the word love. It is "agape" (agaph), "phileo" (filew) and phileo derivatives. "Agape" is love that is not preoccupied with itself, but wants to bless the other individual. "Phileo" love means that I am pleased with you or I am pleased to be with you, because you have a good character. I love you because of what you are like.



# WHY?

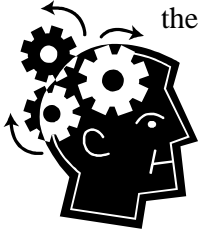
By  
Wesley  
Schell

After returning from the Jamaica Conference, God began to speak something to my heart that jump-started me to think about my behavior. I began to ask myself the question, “Why am I doing that?” I am mostly thinking of the behaviors that I didn’t feel right about doing and was convicted of afterwards. I began to look inward to the workings of my heart, searching my soul to find the answer. We all know that the scripture says in Luke 6:45, *...for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.* So, when I asked myself, “Why did I say that?”, I looked into my heart and the result of that examination was that there were many past circumstances that I had seen or heard the same phrase or attitude expressed. On further examination, I am finding that when I am in a similar set of circumstances, out comes the same response, before I consciously realize what has happen.

I think that actions and words are generated out of a person’s mind. A thought jumps into your head and then you say it, or an action comes into your mind and then it is carried out without the thought of consequences. Some of these responses can be instant and without thought, but the question that I am asking is; where did it originate in my head and why? Our minds are like a computer program or filing cabinet. We may not always remember some things but when certain situations arise, certain thoughts also arise that might never have entered into my thoughts otherwise. Interestingly, I have found out that the sense of smell works in this way,

also. When I smell particular scents, certain past times jump back into my mind. What I am getting at is that when we are born, our minds are kind of empty and waiting to be programmed. From day one, everything is being stored in the hard drive of our brains: things like how to respond, the actions to take, the words and the reactions that come because of a particular set of circumstances. Everything that we see or hear and how we respond to it is lodged in our brains and particularly the responses of the people with whom we are affiliated. We are programmed to respond to certain situations in a particular way because of the nature of the familiar spirits that follow people’s lineage. The familiar spirits work to mold a person, so that person will obey them at any given time. God works to break

***We are programmed to respond to certain situations in a particular way, because of the nature of the familiar spirits that follow people’s lineage.***



the mold and form Christ in its stead.

Everything from what you hear, see, read, watch on TV or in a video, and even the people you hang around with have an affect upon your behavior. This applies both to Godly behavior and un-

godly behavior. Younger people are probably the most impressionable because of their age and extensive exposure to a particular behavior can cause them to form a habit rather quickly and eventually become ingrained in the fabric of their being so that it becomes something of their nature. It can develop to the point that ungodly behavior doesn't seem as bad as before, and then it takes the Holy Ghost to touch a person's heart and open their eyes to what is going on. This all brings me to a very important issue of what we allow our eyes to see, our ears to hear and our thoughts to dwell upon, because it affects our day to day demeanor to create a nature that is inconsistent with God. I will tell you my testimony about this.

Over the winter season, I have a little more of a relaxed schedule than I do during summertime; to be quite honest with you, I was not really as productive during this time as I should have been. There are many things that people can do in their free time but my choice was movies. I probably watched about one movie a week, which, to my way of thinking at the time, wasn't really a lot. The real kicker in that situation was that my roommate, Tim, asked me, "Why do you watch all those movies? They are allowing spirits to come into our place." My response to him was, "Come on, man, you got to be kidding me." To my way of thinking, I really wasn't watching awful movies, but what I was watching were mostly war flicks. Well, what it really boils down to is that whenever somebody tells me something like that, regardless of my response at the time, I will take it to the Lord. So, I told God that Tim feels this way and I don't so please show me how You feel about it and He did. I had probably 4 or 5 dreams telling me that Tim was correct. Each dream was different, but they had the same

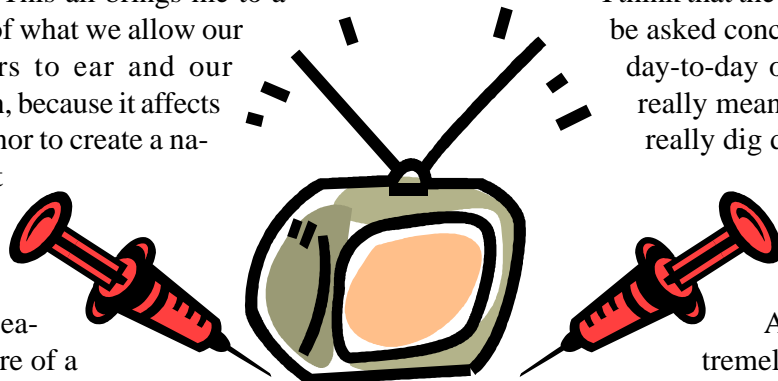
ending. Not only that, but recently I have realized how big of an effect they have had upon my mind. I would describe it as carnal-iz-ing my mind. Instead of thinking about spiritual things or having a song in my heart, I would be thinking about the movie and what happened. My problem with thinking about the movies I watched is that they are all a fantasy. None of the events happened and the only place they really occurred was in my head. I could describe it as injecting tranquilizers into my brain to numb me from everything that is happening around me. I don't really know where I stand on this issue now, because this has all happened in the last two weeks or so. However, I have slammed on the brakes to "cinema central," and asked myself, "Why do I even watch movies?"

I think that the "why" question can be asked concerning many of our day-to-day operations. What it really means is that we need to really dig down to find out the

reasoning behind our being involved in particular activities.

Also, what is extremely important is what my motive is for doing it. I started to think about God and my relationship toward Him

and what I do or don't do that is spiritual and I really started pondering many thoughts concerning this issue of "why." The easy question is, "Why am I a Christian?" That's simple, because I didn't care for my previous life, which was heading straight to hell and Christianity was a very good alternative. Over my short walk with God I have come to a conclusion about being a Christian. Christianity is a relationship with God and not a religion. It is a relationship where the living God comes and makes His home in my soul. Also, to further the relationship, God will ask people to give up many things along the way in order that He can fill up more of their being with Himself. That, at least, has been how it has worked with me. Some things were bad habits that needed to be booted, but others were simply hobbies or activities that I enjoyed doing.



### *Brain Tranquilizers*



There are many occurrences where God had spoken to me about particular aspects of WES and I had to wrestle with myself in order to obey God and lay them on that altar. Laying things down allowed God to work in my soul His standard of righteousness and not my own. It really strengthened my relationship with Him and I have benefited from it greatly. It has given me the ability to learn to hear the voice of God through my day-to-day life that way and not only on Sundays.

I Corinthians 8:1, ...*Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.* <sup>2</sup>*And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.* <sup>3</sup>*But if any man love God, the same is known of him.*

When I first became a Christian four years ago I was very excited and started to swallow up big chunks of spiritual food with an appetite to learn and process the knowledge of Him. I was hungry. I wanted to know everything about the tabernacle and the end of time and the sons of God. I watched tapes and listened to meetings and went to conferences, gobbling up every word. After a while of going through that process I got to a point where I thought that I knew quite a bit. I knew doctrine and knowledge. Eventually it started to affect how I viewed myself. I became cocky in my little portion of knowledge, and thought that I was more spiritual than other people were. Knowledge without a relationship began to make me puffed up. I could say all the good "Christian Clichés" that made me appear to really be something. I want to say that knowledge is not a bad thing to have, but it is not the prize that we want to attain. God tells us in II Peter 1:5 to *add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; <sup>6</sup>And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; <sup>7</sup>And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity* (God's nature, the prize).

The knowledge that God wants us to process is the knowledge of Him, and outside of that Knowledge there is no knowledge. I think that I had a desire for God back then, but I was going after head knowledge be-

cause I thought that was the way. Does the scripture say, "Seek ye first knowledge" or "He that hungers and thirsts after knowledge?" NO.

It says, "Seek first the kingdom of God," and "Be hungry for His righteousness." This leads me to the next question that I began to ask myself, "Why do I seek God," or "what is my motive for doing spiritual things?" Am I so wrapped up with knowledge about God that I could care less about really getting to know God because that

takes too much effort, and besides that, knowledge makes me look good in the sight of other people anyway? At one time, I think that was where I was at, but

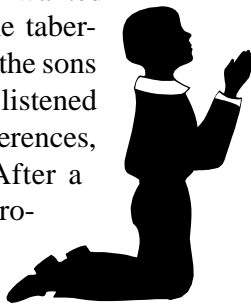
now it is not. There used to be

another reason why I did spiritual things. My motivation was to get a wife. Having a wife is a good thing, but it is not a good reason for why I should want God, because if God gave someone a wife who thought that way, the person would have no need for God anymore because his motivation is gone and he has what he wanted. I don't know how big the list could be, and it is probably different for each person. I do know that there is a correct answer to the question. It is to want God because I love Him, not for what I think He can do for me, but because I love Him and want to know Him and be like Him. Mark 12:30, *And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.* I think that knowing Him and being like Him are two inseparable thoughts. How could I know God if I am not like Him? His nature is not compatible with mine, so I want to change, in order that we might have a greater compatibility. I think that that is how we get to know God. That has been the most frequent thought in my head of late when I think about the Lord. I think that finding out "why" gives an understanding to life. Proverbs 4:7, *Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.*

The real riddle is, "Why ask WHY?" □



*Why did I do that, Lord? Please change my heart.*





# *In Loving Memory...*

*It is with a mixture of joy and sadness that we say goodbye to Stephanie's mother, Judy Sills. She went home to be with her Lord on Thursday, March 1, 2007. Though we miss her greatly, we are filled with joy and gladness to know she is with her precious Savior in that place of perpetual peace and safety.*

*We would like to express our extreme gratitude for all of your prayers, steadfastness and standing with her in all her trials. My most poignant memory of her was in Jamaica when God healed her terminal lung disease and set her free. It was marvelous and she was very encouraged by what the Lord did for her. I will always remember her testimony and how she looked on that morning in Jamaica. Bless you all. We appreciate your prayers and every effort towards Mom. God be with you all.*

*Peter and Stephanie Schneider*



*The giant oak is an  
acorn that  
held its ground.*

*Anonymous*



# Refiner's Fire

by Bibiana Capcikova

*Trust in the Lord  
with all thine heart;  
and lean not unto thine own  
understanding.  
Proverbs 3:5*

There are times in everyone's life (well, at least in mine) when we find ourselves in circumstances that are over our heads, and possibly, we do not see any way out. We look with our natural eyes and try to work out some solution in all the troubles we have. Well, I can tell from my own experience that this kind of thinking just brings me greater trouble. The more I try to solve my own personal problems, the more I look on myself and the more miserable I feel.

God has shown me that everybody is set in a fire. That fire is different for all of us, but it still has one aim - to purify us and to make us more like our Master. One of the things God has taught me is that I can't solve my problems myself. I can try very hard, but it still does not help it a bit. Another thing is that when I try to solve my problems myself, I become the center of my universe; I start feeling self-pity, I feel like crying, I think everybody is just wrong and does not understand me. And all these are not the characteristics of the Overcomer Company! The Bible says God is not the master of confusion, but of peace. What I created by thinking like this is nothing other than a great confusion.

The lesson God is teaching me is that I cannot look at my circumstances with my natural eyes. It may seem to be a pretty basic phrase, but, to my shame, I do tend to be carnal. It may be just my problem, I don't know. I have to realize that God is looking at me very differently and that He has the situation under the control and that I can just rely on Him in everything I am going through.

Not only has He taught me to trust Him, but also to pray for others. He does not want me to be looking on my own tribulation, but in the midst of my tribulation, He wants me to pray for others and think about them. Recently we had meetings where the main

thought was to pray one for another and not to be self-centered. There was one thought in one of the meetings that really stood out to me and, in my own words, it is that when we want to be healed, we should pray for others. Well, I started doing that and it really works! Hmm, very interesting! God is very simple, you know. We just tend to make it all so complicated. We want to be healed (this does not only refer to physical healing, but to me, it also is about solving problems), so we try to do this or do that and it just doesn't help. But when we stop thinking about ourselves as poor babies and start praying for somebody that is in far greater need than we are in, we are immediately healed. The thing that was once a problem is not anymore.

There is a little story that I just read and I think it is really nice. I would like to share it with you so that you will know that the troubles you are going through are all in God's hand and that He is on top of it and you can just rest in Him. Not only that, I think we all should start thinking about others more than we do about ourselves and bless them, do something for them. It does not need to be a huge thing, as we would often times think, but it may be something not really obvious, maybe a little (or a big!) smile, maybe a hug, maybe a helping hand or maybe just a prayer. The things we do for others might not be big or obvious, and many times the people never come to know that in the very time they were going through tough things in their lives and they were about to give up, you prayed for them fervently and the Lord moved mightily on their behalf and helped them out of their trouble because of your intercession.

Here is the story: Malachi 3:3 says, *He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.*

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about

the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse that says, "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver." She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined.

The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?"

He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy - when I see my image in it."

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, re-

member that God has His eye on you and He will keep watching you until He sees His image in you. "Life is a coin. You can spend it anyway you wish, but you can only spend it once."

One more testimony that Mr. Peckmann shared in a meeting... It all happened one foggy morning when Mr. Peckmann was driving his bus. The fog was so thick you could cut it with a knife and he could only see just few a feet around him. He couldn't see the cars around him. I think at one place he picked up about 50 kids and was supposed to turn around on the road and drive them back to school. Well, he was on one side of the road, prepared to turn around, but he could not see if there were any cars coming or not! At that point he said to the Lord, "Lord, You know I can't see anything and You see all these kids in my bus and You know that I am responsible for them, so please, make a safe way for us." The only thing he could do then was to trust the Lord that He would keep them safe. So, he stepped on the gas pedal and started turning. And guess what? There were no cars coming and he drove safe all the way to the school!

God bless you all very much!☐



## *Keeping In Touch Bulletin Living Word Omega Message*

PO Box 409

Mahomet IL 61853

2272 County Road 350 E

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

### *All Are Welcome!*

#### Meeting Schedule

Sunday Morning  
10:00am Fellowship

Wednesday Evening  
7:30pm Bible Study